The FA

FOR ALL

The FA Handbook

2026/2027



CONTENTS

SECTION	PAGE
1 - INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIR	1
2 - THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION AND THE COUNCIL FOR 2026-2027	2
3 - BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP	7
4 - STANDING ORDERS / POWERS AND DUTIES	12
5 - FOOTBALL REGULATORY AUTHORITY	20
6 - THE JUDICIAL PANEL	27
7 - ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION	34
8 - RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION	82
9 - DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS	164
10 - KIT AND ADVERTISING REGULATIONS	290
11 - ANTI-DOPING REGULATIONS	308
12 - SOCIAL DRUGS REGULATIONS	364
13 - EQUALITY POLICY	376
14 - FA POLICIES ON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND ADULTS AT RISK	377
15 - SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN REGULATIONS	378
16 - SAFEGUARDING ADULTS AT RISK REGULATIONS	386
17 - FOOTBALL AGENT REGULATIONS	394
18 - THIRD PARTY INTEREST IN PLAYERS REGULATIONS	420
19 - OWNERS' AND DIRECTORS' TEST	426
20 - SANCTION AND CONTROL OF COMPETITIONS REGULATIONS	439
21 - NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM REGULATIONS	443
22 - WOMEN'S FOOTBALL PYRAMID REGULATIONS	462
23 - REFEREES	478
24 - FOOTBALL DEBT RECOVERY REGULATIONS	502
25 - YOUTH FOOTBALL	505
26 - AREAS OF OVERLAPPING ASSOCIATIONS	506

CONTENTS

SECTION	PAGE
27 - STANDARDISED RULES	510
28 - WOMEN'S FOOTBALL PYRAMID STANDARD CODE OF RULES	577
29 - STANDARD CODE OF RULES	610
30 - STANDARD CODE OF RULES FOR MINI SOCCER AND YOUTH FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS	634
31 - YOUTH RULES	664
32 - STANDARD CLUB RULES	665
33 - MATCHES AGAINST FOREIGN CLUBS	669
34 - SMALL-SIDED FOOTBALL	671
35 - FLEXIBLE FOOTBALL	693
36 - MEDICAL REGULATIONS	696
37 - RESPECT	698
38 - DIRECTORY OF ASSOCIATIONS	703
39 - MEMBER CLUBS	708
40 - FUTSAL REGULATIONS	719
41 - FUTSAL STANDARD CODE OF RULES	733

1 - INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIR

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.

2 - THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION AND THE COUNCIL FOR 2026-2027

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Wembley Stadium
PO Box 1966
London SW1P 9EQ
www.TheFA.com

Patron
HRH The Prince of Wales, KG KT PC ADC

Honorary Members
Mrs PF Smith OBE (1998)
Sir T Brooking CBE (2015)
Prof M Gibson (2006)
KW Ridden (2000)
Sir G Southgate OBE (2025)
H Powell CBE (2025)

Fellowship of The FA Council
Lt Cdr PJW Danks, RN (2001)
R Tinkler (2005)
DB Dein MBE (2009)
MG Benson (2010)
DR Sheepshanks CBE (2011)
P Coates (2013)
RJ Howlett JP (2013)
D Bernstein CBE (2013)
M Game (2015)
J Perks (2015)
T Sharples (2015)
D Gill CBE (2017)
C Clapham MBE (2017)
D Jamieson (2017)
R Devlin (2018)
M Brown (2018)
D Edmunds (2018)
G Aplin (2018)
D Barnard (2018)
H Wilkinson (2019)
Sir DG Richards (2019)
R Lewis (2019)
R Jackson (2019)
G Taylor OBE (2020)
R Pawley (2020)
G Turrell (2020)
P Hockley (2020)
P Smith (2020)
R Burden (2021)
M Clarke (2021)
R Cotter (2021)
R Gardiner (2021)
D Horlick (2021)
D Robinson (2021)
R Akhtar OBE (2021)
B Barwick OBE (2021)
J Mostyn (2021)
R Coar (2022)
P Elliott CBE (2022)
T Kybett (2022)
M Penn (2022)
M Stokes (2022)
M Spinks (2022)
Mjr WTE Thomson (2023)
Wg Cdr N Hope MBE (2023)
R Northall (2023)
J Pearce MBE (2024)
M Leggett BEM (2024)
B Chaplin (2024)
J Nixon (2024)
A Neville (2024)
P McCormick OBE (2025)
S Hough MBE (2025)
T KT Win JP (2025)
R Schafer (2025)
F Robinson (2025)
G Lee (2026)
E Oram (2026)
F McArdle (2026)
T Sampson (2026)

THE FA COUNCIL FOR 2026-2027

Chair
D Hewitt MBE (2022)

Life/Senior Vice-Presidents
G Thompson OBE, JP (1979), Sheffield & Hallamshire FA
JJ Waterall (1986), Nottinghamshire FA
CJ Saunders (1982), Independent Schools FA
MM Armstrong (1985), Huntingdonshire FA
PS Hough (1988), Dorset FA
D Henson (1986), Devon FA
B Walden (1991), Northamptonshire FA
CB Taylor (1991), Barnsley FC

Vice-Presidents
PJ Clayton (1997), Middlesex FA
MC Frost (2005), Huntingdonshire FA
D Simpson (2007), Shropshire FA

Divisional Representatives
1. Vacant
2. M Turner, (2022) Accrington Stanley FC
3. A Shaw (2009, 2012), Altrincham FC
4. Vacant
5. P Douglas (2021), Rotherham Utd FC
6. P Hough (2012-2014, 2024), Scunthorpe Utd FC
7. C Johnson (2021), Aveley FC
8. C Reeves (2012), Poole Town FC
9. Vacant
10. Vacant

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

County Association Representatives

Amateur Football Alliance	J Leese (2018)
Army	G Brookland (2023)
Bedfordshire	A Young (2023)
Berks & Bucks	J Horsley (2022)
Birmingham	K Shoemake (2022)
Cambridgeshire	P Hill (2020)
Cheshire	C Garlick (2018)
Cornwall	J Fabby (2026)
Cumberland	B Snowdon (2023)
Derbyshire	L Rooney (2026)
Devon	J Lacy (2026)
Dorset	S Whittle (2009)
Durham	JC Topping (2007)
East Riding	J Suddards (2013)
English Schools	M Coyne (2025)
Essex	A Chaplin (2021)
Gloucestershire	H Patel (2025)
Hampshire	M Robinson CBE (2025)
Herefordshire	P Tompkins (2015)
Hertfordshire	R Smith (2026)
Huntingdonshire	MC Frost (2005)
Independent Schools	S Abbott (2022)
Kent	D Haden (2024)
Lancashire	D Flory CBE (2023)
Leicestershire & Rutland	Vacant
Lincolnshire	S Jaehrig (2019)
Liverpool	I Wild (2021)
London	Y Harun BEM (2021)
Manchester	C Bridgford (2016)
Middlesex	K Saunders (2025)
Norfolk	M Banham (2021)
Northamptonshire	N Griffin (2022)
North Riding	B Casterton (2020)
Northumberland	A Cook (2025)

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

Nottinghamshire	R Somerville (2026)
Oxfordshire	C Kane (2023)
Royal Air Force	Wg Cdr J Ochuodho (2023)
Royal Navy	S Johnson (2014)
Sheffield & Hallamshire	M Gilmour (2021)
Shropshire	D Simpson (2007)
Somerset & Avon	P Chaplin (2020)
Staffordshire	A Evans (2022)
Suffolk	J Mulcahy (2026)
Surrey	S Briggs (2024)
Sussex	G Rooney (2025)
Westmorland	P Ducksbury (2018)
West Riding	M Heap (2024)
Wiltshire	S Russell (2024)
Women's Football Conference	H Miller (2023) and P Preston (2025)
Worcestershire	N Trigg (2023)

Representatives of The Premier League

P Barber OBE (2016-2017, 2018), Brighton & Hove Albion FC

R Caplehorn (2016-2026, 2026), Premier League

C Crown (2021), Brentford FC

A Kinnear (2026), Everton FC

N Randall KC (2020), Nottingham Forest FC

R Garlick (2014-2016, 2022), Arsenal FC

D Mistry (2023), Premier League

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

Representatives of The English Football League

R Parry (2019), Football League

Z Webber (2021), Norwich City FC

N Bausor (2022), Middlesbrough FC

L Dooley (2025), Shrewsbury Town FC

S Curwood (2016), Fleetwood Town FC

L Scully (2024), Lincoln City FC

J Flatman (2024), Barnsley FC

Other Representatives

The National League	N Coward (2014/2013, 2026) P Alexander (2012/2013, 2014-2017,2018-2022,2025)
The Northern Premier League	A Firth (2026)
The Southern League	D Martin (2011-2014, 2023)
The Isthmian League	N Robinson (2008)
Referees' Association	H Conley (2025)
PGMOL	R Welch (2024), H Webb (2023)
General Referees Representative	J Lee (2025)
League Managers' Association	L Gordon (2023)
Professional Footballers' Association	M Molango (2022)
Supporters' Representative	C Paouros (2021), T Greatrex (2018)
Disability Football Representative	C Chaytors (2008), D Clarke OBE (2017)
Disability Football Match Official	Vacant
British Universities College Sport	S Bell-Minogue (2023)
Association of Colleges	J Maher (2019)
FA Youth Council	J Moore (2025)
National League System Steps 5 and 6	D Richmond (2020) & C Conlon (2024)
Futsal	G Dell (2017) & 1 x Vacant
Women's Super League 1 & 2	C Brough (2025), L Sanders (2020), M Kpedekpo (2026), H Murdoch (2026)
Women's Football (Tiers 3&4)	F Allen (2024)
Women's Football (Tiers 5-7)	G Petts (2020), C Morton (2024), Vacant
Football Communities Representatives	D Davies, J Khan, A Baker, A Ajibola, S Walters, K Simmons, G Perry, K Discipline, S Thompson MBE
Chief Executive Officer	M Bullingham (2019)

3 – BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

THE FA BOARD

Independent Chair
Debbie Hewitt MBE

Independent Non–Executive Directors
Kate Tinsley (Senior Independent Director)
Stephen Morana
Mark Esiri
Jobi McAnuff

National Game Directors
Sarah Walters (National Game)
Alexander Baker (National Game)

Professional Game Directors
Rick Parry (EFL)
Dharmash Mistry (Premier League)

CEO
Mark Bullingham

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Debbie Hewitt MBE (Chair)
Kate Tinsley OBE
Stephen Morana
Rick Parry
Mark Esiri
Jobi McAnuff
Alex Baker

REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

Mark Esiri (Chair)
Kate Tinsley OBE
Debbie Hewitt MBE
Stephen Morana
Dharmash Mistry
Alex Baker

GROUP AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

Stephen Morana (Chair)
Kate Tinsley OBE
Mark Esiri
Sarah Walters

COMMERCIAL COMMITTEE

Mark Esiri (Chair)
Kate Tinsley OBE
Dharmash Mistry
Mark Bullingham
Mark Burrows
Alex Willis

GOVERNANCE & REGULATION COMMITTEE

Debbie Hewitt MBE (Chair)
Jobi McAnuff
Alex Baker

INCLUSION ADVISORY BOARD

Deji Davies (Chair)
Chris Paouros
Nuala Walsh
Sanjay Bhandari
Paul Bickerton

WEMBLEY ADVISORY BOARD

Peter Hutton – Stadium Digital – Chair (Independent)
Chuck Steedman – Stadium Commercial (Independent)
Andrew Amery – Stadium Safety and Security (Independent)
Mark Burrows
Mark Lynch
Mark Bullingham
Emily Prazer – Stadium Commercial (Independent)

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

PERFORMANCE ADVISORY BOARD

Jobi McAnuff (Chair)
Damian Hughes
Sir Michael Barber
Kevin Sinfield
Col. Lucy Giles
Manoj Badale

DISABILITY FOOTBALL COMMITTEE

Colin Chaytors (Chair)
David Clarke OBE
Jill Crompton
Andrew Marriott
Shan Jaehrig
Jimmy Khan
Mark Heap
Dean Williams
Oliver Eadsforth
Paul Findlay

FOOTBALL REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Independent Commissioners
1 x vacancy (Chair)
Shola Ameobi
Genevieve Gordon
1 x vacancy

NG Reps
Alan Young (NGB)
John Topping (NGB)
Nick Robinson (NLPB)
Flo Allen (NLPB)

PG Reps
Nick Randall (PL)
Rebecca Caplehorn (PL)
Paul Douglas (EFL)
Zoe Webber (EFL)

GRASSROOTS DISCIPLINE ADVISORY WORKING GROUP

Alan Young (FRA , Chair)
Nick Robinson (FRA)
John Topping (FRA)
Aji Ajibola (Council Member)
Nichola Trigg (Council Member)
Harriet Miller (Council Member)
Barry Casterton (Council Member)
Yashmin Harun BEM (Council Member)

JUDICIAL PANEL

HH Clement Goldstone KC (Independent Chair)
Phil Chaplin
Peter Clayton
Colin Garlick
Shan Jaehrig
Chris Reeves
Geoff Thompson OBE
Paul Tompkins

PEOPLE & CULTURE COMMITTEE

Debbie Hewitt MBE (Chair)
Sam Bell–Minogue
Paul Barber OBE
Adam Evans
Tom Greatrex
Lindsay Gordon
Steve Johnson
Maheta Molango
Joan Ochuodho
Melanie Robinson CBE
Steve Thompson MBE
Zoe Webber

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

REFEREES COMMITTEE

Alex Baker (Chair)
Aji Ajibola
Barry Casterton
Andy Chaplin
Helen Conley
Mark Heap
Philip Hill (Vice-Chair, NG)
Jason Lee
Georgia Rooney
Sarah Walters
Rebecca Welch
Howard Webb (Vice-Chair, PG)

NGB

Sarah Walters (Board, Chair)
Alex Baker (Board)
Joanna Bladen (Independent)
Andy Chaplin (Council)
Colin Chaytors (Council)
Andrew Cook (Council)
Jimmy Khan (Council)
Jo Maher (Council)
Kevin Shoemake (Council)
John Topping (Council)
Lynsey Tweddle (Independent)

AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS COMMITTEE

Colin Bridgford (Chair)
Michael Banham
Phil Chaplin
Peter Ducksbury
Colin Garlick
Martin Gilmour
Darryl Haden
John Horsley
Hitesh Patel
Georgia Rooney
Kayleigh Saunders
Nichola Trigg

FACILITIES EXPERT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Peter Ducksbury (Chair)
Chris Barry (Football Foundation)
Colin Chaytors
Chris Conlon
Andrew Cook
John Fabby
Hitesh Patel
Greg Petts
Stephen Whittle

FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Jo Maher (Chair)
Susannah Abbott
Sam Bell–Minogue
Mike Coyne
Graeme Dell
Jimmy Khan
Jonathan Leese
Joel Moore
Kevin Shoemake
Ben Snowdon
John Suddards

GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL ADVISORY GROUP

Ian Wild (Chair)
Barry Casterton (Vice-Chair)
Adam Evans
Yashmin Harun BEM
Shan Jaehrig
Jonathan Leese
Harriet Miller
Paul Preston
Kevin Shoemake
John Suddards
Paul Tompkins
Alan Young

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

NATIONAL LEAGUES PYRAMID BOARD

Chris Brown (Independent Chair)
Phil Alexander – National League
Angie Firth – Northern Premier League
David Martin – Southern League
Nick Robinson – Isthmian League
Mark Frost – Steps 5&6 OpCo Rep
Denise Richmond – Steps 5&6 Rep
TBC – Chair, Women's Football Pyramid Committee
Sue Hough MBE – Chair, Women's National League Committee
Flo Allen – Women's Game Rep - People & Culture Committee nominee
Danni Every – Women's Game Rep - People & Culture Committee nominee

Observer
Chris Paouros – FSA

STEPS 1–4 OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE

TBC (Chair)
Phil Alexander (National League Rep on Council)
Steve Thompson MBE (National League nominee)
Angie Firth (Northern Premier League Rep on Council)
David Martin (Southern League Rep on Council)
Nick Robinson (Isthmian League Rep on Council)
Tom Greatrex (FSA Rep)
Andrew Shaw (Council Rep appointed by NLPB)
Chris Reeves (Council Rep appointed by NLPB)
Craig Johnson (Council Rep appointed by NLPB)

Observers
Sue Hough – Women's National League Committee
Mark Frost – Steps 5&6 Operational Committee

STEPS 5&6 OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE

Mark Frost – Chair, Council Rep
Denise Richmond – Steps 5&6 Rep on Council
Chris Conlon – Steps 5&6 Rep on Council
Matt Jones – Steps 5&6 Rep
Chris Stirrup – Steps 5&6 Rep
Ian Wild – Council Rep
Phil Chaplin – Council Rep
Gavin Perry – Council Rep
Kellie Discipline – Council Rep

Observers
Harriet Miller – Women's Football Pyramid Committee
1 x vacancy – Steps 1–4 Operational Committee

STADIUM ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

TBC – Chair
Steve Thompson – National League nominee
Nick Robinson – Isthmian League Rep
David Martin – Southern League Rep
Angie Firth – Northern Premier League Rep
Mark Frost – Steps 5&6 Rep
Chris Conlon – Steps 5&6 Rep
Greg Petts – Women's Football Pyramid Committee nominee
TBC – Women's National League Committee nominee

Observers
Peter Ducksbury – Chair of Facilities Expert Advisory Committee

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE COMMITTEE

Sue Hough MBE (FA Rep, Chair)
Susannah Abbott (FA Rep)
Sue Day MBE (FA Rep)
TBC (Independent)
Jessica Creighton (Independent)
Joanna Coates (Independent)
Flo Allen (Club Rep – Norwich City)
Tammy Parlour (Club Rep – AFC Wimbledon)
TBC (Club Rep)
TBC (Club Rep)
Phillip Smith (Club Rep – Northampton Town)
Chris Newton (Club Rep – Stockport County)

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL PYRAMID COMMITTEE

TBC (Chair)
Peter Ducksbury
Harriet Miller
Chris Morton
Holly Murdoch
Chris Paouros
Greg Petts
Paul Preston
Kelly Simmons

Observer
Denise Richmond – Steps 5&6

PGB

Rick Parry (EFL)
Peter Ridsdale (EFL)
Neil Bausor (EFL)
Charles Grant (EFL)
Rebecca Caplehorn (Chair, Premier League)
Richard Garlick (Premier League)
Paul Barber OBE (Premier League)
Cliff Crown (Premier League)
Nikki Doucett (WSLFL)
Holly Murdoch (WSLFL)
Charlotte Brough (WSL1)
Lee Sanders (WSL2)

MEN'S PROFESSIONAL GAME COMMITTEE

Rebecca Caplehorn (Chair, Premier League)
Richard Garlick (Premier League)
Paul Barber OBE (Premier League)
Cliff Crown (Premier League)
Rick Parry (EFL)
Peter Ridsdale (EFL)
Neil Bausor (EFL)
Charles Grant (EFL)

Observer
Tom Greatrex – Supporters National League nominee

WOMEN'S PROFESSIONAL GAME COMMITTEE

Nikki Doucet (WSLFL, Chair)
Holly Murdoch (WSLFL)
Charlotte Brough (WSL1)
Clare Wheatley (WSL1)
Lee Sanders (WSL2)
1 x vacancy (WSL2)

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

4 - STANDING ORDERS / POWERS AND DUTIES

STANDING ORDERS FOR THE CONDUCT OF BUSINESS AT MEETINGS OF COUNCIL OF THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION LIMITED (THE "COUNCIL") AND COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL EFFECTIVE FROM 23 JULY 2026 ("THE STANDING ORDERS")

GENERAL

1. The powers and duties of Council shall be as stated in the Articles of Association ("the Articles") of The Football Association Limited ("The Association" or "the Company"), the Rules of The Association and these Standing Orders.

MEETINGS OF COUNCIL

2. Save where expressly stated to the contrary or following a written decision of Council in accordance with Standing Order 24, Council may exercise any power or carry out any duty only at a meeting of Council.

3. There shall generally be not more than 4 meetings of Council in any period from 1 August – 31 July in any given year (the "Council Year").

4. Council shall determine the dates for meetings of Council at the first meeting in any Council Year, provided that:

- **a.** At least one meeting takes place in June or July (and such meeting is designated by Council as the "Summer Meeting"); and
- **b.** To the extent that an annual general meeting of The Association takes place in a Council Year, a meeting takes place on the date of such an annual general meeting.

5. Meetings of Council may be hosted at a physical location(s), on an electronic platform(s) or through a combination of physical locations(s) and electronic platform(s).

6. Subject to Standing Order 7, the time, date, place and/electronic platform(s) of each meeting of Council shall be fixed by Council.

7. At any time the Board may (and on the request of 5 or more Members of Council shall) call an extraordinary meeting of Council over and above those referred to in Standing Orders 3 and 4 by giving no less than 14 days' notice (or where the Board considers the matter(s) for consideration to be of an emergency nature, no less than 7 days' notice) to each Member of Council. The time, date, place and/or electronic platform(s) of each extraordinary meeting of Council shall be fixed by the Board.

8. The Board may at any time postpone or cancel a meeting of Council and give no less than 4 days' notice to each Member of Council of such postponement or cancellation.

NOTICE AND BUSINESS OF MEETINGS

9. No less than 7 days (or, where the Board considers the matter(s) for consideration to be of an emergency nature, no less than 3 days) before a meeting of Council, each Member of Council shall receive an agenda of the business to be conducted. A matter which is not on the agenda shall not be considered at a meeting of Council unless accepted as an extraordinary item by more than 50% of the Members of Council present and entitled to vote at the meeting.

10. A Member of Council may propose that a matter be an item on the agenda of a meeting of Council by giving no less than 14 days' written notice before the proposed date of the meeting. A matter which is proposed in compliance with this Standing Order shall be an agenda item, save that a proposal to put forward a no confidence vote in the Chair to Council must be proposed by at least five Members of Council in compliance with this Standing Order in order for it to be an agenda item.

11. The accidental omission to give notice of a Council meeting (or any committee meeting) to, or the non-receipt of notice of a meeting by, any Member of Council shall not invalidate any resolution passed or the proceedings at such meetings.

QUORUM

12. The quorum of a meeting of Council shall be 50% or more of the Members of Council entitled to attend and vote.

CONDUCT OF MEETINGS OF COUNCIL

13. The Chair shall preside as chair at a meeting of Council.

14. If the Chair is not present at a meeting, the People and Culture committee shall choose a person to be chair of the meeting. If it is expected that the Chair will not be present for more than one meeting, the Board, on the recommendation of the People and Culture Committee, shall appoint an interim chair of meetings of Council.

15. The chair of the meeting may with the consent of the meeting (and shall if so directed by the meeting) adjourn any meeting from time to time and from place to place, but no business shall be transacted at any adjourned meeting, other than the business which might properly have been transacted at the meeting had the adjournment not taken place.

16. The chair of the meeting may at any time without the consent of the meeting adjourn any meeting (whether or not it has commenced or a quorum is present) either without setting a time or to another time or place where it appears to the chair that:

a. the conduct of persons present prevents or is likely to prevent the orderly continuation of business; or
b. an adjournment is otherwise necessary so that the business of the meeting may be properly conducted.

17. The conduct of a meeting of Council and the order of proceedings shall be at the discretion of the chair of the meeting.

VOTING

18. All questions at a meeting of Council which is held wholly or partly on an electronic platform(s) shall be determined by an electronic ballot conducted by way of email notification to the Secretary or through such other voting system as the Secretary may determine (including as to the applicable time periods for voting), unless the recording of votes is requested, supported and determined in the same manner as required at a physical meeting of Council as set out below. All questions at a meeting of Council which is not held wholly or partly on an electronic platform(s) shall be determined by a show of hands, unless either: (a) a ballot; or (b) the recording of votes, is requested by any Member of Council, supported by at least 2 others. In the event of votes being recorded under (b), the names for, and against, shall be registered and entered in the minutes. In the event of there being validly supported requests for both procedures (a) and (b), the procedure to be applied shall first be determined by a ballot.

19. Save where provided specifically to the contrary: (i) a matter shall be passed if supported by more than 50% of those Members of Council present and voting; and (ii) a Member of Council may vote only if they are present at a meeting of Council.

20. A declaration by the chair of the meeting that a resolution has been carried or carried unanimously, or by any particular majority, or lost, or not carried by a particular majority, and an entry to that effect made in the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting, shall be conclusive evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against such resolution.

21. In the case of an equality of votes, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, the chair of the meeting shall be entitled to a casting vote.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

WHO MAY TAKE UP BUSINESS UNDER NOTICE

22. Except by the consent of Council, business under any notice upon the agenda shall not be proceeded with in the absence of the Member of Council in whose name it stands, unless the member has given written authority for it to be taken up by another member.

OBJECTIONABLE BUSINESS

23. If the chair of the meeting determines that any matter raised or motion moved to be made is of an objectionable character, the chair of the meeting shall have the power either before or after the same is brought forward, to put it to the vote (on which no discussion shall be allowed) as to whether the same shall be brought forward or not. If 75% or more of the members present and voting decide not to allow such motion to be brought forward, then it shall be considered as disposed of for that day.

WRITTEN DECISIONS OF COUNCIL

24. The Chair may ask Council to make a decision in writing on a specific matter. Save where a decision on a certain matter specifically provides to the contrary, a decision approved by more than 50% of the Members of Council entitled to vote at a meeting of Council shall be valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of Council provided that such will be effective only if it can be demonstrated that every member of Council entitled to attend a meeting of Council received notice of the proposed matter. Approval may be given by signature, in writing or any other means of recorded approval (including voting software) as determined by the Chair. Any such decision shall be recorded as a written decision of Council.

RECONSIDERING A DECISION

25. A decision of Council made at a meeting of Council may be reconsidered at the meeting of Council at which it has been made if any motion to reconsider is supported by more than 50% of the members present and voting.

26. No decision made at a meeting of Council or as a written decision may be considered within a period of 12 months from the date on which it was decided unless more than 50% of Members of Council present and entitled to vote at a subsequent meeting vote in favour of a motion to allow reconsideration.

PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENTS AND LIFE VICE-PRESIDENTS

27. There may be a President who may be appointed annually by Council at the Summer Meeting and whose position shall be honorary. If so appointed, the President shall neither be entitled to notice of nor to attend at nor to vote at meetings of Council.

28. There shall be not more than six Members of Council to serve as Vice-Presidents, who shall be elected annually by Council at the Summer Meeting or at such other time as a vacancy arises. Subject to Standing Order 31, a Vice-President appointed prior to the effective date of these Standing Orders may continue to serve as Vice-President if so elected in accordance with this Standing Order 28 notwithstanding that they may have vacated office as a Member of Council, but in such circumstances such Vice-President shall not be entitled to vote at meetings of Council. A Vice-President appointed after the effective date of these Standing Orders may only continue to serve as Vice-President for so long as they are a Member of Council pursuant to the Articles.

29. Pursuant to the Articles, Life Vice-Presidents shall continue to be Members of Council with the rights set out in Standing Order 30. No further Life Vice-Presidents shall be created or appointed.

30. Life Vice-Presidents shall be entitled to receive notice of and attend meetings of Council but not vote at such meetings.

31. The position of Vice-President shall cease to exist from midnight on the day before the Summer Meeting in 2027, with all incumbent Vice-Presidents retiring and not being eligible for reappointment or replacement.

HONORARY MEMBERS

32. Council shall have the power to appoint Honorary Members. Council shall have the power to remove any Honorary Member. The criteria for appointment to the position of an Honorary Member shall be determined from time to time by the Council, and as a minimum such persons will have made a significant contribution to football, but shall not include retiring Members of Council. Such person, if appointed, shall not be entitled to notice of nor to attend nor to vote at meetings of Council.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE FA COUNCIL

33. Following their removal or retirement from the Council, former Members of Council may become entitled to join the Fellowship of Council.

34. The Fellowship of Council is a titular position conferred in acknowledgement of the service carried out by former Members of Council.

35. The criteria for membership and the benefits available shall be determined from time to time by the Board. The Professional Game Board and National Game Board shall be authorised to approve the election of retiring Professional Game Representatives and National Game Representatives respectively, such approval not to be unreasonably withheld.

36. Membership of the Fellowship of Council shall not constitute any person as a Member of Council.

AGE LIMITS

37. a. No person shall be capable of being first appointed as a Member of Council if at the time of appointment that person has attained the age of 65 years.

b. A person who was a Member of Council and has ceased at any time to be a Member of Council, may not be re-appointed as a Member of Council if that person has attained the age of 65 years.

c. A Member of Council shall vacate office at midnight on the day before the next Summer Meeting after that person has attained the age of 75 years (save for those Members of Council who are Life Vice-Presidents).

TERM LIMITS

38. Council Members shall be subject to any term limits applicable to them under the Articles.

ACTIVE POSITION

39. No person shall be capable of being appointed as a Representative Council Member unless that person holds an active position in football at the time of their appointment.

40. The Council may from time to time set criteria for determining whether a person holds an active position in football. Any decision as to whether a person holds an active position or fulfils any such criteria shall be ultimately determined by Council, in its absolute discretion.

41. A Representative Council Member will lose their eligibility for re-appointment under Article 78.1 if they cease to hold an active position in football during their tenure as a Representative Council Member, until such time as they regain an active position in football. Where a Representative Council Member ceases to hold an active position in football during the term of their appointment, they shall be entitled to continue to be a Representative Council Member until the next Summer Meeting at which they would otherwise be due for re-appointment under Article 78.1 at which point they shall vacate their position (unless they otherwise vacate their office earlier pursuant to these Standing Orders or the Articles).

REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

42. The Members of Council may be paid (in accordance with the practice and procedures that the Board shall determine from time to time) an attendance allowance in respect of their attendance at meetings of Council, all travelling, hotel, and other expenses properly incurred by them in connection with their attendance at meetings of Council, or meetings of Committees of Council or otherwise in connection with the discharge of their duties as Members of Council.

43. No Member of Council shall receive remuneration as such.

INTERESTS

44. Provided that they have disclosed to the chair of any meeting of Council or committee meeting (as applicable) the nature and extent of any interest, a Member of Council may be a party to, or otherwise interested in, any decision or arrangement which indirectly relates to that interest.

45. A Member of Council shall not attend or vote at a meeting of Council or of a Committee of Council (or any part thereof) on any matter in which the Member of Council has, directly or indirectly, a material conflicting interest or duty save where authorised by a resolution passed by the members of Council or the committee (other than the Member of Council so interested). A Member of Council shall not be counted in the quorum in relation to a resolution on which they are not entitled to vote.

46. If a question arises at a meeting of Council or of a Committee of Council as to the right of a Member of Council to vote, the question may, before the conclusion of the meeting, be referred to the chair of the meeting and the chair's ruling in relation to any Member of Council other than themselves shall be final and conclusive. An issue in relation to the chair of the meeting shall be determined by the meeting itself.

VACATION OF OFFICE

47. The office of a Member of Council shall be vacated if:

- **a.** the person ceases to hold the position or office by virtue of which such person became eligible to be a Member of Council; or
- **b.** the person has completed their permitted terms as a Member of Council in accordance with Article 79.2; or
- **c.** being a Representative Council Member, the person is removed by notice in writing by the organisation which appointed them; or
- **d.** the person has a bankruptcy order made against them or is declared bankrupt by any court of competent jurisdiction, or the person makes any arrangement or composition with their creditors generally, or the person applies for an interim order under section 253 of the Insolvency Act 1986, as amended or re-enacted from time to time, in connection with a voluntary arrangement under that Act; or
- **e.** the person dies or they are, in the opinion of a medical practitioner, physically or mentally incapable of performing as a Member of Council and remains so for more than six months; or
- **f.** the person resigns their office by notice to Council; or
- **g.** the person is absent for more than six consecutive months from meetings of Council without the permission of the Chair, or in the case of Life Vice-Presidents, the person is absent from four consecutive meetings of Council without the permission of the Chair (unless otherwise decided by the Council); or
- **h.** the person no longer complies with the provisions of any regulations of The Association relating to "Owners and Directors" as shall be in force from time to time pursuant to the Rules; or
- **i.** the person is subject of a decision of The Association, UEFA or FIFA that they be suspended permanently or temporarily from taking part in football management and/or football administration and/or any football related activity pursuant to any applicable disciplinary provisions under the rules or the statutes of The Association, UEFA or FIFA (as appropriate); or
- **j.** the person is removed for the reason that the person is subject of a decision of the relevant deciding panel that they are or have been in breach of the Code of Conduct as shall be in force from time to time; or
- **k.** other than in their capacity as the Chair or the Chief Executive Officer, the person becomes an employee of The Association.

48. A Member of Council and, in the case of a Representative Council Member, the organisation appointing them shall immediately notify the Chair upon the occurrence of any of the events set out in Standing Orders 47(a), 47(c), 47(d), 47(e), 47(h) and 47(i).

49. Other than in respect of Standing Orders 47(a), 47(b), and 47(c), the Chair may approve that the office of a Member of Council shall not be vacated notwithstanding the occurrence of an event set out in Standing Order 47 having satisfied themselves that: (a) the existence of such event will not adversely affect the performance of a Member of Council's duties; and (b) such approval is in the best interests of Council as a whole. If the Chair is subject of the event set out in Standing Order 47, the Chair shall not participate in any decision to approve their retention of office.

VALIDATING OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

50. All acts done by a meeting of Council or of a committee shall be as valid as if every such person had been duly appointed and was qualified and had continued to be a Member of Council and had been entitled to vote notwithstanding that it afterwards be discovered that there was a defect in the appointment of any Member of Council or that any of them was disqualified from holding office, or had vacated office, or was not entitled to vote. Council and any committee may act notwithstanding any vacancy in their body.

51. No alteration of the Articles and no decision of Council or the Company shall invalidate any prior act of Council which would have been valid if that alteration had not been made or that decision or direction had not been taken. A meeting of Council at which a quorum is present may exercise all powers exercisable by Council.

MINUTES

52. Minutes of all meetings of Council, and of all Committees of Council as well as any sub-committees and commissions, shall be kept, to include the names of all present at each meeting.

COMMITTEES

53. Subject to Article 80.2, Council may delegate consideration and management of matters within its jurisdiction (as referred to in Article 80), to any committee, group or panel as the Council shall establish from time to time.

54. The Committees of Council shall be such groups, panels or committees as shall be established from time to time.

55. A committee member need not be a Member of Council. The People and Culture Committee shall have regard, as their sole principle in considering the appointment of Committees of Council, to an individual's skills, knowledge and experience and the contribution therefore that an individual may make to a particular Committee of Council.

56. The Chair and the Chief Executive Officer shall be entitled to receive notice of and attend at all Committee of Council meetings but shall have no vote.

57. Subject to any relevant provision in the Articles, Rules or these Standing Orders to the contrary, a committee or any panel, any division or any board or any sub-committee or any commission of Council may adopt such procedures for the consideration of a matter as it considers appropriate. The chair of a meeting shall be responsible for all matters of procedure relating to such meeting and their decision on such matters will be final and binding. Each member of a committee shall have one vote and the chair of the committee meeting shall, in the event of a tie, have a casting vote.

STANDING ORDERS (INTERPRETATION AND AMENDMENT)

58. In these Standing Orders, and unless otherwise expressed, defined terms shall have the same meanings as set out in the Articles and in the event of any conflict between these Standing Orders and the Articles, the provisions of the Articles shall prevail.

59. Subject to the powers given to Council in the Articles and the Board's right of approval over any amendment to these Standing Orders thereunder, these Standing Orders shall be as recommended by Council from time to time. Proposals to amend the Standing Orders may only be made by the Board or Council.

60. The interpretative provisions as to the terms "meeting" (and the construction of "present", "attend", "attendances" and "participate" set out therein), "writing" and "written" set out in the Articles shall apply to these Standing Orders.

NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM STEPS 5 AND 6

61. The nomination and election criteria and process for the appointment of the Steps 5 and 6 Representatives pursuant to the Articles shall be set by Council from time to time.

BOARD OBSERVER COUNCIL MEMBERS

62. Pursuant to the Articles, Board Observer Council Members shall continue to be Members of Council with the rights set out in Standing Order 63.

63. Board Observer Council Members shall be entitled to receive notice of and attend meetings of Council but not vote at such meetings.

INDEPENDENT NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIR

64. Unless the Board resolves otherwise, each of the Independent Non-Executive Directors and the Audit Committee Chair shall be entitled to attend Council meetings as an observer. In this observer capacity, the person shall be entitled to receive notice of, and attend and speak at, all Council meetings and to receive copies of all Council papers as if such person were a Member of Council, but shall not be entitled to vote on any resolutions proposed, shall not count towards the quorum for the meeting or have any rights of a Member of Council and shall not hold themself out as a Member of Council in any way.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUES (TIERS 3 AND 4) AND THE WOMEN'S REGIONAL AND COUNTY LEAGUES (TIERS 5-7)

65. The nomination and election criteria and process for the appointment of the Women's National Leagues Representative and the Women's Regional and County Leagues Representatives pursuant to the Articles shall be set by Council from time to time.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

5 - FOOTBALL REGULATORY AUTHORITY

A Division of The Football Association (UK Registered Number: 77797)
Wembley Stadium, PO Box 1966, HA9 0WS

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE COMPOSITION AND OPERATION OF THE FOOTBALL REGULATORY AUTHORITY

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Pursuant to the Articles of Association (the **"Articles"**) and the Standing Orders (the **"Standing Orders"**) of The Football Association (**"The Association"**), the board of directors of The Association (**"Board"**) has established The Football Regulatory Authority (the **"FRA"**) as a division of The Association in order to perform the regulatory, disciplinary and rule-making functions in relation to the game of association football played in England in accordance with the Laws of the Game, as defined in the Articles. The Board has provided for the due discharge by the FRA of its functions as referred to above, in accordance with these terms of reference.

1.2 Unless otherwise defined in these terms of reference (the **"Terms"**), words and expressions shall have the same meaning as set out in the Articles or the Rules of The Association as amended from time to time.

2. DEFINITIONS

In these Terms:

"Appeal Board" means any appeal board drawn from the Judicial Panel;

"Appeal Board Chairman Panel" means the panel of individuals from whom the chair of an Appeal Board is drawn;

"Council Commissioners" means those Members of Council who are appointed in accordance with Clauses 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 5.1 and 5.3;

"CR Officer" means the person who is employed by The Association in accordance with Clause 4.5;

"Effective Date" means 29th May 2007;

"FRA Budget" means the budget for the establishment, development and operation of the FRA, as approved by the Board from time to time;

"FRA Chairman" means the chairman of the FRA, as appointed by the FRA Commissioners from time to time in accordance with Clause 8;

"FRA Commissioners" means the Council Commissioners and the Non-Council Commissioners;

"Judicial Panel" means the judicial panel established by the Board from time to time;

"Non-Council Commissioners" means those individuals who are not Members of Council and who are appointed by the Council Commissioners from time to time to be FRA Commissioners in accordance with Clauses 4.1.3, and 5.4; and

"Independent Commissioners" means those individuals who are not Members of Council and who are appointed by the Council Commissioners from time to time to be FRA Commissioners in accordance with Clauses 4.1.3, and 5.4

"Regulatory Commission" means any regulatory commission drawn from the Judicial Panel.

3. FRA ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE

3.1 The FRA is established by the Board as a division of The Association in order to be the regulatory, disciplinary and rule-making authority of The Association, and the Board delegates to the FRA powers to administer and exercise on behalf of The Association the powers and functions of The Association contained in Rules E to L (inclusive) and without limitation, to undertake the following with effect from the Effective Date:

3.1.1 formulating, proposing amendments to and publishing the Rules or any other relevant rule or regulation of The Association and any changes to them from time to time;

3.1.2 making recommendations to the Board in respect of changes made to these Terms and the terms of reference of the Judicial Panel;

3.1.3 monitoring compliance with and detecting breaches or possible breaches of the Rules, the Laws of the Game, the statutes and regulations of UEFA and FIFA, the rules and regulations of each Affiliated Association and Competition or any other rule or regulation of The Association, or offences or possible offences under any of them;

3.1.4 being responsible for disciplinary matters as provided for in the Rules and otherwise (save for those which the Board or any of its committees is empowered to decide, or which are reserved for a Regulatory Commission and/or an Appeal Board) including but not limited to taking appropriate measures to detect, inquire into, investigate and prosecute breaches or possible breaches of the Rules, the Laws of the Game, the statutes and regulations of UEFA and FIFA, the rules and regulations of each Affiliated Association and Competition or any other rule or regulation of The Association, or offences or possible offences under any of them, and taking appropriate steps to enforce, apply and operate penalties and remedies in respect of any of them;

3.1.5 reviewing, considering and advising on the independence and suitability of members of the Judicial Panel, the Appeal Board Chairman Panel and those persons appointed to Regulatory Commissions and Appeal Boards;

3.1.6 convening and administering as may be necessary all commissions or appeal committees of The Association pursuant to the Rules and the regulations of The Association, except any Regulatory Commissions or Appeal Boards (for which see Clause 3.1.8);

3.1.7 appointing members of and delegating the appropriate power to, and coordinating and controlling the operation of the following sub-committees and other bodies;

(i) a Compliance Monitoring Group;

(ii) a Disciplinary Sub-Committee;

(iii) a Judicial Panel Monitoring Group; and

(iv) ad hoc Working Groups as established by the FRA from time to time.

3.1.8 administering, but not delegating to or being responsible for the following bodies:

(i) all Regulatory Commissions; and

(ii) all Appeals Boards; and

3.1.9 such other responsibilities and activities as the Board may from time to time decide.

4. MANAGEMENT

4.1 Subject to Clauses 5 and 6 below, the FRA shall be managed by the FRA Commissioners consisting of:

4.1.1 up to four Council Commissioners who are National Game Representatives and who are appointed by the National Game Board (**"NG Commissioners"**);

4.1.2 up to four Council Commissioners who are Professional Game Representatives and who are appointed by the Professional Game Board (**"PG Commissioners"**); and

4.1.3 up to four independent Non-Council Commissioners (**"Independent Commissioners or IC"**) who are nominated by the Chief Regulatory Officer (**"CRO"**) and appointed by majority vote of the Commissioners present at the FRA meeting at which the nomination is presented by the CRO. A person qualifies for such appointment if he/she is not, and has at no time in the immediately preceding three years been, a Member of Council.

4.2 The FRA Commissioners may exercise all such powers of the FRA, and on behalf of the FRA may carry out all such acts as may be exercised and done by the FRA, save for those which pursuant to these Terms, statute, the Rules and the regulations of The Association are prescribed to be authorised and/or exercised by the shareholders of The Association or the Board or in some other manner, and PROVIDED NEVERTHELESS THAT the FRA may do nothing which contravenes or is inconsistent with any provision of the Memorandum of Association of The Association, the Articles, the Standing Orders, the Rules or the FRA Budget.

4.3 The FRA Commissioners for the time being may act notwithstanding any vacancy in their number but, if there are fewer FRA Commissioners than the number fixed as the quorum, the continuing FRA Commissioners or FRA Commissioner may act only for the purpose of procuring that vacancies are filled.

4.4 In addition, and without prejudice to any other powers hereby or by law conferred on the FRA, the FRA Commissioners may from time to time and for such period and to such extent and generally on such terms as the FRA Commissioners shall think fit, delegate to any FRA Commissioner or FRA Commissioners and/or any other employee of The Association or other person or persons engaged in or in connection with the management, administration, organisation and conduct of the affairs of the FRA, any powers and duties of the FRA Commissioners.

4.5 There shall be a CRO who will be a full-time employee of The Association and who shall be responsible for the day to day management of the FRA on behalf of the FRA Commissioners.

4.6 Pursuant to the FRA Budget, each FRA Commissioner may be paid an attendance allowance in respect of his/her attendance at meetings of the FRA Commissioners at the level determined by the Board, together with reimbursement of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses.

5. APPOINTMENT AND RETIREMENT OF FRA COMMISSIONERS

5.1 Subject to Clauses 5.3, 5.4 and 6, the FRA Commissioners may hold office for the following terms from the start of the first FRA Meeting after the Council Summer Meeting in each year:

5.1.1 NG Commissioners may each hold office for a first term of three years and thereafter subject to Clause 5.6, shall be eligible for re-appointment for further terms of three years each.

5.1.2 PG Commissioners may each hold office for a first term of three years and thereafter, subject to Clause 5.6 shall be eligible for re-appointment for further terms of three years each.

5.1.3 Each Independent Commissioner may hold office for a first term of three years and thereafter, subject to Clause 5.6 shall be eligible for reappointment pursuant to the mechanism set out in Clause 4.1.3 above, for a further term of three years each.

5.2 The identities of the NG Commissioners, PG Commissioners, the Independent Commissioners and any proposed Commissioners shall be available from the CRO.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

5.3 The National Game Board or the Professional Game Board may at any time appoint a NG Commissioner or a PG Commissioner respectively, in order to fill a vacancy arising due to early retirement, removal or otherwise of their Commissioners. Any such Council Commissioners appointed thereby shall hold office for the terms set out in Clause 5.1 above. Such term shall be deemed to extend to the remainder of the current season in which the appointment becomes necessary in addition to the number of years of the term set out in Clause 5.1.

5.4 The FRA may at any time appoint an eligible person to be an IC in order to fill a vacancy arising due to early retirement, removal or otherwise of an IC. The eligible person shall be nominated by the CRO and appointed by majority vote of the Commissioners present at the FRA meeting at which the nomination is presented by the CRO. A person qualifies for such appointment if he/she is not and has at no time in the immediately preceding three years been a member of Council.

5.5 At the end of the respective terms set out herein, the relevant FRA Commissioners shall be deemed to have retired from office at the Council Summer Meeting in each year subject to re-election or re-appointment as applicable.

5.6 No person may be appointed as a FRA Commissioner:

5.6.1 unless he/she has attained the age of 18 years; or

5.6.2 in circumstances such that, had he/she already been a FRA Commissioner, he/she would have been disqualified from acting under the provisions of Clause 6.

6. DISQUALIFICATION OF FRA COMMISSIONERS

The office of a FRA Commissioner shall be vacated forthwith if:

6.1 by notice in writing to the FRA Commissioners he/she resigns from the FRA (but only if at least two FRA Commissioners remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect); or

6.2 being a NG Commissioner or PG Commissioner, he/she ceases to be a Member of Council;

6.3 being a PG Commissioner, he/she is removed from the office of PG Commissioner by the PGB; or

6.4 being a NG Commissioner, he/she is removed from the office of NG Commissioner by the NGB; or

6.5 being an Independent Commissioner he/she becomes a Member of Council; or

6.6 he/she becomes bankrupt or makes any arrangement or composition with his/her creditors generally; or

6.7 being a director, he/she ceases to hold office as director of any company by reason of any order made under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986, as amended from time to time; or

6.8 he/she is absent from three consecutive meetings of the FRA Commissioners without the consent of the FRA Chairman and the FRA resolves that he/she should cease to hold office; or

6.9 he/she dies or becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his/her own affairs; or

6.10 he/she no longer complies with the provisions of any regulations of The Association relating to "Fit and Proper Persons" or equivalent provisions as shall be in force from time to time; or

6.11 he/she is subject of a decision of The Association, UEFA or FIFA that he/she be suspended permanently or for a specified period from taking part in football management and/ or football administration and/ or any football related activity pursuant to any applicable disciplinary provisions under the rules or statutes of UEFA or FIFA (as appropriate); or

6.12 he/she is convicted of any criminal offence other than any minor motoring or similar offence that cannot reasonably damage the reputation of the FRA or The Association; or

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

6.13 he/she is subject to a carried vote in the FRA of no confidence in that Commissioner and asking for a decision of the FRA to remove that Commissioner from office immediately or as from a specified time and date. The vote of no confidence requires that each Commissioner has been given notice of the vote by the CRO, or his/her nominee. The vote shall be held within 7 days of such notice being given to Commissioners such period to be determined by the Chairman. The vote of no confidence requires a vote of at least eight Commissioners having no confidence in that Commissioner. The reasons for the Commissioners voting that the CRO and/or Commissioner(s) has no confidence in the other Commissioner might be various, such as, but without being exhaustive, an inability to continue with the role of a Commissioner, improper or unreasonable behaviour or misconduct. The FRA shall record any exceptional circumstance, the reasons for seeking the vote of no confidence and the reasons for passing the vote of no confidence and deciding to remove that Commissioner from office.

7. PROCEEDINGS OF THE FRA COMMISSIONERS

7.1 The FRA Commissioners may meet together for the dispatch of business, adjourn and otherwise regulate their meetings as they think fit, PROVIDED THAT such meetings are held at least five times during every year. Unless otherwise determined in writing by the Board, six FRA Commissioners shall be a quorum, of which two shall be NG Commissioners, two shall be PG Commissioners and two shall be ICs. Questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes and in cases of equality of votes, the chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote. A meeting shall be deemed to be quorate where it would have satisfied the above requirements were it not for a Commissioner/ Commissioners being ineligible to vote and/or be present due to a conflict of interest.

7.2 A FRA Commissioner shall disclose to the other FRA Commissioners and not vote on any matter in which he/she has, directly or indirectly, an interest or duty which is material and which conflicts or may conflict with the interests of the FRA. A FRA Commissioner shall not be counted in the quorum present at a meeting in relation to a resolution on which he/she is not entitled to vote. A FRA Commissioner shall not be present at any part of a meeting where his/her appointment or ceasing to act as a FRA Commissioner is discussed.

7.3 The FRA Chairman or three FRA Commissioners may at any time by written notice require the CRO to summon a Meeting of the FRA Commissioners as soon as it is practicable.

7.4 A meeting of the FRA Commissioners at which a quorum is present shall be competent to exercise all the authorities, powers and discretions for the time being vested in the FRA Commissioners generally under these Terms

7.5 The FRA Commissioners may delegate any of their powers to committees consisting of such FRA Commissioner or FRA Commissioners or employees of The Association or others as they think fit, and any committee so formed shall, in the exercise of the powers so delegated, conform to any regulations imposed on it by the FRA Commissioners. The meetings and proceedings of any such committee shall be governed by regulations made by the FRA Commissioners.

7.6 All acts bona fide done by any meeting of the FRA Commissioners or of any committee of the FRA Commissioners, or by any person acting as a committee member, shall, notwithstanding it be afterwards discovered that there was some defect in the appointment or continuance in office of any such person or that they or any of them were disqualified, be as valid as if every such person had been duly appointed or had duly continued in office and was qualified to be a FRA Commissioner or member of the committee as the case may be.

7.7 All or any of the FRA Commissioners or of the members of any committee of the FRA Commissioners may participate in a meeting of the FRA Commissioners or that committee (as the case may be) by means of a conference telephone or any communication equipment which allows all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other. A person so participating shall be deemed to be present in person at the meeting and shall be entitled to vote or be counted in a quorum accordingly. Such a meeting shall be deemed to take place where the largest group of those participating is assembled, or, if there is no such group, where the chairman of the meeting then is.

7.8 The FRA Commissioners shall cause proper minutes to be made of all appointments made by them and of the proceedings of all meetings of the FRA Commissioners and of committees of the FRA Commissioners, and all business transacted at such meetings, and any such minutes of any meeting, if purporting to be signed by the chairman of such meeting, or by the chairman of the next succeeding meeting, shall be sufficient evidence without any further proof of the facts therein stated.

7.9 A resolution agreed in writing by all the FRA Commissioners or by all the members for the time being of any committee of the FRA Commissioners who are entitled to receive notice of a meeting of the FRA Commissioners or of such committee shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the FRA Commissioners or of such committee duly convened and constituted, as the case may be. Any such written instrument may be in several parts each signed by one or more FRA Commissioner(s) or member(s) of the committee as the case may be.

8. FRA CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

8.1 The FRA Chairman shall be appointed by and from among the FRA Commissioners for a term of three years unless he/she resigns from the chair or ceases to be a FRA Commissioner.

8.2 Upon the expiry of his/her first period of office, the FRA Chairman shall be eligible for reappointment for a further term of three years.

8.3 The FRA Commissioners may at any other time appoint one of their number to be the FRA Chairman in order to fill a vacancy arising due to early retirement, removal or otherwise. Any such FRA Chairman appointed in accordance with this Clause 8.3 shall retire at the time the vacating FRA Chairman would otherwise have retired, subject to Clause 8.1 above.

8.4 A Vice Chairman of the FRA shall be appointed by the FRA Commissioners from amongst the FRA Commissioners, to hold office for three years and upon expiry of such period shall be eligible for re-appointment for a further three year term. The FRA Vice-Chairman shall cease to hold such appointment forthwith upon ceasing to be a FRA Commissioner or he/ she resigns from the vice chair.

8.5 The FRA Chairman shall preside as chairman at all meetings of the FRA Commissioners at which he/she shall be present, but if he/she is not present within fifteen minutes after the time appointed for holding a meeting or is unwilling to preside the Vice Chairman of the FRA appointed pursuant to Clause 8.4 shall preside, and if he/she is not present at that time or is unwilling to preside, those FRA Commissioners present shall choose one of the other FRA Commissioners to preside at that meeting.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

9. FINANCES

9.1 The FRA Commissioners shall annually submit a budget to the Board for the purposes of the FRA Budget which shall (without limitation) include expenses of the Judicial Panel.

9.2 The FRA Commissioners shall enable The Association's finance department to keep proper books of account to enable accounts to be prepared which comply with the requirements of The Association.

10. AMENDMENT AND DISSOLUTION

10.1 These Terms shall not be amended in any way save with the agreement of the Board. Any amendment made pursuant to this Clause 10.1 shall be binding on the FRA Commissioners, all employees of The Association and committee members of the FRA and any others acting in any capacity for the FRA whatsoever, with immediate effect.

10.2 The Board may, at any time, dissolve or withdraw any of the powers of the FRA.

Amended by the Board 8 December 2023

6 - THE JUDICIAL PANEL

A Division of The Football Association
(UK Registered Number: 77797)
Wembley Stadium, London, HA9 0WS

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE COMPOSITION AND OPERATION OF THE JUDICIAL PANEL

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Pursuant to the Articles of Association (the **"Articles"**) and the Standing Orders (the **"Standing Orders"**) of The Football Association (**"The Association"**) the board of directors of The Association (**"Board"**) has established the Judicial Panel (the **"Judicial Panel"**) from which individuals shall be drawn to sit on regulatory commissions and on appeal boards against decisions of a Regulatory Commission in connection with the game of association football played in England. The Board has provided for the due discharge by the Judicial Panel of its function as referred to above, in accordance with these terms of reference.

1.2 Unless otherwise defined in these terms of reference (the **"Terms"**), words and expressions shall have the same meaning as set out in the Articles or the Rules of The Association as amended from time to time.

2. DEFINITIONS

In these Terms:

"Appeal Board" means any appeal board drawn from the Judicial Panel in order to hear appeals from a Regulatory Commission or otherwise;

"Appeal Board Chairs' Panel" means the panel of individuals comprising Barristers or Solicitors of seven or more years' standing and from whom a chair of each Appeal Board shall be drawn pursuant to Clauses 5 and 7.3;

"Chairs' Panel" means any member selected from the Council Panel Members list or the Football Panel Members list or the Specialist Panel list to be appointed as a Chair of Regulatory Commissions;

"Compliance Monitoring Group" means any compliance monitoring group established by the FRA from time to time;

"Council Panel Members" means those individuals who are appointed by the Committees Appointment Panel of Council from among Members of Council from time to time by the JPMG to be Panel Members in accordance with Clauses 4.1.1 and 4.2 to 4.4;

"Effective Date" means 8 December 2023;

"Football Panel Members" means those individuals with appropriate experience of the game of association football who are appointed from time to time by the FRA to be Panel Members in accordance with Clauses 4.1.3, 4.2 and 4.5;

"FRA" means The Football Regulatory Authority of The Association;

"FRA Budget" means the budget for the establishment, development and operation of the FRA, including the expenses of the Judicial Panel, as approved by the Board from time to time;

"FRA Chair" means the chair of the FRA appointed from time to time;

"FRA Commissioner" means any person who is appointed as a commissioner of the FRA from time to time;

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

"Independent" means a person who:

a) shall not be or have been, within the last four years, actively involved in The Association's affairs or held any position or role within The Association (including, without limitation, being a Member of Council, a member of any committee of The Association or an employee, director or officer of The Association); and

b) shall not be or have had, within the last three years, a Material Business Relationship with a party to the proceedings; and

c) shall not be or have been within the last three years an employee, director or officer of, nor have or have had a Material Business Relationship with, a Participant who the Judicial Panel Chair reasonably considers to have a material interest in the outcome of the proceedings; and

d) shall not have close family ties (including by way of being connected with an individual as a spouse, civil partner, former spouse, former civil partner, parent, step or adopted parent, grandparent, child, step child, adopted child, descendant, qualifying co-habitant or next-of-kin) with a Participant who the Judicial Panel Chair reasonably considers to have a material interest in the outcome of the proceedings; and

e) shall not accept any instruction, whether appearing as advocate or otherwise, from a party to any proceedings or process under Rules and regulations of The FA.

"Judicial Panel Chair" means the chair of the Judicial Panel, as appointed by the FRA from time to time in accordance with Clause 9;

"Judicial Panel Monitoring Group" means the group of that name established by the FRA;

"Legal Panel Members" means professionally qualified Barristers or Solicitors and/or appropriately experienced individuals who are appointed from time to time by the FRA and/or the Judicial Panel Monitoring Group to be Panel Members.

"Material Business Relationship" means as between an individual (including any entity in which the person is a partner, executive director, senior employee or a shareholder with a direct or indirect right to control 25% or more of the voting rights) and the relevant body, a significant commercial relationship that might interfere, or might reasonably be seen to interfere, with the person's independence, including but not limited to one under which the individual receives from the body, payment of remuneration by fees or rent or otherwise (save for properly incurred expenses). **"Individual"** includes any person connected with that individual as a spouse, civil partner, widow, widower, former spouse, former civil partner, parent, step or adopted parent, grandparent, child, step child, adopted child, descendant, qualifying co-habitant or next-of-kin;

"Panel Members" means together, the Council Panel Members, the Football Panel Members and the Specialist Panel Members and the Legal Panel Members of the Judicial Panel from time to time;

"Regulatory Commission" means any regulatory commission drawn from the Judicial Panel from time to time in order to hear cases and pre-hearings from the FRA or otherwise; and

"Specialist Panel Members" means professionally qualified and/or appropriately experienced individuals (who, if Barristers or Solicitors, shall be of seven or more years' standing) who are appointed from time to time by the FRA to be Panel Members in accordance with Clauses 4.1.3, 4.2 and 4.5.

3. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE OF THE JUDICIAL PANEL

3.1 The Judicial Panel was established by the Board as the group of individuals from which Regulatory Commissions and Appeal Boards will be drawn by the Judicial Panel Chair or its nominee, to hear cases or appeals in connection with disciplinary and other regulatory processes of The Association.

3.2 The Board delegates to the Judicial Panel the power to undertake the following functions:

3.2.1 establishing, and appointing individuals to sit on, Regulatory Commissions and Appeal Boards;

3.2.2 appointing members of, delegating the appropriate power to, and co-ordinating and controlling the operation of any sub-committees and other bodies or persons, as necessary; and

3.2.3 such other responsibilities and activities as the Board may from time to time decide.

3.3 Any hearings, appeals, deliberations or proceedings of any description held pursuant to or arising from the operation of the Rules and regulations of The Association which are in progress as at the Effective Date shall continue thereafter and those authorised by The Association prior to the Effective Date to hear such proceedings shall continue to be fully competent to complete the business in question thereafter using the application of the Rules and regulations of The Association in force immediately prior to the Effective Date.

4. THE JUDICIAL PANEL

4.1 Subject to Clauses 4.6 and 8, the Judicial Panel will consist of five categories of Panel Member as follows:

4.1.1 Council Panel Members;

4.1.2 Legal Panel Members who are appointed by the Judicial Panel Monitoring Group and/or the FRA;

4.1.3 Football Panel Members who are appointed by the Judicial Panel Monitoring Group and/or the FRA;

4.1.4 Chairs' Panel, including the Judicial Panel Chair, who are appointed by the FRA to sit as Chairs of Regulatory Commissions; and

4.1.5 Specialist Panel Members, who shall not be, and shall not have been at any time in the immediately preceding three years, a Member of Council.

4.2 Subject to Clauses 4.6 and 8, each Council Panel Member shall hold office for a year and shall be eligible for further terms. Subject to Clauses 4.6 and 8, each Legal Panel Member, Football Panel Member and each Specialist Panel Member shall hold office for a term of three years and shall be eligible for further terms. Panel Members are not subject to retirement by rotation.

4.3 The People and Culture Committee shall at each Summer Meeting of Council appoint the Council Panel Members.

4.4 The Council Panel Members of the time being may at any other time appoint a Member of Council to be a Council Panel Member in order to fill a vacancy arising, due to early retirement, removal or otherwise, between Summer Meetings of Council. Any such Council Panel Member appointed in accordance with this Clause 4.4 shall remain in office until the next following Summer Meeting and thereafter shall be subject to the appointment process as referred to in Clause 4.3 above.

4.5 The FRA may at any other time appoint a person to be a Legal Panel Member, Football Panel Member, a Specialist Panel Member or a member of the Chairs' Panel, as appropriate, in order to fill any vacancies arising due to early retirement, removal, necessity or otherwise. Any such Legal Panel Member, Football Panel Member, Specialist Panel Member or member of the Chairs' Panel appointed in accordance with this Clause 4.5 shall retire at the time when the respective vacating Legal Panel Member, Football Panel Member or Specialist Panel Member would otherwise have retired but shall be eligible for further re-appointment. For the purposes of Clause 4.2, if s/he is re-appointed, their first term of office shall be deemed to have commenced on the date on which they were re-appointed pursuant to this Clause 4.5.

4.6 No person may be appointed as a Panel Member:

4.6.1 unless they have attained the age of 18 years; or

4.6.2 in circumstances such that, had they already been a Panel Member, they would have been disqualified from acting under the provisions of Clause 8; or

4.6.3 if they have at any time in the twelve months prior to their appointment been personally employed or otherwise engaged in any capacity by the FRA, other than as an FRA Commissioner PROVIDED THAT a FRA Commissioner shall not be eligible to be a Panel Member if they are or have at any time in the twelve months prior to their appointment been, a member of the Compliance Monitoring Group.

5. APPEAL BOARD CHAIRS' PANEL

5.1 The Appeal Board Chairs' Panel shall consist of Specialist Panel Members.

5.2 Any vacancies shall be filled by the FRA. No person who has been a member of the Board or Member of Council within the previous five years shall be eligible. Only members or former members of the judiciary, Queen's Counsel, junior Barristers or Solicitors of more than 10 years standing shall be eligible.

5.3 Subject to Clause 5.4 below, members of the Appeal Board Chairs' Panel shall be eligible for re-election every 4 years.

5.4 The appointment of a member of the Appeal Board Chairs' Panel shall cease if:

5.4.1 by notice in writing to the Judicial Panel Chair, he or she resigns from the Appeal Board Chairs' Panel; or

5.4.2 becomes bankrupt or makes any arrangement or composition with their creditors; or

5.4.3 being a director, they cease to hold office as director of any company by reason of any order made under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986, as amended from time to time; or

5.4.4 if being a practising Solicitor or Barrister, they are struck off the Roll of Solicitors or suspended from practice by the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal or disqualified, suspended or struck off by the Bar Council (as the case may be) for any reason; or

5.4.5 they die or become incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering their own affairs; or

5.4.6 they no longer comply with the provisions of any regulations of The Association relating to "Fit and Proper Persons" as shall be in force from time to time pursuant to paragraph J1.6 of the Rules; or

5.4.7 they are convicted of any criminal offence other than any minor motoring or similar offence that cannot reasonably damage the reputation of the Judicial Panel or The Association.

6. REGULATORY COMMISSIONS

6.1 The powers in the Rules and the regulations of The Association to impose penalties or other orders for Misconduct (as defined in the Rules), and the power to impose an interim suspension order before charge pursuant to Rule E16, where possible Misconduct is alleged or under investigation, shall be exercised by a Regulatory Commission, save for the imposition of those penalties or other order for Misconduct which the Council decides, or the Rules and the regulations of The Association deem are matters reserved for the FRA. Each Regulatory Commission shall be established by the Judicial Panel Chair, or in its absence, its nominee, pursuant to Clauses 3.1 and 3.2.

6.2 Subject to Clause 6.3, the composition of any Regulatory Commission established for a hearing shall be determined by the Judicial Panel Chair or its nominee applying a selection policy established by the Judicial Panel Chair and the FRA PROVIDED THAT:

6.2.1 any party who is to go before a Regulatory Commission (other than a "Fast Track" Regulatory Commission) may make an application to the Judicial Panel Chair, within 7 days of the charge being issued and upon notice to any other relevant party, for an order that the chair of that Regulatory Commission shall be a Specialist Panel Member. Approval by the Judicial Panel Chair of such application shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed and any additional costs incurred in respect of having such a Specialist Panel Member as the chair of that Regulatory Commission (whether or not the applicant be successful in the relevant hearing before such Regulatory Commission), shall be borne by the party who made the application; and

6.2.2 Subject to Clause 6.2.1 above and this clause, only members from the Chairs' Panel may be appointed by the Judicial Panel Chair (or in its absence, its nominee) to act as chair of that Regulatory Commission. If the Chair is not present within 15 minutes after the appointed time for holding the hearing, the Judicial Panel Chair, (or in its absence, its nominee), shall appoint another member of the Regulatory Commission to act as Chair.

6.3 A person shall not be deemed to be competent to serve on a Regulatory Commission if they have pending before them as a serving member of an Appeal Board a matter or decision with which another Panel Member of the proposed Regulatory Commission is concerned.

6.4 If a member of a Regulatory Commission doubts their ability to be impartial, or believes there to be a materially conflicting interest in the proceedings, they shall declare it as soon as possible, and unless all parties waive it and request the member to act, then the member shall withdraw completely from the proceedings.

6.5 The Judicial Panel Chair (or in its absence, its nominee) shall appoint another to fill any vacancy that arises on a Regulatory Commission prior to a hearing. Where a vacancy or vacancies occur in a Regulatory Commission after the commencement of a hearing, the hearing shall cease and a new hearing arranged before a freshly constituted Regulatory Commission, unless the parties consent to the remaining members continuing.

7. APPEAL BOARDS

7.1 Subject to Clause 7.7, the powers in Rule H and the regulations of The Association to hear cases or appeals shall be exercised by an Appeal Board and each Appeal Board shall be established by the Judicial Panel Chair (or in its absence, its nominee) pursuant to Clauses 3.1 and 3.2.

7.2 Subject to Clauses 7.3 and 7.4, the composition of any Appeal Board established for and empowered to hear an appeal shall be determined by the Judicial Panel Chair applying a selection policy established by the Judicial Panel Chair and the FRA. PROVIDED THAT all Appeal Boards shall: (i) consist of two members who are not Council Panel Members; and (ii) include one member (other than the chairman of the Appeal Board) who is Independent.

7.3 An individual from the Appeal Board Chairs' Panel shall be appointed by the Judicial Panel Chair (or in its absence, its nominee) to act as chair of an Appeal Board.

7.4 A person shall not be deemed to be competent to serve on an Appeal Board if they have pending before them as a serving member of a Regulatory Commission a matter or decision with which another Panel Member of the proposed Appeal Board is concerned.

7.5 If a member of an Appeal Board doubts their ability to be impartial, or believes there to be a materially conflicting interest in the proceedings, they shall declare it as soon as possible, and unless all parties waive it and request the member to act, then the member shall withdraw completely from the proceedings.

7.6 The Judicial Panel Chair (or in its absence, its nominee) shall appoint another to fill any vacancy that arises on an Appeal Board prior to a hearing. Where a vacancy or vacancies occur in an Appeal Board after the commencement of a hearing, the hearing shall cease and a new hearing arranged before a freshly constituted Appeal Board, unless the parties consent to the remaining members continuing.

7.7 For the purposes of appeals under The Association's Anti-Doping Regulations only, members of an Appeal Board (as defined by the Rules of The Association) shall be appointed by an independent party (other than the Judicial Panel Chairman) from outside of the Judicial Panel, pursuant to terms of reference agreed between the Association and the independent party from time to time.

8. DISQUALIFICATION OF THE PANEL MEMBERS

8.1 The appointment of a Panel Member shall cease if:

8.1.1 by notice in writing to the Judicial Panel Chair, they resign from the Judicial Panel; or

8.1.2 being a Specialist Panel Member, they accept a position which would make them ineligible for appointment under Clause 4.1.4; or

8.1.3 they are appointed as a member of the Compliance Monitoring Group; or

8.1.4 being a Council Panel Member, they cease to be a Member of Council; or

8.1.5 if being a Solicitor or Barrister, they are struck off the Roll of Solicitors or suspended from practice by the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal or disqualified, suspended or struck off by the Bar Council (as the case may be) for any reason; or

8.1.6 they become bankrupt or make any arrangement or composition with their creditors generally; or

8.1.7 being a director, they cease to hold office as director of any company by reason of any order made under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986, as amended from time to time; or

8.1.8 they die or become incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering their own affairs; or

8.1.9 they no longer comply with the provisions of any regulations of The Association relating to "Fit and Proper Persons" as shall be in force from time to time pursuant to paragraph J1.6 of the Rules; or

8.1.10 they are the subject of a decision of The Association, UEFA or FIFA that they be suspended permanently or for a specified period from taking part in football management and/or football administration and/or any football related activity pursuant to any applicable disciplinary provisions under the rules or statutes of UEFA or FIFA (as appropriate); or

8.1.11 they are convicted of any criminal offence other than any minor motoring or similar offence that cannot reasonably damage the reputation of the Judicial Panel or The Association.

8.2 Where Clause 8.1 becomes applicable to a Panel Member serving on an Appeal Board or a Regulatory Commission, the remaining two Panel Members on such Appeal Board or such Regulatory Commission may agree unanimously that he or she shall not cease to be a Panel Member until the conclusion of that hearing or appeal, as the case may be.

9. THE JUDICIAL PANEL CHAIR

9.1 The Judicial Panel Chair shall be appointed by the FRA for a term of 3 years, unless he or she resigns from the chair. Upon the expiry of the first period of office, any Judicial Panel Chair shall be eligible for re-appointment for one further term of 3 years.

9.2 The FRA, at any other time may appoint another person to be the Judicial Panel Chair in order to fill a vacancy arising due to early retirement, removal or otherwise. Any such Judicial Panel Chair appointed in accordance with this Clause 9.2 shall retire at the time the vacating Judicial Panel Chair would otherwise have retired, subject to Clause 9.1 above.

10. FINANCES

10.1 The expenses of the Judicial Panel and the Appeal Board Chairs' Panel shall be paid by the FRA. For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this Clause shall prejudice the right of a Regulatory Commission or an Appeal Board to make an order for costs.

10.2 Pursuant to the FRA Budget, each member of a Regulatory Commission or Appeal Board may be paid an attendance allowance in respect of their attendance at hearings of the Regulatory Commission or Appeal Board in question at the level determined by the Board, together with reimbursement of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses.

10.3 Arrangements may be made for the reasonable remuneration of any chair of an Appeal Board and any Specialist Panel Member when serving on an Appeal Board or a Regulatory Commission at the level determined by the Board.

11. AMENDMENT AND DISSOLUTION

11.1 These Terms shall not be amended in any way save with the written agreement of the Board. Any amendment made pursuant to this Clause 11.1 shall be binding on the Panel Members, all employees of The Association and committee members of the Judicial Panel and any others acting in any capacity for the Judicial Panel whatsoever, with immediate effect.

11.2 The Judicial Panel and the Appeal Board Chairs' Panel may be discharged at any time by Council.

Amended by the Board on 8 December 2023



Articles of Association



7 - ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

(Adopted by a special resolution passed on 15 May 2026)

PART 1: INTERPRETATION

1 Exclusion of model articles (and any other prescribed regulations)

No articles set out in any statute, or in any statutory instrument or other subordinate legislation made under any statute, concerning companies shall apply as the articles of the Company.

2 Interpretation

2.1 In these Articles, except where the subject or context otherwise requires:

"1986 Act" means the Insolvency Act 1986 as amended, including any modification or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force;

"2006 Act" means the Companies Act 2006 as amended, including any modification or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force;

"Affiliated Organisation" means one or any of the following organisations:

(a) The League Managers' Association;

(b) The Professional Footballers' Association;

(c) The Referees' Association;

(d) The Football Conference;

(e) The Northern Premier League;

(f) The Southern League; and

(g) The Isthmian League;

"Articles" means these articles of association as altered from time to time by special resolution (and "Article" shall be interpreted accordingly);

"Auditors" means the auditors for the time being of the Company;

"Board" means the board of directors of The Association for the time being, constituted in accordance with these Articles;

"Board Observer Council Member" means a Council Member holding office pursuant to Article 77.2.25;

"Chair" means the chair of the Board who is appointed from time to time by the Board in accordance with these Articles and, where the context requires, includes any Interim Chair appointed in accordance with Article 50.9 and any person appointed as acting Chair in accordance with Article 50.10;

"Chief Executive Officer" means a person appointed from time to time to the office of chief executive officer by the Board in accordance with these Articles;

"Clear days" means the period excluding the day when a notice is given or deemed to be given and the day for which it is given or on which it is to take effect;

"Club Official" means a club official as defined within the Rules from time to time;

"Code of Conduct" means The Association's Code of Conduct as in force from time to time;

"Code for Sports Governance" means a code for sports governance as adopted by UK Sport and/or Sport England from time to time;

"Competition" means any competition (whether league or knock-out competition or otherwise) sanctioned by The Association, a County Association or an Other Football Association;

"Compulsory Transfer" means a compulsory share transfer pursuant to the process set out in Article 15;

"Conflicts Committee" means the conflicts committee established from time to time in accordance with these Articles;

"Corporate Insolvency Event" means in respect of a company:

(a) it enters into a compromise or arrangement with any of its creditors or any class of its creditors (by way of scheme of arrangement under Part 26 the 2006 Act, restructuring plan under Part 26A of the 2006 Act, voluntary arrangement or otherwise);

b) it enters into a moratorium under Part 1 or Part A1 of the 1986 Act;

c) it passes a resolution for the winding up of the company;

d) it appoints a liquidator, administrator, receiver, administrative receiver or similar officer or serves notice, files a document(s), makes an application, presenting a petition, or a court makes an order in relation to the appointment of such officer;

e) the strike-off or dissolution of the company;

f) a distress, distraint, charging order, execution or other process is levied or applied for in respect of the whole or any part of the property, assets or undertaking of the company;

g) it takes any step set out in a) to f), or any action analogous to such steps, in any jurisdiction outside England and Wales in relation to the company; or

h) it ceases or forms an intention to cease wholly or substantially to carry on business save for the purpose of reconstruction or amalgamation or otherwise in accordance with a scheme of proposals which have previously been submitted to and approved in writing by The Association;

"Council" means the Council of The Association for the time being constituted in accordance with these Articles, and Member of (the) Council or Council Member shall be any person for the time being appointed to and serving on (the) Council in accordance with Article 77.2;

"County Association" means an association accorded the status of a County Association pursuant to the Rules;

"Director" means a director of the Company who shall be a member of the Board;

"Disability Football Representatives" means the individuals appointed to Council in accordance with Article 77.11;

"Disability Football Match Officials Representative" means the individual appointed to Council in accordance with Article 77.23;

"Division(s)" means no more than ten groupings of Member Clubs segregated on a regional basis which shall be determined by the Board from time to time;

"Divisional Representative" means an individual appointed to Council in accordance with Article 77.12;

"Electronic platform" means any form of electronic or digital platform and includes website addresses, application technology, conference call facilities and any device, system, procedure, method or other facility whatsoever providing an electronic means of remote attendance at or participation in (or both attendance at and participation in) a meeting as determined by the Board;

"FIFA" means the Fédération Internationale de Football Association or any successor body;

"Football" means the game of association football played in accordance with the Laws of the Game;

"Football club" means a club playing football and recognised as such by The Association pursuant to the Rules;

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

"Football Community Representatives" means the individuals appointed to Council in accordance with Article 77.21;

"Football Regulatory Authority" means a committee of the Board established by the Board from time to time and responsible for regulation and compliance functions;

"Football Stakeholder" means:

a) a Competition (or any body which administers a Competition);

b) a County Association;

c) an Other Football Association;

d) an Affiliated Organisation;

e) a Member Club;

f) FIFA (or any of its member associations (excluding The Association) and confederations); or

g) UEFA (or any of its member associations (excluding The Association));

"Football Supporters' Association" means The Football Supporters' Association Limited or any successor body;

"Football team" means a team playing football and recognised as such by The Association;

"Funding Formula" means the formula as set out in Article 56 setting out the mechanism by which The Association's income is allocated;

"Futsal Representatives" means the individuals appointed to Council in accordance with Article 77.17;

"General Referees Representative" means the individual appointed to Council in accordance with Article 77.24;

"Group Audit and Risk Committee" means the group audit and risk committee established by the Board from time to time in accordance with these Articles;

"Inclusion Advisory Board" means a committee of the Board established by the Board from time to time in accordance with these Articles to advise the Board on matters of inclusion and anti-discrimination in football;

"Independent" means a person who is:

a) free from any close connection to The Association and a close connection shall be deemed to include, without limitation, the following:

i) the person is, or has been within the last four years, actively involved in The Association's affairs or held any position or role within The Association (including, without limitation, being a Member of Council, a member of any committee of The Association or an employee, director or officer of The Association) save that the Board shall have discretion to reduce the four year look-back period set out in this limb i to, at a minimum, a six month look-back period, provided always that there shall be a sufficient number (for the purposes of the Code for Sports Governance) of Directors appointed to the Board that satisfy the definition of 'Independent' set out in the Code for Sports Governance;

ii) the person holds, or has held within the six months, a position or role with any Football Stakeholder (including, without limitation, being an employee, director or officer of any Football Stakeholder);

iii) the person has, or has had within the six months, a Material Business Relationship with The Association;

iv) the person has close family ties (including by way of being connected with an individual as a spouse, civil partner, parent, step or adopted parent, grandparent, child, descendant, qualifying co-habitant or next-of-kin) with any directors, senior employees, or committee members of The Association or any member of Council; and

b) viewed as independent from the perspective of an objective outsider;

"Independent Committee Members" means the individuals appointed to the National Game Board in accordance with Articles 60.1.4 and 60.4 and the terms of reference of the National Game Board from time to time;

"Independent NGB Chair" means the individual appointed as chair of the National Game Board in accordance with Articles 60.1.1 and 60.2 and the terms of reference of the National Game Board from time to time;

"Independent Non-Executive Director" means a director of the Board who is appointed from time to time by the Board in accordance with Articles 51 and 52;

"Interim Chair" means an Independent Non-Executive Director who is appointed from time to time by the Board in accordance with Article 50.9;

"Judicial Panel" means the judicial panel of The Association, being a committee of the Board established by the Board from time to time and from which judicial commissions and appeal boards are appointed to hear disciplinary and other cases and appeals;

"Law" means any applicable law, statute, bye-law, regulation, order, rule of court or directive, any requirement of any regulatory body entitled to regulate the affairs of The Association, or any delegated or subordinate legislation;

"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 and FIFA;

"Life Vice-President" means any person who has been accorded the status of Life Vice-President of Council pursuant to the Prior Articles;

"Material Business Relationship" means, as between a person (including any entity in which the person is a partner, executive director, senior employee or a shareholder with a direct or indirect right to control 25% or more of the voting rights) and The Association, a significant commercial relationship which is assessed by the Board as a relationship that might interfere, or might reasonably be seen to interfere, with the person's capacity to bring an independent judgment to bear on issues before the Board and to act in the best interests of The Association as a whole;

"Member Club" means a football club accorded the status of a Member Club pursuant to the Rules;

"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 Game Board" means a committee of the Board established by the Board from time to time in accordance with these Articles and responsible to the Board for the conduct of the National Game whose composition is as set out in Article 60;

"National Game Representative" means a Member of Council who, as further described in Articles 77.2 to 77.25, is:

(a) a representative of a County Association;

(b) a representative of an Other Football Association;

(c) a representative of a Division save that a person who holds a position with a football club in membership of The Premier League or The Football League shall not be a National Game Representative;

(d) a representative of The Football Conference, The Isthmian League, The Northern Premier League or The Southern League;

(e) a Disability Football Representative;

(f) one of the Supporters' Representatives nominated as such by the bodies entitled to make the appointment pursuant to Article 77.10;

(g) a representative of The Referees' Association;

(h) a representative of British Universities & Colleges Sport;

(i) a representative of the FA Youth Council;

(j) a representative of the Association of Colleges;

(k) a Steps 5 and 6 Representative;

(l) a Futsal Representative;

(m) a Women's National Leagues Representative;

(n) a Women's Regional and County Leagues Representative

(o) a Life Vice-President or Vice-President (provided always that immediately before the appointment as a Life Vice-President or election as a Vice-President such person was a National Game Representative pursuant to the Prior Articles);

(p) a Board Observer Council Member, elected to the Board pursuant to Article 53;

(q) a Football Community Representative who is primarily involved with the National Game in such person's role outside Council;

(r) a General Referees Representative; or

(s) a Disability Football Match Officials Representative;

"National Game Shareholder" means any Shareholder who is:

(a) a Member Club, save for those Member Clubs who are in membership of The Premier League or The Football League from time to time;

(b) a Member of Council who is a National Game Representative; or

(c) a County Association.

"National Game Special Share" means the special share of £1.00 in the capital of the Company, allotted and issued to the National Game Special Shareholder;

"National Game Special Shareholder" means the Independent NGB Chair;

"National League System" means the Competitions which interact with one another by way of promotion and relegation within those steps of the men's football National Game pyramid as determined by the Board from time to time;

"National Leagues Pyramid Board" means a committee of the Board established by the Board from time to time in accordance with these Articles;

"Nominations Committee" means the nominations committee established by the Board from time to time in accordance with these Articles;

"Nominee" means a natural person holding shares as a nominee pursuant to Article 9;

"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;

"Ordinary Share" means an ordinary share of £0.05 in the capital of the Company;

"Participants" means a participant as defined in the Rules from time to time;

"People and Culture Committee" means a committee of the Board established by the Board from time to time in accordance with these Articles;

"Personal Insolvency Event" in respect of an individual, a bankruptcy order being made for the person's bankruptcy, or an arrangement or composition being made with any of the person's creditors, or where the person otherwise takes the benefit of any statutory provision for the time being in force for the relief of insolvent debtors;

"President" means the president of The Association who may be appointed annually by Council and whose position shall be honorary;

"Prior Articles" means any articles of association of the Company in force prior to the effective date of these Articles (as may have been amended from time to time);

"Professional Game" means all aspects of football involving and affecting Participants in and at the levels of The Premier League and The Football League;

"Professional Game Board" means a committee of the Board established by the Board from time to time in accordance with these Articles and responsible to the Board for the conduct of the Professional Game and all aspects of football involving and affecting Participants in and at the levels of The Women's Professional Leagues, whose composition shall be as determined by the terms of reference of the Professional Game Board from time to time;

"Professional Game Representative" means a Member of Council who is:

(a) a representative of either The Premier League or The Football League or, if a representative of a Division, a person who holds a position with a football club in membership of The Premier League or The Football League;

(b) one of the Supporters' Representatives nominated as such by the bodies entitled to make the appointment pursuant to Article 77.10;

(c) a representative of The League Managers' Association;

(d) a representative of The Professional Footballers' Association;

(e) a Life Vice-President or Vice-President (provided always that immediately before the appointment as a Life Vice-President or election as a Vice-President such person was a Professional Game Representative pursuant to the Prior Articles); or

(f) a Board Observer Council Member, appointed to the Board pursuant to Article 54;

(g) a representative of the Women's Super League or the Women's Super League 2;

(h) a Football Community Representative who is primarily involved with the Professional Game or with any aspects of football involving and affecting Participants in and at the levels of The Women's Professional Leagues, in such person's role outside Council; or

(i) a representative of Professional Game Match Officials Limited;

"Professional Game Special Share" means the special share of £1.00 in the capital of the Company allotted and issued to the Professional Game Special Shareholder;

"Professional Game Special Shareholder" means jointly The Premier League and The Football League;

"Referees Committee" means a committee of the Board established by the Board from time to time in accordance with these Articles;

"Remuneration Committee" means the remuneration committee established by the Board from time to time in accordance with these Articles;

"Representative Council Member" means a Council Member appointed pursuant to Articles 77.2.3 to 77.2.9 and Articles 77.2.11 to 77.2.23;

"Rules" means the provisions for the regulation of football matters known as the "Rules of The Football Association Limited" as applicable from time to time;

"Secretary" means the secretary of the Company and includes a joint, assistant, deputy or temporary secretary and any other person appointed to perform the duties of the secretary;

"Senior Independent Director" means any person nominated as such pursuant to Article 55;

"Shareholder" means the Professional Game Special Shareholder, the National Game Special Shareholder or any of the persons, companies or bodies referred to in Articles 8.1 or their Nominee or Nominees holding shares pursuant to Article 9, in either case, whose name is entered in the Company's register of members as the holder of such shares and a "holder of a share" in the Company shall be construed accordingly;

"Share" means any Ordinary Share, the National Game Special Share or the Professional Game Special Share;

"Standing Orders" means the standing orders of Council as applicable from time to time;

"Statutes" means the 1986 Act and 2006 Act and every other statute or statutory instrument, law or regulation for the time being in force concerning companies and affecting The Association;

"Steps 5 and 6 Representatives" means the individuals appointed to Council in accordance with Article 77.16;

"Summer Meeting(s)" means the meeting of Council which takes place in June or July every calendar year, in accordance with the Standing Orders;

"Supporters' Representatives" means the individuals appointed to Council in accordance with Article 77.10;

"Term-Limited Council Member" means a Council Member other than a Life Vice-President or a Board Observer Council Member;

"The Disability Football Committee" means a committee of the Board established by the Board from time to time to advise the Board on matters of the development of disability football;

"The Football Conference" means The Football Conference Limited or any successor body;

"The Football League" means The Football League Limited or any successor body;

"The Isthmian League" means The Isthmian Football League Limited or any successor body;

"The Northern Premier League" means The Northern Premier Football League Limited or any successor body;

"The Premier League" means The Football Association Premier League Limited or any successor body;

"The Southern League" means The Southern Football League Limited or any successor body;

"The Women's Professional Leagues" means Women's Super League Football Limited or any successor body;

"UEFA" means the Union of European Football Associations or any successor body;

"Vice-President" means any vice-president of The Association who is elected annually by Council with it being noted that the position of Vice-President will cease to exist with effect from midnight the day before the Summer Meeting in 2027;

"Women's National Leagues Representative" means the individual appointed to Council in accordance with Article 77.19; and

"Women's Regional and County Leagues Representatives" means the individuals appointed to Council in accordance with Article 77.20.

2.2 In these Articles, except where the subject or context otherwise requires:

2.2.1 references to a document being "executed" include references to its being executed under hand or under seal or by any other method and, in the case of communication in electronic form, such references are to its being authenticated as specified by the 2006 Act;

2.2.2 a reference to a "meeting" shall mean a meeting convened and held in any manner permitted by these Articles or, in the case of a meeting of Council, as permitted by the Standing Orders, including a general meeting at which some or all of those entitled to be present, attend and participate by means of an electronic platform(s) and/or attend and participate at a physical place, and such persons shall be deemed to be "present" at that meeting for all purposes of the 2006 Act, these Articles and, in respect of meetings of Council, the Standing Orders, and "attend", "participate", "attending", "participating", "attendance" and "participation" shall be construed accordingly;

2.2.3 references to "writing" and to any form of "written" communication include references to any method of representing or reproducing words, symbols or other information in a visible form by any method of combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise;

2.2.4 words denoting the singular number include the plural number and vice versa, words denoting the masculine gender include the feminine gender and words denoting persons include natural persons and companies;

2.2.5 words or expressions contained in these Articles which are not defined in Article 2.1 but are defined in the 1986 Act or 2006 Act have, if not inconsistent with the subject or context, the same meaning as in the 1986 Act or 2006 Act (but excluding any statutory modification thereof not in force at the date of adoption of these Articles);

2.2.6 subject to Article 2.2.5, references to any provision of any enactment or of any subordinate legislation (as defined by section 21(1) of the Interpretation Act 1978) include any modification or re-enactment of that provision for the time being in force;

2.2.7 in these Articles:

(a) powers of delegation shall not be restrictively construed, but the widest interpretation shall be given thereto;

(b) no power of delegation shall be limited by the existence or, except where expressly provided by the terms of delegation, the exercise of that or any other power of delegation; and

(c) except where expressly provided by the terms of delegation, the delegation of a power shall not exclude the concurrent exercise of that power by any other body or person who is for the time being authorised to exercise it under these Articles or under another delegation of the power; and

2.2.8 references to a "company" include a firm, company, corporation, body corporate, government, state or agency of state, trust or foundation, or any association, partnership or unincorporated body (whether or not having separate legal personality and wherever incorporated or established).

"Women's Super League" means the top league of women's association football in England, known as the "Women's Super League" or such other name as is adopted by The Women's Professional Leagues from time to time; and

"Women's Super League 2" means the second league of women's association football in England, known as the "Women's Super League 2" or such other name as is adopted by The Women's Professional Leagues from time to time.

PART 2: SHARES

3 Share Capital

The Company's shares are Ordinary Shares of 5p each and special shares of £1 each and are limited in number to 2,000 Ordinary Shares, and two special shares, one designated the "National Game Special Share" and the other designated the "Professional Game Special Share."

4 Further Issues of Shares: Authority

4.1 Subject to the remaining provisions of this Article 4.1 and to Article 4.2, the directors are generally and unconditionally authorised, for the purposes of section 551 of the 2006 Act and generally, to exercise any power of the Company to:

4.1.1 offer or allot;

4.1.2 grant rights to subscribe for or to convert any security into; and

4.1.3 otherwise deal in, or dispose of, any shares in the Company to any person, at any time and subject to any terms and conditions as the directors think proper.

4.2 The authority referred to in Article 4.1:

4.2.1 shall be subject to the limits in Article 3;

4.2.2 shall only apply insofar as the Company has not renewed, waived or revoked it by ordinary resolution;

4.2.3 may not be exercised in breach of the Articles or the Statutes; and

4.2.4 may only be exercised for a period of five years commencing on the date on which these Articles are adopted, save that the directors may make an offer or agreement which would, or might, require shares to be allotted after the expiry of such authority (and the directors may allot shares in pursuance of an offer or agreement as if such authority had not expired).

5 Further Issues of Shares: Pre-emption Rights

In accordance with section 567(1) of the 2006 Act, sections 561 and 562 of the 2006 Act shall not apply to an allotment of equity securities (as defined in section 560(1) of the 2006 Act) made by the Company.

6 No Capital or Dividend Rights

No share shall entitle the holder thereof to any payment in respect of paid-up capital (if any), dividend, bonus, profit, or otherwise.

7 Sub-division, Consolidation and Bonus Issues

No share shall be sub-divided. No share shall be consolidated. No bonus issue shall be made.

8 Entitlement to Ordinary Shares

8.1 Subject to Articles 8.2 and 9, Ordinary Shares may only be allotted or (to the extent that a transfer is permitted from an existing Shareholder) transferred to the following:

8.1.1 The Premier League;

8.1.2 The Football League;

8.1.3 a voting Member of Council;

8.1.4 a Member Club;

8.1.5 a County Association;

8.1.6 the Secretary; and

8.1.7 the Company but only following a share buyback.

8.2 The entitlement to Ordinary Shares shall be as follows:

8.2.1 The Premier League and The Football League shall each be entitled to one Ordinary Share only;

8.2.2 each Member of Council shall be entitled to one Ordinary Share only for so long as the Member is a voting Member of Council;

8.2.3 each Life Vice-President who held a share pursuant to the Prior Articles shall be entitled to one Ordinary Share only;

8.2.4 each Member Club shall be entitled to one Ordinary Share only;

8.2.5 each County Association shall be entitled to a number of Ordinary Shares calculated in accordance with Article 8.3; and

8.2.6 the Secretary shall be entitled to a number of Ordinary Shares in accordance with Article 8.4.

8.3 The number of Ordinary Shares to which each County Association shall be entitled shall be calculated as follows:

(A/B) x 775

Where:

A = the number of football teams affiliated to such County Association; and

B = the total number of football teams affiliated to all County Associations.

Any fractional entitlement to an Ordinary Share shall be rounded up or down to the nearest number and in the case that such process would result in the aggregate number of Ordinary Shares issued to the County Associations exceeding or falling below 775, the Board shall determine the final allocations as closely as possible to the entitlement conferred by this Article. The entitlement of each County Association shall be calculated on 1 June in each year and notified to the County Associations by the Board and Ordinary Shares will be transferred as the Board directs annually following such calculation in accordance with Article 16.1. Notwithstanding any other provision in these Articles, the Board shall be entitled to determine what shall or shall not qualify as a football team affiliated to a County Association for the purposes of this provision.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

8.4 The Secretary may be registered as the holder of any number of Ordinary Shares in the Company which may be transferred to the Secretary by or on behalf of Shareholders in accordance with the Articles, but the Secretary shall not in respect of such Ordinary Shares be permitted to vote at any general meeting of the Company, either personally or by proxy, or to be reckoned in a quorum, or to exercise any right or privilege as a Shareholder in relation to general meetings or vote on, or exercise any right or privilege as a Shareholder in relation to any written resolution. The Secretary shall, upon retiring or removed from the office of Secretary, execute a transfer of all the Ordinary Shares of which the Secretary is then registered as holder in favour of the succeeding Secretary.

9 Nominees

9.1 Where a body identified in Article 8.1 is not a legal entity entitled to hold shares in its own name, subject to Article 9.2, a Nominee or Nominees shall be appointed to hold the share or shares to which the relevant body is entitled for and on behalf of all persons combining to form the relevant body.

9.2 A Nominee appointed pursuant to Article 9.1 shall be a member of the relevant body which is entitled to the share or shares and such body shall inform the Board promptly in writing of the appointment of and the details of such Nominee.

9.3 The Board may require any person whose name is on the register as a holder of shares to disclose in writing full details of the person or persons for whom the shares are held.

9.4 For the purposes of this Article 9, any issue as to whether a person is or is not entitled to hold a share or shares as Nominee or a person or persons is/are entitled to appoint a Nominee shall be determined finally by the Board. The Company shall register any such share or shares in the name of the Nominee where the Board has determined that such person or persons is/are so entitled.

9.5 Without prejudice to the rights of any Nominee duly registered as a holder of shares in accordance with provisions of the Prior Articles, no such body may appoint a Nominee or Nominees (either as a new or additional Nominee or replacement for a previously appointed Nominee) to hold a share or shares to which it is entitled if, or for so long as, it is a legal entity entitled to hold shares in its own name.

10 Entitlement to the Professional Game Special Share

The Professional Game Special Share may only be issued to, held by and transferred to the Professional Game Special Shareholder.

11 Entitlement to the National Game Special Share

The National Game Special Share may only be issued to, held by and transferred to the National Game Special Shareholder.

12 Share Certificates

Every Shareholder, upon becoming entitled to be the holder of any share, shall be entitled, without payment, to call for one certificate for the share(s) held.

13 Replacement Certificates

If a share certificate is defaced, worn out, lost or destroyed, it may be renewed on such terms (if any) as to evidence and indemnity (with or without security) and payment of any exceptional out-of-pocket expenses reasonably incurred by the Company in investigating evidence and preparing the requisite form of indemnity as the Board may determine but otherwise free of charge, and (in the case of defacement or wearing out) on delivery up of the old certificate.

14 Suspension of Rights

14.1 Save in respect of the Professional Game Special Shareholder and the National Game Special Shareholder, where any Shareholder:

14.1.1 has not paid any subscription, fee, fine or other sum due to the Company in accordance with these Articles or the Rules or following any order from the Board;

14.1.2 suffers a Corporate Insolvency Event or a Personal Insolvency Event;

14.1.3 dies or a registered medical practitioner who is treating such Shareholder gives a written opinion to the Company stating such Shareholder has become physically or mentally incapable of fulfilling the responsibilities required of a shareholder and may remain so for more than three months, or is or has been suffering from mental or physical ill health;

14.1.4 is not specified as being entitled to hold a share or ceases to be entitled to hold a share pursuant to Articles 8.1 or 8.2; or

14.1.5 holds a share as a Nominee and that person ceases to be a member of the body in respect of which that person is a Nominee, or the relevant organisation appoints a new Nominee or Nominees,

then such Shareholder shall, at the absolute discretion of the Board, be subject to either: (i) a suspension of rights pursuant to Article 14.2; or (ii) a Compulsory Transfer.

14.2 Upon the Board deciding in favour of a suspension of rights, such Shareholder shall not in respect of any share which they hold be entitled, until such time as the circumstances set out in Article 14.1 have ceased to apply in respect of such Shareholder (or such shorter period as determined by the Board), to:

14.2.1 attend or vote at any general meeting of the Company or vote on any written resolution of the Company;

14.2.2 exercise any other right conferred by holding a share in relation to any such meeting or written resolution; or

14.2.3 exercise any right of any nature conferred by the Company with regard to the holding of a share.

15 Compulsory Transfer - Process

15.1 If the Board elects to enforce a transfer of a share or shares held by a Shareholder (a **"Compulsory Transfer Election"**), the relevant Shareholder (the **"Transferring Shareholder"**) shall be deemed to have served a transfer notice (a **"Deemed Transfer Notice"**) on the Company in respect of the relevant share or shares (the **"Transfer Share(s)"**) on the date of the Compulsory Transfer Election. The Deemed Transfer Notice shall be in respect of the Transfer Shares and shall deem that the sale price for the Transfer Shares shall be the aggregate nominal value of the Transfer Shares (the receipt and sufficiency of which is deemed to be acknowledged by the Transferring Shareholder on the date of transfer).

15.2 The Transferring Shareholder shall as soon as possible following the date of a Deemed Transfer Notice transfer the Transfer Shares to an individual or company entitled to hold the Transfer Shares pursuant to Article 8.1 as instructed by the Board.

15.3 If the Transferring Shareholder does not transfer the Transfer Shares pursuant to Article 15.2 within fourteen days of the date of a Deemed Transfer Notice, then the Company shall be deemed the agent of the Transferring Shareholder in respect of the Transfer Shares and the Secretary may on behalf of the Transferring Shareholder complete, execute and deliver in the Transferring Shareholder's name all documents (including executing a stock transfer form) necessary to give effect to the transfer of the Transfer Shares.

15.4 Where the Transferring Shareholder defaults in transferring the Transfer Shares in accordance with Article 15.2 and the Secretary is required to enter into a document(s) on behalf of the Transferring Shareholder pursuant to Article 15.3 and, subject to Articles 8.1 and 8.2, the Board may register the transferee and the title of the transferee shall not be affected by any irregularity or invalidity in the proceedings.

16 Compulsory Transfer - General

16.1 If the annual calculation of the number of football teams affiliated to each County Association carried out pursuant to Article 8.3 changes the entitlement of any County Association to shares, the Board shall have the power to require that each such County Association's entitlement to shares is amended in accordance with Article 8.3, and accordingly that share(s) may be subject to a Compulsory Transfer and/or transferred to an alternative County Association.

16.2 An individual or company, any of whose shares are subject to a Compulsory Transfer, shall cease to be a holder in respect of them and shall surrender to the Company for cancellation any certificate for the share(s) but shall remain liable to the Company for all moneys which at the date of transfer were presently payable by the individual or company to the Company in respect of those shares or otherwise.

16.3 Any individual or company whose share(s) is/are subject to a Compulsory Transfer under these Articles shall not in respect of the relevant share(s) from the time it is/they are deemed transferred be entitled to attend or vote at any general meeting of the Company or vote on any written resolution, or to exercise any other right conferred by ownership of a share in relation to any such meeting or written resolution.

16.4 Without prejudice to the provisions of any other Article, following a Compulsory Transfer the Transferring Shareholder shall have no interest in or any claims and demands against the Company in respect of the share(s) and all other rights and liabilities incidental to the share as between the Transferring Shareholder and the Company, except only such of those rights and liabilities as are by these Articles expressly saved, or as are by the 2006 Act given or imposed in the case of past Shareholders.

16.5 A statutory declaration by a Director or the Secretary that a share has been subject to a Compulsory Transfer on a specified date shall be conclusive evidence of the facts stated in it as against all persons claiming to be entitled to the share and the declaration shall (subject to the execution of an instrument of transfer if necessary) constitute a good title to the share. Title to the share shall not be affected by any irregularity in, or validity of, the proceedings in reference to the transfer of the share.

17 Purchase of Own Shares

17.1 Subject to the 2006 Act but without prejudice to any other provision of these Articles, the Company may purchase its own shares in accordance with Chapter 4 of Part 18 of the 2006 Act, including (without limitation) out of capital up to any amount in a financial year not exceeding the lower of:

17.1.1 £15,000; and

17.1.2 the nominal value of 5% of the Company's fully paid share capital at the beginning of each financial year of the Company.

18 Transfer of Shares

The instrument of transfer of a share may be in any usual form or in any other form which the Board may approve.

19 Rights to Decline Registration of Shares

19.1 The Board may, in its absolute discretion, refuse to register the transfer of a share (whether or not such share is fully paid), unless the transfer is from the Nominee of a person who is entitled to appoint a Nominee under Article 9 to another Nominee of the same person, or from any Nominee to the person entitled to the relevant share(s) under Article 8.2 that appointed the Nominee, and the disclosure requirements under Article 9 have been complied with.

19.2 If the Board refuses to register the transfer, it shall within two months after the date on which the instrument of transfer was lodged with the Company send to the transferee notice of the refusal.

19.3 The Company shall be entitled to retain any instrument of transfer which is registered, but any instrument of transfer which the Board refuses to register shall be returned to the person lodging it when notice of the refusal is given.

20 No Fee for Registration

No fee shall be charged for the registration of any instrument of transfer or other document relating to or affecting the title to any share.

21 Alteration of Share Capital

21.1 The Company may by ordinary resolution:

21.1.1 increase its share capital by such sum to be divided into shares of such amount as the resolution prescribes; and

21.1.2 cancel shares which, at the date of the passing of the resolution, have not been taken or agreed to be taken by any person and diminish the amount of its share capital by the amount of shares so cancelled.

21.2 Subject to the provisions of the 2006 Act, the Company may by special resolution reduce its share capital, any capital redemption reserve and any share premium account in any way.

22 Professional Game Special Share - Special Measures

22.1 This Article 22.1 shall only apply in respect of the following provisions:

22.1.1 the definition of "Funding Formula" (in Article 2.1);

22.1.2 the definitions of "National Game Special Share", "Professional Game Special Share", "National Game Special Shareholder" and "Professional Game Special Shareholder" (in Article 2.1);

22.1.3 Articles 3 to 7 (relating to share capital);

22.1.4 Articles 10 and 11 (relating to the National Game Special Shareholder and the Professional Game Special Shareholder);

22.1.5 Article 21 (alteration of share capital);

22.1.6 this Article 22 and Article 23 (Special Measures);

22.1.7 Article 37.4 (proceedings at general meetings);

22.1.8 Article 47.3 (written resolutions);

22.1.9 Articles 48 - 73 (relating to Directors and the Funding Formula);

22.1.10 Articles 77 - 80 (relating to Council);

22.1.11 Article 86 (relating to winding up);

22.1.12 Article 87 (relating to the procedures for determining the Rules); and

22.1.13 Article 88 (relating to the procedures for determining amendments to the Articles).

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

22.2 Notwithstanding any provision in the Articles to the contrary, any amendment to any of the provisions of the Articles listed in Article 22.1 above, (including the removal of, or any waiver or ratification of any breach of, any such Articles) shall be deemed to be a variation of the rights attaching to the Professional Game Special Share and accordingly upon:

22.2.1 the proposal or circulation of any resolution to amend any such Articles (or to remove, or to waive or ratify any breach of, any such Articles); and

22.2.2 the Professional Game Special Shareholder either:

(a) being invited by the chair of the meeting to cast the votes attached to the Professional Game Special Share on that resolution in accordance with Article 37.4; or

(b) receiving notice from the Secretary to cast votes attached to the Professional Game Special Share in accordance with Article 47.3,

the Professional Game Special Shareholder shall be entitled to cast, and shall have available to cast, against any such resolution (and, for the avoidance of doubt, only against such resolution) such number of votes either on a show of hands, on a poll or on a written resolution, as shall be equal to the aggregate number of votes cast in favour of the resolution.

22.3 Save as set out in Articles 22.2, 37.4 and 47.3, the Professional Game Special Shareholder shall have no right to vote at a general meeting or vote on any written resolution by virtue of being the holder of the Professional Game Special Share.

22.4 The Professional Game Special Share shall confer no right to participate in the capital or the profits of the Company.

23 National Game Special Share - Special Measures

23.1 This Article 23.1 shall only apply in respect of the following provisions:

23.1.1 the definition of "Funding Formula" (in Article 2.1);

23.1.2 the definitions of "National Game Special Share", "Professional Game Special Share", "National Game Special Shareholder" and "Professional Game Special Shareholder" (in Article 2.1);

23.1.3 Articles 3 to 7 (relating to share capital);

23.1.4 Articles 10 and 11 (relating to the National Game Special Shareholder and the Professional Game Special Shareholder);

23.1.5 Article 21 (alteration of share capital);

23.1.6 Article 22 and this Article 23 (Special Measures);

23.1.7 Article 37.4 (proceedings at general meetings);

23.1.8 Article 47.3 (written resolutions);

23.1.9 Articles 48 - 73 (relating to Directors and the Funding Formula);

23.1.10 Articles 77 - 80 (relating to Council);

23.1.11 Article 86 (relating to winding up);

23.1.12 Article 87 (relating to the procedures for determining the Rules); and

23.1.13 Article 88 (relating to the procedures for determining amendments to the Articles).

23.2 Notwithstanding any provision in the Articles to the contrary, any amendment to any of the provisions of the Articles listed in Article 23.1 above, (including the removal of, or any waiver or ratification of any breach of, any such Articles) shall be deemed to be a variation of the rights attaching to the National Game Special Share and accordingly upon:

23.2.1 the proposal or circulation of any resolution to amend any such Articles (or to remove, or to waive or ratify any breach of, any such Articles);

23.2.2 the National Game Special Shareholder being informed by either:

(a) the chair of the meeting where the resolution is being voted on at a general meeting that less than 50% of the National Game Shareholders voting in person or by proxy have cast their votes in favour of the resolution; or

(b) the Secretary where the resolution is being voted on by way of a written resolution, that less than 50% of the National Game Shareholders entitled to vote have cast their votes in favour of the resolution; and

23.2.3 the National Game Special Shareholder either:

(a) being invited by the chair of the meeting to cast the votes attached to the National Game Special Share on that resolution in accordance with Article 37.4; or

(b) receiving notice from the Secretary to cast the votes attached to the National Game Special Share in accordance with Article 47.3,

The National Game Special Shareholder shall be entitled to cast, and shall have available to cast, against any such resolution (and, for the avoidance of doubt, only against such resolution) such number of votes either on a show of hands, on a poll or on a written resolution, as shall be equal to the aggregate number of votes cast in favour of the resolution.

23.3 Save as set out in Articles 23.2, 37.4 and 48, the National Game Special Shareholder shall have no right to vote at a general meeting or vote on any written resolution by virtue of being the holder of the National Game Special Share.

23.4 The National Game Special Share shall confer no right to participate in the capital or the profits of the Company.

PART 3: ORGANISATION OF GENERAL MEETINGS

24 Annual General Meetings

24.1 The Board shall convene and the Company shall hold an annual general meeting in each calendar year except where the Board decides, in its absolute discretion, either that:

24.1.1 no business is to be heard or resolution proposed at the annual general meeting in any calendar year; or

24.1.2 holding the annual general meeting is impracticable or imprudent in any calendar year.

24.2 Subject to a decision on the Board in accordance with Articles 24.1.1 or 24.1.2, the Board may:

24.2.1 prior to the sending of the notice of an annual general meeting, elect not to convene the annual general meeting; or

24.2.2 after the sending of the notice of an annual general meeting but before the meeting is held, or after the adjournment of an annual general meeting but before the adjourned meeting is held (whether or not notice of the adjourned meeting is required), postpone or cancel an annual general meeting (or any adjourned meeting).

24.3 For the purposes of these Articles, a reference to "general meetings" of the Company include annual general meetings unless the context otherwise requires.

25 Convening of General Meetings

Subject to the provisions of Article 24.1, the Board may call general meetings whenever and at such times as it shall determine and, on the requisition of Shareholders pursuant to the provisions of the 2006 Act, shall forthwith proceed to convene a general meeting in accordance with the requirements of the 2006 Act.

26 Attendance and Participation at General Meetings

26.1 The Board shall determine in relation to each general meeting the means of attendance at and participation in the meeting, including whether the persons entitled to attend and participate in the general meeting shall be enabled to do so by simultaneous attendance and participation at a physical place determined by it or by means of an electronic platform(s) determined by it in accordance with Article 31.1, or partly in one way and partly in another.

26.2 Two or more persons who may not be in the same place as each other attend and participate in a general meeting if they are able to exercise their rights to speak and vote at that meeting. A person is able to exercise the right to speak at a general meeting if that person can communicate to all those attending the meeting while the meeting is taking place. A person is able to exercise the right to vote at a general meeting if that person can vote on resolutions put to the meeting (or, in relation to a poll, can vote within the required time frame) and, subject to Article 37.4, that person's vote can be taken into account in deciding whether such resolutions are passed at the same time as the of others attending the meeting.

26.3 When deciding whether a person is attending or participating in a meeting other than at a physical place, it is immaterial where that person is or how that person is able to communicate with others who are attending and participating.

27 Business – Proposals

The Board shall be entitled to propose such business to a general meeting as it considers appropriate, including any amendment to these Articles and/or to the Rules (PROVIDED THAT, and subject always to the provisions of the 2006 Act, any proposal to amend the Articles has the approval of Council as set out in Article 88.1).

28 Notice of General Meetings

A general meeting shall be called by at least fourteen clear days' notice but a general meeting may be called by shorter notice if it is so agreed by a majority in number of Shareholders having a right to attend and vote, being a majority together not holding less than 90% of the total voting rights at a general meeting.

29 Contents of Notice of General Meetings

29.1 The notice shall specify whether the meeting will be held (wholly or partly) at a physical place or by means of an electronic platform(s). The notice shall also state the time, date and place and/or electronic platform(s) of the meeting and shall, in the case of an annual general meeting, specify the meeting as such, and, in the case of a meeting to pass a special resolution, specify the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution, as the case may be.

29.2 If the meeting is to be held (wholly or partly) by means of an electronic platform(s), the notice shall specify any access, identification and security arrangements determined in accordance with Article 31.3.

29.3 The notice shall state with reasonable prominence that a Shareholder entitled to attend and vote at the meeting being called is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote instead of such Shareholder, and that a proxy need not also be a Shareholder.

30 Omission to give Notice and Non-receipt of Notice

The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to any person entitled to receive the same, or the non-receipt of a notice of meeting by any such person, shall not invalidate the proceedings at that meeting. Notice of a general meeting shall be deemed to have been given to any Nominee if sent to a business address of the body set out under Article 8.1 entitled to the share and on whose behalf the Nominee has been appointed as Nominee under Article 9.

31 Electronic Meetings

31.1 The Board may decide to enable persons entitled to attend and participate in a general meeting to do so by simultaneous attendance and participation by means of an electronic platform(s). Shareholders or their proxies present shall be counted in the quorum for, and entitled to vote at, the general meeting in question, and that meeting shall be duly constituted and its proceedings valid if the chair of the meeting is satisfied that adequate facilities are available throughout the meeting to ensure that Shareholders or their proxies attending the meeting who are not present together at the same place may:

31.1.1 participate in the business for which the meeting has been convened;

31.1.2 hear all persons who speak at the meeting; and

31.1.3 be heard by all other persons present at the meeting.

31.2 If it appears to the chair of the meeting that the electronic platform(s) has become inadequate for the purposes referred to in Article 31.1, then the chair may, without the consent of the meeting, interrupt or adjourn the meeting. All business conducted at that meeting up to the time of that adjournment shall be valid and the provisions of Article 35 shall apply to that adjournment.

31.3 If a general meeting is held by means of an electronic platform(s), the Board may make any arrangement and impose any requirement or restriction as is:

31.3.1 necessary to ensure the identification of those taking part and the security of any electronic communication; and

31.3.2 proportionate to those objectives.

In this respect, the Board may authorise any voting application, system or facility as they see fit.

PART 4: PROCEEDINGS AT GENERAL MEETINGS

32 Quorum at General Meetings

No business shall be transacted at any general meeting unless a quorum is present, but the absence of a quorum shall not preclude the choice or appointment of a chair of the meeting, which shall not be treated as part of the business of the meeting. Ten or more Shareholders entitled to vote upon the business to be transacted, each being a Shareholder or a proxy for a Shareholder or a duly authorised representative of a corporation shall be a quorum.

33 Procedure if Quorum Not Present

33.1 If such a quorum is not present within thirty minutes from the time appointed for the meeting, or if during a meeting such a quorum ceases to be present, the meeting, if convened on the requisition of Shareholders, shall be dissolved, and in any other case shall stand adjourned to such time and place as the chair of the meeting may determine.

33.2 If at the adjourned meeting there are less than ten Shareholders present, they shall have power to decide on all matters which might have been disposed of at the meeting from which the adjournment took place if a quorum had been present thereat PROVIDED THAT at least three days' notice has been given to the Shareholders of such adjournment in order to enable special business to be transacted thereat by less than a quorum.

34 Chair of General Meeting

34.1 The Chair or in absence of such person, an Independent Non-Executive Director (or in the absence of an Independent Non-executive Director any other Director) nominated by the Board shall preside as chair at a general meeting.

34.2 If at any meeting neither the Chair nor an Independent Non-Executive Director nor such other nominated Director (if any) is present within fifteen minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, the Shareholders present and entitled to vote shall choose one of their number to be chair of the meeting.

35 Adjournments

35.1 The chair of the meeting may with the consent of the meeting (and shall if so directed by the meeting) adjourn any meeting and specify the time, date, place and/or electronic platform(s) to which it is adjourned, but no business shall be transacted at any adjourned meeting, other than the business which might properly have been transacted at the meeting had the adjournment not taken place.

35.2 The chair of the meeting may at any time without the consent of the meeting adjourn any meeting (whether or not it has commenced or a quorum is present) either without specifying a time, date, place and/or electronic platform(s) or to another time, date, place and/or electronic platform(s) where it is apparent that:

35.2.1 the Shareholders wishing to attend cannot be conveniently accommodated in the place and/or electronic platform(s) appointed for the meeting;

35.2.2 the conduct of persons present prevents or is likely to prevent the orderly continuation of business; or

35.2.3 an adjournment is otherwise necessary so that the business of the meeting may be properly conducted.

36 Amendment to Resolutions

If an amendment shall be proposed to any resolution under consideration but shall in good faith be ruled out of order by the chair of the meeting, the proceedings on the substantive resolution shall not be invalidated by any error in such ruling. With the consent of the chair of the meeting, an amendment may be withdrawn by its proposer before it is voted upon. In the case of a resolution duly proposed as a special resolution, no amendment thereto (other than an amendment to correct a patent error) may in any event be considered or voted upon.

37 Method of Voting

37.1 Subject to any rights or restrictions attached to any shares, on a show of hands each Shareholder who is present in person or by proxy shall have one vote and on a poll each Shareholder present in person or by proxy shall have one vote for every share of which they are the holder. Subject to any rights or restrictions attached to any shares, on a written resolution each Shareholder shall have one vote for every share of which they are the holder.

37.2 If any votes are given or counted at a general meeting which shall afterwards be discovered to be improperly given or counted, the same shall not affect the validity of any resolution or thing passed or done at the said meeting, unless the objection to such votes be taken at the same meeting, and not in that case, unless the chair of the meeting shall then and there decide that the error is of sufficient magnitude to affect such resolution or thing passed or done.

37.3 In the case of an equality of votes, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, the chair of the meeting shall be entitled to a casting vote in addition to any other vote the chair may have.

37.4 Upon any resolution to be considered at a general meeting to amend any of the Articles listed in Articles 22.1 and/or 23.1 of these Articles or for the removal of, or waiver or ratification of any breach of, any of those Articles:

37.4.1 whether on a show of hands or on a poll, when the votes cast on that resolution have been counted, the chair of the meeting, before any declaration of the result of that vote, shall immediately inform the Professional Game Special Shareholder and the National Game Special Shareholder (if present at the meeting):

(a) of the number of abstentions on, and of the number of votes cast in favour of, and of those cast against, the resolution; and

(b) in respect of the Articles listed in Article 23.1, of the number of votes cast in favour by the National Game Shareholders whether in person or by proxy;

37.4.2 the chair of the meeting shall then invite the Professional Game Special Shareholder and the National Game Special Shareholder to cast the votes attached to their respective shares on that resolution, whereupon the Professional Game Special Shareholder and the National Game Special Shareholder may cast the votes attached to their respective shares on that resolution; and

37.4.3 the votes, if any, cast by the Professional Game Special Shareholder and/or the National Game Special Shareholder shall be counted and taken into account by the chair of the meeting in deciding whether the resolution has been passed.

38 Types of Resolution

Where for any purpose an ordinary resolution of the Company is required, a special resolution shall also be effective.

39 Poll Voting

39.1 A resolution put to the vote at a meeting held wholly or partly by means of an electronic platform(s) shall be decided on a poll.

39.2 Subject to Article 39.1, a resolution put to the vote of a meeting shall be decided on a show of hands unless before, or on the declaration of the result of, the show of hands, a poll is duly demanded. Subject to the provisions of the 2006 Act, a poll may be demanded by:

39.2.1 the chair of the meeting;

39.2.2 not less than five Shareholders present personally or by proxy having the right to vote at the meeting; or

39.2.3 by Shareholders, present personally or by proxy, representing not less than one tenth of the total voting rights of all the Shareholders entitled to vote at the meeting.

39.3 Unless a poll is duly demanded (i) a declaration by the chair of the meeting of the result of a vote; and (ii) an entry to that effect made in the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting, shall be conclusive evidence of the result of such vote in absence of proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against such resolution.

39.4 Before the relevant poll is taken, the demand for a poll may be withdrawn with the consent of the chair of the meeting at the meeting or prior to the taking of the poll. A withdrawn demand shall not invalidate the result of any show of hands declared before any demand was made.

39.5 A poll demanded on the election of a chair of the meeting or on a question of adjournment shall be taken immediately on demand for such poll. A poll demanded on any other matter shall be taken in a manner determined by the chair of the meeting either immediately or at such time after the date of the meeting as may be determined by the chair of the meeting, and the result of such poll shall be deemed to be the resolution of the Company in general meeting.

39.6 A demand for a poll shall not prevent the continuance of a meeting for the transaction of any business other than the question on which the poll was demanded.

39.7 No notice need be given of a poll not taken forthwith if the time, date, place and/or electronic platform(s) at which it is to be taken are announced at the meeting at which it is demanded. In any other case at least seven clear days' notice shall be given specifying the time, date, place and/or electronic platform(s) at which the poll is to be taken.

39.8 On a poll, votes may be given in person or by proxy. Shareholders entitled to more than one vote need not, if voting, use all their votes or cast all the votes used in the same way.

40 Objections or Errors in Voting

40.1 If:

40.1.1 any objection is made to the right of any person to vote is made;

40.1.2 any votes have been counted which ought not to have been counted or which might have been rejected; or

40.1.3 any votes are not counted which ought to have been counted,

the objection or error must be raised or pointed out at the meeting (or the adjourned meeting) or the poll at which the vote objected to is cast or at which the error occurs. Any objection or error must be raised with or pointed out to the chair of the meeting. The chair's decision is final. If a vote is allowed at a meeting or poll, it is valid for all purposes and if a vote is not counted at a meeting or poll, this will not affect the decision of the meeting or poll.

40.2 The Company will not be obliged to check whether a proxy or corporate representative has voted in accordance with a Shareholder's instructions and if a proxy or corporate representative fails to do so, this will not affect the decision of the meeting (or adjourned meeting) or poll.

41 Appointment of Proxies

41.1 A Shareholder may appoint another person as proxy to exercise all or any of their rights to attend and to speak and to vote (both on a show of hands and on a poll) on a resolution or amendment of a resolution, or on other business arising, at a meeting or meetings of the Company. Unless the contrary is stated in it, the appointment of a proxy shall be deemed to confer authority to exercise all such rights as the proxy thinks fit, including voting on a resolution whether or not notice of such resolution was given in the notice of meeting. The instrument of proxy shall, unless the contrary is stated therein, be valid as well for any adjournment of the meeting as for the meeting to which it relates. The instrument appointing a proxy shall be deemed to confer authority to demand or join in demanding a poll.

41.2 The instrument appointing a proxy shall be executed by or on behalf of the appointer and shall be in writing in any usual form (or in another form approved by the Board) executed under the hand of the appointor or a duly constituted attorney or, if the appointor is a corporation, under its seal or executed by a duly authorised officer or attorney or other person authorised to execute.

41.3 Subject to the 2006 Act, the appointment of a proxy may be accepted by the Board if received by electronic means on such terms and subject to such conditions as the Board considers fit. The appointment of a proxy received by electronic means shall not be subject to the requirements of Article 41.2.

41.4 For the purposes of Articles 41.2 and 41.3, the Board may require such reasonable evidence it considers necessary to determine:

41.4.1 the identity of the member and the proxy; and

41.4.2 where the proxy is appointed by a person acting on behalf of the Shareholder, the authority of that person to make the appointment.

41.5 A proxy need not be a Shareholder.

42 Receipt of Proxies

42.1 An instrument appointing a proxy and any reasonable evidence required by the Board in accordance with Article 41.4 shall:

42.1.1 subject to Articles 42.1.3 and 42.1.4, in the case of an instrument of proxy in hard copy form, delivered to the registered office, or another place in the United Kingdom specified in the notice convening the meeting or in the form of appointment of proxy or other accompanying document sent by the Company in relation to the meeting (a **"proxy notification address"**) not less than 48 hours before the time for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the person named in the form of appointment of proxy proposes to vote;

42.1.2 subject to Articles 42.1.3 and 42.1.4, in the case of an appointment of a proxy sent by electronic means, where the Company has given an electronic address (a **"proxy notification electronic address"**):

(a) in the notice calling the meeting;

(b) in an instrument of proxy sent out by the Company in relation to the meeting;

(c) in an invitation to appoint a proxy issued by the Company in relation to the meeting; or

(d) on a website maintained by or on behalf of the Company on which any information relating to the meeting is required by the 2006 Act to be kept,

it shall be received at such proxy notification electronic address not less than 48 hours before the time for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the person named in the form of appointment of proxy proposes to vote;

42.1.3 in the case of a poll taken more than 48 hours after it is demanded, delivered or received at a proxy notification address or a proxy notification electronic address and not less than 24 hours before the time appointed for the holding of the adjourned meeting or the taking of the poll; or

42.1.4 in the case of a poll which is not taken at the meeting at which it is demanded but is taken 48 hours or less after it is demanded, or in the case of an adjourned meeting to be held 48 hours or less after the time fixed for holding the original meeting, received:

(a) at a proxy notification address or a proxy notification electronic address in accordance with Articles 42.1.1 or 42.1.2;

(b) by the chair of the meeting or the secretary or any director at the meeting at which the poll is demanded or, as the case may be, at the original meeting; or

(c) at a proxy notification address or a proxy notification electronic address by such time as the chair of the meeting may direct at the meeting at which the poll is demanded.

In calculating the periods in this Article, no account shall be taken of any part of a day that is not a working day.

42.2 The Board may decide, either generally or in any particular case, to treat a proxy appointment as valid notwithstanding that the appointment or any of the information required under Article 41.4 has not been received in accordance with the requirements of this Article.

42.3 Subject to Article 42.2, if the proxy appointment and any of the information required under Article 41.4 is not received in the manner set out in Article 42.1, the appointee shall not be entitled to vote in respect of the shares in question.

43 Maximum Validity of Proxy

43.1 No instrument of proxy shall be valid after the expiration of two months from the date stated in it as the date of its execution.

43.2 Delivery of an instrument appointing a proxy shall not preclude a Shareholder from attending and voting in person at the meeting or poll concerned, in which case any proxy shall be invalid.

44 Nominee Proxies

44.1 In addition to the other rights to appoint a proxy, any Nominee that is not a corporation or corporation sole shall, if one of the following persons attends any meeting (or adjournment of any meeting), be deemed to have appointed such person as a proxy for that meeting and executed and delivered an instrument in a form approved by the Board appointing such person in accordance with Article 42:

44.1.1 in respect of Nominees appointed by a Member Club, the Divisional Representative of the Division into which it is grouped; and

44.1.2 in respect of Nominees appointed by a County Association, the representative of that County Association appointed pursuant to Article 77.6 (if any).

44.2 If another instrument of proxy is delivered in respect of the same share(s), any deemed appointment of a proxy by a Nominee under Article 44.1 shall be treated as having been delivered on the date that the relevant notice of meeting is deemed to have been received under these Articles for the purposes of determining which instrument was delivered last.

45 Corporate Representatives

45.1 Any corporation or corporation sole which is a Shareholder of the Company may authorise such person as it thinks fit to act as its representative at any meeting of the Company or at any separate meeting of the holders of any class of shares. A person so authorised shall be entitled to exercise the same power on behalf of the grantor of the authority as the grantor could exercise if it were an individual Shareholder of the Company and the grantor shall for the purposes of these Articles be deemed to be present in person at any such meeting if a person so authorised is present at it. The following persons shall, so long as the relevant Shareholder is a corporation or corporation sole, be deemed to have been so authorised by that Shareholder for any meeting (or adjournment of any meeting) that they attend unless such Shareholder authorises another person as a representative in their place for any such meeting and the replacement representative provides such evidence of the appointment as the Board may request:

45.1.1 in respect of each Member Club, or any Nominee appointed to hold shares on its behalf, the Divisional Representative of the Division into which it is grouped; and

45.1.2 in respect of each County Association, or any Nominee appointed to hold shares on its behalf, the representative of that County Association appointed pursuant to Article 77.6 (if any).

46 Revocation of Proxy or Authority as Corporate Representative

46.1 A vote given or poll demanded by a proxy or a corporate representative of a Shareholder shall be valid in the event of the death or mental disorder of the principal or the revocation of the instrument of proxy or corporate representative authority, or of the authority under which the instrument of proxy or corporate representative authority was executed, or the transfer of the share for which the instrument of proxy or corporate representative authority is given, unless notice in writing of such death, mental disorder, revocation or transfer shall have been received by the Company at the registered office, or at such other place as has been appointed for the deposit of instruments of proxy, no later than the last time at which an appointment of a proxy should have been received in order for it to be valid for use at the meeting or on the holding of the poll at which the vote was given or the poll taken.

46.2 A Shareholder may appoint more than one proxy in relation to a meeting, provided that each proxy is appointed to exercise the rights attached to different shares held by the member. When two or more valid but differing instruments of proxy are delivered in respect of the same share for use at the same meeting, the one which was delivered last (regardless of its date or of the date of its execution) shall be treated as replacing and revoking the others as regards that share; if the Company is unable to determine which was delivered last, none of them shall be treated as valid in respect of that share.

47 Written Resolutions

47.1 A written resolution of the Company passed in accordance with these Articles and the 2006 Act shall have effect as if passed by the Company in a general meeting.

47.2 Any resolution proposed as a written resolution shall be proposed in a form that provides Shareholders with the ability to cast their votes against as well as in favour of such resolution.

47.3 Upon any proposed written resolution to amend all or any of the Articles listed in Articles 22.1 or 23.1 of these Articles or for the removal of, or waiver or ratification of any breach of, any of those Articles:

47.3.1 on the date which is the earlier of:

(a) twenty days after the circulation date of the written resolution; and

(b) the date when the required majority of Shareholders, assuming for these purposes only that the Professional Game Special Shareholder and National Game Special Shareholder are not entitled to vote, have voted in favour of the resolution, such date being the **"Notification Date"**,

the Secretary, before any declaration of the result of that vote, shall inform the Professional Game Special Shareholder or the National Game Special Shareholder, as applicable:

(c) of the number of abstentions on, and of the number of votes cast in favour of, and of those cast against, the resolution; and

(d) in respect of an article listed in Article 23.1, of the number of votes cast in favour by the National Game Shareholders;

47.3.2 the Secretary shall simultaneously notify the Professional Game Special Shareholder and the National Game Special Shareholder to cast the votes attached to their respective shares on that resolution by the date which is five days after the Notification Date, whereupon the Professional Game Special Shareholder and the National Game Special Shareholder may cast the votes attached to their respective shares on that resolution; and

47.3.3 any votes cast by the Professional Game Special Shareholder and/or the National Game Special Shareholder shall be counted and taken into account in deciding whether the written resolution has been passed or has been lost.

PART 5: DIRECTORS

48 Number of Directors

The number of Directors shall be no more than ten as provided for in Article 49.1.

49 Board Composition

49.1 The following shall be Directors of the Company:

49.1.1 the Chair;

49.1.2 up to two National Game Representatives as elected pursuant to Article 53;

49.1.3 up to two Professional Game Representatives as appointed pursuant to Article 54;

49.1.4 the Chief Executive Officer; and

49.1.5 up to four Independent Non-Executive Directors.

50 Chair

50.1 The Chair shall be nominated by the Nominations Committee, and appointed by the Board.

50.2 At the first annual general meeting of the Company after the Chair's appointment by the Board, the Chair shall retire from office (effective at the conclusion of the meeting or, if earlier, when a resolution is passed to appoint another person in their place). The Chair may offer himself or herself for re-appointment by ordinary resolution of the Shareholders and if so re-appointed will be treated as continuing in office without a break.

50.3 Subject to Article 62 and as provided in this Article 50, the term of office of the Chair, shall be three years. No person may be the Chair, for more than three terms.

50.4 At the end of a Chair's first term and second term (if any), the Chair shall retire and, subject to the Board approval, shall be eligible for reappointment without further nomination if they offer themselves for re-appointment six months or more before the date on which they are due to retire. Other candidates may be nominated by the Nominations Committee to the Board in advance of the meeting at which the reappointment is to take place. At the first annual general meeting of the Company after a Chair's re-appointment by the Board, the Chair shall retire from office (effective at the conclusion of the meeting or, if earlier, when a resolution is passed to appoint another person in their place). The Chair may offer himself or herself for re-appointment by ordinary resolution of the Shareholders and if so re-appointed will be treated as continuing in office without a break.

50.5 The Board shall have the power to remove the Chair from office at any time by unanimous decision of all the other Directors present at a meeting of the Board or by unanimous written notice from all the other Directors.

50.6 In the event that 66% or more of those present and voting at a validly held meeting of Council vote in favour of a resolution of no confidence in the Chair at any time, the Board shall be required to call a general meeting of the Shareholders to propose an ordinary resolution to remove the Chair from office.

50.7 If the Board is required to call a general meeting in accordance with Article 50.6, the Board must call such a meeting:

50.7.1 within 21 days from the date on which it becomes subject to the requirement; and

50.7.2 to be held on a date not more than 28 days after the date of the notice convening the meeting.

50.8 Any vacancy arising upon the death, retirement due to age, removal or any other such vacation from office of the Chair under these Articles (save for where a Chair is retiring at the end of their first or second term) shall be filled: in accordance with Articles 50.1 to 50.3 and Article 52.

50.9 Prior to the appointment of a new Chair in accordance with Article 50.8, an Independent Non-Executive Director shall be appointed by the Board to act as an Interim Chair to fulfil the duties of the Chair on an interim basis.

50.10 In the event that the Board determines that a vacancy of the Chair has arisen whereby the incumbent Chair is expected to resume their position, an Independent Non-Executive Director appointed by the Board, shall act as Chair of The Association to fulfil the duties of the Chair until the incumbent Chair returns, provided that such position shall only be held at a maximum of one meeting of the Board, at which point, if the incumbent Chair is still absent, the provisions of Article 50.9 shall apply and an Interim Chair shall be appointed.

50.11 For the avoidance of doubt, any Interim Chair or acting Chair of The Association shall only hold such a position until the new Chair is appointed or the incumbent Chair returns or until the incumbent Chair or acting Chair is removed or resigns as a Director or if the Board resolves to appoint another Interim Chair or acting Chair, whichever is the earlier.

50.12 During their term of office, the Chair shall:

50.12.1 chair meetings of the Board pursuant to these Articles;

50.12.2 chair meeting of Council and general meetings of The Association pursuant to these Articles and the Standing Orders, as appropriate; and

50.12.3 carry out such other representative, ceremonial and ambassadorial roles as the Board shall determine from time to time.

51 Independent Non-Executive Directors

51.1 The Independent Non-Executive Directors shall be nominated by the Nominations Committee and appointed by the Board.

51.2 At the first annual general meeting of the Company after an Independent Non-Executive Director's appointment by the Board, such Independent Non-Executive Director shall retire from office (effective at the conclusion of the meeting or, if earlier, when a resolution is passed to appoint another person in their place). The Independent Non-Executive Director may offer himself or herself for re-appointment by ordinary resolution of the Shareholders and if so re-appointed will be treated as continuing in office without a break.

51.3 Subject to Article 62 and as provided in this Article 51, the term of office of the Independent Non-Executive Directors shall be three years. No person may be an Independent Non-Executive Director for more than three terms.

51.4 At the end of an Independent Non-Executive Director's first term and second term (if any), the Independent Non-Executive Director shall retire and, subject to Board approval, shall be eligible for reappointment without further nomination if they offer themselves for re-appointment six months or more before the date on which they are due to retire. Other candidates may be nominated by the Nominations Committee to the Board in advance of the meeting at which the appointment is to take place. At the first annual general meeting of the Company after an Independent Non-Executive Director's re-appointment by the Board, an Independent Non-Executive Director shall retire from office (effective at the conclusion of the meeting or, if earlier, when a resolution is passed to appoint another person in their place). The Independent Non-Executive Director may offer himself or herself for re-appointment by ordinary resolution of the Shareholders and if so re-appointed will be treated as continuing in office without a break.

51.5 The Board shall have the power to remove an Independent Non-Executive Director from office at any time by unanimous decision of all the other Directors present at a meeting of the Board or by unanimous written notice from all the other Directors.

51.6 Any vacancy arising upon death, retirement due to age, removal or any other such vacation from the Board of an Independent Non-Executive Director under the Articles (save for where an Independent Non-Executive Director is retiring at the end of their first or second term) shall be filled pursuant to Articles 51.1 to 51.3 and Article 52.

52 Chair, Independent Non-Executive Directors: Eligibility

52.1 Each person appointed as the Chair, an Independent Non-Executive Director following the date of the adoption of these Articles shall be independent at the time of their initial appointment except in respect of any person who held office as an Independent Non-Executive Director.

52.2 Each of the Chair, the Independent Non-Executive Directors shall be Independent for the period during which they hold office except in respect of:

52.2.1 any position or role held in their capacity as the Chair, an Independent Non-Executive Director; or

52.2.2 the appointment to a position or role with FIFA or UEFA as approved by the Board in advance.

52.3 The Board shall give direction to the Nominations Committee on the skills and profile of the Chair or the Independent Non-Executive Directors from time to time.

52.4 Any dispute about whether or not a person complies with the eligibility criteria set out in this Article 52 will be resolved by the Board, whose decision on the matter shall be final.

53 Appointees of National Game Representatives

53.1 Subject to Article 62, the following provisions will apply in respect of the election of National Game Representatives to the Board:

53.1.1 up to two National Game Representatives shall be elected to the Board by the National Game Representatives;

53.1.2 a National Game Representative shall serve on the Board for a maximum period of three years from the date of their election, at the expiry of which they shall retire, upon which they may, subject to Article 53.1.3, stand for re-election if eligible for further terms of three years each; and

53.1.3 no National Game Representative may serve on the Board for more than three terms.

53.2 Save for where a National Game Representative is to retire at the end of their term pursuant to Article 53.1 above, any vacancy arising upon death or retirement due to age or removal or any other such vacation from the Board of a National Game Representative under the Articles shall be filled immediately following election to the Board of a National Game Representative by the National Game Representatives.

53.3 The term of office for a National Game Representative elected to the Board shall be deemed to have commenced at the date of such election.

53.4 Nominations and the procedure for National Game Representatives to be elected or re-elected to the Board or the National Game Board shall take place on the basis of a procedure to be determined from time to time by the National Game Representatives. Such procedure shall be published and made available to the Board.

54 Appointees of Professional Game Representatives

54.1 Subject to Article 62, the following provisions will apply in respect of the appointment of Professional Game Representatives to the Board:

54.1.1 up to two Professional Game Representatives are to be appointed to the Board in writing, of which one shall be appointed by The Premier League and one shall be appointed by The Football League;

54.1.2 the Professional Game Representatives serving on the Board shall retire on each anniversary of their appointment and shall, subject to Article 54.1.3 be eligible for reappointment; and

54.1.3 no Professional Game Representative may serve on the Board for more than nine terms.

54.2 Save for where a Professional Game Representative is to retire at the end of a term pursuant to Article 54.1 above, any vacancy arising upon death, retirement due to age, removal or any other such vacation from the Board of a Professional Game Representative under the Articles shall be filled by The Premier League or The Football League (according to who made the appointment in accordance with Article 54.1), by notifying the Board in writing within one month after the date of the vacancy arising.

55 Senior Independent Director

The Chair shall nominate one of the Independent Non-Executive Directors to act as the Senior Independent Director. The Senior Independent Director shall act as sounding board for the Chair, serve as an intermediary between the other Directors and the Chair as necessary, act as an alternative contact point at Board level for Shareholders or Members of Council if the normal channels of communication to the Board through the Chair or the Company's executive team fail to resolve matters or where the use of such channels may be inappropriate, and lead on the process of appraising the performance of the Chair.

56 Funding Formula

56.1 In Article 56, the following definitions shall apply:

56.1.1 **"Accounting Year"** means the period from and including 1 January to 31 December in any calendar year;

56.1.2 **"Distributable Surplus"** means Income less (1) Expenditure; (2) the Retention; and (3) the Wembley Retention;

56.1.3 **"Exceptional Items"** means any exceptional and unexpected items identified by the Board from time to time requiring funding by the Board in any Accounting Year (which items shall be included within the Retention);

56.1.4 **"Expenditure"** means the aggregate of the total cost of sales and the total expenditure, in each case incurred by The Association in an Accounting Year, as determined by the Board from time to time by reference to the budget as adjusted by the audited accounts of The Association for such Accounting Year;

56.1.5 **"Income"** means the total income arising from the activities and operations of The Association in an Accounting Year, as determined by the Board from time to time by reference to the budget as adjusted by the audited accounts of The Association for such Accounting Year;

56.1.6 **"Initial Surplus"** means the sum of £65,077,000;

56.1.7 **"Retention"** means in relation to an Accounting Year such amount as the Board in its absolute discretion deems necessary to retain for application to capital projects or projected expenditure, to cover contingent liabilities or expenses or to provide for the reserves of The Association PROVIDED THAT, other than in relation to Exceptional Items, such amount shall not exceed 10% of the Income less Expenses in such Accounting Year; and

56.1.8 **"Wembley Retention"** means in relation to an Accounting Year any amount not included in Expenses or the Retention, which the Board in its absolute discretion deems necessary to apply towards the completion of the construction of and the financing and refinancing of the construction, repair and development of Wembley Stadium.

56.2 Subject to Article 56.3, where the Distributable Surplus in any Accounting Year is equal to or exceeds the Initial Surplus, the Initial Surplus shall be allocated so that the National Game shall receive £32,432,000 of the Distributable Surplus and the Professional Game shall receive £32,645,000 of the Distributable Surplus. Any excess Distributable Surplus over the Initial Surplus (the **"Excess Surplus"**) shall be allocated between the National Game and the Professional Game so that the National Game shall receive 50% of the Excess Surplus and the Professional Game shall receive 50% of the Excess Surplus.

56.3 Nothing in this Article shall oblige the Board to make any payment or enter into any commitment which would have the effect of The Association becoming insolvent.

56.4 The Board shall agree with and provide to the National Game Board and the Professional Game Board respectively a budget for the Accounting Year setting out the calculations referred to in this Article 56 as soon as practicable in order to enable interim payments of Distributable Surplus to be made at the Board's discretion during such Accounting Year, such payments to be subject to adjustment after completion of the audited accounts of The Association for such Accounting Year.

57 Powers of the Board

57.1 The affairs of the Company shall be managed by the Board which may exercise all the powers of the Company and do, on behalf of the Company, all such acts as may be exercised and done by the Company, subject always to the provisions of the 2006 Act and these Articles. The Board shall be responsible for (without limitation to the general powers referred to):

57.1.1 taking such decisions and actions as the Board considers appropriate in managing the affairs of the Company including without limitation appointing or removing from office of the Chief Executive Officer, the Chair and the Independent Non-Executive Directors, and determining the terms of service of the Chair (subject to Articles 50.6, 50.7.2, 50.9, 50.10, and 52), the Independent Non-Executive Directors and the Chief Executive Officer;

57.1.2 all financial matters, including implementing the Funding Formula and approving the operating budgets and business plans of the Professional Game Board, the National Game Board and the Football Regulatory Authority;

57.1.3 creating, developing and implementing The Association's overall strategy and specific strategies (including, but not limited to, coaching) and reporting on the same to Council;

57.1.4 taking advice from the committees of the Board on all relevant matters under their consideration;

57.1.5 making decisions upon any and all matters of policy or procedure to be followed by The Association and setting The Association's values and standards;

57.1.6 managing all matters relating to:

(a) the operation of the Football Regulatory Authority and the Judicial Panel, and where appropriate, appointments to the Judicial Panel;

(b) the control and management of the National League System and the leagues beneath the National League System;

(c) the criteria for membership of The Association;

(d) the status and registration of players;

(e) the registration, control and development of refereeing;

(f) youth football and the county youth cup competitions; and

(g) the privileges of Members of Council and in particular issues of protocol, travel, seating and hospitality at matches;

57.1.7 approving and recommending to the Shareholders proposed amendments to the Rules (subject to the provisions of the 2006 Act (as applicable));

57.1.8 making or altering such regulations, standing orders, decisions, rulings or other findings, penalties or orders as are deemed necessary to provide for matters arising from or to implement the Rules in so far as any such regulation, standing order, decision, ruling or other finding, penalty or order of any nature is not in conflict with any Rule;

57.1.9 making any such regulations or rules of the Board, together with any amendments to those regulations or rules as it sees fit;

57.1.10 the sanction of competitions and matches in England and overseas; and

57.1.11 exercising all such powers of the Company as may be required to give effect to the objects as described in the provisions of the Articles and which are not by statute or these Articles specifically required to be done or exercised by the Company by a resolution of the Shareholders or by Council.

57.2 No alteration of these Articles or direction given by special resolution or otherwise by the Shareholders or decision of Council shall invalidate any prior act of the Board which would have been valid if that alteration had not been made, that direction had not been given or that decision had not been made.

58 Delegation of Powers of the Board

58.1 The Board may delegate any of its powers to such committees, divisions, boards, groups or such other bodies consisting of one or more Directors or others, or to the Chief Executive Officer, or to any other person holding any other executive office as it sees fit. Any such delegation may be made subject to any conditions as the Board may impose, and either collaterally with or to the exclusion of its own powers and may be revoked or altered. Such committees, divisions, boards, groups or such other bodies may in turn delegate to a sub-committee or such other bodies and on such terms as it considers appropriate.

58.2 The following, without limitation, shall be committees of the Board:

58.2.1 the Group Audit and Risk Committee;

58.2.2 the Nominations Committee;

58.2.3 the Remuneration Committee;

58.2.4 the National Game Board, pursuant to Article 60;

58.2.5 the Professional Game Board, pursuant to Article 61;

58.2.6 the Inclusion Advisory Board;

58.2.7 the Disability Football Committee;

58.2.8 the People and Culture Committee;

58.2.9 the Referees Committee;

58.2.10 the Football Regulatory Authority;

58.2.11 the Judicial Panel;

58.2.12 the National Leagues Pyramid Board;

58.2.13 the Commercial Committee;

58.2.14 the Governance and Regulation Committee;

58.2.15 the Wembley Advisory Board; and

58.2.16 the Performance Advisory Board.

59 Power of Attorney

The Board may, by power of attorney or otherwise, appoint any person to be the agent of the Company for such purposes and on such conditions as the Board shall determine, including authority for the agent to delegate all or any of the agent's powers.

60 National Game Board

60.1 The remit of the National Game Board shall be as set out by the Board in the terms of reference of the National Game Board from time to time and the members of the National Game Board shall be:

60.1.1 the Independent NGB Chair;

60.1.2 the National Game Representatives on the Board from time to time;

60.1.3 up to eleven National Game Representatives who are not the National Game Representatives on the Board (the "Council Committee Members");

60.1.4 two Independent Committee Members; and

60.1.5 any other person appointed in accordance with the terms of reference of the National Game Board from time to time.

60.2 The Independent NGB Chair shall be appointed for a term of three years from the date of his or her appointment on the basis of a procedure to be determined from time to time by the National Game Board. Such procedure shall be published and made available to the Board. The Independent NGB Chair shall satisfy any criteria set out in the terms of reference of the National Game Board from time to time, including regarding his or her independence. No person may be the Independent NGB Chair for more than three terms. Any vacancy arising upon death or retirement due to age or removal or any other such vacation from office of the Independent NGB Chair under the Articles or the terms of reference of the National Game Board from time to time shall be filled pursuant to this Article 60.2.

60.3 The Council Committee Members shall be elected for terms of three years following the same procedure as applies for National Game Representatives on the Board and referenced in Article 53.4 provided that any Council Committee Member elected under the Prior Articles shall be subject to the term of office specified in the Prior Articles until their re-election for a subsequent term under these Articles (whereupon the term of office set out in this Article 60.3 shall apply to any re-elected term). The provisions set out in Articles 53.2 and 53.3 in relation to National Game Representatives shall apply equally to Council Committee Members.

60.4 The Independent Committee Members shall be appointed for terms of three years from the date of their appointment on the basis of a procedure to be determined from time to time by the National Game Board. Such procedure shall be published and made available to the Board. The Independent Committee Members shall satisfy any criteria set out in the terms of reference of the National Game Board from time to time, including regarding their independence. No person may be an Independent Committee Member for more than three terms. Any vacancy arising upon death or retirement due to age or removal or any other such vacation from office of an Independent Committee Member under the Articles or the terms of reference of the National Game Board from time to time shall be filled pursuant to this Article 60.4.

60.5 Any time served on the National Game Board by an individual by virtue of being a National Game Representative on the Board in accordance with Article 53.1 shall not be counted towards the term of office of any such individual subsequently appointed as a Council Committee Member.

61 Professional Game Board

61.1 The remit of the Professional Game Board shall be as set out by the Board in the terms of reference of the Professional Game Board from time to time. The members of the Professional Game Board shall be the following:

61.1.1 four members appointed by The Premier League (each a "FAPL Committee Member"). A FAPL Committee Member may be a person who is:

(a) a director or an officer of a football club in membership of The Premier League;

(b) a Professional Game Representative; or

(c) the chair, chief executive officer or other officer of The Premier League,

PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT at least two FAPL Committee Members are Professional Game Representatives;

61.1.2 four members appointed by The Football League (each a "FL Committee Member"). A FL Committee Member may be a person who is:

(a) a director or an officer of a football club in membership of The Football League;

(b) a Professional Game Representative; or

(c) the chair, chief executive officer or other officer of The Football League,

PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT at least two FL Committee Members are Professional Game Representatives; and

61.1.3 four members made up as follows:

(a) two persons appointed by The Women's Professional Leagues, each of whom shall be one of the chair, chief executive officer, a director or other officer of The Women's Professional Leagues;

(b) one of the representatives of the Women's Super League as appointed to Council from time to time in accordance with Article 77.18; and

(c) one of the representatives of the Women's Super League 2 as appointed to Council from time to time in accordance with Article 77.18.

62 Disqualification and Removal of Directors

62.1 No person may be a Director who has attained the age of seventy five years save that a serving Director shall retire at the conclusion of the last Board meeting to take place prior to the Summer Meeting after attaining the age of seventy five years.

62.2 The office of a Director shall be vacated if:

62.2.1 the person ceases to be a Director by virtue of any provision of the 2006 Act or such person becomes prohibited by law from being a director;

62.2.2 the person ceases to hold the position or office by virtue of which such person became eligible to be a Director, including (where applicable) where such person ceases to be a Member of Council;

62.2.3 the person is removed by the Shareholders of the Company by ordinary resolution;

62.2.4 being the Chair, the person is removed pursuant to Article 50.2, 50.4, 50.5 or 50.6;

62.2.5 being an Independent Non-Executive Director, the person is removed pursuant to Article 51.2, 51.4 or 51.5;

62.2.6 being a Professional Game Representative on the Board, the person is removed by whichever of The Premier League or The Football League appointed the person in writing to the Board;

62.2.7 being a National Game Representative on the Board, the person is removed by the National Game Representatives;

62.2.8 being the Chief Executive Officer, the person is removed by unanimous decision of all the other Directors present at a meeting of the Board or by unanimous written notice from all the other Directors, at any time;

62.2.9 the person suffers a Personal Insolvency Event;

62.2.10 the person dies, or a registered medical practitioner who is treating the Director gives a written opinion to the Company stating the person has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a director and may remain so for more than three months, or is or has been suffering from mental or physical ill health;

62.2.11 the person resigns the office by notice to the Company;

62.2.12 the person no longer complies with the provisions of any regulations of The Association relating to "Owners and Directors" as shall be in force from time to time pursuant to paragraph J(1)(f) of the Rules;

62.2.13 the person is absent for more than six consecutive months from Board meetings without the permission of the Board;

62.2.14 the person is subject of a decision of The Association, UEFA or FIFA that such person be suspended permanently from taking part in football management and/or football administration and/or any football related activity pursuant to any applicable disciplinary provisions under the rules or statutes of The Association, UEFA or FIFA (as appropriate); or

62.2.15 the person is removed by the Board by a majority vote for the reason that the person is subject of a decision of the relevant deciding panel that the person is or has been in breach of the Code of Conduct as shall be in force from time to time.

62.3 The Board, at its absolute discretion, may determine that the office of a Director shall be vacated or suspended if a Director is subject of a decision of The Association, UEFA or FIFA that such person be suspended for a specified period from taking part in football management and/or football administration and/or any football related activity pursuant to any applicable disciplinary provisions under the rules or statutes of The Association, UEFA or FIFA (as appropriate) (a **"Suspension"**). A suspension under this Article 62.3 shall not exceed the length of the relevant Suspension, and during the suspension period the relevant Director shall not be entitled to receive notice of, attend or vote at any meeting of the Board.

63 Remuneration and Expenses of Directors

63.1 Each of the Directors may be paid such remuneration or extra remuneration by way of salary, fees, commission or otherwise as the Board may determine, including to take into account any position they hold as chair of a committee of the Board.

63.2 The Directors may be paid an attendance allowance in respect of their attendance at meetings of the Board (or any committee of the Board) at a level determined by the Board, together with all travelling, hotel, and other expenses properly incurred by them in connection with their attendance at meetings of the Board or otherwise in connection with the discharge of their duties.

64 Directors' Interests

Transactions or arrangements with the Company

64.1 Subject to the provisions of the 2006 Act and any decisions of the Conflicts Committee, and PROVIDED THAT a Director has disclosed to the Board the nature and extent of the interest, such Director, notwithstanding being in office:

64.1.1 may be a party to, or otherwise interested in, any transaction or arrangement with the Company or in which the Company is otherwise interested or involved; and

64.1.2 may be a director or other officer of, or employed by, or a party to any transaction or arrangement with, or otherwise interested in, any body corporate promoted by the Company or in which the Company is otherwise interested or involved.

64.2 For the purposes of Article 64.1:

64.2.1 a general notice given to the Board that a Director is to be regarded as having an interest of the nature and extent specified in the notice in any transaction or arrangement in which a specified person or class or persons is interested shall be deemed to be a disclosure that the Director has an interest in any such transaction of the nature and extent so specified; and

64.2.2 an interest of which a Director has no knowledge and of which it is unreasonable to expect such Director to have knowledge shall not be treated as an interest of that Director.

Conflict of interest requiring authorisation

64.3 The Directors may, subject to the quorum and voting requirements set out in the Articles, authorise any matter which would otherwise involve a Director breaching his duty under the 2006 Act to avoid conflicts of interest (**"Conflict"**).

64.4 Any Director (including the relevant Director) may propose that the relevant Director be authorised in relation to any matter the subject of a Conflict. Such proposal and any authority given by the Directors shall be effected in the same way that any other matter may be proposed to and decided upon by the Directors under the provisions of the Articles save that:

64.4.1 the relevant Director shall not count towards the quorum nor vote on any resolution giving such authority;

64.4.2 if the relevant Director is a National Game Representative, the other National Game Representatives shall not count towards the quorum nor vote on any resolution giving such authority; and

64.4.3 if the relevant Director is a Professional Game Representative, the other Professional Game Representatives shall not count towards the quorum nor vote on any resolution giving such authority,

with the Directors constituted in accordance with this Article 64.4 from time to time being collectively known as the **"Conflicts Committee"**.

64.5 The Conflicts Committee shall have full discretion as to how to manage any Conflict or any situation referred to in Article 64.1 (a **"Permitted Situation"**), including imposing such conditions as they see fit and setting parameters around the participation of the relevant Director on the item that is the subject of his or her actual or perceived Conflict or the Permitted Situation. The Conflicts Committee may:

64.5.1 exclude the relevant Director from the receipt of documents and information and participation in discussions relating to the item (including requiring them to leave the meeting while the item is being discussed);

64.5.2 allow the relevant Director to speak on the item, but not allow the relevant Director to vote; or

64.5.3 allow the relevant Director to speak and vote on the item with the interest being recorded in the meeting minutes where that item is discussed.

64.6 Where the Conflicts Committee gives authority or imposes conditions in relation to a Conflict or a Permitted Situation:

64.6.1 the terms of the authority and any conditions shall be recorded in writing (but the authority shall be effective whether or not the terms are so recorded);

64.6.2 the Conflicts Committee may revoke or vary such authority or conditions at any time but this will not affect anything done by the relevant Director prior to such revocation or variation in accordance with the terms of such authority or conditions; and

64.6.3 the relevant Director will be obliged to conduct himself in accordance with any terms imposed by the Board in relation to the Conflict or Permitted Situation.

64.7 A Director shall not, by reason of his office or of the fiduciary relationship thereby established, be liable to account to the Company or the members for any remuneration, profit or other benefit realised by reason of his having any type of interest in a Conflict authorised under this Article or in any Permitted Situation and no contract shall be liable to be avoided on the grounds of a Director having any such interest PROVIDED THAT nothing in this Article shall permit a Director to accept a benefit from a third party, which is given to that Director by virtue of being in office, unless such a benefit could not reasonably be regarded as giving rise to a conflict of interest.

Directors may vote when interested

64.8 Subject, where applicable, to disclosure in accordance with the CA 2006 or the Articles and subject to any terms imposed by the Conflicts Committee in relation to any Conflict or Permitted Situation, a Director shall be entitled to vote in respect of any matter in which he is interested directly or indirectly and if he shall do so his vote shall be counted and, whether or not he does, his presence at the meeting shall be taken into account in ascertaining whether a quorum is present.

64.9 If a question arises at a meeting of Directors or of a committee of Directors as to the right of a Director to participate in the meeting (or part of the meeting) for voting or quorum purposes, the question may, before the conclusion of the meeting, be referred to Conflicts Committee whose ruling is to be final and conclusive.

65 Proceedings of Directors

65.1 Subject to the provisions of these Articles, the Board may regulate its proceedings as it thinks fit.

65.2 Without prejudice to Article 68.2, a Director may not appoint an alternate director or anyone to act on their behalf at meeting of the Board.

66 Appointment of Chair of Meetings

The Chair shall act as the chair of meetings of the Board.

67 Quorum

67.1 Subject to Article 67.2, the quorum for a meeting of the Board shall be five, one of whom must be either the Chair or the Chief Executive Officer, one of whom must be a National Game Representative and one of whom must be a Professional Game Representative, and all of whom may participate in a meeting pursuant to Article 73, for the purposes of ensuring a quorate meeting.

67.2 If all National Game Representatives or all Professional Game Representatives (as applicable) are not eligible to participate in a meeting of the Board in accordance with Article 64, the quorum requirements in Article 67.1 shall be adjusted so that there is no requirement for a National Game Representative or Professional Game Representative (as applicable) to form part of the quorum for the meeting of the Board. The provisions of this Article 67.2 shall not apply in respect of any vote of the Conflicts Committee pursuant to Article 64.

68 Voting

68.1 On any resolution of the Board, each Director shall have one vote save as otherwise set out in these Articles.

68.2 At all meetings or any part thereof, voting rights shall be equal as between the National Game Representatives on the Board and the Professional Game Representatives on the Board. Where there are unequal numbers of National Game Representatives and Professional Game Representatives present at a meeting of the Board (or for any part of a meeting), then the chair of the meeting shall determine the mode of voting, always subject to the overriding principle of equality of votes.

68.3 Matters to be decided at a meeting of the Board shall be decided by majority vote. If the number of votes for and against a resolution are equal, the chair of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote in respect of the resolution which resulted in an equal vote.

69 Validity of Acts

All acts done by a meeting of the Board, or of a committee of the Board, or by a person acting as a Director shall, notwithstanding that it afterwards be discovered that there was a defect in the appointment of any Director or that any of them was disqualified from holding office, or had vacated office, or was not entitled to vote, be as valid as if every such person had been duly appointed and was qualified and had continued to be a Director and had been entitled to vote.

70 Competence of Meetings

A meeting of the Board at which a quorum is present may exercise all powers exercisable by the Board.

71 Notice of Board Meetings

71.1 A Director at any time may, and the Secretary on the requisition of a Director at any time shall, summon a meeting of the Board.

71.2 Notice of a meeting of the Board must be given to each Director, but need not be in writing. Any Director can waive the entitlement to notice of any meeting of the Board, including one which has already taken place and any waiver after the meeting has taken place will not affect the validity of the meeting or any business conducted at the meeting.

72 Resolution in Writing

72.1 A Director at any time may, and the Secretary on the requisition of a Director at any time shall, provide notice to the Chair to propose a directors' resolution in writing.

72.2 Prior to the circulation of the proposed written resolution, the Chair shall determine if the proposed resolution in writing is to be decided:

72.2.1 by the execution or approval in writing by a majority of the Directors who are at the relevant time entitled to receive notice of a meeting of the Board and who would be entitled to vote on the proposed resolution at a meeting of the Board (if that number is sufficient to constitute a quorum); or

72.2.2 if either a National Game Representative on the Board or a Professional Game Representative on the Board is not entitled to vote on the proposed resolution at a meeting of the Board, by the execution or approval in writing by Directors who hold a majority of votes (and the Chair at their sole discretion may determine the allocation of votes having taken into account the equality of votes principle set out in Article 68) held by the Directors who are at the relevant time entitled to receive notice of a meeting of the Board and who would be entitled to vote on the proposed resolution at a meeting of the Board (if that number is sufficient to constitute a quorum).

72.3 Following the Chair determining the voting mechanism in accordance with Article 72.2, the proposed resolution in writing must be circulated to each Director.

72.4 A resolution in writing executed or approved in writing in accordance with the voting mechanism determined under Article 72.2 shall be as valid and effectual as a resolution passed at a meeting of the Board properly called and constituted.

72.5 The resolution in writing may be contained in one document or communication in any electronic form or in several documents or communications in any electronic form (in like form) each executed by one or more of the Directors.

72.6 For the purpose of this Article 72, the signature or approval of a Director may be given in hard copy or electronic form.

73 Participation in Meetings

A meeting of the Board or of a committee of the Board may consist of a conference between Directors who are not all in one place, but of whom each is able (directly or by telephonic communication or by any other communication equipment) to speak to each of the others, and to be heard by each of the others simultaneously. A Director taking part in such a conference shall be deemed to be present in person at the meeting and shall be entitled to vote or be counted in a quorum accordingly. Such a meeting shall be deemed to take place where the chair of the meeting then is.

74 Secretary

Subject to the provisions of the 2006 Act, the Secretary shall be appointed by the Board for such term, at such remuneration and upon such conditions as they may think fit.

75 Ex Officio Observer

Unless the Board resolves otherwise and subject to such person entering into any confidentiality undertakings as the Board considers appropriate, for the period during which an English football representative is also either a member of the UEFA Executive Committee or FIFA Council (or any successor bodies of the same), such person shall be entitled to attend Board meetings as an observer. In this observer capacity, the person shall be entitled to receive notice of, and attend and speak at, all Board meetings and to receive copies of all Board papers as if such person were a Director, but shall not be entitled to vote on any resolutions proposed, shall not count towards the quorum for the meeting or have any rights of a Director and shall not hold themself out as a Director in any way. This Article 75 shall not apply in respect of any person appointed as the Chair or as an Independent Non-Executive Director.

76 Minutes

The Board shall cause minutes to be made in books kept for the purpose of recording all proceedings at meetings of the Company, and of the Board and of such committees, divisions, boards, groups and other bodies of the Board, including the names of the Directors and observers present at each such meeting.

PART 6: COUNCIL

77 Constitution and Membership of Council

77.1 There shall be a body known as "The Council of The Football Association" which shall be constituted according to this Article.

77.2 The following shall be Members of Council:

77.2.1 the Chair;

77.2.2 until midnight on the day before the Summer Meeting in 2027 six Vice-Presidents as elected by Council (who may also be Representative Council Members or Board Observer Council Members);

77.2.3 the representatives of The Premier League as appointed pursuant to these Articles;

77.2.4 the representatives of The Football League as appointed pursuant to these Articles;

77.2.5 the representatives of the County Associations as appointed pursuant to these Articles;

77.2.6 the representatives of the Other Football Associations as appointed pursuant to these Articles;

77.2.7 the representatives of the Affiliated Organisations as appointed pursuant to these Articles;

77.2.8 the Supporters' Representatives as appointed pursuant to these Articles;

77.2.9 Until midnight on the day before the Summer Meeting in 2027, the representatives of the Divisions as appointed pursuant to these Articles;

77.2.10 the Chief Executive Officer;

77.2.11 the Disability Football Representatives as appointed pursuant to these Articles;

77.2.12 the representative of British Universities & Colleges Sport as appointed pursuant to these Articles;

77.2.13 the representative of the Association of Colleges as appointed pursuant to these Articles;

77.2.14 the representative of the FA Youth Council as appointed pursuant to these Articles;

77.2.15 the Steps 5 and 6 Representatives as appointed pursuant to these Articles;

77.2.16 the Futsal Representatives as appointed pursuant to these Articles;

77.2.17 the representatives of the Women's Super League and the Women's Super League 2 as appointed pursuant to these Articles;

77.2.18 the Women's National Leagues Representative as appointed pursuant to these Articles;

77.2.19 the Women's Regional and County Leagues Representatives as appointed pursuant to these Articles;

77.2.20 the Football Community Representatives as appointed pursuant to these Articles;

77.2.21 the representatives of Professional Game Match Officials Limited as appointed pursuant to these Articles;

77.2.22 the Disability Football Match Officials Representative as appointed pursuant to these Articles;

77.2.23 the General Referees Representative as appointed pursuant to these Articles;

77.2.24 the Life Vice-President; and

77.2.25 any Director who has vacated the office as the Representative Council Member from their respective organisation(s) in accordance with Article 79.2.

77.3 Until midnight on the day before the Summer Meeting in 2026, the Premier League and The Football League shall each be entitled to appoint up to eight representatives to Council. With effect from the date of the Summer Meeting in 2026, the Premier League shall be entitled to appoint up to seven representatives to Council and The Football League shall be entitled to appoint up to seven representatives to Council. At least one representative of The Premier League or The Football League shall be a person who is a Club Official of a football club in membership of The Premier League or The Football League respectively and at least one representative shall be the chair, chief executive officer or other officer of either of those respective companies.

77.4 Until midnight on the day before the Summer Meeting in 2027, the Football Conference shall be entitled to appoint up to two representatives to Council. With effect from the date of the Summer Meeting in 2027, the Football Conference shall be entitled to appoint up to three representatives to Council. At least one representative of The Football Conference shall be a person who is a Club Official of a football club in membership of The Football Conference, and at least one representative shall be the chair, chief executive officer or other officer of The Football Conference.

77.5 Until midnight on the day before the Summer Meeting in 2027, The Isthmian League, The Northern Premier League and The Southern League shall each be entitled to appoint one representative to Council. With effect from the date of the Summer Meeting in 2027, The Isthmian League, The Northern Premier League and The Southern League shall each be entitled to appoint two representatives to Council. Until midnight on the day before the Summer Meeting in 2027, a representative of The Isthmian League, The Northern Premier League or The Southern League shall be a person who is a director of a football club in membership of The Isthmian League, The Northern Premier League or The Southern League respectively, a member of the management committee of an unincorporated member of The Isthmian League, The Northern Premier League or The Southern League or the chair, chief executive officer or other officer of any of those respective companies. With effect from the date of the Summer Meeting in 2027, one representative of each of The Isthmian League, The Northern Premier League and The Southern League shall be a person who is Club Official of a football club in membership of The Isthmian League, The Northern Premier League or The Southern League respectively and the other representative for each such entity shall be the chair, chief executive officer or other officer of any of those respective companies.

77.6 Each County Association that has been such for the previous three years and has had 50 or more football clubs in membership for at least one year shall be entitled to appoint one representative to Council. The Board shall be entitled to determine what shall or shall not qualify as a football club in membership of a County Association for the purposes of this Article 77.6.

77.7 Each of The Amateur Football Alliance, The English Schools' Football Association, The Independent Schools' Football Association, The Army Football Association, The Royal Navy Football Association and The Royal Air Force Football Association shall be entitled to appoint one representative to Council.

77.8 Each of The League Managers' Association, The Professional Footballers' Association and The Referees' Association shall be entitled to appoint one representative to Council.

77.9 Until midnight on the day before the Summer Meeting in 2027, the Women's Football Conference shall be entitled to appoint up to two representatives to Council.

77.10 The Supporters' Representatives shall be the two individuals nominated by the Football Supporters' Association to represent the interests of supporters. Such persons shall be an individual member, or employee of, or member of an organisation affiliated to the Football Supporters' Association.

77.11 The Disability Football Committee shall be entitled to appoint up to two individuals to Council as the Disability Football Representatives.

77.12 Until midnight on the day before the Summer Meeting in 2027, the Divisions shall each be entitled to appoint one Divisional Representative to Council in accordance with the Standing Orders, provided that any Divisional Representative vacancy arising after the date of adoption of these Articles shall not be filled.

77.13 British Universities & Colleges Sport shall be entitled to appoint one representative to Council.

77.14 The Association of Colleges shall be entitled to appoint one representative to Council.

77.15 The FA Youth Council shall be entitled to appoint one representative to Council.

77.16 Until midnight on the day before the Summer Meeting in 2027, the National League System Steps 5 and 6 shall together be entitled to appoint two Steps 5 and 6 Representatives to Council in accordance with the Standing Orders. From the date of the Summer Meeting in 2027, the National League System Steps 5 and 6 shall together be entitled to appoint four Steps 5 and 6 Representatives to Council in accordance with the Standing Orders. At least one Steps 5 and 6 Representative shall be a person who is Club Official of a football club in membership of the National League System Steps 5 and 6 and at least one Steps 5 and 6 Representative shall be the chair, chief executive officer or other officer of a league within the National League System Steps 5 and 6.

77.17 The National Game Board shall be entitled to appoint up to two Futsal Representatives to Council.

77.18 Until midnight on the day before the Summer Meeting in 2026, The Women's Professional Leagues shall be entitled to appoint one representative of the Women's Super League and one representative of the Women's Super League 2 to Council. With effect from the date of the Summer Meeting in 2026, The Women's Professional Leagues shall be entitled to appoint two representatives of the Women's Super League and two representatives of the Women's Super League 2 to Council. One representative of each of the Women's Super League and the Women's Super League 2 shall be a person who is a Club Official of a football club in membership of the Women's Super League or the Women's Super League 2 respectively, and one representative of each of the Women's Super League and the Women's Super League 2 shall be the chair, chief executive officer or other officer of The Women's Professional Leagues.

77.19 Until midnight on the day before the Summer Meeting in 2027, the Women's National Leagues (Tiers 3 and 4) shall be entitled to appoint one Women's National Leagues Representative to Council in accordance with the Standing Orders. With effect from the date of the Summer Meeting in 2027, the Women's National Leagues (Tiers 3 and 4) shall be entitled to appoint three Women's National Leagues Representatives to Council in accordance with the Standing Orders. With effect from the date of the Summer Meeting in 2027, at least one Women's National Leagues Representative shall be a person who is Club Official of a football club in membership of the Women's National Leagues (Tiers 3 and 4) and at least one Women's National Leagues Representative shall be the chair, chief executive officer or other officer of the Women's National League.

77.20 Until midnight on the day before the Summer Meeting in 2027, the Women's Regional and County Leagues (Tiers 5-7) shall be entitled to appoint up to three Women's Regional and County Leagues Representatives to Council in accordance with the Standing Orders. With effect from the date of the Summer Meeting in 2027, the Women's Regional and County Leagues (Tiers 5 and 6) shall be entitled to appoint up to four Women's Regional and County Leagues Representatives to Council in accordance with the Standing Orders. At least one representative of the Women's Regional and County Leagues (Tiers 5-7 or 5 and 6 as applicable at the relevant time) shall be a person who is a Club Official of a football club in membership of the Women's Regional and County Leagues (Tiers 5-7 or 5 and 6 as applicable at the relevant time) and at least one representative shall be the chair, chief executive officer or other officer of a league within the Women's Regional and County Leagues (Tiers 5-7 or 5 and 6 as applicable at the relevant time).

77.21 The People and Culture Committee shall be entitled to appoint up to twelve Football Community Representatives to Council.

77.22 Professional Game Match Officials Limited shall be entitled to appoint up to two representatives to Council, one of whom shall be a representative from the men's game and one of whom shall be a representative from the women's game.

77.23 The Disability Football Committee shall be entitled to appoint one individual to Council as the Disability Football Match Officials Representative and such individual shall be a person who is a match official within the disability game.

77.24 The Referees Committee shall be entitled to appoint one individual to Council as the General Referees Representative.

77.25 On the death, resignation or removal or vacation from office of any representative, the organisation by which the representative was appointed under these Articles, shall have the power to appoint a new representative as a replacement.

78 Representative Council Members

78.1 Council may from time to time establish eligibility criteria for the appointment of any Representative Council Member.

78.2 If any Representative Council Member is elected as a Vice-President subsequent to their appointment as a Representative Council Member, they shall continue in their capacity as Vice-President until their removal as a Representative Council Member from their respective organisation or, in the case of a Board Observer Council Member, until their vacation of office as a Board Observer Council Member. From the date of such removal the Vice-President shall automatically cease to be a Vice-President and the Council may elect a replacement Vice-President in accordance with Article 77.2.2.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

79 Term-Limited Council Members

79.1 Each Term-Limited Council Member shall serve a term as a Member of Council from the date of appointment until either midnight on the day before the third Summer Meeting following the deemed date of their appointment or the date of their replacement or vacation of office if earlier and (subject to any provisions as set out in the Standing Orders in respect of age limits, involvement in football or otherwise and the provisions of these Articles (including as to term limits)) the Term-Limited Council Members shall be eligible for re-appointment at such third Summer Meeting. Unless otherwise expressly provided in the Articles, the date of appointment shall be deemed to be:

79.1.1 where appointed at a Summer Meeting, the date of such Summer Meeting; or

79.1.2 where appointed other than at a Summer Meeting, the date of the Summer Meeting closest in date to the actual date of appointment, whether such Summer Meeting is before or after such actual date of appointment.

79.2 A Term-Limited Council Member shall not be entitled to serve on the Council for more than three terms, provided that the first term of any Term-Limited Council Member deemed appointed prior to the Summer Meeting in 2018 pursuant to either Article 79.1 or the Prior Articles shall be deemed to commence at the Summer Meeting in 2018. A Term-Limited Council Member who is a Director at the time that a term limit under this Article 79.2 is reached shall be entitled to continue to be a Member of the Council for so long as such person remains a Director and shall cease to be a Term-Limited Council Member for the purposes of these Articles, provided that:

79.2.1 they shall vacate their office as the Representative Council Member from their respective organisation;

79.2.2 their appointing organisation(s) have the power to appoint a new representative as a replacement Representative Council Member at the next Summer Meeting following their vacation of office; and

79.2.3 they shall immediately vacate their office as a Council Member upon ceasing to be a Director.

80 Powers of Council

80.1 Notwithstanding the power of the Board to manage The Association as reserved in Article 57, Council shall have the following powers:

80.1.1 to manage all matters relating to any elections or appointments (as required) in respect of positions on Council;

80.1.2 to approve changes to the composition of Council (subject to the approval of the Board and the provisions of the 2006 Act);

80.1.3 to approve and recommend to the Shareholders proposed amendments to the Articles (subject to the approval of the Board and the provisions of the 2006 Act (as applicable));

80.1.4 to debate any current and significant issues relating to football;

80.1.5 to amend and/or make Standing Orders regulating the conduct of the business of Council (subject to the approval of the Board); and

80.1.6 to debate and consider those documents referred to in Article 83.1;

PROVIDED THAT Council shall not have the power to make any decision (including any decision which purports to be binding on the Company) in relation to any financial or commercial matter or other business matter or which has any financial or commercial or other business effect unless specifically authorised to do so by the Board in accordance with these Articles.

80.2 Council shall have the power to delegate matters within its jurisdiction only to such committees, groups and panels as the Council shall establish from time to time.

PART 7: ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

81 Seal

The seal shall only be used by the authority of the Board or of a committee of the Board authorised by the Board. The Board may determine who shall sign any instrument to which the seal is affixed and unless otherwise so determined it shall be signed by a Director and by the Secretary (or by a second Director). Any document signed on behalf of the Company in accordance with section 44 (2) of the 2006 Act has the same effect as if executed under the Seal.

82 Indemnity

82.1 Subject always to the provision of the 2006 Act and so far as may be consistent with the Statutes, in the management of the affairs of The Association, no Director shall be liable for any loss to the property of The Association arising by reason of an improper investment made in good faith (so long as the Director shall have sought professional advice before making such investment) or for the negligence or fraud of any agent employed by such Director or by any other Director in good faith (provided reasonable supervision shall have been exercised) although the employment of such agent was not strictly necessary or by reason of any mistake or omission made in good faith by any Director.

82.2 Subject to the provisions of the 2006 Act and so far as may be consistent with the Statutes:

82.2.1 every Director and any other officer of The Association (other than the Auditors) shall be indemnified out of the assets of The Association against all costs, charges, losses, expenses and liabilities incurred by them in the actual or purported execution and/or discharge of their duties and/or the actual or purported exercise of their powers and/or otherwise in relation to or in connection with their duties, powers or offices, providing that any such indemnity in relation to that Director or such officer shall only be valid in respect of any negligence, default, breach of duty or a breach of trust of which that Director or that officer may be guilty in relation to The Association to the extent that it constitutes a qualifying third party indemnity provision as defined in Section 234 of the 2006 Act;

82.2.2 every Director or other officer of The Association (excluding the Auditors) is exempted from any liability to The Association, where that liability would be covered by the indemnity in Article 82.2.1; and

82.2.3 The Association may also provide funds to any Director or other officer (excluding the Auditors) or do anything to enable any Director or such other officer to avoid incurring expenditure of the nature described in Section 206 of the 2006 Act.

83 Accounts

83.1 Not later than the end of the period for filing accounts and reports with the Registrar of Companies or (if earlier) the date on which the Company delivers its accounts to the Registrar of Companies, a copy of the Company's annual accounts and reports for each financial year must be sent, supplied or made available to every Shareholder, every holder of the Company's debentures from time to time and every person who is entitled to receive notice of general meetings in a form determined by these Articles and the 2006 Act. Copies need not be sent to a person for whom the Company does not have a current address as defined in section 423 of the 2006 Act.

83.2 The requirements of Article 83.1 shall be deemed satisfied in relation to any Shareholder by sending to such Shareholder, where permitted by the 2006 Act, a summary financial statement derived from the Company's annual accounts and the report of the Directors and prepared in the form and containing the information prescribed by the 2006 Act and any regulations made thereunder.

83.3 The Board shall procure that each of those documents referred to in Articles 83.1 and 83.2 above shall at the same time as they are sent, supplied or made available to Shareholders be sent, supplied or made available to the members of Council and where possible laid before a meeting of Council.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

84 Audit

The accounts of the Company shall be annually examined and the correctness of the balance sheet and accompanying accounts ascertained by an auditor or auditors to be appointed by the Board or otherwise in accordance with the provisions of the 2006 Act.

85 Notices

85.1 Any notice to be given to or by any person pursuant to these Articles shall be in writing except that a notice calling a meeting of the Board need not be in writing.

85.2 The Company may, subject to and in accordance with the Statutes and these Articles serve or deliver any notice or other document on or to a Shareholder:

85.2.1 personally;

85.2.2 by sending it by post addressed to the Shareholder at the registered address or address for service in the United Kingdom of the Shareholder or of the body referred to in Article 8.1 on whose behalf a share is held;

85.2.3 by leaving it at an address referred to above;

85.2.4 by sending or supplying it in electronic form to an address notified by the Shareholder to the Company for that purpose;

85.2.5 by making it available on a website and notifying the Shareholder of its availability in accordance with this Article; or

85.2.6 by any other means authorised in writing by the Shareholder.

A notice given to any person shall be binding on any body referred to in Article 8.1 on whose behalf that person acts or holds a share and all proceedings taken without any further or other notice shall be binding on such body.

85.3 A Shareholder present, either in person or by proxy, at any meeting of the Company or of the holders of any class of shares in the Company shall be deemed to have received notice of the meeting and, where requisite, of the purposes for which it was called.

85.4 Every person who becomes entitled to a share shall be bound by any notice in respect of that share which, before such person's name is entered in the register, has been duly given to a person from whom the title is derived.

85.5 Any notice, document or other information, addressed to a Shareholder at the registered address or address for service in the United Kingdom of the Shareholder or of the body referred to in Article 8.1 on whose behalf a share is held shall, if served, sent or supplied by first class post, be deemed to have been served or delivered on the day after the day when it was put in the post (or, where second class post is employed, on the second day after the day when it was put in the post). Proof that an envelope containing the notice, document or other information was properly addressed and put into the post as a prepaid letter shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given.

85.6 Any notice, document or other information not served, sent or supplied by post but delivered or left at a registered address or address for service in the United Kingdom of the Shareholder or of the body referred to in Article 8.1 on whose behalf a share is held (other than an address for the purposes of communications by electronic means) shall be deemed to have been served or delivered on the day on which it was so delivered or left.

85.7 Any notice, document or other information, if served, sent or supplied by electronic means shall be deemed to have been received on the day on which the electronic communication was sent by or on behalf of the Company notwithstanding that the Company subsequently sends a hard copy of such notice, document or other information by post. Any notice, document or other information made available on a website shall be deemed to have been received on the day on which the notice, document or other information was first made available on the website or, if later, when a notice of availability is received or deemed to have been received pursuant to this Article. Proof that the notice, document or other information was properly addressed shall be conclusive evidence that the notice by electronic means was given.

85.8 Any notice, document or other information served, sent or supplied by the Company by any other means authorised in writing by a Shareholder or a body referred to in Article 8.1 on whose behalf a share is held shall be deemed to have been received when the Company has carried out the action it has been authorised to take for that purpose.

85.9 If at any time by reason of the suspension, interruption or curtailment of postal services within the United Kingdom, the Company is unable effectively to convene a general meeting by notices sent through the post the Company need only give notice of a general meeting to those members with whom the Company can communicate by electronic means and who have provided the Company with an address for this purpose. The Company shall also advertise the notice in at least one national newspaper published in the United Kingdom and make it available on its website from the date of such advertisement until the conclusion of the meeting or any adjournment of it. In any such case the Company shall send confirmatory copies of the notice by post to those members to whom notice cannot be given by electronic means if at least seven days prior to the meeting the posting of notices to addresses throughout the United Kingdom again becomes practicable.

86 Winding Up

If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Company there remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the Shareholders, but shall be given or transferred to such institution or institutions having objects wholly or partially similar to the objects of the Company as shall be determined by the Shareholders at or before the time of dissolution or by the Board after such dissolution, or in default thereof by such Judge of the High Court of Justice in England and Wales as may have or acquire jurisdiction in the matter, or if and so far as effect cannot be given to such provision, then to some charitable object.

87 Rules

87.1 All Shareholders, Directors, Members of Council and any body appointing the same under these Articles, are bound by and subject to and shall act in accordance with the Rules and any regulations, standing orders, decisions, rulings or other findings, penalties or orders of any nature made pursuant to the Rules under Article 87.4.

87.2 The Rules shall be as determined by the Shareholders from time to time. Proposals to amend the Rules may only be made by:

87.2.1 a Shareholder (PROVIDED THAT such proposal does not relate in any way to any financial or commercial matter or other business matter or which has any financial or commercial or other business effect); or

87.2.2 the Board.

87.3 Proposals to amend the Rules under Article 87.2 may only be made if:

87.3.1 such amendment complies with the Law and is not inconsistent with the Articles; and

87.3.2 acting in accordance with the Rules incorporating such amendment would not place the Association, the Directors, the Members of Council, the Shareholders or any other person acting in accordance with the Rules pursuant to these Articles in breach of the Articles.

87.4 The Rules may provide that regulations, standing orders, decisions, rulings or other findings, penalties or orders may be made by the Board or any committee thereof in order to carry out the intent or purpose of a Rule.

87.5 A resolution to amend the Rules shall be by way of ordinary resolution which shall be passed:

87.5.1 if such resolution is proposed at a general meeting, by a majority of not less than 75% of those Shareholders present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote; or

87.5.2 if such resolution is proposed as a written resolution, by Shareholders representing not less than 75% of the total voting rights of Shareholders eligible to vote on a written resolution.

88 Articles of Association

88.1 A proposal to amend the Articles may be made by the Shareholders pursuant to the 2006 Act or by the Board (PROVIDED THAT any such proposals made by the Board have been approved by Council).

88.2 Proposals to amend the Articles under Article 88 may only be made if:

88.2.1 such amendment complies with the Law; and

88.2.2 the Articles incorporating such amendment would not breach the Law.

89 The Objects

89.1 The objects for which The Association is established shall include:-

89.1.1 to promote the game of association football, futsal and beach soccer in every way that The Association shall think proper;

89.1.2 to govern the game of association football, futsal and beach soccer with integrity and in doing so will seek to:

(a) enforce rules and regulations of The Association and the applicable Laws of the Game for participants and take all such steps as shall be deemed necessary or advisable for preventing infringements of the rules and regulations of The Association and applicable Laws of the Game, or other improper methods of practices in such game, and for protecting it from abuses; and

(b) continue to encourage and promote compliance by all participants with best practice guidelines and work to address discrimination in all its forms, pursuant to the relevant Law and the rules and regulations of The Association;

89.1.3 to support the technical development of England international representative teams as well as professional and grassroots football generally; and

89.1.4 to do all such other things as may be considered by The Association to further the interests of The Association.

90 Liability of Members

The liability of the members is limited.



Rules of the Association


Adobe

8 - RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION

as adopted by The Association on 1 June 2026.
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 the Board 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 **A2.1** Unless the context otherwise requires:

A2.1.1 words importing the singular number shall include the plural and vice versa; and

A2.1.2 words importing any particular gender shall include all other genders.

A2.2 References to statutory provisions shall be construed as references to those provisions as they may be amended or re-enacted.

A2.3 Defined terms in these Rules shall have the meaning as set out below, unless otherwise defined in the Articles or the regulations:

DEFINITION	INTERPRETATION
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.

DEFINITION	INTERPRETATION
Affiliated Association	means an association which is either a County Association or an Other Football Association;
Agent Form	shall have the meaning given to it in the Football Agent Regulations;
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;
Approach Notice	shall have the meaning given to it in Rule C88;
Approaching Club	shall have the meaning given to it in Rule C88;
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 aa relative of that individual or of their spouse or civil partner;
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;
Bridge Transfer	shall have the meaning given to it in the 'Definitions' section of the RSTP;
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;
Clearing House	means such bank account operated by The Association and as communicated by The Association from time to time, through which certain payments (as directed by The Association) are to be made;
Clearing House Protocol	means the protocol concerning the use of the Clearing House as issued by The Association from time to time;
Close Season	means the period between 1st June and 30th June inclusive each calendar year, or the period (if any) as otherwise ordered by the Board;

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

DEFINITION	INTERPRETATION
Club	means any club which plays the game of football in England and is recognised as such by The Association;
Club Crest	means the official Club emblem featured on a Club's playing strip which is the recognised symbol of the Club;
Club Official	means any official, Director, secretary, servant or representative of a Club (whether formally appointed or not);
Club Workforce	means all individuals that are subject to a contract of employment with a Club; **Guidance** *This does not include event day staff or contractors. Clubs are free to publish details of these individuals if they wish to do so provided the data is appropriately segmented in the Diversity Data Report.*
Collection Period	means the 18 month period immediately preceding the relevant Publication Deadline; **Guidance** *It is acknowledged that currently Premier League and EFL clubs collect Diversity Data at slightly different times. As a result, the Collection Period has been set at 18 months before the Publication Date. However, if a Club has collected Diversity Data more than once during the Collection Period, it should utilise the most recent set of relevant Diversity Data in its possession when complying with the requirements of this Rule.*
Collection Rate	means the percentage of the total Club Workforce that has responded to a request for Diversity Data during the Collection Period; **Guidance** *Clubs should aim for a Collection Rate of a minimum of 80%.*
Compensation Fee	means any sum of money or consideration payable by one Club to another Club in respect of the transfer of registration of a Player who has received a Re-engagement Offer from a Club pursuant to the provisions of Section VI of the Player Status Rules;
Compensation Fee Tribunal	means a tribunal convened in accordance with Rule C76 in order to determine the level of any Compensation Fee payable;
Competition	means any competition (whether league or knock-out or otherwise) authorised by The Association or an Affiliated Association pursuant to the Rules or authorised by FIFA or UEFA further to their respective statutes and regulations.
Concert Party	means two or more Persons presumed to be acting in concert (unless the contrary is established) within the meaning of paragraphs (1) 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	A Person (X) is a "Connected Person" to another Person (Y) (where that other Person (Y) is not a natural person) if that Person (X) directly or indirectly possesses or is entitled to acquire more than 25 per cent of: (a) the issued ordinary share capital of that other Person (Y); 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 that other Person (Y); or (c) the assets of that other Person (Y) which would be available for distribution to equity holders in the event of winding up of that other Person (Y);

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

DEFINITION	INTERPRETATION
Contract Player	means any player (other than a Player on a Scholarship or a PGA Contract) who is eligible to play under a written contract of employment with a Club;
Contractual Disputes Tribunal	means a tribunal convened in accordance with Rule C106; **Guidance** *Any reference in a Playing Contract to the 'League Appeals Committee' shall be deemed as a reference to the Contractual Disputes Tribunal for the purposes of the Player Status Rules.*
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 25 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; For the purposes of the above, any rights or powers of a Nominee for any Person or of an Associate of any Person shall be attributed to that Person and any rights or powers of any Person will be attributed to any Connected Person 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;
Diversity Data	means the prescribed set of data regarding the diversity of a Club's Workforce which is outlined in the Diversity Data Report;

DEFINITION	INTERPRETATION
Diversity Data Report	means a report detailing a minimum prescribed set of data collected by a Club during the Collection Period regarding the diversity of the Club's Workforce which is in the format and contains the information as required by The Association from time to time; **Guidance** *The Association will provide Clubs with a proforma template to populate containing different categories of diversity data for the Club to attempt to collect in relation to the Club Workforce.*
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);
Executive	means duly authorised officers, employees and other members of staff of The Association.
FA Limited Minors Exemption	means those exemptions set out in the limited minors exemption as issued by FIFA to The Association and as notified to Participants by The Association from time to time;
FA Registered Football Agent	shall have the meaning given to it in the Football Agent Regulations;
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;
FIFA TMS	means the FIFA Transfer Matching System;
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).

DEFINITION	INTERPRETATION
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-time Education	is a reference to a child who: (a) is of compulsory school age within the meaning of the Education Act 1996; or (b) has ceased to be of compulsory school age but is for the time being attending a school or an establishment of further education on a full-time basis; **Guidance** *In assessing whether a person is attending a school or an establishment of further education on a full-time basis, The FA will have regard to a range of factors including whether: (i) such education is undertaken in pursuit of a course; and (ii) the number of hours per week spent during term time receiving tuition, engaging in practical work, receiving supervised study and taking examinations. As to (ii), in line with Government guidance, it is currently considered that an average of 12 hours per week (or such number of hours as The FA may determine from time to time) in such activities is required to constitute full-time education. Competitions may make their own assessments of whether a child is in full-time education for the purposes of registrations under Competition rules, including the number of hours required per week, provided that there is no conflict with the Player Status Rules.*
GBE	means a Governing Body Endorsement granted by The Association;

DEFINITION	INTERPRETATION
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;
Home Shirt Colours	means the recognised predominant colour or colours of a Club's home shirt which is commonly associated with a Club;
Image Rights	means the rights to exploit a person's image or reputation either in relation to football or non-footballing activities;
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;
Intermediaries Form	means the applicable standard form as issued by The Association from time to time which details the involvement (or otherwise) of an Intermediary in respect of a particular transaction or contract renewal;
ITC	means the International Transfer Certificate, as issued by a national association via FIFA TMS;
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;
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);
Member Club	means a Club accorded the status of a Member Club pursuant to the Rules;
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 men's National Game pyramid as determined by the Board from time to time;

DEFINITION	INTERPRETATION
Nominee	means, in connection to any Person, another Person who possesses rights or powers on his or her 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 or a PGA Contract) 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 Member Club;
Nursery Club	shall have the meaning set out in Rule A3.7;
Official	means any official, director, secretary, servant or representative of an Affiliated Association or Competition;
Option	means any contractual provision that can extend the term of a Playing Contract beyond its initial end date and/or create an obligation for the parties to enter into a new Playing Contract;
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 (or such other scheme regarding the settlement of EU citizens in the United Kingdom as is implemented and enforced by the UK Government from time to time);
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), FA Registered Football Agent, 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;

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

DEFINITION	INTERPRETATION
PBS	means the Points Based System established by the Home Office in conjunction with The Association in force from time to time;
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;
PGA	means a Women's Professional Game Academy;
PGA Contract	means an agreement entered into between a Club and a PGA Player and registered with The Association pursuant to Section VIII of these Player Status Rules;
PGA Contract Player	means a PGA Player that has entered into a PGA Contract;
PGA Player	means a female player (other than a Non-Contract Player or a Contract Player) aged between 14 and 20 years old on 31 August of the relevant playing season that is registered with a Club operating a PGA;
PGMO	means Professional Game Match Officials Limited or any successor body;
Player	means any Contract Player, Out of Contract Player, Non-Contract Player or other player who plays or is eligible to play for a Club or is subject to any suspension from playing;
Player Status Rules	means the provisions set out in Rule C of the Rules;
Playing Contract	means a contract of employment (other than a Scholarship Agreement or a PGA Contract) entered into between a Player and a Club (which, where The Association and/or Competition prescribes a standard form, shall be in that standard form);
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);
Re-engagement Offer	means a written offer made by a Club to its registered Player specifying the terms of a proposed new Playing Contract (including the length of the contract);
Re-engagement Period	means the month of May in any calendar year or, if later, the seven-day period that follows the date of the Club's last competitive first team Match;
Registration Period	means such period in which players may be registered for a Club as notified by The Association and approved by FIFA and as may apply to each of men's, women's and amateur football;

DEFINITION	INTERPRETATION
Regulatory Commission	means any regulatory commission as established from time to time whose purpose is to hear Participants' cases;
Representation Agreement	shall have the meaning given to it in the Football Agent Regulations;
Representation Contract	shall have the meaning given to it in The Association's Working with Intermediaries Regulations;
RSTP	means the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (to include any successor regulations as may be in force from time to time);
Rules	means these rules of The Association (and "Rule" shall be interpreted accordingly);
Scholar	means a player that has entered into a Scholarship Agreement;
Scholarship Agreement	means an agreement entered into between a Club and player and registered with The Association pursuant to Section VIII of these Player Status Rules;
Scholarship Form	means the form G(4), or such other form as The Association may require from time to time;
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;
Transfer Agreement	means an agreement between two Clubs (or clubs) relating to the transfer of the registration of a player;
UEFA	means the Union of European Football Associations or any successor body;
UKAD	means UK Anti-Doping or any successor body;
WADA	means the World Anti-Doping Agency;
WSL	means Women's Super League; and
WSL2	means Women's Super League 2.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

AFFILIATION OF CLUBS

A3 A3.1 Member Clubs

A3.1.1 Eligibility to be a Member Club shall be under the control of the Board which shall have the power to determine eligibility criteria and conditions as it considers appropriate and make regulations relating to the same. Notwithstanding that a Club may satisfy any such criteria and conditions as are specified by The Association from time to time, The Association shall have the power in its absolute discretion to refuse to grant a Club Member Club status. Accordingly, only on the written confirmation of The Association shall a Club be accorded the status a Member Club.

A3.1.2 Subject to Rules A3.1.1, A3.4, A3.5 and A3.6 and unless the Board determines otherwise in its absolute discretion, a Club shall be granted Member Club status if:

(a) the Club is in membership of an Affiliated Association; and

(b) the Club participates at: (i) Step 3 of the National League System or above, or (ii) Tier 3 of the Women's Football Pyramid or above.

A3.2 Rights and Privileges

A Member Club shall have no rights or privileges other than as arise pursuant to the Articles and the Rules.

A3.3 Resignation by a Member Club

A Member Club may resign its status as a Member Club provided that such resignation: (i) is in writing; (ii) is received by The Association by 31 December in a playing season; and (iii) has effect only at the end of the relevant playing season.

A3.4 Termination of Status of a Member Club

A Member Club shall cease to be a Member Club if:

A3.4.1 At any point in time, the Board decides in its absolute discretion and on such terms as it considers appropriate, that a Club shall cease to be a Member Club.

A3.4.2 The Member Club ceases to: (a) be in membership of an Affiliated Association; or (b) participate at Step 3 of the National League System or above or Tier 3 of the Women's Football Pyramid or above.

Cessation of membership shall take effect from the date on which the Member Club receives written confirmation from The Association that it no longer holds the status of a Member Club.

A3.5 Transfer of Membership

A3.5.1 A Member Club is not permitted to transfer its membership from one legal entity to a different legal entity without the written approval of The Association.

A3.5.2 Where a Member Club proposes to transfer its membership from one entity to a different entity, the Board has absolute discretion to determine whether to approve the transfer. In making its decision, the Board may take into account the following criteria together with any other criteria which the Board considers appropriate in its absolute discretion:

(a) whether the league in which the Member Club competes has approved the transfer; and

(b) whether the new entity satisfies, or will satisfy immediately after the transfer, the criteria set out in Rule A3.1.2.

A3.6 Suspension of Membership/Rights and Privileges

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

A3.7 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 Member Club.

A3.8 Annual Return of a Member Club

A3.8.1 Each 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 the Board.

A3.8.2 A Club shall report to The Association within 21 days any change in the information set out on the Form A most recently submitted.

A3.8.3 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 the Board.

A3.9 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 the Board.

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 the Board for adoption in the following playing season. The Board will use its absolute discretion in deciding whether to approve a change in a Club's playing name.

A3.10 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

A3.11 All Member Clubs, and Non-Member Clubs shall affiliate to an Affiliated Association from time to time and shall observe the Rules.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

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

The Board 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 the Board.

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 the Board shall otherwise decide.

B. SUPERVISION OF COMPETITIONS AND MATCHES

PURPOSE

B1 To enable The Association to discharge the responsibilities that it owes to FIFA and UEFA, in its capacity as the member association of FIFA and UEFA for England.

B2 To organise and/or supervise the game of football in all its forms in England, including:

B2.1 organising football competitions and matches and/or authorising their organisation by Affiliated Associations and/or other competition organisers in accordance with this Rule B and (where applicable) in accordance with the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches and the UEFA Authorisation Rules governing International Club Competitions;

B2.2 maintaining such rules and regulations applicable to its own competitions and matches and/or to the game generally as are necessary to promote the objects of The Association and to ensure the proper organisation and conduct of such competitions in a manner that protects their safety, regularity, and integrity;

B2.3 approving the constitutions of and defining the scope of authority and the rights and duties of Affiliated Associations, Competitions and other competition organisers to organise competitions and matches that comply with The Association's rules and regulations, and approving the organiser's rules and regulations for such competitions and matches where they (i) are consistent with the objects of The Association and (ii) ensure the proper organisation and conduct of such competitions in a manner that protects their safety, regularity, and integrity; and

B2.4 ensuring, and/or requiring Affiliated Associations, Competitions and other competition organisers to ensure, the consistent and effective enforcement of The Association's rules and regulations (where applicable) and of the competition-specific rules and regulations that The Association has approved for the competitions and matches they organise; and

B2.5 preserving the fundamental principle of promotion and relegation between domestic league competitions.

POWERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

B3 The Association will exercise all powers and authorities conferred on it by this Rule B through the Board, which may delegate some or all of those powers and authorities to the Executive or (to the extent specified in the Sanction and Control of Competition Regulations) to an Affiliated Association.

B4 Reference in this Rule B to 'competitions' and 'matches' includes (i) competitions and matches in any form of football, including (without limitation) association football, futsal, walking football, and disability football; and (ii) any format of competition, including (without limitation) league competitions and knock-out competitions and competitions involving both league and knock- out stages, as well as so-called 'friendly' competitions and matches, matches played for player development purposes, and competitions and matches staged for charitable and/or testimonial purposes. The Board may waive or vary the application of the full requirements of Rule B to specified competitions or matches.

Guidance

For example, the Board may waive or vary the application of the full requirements of Rule B at a particular level of the game such as the leagues and other competitions and matches operating below the National League System or below Tier 6 of the Women's Football Pyramid.

B5 Where the defined terms "Competition" and "Match" are used in this Rule B, as per the definitions in Rule A2 they refer to a competition or match that has been duly authorised by The Association (or its Affiliated Association) pursuant to this Rule B and/or by FIFA or UEFA pursuant to their respective rules and regulations.

OBLIGATIONS ON PARTICIPANTS

B6 Clubs, Club Officials, Match Officials, Players, and other Participants may only participate in competitions and matches that are duly authorised by The Association (or, where applicable, its Affiliated Association) in accordance with this Rule B and/or by FIFA and/or UEFA further and pursuant to their respective rules and regulations.

B7 Clubs, Club Officials, Match Officials, Players, and other Participants may not participate in, or support in any manner, directly or indirectly, any competition or match staged in England unless such participation or support has been authorised:

B7.1 by FIFA and/or UEFA, where their authorisation is required under their respective rules and regulations; and/or

B7.2 by The Association, further to this Rule B; or

B7.3 by an Affiliated Association, further to the Sanction and Control of Competition Regulations and this Rule B.

B8 Clubs, Club Officials, Match Officials, Players, and other Participants must comply with the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches and the UEFA Authorisation Rules governing International Club Competitions both in respect of competitions and matches staged (in whole or in part) in England (to the extent such rules and regulations apply thereto) and in respect of competitions and matches staged (in whole or in part) outside of England. In particular (but without limitation), they must not:

B8.1 form international combinations or alliances or participate in or support in any manner, directly or indirectly, any competition or match staged outside of England without the prior written approval of FIFA and UEFA; or

B8.2 participate in matches or make sporting contacts with players or teams that are not affiliated to a FIFA member association without the prior written approval of FIFA; or

B8.3 participate in, or support in any manner, directly or indirectly, any competition or match staged outside of England unless such participation or support has been authorised by The Association further to this Rule B and by the FIFA member association of the territory where the competition or match is staged.

Guidance

The FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches and the UEFA Authorisation Rules governing International Club Competitions govern the participation by Clubs, Club Officials, Match Officials, Players, and other Participants in competitions or matches that:

(a) are not organised by FIFA or by UEFA or another FIFA confederation; and that either

(b) are contested between teams affiliated to The Association (i.e., Clubs) and teams affiliated to one or more other FIFA member associations; or

(c) are contested only between teams affiliated to The Association (i.e., Clubs) but are played in the territory of another FIFA member association.

The words "support in any manner, directly or indirectly", as used in this Rule B, are to be construed widely. They include (without limitation) providing facilities for the staging of the competition or match.

AUTHORISATION CONDITIONS

B9 Where the authorisation of The Association or an Affiliated Association is required further to this Rule B (whether in respect of a competition or match staged in whole or in part in England or in respect of a competition or match staged in whole or in part outside of England), unless otherwise specified The Association (or, where applicable, an Affiliated Association) will authorise participation in the competition or match if it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of The Association (or, where applicable, the Affiliated Association) that the following conditions are met:

B9.1 All of the clubs involved in the competition or match are Clubs or are affiliated to another FIFA member association.

B9.2 The rules and regulations for the competition or match comply with the statutes and regulations of FIFA, the statutes and regulations of UEFA, the Laws of the Game, and the Rules.

B9.3 There are effective mechanisms in place to ensure the transparent enforcement of the rules and regulations for the competition or match. In particular (but without limitation):

B9.3.1 Appeals relating to decisions of the Premier League, EFL, WSL and WSL2 are to be resolved as set out in the rules and regulations applicable to those respective competitions.

B9.3.2 Appeals relating to decisions of other competition organisers are to be resolved by an appeal board appointed by The Association, or (where the competition or match is authorised by an Affiliated Association) by an appeal board appointed by the Affiliated Association, or by another body satisfactory to The Association.

Guidance

For example, The Association may determine that another body satisfactory to The Association is the appropriate body to hear appeals from decisions relating to a competition or match staged outside of England.

B9.4 The competition or match is consistent with the objects of The Association, preserves the fundamental principle of promotion and relegation between domestic league competitions, and poses no threat to the integrity of the game, or to the image or reputation of The Association, or to the collective strength and wellbeing of English football.

B9.5 Participation in the competition or match is based on equal opportunity and sporting merit, does not involve any unlawful discrimination, and does not place obligations on participants that conflict with or otherwise prevent them honouring their pre-existing commitments to participate in other competitions or matches.

B9.6 The scheduling of the competition or match is coordinated within the overall match calendar and respects player welfare.

B9.7 Any fee charged by The Association to cover its time and costs of considering and processing the application must be paid by the applicant.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

PROCESS FOR OBTAINING AUTHORISATION FROM THE ASSOCIATION

B10 Where the authorisation of The Association or an Affiliated Association is required further to this Rule B, the organiser of the competition or match must apply for that authorisation as soon as practicable, and in any event by the deadline specified by The Association or the Affiliated Association. If no other deadline is specified (whether by The Association, or in the Sanction and Control of Competition Regulations, or otherwise), the application must be submitted at least twelve months before the start of the competition or match in question.

Guidance

The competition organiser may be a Club or other Participant that is already bound by the Rules. If the competition organiser is not already a Participant and therefore is not already bound by the Rules, the Club(s) that would be participating in the proposed competition or match must procure that the competition organiser makes the necessary application for authorisation and, in so doing, submits to and agrees to be bound by the Rules in accordance with Rule B29.

In the case of applications to The Association, details of the application process and the necessary form will be available on The Association's website or else will be provided upon request. In the case of applications to an Affiliated Association, details of the application process should be requested directly from the Affiliated Association.

Proposed new competitions and matches (wherever staged) for which authorisation is sought for the first time

B11 The application must be made using the form specified from time to time by The Association (or, where applicable, the Affiliated Association), must be sent by email to sanctioning@thefa.com (in the case of applications to The Association) or to the email address specified by the Affiliated Association (in the case of applications to the Affiliated Association), and must include the following information, as well as any further information required to demonstrate that all of the conditions set out at Rule B9 are met:

B11.1 All of the proposed dates and venues for the staging of the competition or match.

B11.2 All of the teams involved in the competition or match, and confirmation that all of those teams are either Clubs or they are affiliated to another FIFA member association.

B11.3 A copy of the rules and regulations for the competition or match, together with confirmation from the organiser that those rules and regulations comply with the statutes and regulations of FIFA, the statutes and regulations of UEFA, the Laws of the Game, and the Rules.

B11.4 Details of all of the Match Officials involved in the competition or match.

B11.5 Details of the mechanism to be used for the effective transparent enforcement of the competition or match rules and regulations and for the disciplining of any non- compliance with those rules and regulations.

B11.6 Details of any payments (including any prize money) to be made to participating teams and other participants in the competition or match.

B11.7 Details of any solidarity payments to be made by the organiser of the competition or match, e.g., funding of projects with social, educational, and/or sporting purposes (such as grass roots projects, youth player development, dual career education, anti-racism, gender balance, refugee integration, etc).

B11.8 Proof that the organiser of the competition or match (i) is in good financial standing and has sufficient funds to meet all of its commitments in relation to the competition or match, including the payments referenced in this Rule B11; and (ii) will have in place appropriate insurance cover for the competition or match from a reputable insurer.

Guidance

Insurance cover will usually be considered appropriate if it is substantially similar in both scope and quantum of cover to the insurance cover in place for similar Competitions or Matches (as applicable).

B12 The Association (or the Affiliated Association, where applicable) will consider the application in an objective and non-discriminatory manner. It may request such further information about the application as it deems necessary and may also consult as appropriate with other relevant stakeholders.

B13 Where The Association (or the Affiliated Association, where applicable) approves the application, such approval is subject to and conditional upon (i) continuing compliance with all of the requirements of this Rule B; and (ii) satisfaction of such additional objective and non- discriminatory conditions as The Association (or the Affiliated Association, where applicable) considers necessary, in the circumstances of the particular case, to achieve the objectives of this Rule B.

Guidance

'Non-discriminatory' in this context means that the organisation and marketing of third party competitions and the participation of clubs and players therein must not be subject to requirements that are either different from those applicable to competitions organised and marketed by The Association or (though identical or similar to them) are impossible or excessively difficult to fulfil in practice for an undertaking that does not have the same status as The Association or does not have the same powers at its disposal as The Association.

B14 The Association will confirm upon request whether or not a particular competition or match has been authorised in accordance with this Rule B.

Authorised Competitions and Matches

B15 Unless otherwise specified, any authorisation granted will be valid for one season only, and new authorisation will be required for participation in further editions of the Competition or Match in subsequent seasons. Where previous editions of the same competition or match were authorised by The Association, the application must highlight any differences between (a) the rules and regulations for the upcoming edition of that competition or match and (b) the rules and regulations that applied to the last edition.

B16 The organiser of authorised Competitions and Matches must continue to comply with the requirements of Rule B, including any continuing conditions imposed further to Rule B13. The Association (or the Affiliated Association, where applicable) reserves the right to refuse/withdraw authorisation of the Competition or Match where it ceases to comply with the requirements of Rule B.

B17 Where a Competition or Match has previously been authorised by The Association (or an Affiliated Association, where applicable), The Association (or the Affiliated Association, where applicable) will not refuse authorisation for a further edition of that Competition or Match unless The Association (or the Affiliated Association, where applicable) considers that there has been a material change in circumstances that warrants such refusal.

B18 Once The Association (or an Affiliated Association, where applicable) has authorised a Competition or Match based on a specified set of applicable rules and regulations, any amendments made to those rules and regulations that come into effect prior to the conclusion of that Competition or Match must be submitted to The Association (or an Affiliated Association, where applicable) for review, and must be revoked without delay if The Association (or an Affiliated Association, where applicable) decides they do not comply with the requirements of this Rule B.

EFFECT OF AUTHORISATION

B19 Any grant by The Association (or an Affiliated Association, where applicable) of an application by a competition or match organiser for authorisation pursuant to Rule B means that The Association (or Affiliated Association) is satisfied, based on the information provided, that (i) the staging of the Competition or Match in question is consistent with the objects of The Association, and (ii) the organisational and regulatory arrangements proposed should ensure the proper organisation and conduct of such Competition or Match in a manner that protects their safety, regularity, and integrity. It does not amount to any kind of representation or warranty by The Association (or the Affiliated Association, where applicable) in respect of the Competition or Match in question, or in respect of the rules and regulations applicable to that Competition or Match (including in particular in respect of the lawfulness of such rules and regulations), and The Association (or the Affiliated Association, as applicable) accepts no liability in that respect. Instead, the applicant shall bear the burden and risk of defending any claim of any kind made by anyone in respect of the Competition or Match, including (without limitation) any claim that the rules and regulations applicable to that Competition or Match are unlawful or otherwise unenforceable, and shall be solely responsible for any liability arising in respect of such claim.

COMPLIANCE

B20 A breach by a Club, Club Official, Match Official, Player, or other Participant of any provision of this Rule B constitutes Misconduct.

B21 Liability for breach of Rule B6, Rule B7 and Rule B8 is strict, i.e., no proof of intent, recklessness, or any other fault is required. In particular (but without limitation), it is the responsibility of each Club, Club Official, Match Official, Player, and other Participant to establish that a particular competition or match is authorised as required under this Rule B before participating in it or supporting it; and ignorance of its unauthorised status will not be a defence to a charge of Misconduct based on such participation or support. However, further to Rule B25, the degree of fault of the non-compliant Club, Club Official, Match Official, Player, or other Participant will be reflected in the sanctions imposed for such breach.

B22 The Association (or an Affiliated Association, where applicable) will investigate apparent breaches of this Rule B and take disciplinary action as necessary against any Club, Club Official, Match Official, Player, or other Participant that is involved in or liable for such breach. Any disciplinary action taken by UEFA and/or FIFA or by a competition organiser under their respective rules against a Club, Club Official, Match Official, Player, or other Participant based on acts or omissions that also amount to a breach of this Rule B will not preclude The Association (or an Affiliated Association, where applicable) from taking disciplinary action against the same Club or Participant(s) under this Rule B based on those acts or omissions. In accordance with Rule G, The Association (or the Affiliated Association, where applicable) may stay its own investigation pending the outcome of the other disciplinary action, or conduct a joint investigation on agreed terms with the body taking the other action, or carry out its own investigation and action independently of that other body.

B23 The Regulatory Commission may impose any one or more of the following sanctions on a Club that the Regulatory Commission finds to be in breach of this Rule B:

B23.1 a reprimand and/or a warning as to future conduct;

B23.2 a fine;

B23.3 a transfer embargo;

B23.4 a deduction of points for the current (or just completed) season and/or for one or more future seasons;

B23.5 a period of ineligibility to participate in specified competitions and matches (or for so long as the Club continues to breach this Rule B, if longer); and/or

B23.6 any other sanction(s) that the Regulatory Commission deems to be appropriate and proportionate in all the circumstances of the case, taking into account the matters set out in Rule B25.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

B24 The Regulatory Commission may impose any one or more of the following sanctions on a Club Official, Match Official, Player or other individual Participant that the Regulatory Commission finds to be in breach of this Rule B:

B24.1 a reprimand and/or a warning as to future conduct;

B24.2 a fine;

B24.3 a period of ineligibility to participate in specified competitions and matches (or for so long as the individual continues to breach Rule B, if longer); and/or

B24.4 any other sanction(s) that the Regulatory Commission deems to be appropriate and proportionate in all the circumstances of the case, taking into account the matters set out in Rule B25.

B25 The sanction(s) to be imposed in a particular case shall be non-discriminatory and proportionate to the nature, duration and seriousness of the breach (both in terms of the degree of fault of the non-compliant Club or other Participant and in terms of the harm caused by the breach), taking into account the need to protect the image and/or integrity of the game, the need to deter repetition of the wrongful conduct (by the Club or other Participant in question and by others), and any mitigating or aggravating factors that may be present (including the prior record of the Club or other Participant, and their degree of cooperation with the investigation and disciplinary process). Where more than one breach has been committed, the sanctions imposed shall be based on the most serious breach, but increased as appropriate to reflect the other breach(es).

Guidance

The sanction to be imposed in such cases will depend upon the facts and circumstances of each particular case, including the degree of fault of the person involved, as well as the harm that participation in unauthorised competitions or matches does to the game generally, and the consequent need to deter further non-compliance.

B26 Where the Regulatory Commission deems appropriate, (1) it may suspend the implementation of all or part of any sanctions imposed for so long as the Club and/or other Participant in question satisfies conditions specified by the Regulatory Commission; and (2) it may waive implementation of all or that part of those sanctions entirely if the Club and/or other Participant continues to satisfy those conditions for a period specified by the Regulatory Commission.

B27 A Club or other Participant that is sanctioned by a Regulatory Commission pursuant to this Rule B may appeal that decision to an Appeal Board convened in accordance with Article 8 of The Association's Articles of Association and acting pursuant to and in accordance with Rule H.

CHALLENGE AND INDEPENDENT REVIEW

B28 Any dispute relating to this Rule B, including as to the lawfulness/validity of any part of this Rule B and/or of any decision made by The Association, an Affiliated Association, a Regulatory Commission or an Appeal Board pursuant to this Rule B, shall be resolved by arbitration in accordance with Rule K.

B29 By applying to The Association (or an Affiliated Association, where applicable) for approval of a competition or match further to Rule B, an applicant that is not otherwise subject to The Association's rules and regulations shall be deemed to have agreed to the submission to arbitration set out in Rule B28.

MATTERS NOT OTHERWISE PROVIDED FOR

B30 If a matter or issue arises that implicates the imperatives set out in Rule B1 but is not provided for in this Rule B, The Association shall deal with the matter or issue in an objective, non- discriminatory and proportionate manner that is consistent with the objectives of this Rule B.

THE PLAYING SEASON AND THE CLOSE SEASON

B31 **B31.1** *The Playing Season*

B31.1.1 Subject to Rule B31.1.2, the playing season will 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 B33.

B31.1.2 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 B31.2 when setting the dates for its new playing season.

B31.2 *Time frame for Competitions to commence and conclude*

B31.2.1 Subject to Rule B31.2.2, each Competition will 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 B33.

B31.2.2 In relation to those Competitions comprising the National League System, the Board (including through the relevant committee of the Board) 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 B31.1.1.

B31.3 *The Close Season*

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

B31.3.1 Small-sided Matches and competitions (not more than 7-a-side), 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.

B31.3.2 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.

B31.3.3 Matches involving members of scouts, guides and similar organisations in Competitions whilst in camp.

B31.3.4 Matches for national representative teams or clubs played under the auspices of FIFA or UEFA.

B31.3.5 Matches between Clubs in the Premier League, the EFL, WSL and WSL2 for the following season. This sub-paragraph B31.3.5 shall also apply to any successor in title to any of the Competitions specified.

B31.3.6 11v11 matches in authorised Competitions that meet the criteria in accordance with the "Regulations for the Sanction and Control of Competitions" and are approved by The Association or authorising Affiliated Association.

B31.3.7 Single day, weekend and bank holiday competitions and festivals meeting the criteria and receiving authorisation.

B31.3.8 Pilot projects granted dispensation by The Association or authorising Affiliated Association.

B31.4 *Matches that 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.

B31.5 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.

B31.6 *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.

B31.7 *Special Provisions*

B31.7.1 The appropriate authorising association, whether it be The Association and/or an Affiliated Association, may grant special permission for Competitions 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.

B31.7.2 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.

B31.7.3 Affiliated Associations shall determine the dates on which "County Cup" Matches shall be played.

SUSPENSION OF FOOTBALL

B32 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

B33 **B33.1** The Board shall have the power to:

B33.1.1 extend the playing season beyond 31 May;

B33.1.2 change the dates of the Close Season;

B33.1.3 end the playing season.

NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM

B34 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 the Board from time to time.

B35 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.

B36 The Competitions participating in the National League System shall be as determined by the Board from time to time.

FOOTBALL AND RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

B37 A Participant cannot be compelled to play football on bona fide occasions where religious observance precludes such activity, save where the Participant:

B37.1 has consented to do so on such occasions; or

B37.2 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.

B37.3 Annually, when planning programmes, Competitions shall define and notify agreed dates of such occasions.

SCRATCH TEAMS

B38 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 B39 and B40 shall apply.

PROCEEDS OF COMPETITIONS OR MATCHES

B39 Clubs and Players shall not compete in any Match or Competition (including small-sided 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-SIDED MATCHES

B40 Small-sided Matches and Competitions (not more than seven-a-side) may be arranged provided that:

B40.1 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;

B40.2 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;

B40.3 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;

B40.4 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;

B40.5 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;

B40.5.1 where two Affiliated Associations cover the same area, the permission must be obtained from the appropriate Parent Association;

B40.5.2 there shall be no Close Season for small- side games; and

B40.5.3 the laws applicable to small-side games are printed elsewhere in this handbook.

C. PLAYER STATUS RULES

SECTION I: OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES

C1 Failure to comply with a provision of these Player Status Rules may constitute Misconduct.

C2 Unless otherwise specified by The Association, all documents to be submitted to The Association shall be submitted in electronic copy only by email or in such other form or manner as may be specified by The Association from time to time.

Guidance

Where a document requires a signature, The Association will accept an electronic signature on a document provided that the signatory intends to authenticate the document, the signature is generated in software designed for that purpose and that any relevant formalities are satisfied. Any misrepresentation as to the validity of an electronic signature may constitute Misconduct. Secure e-signature technology shall be used wherever possible.

Where references are made throughout these Player Status Rules to offers or confirmations being given "in writing" it is sufficient for this to be done by email, provided the other requirements of the relevant Rule have been met.

C3 Where documents submitted to The Association do not comply with The Association's Rules or regulations, The Association reserves the right to:

C3.1 require amendments or clarifications to those documents;

C3.2 require additional information or documentation; and/or

C3.3 reject any document and to refuse to take any steps in relation to them.

C4 Any steps taken by The Association in relation to documents submitted to it shall not constitute its acceptance as to their compliance with The Association's Rules or regulations, nor any indication as to their legality or otherwise.

C5 Clubs and Players must ensure that Players are registered with The Association in order to play in a Match.

C6 Players may only be registered with a Club for the purposes of playing Matches. As an exception, a Player may be registered with a Club for technical reasons in order to ensure transparency in respect of a Player's registration record, to include in circumstances where a Player is subject to consecutive individual transactions.

Guidance

There is only one exception to the fundamental principle that a Player may only be registered with a Club for the purposes of playing Matches. This exception is when a player needs to be registered with a club purely for technical reasons related to the use of the domestic registration database and/or FIFA TMS. Such a 'technical registration' – where there is no (immediate) prospect that the player will play football for the registering club – might arise if, for example, a player returns to their parent club following a loan and is immediately loaned out again, or permanently transferred, to a third club.

To provide transparency and ensure that the transfer is accurately reflected domestically and/or on FIFA TMS, the player's registration must revert to their parent club before it is transferred to the club to which they are being loaned or permanently transferred. Therefore, it is necessary to register the player with their parent club, even if there is no prospect of the player playing for their parent club and even if the registration period of the parent club's member association is closed. In order for a transfer to occur after the 'technical registration', the registration period of the club to which the player is being loaned or permanently transferred must be open.

For the avoidance of doubt, this exception does not apply in respect of Bridge Transfers.

C7 No Club or Player may enter into an agreement with a party (to include an agreement entered into between a Club and a Player) which contravenes The Association's Rules and regulations, to include the Third Party Interest in Players Regulations and the Working with Intermediaries Regulations or Football Agent Regulations (as applicable).

C8 Where a Contract Player ends their career upon expiry of their Playing Contract or a Non-Contract Player terminates their football activity, the Player will remain registered with The Association for a period of 30 months (such period commencing on the day the Player makes his last appearance in a Match).

C9 In the event of any conflict between the Rules and the rules of any Competition and/or the terms of any Playing Contract, the Rules shall apply.

Guidance

For the purposes of playing football in England, registration with The Association constitutes a Player's primary registration. However, Competitions may, under their rules, impose additional requirements on Participants in respect of registering Players to participate in their Competition and contractual matters (and may impose sanctions in respect of non-compliance with any such requirements). Registration of a Player with The Association does not therefore constitute registration with each Competition in which that Player's Club participates.

C10 For the purposes of futsal, these Player Status Rules shall apply save where there is any provision to the contrary in the Futsal Regulations.

SECTION II: CONTRACTS

Unless otherwise stated, the provisions of Section II only apply to Participants in the Premier League, EFL, National League System and Tiers 1 to 4 of the Women's Football Pyramid.

Unless expressly stated, this section does not apply to Scholars, PGA Contract Players, Academy Players and PGA Players. Provisions for such Players are set out in Section VIII of these Player Status Rules.

General requirements

C11 Players must be aged 18 or over in order to enter into a Playing Contract, save that a Player aged 17 may enter into a Playing Contract where they are not in Full-time Education.

C12 Players under the age of 17 may: (a) enter into a Scholarship Agreement in accordance with Section VIII of these Player Status Rules and the provisions of the Professional Game Youth Development Rules, or (b) enter into a PGA Contract in accordance with Section VIII of these Player Status Rules.

C13 Players under the age of 18 may not sign a Playing Contract for a term longer than three years.

C14 The following Clubs are not permitted to enter into Playing Contracts with players:

C14.1 Clubs below Step 6 of the National League System; and

C14.2 Clubs below Tier 4 of the Women's Football Pyramid.

C15 Copies of all Playing Contracts and all written agreements entered into between a Club and Contract Player, must be provided to: (i) The Association within five days of signature; and (ii) the Contract Player at the time of signature.

Guidance

Playing Contracts should be provided to Contract Players by email and in hard copy wherever possible.

C16 The validity of a Playing Contract cannot be made conditional upon the completion of a successful medical examination or the grant of any right to work authorisation.

C17 Where a female Player is temporarily replaced by another Player in accordance with Rule C35.4, the period of the replacement Player's Playing Contract shall, unless otherwise mutually agreed, be from the date of registration until the day prior to the start of the first registration period after the return of the Player who has taken maternity leave.

Payments

C18 Each Club must ensure that Playing Contracts it enters into provide that all payments (save for those in relation to Image Rights and those made to Intermediaries or FA Registered Football Agents (as applicable) on the Contract Player's behalf) are paid to the Contract Player, and not to any company, entity or individual acting on behalf of that Contract Player.

C19 Any payments or benefits whatsoever that are made by a Club to, or otherwise made in relation to, a Contract Player must be referenced in and incorporated as terms of the Playing Contract (to include, but not limited to, those relating to Image Rights and those made to Intermediaries or FA Registered Football Agents (as applicable) on the Contract Player's behalf).

Guidance

The Playing Contract must set out the relevant payments (for example as relate to Image Rights and those made to Intermediaries or FA Registered Football Agents (as applicable) on the Contract Player's behalf) but need not, for example, set out the full payment schedule. In such circumstances, the payment schedule must be set out in a written agreement (to which the Club is a contracting party) and must be provided both to the Player and The Association.

C20 All payments made to Contract Players, whether under a Playing Contract or otherwise, must:

C20.1 only be made by the Club and be fully recorded in the Club's accounting records; and

C20.2 comply with any relevant tax legislation.

Form and Content

C21 Clubs may only enter into Playing Contracts that are in such standard form as The Association and/or Competition may prescribe from time to time.

C22 The Association may refuse to register a Playing Contract which is not in the relevant prescribed form, or which contains any clause which conflicts with any mandatory provisions in the relevant prescribed form Playing Contract or The Association's Rules or regulations.

C23 All parties to a Playing Contract must ensure that the Playing Contract:

C23.1 states the full name of the Club's corporate entity, including the relevant company registration number (where applicable);

C23.2 clearly sets out all terms and conditions of employment;

C23.3 sets out all payments and/or benefits whatsoever due and/or made to a Contract Player before deductions for all applicable taxes;

C23.4 is of stated duration, subject to any relevant limits specified by The Association and/or the relevant league;

C23.5 is signed by both the Contract Player and an authorised signatory of the Club. Playing Contracts signed by Players who are under the age of 18 at the time of signing shall also be signed by that Player's parent or legal guardian; and

C23.6 lists as applicable all Intermediaries performing Intermediary Activity (as defined in The Association's Working with Intermediaries Regulations) or (ii) FA Registered Football Agents performing Football Agent Services (as defined in The Association's Football Agent Regulations), in respect of the Playing Contract.

C24 Where any other agreement is entered into between a Contract Player (or the Player's Image Rights company) and a Club (including during the term of a Playing Contract), the parties must notify The Association of the agreement within five days of its execution and provide a short description of the nature of the agreement. The FA reserves the right to request a copy of any such agreement.

Guidance

Any other agreements entered into between the Contract Player and the Club include all agreements entered into either directly or indirectly, written or otherwise between the Contract Player and the Club.

C25 Playing Contracts must contain a clause detailing the process for dealing with disputes regarding the unilateral termination of the Playing Contract.

Contract renewals

C26 A Contract Player may enter into a new or amended Playing Contract with their Club at any time during the term of the Playing Contract. Where they do so, the Club must ensure that the Playing Contract, the Intermediaries Form / Agents Form (as applicable) and/or such other documentation as The Association may require from time to time, is lodged with The Association within five days of signature by the Contract Player.

Options

C27 The full terms of any Option must be set out in the Playing Contract.

C28 As a result of the exercise of an Option, the terms of the Playing Contract (to include any guaranteed payments) must be the same or no less favourable overall than the terms of the Player's existing Playing Contract (excluding any signing-on fees).

C29 Subject to Rule C30, a Playing Contract cannot include an Option which, if exercised, would result in either:

C29.1 the Playing Contract being extended for a period which is longer than the initial term of the Playing Contract; or

C29.2 the Player and the Club entering into a new Playing Contract whereby the period between the expiry of the initial term of the Playing Contract and the expiry of the new Playing Contract is longer than the initial term of the Playing Contract.

C30 An Option may (a) extend a Playing Contract for a longer duration than the initial term of the Playing Contract, or (b) create an obligation for the parties to enter into a new Playing Contract that is longer in duration than the initial term of the Playing Contract, where:

C30.1 the relevant Playing Contract is entered into after the commencement of the season but by no later than the first Monday in February (or, if later, the final day of the second professional game Registration Period of the season); and

C30.2 the Option provides for the Playing Contract to be extended (or for the parties to enter into a new Playing Contract) for a period which is the same duration as the initial term of the Playing Contract plus any further period that is required to ensure that the Playing Contract expires at the end of the season.

C31 A Playing Contract can contain multiple alternative Options, but only one Option may be exercised.

C32 An Option cannot contain a further Option.

C33 Where an Option is exercised, the Club must notify The Association within five days or by 1 June, whichever is sooner.

Guidance

The Association reserves the right to determine that an Option does not comply with the Rules at the time the relevant Playing Contract is lodged.

When considering whether an Option is on the same or not less favourable terms, The Association will require that the annual value of the financial terms offered are at least equivalent to the most favourable terms to which the Player was entitled in any year of their current contract. Further, The Association will primarily consider (and give greater weight to) guaranteed payments under the contract and in the option clause. However, The Association may also take into account any reasonably achievable contingent payments in appropriate circumstances.

An Option will be considered to be on the same or not less favourable terms where it provides for payment commencing from a different specified date as that under the current contract, provided that the effect of the Option/Re-engagement Offer is for the player to be paid for an equivalent period. This is to allow for the fact that the season start dates may differ slightly year on year.

If an Option provides for payment to be reduced or suspended (for any reason) during the season, this will not be considered to be on the same or not less favourable terms where the current contract did not contain an equivalent provision.

An Option can be for a shorter period than the term of the Playing Contract.

SECTION III: REGISTRATION

General

C34 Subject to Rules C35 and C50, Players may only be registered during a Registration Period and upon receipt by The Association of a valid application for registration from a Club.

C35 The following Players may be registered outside of a Registration Period:

C35.1 Out of Contract Players whose Playing Contract has expired or terminated by mutual consent prior to the end of a Registration Period;

C35.2 Non-Contract Players whose registration with a Club has expired or terminated by mutual consent prior to the end of a Registration Period;

C35.3 Players who are: (a) the subject of a temporary transfer, and (b) required to return to their parent Club for the purposes of an immediate transfer (permanent or temporary) to a club affiliated to a FIFA member association with an open registration period;

C35.4 Female Players who are registered in order to temporarily replace a female Player who has either (a) chosen to no longer provide sporting services to their Club due to their pregnancy, or (b) taken maternity, paternity or adoption leave;

C35.5 Female Players (a) upon completion of their maternity, paternity or adoption leave, or their recovery related to their pregnancy, subject to their contractual status, or (b) who have chosen to provide sporting services to their Club again following their pregnancy;

C35.6 Players whose Scholarship Agreement or PGA Contract has expired or terminated by mutual consent prior to the end of a Registration Period;

C35.7 Other players whose contract with a club has expired or terminated by mutual consent prior to the end of a Registration Period;

C35.8 Other players who are entitled to be registered outside of a Registration Period in accordance with RSTP Article 6; and

C35.9 Other players where, in The Association's sole discretion, exceptional circumstances apply.

Guidance

Rule C35.9 is not intended to provide Clubs with the opportunity to register new players on a permanent basis outside of a Registration Period, rather such a step will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances. Examples of exceptional circumstances include where the integrity of a Competition is affected (such that the registration of a goalkeeper may be permitted on loan where the loanee club does not have a player in that position) and where the wider interests of the game and Participants are best served through application of that discretion.

C36 The Association reserves the right to refuse the registration of a Player, to include where the Player and/or relevant Club fails to supply such information or documentation as The Association may require pursuant to The Association's Rules or regulations.

C37 A Player is ineligible to play for a Club until such time as the Club receives written confirmation from The Association of registration with that Club. Where a Player plays in contravention of this requirement, The Association may impose sanctions on the Player and/or the relevant Club.

Guidance

Notwithstanding confirmation of registration with The Association, a Player's eligibility to play for a Club remains subject to any disciplinary suspension and the fulfilment of any applicable eligibility requirements provided for in the rules of the relevant Competition.

C38 The Association may, in exceptional circumstances and upon application by a Player or the Player's Club, cancel the registration of a Player.

Guidance

The Association's exercise of this power in relation to Contract Players would ordinarily be subject to the outcome of any dispute between a Contract Player and a Club in relation to the termination of the Playing Contract.

C39 Where a Club ceases to be a member of a league within the National League System or Tiers 1 to 4 of the Women's Football Pyramid other than by reason of promotion, relegation or expulsion, all Contract Players of the Club may (from the date the Club ceases to be a member of the relevant league) cancel their registration with that Club by notifying the Club and The Association in writing of their intention. The Association will provide to such Contract Players written confirmation that their registration has been cancelled and the date on which such cancellation takes effect. From that date, such Contract Players may register for another Club without a transfer fee being payable to their former Club (subject to The Association confirming that this is permissible in accordance with FIFA regulations).

International Clearance

C40 Any player aged 10 or above who was last registered with a club affiliated with another national association may only be registered with a Club once an ITC has been issued by the former association and The Association has confirmed receipt of the ITC.

C41 The transferee Club must enter such details and provide such documents as are required by FIFA TMS.

C42 Where the ITC is issued (once the former association has completed the relevant information), The Association will complete the relevant player registration information in FIFA TMS. In that regard:

C42.1 if the request is rejected, the Player will not be permitted to register for the transferee Club;

C42.2 if the request is accepted, The Association will confirm this to the transferee Club in writing.

C43 The ITC procedure must be conducted exclusively through FIFA TMS.

C44 Any form of ITC other than the one created by FIFA TMS shall not be recognised.

Contract Players

C45 All Contract Players must be registered with The Association.

C46 In order to register a Contract Player, a Club must submit the following to The Association:

C46.1 a copy of the Playing Contract, and any other contract entered into between the Contract Player and the Club;

C46.2 a copy of the Intermediaries Form / Agents Form (as applicable) and, where applicable, the Representation Contract; and

C46.3 any other information, forms or documents as required by The Association from time to time.

C47 A Club must submit the Playing Contract and any Intermediaries Form / Agents Form (as applicable) to The Association within five days of signature by the Contract Player.

Guidance

To provide clarity on the requirements of The FA's registration process.

Contracts should be lodged with The FA as soon as possible after signing to ensure that the player's registration status and player passport is as accurate as possible (as until the Playing Contract is registered with The FA, the player is not a registered player and cannot play for the club). As electronic signatures and submissions are now permitted, The FA expects the majority of contracts to be submitted before the fifth day after signature. However, The FA acknowledges that there may be a short delay for all documents to be completed (particularly if there has been a transfer with an international element). This is also consistent with the requirement in the Standardised Rules and the EFL Regulations.

C48 A Contract Player must not:

C48.1 register with more than one Club at a time; or

C48.2 enter into a Playing Contract with more than one Club at a time.

Guidance

If a Playing Contract has been submitted to The Association in respect of a Contract Player, the same Contract Player cannot enter into a Playing Contract with any other Club unless and until The Association has rejected or cancelled the Contract Player's registration.

C49 A Contract Player may only play for the Club holding their registration, unless otherwise permitted by these Player Status Rules or where:

C49.1 the prior written permission has been obtained from The Association and the Club holding the Contract Player's registration for the Contract Player to participate in a benefit, testimonial or charity match; or

C49.2 a Contract Player who is registered to a Club in Tiers 1 to 4 of the Women's Football Pyramid is enrolled in higher education, in which case the Contract Player may also play for the higher education establishment provided the Contract Player's Club has provided prior written consent.

Non-Contract Players

C50 Clubs must ensure that all Non-Contract Players are registered with the relevant league and/or Affiliated Association (as prescribed by, and in accordance with, the rules of the relevant league and The Association's Rules and regulations).

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

C51 All payments made to Non-Contract Players, must:

C51.1 only be made by the Club and be fully recorded in the Club's accounting records;

C51.2 be made to Non-Contract Players gross, before deductions for all applicable taxes; and

C51.3 comply with any relevant tax legislation.

SECTION IV: TRANSFERS OF REGISTRATION

Unless otherwise stated, the provisions of Section IV apply to Participants in the Premier League, EFL, National League System and Tiers 1 to 4 of the Women's Football Pyramid.

General

C52 The transfer of a player's registration can be made on a permanent or temporary basis.

C53 Where a Contract Player is transferred in accordance with the provisions of this Section IV, they will be ineligible to play for the transferee Club until such time as that Club receives written confirmation from The Association of registration with that Club. Where a Player plays in contravention of this requirement, The Association may impose sanctions on the Player and/or the relevant Club.

C54 Where a registration is transferred, the transferor Club must provide to any previous club(s) with which a Player was registered, and which have the right to a sell-on fee in respect of any transfer of that Player, full details of the transfer fee and/or any contingent fees to which the transferor Club is or may be entitled in respect of the transfer or future transfer of the relevant Player. 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 Club, save to statutory and regulatory authorities or as may be required by law or to its auditors.

C55 Any transfer fee and/or contingent fees paid in relation to the transfer of a Player must only be paid between the transferor club and transferee club, or otherwise in accordance with The Association's Rules and regulations.

C56 Where a Club enters into a pre-agreement in relation to the future transfer of a player, the pre-agreement must comply with The Association's Rules and regulations, to include the Third Party Interest in Players Regulations.

C57 Where a Transfer Agreement is required to be submitted in respect of a permanent or temporary transfer, it must:

C57.1 state the full name of each club's corporate entity, including the relevant company registration number (where applicable);

C57.2 set out full particulars of all financial and other arrangements agreed between the two clubs (to include in relation to any payments to the player the sums due, the club responsible for payment and the applicable term);

C57.3 comply with The Association's Rules and regulations, to include The Association's Third Party Interest in Players Regulations and Working with Intermediaries Regulations or Football Agent Regulations (as applicable); and

C57.4 be signed by an authorised signatory of each club.

C58 No Club or Player shall be involved in a Bridge Transfer.

Permanent Transfers

Domestic

C59 Where a player is transferred on a permanent basis between two Clubs, the transferee Club must submit the following to The Association:

C59.1 the Transfer Agreement (whether a bespoke agreement and/or such template form of The Association or league as may be used from time to time) entered into between the relevant clubs; and

C59.2 those documents set out at Rule C46; and

C59.3 any other information, forms or documents as required by The Association from time to time.

International

C60 Where a player is transferred on a permanent basis between a Club and a club that is affiliated with another national association, the Club must submit the following to The Association:

C60.1 the Transfer Agreement (whether a bespoke agreement and/or such template form of The Association or league as may be used from time to time) entered into between the relevant clubs;

C60.2 those documents set out at Rule C46 (save that, in respect of a Player moving from a Club to a club that is affiliated with another national association, there is no requirement to lodge a copy of the Playing Contract pursuant to Rule C46.1); and

C60.3 any other information, forms or documents as required by The Association from time to time.

Temporary transfers

General

C61 A loanee Club is not permitted to sub-loan or otherwise transfer the loanee Player to a third club.

C62 Where a Player who is the subject of a temporary transfer returns to their parent Club (whether in accordance with the terms of the loan agreement, in accordance with the relevant league rules or otherwise):

C62.1 the parent Club must submit a copy of the recall letter, notice or agreement to The Association; and

C62.2 the Player is ineligible to play for the parent Club until such time as the Club receives written confirmation from The Association of the Player's registration with the parent Club. Where a Player plays in contravention of this requirement, The Association may impose sanctions on the Player and/or the relevant Club.

Guidance

Notwithstanding confirmation of registration with The Association, a Player's eligibility to play for a Club in a Competition remains subject to the fulfilment of any applicable eligibility requirements set out in the rules of the relevant Competition (and any applicable disciplinary suspension).

Domestic

C63 Where a player is transferred on a temporary basis between two Clubs, the transferee Club must submit the following to The Association:

C63.1 the Transfer Agreement (whether a bespoke agreement and/or such template form of The Association or league as may be used from time to time) entered into between the relevant clubs;

C63.2 a copy of the Intermediaries Form / Agents Form (as applicable) and, where applicable, the Representation Contract / Representation Agreement (as applicable); and

C63.3 any other information, forms or documents as required by The Association from time to time.

International

Loans out

C64 Where a player is transferred on a temporary basis from a Club to a club that is affiliated with another national association, the Club must submit the following to The Association:

C64.1 the Transfer Agreement (whether a bespoke agreement and/or such template form of The Association or league as may be used from time to time) entered into between the relevant clubs;

C64.2 the Intermediaries Form and, where applicable, the Representation Contract; and

C64.3 any other information, forms or documents as required by The Association from time to time.

Loans in

C65 Where a player is transferred on a temporary basis from a club that is affiliated with another national association to a Club, the Club must submit the following to The Association:

C65.1 the Transfer Agreement (whether a bespoke agreement and/or such template form of The Association or league as may be used from time to time) entered into between the relevant clubs;

C65.2 the Playing Contract;

C65.3 the Intermediaries Form / Agents Form (as applicable) and, where applicable, the Representation Contract / Representation Agreement (as applicable); and

C65.4 any other information, forms or documents as required by The Association from time to time.

Guidance

A Club must also comply with any applicable provisions of the RSTP in respect of international loans.

SECTION V: TRIALS FOR PLAYERS (EXCLUDING MINORS)

Unless otherwise stated, the provisions of Section V apply in respect of players aged 18 or over.

C66 A player who is domiciled in the territory of The Association, can trial at a Club not holding that player's registration provided that:

C66.1 where the player's registration is held by a club, that club has given prior written permission, a copy of which shall be provided to The Association;

C66.2 the trialling Club has applied to The Association for permission to trial the player using such form as The Association may require from time to time;

C66.3 the player does not play in first team matches for the trialling Club, and only plays in the type and number of matches for the trialling Club as permitted by the Association from time to time; and

C66.4 such matches take place within such period as The Association may communicate from time to time.

Guidance

The type and number of matches, and the period in which the matches shall be required to take place will be set out in the relevant trial form issued by The Association from time to time.

C67 A player who is not domiciled in the territory of The Association can trial at a Club not holding that player's registration provided that:

C67.1 the trialling Club has lodged a copy of the FIFA Trial Form with The Association (and any other documents as The Association may require from time to time); and

C67.2 the trial meets the general conditions set out in Article 19ter of the RSTP.

C68 Where a player takes part in matches for a trialling Club prior to it receiving written confirmation from The Association (and relevant Competition where applicable) in contravention of the provisions of this Section V, The Association may impose sanctions on the player and/or the relevant Club.

SECTION VI: CONTRACTUAL STABILITY

Re-engagement

Unless otherwise stated, Rules C69 to C73 apply to Participants in the National League System and Tiers 1 to 4 of the Women's Football Pyramid.

Retaining right to compensation

General principles

C69 A Club that makes a Re-engagement Offer to a Contract Player is entitled to receive a Compensation Fee from a Club to which that Player is subsequently registered (as a Contract Player or a Non-Contract Player), provided that:

C69.1 the Player is under the age of 24 years as at 30 June in the year that the Player's Playing Contract expires;

C69.2 the Re-engagement Offer is made in accordance with Rule C71; and

C69.3 the Player has rejected or failed to respond to the Re-engagement Offer.

C70 Where a Compensation Fee is payable by a Club, The Association will not register the Player until that Club has confirmed to The Association in writing that it will:

C70.1 negotiate a Compensation Fee with the Player's former Club; and

C70.2 in the event that a Compensation Fee cannot be agreed between the Clubs, be bound by a decision of the Compensation Fee Tribunal in respect of the compensation payable.

Requirements of a Re-engagement Offer

C71 A Re-engagement Offer must:

C71.1 be made to the Contract Player during the Re-engagement Period;

C71.2 be the same or no less favourable than the terms which applied at the point of expiration of the Contract Player's most recent Playing Contract with the Club; and

C71.3 be for a minimum duration of until:

C71.3.1 the first Saturday in May or the date of the last league or Competition match played by the Club's first team in the following playing season, whichever is later; or

C71.3.2 30 June in the following playing season.

C72 In the event of a dispute concerning the validity of a Re-engagement Offer and/or a Contract Player's acceptance or rejection of it, the burden shall be on the sender of the notice to establish that it was received by the other party within the applicable time period set out in these Player Status Rules.

Events following a Re-engagement Offer

C73 Upon receipt of a Re-engagement Offer, a Contract Player must accept or reject it by notifying the Club in writing within 28 days. A Contract Player who rejects a Re-engagement Offer, or fails to respond to a Re-engagement Offer within 28 days of receipt, is immediately free to enter into contract negotiations with another Club.

Guidance

For the avoidance of doubt, where a Player enters into contract negotiations with another Club, the right of the Club that made a Re-engagement Offer to receive a Compensation Fee is unaffected.

No Re-engagement Offer

C74 If no Re-engagement Offer is received by the Contract Player during the Re-engagement Period (and no Option is exercised by the Club), that Player may following the end of the Re-Engagement Period make enquiries or enter into contract negotiations with other clubs.

Notification to The Association

C75 By 1 June in each season, or any alternative date communicated by The Association from time to time, all Clubs must notify The Association of all Re-engagement Offers made.

Compensation Fee Tribunal

C76 A Compensation Fee Tribunal shall have jurisdiction in the following cases:

C76.1 where:

C76.1.1 the Re-engagement Offer is made by a Club in membership of the National League System or Tiers 1 to 4 of the Women's Football Pyramid;

C76.1.2 (i) re-engagement terms have been offered to a Contract Player by a Club in membership of the Premier League or EFL, (ii) such terms comply with the relevant league's rules regarding re-engagement, and (iii) the Contract Player wishes to register with a Club not in membership of either league; or

C76.1.3 (i) re-engagement terms have been offered to a Contract Player by a Club in membership of the EFL, (ii) such terms comply with the relevant league's rules regarding re-engagement, and (iii) the offering Club has been relegated into the National League System,

and, in any case the two Clubs cannot agree the Compensation Fee; and/or

C76.2 where the Re-engagement Offer is made by a Club in membership of the National League System or Tiers 1 to 4 of the Women's Football Pyramid and there is a dispute as to whether the Re-engagement Offer: (i) was validly received, accepted or rejected; and/or (ii) meets the requirements of Rule C71.

Where two Clubs cannot agree the Compensation Fee

C77 The Compensation Fee Tribunal shall be convened to determine the Compensation Fee payable upon the application of either Club.

C78 A Compensation Fee Tribunal shall be comprised of one nominated representative from each of the following:

C78.1 Council (to act as the independent chairperson);

C78.2 the relevant league(s) in the National League System or Tiers 1 to 4 of the Women's Football Pyramid;

C78.3 the Premier League or EFL (provided that the dispute relates to men's football and one Club is a member of one of those Competitions);

C78.4 the Professional Footballers' Association (or an alternative, independent and appropriately experienced person as nominated by The Association at its absolute discretion); and

C78.5 The Football Association of Wales (if one or both Clubs are members of The Football Association of Wales).

C79 Before the date of a hearing before any Compensation Fee Tribunal, both Clubs must pay to The Association a non-refundable administration fee of £300 (without which, the Compensation Fee Tribunal shall not proceed to hear the dispute).

C80 The Clubs must make the following written submissions to the Compensation Fee Tribunal in support of their cases:

C80.1 The Club which held the Player's registration must submit the relevant Compensation Fee Tribunal form, details of the Player's registration and length of service with the Club, and any other documents requested in accordance with the directions of the Compensation Fee Tribunal.

C80.2 The Club seeking the Player's registration must submit the relevant Compensation Fee Tribunal form, details of the Player's proposed registration, and any other documents requested in accordance with the directions of the Compensation Fee Tribunal.

C81 In determining the value of the Compensation Fee, the Compensation Fee Tribunal may take into account some or all of the following criteria:

C81.1 the status of each Club;

C81.2 the age of the Player;

C81.3 the amount of any transfer fee paid by the former Club on acquisition of the Player and the length of time the former Club has held the Player's registration;

C81.4 the terms of the new contracts offered to the Player by each Club;

C81.5 the training and development of the Player at the former club, including for example the provision of any specialist coaching, education or welfare;

C81.6 the Player's playing record and achievements;

C81.7 substantiated interest shown in the Player by other Clubs;

C81.8 other costs incurred by the former Club directly or indirectly attributable to the training and development of the Player, including any relevant medical or rehabilitation costs; and/or

C81.9 attempts made by the parties to reach an agreement concerning the value of the Compensation Fee due provided that there is evidence of telephone calls, meetings or written correspondence between the two Clubs.

C82 The Compensation Fee Tribunal will determine whether a dispute can be determined on the basis of written submissions alone or if an oral hearing is necessary.

C83 The Compensation Fee Tribunal may, in its absolute discretion, order either Club to pay all or part of the costs of the proceedings.

Guidance

By way of example, the Compensation Fee Tribunal may order one Club to pay the costs of the tribunal proceedings if it has failed to negotiate with the other Club or if it has made a spurious claim.

C84 The decision of the Compensation Fee Tribunal shall be determined by majority. Each member of the Compensation Fee Tribunal shall have one vote and the chairperson shall have a casting vote.

C85 The decision of the Compensation Fee Tribunal is final and binding and there shall be no right of appeal.

Avoidance and evasion of transfer fees and/or compensation fees

C86 If in the opinion of The Association an agreement has been entered into by a Participant with the purpose and/or effect of avoiding or evading the payment of compensation relating to a Player which would otherwise be due to a Club in accordance with the Rules and/or the rules and regulations of a Competition, The Association shall be entitled to issue a charge for Misconduct.

Approaches

The provisions regarding approaches must be read in conjunction with The Association's Working with Intermediaries Regulations or Football Agent Regulations (as applicable).

Contract Players

Rule C87 applies to Participants in the Premier League, EFL, Steps 1 to 4 of the National League System and Tiers 1 to 4 of the Women's Football Pyramid.

C87 Subject to Rules C73 and C74:

C87.1 A Club, Club Official, FA Registered Football Agent, Intermediary or Player (or any other Participant) must not directly or indirectly approach a Contract Player or Scholar with a view to inducing them to leave the Club for which they are registered, except with the prior written permission of that Club. This includes through an employee, contractor or agent.

C87.2 A Contract Player, Scholar or PGA Contract Player (or any Intermediary / FA Registered Football Agent (as applicable) or other Person) must not directly or indirectly approach a Club, Club Official, Intermediary / FA Registered Football Agent (as applicable) or Player with a view to leaving the Club for which the Contract Player, Scholar or PGA Contract Player is registered, except with the prior written permission of the Contract Player's, Scholar's or PGA Contract Player's Club. This includes through an employee, contractor or agent.

Non-Contract Players

Unless otherwise stated, Rules C88 to C96 apply to Participants in the National League System and Tiers 1 to 4 of the Women's Football Pyramid. However, the provisions of these Rules shall apply to Approaching Clubs at any level of the game.

C88 Subject to Rule C89, a Club wishing to approach a Non-Contract Player (the "Approaching Club") registered with one or more Clubs must give to the club secretary of each such Club seven days' written notice of its intention to approach the Non-Contract Player (the "Approach Notice").

C89 An Approach Notice must be given by:

C89.1 a Saturday Club only to other Saturday Clubs;

C89.2 a Sunday Club only to other Sunday Clubs; and

C89.3 a midweek Club only to other midweek Clubs.

C90 A Club that receives an Approach Notice must ensure that the Non-Contract Player has received and is aware of the Approach Notice.

C91 The Approaching Club must send the Approach Notice:

C91.1 by first-class post to the registered address; or

C91.2 by email to the club secretary or chairperson,

of the Club(s) that the Non-Contract Player is registered with.

C92 An Approaching Club:

C92.1 may only register the relevant Player after seven days have elapsed since sending the Approach Notice (i.e. no earlier than the eighth day); and

C92.2 must register the relevant Player no later than 28 days following the sending of the Approach Notice.

Guidance

For the purposes of calculating the relevant time limits, the day on which the Approach Notice is sent shall be day zero.

C93 An Approaching Club must not:

C93.1 approach the same Non-Contract Player at the same Club more than once per season;

C93.2 having sent an Approach Notice to a Club, approach another Non-Contract Player at the same Club until 28 days have elapsed since sending the Approach Notice; and

C93.3 subject to Rule C94, approach more than one Non-Contract Player at a Club at the same time.

C94 An Approaching Club is permitted to simultaneously approach up to two Non-Contract Players in each age group at a Club provided that those Non-Contract Players are both invited to trial at an Academy or a PGA.

C95 If a Non-Contract Player approaches a Club, that Club shall give the Club(s) for which the Non-Contract Player is currently registered seven days' written notice that the approach has been made before registering the Non-Contract Player (in accordance Rules C88 to C92).

C96 Where a Club is found by The Association and/or an Affiliated Association to have acted in breach of Rules C88 to C95, its registration of the Non-Contract Player may be cancelled and the Club may be subject to such other penalty as The Association or relevant Affiliated Association deems appropriate.

SECTION VII: DISCIPLINARY AND TERMINATION

Unless otherwise stated, Rules C97 to C110 apply to Participants in the Premier League, EFL, National League System and Tiers 1 to 4 of the Women's Football Pyramid.

Disciplinary

C97 Any dispute between a Contract Player and a Club concerning disciplinary matters shall be determined in accordance with the terms of the Playing Contract.

C98 Clubs must keep a record of any suspension or fine imposed under the Playing Contract and/or Club rules and provide details of any such suspensions or fines to The Association upon request.

Termination

General

C99 A Playing Contract may only be terminated by mutual consent or in accordance with the terms of the Playing Contract.

C100 Where a Playing Contract is terminated in accordance with Rule C99, the Club must notify The Association in writing within five days of the termination by providing a copy of any settlement agreement, or such other notice, as signed by the Club and Player.

C101 Where a Playing Contract has been terminated by mutual consent, the Player is not permitted to re-register as a Contract Player for that Club for a period of three months from the date of cancellation of the registration without the prior written permission of The Association.

Guidance

Competitions may, under their rules, impose additional Competition-specific restrictions in respect of the re-registration of a Player to participate in their Competition. For example, the Premier League and the EFL in their respective rules preclude re-registration in these circumstances for a period of twelve months from the date of cancellation of the registration without their prior consent.

C102 Upon the termination of a Playing Contract coming into effect, the Player's registration shall be released and the Club shall perform all actions as required by The Association to effect such release.

Disputes

C103 Any dispute between a Contract Player and a Club in relation to the termination of a Playing Contract shall be determined in accordance with the terms of the Playing Contract.

C104 Until such time as any relevant appeal process provided for in the Playing Contract has been concluded, unless The Association determines otherwise, the Player may not be registered for a new Club. In the meantime, both the Club and the Player must continue to comply with the terms of the Playing Contract.

Guidance

Examples of circumstances where The Association may permit registration for a new Club include: (i) where the relevant Playing Contract expires prior to the conclusion of the appeal process; (ii) where the Player and Club mutually agree that the Player may register for a new Club.

C105 The Contract Player is not permitted to register for another Club until such time as The Association and the league with which the Player is registered has each confirmed that the Contract Player's registration for the former club has been cancelled.

Contractual Disputes Tribunal

C106 Where a Playing Contract or the rules of a Competition provide for an appeal to the Contractual Disputes Tribunal in respect of disciplinary or termination matters, any such appeal shall be heard by the Contractual Disputes Tribunal which shall be constituted in the same manner as an Appeal Board (with The Judicial Panel Terms of Reference applying to its composition and operation).

Guidance

Any reference in a Playing Contract to the 'League Appeals Committee' shall be deemed as a reference to the Contractual Disputes Tribunal for the purposes of these Player Status Rules.

C107 Save where the relevant Playing Contract or rules of a Competition provide otherwise, such appeals shall be made within seven days of receipt of the decision of the lower instance body and must be accompanied by an appeal fee as follows.

RELEVANT COMPETITION	FEE
National League, WSL	£500
Steps 2 to 4 of the National League System, WSL2	£250
Steps 5 to 6 of the National League System	£100

C108 The grounds of appeal available to a Participant shall be that the body whose decision is appealed against:

C108.1 failed to give that Participant a fair hearing;

C108.2 misinterpreted or failed to comply with the Rules and/or regulations of The Association or the rules of a Competition relevant to its decision;

C108.3 came to a decision to which no reasonable such body could have come; and/or

C108.4 imposed a penalty, award, order or sanction that was excessive.

C109 The Contractual Disputes Tribunal shall have the power to regulate its own procedure.

C110 In proceedings before the Contractual Disputes Tribunal:

C110.1 a party to the proceedings may request that the appeal be dealt with at a personal hearing; and

C110.2 the Contractual Disputes Tribunal shall have the power to order that any costs (or part thereof) incurred in respect of an appeal be paid by the Player or Club concerned.

SECTION VIII: YOUTH

Unless otherwise stated: (a) Rules C111 to C127 apply to Participants in the Premier League, EFL and Clubs that operate an Academy, (b) Rules C128 to C143 apply to Participants in WSL and WSL2 and Clubs that operate a PGA, and (c) Rules C144 to C148 apply to (a) Participants in the Premier League, EFL and Clubs that operate an Academy, and (b) Clubs that operate a PGA.

Scholarships

General

C111 All Scholars must be registered with The Association.

C112 Clubs in the National League System and Tiers 1 to 4 of the Women's Football Pyramid may not offer Scholarship Agreements or register Scholars.

Guidance

Clubs in the National League System recently relegated from the EFL may - during the run-off period for an Academy in these circumstances (as set out in the Professional Game Youth Development Rules) - continue to register Scholars that were registered at the time of relegation in order that they may complete their Scholarships with the Club.

C113 In order to register a Scholar, a Club must submit the following to The Association:

C113.1 a copy of the Scholarship Agreement signed by the Scholar and his parent or legal guardian;

C113.2 a copy of the Scholarship Form signed by the Scholar;

C113.3 proof of nationality in the form of a valid passport or such other form of identification as required by The Association; and

C113.4 any other information, forms or documents as required by The Association from time to time (to include, where the registration concerns the international transfer of a minor or the first registration of a non-national minor, any such information requested in accordance with the provisions of the 'International transfer of minors' section below).

C114 The Scholarship Agreement and Scholarship Form must be provided to the Scholar and submitted to The Association within five days of being signed by all parties.

C115 A Scholar is ineligible to play for a Club until such time as the Club receives written confirmation from The Association of registration with that Club. Where a Scholar plays in contravention of this requirement, The Association may impose sanctions on the Scholar and/or the relevant Club.

C116 A Scholar may only be registered with one Club at a time.

C117 The validity of a Scholarship Agreement cannot be made conditional upon the completion of a successful medical examination or the grant of any right to work authorisation.

C118 On or after a Scholar's seventeenth birthday, the Scholar may enter into a Playing Contract (subject to the rules of the relevant league and Section III of these Player Status Rules).

C119 Players under the age of 18 may not sign a Scholarship Agreement for a term longer than three years.

C120 The Association reserves the right to refuse the registration of a Scholar, to include where the Player and/or relevant Club fails to supply such information or documentation as The Association may require pursuant to The Association's Rules or regulations.

C121 Where a Club ceases to be a member of a league within the National League System other than by reason of promotion, relegation or expulsion, all Scholars of the Club may (from the date the Club ceases to be a member of the relevant league) cancel their registration with that Club by notifying the Club and The Association in writing of their intention. The Association will provide to such Scholars written confirmation that their registration has been cancelled and the date on which such cancellation takes effect. From that date, such Scholars may register for another Club without a transfer fee being payable to their former Club (subject to The Association confirming that this is permissible in accordance with FIFA regulations).

Payments

C122 Each Club must ensure that the Scholarship Agreements it enters into provide that all payments are paid to the Scholar, and not to any company, entity or individual acting on behalf of that Scholar.

C123 All payments made to Scholars must:

C123.1 be made by the Club and be fully recorded in the Club's accounting records;

C123.2 set out all payments to be made to Scholars gross, before deductions for all applicable taxes; and

C123.3 comply with any relevant tax legislation.

Form and Content

C124 Where The Association and/or league prescribes the form of a Scholarship Agreement, Clubs must only use that prescribed Scholarship Agreement in respect of its Scholars.

C125 The Association may refuse to register a Scholarship Agreement which is not in the relevant prescribed form, or which contains any clause which conflicts with any mandatory provisions in the relevant prescribed form Scholarship Agreement or The Association's Rules or regulations.

C126 All parties to a Scholarship Agreement must ensure that the Scholarship Agreement:

C126.1 states the full name of the Club's corporate entity, including the relevant company registration number (where applicable);

C126.2 clearly sets out all terms and conditions of employment;

C126.3 sets out all payments and/or benefits whatsoever due and/or made to a Scholar;

C126.4 is of stated duration, subject to any relevant limits specified by The Association and/or the relevant league;

C126.5 is signed by both the Scholar, their parent or legal guardian and an authorised signatory of the Club; and

C126.6 lists any other agreements entered into between the Scholar and the Club.

Work experience

C127 A Scholar may play for a Club other than that which holds their registration for the purposes of work experience, provided that:

C127.1 the Club not holding the Scholar's registration participates in one of the Premier League, EFL, or Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System; and

C127.2 prior written authorisation has been received by The Association from:

C127.2.1 the Club holding the Scholar's registration;

C127.2.2 the league of which the Scholar's Club is a member; and

C127.2.3 the league of the Club for which the Scholar wishes to play.

Guidance

The Scholar may continue to train and play for either the Club that holds their registration or the work experience Club in any age-restricted or reserve team match or in any match in the football pyramid below the EFL. For the avoidance of doubt, the Scholar may not play for the work experience Club in any first team match in the Premier League, EFL, EFL Cup or EFL Trophy. The Player may not play in The FA Challenge Cup Competition without the prior written permission of the Club that holds their registration (in accordance with the FA Cup Rules).

PGA Contracts

General

C128 All PGA Contract Players must be registered with The Association.

C129 Only Clubs in the WSL and WSL2 may offer PGA Contracts or register PGA Contract Players.

Guidance

Clubs in Tier 3 or below of the Women's Football Pyramid recently relegated from WSL 2 may – during any run-off period for a PGA in these circumstances (as set out in the rules of the relevant league) – continue to register PGA Contract Players that were registered at the time of relegation in order that they may complete their PGA Contracts with the Club.

C130 In order to register a PGA Contract Player, a Club must submit the following to The Association:

C130.1 a copy of the PGA Contract signed by: (a) the PGA Contract Player, and (b) their parent or legal guardian if the player is under the age of 18;

C130.2 proof of nationality in the form of a valid passport or such other form of identification as required by The Association; and

C130.3 any other information, forms or documents as required by The Association from time to time (to include, where the registration concerns the international transfer of a minor or the first registration of a non-national minor, any such information requested in accordance with the provisions of the 'International transfer of minors' section below).

C131 The PGA Contract must be provided to the PGA Contract Player and submitted to The Association within five days of being signed by all parties.

C132 A PGA Contract Player is ineligible to play for a Club until such time as the Club receives written confirmation from The Association of registration with that Club. Where a PGA Contract Player plays in contravention of this requirement, The Association may impose sanctions on the PGA Contract Player and/or the relevant Club.

C133 A PGA Contract Player may only be registered with one Club at a time.

C134 The validity of a PGA Contract cannot be made conditional upon the completion of a successful medical examination or the grant of any right to work authorisation.

C135 On or after a PGA Contract Player's seventeenth birthday, the PGA Contract Player may enter into a Playing Contract (subject to the rules of the relevant league and Section III of these Player Status Rules).

C136 Players under the age of 18 may not sign a PGA Contract for a term longer than three years.

C137 The Association reserves the right to refuse the registration of a PGA Contract, to include where the Player and/or relevant Club fails to supply such information or documentation as The Association may require pursuant to The Association's Rules or regulations.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

C138 Where a Club ceases to be a member of a league within the Women's Football Pyramid other than by reason of promotion, relegation or expulsion, all PGA Contract Players of the Club may (from the date the Club ceases to be a member of the relevant league) cancel their registration with that Club by notifying the Club and The Association in writing of their intention. The Association will provide to such PGA Contract Players written confirmation that their registration has been cancelled and the date on which such cancellation takes effect. From that date, such PGA Contract Players may register for another Club without a transfer fee being payable to their former Club (subject to The Association confirming that this is permissible in accordance with FIFA regulations).

Payments

C139 Each Club must ensure that the PGA Contracts it enters into provide that all payments are paid to the PGA Contract Player, and not to any company, entity or individual acting on behalf of that PGA Contract Player.

C140 All payments to PGA Contract Players must:

C140.1 be made by the Club and be fully recorded in the Club's accounting records;

C140.2 be set out to the PGA Contract Player gross, before deductions for all applicable taxes;

C140.3 comply with any relevant tax legislation.

Form and Content

C141 Where The Association and/or league prescribes the form of a PGA Contract, Clubs must only use that prescribed PGA Contract in respect of its PGA Contract Players.

C142 The Association may refuse to register a PGA Contract which is not in the relevant prescribed form, or which contains any clause which conflicts with any mandatory provisions in the relevant prescribed form PGA Contract or The Association's Rules or regulations.

C143 All parties to a PGA Contract must ensure that the PGA Contract:

C143.1 states the full name of the Club's corporate entity, including the relevant company registration number (where applicable);

C143.2 clearly sets out all terms and conditions of employment;

C143.3 sets out all payments and/or benefits whatsoever due and/or made to the PGA Contract Player;

C143.4 is of stated duration, subject to any relevant limits specified by The Association and/or the relevant league;

C143.5 is signed by a) the PGA Contract Player, (b) their parent or legal guardian if the player is under the age of 18, and (c) an authorised signatory of the Club; and

C143.6 lists any other agreements entered into between the PGA Contract Player and the Club.

Academies

Academy Players and PGA Players

C144 A player may register as an Academy Player provided they are aged nine or above during the academic year and are in Full-time Education.

C145 A player may register as a PGA Player provided they are aged 14 or above on 31 August of the relevant playing season (and in Full-time Education where required).

C146 A Club or Club Official must not induce any player in Full-time Education to leave school for the purpose of signing a contract of employment.

C147 The Association reserves the right to refuse the registration of an Academy Player, to include where the Player and/or relevant Club fails to supply such information or documentation as The Association may require pursuant to The Association's Rules or regulations (including any information or documentation required under the RSTP).

Reporting

C148 Clubs that operate an Academy or a PGA are obliged to report all minors attending that Academy or a PGA to The Association, and to provide The Association with any such details as it may request.

Guidance

This provision applies to both nationals and non-nationals, and includes any minor attending an academy or a PGA on trial. The reference to an academy shall be deemed as a reference to an Academy (as defined in Rule A2), as well as any other academy as described in Article 19bis of the RSTP.

Trials for minors

Unless otherwise stated, Rules C149 to C151apply in respect of players under the age of 18 (excluding Scholars).

C149 A player domiciled in the territory of The Association can trial at a Club not holding the player's registration provided that:

C149.1 the club holding the player's registration has given prior written permission, a copy of which shall be provided to The Association;

C149.2 the trialling Club reports the player to The Association pursuant to Rule C148; and

C149.3 the player does not play in first team matches for the trialling Club and only plays in the type and number of matches for the trialling Club as permitted by The Association from time to time.

C150 A player who is not domiciled in the territory of The Association can trial at a Club provided that:

C150.1 the trialling Club has lodged a copy of the FIFA Trial Form with The Association (and any other documents as The Association may require from time to time); and

C150.2 the trial meets both the general conditions and the conditions specific to minor trialists set out in Article 19ter of the RSTP.

C151 Where a player takes part in matches for the trialling Club prior to it receiving written confirmation from The Association (and relevant league where applicable) in contravention of Rule C149 to C150, The Association may impose sanctions on the player and/or the relevant Club.

International transfer of minors

Unless otherwise stated, Rules C152 to C155 apply to Participants in the Premier League, EFL, National League System and Tiers 1 to 4 of the Women's Football Pyramid.

C152 In respect of the international transfer of minors and the first registration of a non-national minor, Participants are required to adhere to the provisions of the RSTP.

C153 Notwithstanding Rule C152 above, The Association is competent to consider applications to register non-national minor players where the player:

C153.1 is aged under 10; or

C153.2 seeks to register in accordance with an exemption falling within the scope of the FA Limited Minors Exemption.

Guidance

The FA Limited Minors Exemption currently in force provides that The Association is competent to consider applications where the player seeks to be registered with either (a) a Club participating at Step 1 or below of the National League System or (b) a Club participating at Tier 3 or below of the Women's Football Pyramid, and the RSTP exemption relied upon is limited to one of the following:

- *that the player's parents move to the country in which the new club is located for reasons not linked to football;*
- *that the player lives no further than 50km from a national border and the club with which the player wishes to be registered in the neighbouring association is also within 50km of that border; and*
- *that the player is registering for the first time and has lived continuously for the last five years in the country of intended registration prior to the application.*

Please note that the terms of the FA Limited Minors Exemption are set by FIFA and are liable to change.

C154 In respect of applications made pursuant to Rule C153:

C154.1 a Club must provide such information, forms or documents as required by The Association from time to time;

C154.2 where an application is successful:

C154.2.1 a Club must provide such further information, forms or documents as required by The Association from time to time in order to effect the transfer and registration of the player; and

C154.2.2 in respect of the international transfer of a minor aged 10 or above, a Club will be required to adhere to the requirements in respect of ITCs pursuant to Rules C40 to C44 above.

C154.3 In all cases, a Club must receive the prior written approval of The Association before the player can play for the Club.

C155 In respect of applications to register players under the age of 18 which do not fall within Rule C153 but which otherwise engage Article 19 RSTP, Clubs must apply to FIFA prior to seeking the player's registration with The Association.

Guidance

In respect of such applications, Clubs should provide the relevant documents to The Association. The Association will in turn submit those documents to FIFA. The Association reserves the right to request further information or documents from the Club prior to submission to FIFA.

C156 A Club must submit to The Association any application made pursuant to Rule C155 no later than: (a) twenty-four hours prior to the closure of the applicable Registration Period, or (b) where the deadline in (a) would fall on a weekend or bank holiday, midday on the final day of the applicable Registration Period.

Guidance

Failure to comply with the applicable deadline will mean that the application cannot be processed and submitted to FIFA before the Registration Period closes. In those circumstances, the application would need to be submitted during the following Registration Period.

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.

Children under 6 years old

C157 A child below the age of six shall not play, and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play, in a match.

Children aged 6 and over

Age groups and formats

C158 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 as follows:

AGE ON 31 AUGUST OF THE RELEVANT PLAYING SEASON	ELIGIBLE AGE GROUPS	MAXIMUM PERMITTED FORMAT
6	Under 7	3v3
	Under 8	5v5
7	Under 8	5v5
	Under 9	
8	Under 9	5v5
	Under 10	7v7
9	Under 10	7v7
	Under 11	
10	Under 11	7v7
	Under 12	9v9
11	Under 12	9v9
	Under 13	
12	Under 13	9v9
	Under 14	11v11
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	

C159 The relevant age for each player is determined by their age as at 31 August of the relevant playing season.

Guidance

Children who are aged 6 on 31 August in a playing season (together with those who turn 6 during the playing season) will be classed as Under 7 players for that playing season. Children who are aged 7 on 31 August in a playing season will be classed as Under 8 players for that playing season etc.

C160 A child is permitted to "play up" in the age group immediately above their 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.

C161 A child under the age of 15 as at 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, save that The Association may in its sole discretion:

C161.1 enable disabled children to play football in an age group other than the groups dictated by their birth date, including "playing down";

C161.2 permit a child to play football in an age group other than the groups dictated by their birth date, including "playing down".

C162 To play in an Under 18 competition, a child must have attained the age of 15 as at 31 August of the relevant playing season.

C163 Subject to Rule C144, to play in an open age competition a child must have attained the age of 16.

C164 A girl aged 15 or over on 31 August of the relevant playing season may participate in a PGA competition administered by the WSL and WSL2.

Guidance

This is a new provision introduced for the 2022/23 season which provides a limited exception to the default position that a child not registered as an Academy Player must have attained the age of 16 to play in an open age competition.

Competition Structure

C165 Competitions relating to the Under 7 age group are not permitted to organise trophy events, and may consist of organised development fixtures only. Competitions and Clubs may collect the results and compile league tables in respect of these fixtures but must not publish either in part or entirely.

C166 In respect of competitions relating to the Under 8 to Under 11 age groups (inclusive):

C166.1 leagues may organise a maximum of three trophy events per season. Each trophy event must be played over a maximum period as set out in the table below. The results of the trophy events may be published.

AGE GROUP	MAXIMUM PERIOD OVER WHICH EACH TROPHY EVENT MUST BE PLAYED
Under 8 and Under 9 (mini-soccer)	2 weeks
Under 10 and Under 11 (mini-soccer)	4 weeks

C166.2 the remainder of the season may consist of organised development fixtures only. Competitions and Clubs may collect the results and compile league tables in respect of these fixtures but must not publish either in part or entirely.

C167 There are no restrictions on the structure of competitions relating to the Under 12 to Under 18 age groups (inclusive).

Authorisation Provisions

C168 The written consent of The Association or relevant Affiliated Association(s) shall be required pursuant to Rule B for any Competition for Under 18 age groups and below.

Players in Under 7 to Under 18 Matches

C169 A child in the age groups Under 7 to Under 18 inclusive may play in a match involving boys and girls.

Disability Football - Players in Under 17 Matches and above

C170 In respect of disability football only, and only in accordance with the current dispensation policy, The Association may grant dispensation to permit any team playing at Under 17 level or above to field both male and female players in a match.

Priority for School Activities

C171 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 in Full-time Education.

C172 All Clubs and Competitions, excluding those whose matches are played on Sundays, must include in their rules a requirement that the availability of a pupil must be consented to by the head teacher.

SECTION IX: PROOF OF PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

Proof of Payment

C173 A Club must provide The Association with proof of payment in the form prescribed by The Association from time to time in respect of the following payments:

C173.1 In respect of the transfer of a player's registration:

C173.1.1 a payment to a club which is affiliated with another national association in membership of FIFA;

C173.1.2 a payment by a Club in membership of the Premier League or EFL to a Club in membership of the National League System (unless Competition rules require otherwise);

C173.1.3 a payment by a Club not in membership of the Premier League or EFL to another Club in respect of a transfer that has been declared to FIFA by The Association; and

C173.1.4 solidarity payments made between two Clubs pursuant to the RSTP.

C173.2 Any payment to an Intermediary or made in accordance with The Association's Working with Intermediaries Regulations.

C173.3 Any service fee payment made to an FA Registered Football Agent (as required by The Association's Football Agent Regulations).

Proof of Receipt

C174 An FA Registered Football Agent must provide The Association with proof of receipt of any service fee payment from a Player or Coach (as defined in The Association's Football Agent Regulations) in the form prescribed by The Association from time to time (as required by The Association's Football Agent Regulations).

SECTION X: GOVERNING BODY ENDORSEMENTS

Rules C175 to C176 apply to Participants in the Premier League, EFL and Tiers 1 to 2 of the Women's Football Pyramid.

C175 All Participants must comply with the PBS or such other system as may be established by the Home Office in conjunction with The Association in force from time to time in respect of Overseas Players.

Guidance

Any person who wishes to work in the United Kingdom, and who does not have the legal right to seek employment in the United Kingdom, must abide by the UK's immigration rules. Through the PBS, all players without the relevant employment rights but wishing to work in the UK have to meet a quality benchmark and points bar that indicates their high level of ability. The PBS sets out the obligations for Clubs and Overseas Players.

C178 An Overseas Player can register for a Club, but is not permitted to play any football or undertake any employment duties for the Club (including participation in training and in friendly matches) until the Overseas Player has:

C178.1 obtained a GBE;

C178.2 been assigned a Certificate of Sponsorship; and

C178.3 obtained an International Sportsperson visa pursuant to the PBS or such other system as may be established by the Home Office in conjunction with The Association in force from time to time.

C179 Clubs must not allow an Overseas Player to play any football or undertake any employment duties for the Club (including participation in training and in friendly matches) until the requirements set out in Rule C160 have been fulfilled in respect of the Overseas Player.

SECTION XI: HOME GROWN PLAYERS IN THE WOMEN'S PROFESSIONAL GAME

C180 Clubs in the WSL and WSL2 must comply with the "Home Grown Player Rules" as set out in the relevant FA Regulations.

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 E26 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, sex, 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 or she 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 E8.5 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, E8.3 and E8.4.

All other Participants are subject to Rule E8.1, E8.2, E8.3 and E8.4 and are not subject to Rule E8.5.

All Participants are subject to Rule E8.6.

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 or she 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 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.

E8.5 A Participant shall not bet, either directly or indirectly, or instruct, permit, cause or enable any person to bet on –

E8.5.1 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

E8.5.2 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.

E8.5.3 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.

E8.5.4 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.

E8.5.5 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.

E8.5.6 It shall be a defence to a charge brought pursuant to sub-paragraph E.8.5.5 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.

E8.6 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 E8.5.

E8.7 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 E8.5.

E8.8 A Club shall not instruct, compel, permit, cause, or enable any Participant to be in breach of Rule E8.7.

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 the Rules and/or regulations shall be treated for the purposes of the Rules and/or regulations of The Association 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 Participant 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 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 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.

Conduct of participants at matches

E20 Each Affiliated Association, Competition and Club shall be responsible for ensuring that its Directors, players, officials, employees, servants and representatives, attending any Match do not:

E20.1 behave in a way which is improper, offensive, violent, threatening, abusive, indecent, insulting or provocative;

E20.2 conduct themselves in a manner prohibited by E20.1 in circumstances where that conduct is discriminatory in that it includes a reference, whether express or implied, to any one or more of ethnic origin, colour, race, nationality, religion or belief, sex, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation or disability.

Supporter behaviour

E21 A Club must ensure that spectators and/or its supporters (and anyone purporting to be its supporters or followers) attending any Match do not:

E21.1 behave in a way which is improper, offensive, violent, threatening, abusive, indecent, insulting or provocative;

E21.2 throw missiles or other potentially harmful or dangerous objects at or on to the pitch;

E21.3 encroach on to the pitch or commit any form of pitch incursion;

E21.4 conduct themselves in a manner prohibited by paragraph E21.1 in circumstances where that conduct is discriminatory in that it includes a reference, whether express or implied, to one or more of ethnic origin, colour, race, nationality, religion or belief, sex, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation or disability.

E21.5 it shall be a defence to a Charge in relation to Rules E21.1 to E21.3 (only) if a Club 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. However, when considering whether this defence is made out a Regulatory Commission will have regard to all relevant factors including:

- The extent to which the Club has discharged its duty;
- The severity of the issues involved;
- The extent to which similar issues have occurred previously in which case whether the Club took sufficient action in preventing further such incidences.

E21.6 For the avoidance of doubt Rule E21 shall apply to the conduct of both a Club's home and/or away supporters.

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 issued by UKAD and any other anti-doping regulations or social drugs regulations of The Association from time to time in force.

SUSPENSION FOR SERIOUS CRIMINAL OFFENCES

E26 The Board 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 the Board 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 the Board 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 The Association shall have the power to take disciplinary action in all cases where facts or matters give rise to alleged Misconduct.

G2 The Association may delegate its powers under Rule G1 to an Affiliated Association on such terms as may be determined by The Association from time to time.

G3 Facts or matters giving rise to alleged Misconduct, which also give rise to an alleged breach of the rules and/or regulations of:

G3.1 the Premier League, the EFL, the WSL or WSL2 may be dealt with by The Association under the Rules and regulations of The Association, unless The Association and either the Premier League, the EFL, the WSL or WSL2 as appropriate, agree that the relevant 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 the Board 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 the Board 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.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

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 Member Club 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 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".

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

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 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 biological sex save for (1) matches in a playing season in the age groups Under 7 to Under 18 inclusive (as defined in the Player Status Rules), (2) mixed adult football matches authorised by The Association and (3) Players eligible in accordance with The FA's Policy on the Inclusion of Transgender and Non-Binary People in Football.

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, as amended by the Arbitration Act 2025, 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, a nominee agreed between the parties (or where a nominee cannot be agreed between the parties, 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, a nominee agreed between the parties (or where a nominee cannot be agreed between the parties, 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: (a) the arbitrator who is challenged and the other members of the Tribunal, and (b) the appointer of the challenged arbitrator (i.e. either The Association, the nominee agreed between the parties or the President of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (as applicable)). 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 appointer of the challenged arbitrator (i.e. the nominee agreed between the parties or the President of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (as applicable)). 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;

K3.5.1 in a dispute to which The Association is not a party, the Chairman of the FRA or his or her nominee shall make such appointments as are necessary; or

K3.5.2 in a dispute to which The Association is a party, a nominee agreed between the parties (or where a nominee cannot be agreed between the parties, the President of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators 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:

K4.3.1 the parties shall be free to agree to a variation of the Standard Directions, or for other directions to be given; or

K4.3.2 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, as amended by the Arbitration Act 2025, 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.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

K10.2 Subject to the provisions of sections 67 and 68 of the Arbitration Act 1996, as amended by the Arbitration Act 2025, 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.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

M. HERITAGE ASSETS

For the purposes of the first registration of a Club Crest and Home Shirt Colours (see Rule M4 and Rule M12 respectively), Clubs which have been newly promoted to Step 1 of the NLS, or to the WSL2 shall have until 1 October 2026 to comply with these obligations. If a Club has previously registered a Club Crest or Home Shirt Colours with The Association, then it does not need to re-register these details each season unless there has been a change as set out under this Rule (see Rule M10 and Rule M15 respectively). For clarity, this is not an annual obligation to register details.

SCOPE AND AUTHORITY

M1 This Rule M applies to Clubs participating in the Premier League, EFL, Step 1 of the National League System, the WSL and the WSL2.

M2 The powers of The Association set out under this Rule M shall be exercised by the Board.

M3 A decision of the Board made pursuant to this Rule M shall be final and binding, subject only to arbitration in accordance with Rule K.

REGISTRATION AND CHANGE OF CLUB CREST

M4 Each Club shall register its Club Crest with The Association in the form prescribed by The Association.

Guidance

This will ensure The Association can maintain an accurate record of Club Crests as a reference point to operate these Rules. Clubs should register any new Club Crest (including where there are minor changes which do not engage these Rules) to ensure The Association has an accurate record at all times.

M5 A Club Crest shall not be distasteful, threatening, abusive, indecent, insulting, discriminatory, ethically or morally offensive, or include any political or religious message, or include any form of advertising.

M6 A Club seeking to change its Club Crest shall not choose a design which would cause confusion with the existing Club Crest of another Club.

M7 The Club Crest shall comply with the Kit and Advertising Regulations.

M8 No Club shall make any material changes to its Club Crest without first undertaking a thorough and extensive consultation with its supporters.

Guidance

Clubs seeking to ensure they have undertaken a thorough and extensive consultation with supporters should undertake an independently run supporter poll to give weight to its proposal. The nature of such a poll will depend upon the circumstances of the Club in question but should include taking a poll of (where applicable); members of any Community Benefit Society formed for the benefit of the club's supporters and registered with the FCA (in many cases, a group of club supporters more commonly referred to as a supporters' trust will be registered as a Community Benefit Society), season ticket holders, and any supporters who have attended a specific number of home matches in the previous season.

Club Crests form an important part of the identity of a Club and changes can be an emotive issue for some supporters and lead to legitimate concerns being raised.

These Rules apply to any material changes to any aspect of a Club Crest (e.g. changing a colour from blue to red, adding or deleting text, or adding new design features and/or deleting established design features). These Rules are not intended to apply to the types of small changes to a Club Crest which occur more regularly, such as making a colour slightly lighter or darker, or slightly increasing or decreasing the size of a font.

Whilst there may often be a strong case for the modernisation of a Club Crest, given the prominence of a Club's Crest on kits, promotional material, broadcast and other visual media, it is of vital importance that the views of supporters are given significant weight when deciding to make material changes.

It is noted that some Clubs mark anniversaries by introducing a club crest which draws on previous heritage but differs from that in current use by the Club. Whilst these Rules will still apply in such circumstances, Clubs will be given a greater margin of discretion with regard to a temporary change to a club crest of this nature provided that the change is for a maximum of one playing season.

M9 A Club must be in a position to evidence that the majority of its supporters are in favour of a material change to its Club Crest prior to making any such change.

Guidance

In assessing whether or not the majority of a Club's supporters are in favour of a material change to its Club Crest, The Association will give significant weight to the views of members of any Community Benefit Society formed for the benefit of the club's supporters and registered with the FCA, season ticket holders, and any supporters who have attended a specific number of home matches in the previous season. For the avoidance of doubt, the views of a Club's wider supporter base and/or membership shall not be disregarded for the purposes of any assessment by The Association.

M10 If a Club makes any material changes to its Club Crest then it shall register the new Club Crest with The Association in the form prescribed by The Association.

M11 The Association shall have the power to instruct a Club to use a previous version of the Club Crest where in the reasonable opinion of The Association a Club has breached any of Rules M4 to M10.

REGISTRATION AND CHANGE OF HOME SHIRT COLOURS

M12 Each Club shall register details of their Home Shirt Colours with The Association in the form prescribed by The Association. Where The Association considers, in its reasonable opinion, that the details registered by the Club do not accurately reflect the Club's Home Shirt Colours, The Association shall:

M12.1 reject the details submitted;

M12.2 identify to the Club those details which The Association considers to be inaccurate; and

M12.3 require that the Club resubmit the details, with the inaccuracies rectified.

Guidance

This is to provide a clear record of the recognised predominant colours of a Club's Home Shirt Colours and can be used as a reference point at a later date where a Club is seeking to make a particular change. The Association would expect Clubs to ensure the Home Shirt Colours which it submits for registration genuinely reflect what its supporters would view the Home Shirt Colours to be.

M13 No Club shall change its Home Shirt Colours without first undertaking a thorough and extensive consultation with its supporters.

Guidance

Clubs seeking to ensure they have undertaken a thorough and extensive consultation with supporters should undertake an independently run supporter poll to give weight to its proposal. The nature of such a poll will depend upon the circumstances of the Club in question but should include taking a poll of (where applicable); members of any Community Benefit Society formed for the benefit of the club's supporters and registered with the FCA (in many cases, a group of club supporters more commonly referred to as a supporters' trust will be registered as a Community Benefit Society), season ticket holders, and any supporters who have attended a specific number of home matches in the previous season.

These Rules are in place principally to prevent a Club from materially altering the recognised, predominant colours associated with the Club's home shirt, without first undertaking a thorough and extensive consultation with supporters.

Examples where thorough and extensive supporter consultation would be required include, changing a predominant colour from blue to red, or adding a significant amount of new colour to an established colour combination (e.g. changing a black and white shirt to black, white and red).

These Rules do not seek to limit the ability of Clubs to experiment with different designs and it is noted that some kit designs inevitably divide opinion amongst supporters. Provided Clubs stay within the parameters of the Home Shirt Colours registered with The Association, they will be given a wide margin of discretion to utilise different home shirt designs without there being a formal requirement for a thorough and extensive consultation with its supporters.

It is noted that some Clubs mark anniversaries by introducing a kit which draws on previous heritage but may not entirely reflect the Home Shirt Colours commonly associated with the Club in modern times. Whilst these Rules will still apply in such circumstances, Clubs will be given a greater margin of discretion with regard to a temporary change to a home shirt of this nature provided that the change is for a maximum of one playing season.

Notwithstanding that these Rules only apply to changing the recognised, predominant colours of a Club's home shirt, The Association would remind Clubs that the features of a home shirt are also a significant part of the identity of a Club. The Association would therefore strongly encourage Clubs to undertake a thorough and extensive consultation with supporters where it wishes to materially change common-recurring design features of a home shirt but which do not affect its colour (e.g. changing horizontal stripes to vertical stripes).

M14 A Club must be in a position to evidence that the majority of its supporters are in favour of a material change to its Home Shirt Colours prior to making any such change.

Guidance

In assessing whether or not the majority of a Club's supporters are in favour of a material change to a Club's Home Shirt Colours, The Association will give significant weight to the views of members of any Community Benefit Society formed for the benefit of the club's supporters and registered with the FCA, season ticket holders, and any supporters who have attended a specific number of home matches in the previous season. For the avoidance of doubt, the views of a Club's wider supporter base and/or membership shall not be disregarded for the purposes of any assessment by The Association.

M15 Where a Club changes its Home Shirt Colours in accordance with these Rules, that Club shall register details of its new Home Shirt Colours with The Association in such form as is prescribed by The Association.

M16 Where in the reasonable opinion of The Association a Club is deemed to have breached Rules M12 to M15, The Association shall have the power to instruct that Club to rectify the breach at The Association's sole discretion.

N. REPORTING OF DIVERSITY DATA

DEFINITIONS

N1

DEFINITION	INTERPRETATION
Club Workforce	means all individuals that are subject to a contract of employment with a Club. **Guidance** *This does not include event day staff or contractors. Clubs are free to publish details of these individuals if they wish to do so provided the data is appropriately segmented in the Diversity Data Report.*
Collection Period	means the 18 month period immediately preceding the relevant Publication Deadline. **Guidance** *It is acknowledged that currently Premier League and EFL clubs collect Diversity Data at slightly different times. As a result, the Collection Period has been set at 18 months before the Publication Date. However, if a Club has collected Diversity Data more than once during the Collection Period, it should utilise the most recent set of relevant Diversity Data in its possession when complying with the requirements of this Rule.*
Collection Rate	means the percentage of the total Club Workforce that has responded to a request for Diversity Data during the Collection Period. **Guidance** *Clubs should aim for a Collection Rate of a minimum of 80%.*
Diversity Data	means the prescribed set of data regarding the diversity of a Club's Workforce which is outlined in the Diversity Data Report.
Diversity Data Report	means a report detailing a minimum prescribed set of data collected by a Club during the Collection Period regarding the diversity of the Club's Workforce which is in the format and contains the information as required by The Association from time to time. **Guidance** *The Association will provide Clubs with a proforma template to populate containing different categories of diversity data for the Club to attempt to collect in relation to the Club Workforce.*
Publication Deadline	means the 1 June occurring every two years with the first date being 1 June 2025. **Guidance** *For Clubs Participating in the WSL and WSL2, the first applicable Publication Date will be 1 June 2027.*
Publication Window	means the playing season immediately preceding a Publication Deadline. **Guidance** *For example where the Publication Date is 1 June 2025, the Publication Window is the playing season 2024/2025.*

SCOPE

N2 This Rule N applies to Clubs participating in the Premier League, EFL, WSL and WSL2.

REQUIREMENT TO COLLECT DIVERSITY DATA

N3 Clubs are required to use their best endeavours to collect Diversity Data during the Collection Period.

Guidance

It is acknowledged that individuals are free to choose whether or not to provide their personal information. However, Clubs should ensure that the Club Workforce are provided with a reasonable opportunity to respond to a request for information in order to comply with their obligations under this Rule.

REQUIREMENT TO PUBLISH DIVERSITY DATA REPORT

N4 Clubs will be required to publish a Diversity Data Report and the relevant Collection Rate on the Club's official website at any time during the relevant Publication Window and in any event no later than the relevant Publication Deadline.

Guidance

In addition to the prescribed minimum set of data collected, Clubs are encouraged to report on workforce diversity data aligned to their EDI Action Plan targets.

N5 Clubs must ensure that each Diversity Data Report is available on their website for at least five years from the relevant Publication Deadline.

Guidance

The rationale for this is to ensure it is possible to track progress in relation to Diversity Data.

N6 Clubs must provide The Association with evidence of publication of the Diversity Data Report as soon as practicable after publication and no later than the relevant Publication Deadline.

N7 Any Club that fails to comply with Rule N shall be issued with a warning and a request to comply within five business days. In the event the breach is not rectified by the Club within this timescale the Club shall be liable for a fine as per the sanction guidelines issued by The Association from time to time.

N8 The Association reserves the right to issue a charge for Misconduct where a Club is in breach of Rule N depending on the circumstances and in the event of repeated non-compliance.

Guidance

The sanction guidelines will stipulate a fine, the amount of which will be dependent on the Competition in which the Club was participating at the time the offence was committed.

O. DELIBERATE HEADING

Since 2022 the International Football Association Board (IFAB) has permitted national associations to undertake a trial in Under 12 age groups and below whereby the deliberate heading of the ball constitutes an offence punishable by an indirect freekick (the "Heading Trial" as defined below).

Rule O sets out requirements for the Heading Trial to be implemented in Under 7, Under 8, Under 9, Under 10 and Under 11 age groups at the grassroots level of the game (the "Relevant Age Groups" as defined below).

Rule O shall not apply to Competitions or Matches involving the Relevant Age Groups of Clubs participating in the Premier League, EFL, WSL or WSL2 (unless otherwise agreed between relevant Participants). Nothing in Rule O shall prevent such Competitions voluntarily participating in the Heading Trial.

Nothing in Rule O shall prevent Affiliated Associations, Competitions, or Clubs voluntarily participating in the Heading Trial outside of the Relevant Age Groups.

DEFINITIONS

DEFINITION	INTERPRETATION
Heading Trial	means the trial whereby the International Football Association Board permits member associations of FIFA to make the deliberate heading of the ball an offence in Under 12 age groups.
Relevant Age Groups	means Under 7, Under 8, Under 9 , Under 10 and Under 11 level age groups.

DELIBERATE HEADING

Obligations of Affiliated Associations

01 Each Affiliated Association shall implement the Heading Trial in relation to Competitions and Matches under its jurisdiction at the Relevant Age Groups.

02 Each Affiliated Association shall ensure that all Competitions, Clubs and Participants under its jurisdiction at the Relevant Age Groups participate in and comply with the Heading Trial in relation to any Match.

Obligations of Competitions

03 Competitions at the Relevant Age Groups shall participate in and form part of the Heading Trial.

04 Each Competition shall implement the Heading Trial at the Relevant Age Groups in any Match forming part of that Competition.

05 Each Competition shall ensure that all Clubs and Participants at the Relevant Age Groups participate in and comply with the Heading Trial when playing in any Match forming part of that Competition.

Obligations of Clubs

06 All Clubs at the Relevant Age Groups shall participate in and comply with the Heading Trial when playing in a Competition or Match.

Obligations of Participants

07 All Participants taking part in a Competition or Match at the Relevant Age Groups shall participate in and comply with the Heading Trial.

Match Officials

08 All Match Officials taking part in Competitions or Matches at the Relevant Age Groups shall ensure Participants comply with the Heading Trial.

P. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

P1 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.

P2 All 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 A4.1.1 and A4.1.2, be accorded their respective status by The Association as on the Effective Date.

P3 All Clubs which were recognised as Full Member Clubs (as defined in the Rules in force for the 2025/26 season) immediately prior to the Effective Date and which, in accordance with Rule A3.1, The Association determines should be afforded Member Club status shall be accorded the status of Member Club by The Association from the Effective Date without the need for further notice or confirmation.

P4 All Clubs which were recognised as Associate Member Clubs (as defined in the Rules in force for the 2025/26 season) immediately prior to the Effective Date and which, in accordance with Rule A3.1, The Association determines should be afforded Member Club status shall be accorded the status of Member Club by The Association from the Effective Date.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE



Regulations

I - REGULATION CHANGES – NOTE TO PARTICIPANTS

Participants should be aware that any of The Association's Regulations may be amended during the season following publication of The FA Handbook. Reference should be made to The FA's website, located at www.TheFA.com, for updated versions of the Regulations.



9 - DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS

Unless otherwise stated, definitions are as set out in Rule A of The Association and Appendix I of these Regulations.

The Disciplinary Regulations shall comprise:

PART	TITLE	PAGE(S)
A	GENERAL PROVISIONS	166
	SECTION ONE: ALL PANELS	166
	SECTION TWO: REGULATORY COMMISSIONS	169
	APPENDIX I: STANDARD SANCTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR AGGRAVATED BREACHES	174
B	NON-FAST TRACK REGULATIONS	177
C	APPEALS – NON-FAST TRACK	183
D	ON-FIELD REGULATIONS	188
	SECTION ONE: PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO CATEGORIES 1, 2 AND 3	189
	SECTION TWO: PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO CATEGORY 4	200
	SECTION THREE: PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO CATEGORY 5	201
	SECTION FOUR: PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO TECHNICAL AREA OCCUPANTS	222
	AUTOMATIC SUSPENSIONS AND SANCTIONS	226
E	FAST TRACK REGULATIONS	240
	FAST TRACK 1: NOT SEEN INCIDENTS AND SUCCESSFUL DECEPTION	244
	FAST TRACK 2: INCIDENTS ON OR AROUND THE FIELD OF PLAY, INCIDENTS OUTSIDE THE JURISDICTION OF MATCH OFFICIALS, SURROUNDING A MATCH OFFICIAL, MASS CONFRONTATIONS AND MEDIA COMMENTS	248
	FAST TRACK 3: MISTAKEN IDENTITY	254
	FAST TRACK 4: WRONGFUL DISMISSAL	257
	FAST TRACK 5: CLEARLY EXCESSIVE	261
	FAST TRACK 6: CLEARLY INSUFFICIENT	265
	FAST TRACK 7: APPEALS – FAST TRACK	269

PART	TITLE	PAGE(S)
F	INTERIM SUSPENSION ORDER REGULATIONS	272
G	APPENDICES	276
	APPENDIX I: DEFINITIONS	276
	APPENDIX II: AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS – HEARINGS BEFORE DISCIPLINARY COMMISSIONS	279
	APPENDIX III: DISCIPLINARY FINDINGS IN OTHER SPORTS	282
	APPENDIX IV: SMALL-SIDED FOOTBALL – DISCIPLINE PROCESS	283

A - GENERAL PROVISIONS

1 These General Provisions are split into two parts:

1.1 The provisions in Section One shall apply to Inquiries, Commissions of Inquiry, Regulatory Commissions, Disciplinary Commissions, Appeal Boards and Safeguarding Review Panels.

1.2 The provisions in Section Two shall apply to Regulatory Commissions and, where stated in paragraph 27, Disciplinary Commissions.

SECTION ONE: ALL PANELS

SCOPE

2 This Section One shall apply to Inquiries, Commissions of Inquiry, Regulatory Commissions, Disciplinary Commissions, Appeal Boards and Safeguarding Review Panels.

3 In relation to proceedings before a Disciplinary Commission, references in this Section One to The Association shall be taken to mean the relevant Affiliated Association.

GENERAL

4 The bodies subject to these General Provisions are not courts of law and are disciplinary, rather than arbitral, bodies. In the interests of achieving a just and fair result, procedural and technical considerations must take second place to the paramount object of being just and fair to all parties.

5 All parties involved in proceedings subject to these General Provisions shall act in a spirit of co-operation to ensure such proceedings are conducted expeditiously, fairly and appropriately, having regard to their sporting context.

6 The bodies subject to these General Provisions shall have the power to regulate their own procedure.

7 Without limitation to paragraph 6 above, any breach of procedure by The Association, or a failure by The Association to follow any direction given (including any time limit), shall not invalidate the proceedings or its outcome unless the breach is such as to seriously and irredeemably prejudice the position of the Participant Charged.

8 Save where otherwise stated, the applicable standard of proof shall be the civil standard of the balance of probabilities.

EVIDENCE

9 A panel to which these General Provisions apply:

9.1 shall not be obliged to follow the strict rules of evidence;

9.2 shall not be bound by any enactment or rule of law relating to the admissibility of evidence in proceedings before a court of law;

9.3 may admit such evidence as it thinks fit and accord such evidence such weight as it thinks appropriate in all the circumstances; and

9.4 may draw such inference from the failure of a witness (including the Participant Charged) to give evidence or answer a question as it considers appropriate.

REPRESENTATION

10 A Participant Charged attending a personal hearing, or an individual attending a Safeguarding Review Panel, may be represented by an or individuals (including a legal representative), provided that they notify The Association both of the fact that they are to be represented and of the identity of the representatives by the date on which the Reply is served. The representatives may speak on behalf of the Participant Charged / the individual.

11 An individual acting as a representative for a Participant Charged shall not be allowed to give evidence.

12 The Association may nominate an individual or individuals to represent it at a personal hearing.

CONSOLIDATION OF PROCEEDINGS

13 Where the subject matter of or facts relating to a Charge or Charges against one or more Participant(s) is sufficiently linked (including, but not limited to, where offences are alleged to have been committed in the same Match or where there is common evidence of The Association or the defence) and where appropriate for the timely and efficient disposal of the proceedings, The Association and/or the relevant panel shall have the power to consolidate proceedings so that they are conducted together and the Charges may be determined at a joint hearing. In respect of such matters:

13.1 evidence adduced by or on behalf of a Participant shall be capable of constituting evidence against another Participant (the relevant panel shall give appropriate weight to such evidence);

13.2 Participants or their representatives shall be entitled to cross-examine other Participants and their witnesses; and

13.3 the relevant panel may hear evidence in any order and shall have complete discretion to take matters out of order for the timely, efficient and appropriate disposal of the proceedings.

CONFIDENTIALITY / PUBLICATION

14 The proceedings of a Commission of Inquiry, a Regulatory Commission, a Disciplinary Commission, Appeal Board and Safeguarding Review Panel shall take place in private.

15 All oral or written representations, submissions, evidence and documents created in the course of any proceedings shall be subject to qualified privilege.

16 Subject to paragraphs 17 to 19 below:

16.1 all oral or written representations, submissions, evidence and documents created in the course of any proceedings are confidential between The Association and the individual or body concerned; and

16.2 the parties must keep confidential (and must ensure their representatives keep confidential) any representations, submissions, evidence, information or documentation related to the proceedings.

17 The Association shall have the power to publish in the public press, on a web site or in any other manner considered appropriate:

17.1 the outcome of any proceedings or inquiry (irrespective of whether a Charge is issued in respect of that inquiry);

17.2 reports of any hearing, order, requirement, instruction, decision, proceedings, acts, resolution, finding and penalty; or

17.3 any representations, submissions, evidence and documents created in the course of any proceedings or inquiry (including but not limited to the written reasons of a Regulatory Commission and Appeal Board) whether or not this reflects on the character or conduct of a Participant.

18 Each Participant will take part in any Commission of Inquiry, Regulatory Commission, Disciplinary Commission, Appeal Board, or Safeguarding Review Panel as required to ensure the appropriate discharge of these Regulations, and acknowledges that reports of decisions will be published.

19 The Association shall have the right to use and rely upon any representations, submissions, evidence and documents that are provided to it during the course of any inquiry pursuant to Rule F (or otherwise) and/or are created or otherwise generated during the proceedings of a panel to which these General Provisions apply for the purpose of carrying out its regulatory functions and monitoring and implementing compliance with its Rules and Regulations (including, but not limited to, taking action against any Participant under Rule E).

SERVICE OF DOCUMENTS

20 A document may be served by:

20.1 giving it to the person to whom it is addressed;

20.2 leaving it at, or sending it by first class post to, the last known address of the addressee or, in the case of an individual, the Club with which they are associated; or

20.3 sending it by e-mail or by fax to the last known email address or fax number of the addressee or, in the case of an individual, the Club with which they are associated.

FEES

21 Where a Participant lodges a Notice of Appeal in respect of:

21.1 a decision of a Regulatory Commission, they must pay an appeal fee of £100;

21.2 a decision of an Affiliated Association, they must pay an appeal fee of £50;

21.3 any other decisions of The Association subject to appeal, or a decision of Competition, they must pay an appeal fee as follows:

RELEVANT COMPETITION	FEE
Premier League, EFL Championship, EFL League One, EFL League Two, National League and WSL	£500
Steps 2 to 4 of the National League System and WSL2	£250
Steps 5 to 6 of the National League System	£100
Any other Competition (including those outside the National League System)	£50

22 In respect of other matters where fees are payable, the relevant fees shall be as prescribed in the relevant regulations.

OTHER PROCEEDINGS

23 The fact that a Participant is liable to face or has pending any other criminal, civil, disciplinary or regulatory proceedings (whether public or private in nature) in relation to the same matter shall not prevent or fetter The Association commencing, conducting and/or concluding proceedings under the Rules.

24 The result of any proceedings referred to in paragraph 23 (save for an acquittal) and findings upon which such result is based shall be presumed to be correct and true unless it is shown, by clear and convincing evidence, that this is not the case. An acquittal or equivalent result in civil, disciplinary or regulatory proceedings (and any finding upon which such result is based) shall only be presumed to be correct if the applicable standard of proof in those proceedings was the same or lower than the applicable standard of proof in the proceedings brought under the Rules.

EXCLUSION OF LIABILITY

25 Panel members to which these General Provisions apply and any executive staff member of The Association involved in any proceedings subject to these General Provisions, shall not be held liable for any acts or omissions in relation to any such proceedings.

SECTION TWO: REGULATORY COMMISSIONS

SCOPE

26 This Section Two sets out provisions applicable to matters of Misconduct proceeding before Regulatory Commissions. Further detail, to include the timetable to be followed in respect of such matters, is found in:

26.1 Part B: Non-Fast Track Regulations (where the matter proceeds according to the ordinary timetable);

26.2 Part E: Fast Track Regulations (where the matter proceeds according to an expedited timetable).

As such, the procedures set out at Part B: Non-Fast Track Regulations and Part E: Fast Track Regulations should be read in conjunction with these provisions.

27 In addition, the following paragraphs of this Section Two shall apply to matters of Misconduct proceeding before Disciplinary Commissions: paragraphs 28, 31, 39 to 43, 47 and 48 and 50 to 52.1 and Appendix 1 to Part A: Section One: General Provisions. The content of those paragraphs shall be construed accordingly (e.g. references to The Association shall be taken to mean the relevant Affiliated Association).

THE COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE

28 In accordance with Rule F, all Participants must take all reasonable measures to assist The Association in the collection of evidence. Where The Association requests the production of evidence from any Participant, that Participant shall (subject to considerations of legal professional privilege) be under an obligation to provide it.

29 Where on-field offences are concerned, The Association may request that a Club provides or procures the delivery of video evidence to assist it in investigating possible Misconduct. Clubs must provide such video evidence to The Association as soon as reasonably practicable and in any event no later than 12 noon on the next Business Day following The Association's request (or a later date if stipulated by The Association). Failure to provide such evidence within this deadline may result in The Association issuing a Charge against the Club.

CHARGE

30 The decision that facts or matters may give rise to Misconduct and that a Charge be brought will be made by the Chief Regulatory Officer (or their nominee) on behalf of The Association.

31 The Chief Regulatory Officer (or their nominee) may issue a written warning to a Participant where there are facts or matters which may give rise to Misconduct but where the Chief Regulatory Officer (or their nominee) determines in their sole discretion not to bring a Charge.

32 Where any facts or matters give rise to alleged Misconduct by a Participant, The Association will serve on the Participant a Charge which shall:

32.1 state briefly the nature of the alleged Misconduct;

32.2 identify the provision(s) alleged to have been breached; and

32.3 enclose copies of documents or other material referred to in the Charge.

33 The Charge may include a request for the provision of a summary of the current terms and conditions of employment of a Participant.

34 A copy of the Charge shall be forwarded to the Judicial Panel Chairman who shall appoint a Regulatory Commission in accordance with, and subject to, the Terms of Reference for the Composition and Operation of the Judicial Panel.

TIME LIMITS AND DIRECTIONS

General

35 The standard directions for a Regulatory Commission processing a matter under these Regulations shall be as set out in Part B: Non-Fast Track Regulations and Part E: Fast Track Regulations.

36 In complex cases the standard directions may, at the discretion of the Regulatory Commission, be the subject of a directions hearing which may be conducted in accordance with paragraph 26 of Part B: Non-Fast Track Regulations.

37 **Timings and Directions**

37.1 Upon an application by The Association or a Participant, the Judicial Panel Chairman (or their nominee) may amend, suspend, reduce or dispense with the relevant time limits set out in Part B: Non-Fast Track Regulations and Part E: Fast Track Regulations provided that the Judicial Panel Chairman (or their nominee) is satisfied that it would be impractical or unfair not to do so.

37.2 Where a Regulatory Commission has not yet been convened, the Judicial Panel Chairman (or their nominee) may make an order in respect of (i) time limits, (ii) hearing dates or (iii) the timetable in respect of disclosure.

38 Examples of circumstances in which the processing of a Charge would be impractical or unfair within the time limits set out in Part B: Non-Fast Track Regulations and Part E: Fast Track Regulations are where:

38.1 there is a pending police investigation; or

38.2 the seriousness or complexity of the matter necessitates a longer period of investigation; or

38.3 substantial evidence needs to be obtained from non-Participants.

REGULATORY COMMISSION DELIBERATIONS

39 Deliberations of a Regulatory Commission shall take place in private.

40 The decision of the Regulatory Commission shall be determined by majority. Each member of the Regulatory Commission shall have one vote, save that the Chairman of the Regulatory Commission shall have a second and casting vote in the event of a deadlock.

PENALTIES AND ORDERS

General

41 Save where expressly stated otherwise, a Regulatory Commission shall have the power to impose any one or more of the following penalties or orders on the Participant Charged:

41.1 a reprimand and/or warning as to future conduct;

41.2 a fine;

41.3 suspension from all or any specified football activity from a date that the Regulatory Commission shall order, permanently or for a stated period or number of Matches;

41.4 the closure of a ground permanently or for a stated period;

41.5 the playing of a Match or Matches without spectators being present, and/or at a specific ground;

41.6 any order which may be made under the rules and regulations of a Competition in which the Participant Charged participates or is associated, which shall be deemed to include the deduction of points and removal from a Competition at any stage of any playing season;

41.7 expulsion from a Competition;

41.8 expulsion from membership of The Association or an Affiliated Association;

41.9 such further or other penalty or order as it considers appropriate.

42 In imposing penalties, a Regulatory Commission must apply any:

42.1 applicable standard sanctions or sanction guidelines as may be communicated by The Association from time to time. A Regulatory Commission may only depart from such standard sanctions or sanction guidelines where it deems it appropriate having regard to the facts of an individual case (for example, where a particular act of Misconduct is sufficiently serious that the standard or guideline sanction would not constitute a sufficient penalty for the Misconduct that has taken place);

42.2 mitigating and/or aggravating factors, to include but not limited to the disciplinary record of the Participant and other factors that may be communicated by The Association from time to time.

Suspended Penalty

43 Save where any Rule or regulation expressly requires an immediate penalty to be imposed, and subject to paragraphs 44-46 below, the Regulatory Commission may order that a penalty imposed is suspended for a specified period or until a specified event and on such terms and conditions as it considers appropriate.

44 When considering imposing a suspended penalty, a Regulatory Commission must:

a) Determine the appropriate penalty for the breach, irrespective of any consideration of it being suspended; and

b) Consider whether there is a clear and compelling reason(s) for suspending that penalty; if so

i. Set out what the clear and compelling reason(s) are; and

ii. Decide the period of the suspension, or event, until which the penalty will be suspended; and

iii. Upon what other terms or conditions, if any, the penalty will be suspended.

45 Where a Participant has committed a breach of Rules E5, E8 or E14, the Regulatory Commission must consider suspending a portion of the penalty imposed if:

45.1 that Participant has provided assistance and/or information to any Competition, The Association, UEFA, FIFA, other national football association, a law enforcement agency or professional disciplinary body; and

45.2 the assistance and/or information provided results in the discovery or establishment of any criminal offence or the breach of disciplinary rules by another person relating to betting or integrity (not including anti-doping, in respect of which the Anti-Doping Regulations shall apply) in football or sport generally.

46 Where the Regulatory Commission, in exercising its discretion under paragraph 45, considers it to be appropriate to suspend a portion of the penalty, the extent to which the penalty may be suspended will be based on the significance of the assistance provided by the Participant to the effort to eliminate corruption from sport.

Aggravated Breaches (Rule E3.2)

47 Where an Aggravated Breach is found proven, a Regulatory Commission shall apply The Association's sanction guidelines for Aggravated Breaches set out at Appendix 1 to Part A: Section One: General Provisions.

48 Where a Regulatory Commission sanctions a Club in accordance with Rule E3.4, it may impose any sanction it considers appropriate, taking into account any aggravating or mitigating factors present.

Drug Rehabilitation and Counselling

49 Where a Participant has breached the provisions of the Anti-Doping Regulations or the Social Drugs Regulations, a Regulatory Commission may order a compulsory period of target testing, rehabilitation and counselling, and attach such conditions as it considers appropriate.

Compensation Orders

50 The Regulatory Commission may, where it considers it appropriate, order the Participant Charged to pay compensation to another Participant (the **"Compensation Claimant"**), instead of or in addition to any penalty or other order. Such an order may be for such amount as the Regulatory Commission considers appropriate.

51 The Regulatory Commission may order compensation only where:

51.1 it receives, in advance of its determination as to whether a Charge has been proven, a written claim by or on behalf of the Compensation Claimant which sets out the amount claimed and detailed reasons for the claim;

51.2 it is satisfied that the Compensation Claimant has suffered loss as a consequence of the Misconduct of the Participant Charged; and

51.3 the Participant Charged has had an opportunity both of seeing the claim in advance of an order being made and of making submissions to the Regulatory Commission in relation to it.

COSTS ORDERS

52 Save where otherwise provided, any costs incurred:

52.1 in bringing or defending a Charge will be borne by the party incurring the costs; and

52.2 by a Regulatory Commission, which are considered by the Chairman of the Regulatory Commission to be appropriate, may be ordered to be paid in full or in part by either party (such costs may include, but are not limited to, the costs of the Regulatory Commission and related expenses).

53 The applicable deadlines for any appeal against only the quantum of costs shall be those set out in paragraph 5 of Part C: Appeals – Non-Fast Track. Any such appeal shall be heard and determined by a single person appointed by Sport Resolutions (UK) (or similar independent body as determined by The Association from time to time). That person shall decide all matters of procedure for how such an appeal will be conducted.

54 A Notice of Appeal against a decision of a Regulatory Commission shall be deemed not to have been lodged unless either:

54.1 all financial orders, including costs orders, relating to the Participant in question have been paid in full; or

54.2 the Chairman of the Regulatory Commission has made an order to set aside the relevant financial orders pending the outcome of the Appeal.

55 In the event of an appeal being lodged, where applicable payments of costs made will be held in escrow by The Association.

COMPLIANCE WITH PENALTIES AND ORDERS

56 Unless the Regulatory Commission determines otherwise, a penalty or order shall come into effect immediately at the date of the notification of the decision.

57 A Regulatory Commission may issue such further order, requirement or instruction as it considers appropriate for the purpose of giving effect to its decision.

58 Where a Regulatory Commission is satisfied that a Participant Charged has failed to observe or comply with a penalty or order imposed by the Regulatory Commission, it shall have the power to order that the Participant Charged be suspended immediately from all or any football activity for such period and on such conditions as it considers appropriate.

59 In respect of any appeal made by a Participant Charged against a decision of a Regulatory Commission, the Regulatory Commission shall have the power, upon application and its absolute discretion, to stay the effect of, or compliance by the Participant Charged with, a penalty or order of a Regulatory Commission.

PAYMENT OF FEES, FINES AND COMPENSATION ORDERS

60 Payment of any administration fee, fine or compensation shall be made to The Association by such deadline and under such terms as ordered by The Association at the time of the written notification or decision.

61 The failure to make payment within the deadline ordered may result in an automatic increase of 25% of the amount due. Failure to pay within a further 35 days from the deadline ordered may result in the automatic suspension of the Participant until such time as payment has been received. Where the Participant is a person, such suspension will be from all football and football activity. Where the Participant is a Club, such suspension will be from playing in any Match or Competition.

WRITTEN DECISION

62 The Regulatory Commission shall as soon as practicable send to the Participant Charged and the Chief Regulatory Officer (or their nominee) a written statement of its decision, which shall state:

62.1 the Charge(s) considered and whether admitted or denied;

62.2 the decision as to whether Misconduct has been proven or not; and

62.3 any penalty or other order imposed.

63 The final, dated, written decision of the Regulatory Commission shall be the conclusive record of the Regulatory Commission's decision. A copy of the written decision shall be forwarded to The Association.

WRITTEN REASONS

64 Where the relevant parts of Part B: Non-Fast Track Regulations and Part E: Fast Track Regulations so provide, written reasons may be requested and provided.

65 Where written reasons are provided they shall state in writing:

65.1 the findings of fact made by the Regulatory Commission;

65.2 the reasons for the Regulatory Commission's decision finding the Charge(s) proven; and

65.3 the reasons for any penalty or order.

APPEALS

66 The rights of appeal shall be as set out in Part B: Non-Fast Track Regulations or Part E: Fast Track Regulations.

APPENDIX 1 - STANDARD SANCTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR AGGRAVATED BREACHES

PLAYERS, MANAGERS AND TECHNICAL AREA OCCUPANTS

Standard Sanction

A finding of an Aggravated Breach against a Player, Manager or Technical Area Occupant will attract an immediate suspension of no less than 10 Matches (**"Standard Sanction"**) subject to the circumstances outlined below.

A Regulatory Commission shall take all aggravating and mitigating factors into account, including but not limited to those listed in these guidelines when determining the level of sanction.

A Regulatory Commission may impose a sanction lower than the Standard Sanction if it is satisfied that a mitigating factor or mitigating factors of significant number or weight is/are present and provided that an immediate suspension of no less than 6 Matches is imposed. This discretion will only be exercised in circumstances where an Aggravated Breach has been admitted at the earliest reasonable available opportunity, unless, notwithstanding the absence of an admission, the specific circumstances of the case are exceptional so that a sanction lower than the Standard Sanction is justified. For the avoidance of doubt, in all cases, any such departure from the Standard Sanction must not result in a sanction lower than an immediate 6-match suspension.

Where a Player is aged 12-15 (inclusive) a Regulatory Commission may suspend any number of Matches on terms and for such period as it considers appropriate provided that a suspension of no less than one Match is served.

A Regulatory Commission may impose an immediate suspension in excess of 12 Matches in circumstances where aggravating factors of significant number or weight are present.

Exceptions

A Regulatory Commission may only consider imposing a suspension below 6 Matches where the following specific (and exhaustive) circumstances arise such that the Regulatory Commission determines that a suspension of 6 Matches would be excessive:

Where the offence was committed in writing only or via the use of any communication device and:

- Where the Regulatory Commission is satisfied that there was no genuine intent on the part of the Participant Charged to be discriminatory or offensive in any way and could not reasonably have known that any such offence would be caused; or
- The age of the Participant at time of the offence (e.g. where the Participant was a minor at the time the offence was committed); or
- The age of the offence (e.g. a social media post made a considerable time ago).

For the avoidance of doubt, the existence of the circumstances above will not necessarily result in a suspension of less than 6 Matches. A Regulatory Commission must be satisfied that the unique circumstances and facts of a particular case are of such significance that a suspension of less than 6 Matches is justified to avoid an unjust outcome for the Participant Charged. In reaching a decision, the Regulatory Commission must also consider whether or not it is in the best interests of the game in tackling all forms of discrimination to impose a sanction of less than 6 Matches. In any event, a Regulatory Commission shall impose a suspension of no less than 3 Matches.

Where a Player is aged 12-15 (inclusive) a Regulatory Commission may suspend any number of Matches on terms and for such period as it considers appropriate provided that a suspension of no less than one Match is served.

TIME-BASED SUSPENSIONS

A Regulatory Commission may assess that a Match-based suspension is not appropriate due to the specific circumstances of a case; the nature of the role of a Participant, and/or whether they are currently engaged by a Club. A Regulatory Commission should have regard to the Standard Sanction and the guidelines set out in this Appendix as well as the mitigating and aggravating factors when determining sanction. However, a Regulatory Commission shall be entitled to impose an appropriate, immediate time-based suspension that is commensurate with the breach, having regard to the specific roles and responsibilities of the Participant[1].

EDUCATION

Any Participant who is found to have committed an Aggravated Breach shall be made subject to an education programme, the details of which will be provided to the Participant by The Association.

OTHER PENALTIES

A Regulatory Commission may impose any one or more of the other penalties as provided by paragraph 41 of Part A to the Disciplinary Regulations.

FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN DETERMINING SANCTION

A Regulatory Commission will have due regard to the circumstances and seriousness of the incident when determining the appropriate sanction and whether (and to what extent) to depart from the Standard Sanction or when setting an appropriate time-based suspension. For the avoidance of doubt, a suspension of less than 6 Matches may only be considered by a Regulatory Commission where the specific (and exhaustive) circumstances listed above arise.

In so doing, the Regulatory Commission shall give consideration to any aggravating and mitigating factors, to include but not limited to:

Aggravating Factors

- Repeated use of discriminatory language or conduct during commission of the offence or offences.
- Multiple offences over a period of time.
- The public nature of the offence(s) (e.g. the commission of the offence(s) in a public place, via broadcast media or a social media platform (particularly via an account on a social media platform with a high number of followers in relative terms)).
- The profile of the Participant, including where they hold a position of responsibility within their Club or organisation (e.g. Club captain, Manager, Chairman, member of senior management).
- The relative ages of the Participant and the victim(s) at the time of the offence, particularly where the victim was a minor and the Participant was not.
- Failure to co-operate with The Association.
- Previous disciplinary record of the Participant.
- Any attempt to conceal the breach.
- The extent of any premeditation.
- Lack of remorse or insight and/or failure to understand and/or appreciate the severity of the conduct and/or its impact.

[1] Where a sporting sanction would cover all or part of a period in which the Participant's Club/team is not playing competitive matches (e.g. the Close Season/summer months), a Regulatory Commission should account for this when considering the length and/or commencement date of the sporting sanction. The start date and period of any sporting sanction shall be determined so that the sporting sanction is effective.

Mitigating Factors

- Admission at the earliest reasonable available opportunity in particular where the factual conduct forming the basis for the charge would be capable of being disputed.
- Demonstration of genuine remorse.
- Co-operation with The Association.
- Where it is accepted that the Participant had a legitimate expectation of privacy.
- Inexperience of the Participant by reference to their age or background at the time of the offence.
- In respect of social media posts, the age of the post and the Participant's age at the time of the post. For example, depending on the other circumstances and characteristics of the offence, it may be considered a mitigating factor where the post was made a considerable time ago and/or where it was made at a time when the Participant was a minor.

SECOND OR FURTHER OFFENCES

Second or further offences will be treated with the utmost seriousness. There will be a presumption that the sanction for a second or further offence will be higher than 12 Matches. In any event, the sanction for a second or further offence must always be greater than for a first offence. Where a Regulatory Commission deems it appropriate to issue a time-based suspension it should consider all relevant factors including but not limited to the number and severity of any previous offences when determining sanction. A Regulatory Commission should have regard to the Standard Sanction and the guidance set out in this Appendix as well as the mitigating and aggravating factors when determining sanction.

Where a Player is aged 12-15 (inclusive) and commits a second or further Aggravated Breach, in determining the suspension to be imposed, a Regulatory Commission shall use as an entry point, an immediate suspension of 11 matches. The Regulatory Commission may depart from the entry point where aggravating or mitigating factors are present but, in any case, must impose an immediate suspension of no fewer than 7 matches.

Regulatory Commissions shall still be entitled to take all aggravating and mitigating factors into account when determining sanction.

MULTIPLE AGGRAVATED BREACHES

Where a Regulatory Commission finds a Participant to have committed two or more Aggravated Breaches on separate occasions which have been considered by a Regulatory Commission during the same proceedings, the Regulatory Commission may impose a Match or time-based suspension depending on what it deems appropriate in the circumstances. A Regulatory Commission should have regard to the Standard Sanction and the guidance set out in this Appendix as well as the mitigating and aggravating factors when determining sanction. However, a Regulatory Commission shall have the power to impose any sanction which is appropriate and proportionate to the nature of the Aggravated Breaches committed. This includes being able to impose a suspension in excess of 12 Matches, particularly in very serious cases to impose a time-based suspension of any duration.

PLAYERS AGED UNDER 12

Where an Aggravated Breach is committed 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.

B - NON-FAST TRACK REGULATIONS

SCOPE

1 These Non-Fast Track Regulations shall apply to all matters of Misconduct proceeding before Regulatory Commissions, save for those matters which are stated in Part E: Fast Track Regulations to be conducted in accordance with the expedited timetables set out therein.

2 For the avoidance of doubt, the matters which shall proceed under these Non-Fast Track Regulations shall include (but are not limited to):

2.1 any Aggravated Breach of Rule E3.1; or where it is thought any such charge may arise when an investigation is initiated;

2.2 breaches of integrity and betting matters in accordance with Rules E5 and E8;

2.3 breaches of a Participant's reporting obligations in accordance with Rule E14;

2.4 the conduct of a Club's spectators, supporters or followers in accordance with Rules E20 and E21;

2.5 breaches of the Anti-Doping Regulations;

3 Unless otherwise stated, any reference to a day or days in these Non-Fast Track Regulations shall not include Bank Holidays.

CHARGE

4 Disciplinary proceedings shall be commenced by the service of a Charge in accordance with paragraphs 30 to 34 of Part A: General Provisions, Section Two.

REPLY

5 Subject to paragraph 7 below, the Participant Charged must serve on The Association a Reply by e-mail (as directed by The Association) within seven days of the service of the Charge which:

5.1 admits or denies each Charge or part of the Charge;

5.2 states whether they wish the matter to be dealt with:

5.2.1 on written submissions alone; or

5.2.2 at a personal hearing (in which case a fee of £100 must be submitted to The Association, in such manner as may be prescribed by The Association from time to time);

and

5.3 where requested in the Charge (or accompanying documents), provides a summary of the current terms and conditions of employment of the Participant Charged.

6 The Reply must also include:

6.1 a clear explanation of the nature and extent of the Participant's admission or denial of the Charge(s) or any part of a Charge;

6.2 a signed written statement of each witness upon whom the Participant intends to rely which sets out their evidence in full;

6.3 copies of any documentation, evidence, mitigation or other relevant material (of whatever nature) on which the Participant intends to rely.

7 In complex or exceptional cases, a Participant Charged may apply (on notice to The Association) to the Judicial Panel Chairman or the Chairman of the Regulatory Commission (if appointed) for an extension of time in which to provide the Reply.

8 Where the Participant Charged fails to:

8.1 serve their Reply within seven days (or, where applicable, within any period set by the Judicial Panel Chairman or the Chairman of the Regulatory Commission in accordance with paragraph 7); or

8.2 comply with any of the requirements at paragraphs 5 to 6 above;

the Regulatory Commission shall determine the Charge in such manner and upon such evidence as it considers appropriate.

FURTHER EVIDENCE OR MATERIAL

9 Upon review of the Reply, The Association may provide to the Participant and the Regulatory Commission any further evidence or relevant material on which it intends to rely.

10 Where a Participant is provided with material in accordance with paragraph 9, they may provide The Association with such further evidence or relevant material on which they intend to rely provided that they do so at the earliest opportunity and in any event no later than seven days before the date on which the Regulatory Commission is to determine the matter (whether at a hearing or on the papers). Evidence or material not provided within time may not be relied upon at the hearing.

11 The purpose of the provisions relating to the Reply and further evidence or material at paragraphs 5 to 10 above is to:

11.1 clarify for all parties and the Regulatory Commission the issues to be determined at a hearing; and

11.2 ensure the just, timely and efficient disposal of the case,

and the parties shall cooperate with one another in so far as they are able in order to achieve this purpose.

REGULATORY COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

12 The Regulatory Commission shall be appointed in accordance with, and subject to, the Terms of Reference for the Composition and Operation of the Judicial Panel.

13 Where a matter is to be dealt with at a hearing in accordance with paragraph 30 below, a party may, within seven days of the Charge and on notice to all other parties, make an application to the Judicial Panel Chairman for an order that the Chairman of the Regulatory Commission shall be a Specialist Panel Member, who is a solicitor or barrister of seven or more years' standing. Approval by the Judicial Panel Chairman shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. Any additional costs incurred in respect of appointing such Specialist Panel Member may be borne by the party who made the application, as determined by the Chairman of the Regulatory Commission in accordance with paragraph 54 of Part A: General Provisions.

PRELIMINARY APPLICATIONS AND PRELIMINARY HEARINGS

14 A party to disciplinary proceedings may make a Preliminary Application. A Preliminary Application must be made as soon as practicable following service of the Charge, and in any case no later than ten Business Days prior to the full hearing date.

15 Where a party wishes to have the Preliminary Application determined by a separate Regulatory Commission to that appointed to determine the Charge, the party may submit the Preliminary Application to the Judicial Panel Chairman who shall determine whether it will be considered by the Regulatory Commission appointed to determine the Charge or by a separate Regulatory Commission. In the absence of such an application, the Preliminary Application will be conducted by the Regulatory Commission appointed to determine the Charge.

16 The relevant Regulatory Commission, or the Chairman of the relevant Regulatory Commission, shall have the power to decide the procedure to be followed in determining the Preliminary Application, including for the Preliminary Application to be heard by the Chairman of the relevant Regulatory Commission alone.

17 In determining the Preliminary Application the relevant Regulatory Commission, or the Chairman of the relevant Regulatory Commission, shall have the power to:

17.1 dismiss the Preliminary Application summarily;

17.2 order that the issues raised in the Preliminary Application be dealt with as part of the main proceedings and not on a preliminary basis;

17.3 allow or dismiss the Preliminary Application in full or in part; or

17.4 make such further order as it considers appropriate.

18 The decision relating to a Preliminary Application shall be final and binding and there shall be no right of further challenge.

PROVISIONAL SUSPENSIONS AND PROVISIONAL HEARINGS UNDER THE ANTI-DOPING REGULATIONS

19 In respect of a Provisional Suspension imposed upon a Participant pursuant to the Anti-Doping Regulations, that Participant may apply for a Provisional Hearing before or after they have been issued with a Charge for a breach of Rule E25 to which the Provisional Suspension relates.

Prior to a Charge

20 Where the Participant has not been issued with a Charge, the Participant may apply to the Judicial Panel Chairman to request a Provisional Hearing. Upon such request, the Judicial Panel Chairman will appoint a Regulatory Commission to conduct the Provisional Hearing.

After a Charge

21 Where the Participant has been issued with a Charge, but wishes to have the Provisional Hearing conducted by a separate Regulatory Commission to that appointed to determine the Charge, the Participant may apply to the Judicial Panel Chairman who shall determine whether it will be conducted by the Regulatory Commission appointed to determine the Charge or by a separate Regulatory Commission. In the absence of such an application, the Provisional Hearing will be conducted by the Regulatory Commission appointed to determine the Charge.

Procedure

22 Save that the Provisional Hearing may be conducted orally or in writing, the relevant Regulatory Commission shall have the power to decide the procedure to be followed in conducting the Provisional Hearing.

23 In conducting the Provisional Hearing, the relevant Regulatory Commission, shall have the power to:

23.1 order that the issues raised at the Provisional Hearing be dealt with as part of the main proceedings and not at the Provisional Hearing;

23.2 order that the Provisional Suspension remain in place; or

23.3 order that the Provisional Suspension be removed, save that it may only do so on one or more of the bases provided for in the Anti-Doping Regulations.

24 The decision of a Regulatory Commission at a Provisional Hearing shall be subject to appeal only as provided for in the Anti-Doping Regulations.

DIRECTIONS

25 The Regulatory Commission may give any further directions considered necessary for the proper conduct of the proceedings, including but not limited to:

25.1 establishing the date, time and place of the hearing;

25.2 extending or reducing any time limit;

25.3 amending or dispensing with any of the procedural steps set out in these Regulations;

25.4 instructing that a transcript be made of the proceedings;

25.5 determining that issues be dealt with as preliminary issues, or at a preliminary hearing;

25.6 requiring that the parties make written submissions, or submit skeleton arguments in advance of the Regulatory Commission's hearing;

25.7 requiring that the disclosure be made of specific and identifiable documents in the possession of The Association, the Participant Charged or any third-party Participant which are considered by the Regulatory Commission to be relevant to the Charge; or

25.8 determining who shall attend a hearing;

25.9 whether on the application of one of the parties or otherwise, requiring a Participant (whether before or during a hearing) to:

25.9.1 attend before the Regulatory Commission to provide information, in which case questions may be put by the Regulatory Commission, The Association and any Participant Charged; or

25.9.2 produce documents or records to the Regulatory Commission.

26 The Regulatory Commission may order for there to be a directions hearing which it may direct to be conducted by way of oral hearing, telephone or video conference or by written submissions. If satisfied that all matters are agreed prior to the time set for the directions hearing, the Regulatory Commission may direct that no hearing take place and that the agreed directions shall stand as the decision of the Regulatory Commission.

27 The Regulatory Commission will circulate a note of its directions within three Business Days of a directions hearing.

28 A decision of a Regulatory Commission concerning any matters referred to in paragraphs 5 to 27 is final and not subject to appeal.

DETERMINATION

On Written Submissions

29 Where the Participant Charged states, in accordance with paragraph 5.2.1, that they wish for the matter to be dealt with on written submissions, the Regulatory Commission may dispense with an oral hearing. In such cases, the Regulatory Commission shall determine the Charge, and the sanction if the Charge is found proven, in the absence of the Participant Charged and shall make such penalty or order as it deems appropriate.

At a Hearing

30 Where the Participant Charged states, in accordance with paragraph 5.2.2, that they wish for the matter to be dealt with at a hearing, the Regulatory Commission shall proceed in accordance with this paragraph 30:

30.1 The Participant Charged must, if an individual, attend a hearing of the Regulatory Commission in person. If the Participant Charged is not an individual, it shall attend through a Club Official.

30.2 The Association, through the Chief Regulatory Officer (or their nominee), shall nominate an individual or individuals to present the Charge, call evidence and make submissions in support of the Charge.

30.3 The Regulatory Commission may adjourn a hearing for such period and upon such terms (including as to the costs of the Regulatory Commissions) as it considers appropriate.

30.4 Any Participant Charged appearing before the Regulatory Commission has the right to be represented in accordance with and subject to the requirements of paragraphs 10 to 11 of Part A: General Provisions.

30.5 Where a Participant Charged gives evidence in their own defence, they must give their evidence first (i.e. before any other defence witness gives evidence). All other witnesses of fact for The Association or the defence cannot enter the hearing until they are called to give their evidence.

30.6 The Regulatory Commission may proceed at a hearing in the absence of the Participant Charged where it is satisfied that there are no reasonable grounds for the failure to attend, and will do so in such manner as it considers appropriate.

30.7 Where a party fails to comply with an order, requirement, direction or instruction of the Regulatory Commission, it may take such action as it considers appropriate in relation to such failure and may make an award of costs against that party.

DECISION ON CHARGE

Deliberation

31 The Regulatory Commission will first consider whether or not a Charge is proven. In doing so, it will have regard to any admission of all or part of the Charge made by the Participant Charged. Where a Charge is denied, or where it is admitted but there remains a factual dispute between the Participant Charged and The Association, the Regulatory Commission shall consider the witness and other evidence placed before it together with each party's submissions in order to make findings in respect of any factual dispute(s) in order to determine: (i) whether a Charge is proven; (ii) if so proven or admitted, the factual basis on which the Charge is proven.

Notification of the decision on Charge

32 The Regulatory Commission shall notify parties of its decision as to whether a Charge is proven. The Regulatory Commission may cite such findings as it considers appropriate to enable the parties to understand its decision. The Regulatory Commission shall notify parties of its decision as soon as reasonably practicable and in such manner as it considers appropriate. Where such decision is reached at a hearing at which the Participant Charged is present it should be notified immediately, save where the Regulatory Commission considers it appropriate to act otherwise.

PENALTY

33 As regards penalty, the Regulatory Commission may impose any penalty that it considers to be appropriate in accordance with its general powers as set out in paragraphs 39 to 53 of Part A: General Provisions.

Matters relevant to the decision on penalty

34 Where a Charge is proven following determination at a hearing, the parties shall be invited to address the Regulatory Commission as to any matter relevant to its consideration of penalty, which shall include the disciplinary record of the Participant Charged and any mitigation raised.

35 Where a Charge is proven following determination on written submissions, the Regulatory Commission shall then consider the disciplinary record of the Participant together with any mitigation, and any other matters it considers relevant in its consideration of penalty.

Notification of decision on penalty

36 The Regulatory Commission shall notify parties of its decision as to any penalty or other order to be imposed as soon as is reasonably practicable and in such manner as it deems appropriate. Where such decision is reached at a hearing at which the Participant Charged is present it should be notified immediately, save where the Regulatory Commission considers it appropriate to act otherwise.

COSTS

37 Costs shall fall to be determined in accordance with paragraph 52 of Part A: General Provisions.

WRITTEN DECISION

38 A Regulatory Commission shall provide a written statement of its decision in accordance with paragraphs 64 and 65 of Part A: General Provisions.

WRITTEN REASONS

39 Where the Chief Regulatory Officer (or their nominee) or Participant Charged requires written reasons, they must make a written request to the secretary of the Regulatory Commission (by email to JudicialServices@TheFA.com) within seven days of receipt of the written decision.

APPEALS

40 Participants and The Association shall have the right to appeal a decision of a Regulatory Commission to an Appeal Board in accordance with Part C: Appeals – Non-Fast Track. There shall be no further right of challenge in respect of a decision of a Regulatory Commission, which is otherwise final and binding.

C - APPEALS - NON-FAST TRACK

These Regulations set out the provisions relating to appeals conducted in accordance with the Rules, save for appeals arising from matters proceeding under Part E: Fast Track Regulations (which shall be conducted in accordance with Part E: Fast Track 7: Appeals – Fast Track therein).

Unless otherwise stated, any reference to a day or days in this Part C: Appeals – Non-Fast Track shall not include Bank Holidays.

GROUNDS OF APPEAL

1 The grounds of appeal available to The Association shall be that the body whose decision is appealed against:

1.1 misinterpreted or failed to comply with the Rules and/or regulations of The Association relevant to its decision; and/or

1.2 came to a decision to which no reasonable such body could have come; and/or

1.3 imposed a penalty, award, order or sanction that was so unduly lenient as to be unreasonable.

2 The grounds of appeal available to Participants shall be that the body whose decision is appealed against:

2.1 failed to give that Participant a fair hearing; and/or

2.2 misinterpreted or failed to comply with the Rules and/or regulations of The Association relevant to its decision; and/or

2.3 came to a decision to which no reasonable such body could have come; and/or

2.4 imposed a penalty, award, order or sanction that was excessive.

3 Where an appeal is brought by FIFA, UKAD or WADA against a decision of a Regulatory Commission pursuant to the Association's Anti-Doping Regulations, any of the grounds set out at paragraphs 1 and 2 above may be relied upon.

APPEAL PROCESS

Commencement of Appeal and Response

4 Appeal timings shall run from the date of notification of the decision being appealed against (**"Notification Date"**). The Notification Date shall be:

4.1 the date of provision of the written decision; or

4.2 where the relevant rules or regulations provide that written reasons may be produced or requested, the date of provision of the written reasons.

5 In the case of an appeal from a decision of a Regulatory Commission or Disciplinary Commission;

5.1 notification of the intention to appeal shall be made in writing to The Association by email to JudicialServices@TheFA.com (or to the relevant Participant, where The Association is the appellant) within seven days of the Notification Date.

5.2 a notice of appeal (the **"Notice of Appeal"**) shall be submitted in writing to The Association by email to JudicialServices@TheFA.com (or, where The Association is the appellant, to the relevant Participant) within 14 days of the Notification Date.

6 In case of all other appeals, the timings set out in paragraph 5 above shall apply, unless the relevant rules provide otherwise.

7 The Notice of Appeal must:

7.1 identify the specific decision(s) being appealed;

7.2 set out the ground(s) of appeal and the reasons why it would be substantially unfair not to alter the original decision;

7.3 set out a statement of the facts upon which the appeal is based;

7.4 save for where the appellant is The Association, in which case no appeal fee will be payable, be accompanied by the relevant appeal fee as set out in paragraph 21 of Part A: General Provisions. Where an appeal is lodged electronically, the appeal fee must be received not later than the third day following the day of despatch of the electronic notification (including both the day of despatch and receipt);

7.5 where appropriate, apply for leave to present new evidence under paragraph 10 below.

8 The respondent shall serve a written reply to the Notice of Appeal (the **"Response"**) on an appellant and the Appeal Board within 21 days of the lodging of the Notice of Appeal. Where appropriate, the Response must include an application for leave to present new evidence under paragraph 10 below.

9 Where the Regulatory Commission or other body appealed against has not stated the reasons for its decision:

9.1 the appellant shall request written reasons from that body which shall be provided to the Appeal Board; or

9.2 the Appeal Board shall require that a member of that body attends the appeal hearing. In which case: (i) questions may be put by the Appeal Board at a hearing to satisfy itself as to the reasons for the decision); (ii) cross-examination by the appellant or respondent shall not be permitted; (iii) representations may be made by the parties to the Appeal Board who may then put questions to the member of the body that made the decision.

9.3 In addition to the above, The Association may also request written reasons from a Disciplinary Commission where it is acting as secretariat to a relevant Appeal Board.

New Evidence

10 The Appeal Board shall hear new evidence only where it has given leave that it may be presented. An application for leave to present new evidence must be made in the Notice of Appeal or the Response. Any application must set out the nature and the relevance of the new evidence, and why it was not presented at the original hearing. Save in exceptional circumstances, the Appeal Board shall not grant leave to present new evidence unless satisfied (i) with the reason given as to why it was not, or could not have been, presented at the original hearing and (ii) that such evidence is relevant. The Appeal Board's decision shall be final. Where leave to present new evidence has been granted, in all cases the other party will be given an opportunity to respond.

Appeal Board Proceedings

11 The appellant shall prepare a set of documents which shall be provided to the Appeal Board and respondent at least seven days before the hearing and which shall comprise the following (or their equivalent):

11.1 the Charge;

11.2 the Reply;

11.3 any documents or other evidence referred to at the original hearing relevant to the appeal;

11.4 any transcript of the original hearing;

11.5 the notification of decision appealed against and, where they have been given, the reasons for the decision;

11.6 any new evidence;

11.7 the Notice of Appeal;

11.8 the Response.

12 An appeal shall be by way of a review on documents only and shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the body appealed against. The parties shall however be entitled to make oral submissions to the Appeal Board. Oral evidence will not be permitted, except where the Appeal Board gives leave to present new evidence under paragraph 10 above.

13 Once an appeal has been commenced, it shall not be withdrawn except by leave of the Appeal Board (or the Judicial Panel Chairman (or their nominee) if an Appeal Board has not yet been convened). Where an appeal is so withdrawn, the Appeal Board may make such order for costs, or such order in respect of any bond lodged pursuant to paragraphs 27 to 37 below, as it considers appropriate.

14 The chairman of an Appeal Board (or the Judicial Panel Chair (or their nominee) if an Appeal Board has not yet been convened) may upon the application of a party or otherwise, give any instructions considered necessary for the proper conduct of the proceedings, including but not limited to:

14.1 extending or reducing any time limit;

14.2 amending or dispensing with any procedural steps set out in these Regulations;

14.3 instructing that a transcript be made of the proceedings;

14.4 ordering parties to attend a preliminary hearing;

14.5 ordering a party to provide written submissions.

The decision of the chairman of the Appeal Board or the Judicial Panel Chair (or their nominee) (as applicable) shall be final.

15 The Appeal Board may adjourn a hearing for such period and upon such terms (including an order as to costs) as it considers appropriate.

16 The Appeal Board shall proceed in the absence of any party, unless it is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for the failure of the party to attend, and shall do so in such manner as it considers appropriate.

17 The following procedures shall be followed at an appeal hearing unless the Appeal Board thinks it appropriate to amend them:

17.1 the appellant to address the appeal board, summarising its case;

17.2 any new evidence to be presented by the appellant;

17.3 the respondent to address the appeal board, summarising its case;

17.4 any new evidence to be presented by the respondent;

17.5 each party to be able to put questions to any witness giving new evidence;

17.6 the Appeal Board may put questions to the parties and any witness giving new evidence at any stage;

17.7 the respondent to make closing submissions;

17.8 the appellant to make closing submissions.

18 The Appeal Board may, in the event of a party failing to comply with an order, requirement or instruction of the Appeal Board, take any action it considers appropriate, including an award of costs against the offending party.

APPEAL BOARD DECISIONS

General

19 A decision, order, requirement or instruction of the Appeal Board shall (save where to be made under the Rules by the Chairman of the Appeal Board alone) be determined by a majority. Each member of the Appeal Board shall have one vote, save that the Chairman shall have a second and casting vote in the event of deadlock.

20 The Appeal Board shall notify the parties of its decision to the parties as soon as practicable in such a manner as it considers appropriate; and unless it directs otherwise, its decision shall come into effect immediately.

21 The Appeal Board shall have power to:

21.1 allow or dismiss the appeal;

21.2 exercise any power which the body against whose decision the appeal was made could have exercised, whether the effect is to increase or decrease any penalty, award, order or sanction originally imposed;

21.3 remit the matter for re-hearing;

21.4 order that any appeal fee be forfeited or returned as it considers appropriate;

21.5 make such further or other order as it considers appropriate, generally or for the purpose of giving effect to its decision;

21.6 order that any costs, or part thereof, incurred by the Appeal Board be paid by either party or be shared by both parties in a manner determined by the Appeal Board.

22 Decisions of the Appeal Board shall be final and binding and there shall be no right of further challenge, except in relation to appeals:

22.1 to CAS brought by FIFA or WADA pursuant to the Anti-Doping Regulations; or

22.2 concerning the amount of costs any party is ordered to pay by the Appeal Board (which is considered in paragraph 24 below).

Other Costs

23 Any costs incurred in bringing, or responding to, an appeal shall normally be borne by the party incurring the costs. In exceptional circumstances the Appeal Board may order one party to pay some or all of the other party's costs. Such costs will not include any legal costs. Any applications for such costs must be made at the Appeal Board and must include details of the exceptional circumstances.

24 An appeal against only the quantum of costs ordered to be paid shall be heard and determined by either:

24.1 a single person appointed by Sport Resolutions (UK) (or a similar independent body as determined by The Association from time to time). That person shall decide all matters of procedure for how such an appeal will be conducted; or

24.2 where the appeal proceedings relate to a decision of an Affiliated Association; or a league operating at Step 5 or below of the National League System; or a league operating at Tier 3 and below of the Women's Football Pyramid, it shall be determined by the Judicial Panel Chairman, who shall decide all matters of procedure for how the appeal will be conducted.

Guidance:

With regard to costs appeals under Paragraph 24.2, the Judicial Panel Chair may invite submissions from the National Game Disciplinary Chair (as defined in the National Game Chair Terms of Reference) when determining the matter.

Written Decision and Written Reasons

25 As soon as practicable after the hearing, the Appeal Board shall publish a written statement of its decision, which shall state:

25.1 the names of the parties, the decision(s) appealed against and the grounds of appeal;

25.2 whether or not the appeal is allowed; and

25.3 the order(s) of the Appeal Board.

26 The Appeal Board shall, upon the request of the appellant or the respondent (such request to be received at The Association within three Business Days of the date of the notification of the decision), give written reasons for the decision.

APPEALS FROM DECISIONS OF LEAGUES: BOND APPLICATIONS

27 The provisions relating to bond applications at paragraphs 28 to 37 shall only apply where an appellant is appealing a decision of a League (save for decisions of the Premier League or the EFL).

28 Within seven days of lodging the Notice of Appeal, the League (as respondent) may make an application for the Appeal Board to require a bond to be lodged by the appellant before the appeal may progress.

29 Whilst such a bond application is being processed, no Response to the Notice of Appeal will be due from the Respondent in accordance with paragraph 8 above.

30 Any bond application must be copied to the appellant, and must:

30.1 state the grounds for the application; and

30.2 state the amount applied for.

31 The appellant may provide a response to the bond application within seven days of its submission.

32 Whether or not the appellant has provided any response to it, the Appeal Board shall consider the bond application as soon as practicable after the seventh day following its submission. The Appeal Board may, in its discretion, consider the bond application on papers alone, or require the parties to attend a personal hearing. Any such personal hearing shall be conducted according to such timings and procedure as the Appeal Board may determine at its discretion.

33 The test to be applied by the Appeal Board is whether it is satisfied that there is a real risk that the appellant will not pursue the appeal to a final determination by the Appeal Board. Where it is so satisfied, the Appeal Board may order the appellant to lodge a bond with The Association on such date and in such amount as it considers appropriate. The Appeal Board's decision in this respect shall be final and binding with no further right of appeal. For the avoidance of doubt, consideration of a bond may only be given by an Appeal Board following submission of an application by a respondent in accordance with paragraph 28.

34 Where an Appeal Board orders a bond to be lodged with The Association, the Appeal may not proceed until the bond is duly lodged. In any such appeal, notwithstanding the terms of paragraph 8 above, the respondent shall serve its response to the Notice of Appeal within 14 days from the date that the bond is lodged with The Association.

35 Where an Appeal Board decides not to order a bond to be lodged with The Association, notwithstanding the terms of paragraph 8 above, the respondent shall serve its response to the Notice of Appeal within 14 days from the date of the Appeal Board's decision.

36 Any bond lodged with The Association pursuant to paragraph 33 above will be held by The Association until the final determination of the appeal by an Appeal Board. Following such final determination, the bond shall in all cases be returned to the appellant in full.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

37 Notwithstanding the terms of paragraph 23 above, in any case where a bond has been lodged with The Association, and the appeal is not pursued by the appellant to a final determination by the Appeal Board, the Appeal Board shall have a discretion to order the forfeiture of any part or all of the bond, such amount to be paid in full to the respondent to cover any costs it has so far incurred in responding to the appeal.

D - ON-FIELD REGULATIONS

SCOPE

1 Save where otherwise stated, Section One of these On-Field Regulations applies to Players associated with:

1.1 **Category 1:** Clubs in the Premier League, EFL Leagues, the National League, WSL and WSL2 playing First Team Competitive Matches;

1.2 **Category 2:** Clubs in the Premier League, EFL Leagues, the National League playing Non-First Team Competitive Matches in male open aged teams, Under 19s, Under 18s and Academy teams; and

1.3 **Category 3:** a team competing in the National League (North and South Divisions), the Isthmian League, the Northern Premier League, Southern League and the FA Women's National League playing Matches in any League, League cup competition, the FA Challenge Cup, the FA Trophy and the FA Women's Challenge Cup.

2 Section Two of these On-Field Regulations applies to Players associated with:

2.1 **Category 4:** Clubs in the Premier League, EFL Leagues, the National League, WSL and WSL2 playing Friendly Matches.

3 Section Three of these On-Field Regulations applies to Players (and, where stated, other Participants) associated with:

3.1 **Category 5:**

a) a team competing in all divisions of Leagues at Steps 5 to 6 of the National League System playing Matches in any Competition;

b) a team competing outside the National League System playing in Saturday Football, Sunday Football, Midweek Football, Representative Football, Veterans Football, and Education Football (as recognised by The Association from time to time); and

c) any affiliated team of a Club to which Categories 1 to 4 above do not apply playing Matches in any Competition.

4 Section Four of these On-Field Regulations applies to Technical Area Occupants associated with:

4.1 Clubs in Category 1 playing First Team Competitive Matches; and

4.2 Clubs or teams in Category 3 and Category 5 (as set out above).

SECTION ONE: PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO CATEGORIES 1, 2 AND 3

CHARGES

5 The Association may issue a Charge against a Player in relation to an incident whether or not the same incident has been dealt with by the Referee and/or pursuant to this Section One. In deciding whether or not to issue a Charge, The Association will have particular (but not exclusive) regard to the following:

5.1 any applicable Law(s) of the Game or Rules and Regulations or FIFA instructions and/or guidelines;

5.2 the nature of the incident, and in particular any intent, recklessness, negligence or other state of mind of the Player;

5.3 where applicable, the level of force used;

5.4 any injury to any Participant caused by the incident;

5.5 any other impact on the Match in which the incident occurred;

5.6 the prevalence of the type of incident in question in football generally;

5.7 the wider interests of football in applying consistent sanctions.

6 A Regulatory Commission considering a Charge pursuant to paragraph 5 above shall have regard to any standard punishment imposed pursuant to paragraphs 23 to 32 below for the same incident when considering any penalty in accordance with paragraph 41 of Part A: General Provisions Section Two.

7 The Association may issue a Charge against a Club at any time during the playing season in relation to cautionable or sending-off offences committed by Players of the Club.

MATCH OFFICIALS' REPORTING OF OFFENCES TO THE ASSOCIATION

8 Where a Referee fails to show a Player the appropriate card when communicating a caution or a sending-off, the relevant disciplinary action shall not be invalidated. However, the attention of the Referee should be drawn to the correct procedure.

9 Referees must submit a report to The Association following a Match stating the cautionable and/or sending-off offences. In the case of sending-off offences, the Assistant Referees must also submit a report.

10 The deadline for the submission of report(s) to The Association under paragraph 9 is:

10.1 for Matches falling within Category 1, 12 noon the day following the Match; or

10.2 for Matches falling within Categories 2 and 3, within two days of the Match (excluding Sundays).

NOTIFICATION OF CAUTIONABLE AND SENDING-OFF OFFENCES

11 A Player who has been cautioned or sent off in a Match will be notified by The Association, through their Club, of:

11.1 the cautionable and/or sending-off offence reported by the Referee to The Association;

11.2 in the case of a cautionable offence, the total number of cautions accumulated by the Player under this Section One during the current playing season; and

11.3 any automatic suspension, fine or other consequences resulting from an accumulation of cautions or the sending-off offence pursuant to paragraphs 23 to 32 below. Any automatic suspension will take effect regardless as to whether the notification is received by the Club from The Association before it is due to take effect in accordance with this Section One.

12 An administration fee of £10.00 will be charged to the Player through their Club for the cost of processing each notification made in accordance with paragraph 11. It is the responsibility of the Club to collect the administration fee from the Player and forward it to The Association upon request.

MISTAKEN IDENTITY (CAUTIONABLE AND SENDING-OFF OFFENCES)

13 Where a Player has been cautioned or sent off in a Match but claims they have been the victim of mistaken identity, that Player or their Club may make a claim of mistaken identity in relation to that cautionable or sending-off offence in accordance with the procedure set out in Fast Track 3 of the Fast Track Regulations.

14 Where, despite there being clear evidence that there is a case of mistaken identity, a Player or their Club does not submit a claim within the specified time limits, The Association may within seven days of the incident request a Regulatory Commission to review the matter. A Club failing to submit a claim for mistaken identity may be charged with Misconduct by The Association if there is reason to believe that the Club sought to gain an advantage by remaining silent on the matter.

WRONGFUL DISMISSAL (SENDING-OFF OFFENCES)

15 Where a Player has been sent off in a Match but claims that the dismissal was wrongful, that Player and their Club may seek to limit the disciplinary consequences of that dismissal by making a claim of wrongful dismissal in accordance with the procedure set out in Fast Track 4 of the Fast Track Regulations. In order to demonstrate that the decision was wrongful, the Player / their Club must establish that the Referee made an obvious error in sending off the Player.

16 A Player and their Club may make a claim of wrongful dismissal for any sending-off offence under the provisions of Law 12 of the Laws of the Game, save for where the Player is sent off for a receiving a second caution in the same Match.

17 Notwithstanding the outcome of the claim of wrongful dismissal, the relevant sending-off offence will remain on the record of the Club and the Player.

18 Where a Player or their Club:

18.1 submits a notification of their intention to claim wrongful dismissal in accordance with the provisions of Fast Track 4 of the Fast Track Regulations but fails to complete the claim; or

18.2 withdraws a complete claim prior to it being considered by a Regulatory Commission,

and, in either case, The Association believes that the notification or claim of wrongful dismissal had no prospect of success or amounted to an abuse of process, the Participant may be charged with Misconduct by The Association.

19 A Player or Club may be charged with Misconduct by The Association if there is evidence that video footage showing the incident from all available angles was in their possession but was not submitted to The Association when a claim of wrongful dismissal was made.

CLEARLY EXCESSIVE OR CLEARLY INSUFFICIENT CLAIMS (SENDING-OFF OFFENCES)

20 **20.1** A Player and their Club may seek to limit the disciplinary consequences of a sending-off offence by making a claim that the standard punishment would be clearly excessive in accordance with the procedure set out in Fast Track 5 of the Fast Track Regulations. In bringing such a claim, the Player / their Club must establish that it is clear and obvious that the standard punishment otherwise applicable to that sending-off offence would be clearly excessive. Such claims may only be made by a Player and their Club for the following sending-off offences: (a) using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures; (b) serious foul play; (c) violent conduct; or (d) spitting at an opponent or any other person.

20.2 The Association may seek to increase the disciplinary consequences of a sending-off offence by making a claim that the standard punishment is clearly insufficient in accordance with the procedure set out in Fast Track 6 of the Fast Track Regulations. The Association may bring such a claim where it is satisfied that the standard punishment otherwise applicable to that sending-off offence would be clearly insufficient. Such claims may only be made by The Association for the following sending-off offences: (a) serious foul play; (b) violent conduct; or (c) spitting at an opponent or any other person.

21 The ability to claim under paragraphs 20.1 and 20.2 above is provided only so exceptional cases may be rectified. It is not intended to lead to the systematic, regular review of standard punishments. Regulatory Commissions will be instructed to approach such cases with these principles in mind and it is envisaged that, for the vast majority of sending-off offences, the standard punishments applicable pursuant to paragraph 27 below will be appropriate and will be applied.

22 Notwithstanding the outcome of a claim made pursuant to paragraph 20.1 or paragraph 20.2 above:

22.1 the Player will be suspended for at least one Match, save where a successful claim for wrongful dismissal is made pursuant to paragraph 15 above; and

22.2 the sending-off offence:

22.2.1 will remain on the record of the Club and the Player;

22.2.2 will remain the subject of the administration fee set out in paragraph 12 above; and

22.2.3 will still accrue the applicable number of penalty points as set out in paragraph 62 below.

23 Where a Participant:

23.1 submits a notification of their intention to make a claim that the standard punishment is clearly excessive in accordance with the provisions of Fast Track 5 of the Fast Track Regulations but fails to complete the claim; or

23.2 withdraws a complete claim prior to it being considered by a Regulatory Commission,

and, in either case, The Association believes that the notification or claim had no prospect of success or amounted to an abuse of process, the Participant may be charged with Misconduct by The Association.

STANDARD PUNISHMENTS

Accumulation of Cautions

24 The accumulation of a set number of cautions by a Player in certain Competitions during a playing season will, subject to any applicable cut-off points, result in that Player receiving an automatic suspension and/or fine.

25 The relevant number of cautions, automatic suspensions and/or fines, the applicable cut-off points and the Competition(s) in which the automatic suspensions are to be served are as set out in:

25.1 **Category 1:** Table 1;

25.2 **Category 2:** Table 3; and

25.3 **Category 3:** Table 5.

26 Unless otherwise stated, such automatic suspensions shall only be served in the Competition in which the cautions were accumulated.

27 Where a Player accumulates 20 cautions in certain Competitions (as set out in Tables 1, 3 and 5) during a playing season, that Player shall be required to attend a Regulatory Commission within seven days of the date of the last caution. The Regulatory Commission shall have the power to deal with the Player in such manner as it deems fit. The same procedure will apply for every further five cautions received by that Player.

28 Subject to paragraph 26 above, where a Player accumulates any cautions after the final applicable cut-off point in a particular Competition during a playing season (as set out in Tables 1, 3 and 5), the accumulation of those cautions shall not count towards or result in that Player receiving an automatic suspension and/or fine.

29 Where a Player moves between Clubs participating in different Leagues falling within Category 1 (as set out in Table 1) during a playing season, any cautions accumulated by the Player in the League in which their former Club participates shall be deemed as cautions accumulated by the Player in the League in which their new Club participates for the purposes of paragraphs 24 to 28 above.

Sending-Off Offences

30 The commission of a sending-off offence by a Player will result in that Player receiving an automatic suspension and/or fine.

31 The relevant automatic suspensions and/or fines arising from a sending-off offence by a Player and the Competition(s) in which the automatic suspensions are to be served are as set out in:

31.1 **Category 1:** Table 2;

31.2 **Category 2:** Table 4; and

31.3 **Category 3:** Table 6.

Additional Sending-Off Offences

32 **Category 1:** subject to paragraph 34 below, a Player who, in the same playing season, has previously been sent off in a Match falling within Category 1 (or suspended by a Regulatory Commission under Fast Track 1 of the Fast Track Regulations in relation to a Match falling within Category 1) will be automatically suspended for one extra Match for each such previous sending-off offence or suspension, in addition to the automatic suspension applicable to the latest sending-off offence.

For the purposes of this paragraph 32, a sending-off offence committed by a Player in a Match falling within Category 2 will only be taken into account where it was for a) violent conduct, b) serious foul play or c) spitting at any opponent or any other person.

33 **Category 2:** subject to paragraph 34 below, a Player who, in the same playing season, has previously been sent off in a Match falling within Categories 1 or 2 will be automatically suspended for one extra Match falling within Category 2 for each such previous sending-off offence, in addition to the automatic suspension applicable to the latest sending-off offence.

For the purposes of this paragraph 33, a sending-off offence committed by a Player in a Match falling within Category 1 (or a suspension under Fast Track 1 of the Fast Track Regulations) will only be taken into account where it was for a) violent conduct, b) serious foul play or c) spitting at any opponent or any other person.

34 **EFL Trophy only:** a Player who, in the same playing season, has previously been sent off in an EFL Trophy Match (or suspended by a Regulatory Commission under Fast Track 1 of the Fast Track Regulations in relation to an EFL Trophy Match) will be automatically suspended for one extra EFL Trophy Match for each such previous sending-off offence or suspension, in addition to the automatic suspension applicable to the latest sending-off offence.

National League Cup only: a Player who, in the same playing season, has previously been sent off in a National League Cup Match (or suspended by a Regulatory Commission under Fast Track 1 of the Fast Track Regulations in relation to a National League Cup Match) will be automatically suspended for one extra National League Cup Match for each such previous sending-off offence or suspension, in addition to the automatic suspension applicable to the latest sending-off offence.

35 **Category 3:** a Player who, in the same playing season, has previously been sent off in a Match falling within Category 3 will be automatically suspended for one extra Match falling within Category 3 for each such previous sending-off offence, in addition to the automatic suspension applicable to the latest sending-off offence.

Commencement of Suspension

36 **Categories 1 and 2:** subject to paragraph 38 below, a period of suspension arising from an accumulation of cautions or a sending-off offence by a Player associated with a Club in Categories 1 and 2 will commence immediately, save for where a Player / their Club have brought a claim under paragraph 13 in relation to Mistaken Identity or paragraph 15 in relation to Wrongful Dismissal and that claim has not been determined by a Regulatory Commission before the next applicable fixture.

37 **Category 3:** subject to paragraph 38 below, a period of suspension arising from an accumulation of cautions or a sending-off offence by a Player of a team in Category 3 will commence either: (a) on the seventh day following either the date of the last offence (in relation to an accumulation of cautions) or the date of the relevant offence (in relation to sending-off offences), immediately before the play-off matches where the date of the last offence (in relation to an accumulation of cautions) or the date of the relevant offence (in relation to sending-off offences) is less than seven days prior to the first play-off match or (c) immediately following the date of the relevant offence (in relation to sending-off offences) where it is committed in a play-off match save for where a Player / their Club have brought a claim under paragraph 13 in relation to a cautionable or sending-off offence or paragraph 15 in relation to a sending-off offence.

Multiple Suspensions arising from a single Match

38 **Categories 1, 2 and 3:** where multiple periods of suspension arise from a single Match, those periods of suspension will be served in the following order of precedence: (a) any period of suspension arising from a sending-off offence followed by (b) any period of suspension arising from an accumulation of cautions.

Scope of Suspension

39 **Category 1:** a period of suspension applicable to a Player associated with a Club in Category 1 will, where the period of suspension arises from either an accumulation of cautions or a sending-off offence apply only to the relevant number and type of First Team Competitive Matches as set out in Tables 1 or 2.

40 **Category 2:** a period of suspension applicable to a Player associated with a Club in Category 2 will, where the period of suspension arises from either an accumulation of cautions or a sending-off offence, apply to the relevant number of Non-First Team Competitive Matches (as set out in Tables 3 and 4) played during the period between the opening date in the League in which their Club's first team participates to the final Match of any Competition in which their Club is participating during that playing season. Only Non-First Team Competitive Matches in Competitions at the age group level in which the Player has previously participated during that playing season can be used to serve a suspension.

Guidance:

For example, a Player that has only participated in Non-First Team Competitive Matches in Under 18 age group level Competitions during the playing season may not use Non-First Team Competitive Matches in Under 21 age group level Competitions to serve a suspension. For the purposes of this paragraph 40, being named in the matchday squad shall be deemed as 'participation'.

During this period, only one Non-First Team Competitive Match per day for which the Player is eligible shall count towards the service of that period of suspension.

Any dispute in relation to this paragraph 40 above shall only be dealt with by a Regulatory Commission on written submissions. Such written submissions must be received by The Association within three days of the suspension notice being received by the Player's Club.

41 **Category 3:** a period of suspension applicable to a Player associated with a team in Category 3 will:

41.1 only constitute a suspension from playing Saturday Football for teams competing at Steps 2-4 of the National League System or Tiers 3-4 of the Women's Football Pyramid, save for a period of suspension arising from a Charge issued pursuant to paragraph 5 above.

41.2 where the period of suspension arises from a sending-off offence, encompass a suspension from Friendly Matches during the relevant period (Friendly Matches will not however count towards the service of such a suspension); and

41.3 where a suspension is as a result of a Charge, also constitute a suspension from playing any Match falling within Category 5.

42 In exceptional cases, a Player may make a claim to The Association that a suspension is disproportionately harsh, due to the period of time required to serve the suspension. In such circumstances, The Association may at its absolute discretion amend the suspension to a Football Category-specific suspension.

Multiple Automatic Suspensions

43 Subject to paragraph 38 above, a Player shall serve automatic suspensions arising from this Section One in a chronological order of precedence.

Example:

Player A receives (a) an automatic suspension of 3 Matches for accumulating 15 cautions in Premier League Matches prior to the applicable cut-off point (which only applies to the Club's next 3 Matches in the Premier League) and arising from his Club's next FTCM (a Match in the FA Challenge Cup), Player A receives (b) an automatic suspension of 3 Matches arising from a sending-off for violent conduct (which applies to the Club's next 3 FTCM - save for any Match in the EFL Trophy).

Player A's Club's next 6 FTCM are as follows: (i) Premier League, (ii) FA Challenge Cup, (iii) Premier League, (iv) FA Challenge Cup (v) EFL Cup and (vi) Premier League.

Player A's automatic suspension for accumulating 15 cautions in Premier League Matches was received first and would therefore apply to the 3 Premier League Matches listed above. Player A's automatic suspension for the sending-off offence would apply to the 2 FA Challenge Cup Matches and the EFL Cup Match (as Player A is already suspended from Premier League Matches as a consequence of the first automatic suspension).

Re-arranged Matches

44 A Regulatory Commission may determine that a Match shall not count towards the service of a suspension if it is satisfied that the Match has been arranged by the Club with a view to enabling a Player to complete their suspension so that the Player may be eligible to play in a particular Match.

Collection of Fines

45 The Player's Club is responsible for collecting from the Player any fine payable pursuant to paragraph 24 and/or 30 above and forwarding the amount to The Association upon request.

Imposition of Fines by a Club under a Player's Employment Contract

46 Clubs may impose a fine on Players for cautionable and sending-off offences under their employment contract (where applicable). If a Club chooses to impose such a fine it must, without delay, notify The Association of the details of the fine.

47 Clubs in Categories 1 and 2 are required to submit a nil return for any offence under the guidelines on Club discipline issued from time to time by the Professional Football Negotiating Consultative Committee for which a Player was not fined.

Outstanding Suspensions

48 Subject to paragraph 49 below, any period of suspension or part thereof arising from this Section One or as a result of a Charge which remains outstanding at the end of the playing season:

48.1 Categories 1 and 3: must be served at the commencement of the following playing season; and

48.2 Category 2: must be served at the commencement of the relevant period outlined in paragraph 36 above in the following playing season.

49 Any period of suspension or part thereof arising from an accumulation of cautions in relation to the FA Challenge Cup, EFL Cup, EFL Trophy, FA Trophy, National League Cup, Women's FA Challenge Cup or FA Women's League Cup which remains outstanding at the end of the playing season will be repealed and need not be served at the commencement of the following playing season.

Transfer of Outstanding Suspensions

50 Where a Player, who is subject to an outstanding suspension arising from a sending-off offence in: (a) an EFL Trophy Match or (b) a National League Cup Match either:

50.1 remains registered to the same Club, but that Club becomes ineligible for or does not enter the EFL Trophy or National League Cup (as applicable); or

50.2 moves to a different Club that is ineligible or does not enter the EFL Trophy or National League Cup (as applicable);

that period of suspension shall be transferred so that it may be served with reference to Matches other than those in the EFL Trophy or National League Cup (to which the suspension originally applied).

Players Moving Between Clubs

51 Where a Player moves between Clubs at a time when that Player is subject to a suspension, the following shall apply:

51.1 until the Player moves, the suspension shall be served by reference to Matches completed by the Club from which that Player moves (for which the Player is eligible to play);

51.2 where the Club that the Player moves to competes at the same level as the Club that the Player moves from, any remaining period of suspension at the time that the Player moves shall be served by reference to Matches completed by the Club to which that the Player moves (for which the Player is eligible to play);

51.3 where the Club that the Player moves to competes at a different level as the Club that the Player moves from, any remaining period of suspension at the time that the Player moves shall continue to be served by reference to Matches completed by the Club that the Player moves from unless dispensation has been granted in writing by The Association for the suspension to be served with reference to Matches completed by the Club to which that Player moves.

52 For the purposes of paragraph 51, Clubs compete at three different levels. Each level is comprised as follows:

52.1 Level 1: Premier League, EFL Leagues, the National League, WSL and WSL2;

52.2 Level 2: the National League (North and South Divisions), the Isthmian League, the Northern Premier League, the Southern League and the FA Women's National League;

52.3 Level 3: Steps 5 to 6 of the National League System, Tiers 5 to 7 of the Women's Football Pyramid or any other League outside the National League System or Women's Football Pyramid which operates a match-based disciplinary system.

53 Paragraph 51 applies to all moves by Players between Clubs which are completed and evidenced to the satisfaction of The Association, however they occur. This includes, but is not limited to, all transfers, loans and the expiration of loans, and Players whose registration is cancelled by the Club that the Player moves from, where that Player is subsequently registered by the Club to which that Player moves.

Suspensions Notified on an International Transfer Certificate

54 Where The Association is notified of a relevant outstanding suspension on a Player's International Transfer Certificate:

54.1 subject to paragraph 54.2, that suspension shall be applied to the Player with reference to the applicable number of First Team Competitive Matches, Non-First Team Competitive Matches, or other Matches; and

54.2 where that suspension would have only applied to a cup competition in which the Player's former club participates, the suspension shall be applied to the Player with reference to the applicable number of First Team Competitive Matches in cup competitions only.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST CLUBS – MULTIPLE OFFENCES IN A SINGLE MATCH

55 The Association will take disciplinary action against a Club if six or more of the Club's Players or Technical Area Occupants are either cautioned or sent off in a Match falling within Category 1 or Category 3.

56 On the first occasion that this happens in a playing season, The Association may offer the Club a standard punishment as set out in the following table:

LEAGUE	FINE
Premier League	£25,000
EFL Championship	£5,000
EFL League One	£2,500
EFL League Two	£1,000
National League	£750
National League (North and South)	£500
Northern Premier League, Southern League, Isthmian League and the FA Women's National League	£250
WSL	£750
WSL2	£500

57 For each successive occasion that this happens in the same playing season, the standard punishment offered will be a fine that is double and then treble (and so on) the amount set out in the table at paragraph 56 above.

58 A Club may either; a) accept The Association's offer of a standard punishment or; b) make written representations in mitigation before a Regulatory Commission no later than 28 days following the date of the offence. In the event the written representations in mitigation are rejected, the Regulatory Commission may consider whether or not the standard punishment should be increased.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST CLUBS – ACCUMULATION OF PENALTY POINTS BY A CLUB'S PLAYERS

General

59 For the purposes of paragraphs 60 to 76 below, in relation to Category 3, references to a Club's Players shall mean a reference to Players of a Club's team competing in Matches falling with Category 3.

60 The purpose of the penalty points system is to assess the disciplinary record of a Club's Players across two periods during a playing season:

60.1 penalty points period 1: the beginning of a playing season to 31 December (inclusive); and

60.2 penalty points period 2: the beginning of a playing season to the end of a playing season (inclusive).

61 The number of penalty points accumulated by a Club is calculated in accordance with paragraphs 63 to 67 below.

62 In determining whether to issue a Charge against a Club, The Association will (in accordance with paragraphs 70 and 72 below) compare the number of penalty points accumulated by a Club during each penalty point period against the number of penalty points accumulated by other Clubs competing in the same League during the same penalty points period.

63 A Club required to appear before a Regulatory Commission for matters related to an accumulation of penalty points must be represented by at least one of its Directors and its Manager.

64 A Club's disciplinary record will be subject to interim review as at 31 December annually. Any such record may be requested from the Club by The Association pursuant to Rule F2. Clubs may be ordered to attend a Regulatory Commission to discuss a disciplinary record that is deemed to be poor at that stage of the playing season.

Calculating Penalty Points Totals

65 Each cautionable or sending-off offence committed by a Club's Players in each Match falling within Category 1 or Category 3 during a playing season will incur that Club a set number of penalty points in accordance with the table at paragraph 67 below.

66 Cautionable or sending-off offences committed by a Club's Players in Matches falling within Category 2 will not incur that Club any penalty points.

67 The number of penalty points incurred for a cautionable offence and each sending-off offence is as follows:

OFFENCE	PENALTY POINTS INCURRED
Any cautionable offence	4 penalty points
Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a handball offence	10 penalty points
Denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent whose overall movement is towards the offender's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick	10 penalty points
Serious foul play	12 penalty points
Spitting at an opponent or any other person	12 penalty points
Violent conduct	12 penalty points
Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures	12 penalty points
Receiving a second caution in the same Match	10 penalty points

68 In relation to teams in Category 3 only, Players of those teams charged with Misconduct for a breach of Rule E3 which is subsequently found proven will incur 12 penalty points.

69 Where any sending-off offence is subject to a successful claim for wrongful dismissal under paragraph 15 above, any penalty points that the sending-off offence would otherwise have incurred shall be disregarded for the purposes of calculating a Club's cumulative total of Penalty Points in accordance with paragraphs 64 and 67 above.

Accumulation of Penalty Points and Sanctions

Penalty Points Period 1

70 A Club whose Players accumulate a total number of penalty points (as calculated in accordance with paragraphs 64 to 69 above) in Matches between the start of the playing season and 31 December (including any Match played on that day) which is 40% or more above the median number of penalty points per Match average in the same League, will be required to appear before a Regulatory Commission to explain the conduct of its Players.

71 The Regulatory Commission may order that a visit be made to the Club by representatives of The Association and/or PGMOL or other appropriate body, in order to discuss and/or offer advice on the Club's disciplinary record.

Penalty Points Period 2

72 A Club whose Players accumulate a total number of penalty points (as calculated in accordance with paragraphs 64 to 69 above) in Matches during the whole playing season which is 40% or more above the median number of penalty points per Match average in the same League, will be required to appear before a Regulatory Commission to explain the conduct of its Players.

73 If the Regulatory Commission considers that the Club is not able to provide a reasonable explanation for such occurrence, the Club may be warned and/or ordered to pay a fine up to the relevant amount set out in the following table:

LEAGUE	FINE (MAXIMUM)
Premier League	£100,000
EFL Championship	£50,000
EFL League One	£25,000
EFL League Two	£12,500
National League	£6,000
National League (North and South)	£1,000
Northern Premier League, Southern League, Isthmian League and the FA Women's National League	£500
WSL	£6,000
WSL2	£1,000

74 Where any Club's Players accumulate a total number of penalty points which is between 40% and 50% (inclusive) above the median number of penalty points per Match average in the same League, any fine will normally be suspended in whole or in part for a period of one playing season, unless the Regulatory Commission determines that this is not appropriate, in which case it will be imposed immediately.

75 Where any Club's Players accumulate a total number of penalty points which is more than 50% above the median number of penalty points per Match average in the same League, any fine will normally be imposed immediately, unless the Regulatory Commission determines that this is not appropriate, in which case it will be suspended in whole or in part for a period of one playing season.

76 In addition, the Regulatory Commission may order the Club to pay the cost of the hearing to The Association. Any action taken by the Club to discipline its Players under paragraph 46 above may be taken into consideration by the Regulatory Commission.

SECTION TWO: PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO CATEGORY 4

CHARGES

1 The Association may issue a Charge against a Player in relation to an incident whether or not the same incident has been dealt with by the Referee and/or pursuant to this Section Two.

2 A Regulatory Commission considering a Charge pursuant to paragraph 1 above shall have regard to any standard punishment imposed pursuant to paragraphs 6 to 9 below for the same incident when considering any penalty in accordance with paragraph 41 of Part A: General Provisions Section Two.

MATCH OFFICIALS' REPORTING OF OFFENCES TO THE ASSOCIATION

3 Where a Referee fails to show a Player the appropriate card when communicating a caution or a sending-off, the relevant disciplinary action shall not be invalidated. However, the attention of the Referee should be drawn to the correct procedure.

4 Referees must submit a report to The Association following a Match stating the cautionable and/or sending-off offences. In the case of sending-off offences, the Assistant Referees must also submit a report to The Association.

5 The deadline for the submission of report(s) to The Association under paragraph 4 above is within two days of the Match (excluding Sundays).

STANDARD PUNISHMENTS

Cautionable Offences

6 The Association shall not impose any standard punishments in respect of cautionable offences.

7 Where standard punishments are imposed on Players in respect of cautionable offences with their agreement (for example, as part of tournament rules), any such standard punishment can only apply to Matches played by Clubs falling within Category 4, as determined by The Association.

Sending-Off Offences

8 The commission of a sending-off offence by a Player will result in that Player receiving an automatic suspension of one Match.

9 Such automatic suspension can only apply to Matches played by Clubs falling within Category 4, as determined by The Association.

SECTION THREE: PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO CATEGORY 5

GENERAL

1 Each Affiliated Association must set out in its rules or regulations a copy of this Section Three, which is to be followed where a Participant of a Club in Category 5 commits an alleged act of Misconduct and where a Player commits a cautionable or sending-off offence in a Match.

2 Nothing in this Section Three shall preclude:

2.1 an Affiliated Association delegating to The Association or to another Affiliated Association its powers and duties to investigate and/or adjudicate in cases where it may be advantageous so to do; or

2.2 the exercise by The Association of its powers pursuant to Rule G1.

3 All written communications from a Player to the Affiliated Association Secretary must be sent by the secretary of the Player's Club unless the Player is no longer registered with that Club (in which case written communications must be sent by the Player or the secretary of the Club to which that Player has moved).

4 Where a Club receives a notification pursuant to this Section Three, it is the duty of the Club Secretary and the Participant, by the deadline stated on any notification, to ensure that a response has been provided via the electronic system operated by The Association from time to time with such information that includes:

4.1 the full name and email address of the Participant; and

4.2 the Participant's date of birth (and other personal identification data requested).

Where the Participant is not available to assist with the provision of a response, the Club should nevertheless provide the response indicating the reason why the Participant was not available to assist together with the administration fee and confirmation as to whether or not the Participant has been made aware of the contents. Where the Club provides a response via the electronic system operated by The Association from time to time, in doing so the Club Secretary acknowledges that the Participant has been made aware of the contents. Any suspension order resulting from failure to comply with this paragraph 4 shall be imposed upon the Club and the individual Participant, subject to paragraph 109 below.

5 Clubs may participate in a pilot programme as set out by the Board and will be required to abide by the regulations and terms of that programme.

6 Payment of any fine or costs in respect of disciplinary matters must be paid within 14 days of the invoice date. Failure to pay within this timeframe will result in an additional late-payment fee of £10, to be paid within 7 days. Failure to pay both the invoice and the late-payment fee within that 7-day period will result in the Participant and the team associated with the outstanding payment being suspended until payment is made in full. Where a fine is imposed upon a Player who is under the age of 18 and participating in Youth Football for either (a) a cautionable offence or a sending-off offence committed or (b) as a result of a Charge, the relevant Club at the time the offence or act of Misconduct was committed must pay the fine.

7 Unless approval has been granted by The Association for such suspensions to be extended across all levels of football, any period of suspension under this Section Three shall apply only to football at Step 5 and below of the National League System. For example, a Player serving a period of suspension arising from this Section Three would not be precluded from participating in a Match in the FA Challenge Cup for a Club or team participating in any League above Step 5 of the National League System.

GRASSROOTS FAST TRACK CASES AND SANCTION OFFERS

8 An Affiliated Association may in its absolute discretion designate a case as a Grassroots Fast Track Case.

9 In exercising that discretion, an Affiliated Association shall not designate any case as a Grassroots Fast Track Case:

9.1 where the particular facts of the alleged Misconduct are of a serious and/or unusual nature, as determined by the Affiliated Association (including allegations of threats, physical contact or assaults against Match Officials, allegations of assault by Participants or any alleged Aggravated Breach);

9.2 where the allegation of Misconduct is made against a Participant who cannot be the subject of a Grassroots Fast Track Case owing to their poor previous disciplinary record, as determined by the Affiliated Association in accordance with guidance issued by The Association from time to time; and/or

9.3 unless a report is received from a Match Official (whether appointed or a Club volunteer) in respect of the alleged Misconduct.

10 In respect of all Grassroots Fast Track Cases:

10.1 Before a Charge is issued an Affiliated Association shall issue a Grassroots Fast Track Sanction Offer (**"FT Sanction Offer 1"**). FT Sanction Offer 1 shall be issued by no later than 6pm on the second Business Day after the relevant incident is reported to the Affiliated Association by the Match Official.

10.2 The Participant shall accept or decline FT Sanction Offer 1 by 6pm on the fifth Business Day after it is issued.

10.3 Where FT Sanction Offer 1 is accepted by the Participant, the sanction shall thereafter come into effect on the sixth Business Day after it is issued.

10.4 Where FT Sanction Offer 1 is declined or no response is received by the Affiliated Association and the Participant is later issued a Charge, a second Grassroots Fast Track Sanction Offer shall be made with the Charge (**"FT Sanction Offer 2"**). Where the Charge is admitted and FT Sanction Offer 2 is accepted, the sanction shall thereafter come into effect on the first Monday after FT Sanction Offer 2 is accepted.

Guidance:

FT Sanction Offer 1 will ordinarily be lower than FT Sanction Offer 2. However, there may be cases where new information comes to light during the course of an investigation which necessitates an adjustment being made for the purposes of FT Sanction Offer 2. In all cases, FT Sanction Offer 2 shall be aligned with the Charge with which it is issued.

10.5 All Grassroots Fast Track Sanction Offers shall take account of the previous disciplinary record of the Participant.

10.6 Where the Charge is denied and is subsequently found proven by a Disciplinary Commission, a sanction shall be imposed in accordance with sanctioning guidelines issued by The Association from time to time.

Guidance:

FT Sanction Offer 2 will ordinarily be lower than any sanction imposed by a Disciplinary Commission pursuant to paragraph 10.6.

11 Where a case is not designated as a Grassroots Fast Track Case, no Grassroots Fast Track Sanction Offers shall be made.

CHARGES

12 An administration fee of £15.00 will be charged to the Participant through their Club for the cost of processing a Charge (or Charges, where more than one is issued to a Participant in relation to the same incident or connected incidents).

13 References to cautionable offences in this Section Three shall include those punished by a temporary dismissal.

14 An Affiliated Association may issue a Charge against a Participant in relation to an incident whether or not the same incident has been dealt with by the Referee and/or pursuant to this Section Three. In deciding whether or not to issue a Charge, an Affiliated Association will have particular (but not exclusive) regard to the following:

14.1 any applicable Law(s) of the Game or rules and regulations or FIFA instructions and/or guidelines;

14.2 the nature of the incident, and in particular any intent, recklessness, negligence or other state of mind of the Participant;

14.3 where applicable, the level of force used;

14.4 any injury to any Participant caused by the incident;

14.5 any other impact on the Match in which the incident occurred;

14.6 the prevalence of the type of incident in question in football generally;

14.7 the wider interests of football in applying consistent sanctions.

15 A Disciplinary Commission considering a Charge pursuant to paragraph 14 above shall have regard to any automatic suspension or sanction imposed pursuant to paragraphs 56 and 61 for the same incident when considering any sanction.

MATCH OFFICIALS' REPORTING OF OFFENCES TO AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS

16 Where a Referee fails to show a Player the appropriate card when communicating a caution or a sending-off, the relevant disciplinary action shall not be invalidated. However, the attention of the Referee should be drawn to the correct procedure.

17 Referees must submit a report to the relevant Affiliated Association within two days of the Match (excluding Sundays) stating the cautionable, sending-off offences and/or extraordinary incidents. In the case of sending-off offences and extraordinary incidents, the Assistant Referees may also submit a report.

18 Reports related to Players participating in Matches in County Representative and FA County Youth Cup football must be sent to the Affiliated Association of the Club of the offending Player. A copy of each such report must also be provided to The Association.

19 An Affiliated Association may reserve the right not to process a caution if the report is deemed to be invalid for any reason.

NOTIFICATION OF CAUTIONABLE AND SENDING-OFF OFFENCES

20 A Player who has been cautioned or sent off in a Match will be notified by the relevant Affiliated Association, through their Club, of:

20.1 the cautionable and/or sending-off offence reported by the Referee to the Affiliated Association;

20.2 in the case of a cautionable offence, the total number of cautions accumulated by the Player under this Section Three during the current playing season; and

20.3 any automatic suspension, fine or other consequences resulting from an accumulation of cautions, sending-off offence and/or multiple temporary dismissals pursuant to paragraphs 56 and 61 below. Any automatic suspension will take effect regardless as to whether the notification is received by the Club from The Association before it is due to take effect in accordance with this Section Three.

21 A fee will be charged to the Player through their Club for the cost of processing each notification made in accordance with paragraph 20 above. The applicable fee is £12.00 for each notification of a cautionable offence and £15.00 for each notification of a sending-off offence. It is the responsibility of the Club to collect the fee from the Player and forward it to the Affiliated Association upon request.

MISTAKEN IDENTITY (CAUTIONABLE OR SENDING-OFF OFFENCES)

22 Where a Player has been cautioned or sent off in a Match but claims they have been the victim of mistaken identity, that Player or their Club may make a claim of mistaken identity in relation to that cautionable or sending-off offence in accordance with the procedure set out at paragraphs 23 to 24 below.

Making a Claim of Mistaken Identity

23 To make a claim of mistaken identity, the Players concerned and their Club must submit to the Affiliated Association:

23.1 written particulars upon which the claim is founded (which must include identifying specifically the name of the Player responsible for the relevant offence);

23.2 any evidence in support of the claim; and

23.3 the relevant fee as set out in paragraph 42.

24 The relevant timings for a Player or their Club to make a claim of mistaken identity are as follows:

	TIMINGS	GENERAL GUIDE*
Claim / Evidence	5pm on the third Business Day following the incident	Wednesday
Disciplinary Commission	To be determined prior to the suspension being served.	Friday

*based on a Match taking place on Saturday or Sunday

Disciplinary Commission Procedure

25 If the Affiliated Association is satisfied that the claim of mistaken identity warrants further investigation, a Disciplinary Commission shall be convened and will meet before any automatic suspension is due to take effect.

26 The Disciplinary Commission shall determine the matter on video and/or written evidence only, and parties shall not be present or represented in person. For the avoidance of doubt, none of the Match Officials nor the Club or Player are entitled to be present or represented in person at the Disciplinary Commission established for such purpose.

27 If the appointed Disciplinary Commission is satisfied that the claim of mistaken identity has been proven, the record of the offence will be transferred to the appropriate offender, who will be subject to any applicable disciplinary consequences in accordance with this Section Three.

28 The decision of the Disciplinary Commission is final and binding and there shall be no right of appeal from decisions made by Disciplinary Commissions in respect of claims of mistaken identity made pursuant to paragraph 22 above.

WRONGFUL DISMISSAL (SENDING-OFF OFFENCES)

General

29 Where a Player has been sent off in a Match but claims that the dismissal was wrongful, that Player and their Club may seek to limit the disciplinary consequences of that dismissal by making a claim of wrongful dismissal in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraphs 31 to 33 below. In order to demonstrate that the decision was wrongful, the Player and/or their Club must establish that the Referee made an obvious error in dismissing the Player.

30 A Player and their Club may make a claim of wrongful dismissal for any sending-off offence under the provisions of Law 12 of the Laws of the Game, save for where the Player is sent off for a) receiving a second caution in the same Match or b) using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures.

Making a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal

31 Where a Player and their Club intend to make a claim of wrongful dismissal, they must notify the Affiliated Association that they intend to make such a claim. Notification can be provided to the Affiliated Association by email or via the electronic system operated by The Association from time to time. If confirmation is provided via email it should be sent to discipline@[insert name of county]fa.com – for example discipline@kentfa.com.

32 To make a claim of wrongful dismissal, the Player and their Club must submit to the Affiliated Association:

32.1 written particulars upon which the claim is founded;

32.2 any evidence in support of the claim (this must include video footage showing the incident if available); and

32.3 the relevant fee as set out in paragraph 42.

33 The relevant timings for a Player and their Club to make a claim of wrongful dismissal are as follows:

	TIMINGS	GENERAL GUIDE*
Notification of Intention to Submit a Claim	5pm on the second Business Day following the incident	Tuesday
Claim / Evidence	5pm on the fourth Business Day following the incident	Thursday
Disciplinary Commission	To be determined prior to the suspension being served.	Friday

*based on a Match taking place on Saturday or Sunday

34 Upon receipt of a claim of wrongful dismissal by the Affiliated Association, it will determine whether the claim is capable of acceptance by determining whether the claim complies with the requirements set out at paragraph 32 above and the timings set out at paragraph 33 above.

35 Claims of wrongful dismissal accepted by the Affiliated Association will be placed before a Disciplinary Commission for consideration as soon as possible but no later than the date upon which an automatic suspension is due to take effect.

Disciplinary Commission Procedure

36 The Disciplinary Commission shall determine the matter on video and/or written evidence only, and parties shall not be present or represented in person. For the avoidance of doubt, none of the Match Officials nor the Club or Player are entitled to be present or represented in person at the Disciplinary Commission established for such purpose.

37 After considering the evidence, the Disciplinary Commission will decide whether the claim of wrongful dismissal is rejected or is successful. A claim will only be successful where the Disciplinary Commission is satisfied that the Referee made an obvious error in dismissing the Player.

38 If the claim of wrongful dismissal is successful, the automatic suspension will be withdrawn the fee is returned to the Player and their Club. If the claim is unsuccessful, the fee is not returned to the Player and their Club.

39 Where the standard punishment is withdrawn, the sending-off offence shall not be counted for the purposes of paragraph 63 below.

40 Notwithstanding the outcome of a claim of wrongful dismissal, the relevant sending-off offence will remain on the record of the Club and the Player.

41 The decision of the Disciplinary Commission is final and binding and there shall be no right of appeal from decisions made by Disciplinary Commissions in respect of claims of wrongful dismissal made pursuant to paragraph 29 above.

FEE FOR CLAIMS OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY OR WRONGFUL DISMISSAL

42 The following fees apply in respect of claims of mistaken identity or wrongful dismissal proceeding under this Section Three:

LEVEL OF CLUB	FEE
Steps 5-6 of the National League System	£50
Outside of the National League System	£30

CLEARLY INSUFFICIENT CLAIMS (SENDING-OFF OFFENCES)

General

43 In truly exceptional circumstances, an Affiliated Association may seek to increase the disciplinary consequences of a sending-off offence by making a claim that the standard punishment is clearly insufficient. An Affiliated Association may bring such a claim where it is satisfied that the standard punishment otherwise applicable to the sending-off offence would be clearly insufficient. Such claims may only be made by an Affiliated Association for the following sending-off offences: (a) serious foul play; (b) violent conduct; or (c) spitting at an opponent or any other person.

44 The ability for an Affiliated Association to bring a claim under paragraph 43 above is provided only so exceptional cases may be rectified. It is not intended to lead to the systematic, regular review of standard punishments. Disciplinary Commissions will be instructed to approach such cases with these principles in mind and it is envisaged that, for the vast majority of sending-off offences, the standard punishments applicable pursuant to paragraph 62 below will be appropriate and will be applied.

45 Where an Affiliated Association brings such a claim:

45.1 a Referee's report showing that a Player was sent off for a) serious foul play; (b) violent conduct; or (c) spitting at an opponent or any other person shall be conclusive evidence that the Player committed the relevant sending-off offence under Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and shall not be subject to challenge, save for where a sending-off is subject to a claim for wrongful dismissal pursuant to paragraph 29 above; and

45.2 the Player will be provided notice of the claim together with any evidence in support of the claim and will be invited to submit a written reply to the claim together with any evidence and submissions in support of that reply.

46 A Disciplinary Commission that considers a claim of wrongful dismissal is concerned with only the question of whether any sanction of a suspension from play is one which should be imposed in view of the facts of the case. This role is not to usurp the role of the Referee.

47 Notwithstanding the outcome of a claim made by an Affiliated Association pursuant to paragraph 43 above:

47.1 the Player will be suspended for at least one Match, save where a successful claim for wrongful dismissal is made pursuant to paragraph 29 above; and

47.2 the sending-off offence:

47.2.1 will remain on the record of the Club and the Player;

47.2.2 will remain the subject of the administration fee set out in paragraph 21 above; and

47.2.3 will still accrue the applicable number of penalty points as set out in paragraph 89 below.

Disciplinary Commission

48 A claim made by an Affiliated Association pursuant to paragraph 43 above will be determined by a Disciplinary Commission on the basis of video and/or written evidence only, and parties shall not be present or represented in person. For the avoidance of doubt, none of the Match Officials nor the Club or Player are entitled to be present or represented in person at the Disciplinary Commission established for such purpose.

49 Claims pursuant to paragraph 43 above will be placed before a Disciplinary Commission for consideration prior to the commencement of the automatic suspension (if possible) but in any event no later than the date upon which an automatic suspension is completed.

50 A Disciplinary Commission will be convened to decide the matter on any relevant video and written evidence submitted.

51 The following procedures will be used at a Disciplinary Commission unless the Disciplinary Commission thinks it appropriate to amend them:

51.1 the Disciplinary Commission Secretary will produce:

51.1.1 the Referee's report, reports from any other Match Official and any other evidence supporting the Referee's action;

51.1.2 any video and written evidence provided in support of the claim.

51.1.3 the written reply and all evidence and submissions provided by the Player in response to the claim.

51.2 after considering the evidence, the Disciplinary Commission will decide whether the claim should be successful or rejected.

51.3 The claim will only be successful where the Affiliated Association satisfies the Disciplinary Commission so that it is sure that:

51.3.1 the circumstances of the sending-off offence under review are truly exceptional, such that the standard punishment should not be applied; and

51.3.2 the standard punishment would be clearly insufficient.

51.4 in considering the matters at paragraph 51.3, the Disciplinary Commission shall have regard to those factors set out at paragraphs 14.1 to 14.7 above.

51.5 in the event the claim is rejected, the Player shall serve the standard punishment.

51.6 in the event the claim is successful, the Disciplinary Commission will then decide on the additional punishment to be applied to the Player in respect of the sending-off offence. In deciding on such punishment, the Disciplinary Commission shall have regard to the matters at paragraphs 14.1 to 14.7 above.

52 The decision will be subject to appeal only:

52.1 in the event that the additional suspension imposed (over and above the automatic suspension) is in excess of three Matches; and

52.2 on the single ground that the additional suspension is excessive; and

52.3 in respect of that part of the additional suspension in excess of the additional three Matches, not accounting for any additional Matches included in the penalty as a result of a Player having served a suspension earlier in the same playing season.

For example, where a Player is suspended for 8 Matches following a sending-off for violent conduct, they may appeal only in respect of the two Matches in excess of the three automatic and three additional Match suspension.

53 Appeals shall proceed in accordance with Part C: Appeals - Non-Fast Track.

STANDARD PUNISHMENTS

Friendly Matches

Cautionable Offences

54 An Affiliated Association shall only impose standard punishments in respect of cautionable offences committed by Players during Friendly Matches where Participants have agreed, for example as part of tournament rules, that such punishments apply. Any such punishment may only apply to Friendly Matches.

Sending-Off Offences

55 The commission of a sending-off offence by a Participant in a Friendly Match will result in that Participant receiving an automatic suspension from Friendly Matches until such time as their Club has completed its next Friendly Match, as decided by the relevant Affiliated Association.

Competitive Matches

Accumulation of Cautions

56 The accumulation of a set number of cautions by a Player in the same Football Category or Competition during a playing season will, subject to any applicable cut-off points, result in that Player receiving an automatic suspension and/or fine.

57 The relevant automatic suspensions and/or fines, the applicable cut-off points and the Football Categories or Competition in which the automatic suspensions are to be served are as set out in Table 7. Unless otherwise stated, such automatic suspensions shall only be served in the Football Category or Competition in which the cautions were accumulated.

58 Where a Player accumulates 20 cautions in the same Football Category (as set out in Table 7) during a playing season, that Player shall be required to attend a Disciplinary Commission within seven days of the date of the last caution. The Disciplinary Commission shall have the power to deal with the Player in such manner as it deems fit. The same procedure will apply for every further five cautions received by that Player during the same playing season.

59 For the avoidance of doubt, the accumulation of cautions by a Player in relation to Matches in the same Football Category shall include those that are punished by a temporary dismissal.

Sending-Off Offences

60 The commission of a sending-off offence by a Player will result in that Player receiving an automatic suspension and/or fine.

61 The relevant automatic suspensions and/or fines arising from a sending-off offence by a Player and the Football Category and Competition(s) in which the automatic suspensions are to be served are as set out in Table 8.

Additional Sending-Off Offences

62 A Player who, in the same playing season, has previously been sent off in a Match, will be automatically suspended for one extra Match for each such previous sending-off offence in addition to the automatic suspension applicable to the latest sending-off offence as set out in Table 8.

Commencement of Suspension

63 Any period of suspension arising from an accumulation of cautions or a sending-off offence will commence on the seventh day following either the date of the last offence (in relation to an accumulation of cautions) or the date of the relevant offence(s) (in relation to sending-off offences), irrespective of whether paperwork has been received from the relevant Affiliated Association.

Period of Suspension

64 During a period of suspension, a Participant will

64.1 be suspended only from playing in any Matches in the Football Category (or Competition) to which the suspension applies; and

64.2 be suspended from acting as a Match Official.

65 If the suspension is as a result of a Charge, during the whole period of suspension the Participant is suspended from all football and football related activity (unless determined otherwise by a Disciplinary Commission). The Football Categories affected by this paragraph are Saturday, Sunday, Midweek, Veterans, Education and Representative Football.

66 A period of suspension will be complete once: (a) the Participant's team has completed the appropriate number of Matches in the Football Category or Competition in which the suspension must be served as set out in Tables 7 and 8, or (b) where a time-based suspension is imposed, the stipulated time period has expired. In respect of suspensions arising from County Association and League Representative Football, any such suspension will be from Representative Football only and not any other Football Category unless a Disciplinary Commission has specified that the suspension is to be from all football.

67 In exceptional cases, the Participant may make a claim to the Affiliated Association that:

67.1 a suspension from all football is disproportionately harsh due to the period taken to serve the suspension. In such circumstances, The Association may at its absolute discretion amend the suspension so that it applies only to a single Football Category.

67.2 a match-based suspension from a particular Football Category is disproportionately harsh due to the period taken to serve the suspension. In such circumstances, The Association may at its absolute discretion amend the suspension so that it applies and may be served in relation to one or more additional Football Categories.

68 Where a Player has to serve more than one suspension at the same time the following criteria will apply:

68.1 any suspensions arising from this Section Three and due to commence on the same date will result in the total number of Matches involved running consecutively.

68.2 any suspensions that overlap (i.e. where a suspension starts before the previous suspension ends) will also run consecutively.

68.3 Matches cannot be used more than once to cover two or more suspensions.

Payment to Players Under Suspension

69 During a Player's applicable period of suspension, Clubs must not pay a Player more than the basic wage payable under the Player's contract (where applicable).

Outstanding Suspensions

70 Subject to paragraph 71 below, any period of suspension or part thereof arising from this Section Three or as a result of a Charge which remains outstanding at the end of playing season must be served at the commencement of the following playing season.

71 Any period of suspension or part thereof arising from an accumulation of cautions in relation to the FA Cup or FA Vase which remains outstanding at the end of the playing season will be repealed and need not be served at the commencement of the following playing season.

72 Affiliated Associations will impose split suspension periods where suspensions have to be carried over to the following playing season. The last day of the first suspension period shall be the Participant's team's last competitive Match of the playing season. The suspension will recommence upon that team's start of the following playing season.

Players Moving Between Clubs

73 Where a Player moves between Clubs at a time when that Player is subject to a suspension, the following shall apply:

73.1 until the Player moves, the suspension shall be served by reference to Matches completed by the Club from which the Player moves;

73.2 where the Club that the Player moves to is within the same level as the Club that the Player moves from, any remaining period of suspension at the time that the Player moves shall be served by reference to Matches completed by the Club to which the Player moves;

73.3 where the Club that the Player moves to is within a different level as the Club that the Player moves from, any remaining period of suspension at the time that the Player moves shall continue to be served by reference to Matches completed by the Club that the Player moves from unless dispensation has been granted in writing by The Association for the suspension to be served with reference to Matches completed by the Club to which the Player moves.

74 For the purposes of paragraph 73, Clubs compete at three different levels. Each level is comprised as follows:

74.1 Premier League, EFL Leagues and the National League;

74.2 The National League (North and South Divisions), the Isthmian League, the Northern Premier League and the Southern League;

74.3 Steps 5 to 7 of the National League System, or any other League outside the National League System which operates a match-based disciplinary system.

75 Paragraph 73 applies to all moves by Players between Clubs which are completed and evidenced to the satisfaction of The Association, however they occur. This includes, but is not limited to, all transfers, loans and the expiration of loans, and Players whose registration is cancelled by the Club that the Player moves from, where that Player is subsequently registered by the Club that the Player moves to.

76 Players who are otherwise eligible (i.e. but for any suspension) to play for two or more Clubs competing at the level referred to at paragraph 74.3 above will not be taken to have moved between those Clubs for the purposes of this paragraph by virtue only of the fact that they are so eligible to play for them.

Re-arranged Matches

77 A Disciplinary Commission may determine that a Match shall not count towards the completion of a suspension if it is satisfied that the Match has been arranged by the Club with a view to enabling a Player to complete their suspension and thus enable the Player to play in a specific Match.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST CLUBS – MULTIPLE OFFENCES IN A SINGLE MATCH

78 An Affiliated Association will take disciplinary action against a Club if six or more Players in one of a Club's teams are either cautioned or sent off in a single Match.

Clubs at Steps 5 to 6 of the National League System

79 On the first occasion that this happens in a playing season, the Affiliated Association will impose an automatic fine on the Club in accordance with the following table:

STEP OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM	FINE
Step 5	£150
Step 6	£150

80 For each successive occasion that this happens in the same playing season, the automatic fine imposed by the Affiliated Association will be a fine that is double and then treble (and so on) the amount set out in the table at paragraph 79 above.

Clubs Outside the National League System

81 On the first occasion that this happens in a playing season, the Affiliated Association will issue a Charge against the Club and warn the Club as to the future conduct.

82 On the second occasion that this happens in the same playing season, the Affiliated Association will impose an automatic fine on the Club of £25. For each successive occasion that this happens in the same playing season, the automatic fine imposed by the Affiliated Association will increase by £25.

Plea in Mitigation

83 In truly exceptional circumstances, a Club may submit a written plea in mitigation against the imposition of a fine under paragraphs 79, 80 or 82 above.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST CLUBS – ACCUMULATION OF PENALTY POINTS

General

84 The purpose of the penalty points system is to assess the disciplinary record of each of a Club's teams across a playing season.

85 The number of penalty points accumulated by one of a Club's teams is calculated in accordance with paragraphs 86 to 88 below.

86 References to a Charge in paragraph 88 below include a Charge issued to:

86.1 a Player or Technical Area Occupant associated with the relevant team at the date of the alleged Misconduct; and

86.2 a Club in respect of the conduct of the relevant team's Participants and/or supporters pursuant to FA Rules E20 or E21.

87 References to a Charge in paragraph 88 below exclude any Charge issued against a Club in respect of these paragraphs 85 to 91.

Calculating Penalty Points Totals

88 The number of penalty points incurred for each cautionable offence, each sending-off offence and each proven Charge during a playing season are as follows:

TYPE OF OFFENCE/PROVEN CHARGE	PENALTY POINTS INCURRED
Cautionable Offences	
Dissent	4 penalty points
Sending-Off Offences	
Spitting at an opponent or any other person (other than a Match Official)	10 penalty points
Violent conduct	7 penalty points
Using offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or gestures	7 penalty points
Receiving a second caution in the same Match (but only where both cautions are for dissent)	6 penalty points (to be incurred in addition to the penalty points incurred in respect of the first caution for dissent)
Charges	
Proven Charge	5-10 penalty points (at the discretion of the Disciplinary Commission) 7-10 penalty points (at the discretion of the Disciplinary Commission where the Charge is determined by The FA's National Serious Case Panel)

Accumulation of Penalty Points

89 Where a team accumulates 25 penalty points during a playing season, that team's Club shall be issued with a warning which may (amongst other things) include details as to how the Club may seek assistance from its Affiliated Association to improve its disciplinary record.

90 Where a team accumulates 50 penalty points during a playing season, a fine of £75 shall be imposed on that team's Club.

91 Where a team accumulates 100 penalty points during a playing season, a Charge shall be issued against that team's Club and, where proven, the following sanctions may be imposed:

91.1 a fine;

91.2 the imposition of an action plan;

91.3 the suspension or cancellation of that Club's affiliation and/or England Football accreditation status; and/or

91.4 an order that a subsequent Charge may be brought against the Club in the event that the same team accumulates a specified number of additional penalty points.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST CLUBS - CUMULATIVE OFFENCES

92 A Club may be liable for a Charge of Misconduct where:

92.1 There have been four occasions during a 12 month period where one or more Participants from the Club have committed a proven offence of violent conduct. A Club may also be Charged on the fifth and every subsequent occasion such a proven offence is committed by one or more of its Participants during a 12 month period.

92.2 There have been two occasions during a 12 month period where one or more Participants from a Club commits Misconduct for an offence against a Match Official of the sort described at paragraphs 96.2 and 96.3 below. A Club may also be Charged on the third and every subsequent occasion such a proven offence is committed by one or more of its Participants during a 12 month period.

Guidance:

Paragraph 92 is only intended to capture behaviour by a specific team within a Club, it is not an accumulation of offences across all teams within a Club. For youth teams, the intention is to track the same team as it passes through the age groups, so for the purposes of determining liability, the 12 month look back period will include any time spent in a lower age bracket.

ABANDONED MATCHES

93 If a Referee's report indicates that a Match has been abandoned due to alleged acts of Misconduct of either team, the Affiliated Association shall without delay conduct an investigation in to the matter.

94 Following the investigation, if an Affiliated Association decides to issue a Charge against the Club or the relevant Participants it must do so within 28 days of the abandoned Match unless prior dispensation has been granted by The Association to extend the applicable time limits

95 A Charge against a Club and/or Participant for Misconduct relating to an abandoned Match must be heard by a Disciplinary Commission within 42 days of the Affiliated Association being first notified of the Misconduct which led to the abandoned Match taking place. Where an extension of time to issue a Charge has been provided under paragraph 94, the 42-day time limit under this paragraph shall be extended by an equivalent amount of time.

OFFENCES AGAINST MATCH OFFICIALS

Categories of Offence

96 The three categories of offence against Match Officials are as follows:

96.1 Threatening behaviour: threatening a Match Official (whether through words or actions and regardless of whether the Match Official believes that they have been threatened). Examples include but are not limited to: the use of words that imply (directly or indirectly) that the Match Official may be subjected to any form of physical abuse either immediately or later, whether realistic or not; the raising of hands to intimidate the Match Official; pretending to throw or kick an object at the Match Official.

96.2 Physical contact or attempted physical contact: physical actions (or attempted actions) that are unlikely to cause injury to the Match Official but are nevertheless confrontational, examples include but are not limited to: pushing the Match Official or pulling the Match Official (or their clothing or equipment).

96.3 Assault or attempted assault: acting in a manner which causes or attempts to cause injury to the Match Official (whether or not it does in fact cause injury), examples include, but are not limited to, spitting (whether it connects or not), causing and/or attempting to cause injury by striking, or attempting to strike, kicking or attempting to kick, butting or attempting to butt, barging or attempting to barge, kicking or throwing any item directly at the Match Official.

Investigation and Process

97 If a Match Official's report indicates that an offence has been committed against a Match Official (as categorised in paragraph 96 above), the Affiliated Association will without delay investigate the Match Official's report.

98 Following the investigation, the Affiliated Association, if it is satisfied that a prima facie case can be made out against the alleged offender, may:

98.1 issue a Charge against the Participant; and

98.2 may issue an Interim Suspension Order in accordance with paragraph 113 below which shall only be lifted in accordance with paragraph 115 below.

99 The Affiliated Association will take all reasonable steps to notify the Participant (and their Club, where applicable) of the Interim Suspension Order issued in accordance with paragraph 98.2 above.

100 The Charge must be adjudicated by a Disciplinary Commission within 28 days of the Interim Suspension Order being issued unless the period is extended by the Association providing written dispensation prior to the expiry of 28 days.

101 Where a Charge issued in accordance with paragraph 98.1 above has been found proven against the Participant, a Disciplinary Commission shall impose sanctions in accordance with this paragraph 101:

Sanction range (Suspension)

A Disciplinary Commission shall impose an immediate suspension within a range based on the category of offence committed (as set out below). A Disciplinary Commission shall take all aggravating and mitigating factors into account, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph 102, when determining the level of sanction within the range.

Unless otherwise stated, the lowest end of the applicable range shall operate as a standard minimum suspension. A Disciplinary Commission may impose an immediate suspension in excess of the upper limit in circumstances where aggravating factors of significant number or weight are present.

Guidance:

Where any part of a suspension period under this Paragraph is due to fall during the Close Season, the Disciplinary Commission or Appeal Board should add an additional day to the suspension period to account for each day of the Close Season the suspension period falls under (up to a maximum of 30 days). This is to take into account the fact that Matches rarely take place during the Close Season. By way of an example, if a suspension period of 90 days was due to commence on 1 June, a Disciplinary Commission or Appeal Board would be expected to issue a 120 day suspension and note in its decision that an additional 30 days was added to take into account the Close Season. A Disciplinary Commission may also add such further period as it determines appropriate to take into account a period of time, in addition to the Close Season, where the Participant Charged is unlikely to take part in any fixtures, subject to imposing a maximum additional period of 60 days.

Threatening behaviour:

101.1 suspension from all football activity for a period determined in accordance with the table at paragraph 101.11 below.

101.2 a fine of up to £200, with a mandatory minimum fine of £100.

101.3 an order that the Participant completes an education programme before the time-based suspension is served.

Physical contact or attempted physical contact:

101.4 suspension from all football activity for a period determined in accordance with the table at paragraph 101.11 below.

101.5 a fine of up to £250, with a mandatory minimum fine of £150.

101.6 an order that the Participant completes an education programme before the time-based suspension is served or within 28 days of the Disciplinary Commission's decision, whichever is the later.

Assault or attempted assault (other than spitting):

101.7 suspension from all football activity for a period determined in accordance with the table at paragraph 101.11 below.

101.8 an order that the Participant completes an education programme before the time-based suspension is served.

Assault or attempted assault: spitting:

101.9 suspension from all football activity for a period determined in accordance with the table at paragraph 101.11 below.

101.10 an order that the Participant completes an education programme before the time-based suspension is served or within 28 days of the Disciplinary Commission's decision, whichever is the later.

Suspension Period

101.11 A Disciplinary Commission shall determine the applicable period of suspension in accordance with the following table:

CATEGORY OF OFFENCE	SANCTION RANGE	RECOMMENDED ENTRY POINT	ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS
Threatening behaviour	112 – 182 days	147 days	The recommended entry point is prior to consideration of any aggravating or mitigating factors pursuant to paragraph 102. For the offence of assault (other than spitting), the standard minimum suspension shall be 10 years where the assault causes serious injury to the Match Official. Where the subject of the Charge is a Participant aged between 12 and 15 years old (inclusive) at the time of the alleged offence, the applicable sanction range, recommended entry point and standard minimum suspension shall be reduced by 50% (rounded to the nearest whole number of days). For example, the applicable sanction range and recommended entry point for a 15 year old issued with a Charge for threatening behaviour against a Match Official would be 56 – 91 days with an entry point of 74 days (rounded up from 73.5 days).
Attempted Physical Contact	112 days – 1 year	238 days	
Physical contact	182 days – 2 years	1 year	
Attempted assault (other than spitting)	3 – 5 years	4 years	
Assault (other than spitting)	5 – 10 years	7 years	
Assault and attempted assault (spitting)	2 – 8 years	4 years	

102 Factors to be considered when determining sanction

A Disciplinary Commission will have due regard to the circumstances and seriousness of the incident when determining the appropriate sanction and whether (and to what extent) to depart from any sanction range applicable to the offence (subject to any applicable standard minimum suspensions).

The Disciplinary Commission shall consider any aggravating and mitigating factors, to include, but not limited to:

Aggravating factors

- The degree of force or threatening behaviour used.
- The profile of the Participant, including where they hold a position of responsibility within their Club or organisation (e.g. Club captain, Club chair, a member of the Club's senior management).
- The relative ages of the Participant and the Match Official at the time of the offence, particularly where the Match Official was a minor and the Participant was not.
- Failure to co-operate with the Affiliated Association.
- Previous disciplinary record of the Participant.
- Any attempt to conceal the breach.

- The extent of any premeditation.
- The overall impact on the reputation and integrity of the game

Mitigating factors

- Admission at the earliest opportunity.
- Demonstration of genuine remorse.
- Co-operation with the Affiliated Association.
- Age of the Participant.
- Previous disciplinary record of the Participant.

103 A Match Official who has reported a Participant for an offence against them may make a written request for notification of the decision and any sanctions imposed, which must be made available to the Match Official at the earliest opportunity.

ASSAULTS BY PARTICIPANTS

104 If a Match Official's report indicates that a Participant has perpetrated an assault on another Participant or any other person causing serious injury before, during or after a Match, the Affiliated Association shall without delay investigate the Match Official's report.

Guidance:

Use of the term "serious injury" in this paragraph and those that follow is not intended to import any specific definition or standard (e.g. from criminal law), and it should instead be given its plain meaning.

105 Following the investigation, the Affiliated Association, if it is satisfied that a prima facie case can be made out against the alleged offender, may:

105.1 issue a Charge; and

105.2 may issue an Interim Suspension Order in accordance with paragraph 114 below against the alleged offender from all football activity until a Disciplinary Commission has adjudicated on the matter.

106 A Disciplinary Commission shall meet to consider the Charge within 28 days of (the date of) the Charge letter.

107 The recommended (or mandatory, where stated) sanctions where a Charge issued in accordance with paragraph 105.1 above has been found proven against the Participant are as follows:

PARTICIPANT CHARGED	RECOMMENDED / MANDATORY MINIMUM SANCTIONS
Player	1. Mandatory minimum: suspension for all football activity for 140 days 2. £150 fine
Club Official	
Match Official	1. Mandatory suspension from all football and football activity for 5 years from the date of suspension. Where the assault causes serious injury the suspension period should be extended to 10 years. 2. A recommendation to the relevant Referees' Committee that the Match Official's registration is removed and no request for reinstatement is to be allowed until the suspension has been completed or removed.

FAILURE TO COMPLY

108 Where a Participant fails to comply with any applicable deadlines or other procedural requirements set out in this Section Three, the Participant's right to a personal hearing or right to make a plea in mitigation is forfeited and the Disciplinary Commission may deal with the reported Misconduct on such evidence as is available.

109 Where a Participant or their Club (where applicable) fails to respond to a request for information (to include, but not limited to, a request pursuant to paragraph 4 above):

109.1 a warning will be imposed and a further seven days given to respond;

109.2 failure to respond within the further seven days will result in the Participant and the Participant's team (where applicable) being suspended from all football activities from the following Monday; and

109.3 may result in a Charge against the Participant, their Club (where applicable) (or both).

110 The Club Secretary must make Participants aware of the applicable punishment where an automatic suspension and/or sanction applies. In any event, by making payment via the electronic system operated by The Association from time to time, the Club Secretary is confirming that they have made the Participant aware of the applicable punishment.

111 Where a Participant has been issued with a Charge the Participant and/or the Club Secretary (if applicable) will be required to reply via the electronic system operated by The Association from time to time.

112 When dealing with compliance issues the Affiliated Association must consider the following:

112.1 whether the Participant has responded to their Club;

112.2 whether the Club has failed to pass on the Participant's reply;

112.3 whether the Club has informed the Affiliated Association that the Participant has failed to respond; and

112.4 whether the Participant has left the Club.

SUSPENSION PENDING MISCONDUCT HEARING

113 An Affiliated Association shall have the power, in consultation with and upon the agreement of The Association, to issue an Interim Suspension Order in relation to a Participant affiliated to, or registered with, that Affiliated Association where the Participant has been:

113.1 issued with a Charge by the Affiliated Association in relation to an alleged act of serious Misconduct;

113.2 charged with a criminal offence; or

113.3 charged by a League in connection with disciplinary action pursuant to the relevant regulations of the League.

114 As soon as reasonably practicable, notification of an Interim Suspension Order shall be communicated to the Participant and/or their Club.

115 The Interim Suspension will be lifted when either the Charge is dealt with by a Disciplinary Commission, the criminal charges are withdrawn or found not to have been proven or the charge has been dealt with by the League.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS BEFORE DISCIPLINARY COMMISSIONS

General

116 These provisions should be read in conjunction with:

116.1 Part A: General Provisions;

116.2 Part G: Appendix II: Affiliated Associations – Hearings before Disciplinary Commissions.

117 Subject to paragraph 119, the Charge must be heard by a Disciplinary Commission no later than 90 days from receipt by the Affiliated Association of the first report of the alleged Misconduct. In the event of non-compliance with these time limits, the disciplinary proceedings shall be void, unless written dispensation is requested from The Association prior to expiry of the time limits to extend or dispense with either or both of these time limits. If deemed reasonable, any period of delay requested or caused by the Participant shall not count towards these time limits.

118 Where an Interim Suspension Order has been imposed or where the Misconduct relates to playing whilst suspended, the Affiliated Association must aim to conclude disciplinary proceedings within 28 days.

119 A Disciplinary Commission shall comprise of a single Chair or three members.

Guidance:

The default position is that Disciplinary Commissions shall comprise a single Chair, and The Association shall issue separate guidance on which cases may be suitable for determination by a Disciplinary Commission comprising three members. This position shall operate as pilot for Season 2025/26 and shall be reviewed at the end of that season.

120 The Disciplinary Commission shall have no previous personal knowledge of the events or any involvement with any of the Participants concerned.

Personal Hearings

Right to Request a Personal Hearing

121 A Participant issued with a Charge has the right to a personal hearing on request.

122 A Disciplinary Commission may, whether on the application of one of the parties or otherwise, require a Participant (whether before or during a hearing) to attend before it to provide information, in which case questions may be put to them by the Disciplinary Commission.

123 Where the Participant accepts the Charge, the relevant Match Official(s) and other Participants will not be required to attend a Disciplinary Commission. If the Participant denies the Charge, the relevant Match Official(s) and other Participants may be required to attend the Disciplinary Commission.

124 The Participant, through their Club Secretary (were applicable), shall be notified of:

124.1 the date, time and venue fixed for the hearing; and

124.2 the attendance of any witnesses in support of the Charge, in particular the Match Official(s) on whose report the Charge has been issued.

125 Both the Participant issued with the Charge and any witness, including the Match Official(s) concerned, should be given a minimum 14 days' notice of details of the personal hearing unless; an interim suspension order is in place following the Charge; the case arises out of an abandoned game; or where a charge has been brought for a breach of FA Rule E10 and/or E12, in which case a minimum of 7 days' notice shall be provided. Any written request to the Disciplinary Commission for a postponement of the personal hearing should be given consideration. If the reason submitted is considered valid, then a postponement should be granted, and in such circumstances costs may be charged. A request for a second postponement by the same party should not ordinarily be granted.

Personal Hearing Procedures

126 In the case of a Participant under 18 years of age on the date fixed for the hearing, the hearing shall take place either in the presence of a parent or guardian of the Participant or another appropriate adult.

127 At a personal hearing a Disciplinary Commission may adopt such procedures as it considers appropriate and expedient for the just determination of the Charge.

128 Subject to paragraph 127 above, a Disciplinary Commission shall follow the procedure set out in "County and Other Affiliated Associations – Hearings before Disciplinary Commissions" (at Part G: Appendix II).

Disciplinary Commission Decisions and Costs

129 Save where otherwise provided, a Disciplinary Commission may impose such penalties as provided for in paragraph 41 of Part A: General Provisions Section Two.

130 Where the Charge is found not proven, any record of it will be expunged from the Participant's record.

131 Where the Charge is found proven the Disciplinary Commission will decide what punishment, if any, is to be imposed. In so doing, the Disciplinary Commission must consider the overall nature and effect of the offence(s) and the Participant's disciplinary record during the current playing season and the previous five playing seasons and any plea in mitigation. In cases where the Disciplinary Commission can order costs in accordance with paragraph 132 below, it shall take into account any deposit lodged by the Participant.

132 Where a personal hearing is requested in accordance with paragraph 121, and the Charge is subsequently found proven at that hearing, the Disciplinary Commission may, in addition to any other penalty, order:

132.1 the Participant to pay all or part of the costs of the personal hearing. Such costs may include some or all of the costs incurred in relation to the holding of the Disciplinary Commission.

132.2 any deposit lodged by the Participant be forfeited.

133 Where:

133.1 a personal hearing is requested in accordance with paragraph 121, and the Charge is subsequently not found proven at that hearing;

133.2 a Participant is instructed to attend a personal hearing by the Affiliated Association or the relevant Disciplinary Commission; or

133.3 a case is considered on written submissions only, there shall be no costs order made against the Participant. In such cases, any deposit lodged by the Participant shall be returned.

134 Save where an appeal has been submitted in accordance with paragraph 139 below, any fines or costs that are ordered by a Disciplinary Commission must be paid within 14 days of the invoice date. Failure to pay within this timeframe will result in an additional late-payment fee of £10, to be paid within 7 days. Failure to pay both the invoice and the late-payment fee within that 7-day period will result in the Participant and the team associated with the outstanding payment being suspended until payment is made in full.

135 The Participant and their Club are jointly and severally responsible for payment of any fine and costs. The Club shall take such action as may be necessary to recover any sum paid on the Participant's behalf.

Notification of Disciplinary Commission Decisions

136 Decisions of Disciplinary Commissions will be provided to the Participant or (in the cases of multiple Participants) Club Secretaries of all Clubs for whom the Participant is known to be currently registered or associated with and to the Participant's email address if known. Each of these Club Secretaries is responsible for informing the Participant of the decision.

137 The commencement date of any suspension imposed on a Participant is at the discretion of the Disciplinary Commission, subject to:

137.1 the suspension starting on a Monday; and

137.2 such date allowing for the time permitted for notification of an intention to appeal,

save where it is expressly provided in these regulations that the Disciplinary Commission may impose an immediate suspension.

138 A Disciplinary Commission decision may be notified to the relevant Match Officials, subject to (a) the Participant being aware of the decision, and (b) the Match Officials having requested to be so notified.

APPEALS FROM DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION DECISIONS

139 Participants shall have the right to appeal decisions of a Disciplinary Commission to an Appeal Board in accordance with Part C: Appeals – Non-Fast Track. A Participant wishing to appeal must:

139.1 lodge notification of an intention to appeal within seven days of notification of the decision being appeal against;

139.2 submit their appeal within 14 days of notification of the decision being appeal against.

140 The Association shall also have the right to appeal decisions of a Disciplinary Commission to an Appeal Board. Where The Association wishes to appeal it must submit its appeal within 28 days following the receipt of the reasons of the Disciplinary Commission.

141 In respect of any appeal made by a Participant against a decision of a Disciplinary Commission, upon application and its absolute discretion, the Judicial Panel Chairman may stay the effect of, or compliance by the Participant Charged with, a penalty or order of a Disciplinary Commission.

FURTHER DISCIPLINARY ACTION

142 The rules or regulations of an Affiliated Association must provide for disciplinary action to be taken against a Participant who fails to reimburse their Club where the Club has had a claim upheld in accordance with the Football Debt Recovery Regulations.

143 An Affiliated Association in formulating its rules and regulations for Misconduct may adopt and include the power to make an order that a Club whose Players are persistently the subject of proven Charges:

143.1 is censured and/or fined in accordance with the penalty point system in accordance with paragraphs 84 to 91 above;

143.2 may have its affiliation suspended or cancelled;

143.3 is subject to any other power approved in writing by The Association.

144 A power approved by The Association pursuant to paragraph 143.3 shall continue from year to year until such time as the approval is withdrawn. Such approval may be withdrawn by The Association giving notice in writing before 30 April in any year.

SECTION FOUR: PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO TECHNICAL AREA OCCUPANTS

CHARGES

1 The Association may issue a Charge against a Technical Area Occupant in relation to an incident whether or not the same incident has been dealt with by the Referee and/or pursuant to this Section Four.

2 A Regulatory Commission considering a Charge pursuant to paragraph 1 above shall have regard to any automatic suspension or sanction imposed pursuant to paragraphs 9 to 13 below for the same incident when considering any penalty in accordance with paragraph 41 of Part A: General Provisions Section Two.

MATCH OFFICIALS' REPORTING OF CAUTIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION

3 Referees must submit a report to The Association following a Match stating the cautions and providing a description of the incident(s).

4 The deadline for the submission of a report to The Association under paragraph 3 above is:

4.1 for Matches involving Clubs in Category 1 playing in First Team Competitive Matches, 12 noon on the day following the Match; and

4.2 for Matches involving Clubs or teams in Category 3 and Category 5, within two days of the Match (excluding Sundays).

NOTIFICATION OF CAUTIONS

5 A Technical Area Occupant who has received a caution in a Match will be notified by The Association, through their Club, of:

5.1 the caution reported by the Referee to The Association;

5.2 the total number of cautions accumulated by the Technical Area Occupant under this Section Four during the current playing season; and

5.3 any automatic touchline suspension or other consequences resulting from an accumulation of cautions pursuant to paragraph 9 below. Any automatic touchline suspension will take effect regardless as to whether the notification is received by the Club from The Association before it is due to take effect in accordance with this Section Four.

MISTAKEN IDENTITY (CATEGORY 1 AND 3 ONLY)

6 Where a Technical Area Occupant affiliated to a Club in Category 1 or Category 3 has been cautioned in a Match but claims they have been the victim of mistaken identity, that Technical Area Occupant or their Club may make a claim of mistaken identity in relation to that cautionable offence in accordance with the procedure set out in Fast Track 3 of the Fast Track Regulations.

7 Where, despite there being clear evidence that there is a case of mistaken identity, a Technical Area Occupant or their Club does not submit a claim within the specified time limits, The Association may within seven days of the incident request a Regulatory Commission to review the matter. A Club failing to submit a claim for mistaken identity may be charged with misconduct by The Association if there is reason to believe that the Club sought to gain an advantage by remaining silent on the matter.

8 Where, under the provisions of Law 12 of the Laws of the Game, a Technical Area Occupant (which in this instance will be the senior team coach present) has been cautioned because the individual who has committed the offence cannot be identified at the time the caution is issued, that Technical Area Occupant or their Club may not make any claim of mistaken identity.

STANDARD PUNISHMENTS

Accumulation of cautions

9 The accumulation of a set number of cautions by a Technical Area Occupant during a playing season will, subject to any applicable cut-off points and paragraph 15 below, result in that Technical Area Occupant receiving an automatic touchline suspension.

10 The relevant number of cautions, automatic touchline suspensions, the applicable cut-off points and the Competitions in which the automatic touchline suspensions are to be served are set out in Table 9.

11 Notwithstanding the automatic touchline suspensions that may be imposed for the accumulation of cautions as set out in Table 9, where a Technical Area Occupant accumulates three cautions after any applicable cut-off point during the playing season, the Technical Area Occupant shall be sanctioned with a suspended one-match touchline ban which will be automatically activated if that Technical Area Occupant receives a fourth caution before the end of the playing season.

12 Where an automatic touchline suspension is imposed on a Technical Area Occupant associated with a team in Category 5 in accordance with paragraphs 9 and 10 above, that individual shall be banned from entering the ground at which the relevant Match is to be played.

13 Where a Technical Area Occupant accumulates the highest number of relevant cautions set out in Table 9 during a playing season, that Technical Area Occupant shall be required to attend a Regulatory Commission within seven days of the date of the last caution. The Regulatory Commission shall have the power to deal with the Technical Area Occupant in such manner as it deems fit. The same procedure will apply for every further three cautions received by that Technical Area Occupant in the Competitions listed in Table 9.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

Commencement of Suspension

14 Subject to paragraph 15 below, any period of suspension arising from an accumulation of cautions by Technical Area Occupants under this Section Four will:

14.1 for Matches involving Clubs in Category 1 playing First Team Competitive Matches commence forthwith, save for where a Technical Area Occupant / their Club have brought a claim under paragraph 6 in relation to Mistaken Identity and that claim has not been determined by a Regulatory Commission before the next applicable fixture; and

14.2 for Matches involving Clubs or teams in Category 3 and Category 5, commence on the seventh day following the date of the last offence.

Matches Exempt from an Automatic Period of Suspension arising from an Accumulation of cautions

15 The following Matches shall be exempt from any automatic period of suspension arising from an accumulation of cautions by Technical Area Occupants under paragraph 9 above:

15.1 Play-Off Matches (Semi-Finals and Finals) in the EFL Leagues, and National League System Leagues from Steps 1 to 4;

15.2 the final of the FA Challenge Cup;

15.3 the final of the EFL Cup;

15.4 the final of the EFL Trophy;

15.5 the final of the FA Trophy;

15.6 the final of the FA Women's Challenge Cup;

15.7 the final of the FA Women's League Cup; and

15.8 the final of the National League Cup.

For the avoidance of doubt, this paragraph 15 shall not apply to any period of suspension ordered by a Regulatory Commission pursuant to paragraph 13 above.

Outstanding Suspensions

16 Any period of suspension or part thereof arising from this Section Four which remains outstanding at the end of the playing season will be repealed and need not be served at the commencement of the following playing season.

Technical Area Occupants Moving Between Clubs

17 Where a Technical Area Occupant moves between Clubs to which this Section Four applies at a time when they are subject to a suspension, the following shall apply:

17.1 until the Technical Area Occupant moves, the suspension shall be served by reference to Matches completed by the Club from which that Technical Area Occupant moves;

17.2 upon the Technical Area Occupant moving Club, any remaining period of suspension at the time the Technical Area Occupant moves shall be served by reference to Matches completed by the Club to which the Technical Area Occupant moves.

18 Where a Technical Area Occupant moves to a Club to which this Section Four does not apply, the suspension shall be suspended until such time as the Technical Area Occupant moves to a Club to which this Section Four does apply.

AUTOMATIC SUSPENSIONS AND SANCTIONS

TABLES 1 - 2

CATEGORY 1 - PLAYERS OF CLUBS IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE, EFL LEAGUES, NATIONAL LEAGUE, THE WSL AND THE WSL2 PLAYING FIRST TEAM COMPETITIVE MATCHES

Table 1 : Accumulation of Cautions

COMPETITION IN WHICH CAUTIONS ACCUMULATED	NUMBER OF CAUTIONS ACCUMULATED	CUT-OFF POINT (UP TO AND INCLUDING)
Premier League	5	19 Premier League Matches
	10	32 Premier League Matches
	15	Last day of the same playing season
	20	Last day of the same playing season
EFL Leagues	5	19 EFL League Matches
	10	37 EFL League Matches
	15	Last day of the relevant league playing season prior to the Play-Off matches
	20	Last day of the relevant league playing season prior to the Play-Off matches
National League	5	19 National League Matches
	10	37 National League Matches
	15	Last day of the relevant playing season prior to the Play-Off matches
	20	Last day of the relevant playing season prior to the Play-Off matches
WSL	5	N/A
	10	
	15	
	20	
WSL2	5	N/A
	10	
	15	
	20	
FA Cup	4 (where Player's Club enters in Qualifying Competition) and for every 2 further cautions	Fourth Qualifying Round (where Player's Club enters in Qualifying Competition)
	2 (where Player's Club progresses to or enters in Competition Proper) and for every 2 further cautions	Sixth Round (Quarter Finals)

	AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION/SANCTION	COMPETITIONS TO WHICH AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION/SANCTION APPLIES
	1 Match	Premier League
	2 Matches	
	3 Matches	
	As determined by a Regulatory Commission	
	1 Match	EFL Leagues
	2 Matches	
	3 Matches	
	As determined by a Regulatory Commission	
	1 Match	National League
	2 Matches	
	3 Matches	
	As determined by a Regulatory Commission	
	1 Match	WSL
	2 Matches	
	3 Matches	
	As determined by a Regulatory Commission	
	1 Match	WSL2
	2 Matches	
	3 Matches	
	As determined by a Regulatory Commission	
	1 Match	FA Cup

COMPETITION IN WHICH CAUTIONS ACCUMULATED	NUMBER OF CAUTIONS ACCUMULATED	CUT-OFF POINT (UP TO AND INCLUDING)
EFL Cup	2	Quarter Finals
	4	
EFL Trophy	2	Quarter Finals
	4	
FA Trophy	2	Quarter Finals
	4	
	6	
National League Cup	2	Quarter Finals
	4	
Women's FA Cup	2 (where Player's Club enters in or after the Third Round Proper) and for every 2 further cautions	Quarter Finals
FA Women's League Cup	2 and for every 2 further cautions	End of Group Stage

	AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION/SANCTION	COMPETITIONS TO WHICH AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION/SANCTION APPLIES
	1 Match	EFL Cup
	1 Match	EFL Trophy
	2 Matches	
	1 Match	FA Trophy
	1 Match	National League Cup
	2 Matches	
	1 Match	Women's FA Cup
	1 Match	FA Women's League Cup

Table 2: Sending-Off Offences

SENDING-OFF OFFENCE	AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION	COMPETITIONS TO WHICH AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION APPLIES
Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a handball offence	1 Match	a) Relevant League in which Player's Club competes; b) FA Cup; c) EFL Cup (as applicable); d) FA Trophy (as applicable); e) Women's FA Cup (as applicable); f) FA Women's League Cup (as applicable). (**EFL Trophy:** Unless specified by The Association: (a) If the sending-off offence occurs in an EFL Trophy Match, the relevant automatic suspension must be served exclusively in the EFL Trophy and (b) if the sending-off offence occurs in any other FTCM, an EFL Trophy Match cannot be used to serve any part of the relevant automatic suspension.) (**National League Cup:** Unless specified by The Association: (a) If the sending-off offence occurs in a National League Cup Match, the relevant automatic suspension must be served exclusively in the National League Cup and (b) if the sending-off offence occurs in any other FTCM, a National League Cup Match cannot be used to serve any part of the relevant automatic suspension.)
Denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent whose overall movement is towards the offender's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick	1 Match	
Serious foul play	3 Matches	
Spitting at an opponent or any other person	6 Matches	
Violent conduct	3 Matches	
Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures	2 Matches	
Receiving a second caution in the same match	1 Match	

TABLES 3 - 4

CATEGORY 2 - PLAYERS OF CLUBS IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE, EFL LEAGUES AND NATIONAL LEAGUE PLAYING NON-FIRST TEAM COMPETITIVE MATCHES IN MALE OPEN AGED TEAMS, UNDER 19S, UNDER 18S AND ACADEMY TEAMS

Table 3: Accumulation of Cautions

COMPETITION IN WHICH CAUTIONS ACCUMULATED	NUMBER OF CAUTIONS ACCUMULATED	CUT-OFF POINT (UP TO AND INCLUDING)	AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION/ SANCTION	COMPETITIONS TO WHICH AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION/ SANCTION APPLIES
NFTM (excluding EFL Trophy and National League Cup)	5	31 December	1 Match	NFTM (excluding EFL Trophy and National League Cup)
	10	Second Sunday of April	2 Matches	
	15	Last day of the same playing season	3 Matches	
	20	Last day of the same playing season	As determined by a Regulatory Commission	
EFL Trophy	2	Quarter Finals	1 match	EFL Trophy
	4		2 Matches	
National League Cup	2	Quarter Finals	1 match	National League Cup
	4		2 Matches	

Table 4: Sending-Off Offences

SENDING-OFF OFFENCE	AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION	COMPETITIONS TO WHICH AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION APPLIES
Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a handball offence	1 Match	Automatic suspension to be served exclusively in NFTM (excluding EFL trophy and National League Cup) (**EFL Trophy:** Unless specified by The Association: (a) If the sending-off offence occurs in an EFL Trophy Match, the relevant automatic suspension must be served exclusively in the EFL Trophy and (b) if the sending-off offence occurs in any other NFTM, an EFL Trophy Match cannot be used to serve any part of the relevant automatic suspension.) (**National League Cup**: Unless specified by The Association: (a) If the sending-off offence occurs in a National League Cup Match, the relevant automatic suspension must be served exclusively in the National League Cup and (b) if the sending-off offence occurs in any other NFTM, a National League Cup Match cannot be used to serve any part of the relevant automatic suspension.)
Denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent whose overall movement is towards the offender's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick	1 Match	
Serious foul play	3 Matches	
Spitting at an opponent or any other person	6 Matches	
Violent conduct	3 Matches	
Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures	2 Matches	
Receiving a second caution in the same match	1 Match	

TABLES 5 - 6

CATEGORY 3- PLAYERS ASSOCIATED WITH A TEAM COMPETING IN THE NATIONAL LEAGUE (NORTH AND SOUTH DIVISIONS), THE ISTHMIAN LEAGUE, THE NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE, THE SOUTHERN LEAGUE AND THE FA WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE PLAYING MATCHES IN ANY LEAGUE, LEAGUE CUP COMPETITION, THE FA CHALLENGE CUP AND FA TROPHY

Table 5: Accumulation of Cautions

COMPETITION IN WHICH CAUTIONS ACCUMULATED	NUMBER OF CAUTIONS ACCUMULATED	CUT-OFF POINT (UP TO AND INCLUDING)	AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION/ SANCTION	FINE	COMPETITIONS TO WHICH AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION/ SANCTION APPLIES
a) National League (North and South Divisions), the Isthmian League, the Northern Premier League, the Southern League or the FA Women's National League; and b) League cup competition	5	30 November	1 Match	£20.00	a) League in which Player's team competes; and b) League cup competition
	10	Second Sunday in March	2 Matches		
	15	Last day of the relevant playing season prior to the Play-Off matches	3 Matches		
	20	Last day of the relevant playing season prior to the Play-Off matches	As determined by a Regulatory Commission		
FA Cup	4 (where Player's Club enters in Qualifying Competition) and for every 2 further cautions	Fourth Qualifying Round (where Player's Club enters in Qualifying Competition)	1 Match	N/A	FA Cup
	2 (where Player's Club progresses to or enters in Competition Proper) and for every 2 further cautions	Sixth Round (Quarter Finals)			
FA Trophy	4 and for every 2 further cautions	Sixth Round (Quarter Finals)	1 Match	N/A	FA Trophy Only
Women's FA Cup	4 and for every 2 further cautions	Quarter Finals	1 Match	N/A	Women's FA Cup

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

Table 6: Sending-Off Offences

SENDING-OFF OFFENCE	AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION	FINE	COMPETITIONS TO WHICH AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION/ SANCTION APPLIES
Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a handball offence	1 Match	£20.00	a) League in which Player's team competes; b) League cup competition in which Player's team competes; c) FA Cup; d) FA Trophy; e) Women's FA Cup
Denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent whose overall movement is towards the offender's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick	1 Match		
Serious foul play	3 Matches	£40.00	
Spitting at an opponent or any other person	6 Matches		
Violent conduct	3 Matches		
Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures	2 Matches	£30.00	
Receiving a second caution in the same match	1 Match	£20.00	

TABLES 7 - 8

CATEGORY 5 - PLAYERS ASSOCIATED WITH:

A) A TEAM COMPETING IN ALL DIVISIONS OF LEAGUES AT STEPS 5 TO 6 OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM PLAYING MATCHES IN ANY COMPETITION;

B) A TEAM COMPETING OUTSIDE THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM PLAYING IN SATURDAY FOOTBALL, SUNDAY FOOTBALL, MIDWEEK FOOTBALL, COUNTY ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL, LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL, VETERANS FOOTBALL, AND EDUCATION FOOTBALL (AS RECOGNISED BY THE ASSOCIATION FROM TIME TO TIME); AND

C) ANY AFFILIATED TEAM OF A CLUB TO WHICH CATEGORIES 1 TO 4 DO NOT APPLY PLAYING MATCHES IN ANY COMPETITION.

Table 7: Accumulation of Cautions

FOOTBALL CATEGORY/ COMPETITION IN WHICH CAUTIONS ACCUMULATED	NUMBER OF CAUTIONS ACCUMULATED IN THE FOOTBALL CATEGORY	CUT-OFF POINT (UP TO AND INCLUDING)	AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION/ SANCTION	FINE	FOOTBALL CATEGORY/ COMPETITION TO WHICH AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION/ SANCTION APPLIES
a) Saturday Football; b) Sunday Football; c) Midweek Football; d) Representative Football; e) Veteran Football; or f) Education Football;	5	31 December	1 Match	£15.00	The Football Category in which the cautions were accumulated.
	10	Second Sunday in April	2 Matches		
	15	Last day of the playing season	3 Matches		
	20	Last day of the playing season	As determined by a Disciplinary Commission		All Football Categories and Friendly Matches.

FOOTBALL CATEGORY/ COMPETITION IN WHICH CAUTIONS ACCUMULATED	NUMBER OF CAUTIONS ACCUMULATED IN THE FOOTBALL CATEGORY	CUT-OFF POINT (UP TO AND INCLUDING)	AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION/ SANCTION	FINE	FOOTBALL CATEGORY/ COMPETITION TO WHICH AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION/ SANCTION APPLIES
FA Cup	4 (where Player's Club enters in Qualifying Competition) and for every 2 further cautions	Fourth Qualifying Round (where Player's Club enters in Qualifying Competition)	1 Match	N/A	FA Cup
	2 (where Player's Club progresses to or enters in Competition Proper) and for every 2 further cautions	Sixth Round (Quarter Finals)			
FA Vase	2 and for every 2 further cautions	Sixth Round (Quarter Finals)	1 Match	N/A	FA Vase Only

Table 8: Sending-Off Offences

FOOTBALL CATEGORY/ COMPETITION IN WHICH SENDING-OFF OFFENCE OCCURS	SENDING-OFF OFFENCE	AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION/ SANCTION	FINE	FOOTBALL CATEGORY AND COMPETITIONS TO WHICH AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION APPLIES
a) Saturday Football; b) Sunday Football; c) Midweek Football; d) Representative Football; e) Veteran Football; f) Education Football; g) FA Cup; or h) FA Vase	Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a handball offence	1 Match	£20.00	a) the Football Category in which the sending-off offence occured; ** b) FA Cup; and c) FA Vase. (**if the sending-off offence occured in an FA Cup or FA Vase Match, the automatic suspension shall apply to Matches in the Football Category in which the Player's team usually competes, in addition to FA Cup or FA Vase Matches where applicable)
	Denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent whose overall movement is towards the offender's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick	1 Match		
	Serious foul play	3 Matches	£40.00	
	Spitting at an opponent or any other person	6 Matches		
	Violent conduct	3 Matches		
	Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures	2 Matches	£30.00	
	Receiving a second caution in the same match	1 Match	£20.00	

TABLE 9

SECTION 4 - TECHNICAL AREA OCCUPANTS ASSOCIATED WITH CLUBS IN CATEGORIES 1, 3 AND 5

Table 9: Accumulation of Cautions

COMPETITIONS IN WHICH CAUTIONS ACCUMULATED	LEAGUE OF CLUB	NUMBER OF CAUTIONS ACCUMULATED	
a) Premier League; b) EFL Leagues; c) National League; d) WSL; e) WSL2; f) National League (North and South Divisions); g) Isthmian League; h) Northern Premier League; i) Southern League; j) League cup competition; k) any Football Category; l) FA Cup; m) EFL Cup; n) EFL Trophy; o) FA Trophy; p) FA Vase; q) National League Cup; r) The Women's FA Cup; s) Women's National League; or t) FA Women's League Cup.	Premier League	3*	
	EFL Leagues		
	National League		
	National League (North and South Divisions), the Isthmian League, the Northern Premier League or the Southern League;		
	Any other League	3	
	Any	6	
	Any	9	
	Any	12	

* see paragraph 11 of Section Four of the On-Field Regulations for the consequences arising from accumulating a third caution after any applicable cut-off point listed in the fourth column.

	CUT-OFF POINT (UP TO AND INCLUDING)	AUTOMATIC TOUCHLINE SUSPENSION / SANCTION	COMPETITIONS TO WHICH AUTOMATIC TOUCHLINE SUSPENSION / SANCTION APPLIES
	32 Premier League Matches	1 Match	a) Premier League; b) EFL Leagues; c) National League; d) WSL; e) WSL2; f) National League (North and South Divisions); g) Isthmian League; h) Northern Premier League; i) Southern League; j) League cup competition; k) any Football Category; l) FA Cup; m) EFL Cup; n) EFL Trophy; o) FA Trophy; p) FA Vase; q) National League Cup; r) The Women's FA Cup; s) Women's National League; or t) FA Women's League Cup.
	37 EFL League Matches		
	37 National League Matches		
	Second Sunday in March		
	N/A	1 Match	
		2 Matches	
		3 Matches	
		As determined by a Regulatory Commission	

E - FAST TRACK REGULATIONS

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1 Matters proceeding under these Fast Track Regulations shall be conducted before a Regulatory Commission in accordance with a 'fast track' process in accordance with Table 10 below.

2 These Regulations give effect to the general principle that it is in the interest of the timely and efficient disposal of disciplinary proceedings that standard directions be given.

3 The directions set out in these Regulations may be deviated from at the discretion of the Judicial Panel Chairman or the Regulatory Commission dealing with any given case if the circumstances of that case so dictate (to include, for the avoidance of doubt, assigning a case to the timetable set out in Part B: Non-Fast Track Regulations).

SCOPE

4 In these Fast Track Regulations, references to categories shall be a reference to one or more of the following:

4.1 Category 1: Clubs in the Premier League, the EFL Leagues, the National League, The WSL and The WSL2 playing in First Team Competitive Matches;

4.2 Category 2: Clubs in the Premier League, the EFL Leagues, the National League playing in Non-First Team Competitive Matches in male open aged teams, Under 19s, Under 18s and Academy teams; and

4.3 Category 3: a team competing in the National League (North and South Divisions), the Isthmian League, the Northern Premier League, the Southern League and the FA Women's National League playing Matches in any League, League cup competition, the FA Challenge Cup, the FA Trophy and the FA Women's Challenge Cup.

5 Table 10 below sets out: (i) the seven Fast Track processes; (ii) the matters proceeding under each Fast Track; and (iii) the scope of each Fast Track.

Table 10: Matters falling to be determined in accordance with the Fast Track Process

TRACK	CASE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	RELEVANT RULE / REGULATION	SCOPE OF TRACK
Fast Track 1	**Not Seen Incidents**	Incidents of Misconduct concerning one of the below incidents occurring on or around the field of play (excluding the tunnel area) falling within Law 12 of the Laws of the Game which were not seen and dealt with by Match Officials but were caught on video: (i) serious foul play; (ii) violent conduct; (iii) spitting at an opponent or any other person; or (iv) offensive, insulting, abusive language or gestures.	A charge of Misconduct contrary to Rule E1.1	Category 1
	Successful Deception	Incidents of Misconduct relating to the successful deception of a Match Official by way of: (a) clear act of simulation which leads either to a penalty being awarded or the dismissal of an opposing Player; or (b) handling the ball in a direct and successful attempt to score a goal.	A charge of Misconduct contrary to Rule E3.1 (improper conduct)	

TRACK	CASE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	RELEVANT RULE / REGULATION	SCOPE OF TRACK
Fast Track 2	Fast Track 2 will apply where The Association charges a Participant with Misconduct under the Rules for an incident before, during, or after a game, on or around the field of play (including the tunnel area), for an incident outside the jurisdiction of Match Officials but reported to The Association or for media comments. The case types are broken down below.			
	Incidents on or around the field of play	Incidents of Misconduct reported to The Association which occurred on or around the field of play whether before, during or after a game. Examples include, but are not limited to: - Threatening, abusive, indecent or insulting words or behaviour by Players or Managers or behaviour which otherwise is improper or brings the game into disrepute; - Not Seen Incidents (as set out in Fast Track 1), but where there is no video of the incident; - Technical area misconduct; - Incidents that occur in the tunnel area or in close vicinity of the stadium.	A charge of Misconduct contrary to Rule E1 or E3.1	Categories 1, 2 and 3
	Incidents outside of the jurisdiction of Match Officials	Incidents of Misconduct reported to The Association which occurred on or around the field of play, but which were outside of the jurisdiction of the Match Officials. Examples include, but are not limited to: - an incident of Misconduct by a Player committed following them having been sent off; - an incident of Misconduct by a Player committed after the Referee has left the field of play.	A charge of Misconduct contrary to Rule E1 or E3.1	
	Surrounding a Match Official	Incidents where Players, Managers or others surround a Match Official in a manner which is improper, violent, threatening, abusive, indecent or uses insulting or provocative words or behaviour.	A charge of Misconduct contrary to Rule E20 (failing to ensure Players conduct themselves in an orderly fashion etc.)	

TRACK	CASE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	RELEVANT RULE / REGULATION	SCOPE OF TRACK
	Mass Confrontations	Incidents where Players, Managers or others engage in a mass confrontation.	A charge of Misconduct contrary to Rule E20 (failing to ensure Players conduct themselves in an orderly fashion etc.)	Categories 1 and 3
	Media Comments	Comments made in the media, to include social media, which constitute improper conduct and/or bring the game into disrepute.	A charge of Misconduct contrary to Rule E3.1	
Fast Track 3	**Mistaken Identity**	Where a Player or Technical Area Occupant has been cautioned or where a Player has been dismissed from the field of play, but claims they have been the victim of mistaken identity.	A claim made by the Player or Technical Area Occupant (or Club on behalf of the Player or Technical Area Occupant) in accordance with Part D: On-Field Regulations	Categories 1. 2 and 3 (Players) Categories 1 and 3 (Technical Area Occupants)
Fast Track 4	**Wrongful Dismissal**	Where a Player has been dismissed from the field of play (except as a result of two cautions leading to a dismissal), but claims that the Referee made an obvious error in dismissing the Player.	A claim made by the Player (or Club on behalf of the Player) in accordance with Part D: On-Field Regulations	Categories 1, 2 and 3
Fast Track 5	**Clearly Excessive claims**	Where a Player has been dismissed from the field of play for: - offensive or insulting or abusive language / gestures; - serious foul play; - violent conduct; or - spitting, but seeks to limit the disciplinary consequences of that dismissal by demonstrating that the circumstances were truly exceptional, such that the standard punishment applicable to that dismissal would be clearly excessive.	A claim made by the Player (or Club on behalf of the Player) in accordance with Part D: On-Field Regulations	Categories 1, 2 and 3

TRACK	CASE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	RELEVANT RULE / REGULATION	SCOPE OF TRACK
Fast Track 6	**Clearly Insufficient claims**	Where a Player has been dismissed from the field of play for: - serious foul play; - violent conduct; or - spitting, but where The Association seeks to increase the disciplinary consequences of the dismissal by demonstrating that the circumstances were truly exceptional, such that the standard punishment applicable to that dismissal would be clearly insufficient.	A claim made by the Player (or Club on behalf of the Player) in accordance with Part D: On-Field Regulations	Categories 1, 2 and 3
Fast Track 7	**Appeals - Fast Track**	Where a Fast Track provides for a right of appeal, such appeals shall proceed according to the Fast Track Appeals provisions.		

FAST TRACK 1: NOT SEEN INCIDENTS AND SUCCESSFUL DECEPTION

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

General

1 This Fast Track 1 sets out the standard directions for charges relating to Not Seen Incidents and Successful Deception matters proceeding before Regulatory Commissions. It shall apply to Players of Clubs in Category 1 only.

2 Matters falling within this Fast Track 1 shall ordinarily proceed in accordance with timetable set out herein. The timetable seeks to give effect to the principle that it is in the interest of the parties and of sporting integrity that, wherever possible, matters falling within the scope of this Fast Track 1 are concluded ahead of the Player's next fixture. As a general guide, the following schedule will ordinarily apply:

GENERAL GUIDE (WHERE THE INCIDENT TAKES PLACE ON FRI/SAT/SUN)		
CHARGE	REPLY / SUBMISSIONS	REGULATORY COMMISSION
Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday

3 Where a Player charged has been suspended due to a dismissal or has otherwise been suspended in accordance with this Fast Track 1 in the same playing season prior to the issue of the charge, the penalty offered shall be increased to include, in addition to the applicable standard punishment, one game for each occasion that the Player has been so suspended. For these purposes a dismissal in, or suspension arising from, Non-First Team Competitive Matches prior to issue of the charge will only be considered where it is for violent conduct, serious foul play or spitting.

4 Matters falling within this Fast Track 1 will be determined on video and written evidence only, and parties shall not be present or represented in person.

Not Seen Incidents

5 In relation to Not Seen Incidents only:

5.1 A written statement by Match Officials that they did not witness a particular incident shall be conclusive evidence of that fact.

5.2 Where one or more of the Match Officials sees only part of an incident, an act of Misconduct that occurs during or immediately after that incident may be regarded as not seen by the Match Officials where, without limitation:

5.2.1 an act of violent conduct occurs secondarily to a challenge for the ball, and so is not seen as the Match Officials are concentrating on the challenge for the ball; or

5.2.2 the Match Officials' view of the incident was such that none of them had an opportunity to make a decision on any act of Misconduct that took place within it.

CHARGE

6 A Charge shall ordinarily be issued by 6pm on the second Business Day following the incident which shall be accompanied by all evidence, documents and written submissions upon which The Association intends to rely.

7 In respect of Successful Deception matters, the Charge shall also set out the applicable standard punishment.

8 In respect of Not Seen Incidents only:

8.1 the Charge will ordinarily offer the standard punishment that would have applied to the offence had it been seen and reported by the Match Official(s) during the Match.

8.2 in exceptional circumstances, the Charge may not be accompanied by an offer of the standard punishment. In such circumstances, the Charge will state that The Association claims that the standard punishment would be clearly insufficient and will set out the basis for that claim.

REPLY

9 The Player must serve on The Association a Reply by 6pm on the first Business Day following receipt of the Charge, by e-mail (as directed by The Association), in which they:

9.1 admit the Charge and, where applicable, the standard punishment;

9.2 deny the Charge; or

9.3 in respect of Not Seen Incidents only:

9.3.1 admit the Charge but claim that the standard punishment would be clearly excessive (having regard to the factors set out at paragraphs 22.1 to 22.7 below);

9.3.2 deny the Charge and claim that the standard punishment would be clearly excessive (having regard to the factors set out at paragraphs 22.1 to 22.7 below); or

9.3.3 where no offer of the standard punishment is made in the Charge, admit or deny the Charge, and in either case may contest any claim by The Association that the standard punishment would be clearly insufficient.

10 The Reply shall be accompanied by copies of all evidence, documents and written submissions upon which the Player intends to rely.

11 In the absence of a Reply, the matter will be dealt with directly at the next available Regulatory Commission, and written submissions from the Player may not be considered by the Regulatory Commission.

12 In the event that the offered punishment is accepted in accordance with paragraph 9.1, the suspension will commence forthwith upon receipt by The Association of the consent of the Judicial Panel Chairman and the matter shall not proceed to a Regulatory Commission.

REGULATORY COMMISSION PROCEDURES

13 Save in the circumstances set out in paragraph 12 above, a Regulatory Commission will be convened to consider the matter. Where practicable, it shall be convened on the first Business Day following receipt of the Reply.

14 The Secretary of the Regulatory Commission shall put before the Regulatory Commission:

14.1 reports along with any other evidence, including video evidence, in support of the Charge;

14.2 all statements and video or other evidence in defence of the Charge.

15 In respect of Successful Deception matters only, where subject matter of or facts pertaining to a Charge brought against a Player is linked to a claim of wrongful dismissal pursued by a Player and their Club under paragraphs 15 to 18 of Section One of Part D: On-Field Regulations, and where the Regulatory Commission believes it appropriate for the timely and efficient disposal of the proceedings, the relevant Regulatory Commission shall have the power to consolidate proceedings so they are conducted together and both the charge and the claim of wrongful dismissal may be determined at the same hearing.

DECISIONS

General

16 Where a Charge is denied, the Regulatory Commission will decide whether the Charge is proven or not proven.

17 Where a Charge is not proven, the Charge will be dismissed.

18 Where a Charge is proven, or admitted in accordance with paragraph 9.3.1:

18.1 in respect of Not Seen Incidents only, the Regulatory Commission will decide on the penalty to be served by the Player. The standard punishment may be decreased or increased by the Regulatory Commission only in the exceptional circumstances set out at paragraphs 21 to 25 below. In all other cases, the penalty shall be the standard punishment.

18.2 in respect of Successful Deception incidents, the standard punishment will commence forthwith.

19 The decision of the Regulatory Commission will be communicated verbally to the Player on the same day as the decision is reached, and in writing by the end of the following Business Day.

Not Seen Incidents: Increasing and decreasing the standard punishment

20 The provisions relating to increasing or decreasing the standard punishment at paragraphs 21 to 25 below shall apply only in respect of Not Seen Incidents.

Decreasing the standard punishment

21 Where the offer of the standard punishment is made in the Charge, the Regulatory Commission may only decrease that standard punishment where the Player has claimed in their Reply that the standard punishment would be clearly excessive.

22 In such cases the Regulatory Commission shall decrease the standard punishment only where it is satisfied so that it is sure that the circumstances of the incident under review are truly exceptional, such that the standard punishment should not be applied, and the standard punishment would be clearly excessive, having regard to the following:

22.1 the applicable Law(s) of the Game and any relevant FIFA instructions and/or guidelines;

22.2 the nature of the incident including the Player's state of mind, in particular any intent, recklessness or negligence;

22.3 where applicable, the level of force used;

22.4 any injury to an opponent caused by the incident;

22.5 any other impact on the game in which the incident occurred;

22.6 the prevalence of the type of incident in question in football generally;

22.7 the wider interests of football in applying consistent punishments for dismissal offences.

Increasing the standard punishment

23 Subject to paragraph 25 below, where no offer of the standard punishment is made in the Charge, the Regulatory Commission may only increase the standard punishment where The Association has claimed in the Charge that the standard punishment would be clearly insufficient.

24 In such cases, the Regulatory Commission shall increase the standard punishment only where it is satisfied so that it is sure that the circumstances of the incident under review are truly exceptional, such that the standard punishment should not be applied, and the standard punishment would be clearly insufficient, having regard to the those factors listed at paragraphs 22.1 to 22.7 above.

25 In all cases, the Regulatory Commission may increase any punishment if it believes a denial of the Charge, or any claim by the Player that the standard punishment would be clearly excessive in their case, to have been an abuse of process or without any significant foundation.

Successful Deception: Withdrawal of Associated Caution or Dismissal

26 The provisions relating to the withdrawal of an associated caution or dismissal at paragraphs 27 to 29 shall apply only in respect of Successful Deception matters which relate to an act of simulation.

27 In the event that a Charge relating to Successful Deception is proven or admitted, the Regulatory Commission shall, in its absolute discretion, consider whether or not to withdraw any associated caution or dismissal received by an opposing Player as a result of the act of simulation.

28 Where the Regulatory Commission determines that an associated caution or dismissal should be withdrawn, the standard punishment set out in paragraphs 24 to 32 of Section One of Part D: On-Field Regulations applicable to the relevant opponent Player shall not apply and any applicable fee returned. In these circumstances, any dismissal shall not be counted for the purposes of paragraphs 30 to 32 of Section One of Part D: On-Field Regulations.

29 If the effect of the decision of the Regulatory Commission is that one of two cautions received by the opponent Player during the relevant Match is withdrawn, that Player's punishment shall be reduced from that of a dismissal to a caution and the provisions of paragraph 24, rather than paragraph 30 of Section One of Part D: On-Field Regulations shall apply.

APPEALS

30 Subject to paragraph 31 below, there shall be no right of appeal from decisions made by Regulatory Commissions under this Fast Track 1.

31 In respect of Not Seen Incidents, the Player will have a right of appeal only:

31.1 in the event that the penalty imposed (over and above the automatic suspension) is in excess of three Matches; and

31.2 on the single ground that the additional suspension is excessive; and

31.3 in respect of that part of the additional suspension in excess of the additional three Matches, not accounting for any additional Matches included in the penalty as a result of a Player having served a suspension earlier in the same playing season.

For example, where a Player is suspended for eight Matches following a dismissal for violent conduct, they may appeal only in respect of the two Matches in excess of the three standard and three additional Match suspension).

32 Where permitted in accordance with the appeal provisions above, appeals shall proceed in accordance with Part E: Fast Track 7: Appeals - Fast Track.

WRITTEN REASONS

33 A request for written reasons in respect of the decision of the Regulatory Commission may be made to the Regulatory Commission, in which case the request must be made on the day the parties were notified of the decision. If requested, written reasons will be provided by 6pm on the first Business Day following the decision of the Regulatory Commission.

FAST TRACK 2: INCIDENTS ON OR AROUND THE FIELD OF PLAY, INCIDENTS OUTSIDE THE JURISDICTION OF MATCH OFFICIALS, SURROUNDING A MATCH OFFICIAL, MASS CONFRONTATIONS AND MEDIA COMMENTS

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1 This Fast Track 2 sets out the standard directions for:

1.1 charges relating to incidents on or around the field of play, incidents outside the jurisdiction of Match Officials, surrounding a Match Official, mass confrontations and media comments proceeding before Regulatory Commissions (as set out in Table 10); and

1.2 any other Charge brought in respect of any incident of alleged Misconduct which the Judicial Panel Chairman, of their own volition or following the application of any party, orders to proceed under this Fast Track 2. Such an order may be made, but is not limited to, cases where the incident concerned arises from the same facts as, or is otherwise sufficiently linked to, an incident which is otherwise to proceed under this Fast Track 2.

2 This Fast Track 2 shall apply to Participants in Categories 1, 2 and 3, save that any time limits set out herein (other than the time limits stated in paragraphs 7 to 9 below) shall not apply to Participants within Category 2 and Category 3. Subject to the foregoing, the time limits applicable to Participants within Category 2 and Category 3 shall be those set out in Part B: Non-Fast Track Regulations.

REPRESENTATION

3 In matters proceeding under this Fast Track 2, Participants may be represented in accordance with, and subject to, the provisions of paragraphs 10 to 11 of Part A: General Provisions.

4 For the avoidance of doubt, failure to comply with the notification requirements set out in paragraph 10 of Part A: General Provisions will result in the right to representation being forfeited. The date of any personal hearing that takes place pursuant to this Fast Track 2 shall be in accordance with the timings set out herein, regardless of the availability or otherwise of the Participant's chosen representative.

OBSERVATIONS

5 In certain cases, particularly those concerning media comments, as a preliminary step a Participant may be required by The Association to provide their observations.

STANDARD SANCTION OFFER (CATEGORY 3 ONLY)

6 In respect of Participants affiliated to Clubs in Category 3 only, before a Charge is issued The Association may in its absolute discretion issue a Standard Sanction Offer. In exercising that discretion, The Association shall issue a Standard Sanction Offer only in circumstances where it considers that it would designate the case as a "Standard Case" in accordance with paragraph 14.

7 The Association shall issue any Standard Sanction Offer to the Participant by no later than 6pm on the third Business Day after the relevant incident is reported to it.

8 The Participant shall accept or decline the Standard Sanction Offer by 6pm on the second Business Day after it is issued.

9 Where the Standard Sanction Offer is accepted by the Participant, the sanction shall thereafter come into immediate effect. For the avoidance of doubt, the prior ratification of the Judicial Panel Chair is not required.

10 Where the Standard Sanction Offer is declined or no response is received by The Association and the Participant is later issued a Charge, the applicable Standard Penalties shall apply (where The Association designates the case as a Standard Case).

11 In all cases the Standard Sanction Offer shall be lower than the Standard Penalties.

CHARGE

12 A Charge shall be issued which shall be accompanied by all evidence, documents and written submissions upon which The Association intends to rely.

13 A Charge shall ordinarily be issued by 5pm on the third Business Day following:

13.1 the incident; or

13.2 where the incident relates to media comments, any media comments being brought to the attention of The Association; or

13.3 where observations are requested in accordance with paragraph 5 above, provision of those observations to The Association.

STANDARD PENALTIES

14 The Association may in its absolute discretion designate a case as a "Standard Case".

15 In exercising that discretion, The Association shall not designate any case as a "Standard Case" where any one or more of the following exceptional circumstances applies:

15.1 where the particular facts of the alleged Misconduct are of a serious and/or unusual nature, as determined by The Association;

15.2 in respect of Participants in Category 1, where the Participant Charged has been issued a Charge for a similar matter, as determined by The Association, which took place in the preceding 12 months, and that Charge was found proven;

15.3 in respect of Participants in Category 3, where two or more Charges and/or Standard Sanction Offers for similar matters have been found proven against / accepted by the Participant Charged in the preceding 12 months (where similar matters are determined by The Association); and/or

15.4 where the Charge is issued in relation to media comments made by the Participant.

16 Where a case is designated as a Standard Case:

16.1 Standard Penalty 1 shall be offered in the Charge and will come into effect where such a Charge is admitted and the Standard Penalty is accepted;

16.2 Standard Penalty 2 shall come into effect when the Charge is denied and is subsequently found proven by a Regulatory Commission.

Guidance

In respect of Participants affiliated to Clubs in Category 3, Standard Penalty 1 and Standard Penalty 2 will vary depending on whether or not a Charge for a similar matter has been found proven in respect of the Participant Charged in the preceding 12 months.

17 In all cases Standard Penalty 1 shall be lower than Standard Penalty 2.

18 Where a case is not designated as a Standard Case (a "non-Standard Case"), a Standard Penalty will not be offered and, where such a Charge is admitted or found proven, the Regulatory Commission shall have a discretion to impose any such penalty as it considers appropriate.

REPLY

19 The Participant Charged must serve on The Association a Reply by 6pm on the third Business Day after the Charge, by e-mail (as directed by The Association), in which they admit or deny the Charge in accordance with the provisions below relating to Standard Cases and non-Standard Cases (as applicable).

20 The Reply must include a clear explanation of the nature and extent of the Participant's admission or denial of the Charge(s) or any part of a Charge and shall be accompanied by copies of all evidence, documents and written submissions upon which the Participant Charged intends to rely. Any evidence, documents and written submissions not provided within the time limits set out in paragraph 19 above may not be considered by the Regulatory Commission.

21 In the absence of a Reply, the matter will be dealt with directly at the next available Regulatory Commission, and evidence, documents and written submissions from the Participant Charged may not be considered by the Regulatory Commission.

Standard Cases

22 In a Standard Case, by way of Reply the Participant Charged may:

22.1 admit the Charge and accept Standard Penalty 1. In such cases Standard Penalty 1 shall come into effect immediately upon receipt of the consent of the Judicial Panel Chairman (or their nominee) and the matter shall not proceed to a Regulatory Commission;

22.2 admit the Charge and submit general written mitigation and/or an application for Standard Penalty 1 to be reassessed on the basis of the income of the Participant Charged. Such cases will be considered by a Regulatory Commission on written submissions;

22.3 deny the Charge and request to contest it at a personal hearing before a Regulatory Commission; or

22.4 deny the Charge and submit written material for a Regulatory Commission to consider on written submissions (such material to include, where relevant, an application for Standard Penalty 2 to be reassessed on the basis of the income of the Participant Charged).

23 Where a Charge is denied and subsequently found proven by a Regulatory Commission, before making a determination on penalty the Regulatory Commission may consider any general written mitigation and/or an application for Standard Penalty 2 to be reassessed on the basis of the income of the Participant Charged, as submitted by the Participant with the Reply to the Charge.

Non-Standard Cases

24 In a non-Standard Case, by way of Reply to the Charge the Participant Charged may:

24.1 admit the Charge and submit any written mitigation in writing for a Regulatory Commission to consider on written submissions;

24.2 admit the Charge but request a personal hearing before a Regulatory Commission in order to present mitigation;

24.3 deny the Charge and request to contest it at a personal hearing before a Regulatory Commission; or

24.4 deny the Charge and submit written material for a Regulatory Commission to consider on written submissions.

RESPONSE TO REPLY

25 Where a Participant Charged:

25.1 denies a Charge; or

25.2 admits a Charge but submits mitigation or other material for consideration by the Regulatory Commission,

The Association may provide a response to the Reply, evidence, documents and written submissions provided by the Participant Charged.

26 Any such response to the Reply:

26.1 must be provided to the Participant Charged and the Regulatory Commission within three Business Days of receipt of the Reply; or

26.2 where Charges have been consolidated in accordance with paragraph 13 of Part A: General Provisions, must be provided to the Participant(s) Charged and the Regulatory Commission within three Business Days of receipt of the latest Reply received.

27 Written submissions, evidence and any other relevant material not submitted the relevant time limit in paragraph 26 above may not be considered by the Regulatory Commission.

TIMING OF HEARING

28 Where the circumstances of paragraphs 22.2, 24.1 or 24.2 apply, the hearing will take place within three Business Days (i) of confirmation by The Association that it does not intend to provide a response to the Reply in accordance with paragraph 25, or (ii) where a response to the Reply is to be provided, of receipt of that response to the Reply by the Participant Charged.

29 Where the circumstances of paragraphs 22.3 or 24.3 apply, the hearing will take place within ten Business Days (i) of confirmation by The Association that it does not intend to provide a response to the Reply in accordance with paragraph 25, or (ii) where a response to the Reply is to be provided, of receipt of that response to the Reply by the Participant Charged.

30 Where the circumstances of paragraph 22.4 or 24.4 apply, the hearing will take place within three Business Days (i) of confirmation by The Association that it does not intend to provide a response to the Reply in accordance with paragraph 25, or (ii) where a response to the Reply is to be provided, of receipt of that response to the Reply by the Participant Charged.

31 Where Charges have been consolidated in accordance with paragraph 13 of Part A: General Provisions, the timelines in paragraphs 28 to 30 above shall run from: (a) the date at which the last relevant Reply is received from a Participant Charged in accordance with paragraph 19, or (b) the date at which the response to the Reply is received by the Participants Charged in accordance with paragraph 26 (where applicable).

32 In the instance of a case concerning Incidents Outside the Jurisdiction of Match Officials, wherever possible the hearing will take place prior to the next Match in which the Player would be eligible to play.

PROCEDURES

33 The following procedures shall be followed at a personal hearing before a Regulatory Commission, unless the Regulatory Commission considers it appropriate to amend them:

33.1 The Association may address the Regulatory Commission, summarise the case against the Participant Charged, and then adduce its evidence.

33.2 The Participant Charged may then summarise its case and adduce evidence of any matter of which notice has been given in the Reply.

33.3 Each party in turn may question witnesses as they give evidence and the Regulatory Commission may question parties and witnesses at any time.

33.4 After the conclusion of the evidence of the Participant Charged, The Association and the Participant Charged in turn may make closing submissions.

33.5 Where the Participant Charged admits the Charge(s), the Regulatory Commission may dispense with hearing the evidence and consider submissions from The Association and the Participant Charged in turn. Where the Participant Charged denies a Charge or part thereof, or where it is admitted but there remains a factual dispute between the Participant Charged and The Association, the Regulatory Commission shall consider the witness and other evidence placed before it together with each party's submissions in order to make findings in respect of any factual dispute(s) in order to determine: (i) whether a Charge is proven; (ii) if so proven or admitted, the factual basis on which the Charge is proven.

DECISIONS AND PENALTY

34 The Regulatory Commission will decide whether each denied Charge is proven or not proven.

35 Where a Charge is not proven, the Charge will be dismissed.

36 Where a Charge is proven or admitted, subject to the application of any Standard Penalty, the Regulatory Commission may impose any penalty that it considers to be appropriate in accordance with its general powers set out in paragraphs 41 to 44 and 52 of Part A: General Provisions.

37 The decision of the Regulatory Commission will be communicated verbally to the Participant Charged on the same day as the decision is reached, and in writing by the end of the following Business Day.

Standard Cases only

38 This provision gives effect to the principal that, in a Standard Case, either Standard Penalty 1 or Standard Penalty 2 shall not be reduced unless truly exceptional mitigation exists, or a Participant Charged can demonstrate that the Standard Penalty would be disproportionately harsh due to their level of income.

39 In a Standard Case where the Participant Charged:

39.1 admits the Charge, but submits general written mitigation and/or an application for Standard Penalty 1 to be reassessed in accordance with paragraph 22.2;

39.2 denies the Charge, by submits general written mitigation and/or an application for Standard Penalty 2 to be reassessed in accordance with paragraph 23, the Regulatory Commission shall proceed in accordance with paragraphs 40 to 42 below.

Where the Participant Charged submits general mitigation

40 Having considered the general mitigation, the Regulatory Commission will have a discretion to impose any penalty that it considers appropriate, including increasing the penalty above the applicable Standard Penalty. A Regulatory Commission may decrease the Standard Penalty only where it is satisfied that any mitigation put forward is truly exceptional and so merits a reduction. Where it is so satisfied, it may impose any penalty that it considers to be appropriate in accordance with its general powers.

Where the Participant Charged submits an application for reassessment of the Standard Penalty

41 Where a Participant Charged can demonstrate that any financial element of a Standard Penalty would be disproportionately harsh due to the level of their income, they may make an application to have the financial element of the penalty reassessed by reference to that income.

42 Where such an application is made, and the Regulatory Commission does accept that the Standard Penalty would be disproportionately harsh, the Standard Penalty will not apply and the Regulatory Commission may impose any penalty that it considers to be appropriate in accordance with its general powers.

APPEALS

43 Participants and The Association shall have the right to appeal against the decision of, or penalty imposed by, a Regulatory Commission to an Appeal Board. Appeals shall proceed in accordance with Part E: Fast Track 7: Appeals - Fast Track.

WRITTEN REASONS

44 A request for written reasons in respect of the decision of the Regulatory Commission may be lodged with the Regulatory Commission, in which case the request must be made at the time of verbal notification of the decision (i.e. on the same day as the Regulatory Commission). If requested, written reasons will be supplied to parties by 6pm on the third Business Day following the hearing.

COSTS

45 Costs shall fall to be determined in accordance with paragraph 54 of Part A: General Provisions.

FAST TRACK 3: MISTAKEN IDENTITY

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1 This Fast Track 3 sets out the process in respect of Players and Technical Area Occupants who have been cautioned or Players who have been dismissed from the field of play but claim that they were the victim of mistaken identity in relation to the imposition of such sanction.

2 This Fast Track 3 shall apply to:

2.1 Players of Clubs in Categories 1, 2 and 3; and

2.2 Technical Area Occupants of Clubs in Categories 1 and 3.

3 The procedures set out in this Fast Track 3 shall proceed in accordance with the applicable timetable set out at Table 11 below. The time limits and other requirements are to be strictly applied, and only complete claims submitted before the relevant deadline will be considered. The timetable seeks to give effect to the principle that it is in the interest of the parties and of sporting integrity that matters falling within the scope of this Fast Track 3 are concluded ahead of the suspension being served.

4 Where claims are submitted for both mistaken identity in accordance with this Fast Track 3 and wrongful dismissal in accordance with Fast Track 4 for the same incident, the matter of mistaken identity will be considered first.

5 Matters falling within this Fast Track 3 will be determined on video and written evidence only, and parties shall not be present or represented in person. For the avoidance of doubt, none of the Match Officials nor the Club, Player or Technical Area Occupant are entitled to be present or represented in person at the Regulatory Commission established for such purpose.

TIMETABLE

Table 11: Fast Track 3 Timings

	CATEGORY 1		CATEGORY 2		CATEGORY 3	
	TIMINGS	GENERAL GUIDE*	TIMINGS	GENERAL GUIDE*	TIMINGS	GENERAL GUIDE*
Notification of Intention to Submit a Claim	1pm on next Business Day following the incident	Monday	1pm on next Business Day following the incident	Monday	5pm on second Business Day following the incident	Tuesday
Claim / Evidence	1pm on second Business Day following the incident	Tuesday	1pm on second Business Day following the incident	Tuesday	5pm on fourth Business Day following the incident	Thursday
Regulatory Commission	To be determined prior to the suspension being served.	Thursday	To be determined prior to the suspension being served.	n/a	To be determined prior to the suspension being served	Thursday

* based on Match taking place on Friday, Saturday or Sunday

FEES

6 The following fees apply in respect of claims proceedings under this Fast Track 3. The fee is only payable in the event that the claim is unsuccessful. The Association may collect the fee in any manner it deems appropriate.

RELEVANT LEAGUE(S)	FEE
Premier League	£1,500
EFL Championship	£750
EFL League One	£500
EFL League Two	£350
National League	£300
National League (North and South), Isthmian League, Northern Premier League, Southern League and the FA Women's National League	£125
WSL	£300
WSL2	£125

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

PROCEDURE

Notification of Intention to Submit a Claim

7 The Player, Technical Area Occupant or their Club, wishing to bring a claim of mistaken identity must notify The Association by email (as directed by The Association) of their intention to submit a claim.

Claim

8 The Player, Technical Area Occupant or their Club must submit their claim, along with the evidence upon which their claim is founded, to The Association by email (as directed by The Association). Wherever possible, the claim should include a written statement from the Player or Technical Area Occupant who is responsible for the offence. In any event, the evidence must include:

8.1 a signed statement from the Player or Technical Area Occupant originally reported by the Referee that they were not responsible for the offence reported and identifying specifically the name of the person responsible; and

8.2 video footage of the incident.

Regulatory Commission

9 The Association will convene a Regulatory Commission to examine the claim, which shall consider the matter prior to any suspension being served.

10 The following procedures shall be followed before a Regulatory Commission, unless the Regulatory Commission considers it appropriate to amend them:

10.1 the Secretary to the Regulatory Commission will produce:

10.1.1 the Referee's report, reports from any other Match Official and any other evidence supporting the Referee's action; and

10.1.2 all statements, video footage and other evidence provided in support of the claim.

10.2 After considering the evidence, the Regulatory Commission will decide whether the claim is rejected or is successful.

10.3 In the event the claim is rejected, the Regulatory Commission will in every case go on to consider whether or not the Player's or Technical Area Occupant's punishment should be increased. Where the Regulatory Commission considers that the claim had no prospect of success and/or amounts to an abuse of process, it shall have the discretion to increase the penalty up to twice the standard punishment. In all other cases, the penalty shall be the standard punishment.

10.4 In the event the claim is successful, the standard punishment shall be transferred from the record of the Player or Technical Area Occupant reported by the Referee to the identified offender.

10.5 A record of the decision will be provided to the relevant Player's or Technical Area Occupant's Club on the same day the decision is made.

EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES: NO OR INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS DAYS

11 Where, due to there being no or insufficient Business Days between two Matches in the relevant Competition(s), it would not be possible for a claim to be determined before the suspension is to be served the following will apply:

11.1 Where there are no Business Days between two Matches in the relevant Competition(s), the Club shall notify The Association by email (JudicialServices@TheFA.com) by 1pm the day following the incident. If this notification is properly submitted, the Player will be eligible to play / the Technical Area Occupant will be eligible to occupy the Technical Area in the second Match. Submission of the claim will still be required as set out in Table 11.

11.2 Where there are insufficient Business Days between two Matches in the relevant Competition, the timetable as set out in Table 11 will still apply. However, the Player will be eligible to play / the Technical Area Occupant will be eligible to occupy the Technical Area in Matches prior to the claim being determined by a Regulatory Commission (provided that The Association has been notified in accordance with paragraph 7 above).

APPEALS

12 The decision of the Regulatory Commission is final and binding, and there shall be no right of appeal from decisions made by Regulatory Commissions under this Fast Track 3.

FAST TRACK 4: WRONGFUL DISMISSAL

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1 This Fast Track 4 sets out the process in respect of Players who have been dismissed from the field of play (except as a result of two cautions leading to a dismissal), but claim that the Referee made an obvious error in dismissing the Player.

2 This Fast Track 4 shall apply to Players of Clubs in Categories 1, 2 and 3.

3 A Regulatory Commission that considers a claim of wrongful dismissal is concerned with only the question of whether any sanction of a suspension from play is one which should be imposed in view of the facts of the case. This role is not to usurp the role of the Referee and the dismissal from the field of play will remain on the record of the Club and the Player.

4 The procedures set out in this Fast Track 4 shall proceed in accordance with the applicable timetable set out at Table 12. The time limits and other requirements are to be strictly applied, and only complete claims which adhere to the relevant deadlines will be considered. The timetable seeks to give effect to the principle that it is in the interest of the parties and of sporting integrity that matters falling within the scope of this Fast Track 4 are concluded ahead of the suspension being served.

5 Matters falling within this Fast Track 4 will be determined on video and written evidence only, and parties shall not be present or represented in person. For the avoidance of doubt, none of the Match Officials nor the Club or Player are entitled to be present or represented in person at the Regulatory Commission established for such purpose.

TIMETABLE

Table 12: Fast Track 4 Timings

	CATEGORY 1		CATEGORY 2		CATEGORY 3	
	TIMINGS	GENERAL GUIDE*	TIMINGS	GENERAL GUIDE*	TIMINGS	GENERAL GUIDE*
Notification of Intention to Submit a Claim	1pm on next Business Day following the incident	Monday	1pm on next Business Day following the incident	Monday	5pm on the second Business Day following the incident	Tuesday
Claim / Evidence	1pm on second Business Day following the incident	Tuesday	1pm on second Business Day following the incident	Tuesday	5pm on the fourth business day following the incident	Thursday
Regulatory Commission	To be determined prior to the suspension being served.	Thursday	To be determined prior to the suspension being served.	n/a	To be determined prior to the suspension being served.	Thursday

*based on Match taking place on Friday, Saturday or Sunday

FEES

6 The following fees apply in respect of claims proceedings under this Fast Track 4. Subject to paragraph 7 below, the fee shall only be payable in the event that the claim is unsuccessful. The Association may collect the fee in any manner it deems appropriate.

LEAGUE	FEE
Premier League	£1,500
EFL Championship	£750
EFL League One	£500
EFL League Two	£350
National League	£300
National League (North and South), Isthmian League, Northern Premier League, Southern League and the FA Women's National League	£125
WSL	£300
WSL2	£125

7 Where a claim is submitted, but is withdrawn after 5pm on the first Business Day after the incident, The Association shall have the power to retain the fee. In circumstances where the fee is to be retained: (i) where the fee has yet to be paid, it will be required to be paid to The Association; and (ii) failure to pay the fee in these circumstances will result in disciplinary action being taken. Where a claim is withdrawn before the 5pm deadline, the fee shall be refunded (or, if not already paid, will not be required).

PROCEDURE

Notification of Intention to Submit a Claim

8 The Player, or their Club, wishing to bring a claim of wrongful dismissal must notify The Association by email (JudicialServices@TheFA.com) of their intention to submit a claim.

Claim

9 The Player or their Club must submit their claim, along with the evidence upon which their claim is founded (which must include video footage showing the incident from all available angles), to The Association by email (as directed by The Association).

10 Once the claim has been lodged with The Association, The Association will confirm that the claim has been made in accordance with the time limits and other requirements of this Fast Track 4 (to include, but not limited to, submitting video footage of the incident).

Regulatory Commission

11 The Association will convene a Regulatory Commission to examine the claim, which shall consider the matter prior to any suspension being served.

12 The following procedures shall be followed before a Regulatory Commission, unless the Regulatory Commission considers it appropriate to amend them:

12.1 The Secretary to the Regulatory Commission will produce:

12.1.1 the Referee's report, reports from any other Match Official and any other evidence supporting the Referee's action; and

12.1.2 all statements, video footage and other evidence provided in support of the claim, including details of the Player.

12.2 After considering the evidence, the Regulatory Commission will decide whether the claim is rejected or is successful. A claim will only be successful where the Regulatory Commission is satisfied that the Referee made an obvious error in dismissing the Player.

12.3 In the event the claim is rejected, the Regulatory Commission will in every case go on to consider whether or not the Player's punishment should be increased. Where the Regulatory Commission considers that the claim had no prospect of success and/or amounts to an abuse of process, it shall have the discretion to increase the penalty up to twice the standard punishment. In all other cases, the penalty shall be the standard punishment.

12.4 In the event the claim is successful, the standard punishment shall be withdrawn. The dismissal shall not be counted for the purposes of paragraphs 30 to 32 of Section One of Part D: On-Field Regulations.

12.5 A record of the decision will be prepared and provided to the Club of the relevant Player on the same day the decision is made.

EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES: NO OR INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS DAYS

13 Where, due to there being no or insufficient Business Days between two Matches in the relevant Competition(s), it would not be possible for a claim to be determined before the suspension is to be served the following will apply:

13.1 The Club shall notify The Association by email (JudicialServices@TheFA.com) by 1pm the day following the dismissal and shall lodge their claim, along with the evidence upon which their claim is founded, by 5pm that same day;

13.2 In such cases the Regulatory Commission will consider the claim no later than 6pm on the day before the next fixture.

14 Should a Player play in a Match without having given the appropriate notification as set out in paragraph 13.1 above, this shall constitute Misconduct.

APPEALS

15 The decision of the Regulatory Commission is final and binding, and there shall be no right of appeal from decisions made by Regulatory Commissions under this Fast Track 4.

FAST TRACK 5: CLEARLY EXCESSIVE

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1 This Fast Track 5 sets out the process where a Player or their Club seeks to limit the disciplinary consequences of the dismissal of the Player from the field of play by demonstrating that the circumstances of the dismissal were truly exceptional such that the standard punishment, set out in Part D: On-Field Regulations, would be clearly excessive. It shall apply to Players of Clubs in Categories 1, 2 and 3.

2 The ability to claim under this Fast Track 5 is provided only so exceptional cases may be rectified. It is not intended to lead to the systematic, regular review of standard punishments. Regulatory Commissions should approach such cases with these principles in mind and it is envisaged that, in the vast majority of dismissals, the standard punishments will be appropriate and will be applied.

3 The Regulatory Commission that considers a claim of this type is concerned with only the question of whether the standard punishment should not be imposed in view of the truly exceptional facts of the case. This role is not to usurp the role of the Referee nor to scrutinise the correctness of the dismissal from the field of play, which shall remain on the record of the Club and the Player, will remain the subject of the administration fee and will accrue the appropriate number of penalty points for a first team sending-off.

4 Claims under this Fast Track 5 may only be lodged in relation on-field offences which result in a dismissal for offensive or insulting or abusive language / gestures, serious foul play, violent conduct, or spitting.

5 The procedures set out in this Fast Track 5 shall proceed in accordance with the applicable timetable set out at Table 13. The time limits and other requirements are to be strictly applied, and only complete claims which adhere to the relevant deadlines will be considered. The timetable seeks to give effect to the principle that it is in the interest of the parties and of sporting integrity that matters falling within the scope of this Fast Track 5 are concluded, where possible, ahead of the suspension being served.

6 Matters falling within this Fast Track 5 will be determined on video and written evidence only, and parties shall not be present or represented in person. For the avoidance of doubt, none of the Match Officials nor the Club or Player are entitled to be present or represented in person at the Regulatory Commission established for such purpose.

TIMETABLE

Table 13: Fast Track 5 Timings

	CATEGORY 1		CATEGORY 2		CATEGORY 3	
	TIMINGS	GENERAL GUIDE*	TIMINGS	GENERAL GUIDE*	TIMINGS	GENERAL GUIDE*
Notification of Intention to Submit a Claim	1pm on next Business Day following the incident	Monday	1pm on next Business Day following the incident	Monday	5pm on the second Business Day following the incident	Tuesday
Claim / Evidence	1pm on second Business Day following the incident	Tuesday	1pm on second Business Day following the incident	Tuesday	5pm on the fourth Business Day following the incident	Thursday
Regulatory Commission	To be determined, where practicable, prior to the suspension being served and in all cases before the second Match that the Player would miss were the standard punishment to apply.	Thursday	To be determined, where practicable, prior to the suspension being served and in all cases before the second Match that the Player would miss were the standard punishment to apply.	Thursday	To be determined, where practicable, prior to the suspension being served and in all cases before the second Match that the Player would miss were the standard punishment to apply.	Thursday

* based on Match taking place on Friday, Saturday or Sunday

FEES

7 The following fees apply in respect of claims proceedings under this Fast Track 5. Subject to paragraph 8 below, the fee shall only be payable in the event that the claim is unsuccessful. The Association may collect the fee in any manner it deems appropriate.

LEAGUE	FEE
Premier League	£1,500
EFL Championship	£750
EFL League One	£500
EFL League Two	£350
National League	£300
National League (North and South), Isthmian League, Northern Premier League, Southern League and the FA Women's National League	£125
WSL	£300
WSL2	£125

8 Where a claim is submitted, but is withdrawn after 5pm on the first Business Day after the incident, The Association shall have the power to retain the fee. In circumstances where the fee is to be retained: (i) where the fee has yet to be paid, it will be required to be paid to The Association; and (ii) failure to pay the fee in these circumstances will result in disciplinary action being taken. Where a claim is withdrawn before the 5pm deadline, the fee shall be refunded (or, if not already paid, will not be required).

PROCEDURE

Notification of Intention to Submit a Claim

9 The Player, or their Club, wishing to bring a 'clearly excessive' claim must notify The Association by email (JudicialServices@TheFA.com) of their intention to submit a claim.

Claim

10 The Player or their Club must submit their claim, along with the evidence upon which their claim is founded (which must include video footage showing the incident from all available angles), to The Association by email (as directed by The Association). The claim must explain why the case is truly exceptional.

11 Once the claim has been lodged with The Association, The Association will confirm that the claim has been made in accordance with the time limits and other requirements of this Fast Track 5 (to include, but not limited to, submitting video footage of the incident).

Regulatory Commission

12 The Association will convene a Regulatory Commission to examine the claim which shall, where practicable, consider the matter prior to any suspension being served but shall in all cases consider the matter before the second Match that the Player would miss were the standard punishment to apply.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

13 The following procedures shall be followed before a Regulatory Commission, unless the Regulatory Commission considers it appropriate to amend them:

13.1 The Secretary to the Regulatory Commission will produce:

13.1.1 the Referee's report, reports from any other Match Official and any other evidence supporting the Referee's action; and

13.1.2 all statements, video footage and other evidence provided in support of the claim, including details of the Player.

13.2 After considering the evidence, the Regulatory Commission will decide whether the claim is rejected or is successful. A claim will only be successful where the Regulatory Commission is satisfied so that it is sure that:

13.2.1 the circumstances of the dismissal under review are truly exceptional, such that the standard punishment should not be applied; and

13.2.2 as a result of the truly exceptional circumstances the standard punishment would be clearly excessive.

13.3 In considering the matters at paragraph 13.2 above, the Regulatory Commission shall have regard to:

13.3.1 the applicable Law(s) of the Game and any relevant FIFA instructions and/or guidelines;

13.3.2 the nature of the dismissal offence including the Player's state of mind, in particular any intent, recklessness or negligence;

13.3.3 where applicable, the level of force used;

13.3.4 any injury to an opponent caused by the dismissal offence;

13.3.5 any other impact on the game in which the incident occurred;

13.3.6 the prevalence of the type of incident in question in football generally;

13.3.7 the wider interests of football in applying consistent punishments for dismissal offences.

13.4 In the event the claim is rejected, the Regulatory Commission will in every case go on to consider whether or not the Player's punishment should be increased. Where the Regulatory Commission considers that the claim had no prospect of success and/or amounts to an abuse of process, it shall have the discretion to increase the penalty up to twice the standard punishment.

13.5 In the event the claim is successful, the standard punishment shall be withdrawn. The Regulatory Commission will go on to decide the punishment to be applied to the Player in respect of the dismissal. In all cases, this shall be a suspension of at least one Match. In deciding on the appropriate punishment, the Regulatory Commission shall have regard to those factors listed at paragraphs 13.3.1 to 13.3.7 above.

13.6 A record of the decision will be prepared and provided to the Club of the relevant Player on the same day the decision is made.

APPEALS

14 The decision of the Regulatory Commission is final and binding, and there shall be no right of appeal from decisions made by Regulatory Commissions under this Fast Track 5.

FAST TRACK 6: CLEARLY INSUFFICIENT

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1 This Fast Track 6 sets out the process where The Association seeks to increase the disciplinary consequences of the dismissal of the Player from the field of play by demonstrating that the circumstances of the dismissal were truly exceptional such that the standard punishment, set out in Part D: On-Field Regulations, would be clearly insufficient. It applies to Players of Clubs in Categories 1, 2 and 3.

2 The ability to claim under this Fast Track 6 is provided only so exceptional cases may be rectified. It is not intended to lead to the systematic, regular review of standard punishments. Regulatory Commissions should approach such cases with these principles in mind and it is envisaged that, in the vast majority of dismissals, the standard punishments will be appropriate and will be applied.

3 The Regulatory Commission that considers a claim of this type is concerned with only the question of whether the standard punishment should not be imposed in view of the truly exceptional facts of the case. This role is not to usurp the role of the Referee nor to scrutinise the correctness of the dismissal from the field of play, which shall remain on the record of the Club and the Player, will remain the subject of the administration fee and will accrue the appropriate number of penalty points for a sending-off.

4 Claims under this Fast Track 6 may only be lodged in relation on-field offences which result in a dismissal for serious foul play, violent conduct, or spitting.

5 The procedures set out in this Fast Track 6 shall proceed in accordance with the applicable timetable set out at Table 14. The timetable seeks to give effect to the principle that it is in the interest of the parties and of sporting integrity that matters falling within the scope of this Fast Track 6 are concluded, where possible, ahead of the suspension being served.

6 A Referee's report showing that a Player was dismissed for serious foul play, violent conduct, or spitting shall be conclusive evidence that the Player has breached the relevant Law of the Game and shall not be subject to challenge, save for where any such dismissal is subject to a claim for wrongful dismissal.

7 Matters falling within this Fast Track 6 will be determined on video and written evidence only, and parties shall not be present or represented in person. For the avoidance of doubt, none of the Match Officials nor the Club or Player are entitled to be present or represented in person at the Regulatory Commission established for such purpose.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

TIMETABLE

Table 14: Fast Track 6 Timings

	CATEGORY 1		CATEGORY 2		CATEGORY 3	
	TIMINGS	GENERAL GUIDE*	TIMINGS	GENERAL GUIDE*	TIMINGS	GENERAL GUIDE*
Claim / Evidence	1pm on the second Business Day following the incident	Tuesday	1pm on the second Business Day following the incident	Tuesday	6pm on the third Business Day following the incident	Wednesday
Reply	6pm on the second Business Day following the issue of the claim	Thursday	6pm on the second Business Day following the issue of the claim	Thursday	6pm on the third Business Day following the issue of the claim	Following Monday
Regulatory Commission	To be determined, where practicable, prior to the suspension being served and in all cases before the second Match that the Player would miss were the standard punishment to apply.	Friday	To be determined, where practicable, prior to the suspension being served and in all cases before the second Match that the Player would miss were the standard punishment to apply.	Friday	To be determined, where practicable, prior to the suspension being served and in all cases before the second Match that the Player would miss were the standard punishment to apply.	Following Tuesday

*based on Match taking place on Friday, Saturday or Sunday

PROCEDURE

Claim

8 The Association shall submit its claim, along with the evidence upon which their claim is founded (which must include the Referee's report and where available and The Association is in possession of it, video footage showing the incident from all available angles), and must send it to the Player and/or the Player's Club.

Reply

9 The Player must submit to The Association a written reply to the claim (which must include all evidence in support of the reply) by email (as directed by The Association). Where no reply is received, the Regulatory Commission shall consider the claim as if it had been denied by the Player.

Regulatory Commission

10 A Regulatory Commission will be convened to examine the claim. The Regulatory Commission will, where practicable, consider the matter prior to any suspension being served but will, in all cases, consider the matter before the second Match that the Player would miss were the standard punishment to apply.

11 The following procedures following procedures shall be followed before a Regulatory Commission, unless the Regulatory Commission considers it appropriate to amend them:

11.1 The Secretary to the Regulatory Commission will produce:

11.1.1 the Referee's report, reports from any other Match Official and any other evidence supporting the Referee's action;

11.1.2 all statements, video footage and other evidence provided in support of the claim; and

11.1.3 the written reply and evidence provided in support.

11.2 After considering the evidence, the Regulatory Commission will decide whether the claim is rejected or is successful. A claim will only be successful where the Regulatory Commission is satisfied so that it is sure that:

11.2.1 the circumstances of the dismissal under review are truly exceptional, such that the standard punishment should not be applied; and

11.2.2 as a result of the truly exceptional circumstances the standard punishment would be clearly insufficient.

11.3 In considering the matters at paragraph 11.2 above, the Regulatory Commission shall have regard to:

11.3.1 the applicable Law(s) of the Game and any relevant FIFA instructions and/or guidelines;

11.3.2 the nature of the dismissal offence including the Player's state of mind, in particular any intent, recklessness or negligence;

11.3.3 where applicable, the level of force used;

11.3.4 any injury to an opponent caused by the dismissal offence;

11.3.5 any other impact on the game in which the incident occurred;

11.3.6 the prevalence of the type of incident in question in football generally;

11.3.7 the wider interests of football in applying consistent punishments for dismissal offences.

11.4 In the event the claim is rejected, the Regulatory Commission shall deliberate no further on the claim and the Player shall serve the standard punishment.

11.5 In the event the claim is successful, the standard punishment shall be set aside. The Regulatory Commission will go on to decide the punishment to be applied to the Player in respect of the dismissal. In deciding on the appropriate punishment, the Regulatory Commission shall have regard to those factors listed at paragraphs 11.3.1 to 11.3.7 above. Any punishment imposed by the Regulatory Commission shall be limited to a suspension from playing a specified number of Matches in addition to the standard penalty.

11.6 A record of the decision will be prepared and provided to the Club of the relevant Player on the same day as the decision is made.

APPEALS

12 The decision will be subject to appeal only:

12.1 in the event that the penalty imposed (over and above the standard penalty) is in excess of three Matches; and

12.2 on the single ground that the additional suspension is excessive; and

12.3 in respect of that part of the additional suspension in excess of the additional three Matches, not accounting for any additional Matches included in the penalty as a result of a Player having served a suspension earlier in the same playing season.

For example, where a Player is suspended for eight Matches following a dismissal for violent conduct, they may appeal only in respect of the two Matches in excess of the three standard and three additional Match suspension).

13 Appeals shall proceed in accordance with Part E: Fast Track 7: Appeals – Fast Track.

FAST TRACK 7: APPEALS – FAST TRACK

GENERAL

1 These Regulations set out the provisions relating to appeals arising from matters proceeding under a Fast Track. For the avoidance of doubt, there shall only be a right of appeal from matters proceeding under Fast Track 1, Fast Track 2 and Fast Track 6.

2 Where an appeal is made from a Fast Track 2 matter by a Participant affiliated to a Club at Category 3, any time limits set out herein shall not apply.

3 A decision relating to a Preliminary Application made in a matter proceeding under a Fast Track shall be final and binding and there shall be no right of further challenge.

4 Submissions, evidence and any other relevant material not submitted within the time limits set out herein may not be considered by the Appeal Board.

GROUNDS OF APPEAL

5 Save where otherwise stated, the grounds of appeal available to The Association shall be that the body whose decision is appealed against:

5.1 misinterpreted or failed to comply with the Rules and/or regulations of The Association relevant to its decision; and/or

5.2 came to a decision to which no reasonable such body could have come; and/or

5.3 imposed a penalty, award, order or sanction that was so unduly lenient as to be unreasonable.

6 Save where otherwise stated, the grounds of appeal available to Participants shall be that the body whose decision is appealed against:

6.1 failed to give that Participant a fair hearing; and/or

6.2 misinterpreted or failed to comply with the Rules and/or regulations of The Association relevant to its decision; and/or

6.3 came to a decision to which no reasonable such body could have come; and/or

6.4 imposed a penalty, award, order or sanction that was excessive.

REPRESENTATION

7 In matters proceeding under this Appeals Fast Track, Participants shall have the right to attend and may be represented in accordance with, and subject to, the provisions of paragraph 10 of Part A: General Provisions. For the avoidance of doubt, failure to comply with the notification requirements set out in paragraph 10 of Part A: General Provisions will result in the right to representation being forfeited.

8 An Appeal Board may also conduct a hearing on the basis of written submissions only, should the appellant not wish to be present or represented in person.

PROCEDURE

Notification of Intention to Submit an Appeal

9 Where the Participant of The Association intends to lodge an appeal, they must notify The Association by email (JudicialServices@TheFA.com):

9.1 by 12 noon on the first Business Day following the Regulatory Commission; or

9.2 in cases where written reasons are requested, by 12 noon on the first Business Day following receipt of the written reasons.

10 Once an appeal has been commenced, it shall not be withdrawn except by leave of the Appeal Board (or the Judicial Panel Chairman (or their nominee) if an Appeal Board has not yet been convened). Where an appeal is so withdrawn, the Appeal Board may make such order for costs as it considers appropriate.

Submissions

11 The appellant (whether the Participant or The Association) must, by 6pm on the first Business Day following notification of intention to appeal, provide The Association and the Judicial Panel Chairman (or their nominee) with copies of all submissions, evidence and any other relevant material upon which they intend to rely. Where the appellant is a Participant, they must also provide the appeal fee of £100.

12 An appeal shall be by way of a review of documents and oral submissions only and shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Regulatory Commission. The Association will ensure that all documents relating to the original Regulatory Commission hearing are provided to the Appeal Board.

Responses

13 The respondent (whether the Participant or The Association) must, within two Business Days of receipt of the appellant's submissions evidence and material, provide its responses to the appellant and the Appeal Board.

New Evidence

14 New evidence may be admitted with the permission of the Chairman of the Appeal Board. An application for leave to present new evidence must be made when providing submissions or Response (as applicable). Such application must set out the nature and the relevance of the new evidence, and why it was not presented at the original hearing. Save in exceptional circumstances, the appeal board shall not grant leave to present new evidence unless satisfied with the reason given as to why it was not, or could not have been, presented at the original hearing and that such evidence is relevant. The decision of the Chairman of the Appeal Board shall be final. Where leave to present new evidence has been granted, in all cases the other party will be given an opportunity to respond. The Appeal Board's decision shall be final.

Appeal Board

15 The Appeal Board will hear the appeal at the earliest available opportunity but, in any case, no earlier than on the second day after submission of responses.

16 The following procedures shall be followed at a personal hearing before an Appeal Board, unless the Appeal Board considers it appropriate to amend them:

16.1 the appellant to address the appeal board, summarising its case;

16.2 any new evidence to be presented by the appellant;

16.3 the respondent to address the appeal board, summarising its case;

16.4 any new evidence to be presented by the respondent;

16.5 each party to be able to put questions to any witness giving new evidence;

16.6 the Appeal Board may put questions to the parties and any witness giving new evidence at any stage;

16.7 the respondent to make closing submissions;

16.8 the appellant to make closing submissions;

16.9 the Appeal Board to decide whether the appeal is allowed or dismissed.

DECISIONS

17 A decision of the Appeal Board shall be final and binding and there shall be no right of further challenge.

18 The Appeal Board shall have power to:

18.1 allow or dismiss the appeal;

18.2 increase or decrease the penalty, award or sanction originally imposed;

18.3 make such further or other order as it considers appropriate.

COSTS

19 Costs shall fall to be determined in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 52 to 53 of Part A: General Provisions.

F - INTERIM SUSPENSION ORDER REGULATIONS

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1 These Interim Suspension Order Regulations apply to Interim Suspension Orders made pursuant to Rule E16, whether before or after a Charge.

2 A Regulatory Commission may deviate from the provisions of these Regulations at their discretion, save that any Review Period must not be more than 21 days in any case. Where a Regulatory Commission deviates from any other time limit set out in these Regulations, it will do so subject to the overall aim of ensuring that applications proceed on an expedited basis in all cases, whilst ensuring a fair process (to include that the Participant has a fair opportunity to make representations in response to an application).

3 Any failure to follow these Regulations will not in itself invalidate any application or order made.

4 References in these Regulations to Chief Regulatory Officer or Judicial Panel Chairman include any nominee acting on their behalf.

5 Any general provisions relating to Regulatory Commissions in force from time to time shall apply to hearings conducted pursuant to these Regulations, subject to modifications concerning representation (at paragraphs 6 to 8) and costs (at paragraph 36).

REPRESENTATION

6 In matters proceeding under these Regulations, parties have the right to be present and/or represented at any hearing convened in accordance with these Regulations. Where a party wishes to be represented, this fact together with the identity of any representative, shall be submitted at the same time as any application or response (as applicable).

7 The Regulatory Commission may, at its discretion, proceed to hear an application in the absence of any party.

8 The Regulatory Commission may consider any matter pursuant to these Regulations on the basis of written submissions only, should the applicant and Participant not wish to be present or represented in person.

APPLICATION FOR AN INTERIM SUSPENSION ORDER BEFORE A CHARGE

Notice of Application

9 The Chief Regulatory Officer must give simultaneous written notice of the application to the Judicial Panel Chairman and the Participant in respect of whom the application is being made.

10 The notice must:

10.1 set out a brief summary of the basis of the application; and

10.2 confirm that the applicant has obtained the agreement of the relevant League and, where applicable, the Professional Footballers' Association in accordance with Rule E16 (such confirmation shall be conclusive evidence of the fact that such agreement has been obtained).

Composition of the Regulatory Commission

11 Upon receipt of the application, the Judicial Panel Chairman shall select a Regulatory Commission to consider the application. Subject to paragraph 12 below, such selection shall be in accordance with any applicable selection policy in force from time to time.

12 The Regulatory Commission considering the application shall be chaired by a barrister or solicitor of seven or more years' standing.

Application

13 Within two Business Days of providing the notice of application, the applicant must provide to the Chairman of the Regulatory Commission (via The Association's Legal and Governance department) and the Participant full details of the application, to include the written submissions and all evidence or material of whatever nature relied upon in support of the application.

Responses

14 Within two Business Days of receipt of the application and supporting evidence / material, the Participant must provide to the Chairman of the Regulatory Commission (via The Association's Legal and Governance department) and the applicant their written submissions and all evidence or material of whatever nature to be relied upon in response to the application.

15 The applicant shall have two Business Days to provide a response, if any, to the Participant's submissions and supporting evidence / material provided in accordance with paragraph 14 above. This response must be provided to the Chairman of the Regulatory Commission and the Participant.

Regulatory Commission Procedure

Timing

16 The Regulatory Commission shall hear the application at the earliest opportunity, but no earlier than the second day after the provision of either:

16.1 the response by the Participant in accordance with paragraph 14 above; or

16.2 where applicable, the response by the applicant in accordance with paragraph 15 above.

Hearing

17 The following procedures shall be followed, unless the Regulatory Commission considers it appropriate to amend them:

17.1 a summary of the basis for the application will be put forward by the applicant, followed by the Participant who shall put forward a summary of the points to be raised on their behalf;

17.2 the applicant and the Participant, in that order, may then address the Regulatory Commission and put forward all submissions and all evidence of whatever nature relied upon;

17.3 each party and the Regulatory Commission shall have the opportunity to put questions in respect of any matter presented by either party;

17.4 in conclusion, the applicant and the Participant in that order may make a closing submission.

18 Where a party seeks to rely on submissions, evidence or material of whatever nature at the hearing but has not given notice in accordance with these Regulations, the Regulatory Commission shall have a discretion whether or not to take that matter into account.

Decision

19 The Regulatory Commission may:

19.1 make an Interim Suspension Order, but only:

19.1.1 where the applicant has established to the satisfaction of the Regulatory Commission the matters set out in Rule E16.1.1 and E16.1.2; and

19.1.2 in accordance with Rule E16.3.

19.2 dismiss the application;

19.3 make any other order as it considers appropriate.

20 Where the Regulatory Commission makes an Interim Suspension Order, it must determine and state as part of the Interim Suspension Order, the Review Period. The Review Period for Interim Suspension Orders made in accordance with paragraphs 9 to 19 shall be no more than 21 days from the date of the Interim Suspension Order.

PERIODIC REVIEW

General

21 A Participant in respect of whom an Interim Suspension Order has been made may apply to have the Interim Suspension Order reviewed by a Regulatory Commission:

21.1 in respect of an Interim Suspension Order issued by a Regulatory Commission before a Charge in accordance with Rule E16.1, before the expiry of the Review Period; or

21.2 in respect of an Interim Suspension Order issued by the Chief Regulatory Officer after a Charge in accordance with Rule E16.4, once the Interim Suspension Order has been issued.

Notice of Application for Review

22 The Participant must give simultaneous written notice of the application to the Judicial Panel Chairman and the Chief Regulatory Officer. The notice may be sent by email, fax or post.

23 The notice must set out a brief summary of the basis of the application.

Composition of the Regulatory Commission

24 Upon receipt of the application, the Judicial Panel Chairman shall select a Regulatory Commission to consider the application. Such selection shall be in accordance with any applicable selection policy in force from time to time. Subject to any representations by the parties, a Regulatory Commission which considers a review application may include all or any of the same Regulatory Commission members that imposed the Interim Suspension Order or any of the Regulatory Commission members that subsequently reviewed it.

Application

25 Within two Business Days of providing the notice of application, the Participant must provide to the Chairman of the Regulatory Commission (via The Association's Legal and Governance department) and the Chief Regulatory Officer full details of the application, to include the written submissions and all evidence or material of whatever nature relied upon in support of the application.

Responses

26 Within two Business Days of receipt of the application and supporting evidence / material, the Chief Regulatory Officer must provide to the Chairman of the Regulatory Commission (via The Association's Legal and Governance department) and the Participant their written submissions and all evidence or material of whatever nature to be relied upon in response to the application.

27 The applicant shall have two Business Days to provide a response, if any, to the Participant's submissions and supporting evidence / material provided in accordance with paragraph 26 above.

Regulatory Commission Procedure

Timing

28 The Regulatory Commission shall hear the application at the earliest opportunity, but no earlier than the second day after the provision of either:

28.1 the response by the Chief Regulatory Officer in accordance with paragraph 26 above; or

28.2 where applicable, the response by the Participant in accordance with paragraph 27 above.

29 The Association shall notify the parties of the hearing location and arrangements.

Hearing

30 The following procedures shall be followed, unless the Regulatory Commission considers it appropriate to amend them:

30.1 a summary of the basis for the application will be put forward by the Participant, followed by the Chief Regulatory Officer who shall put forward a summary of the points to be raised on their behalf;

30.2 the Participant and the Chief Regulatory Officer, in that order, may then address the Regulatory Commission and put forward all submissions and all evidence of whatever nature relied upon;

30.3 each party and the Regulatory Commission shall have the opportunity to put questions in respect of any matter presented by either party;

30.4 in conclusion, the Participant and the Chief Regulatory Officer in that order may make a closing submission.

31 Where a party seeks to rely on submissions, evidence or material of whatever nature at the hearing but has not given notice in accordance with these Regulations, the Regulatory Commission shall have a discretion whether or not to take that matter into account.

Decision

32 The Regulatory Commission may make any order in respect of the Interim Suspension Order as it considers appropriate including, but not limited to, ordering that it continue in force, extending it, modifying it or removing it.

33 The Regulatory Commission may only order an Interim Suspension Order to continue in force:

33.1 where the Chief Regulatory Officer has established to the satisfaction of the Regulatory Commission the matters set out in Rule E16.1.1 and E16.1.2; and

33.2 in accordance with Rule E16.3.

34 Where the Regulatory Commission orders that an Interim Suspension Order is to continue in force, it must determine and state as part of the order, the Review Period. The Review Period shall be no more than 21 days from the date of the last review.

Further Review

35 For as long as an Interim Suspension Order remains in place, a Participant in respect of whom an Interim Suspension Order has been made shall be entitled to apply to have the Interim Suspension Order further reviewed by a Regulatory Commission before the expiry of the Review Period.

COSTS

36 Any costs incurred in bringing, or responding, to an application for (or review of) an Interim Suspension Order shall be borne by the party incurring the costs. Any costs incurred in relation to the selection and conduct of the Regulatory Commission may be ordered by the Regulatory Commission to be paid by either party.

CHALLENGE

37 A decision of the Regulatory Commission made pursuant to these Regulations shall be final and binding with no right of further challenge.

G - APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: DEFINITIONS

Affiliated Association Secretary means the secretary of the appropriate Affiliated Association and any person nominated to discharge a part of the regulatory and disciplinary administration of the Affiliated Association;

Aggravated Breach means Misconduct of a manner prescribed in Rule E3.1;

Anti-Doping Rule Violation means a breach of Anti-Doping Regulations 3-12 (inclusive);

Assistant Referee means a person qualified under The Association's Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees who may be appointed as a Match Official;

CAS means the Court of Arbitration for Sport;

Charge means written notice served on a Participant by The Association which sets out facts and matters of alleged Misconduct committed by that Participant and which serves to commence disciplinary proceedings against them;

Club Secretary means the secretary of the appropriate Club and any person nominated to discharge a part of the regulatory and disciplinary administration of the Club;

Compensation Claimant shall have the meaning given to it in paragraph 50 of Part A: General Provisions to these Disciplinary Regulations;

Council Panel Members means those individuals who are appointed by the Committees Appointment Panel of Council from among Members of Council from time to time by the Judicial Panel Monitoring Group to be Panel Members in accordance with the Terms of Reference for the Composition and Operation of the Judicial Panel;

Disciplinary Commission means a commission established by the appropriate Affiliated Association or by The Association on behalf of an Affiliated Association;

Disciplinary Commission Secretary means a person appointed to act as a secretary to a Disciplinary Commission;

EFL means The English Football League Limited;

EFL Leagues mean the Leagues organised by the EFL for Clubs in membership of the EFL;

First Team Competitive Match (or FTCM) means a first team competitive Match in the following Competitions: FA Challenge Cup, FA Challenge Trophy, Premier League, EFL Leagues, EFL Cup, EFL Trophy, National League, National League Cup, WSL, WSL2, FA Women's Challenge Cup and FA Women's League Cup;

Football Category means one of the following categories of football played in (and outside) the National League System: Saturday Football, Sunday Football, Midweek Football, Representative Football, Veterans Football, Education Football;

Football Panel Members means those individuals with appropriate experience of the game of association football who are appointed from time to time to be Panel Members in accordance with the Terms of Reference for the Composition and Operation of the Judicial Panel;

Friendly Match means any Match sanctioned or regarded by The Association or an Affiliated Association as a friendly Match (including FA Community Shield and Women's FA Community Shield Matches);

Grassroots Fast Track Case means a case designated as such by an Affiliated Association in accordance with Section Three of Part D: On-Field Regulations;

Grassroots Fast Track Sanction Offer means the offer of a discounted sporting and/or financial sanction, determined by an Affiliated Association by reference to sanctioning guidelines issued by The Association from time to time;

International Transfer Certificate means a certificate issued by a member association of FIFA in respect of an international transfer of a player between member associations, in accordance with FIFA's Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players;

Judicial Panel means the judicial panel of The Association appointed by Council (or from 29 September 2023 onwards the Board) from time to time from which Regulatory Commissions and Appeal Boards are appointed to hear disciplinary and other cases and appeals;

Judicial Panel Chairman means the chairman of the Judicial Panel, as appointed by Council (or from 29 September 2023 onwards the Board) from time to time in accordance with the Terms of Reference for the Composition and Operation of the Judicial Panel, or their nominee;

Judicial Panel Monitoring Group means the group of that name established by the Football Regulatory Authority;

League means a league competition sanctioned by The Association and/or an Affiliated Association;

Non-First Team Competitive Match (or NFTM) means all Matches other than (i) First Team Competitive Matches and (ii) Friendly Matches;

Notice of Appeal shall have the meaning given to it in paragraph 5 of Part C: Appeals - Non-Fast Track to these Disciplinary Regulations;

Notification Date shall have the meaning given to it in paragraph 4 of Part C: Appeals - Non-Fast Track to these Disciplinary Regulations;

Panel Members means together, the Council Panel Members, the Football Panel Members and the Specialist Panel Members of the Judicial Panel from time to time;

Participant Charged means a Participant that has been served with a Charge;

Preliminary Application means an application made by a party to disciplinary proceedings for issues to be dealt with on a preliminary basis;

Provisional Hearing means an expedited abbreviated hearing on notice that occurs prior to the full hearing of a Charge and provides the Player with an opportunity to make representations, whether written or oral, in respect of a Provisional Suspension only;

Provisional Suspension means a Player or other person is barred temporarily from participating in any football or football activity prior to the final decision in respect of an Anti-Doping Rule Violation at a Regulatory Commission hearing;

Referee means a person qualified under The Association's Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees who may be appointed as a Match Official;

Reply means a written response to a Charge;

Respect Offence shall have the meaning given to it in paragraph 69 of Section Three of Part D: On-Field Regulations to these Disciplinary Regulations;

Response shall have the meaning given to it in paragraph 8 of Part C: Appeals - Non-Fast Track to these Disciplinary Regulations;

Review Period means, in relation to an Interim Suspension Order, the period during which the Participant will be entitled to have the Interim Suspension Order reviewed by a Regulatory Commission;

Rules shall mean the Rules of the Association (and Rule shall be construed accordingly);

Specialist Panel Member means professionally qualified and/or appropriately experienced individuals (who, if Barristers or Solicitors, shall be of seven or more years' standing) who are appointed from time to time by the Judicial Panel Monitoring Group to be Panel Members in accordance with clauses 4.1.3, 4.2 and 4.5 of the Terms of Reference for the Composition and Operation of the Judicial Panel;

Standard Case means a case designated as such by The Association in accordance with the provisions of Part E: Fast Track Regulations to these Disciplinary Regulations;

Standard Penalty means a standard penalty, determined by The Association in accordance with a tariff of standard penalties in force from time to time, to be applied in relation to Standard Cases in accordance with the provisions of Part E: Fast Track Regulations to these Disciplinary Regulations;

Standard Sanction Offer means the offer of a discounted sporting and/or financial sanction, determined by The Association by reference to the Standard Penalty that would otherwise be offered or applied following a Charge being issued;

Technical Area shall have the meaning given to it in Law 1 of the Laws of the Game;

Technical Area Occupant means a person (other than a Player) permitted to occupy the Technical Area under the rules or regulations of the relevant Competition;

Youth Football means any Matches played in youth football that do not fall within Category 2 as set out in paragraph 1.2 of Part D: On-Field Regulations to these Disciplinary Regulations.

APPENDIX II: AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS –HEARINGS BEFORE DISCIPLINARY COMMISSIONS

Disciplinary Commission Members and Secretaries

1 A Disciplinary Commission must be chaired by a Chairman that has completed The FA Chairman training and passed the online assessment within the previous two years.

2 At least one member of the Disciplinary Commission shall be independent.

3 Members of a Disciplinary Commission may be appointed from outside of the Affiliated Association Council. Members of the National Serious Case Panel and Regional Discipline Panel are eligible for all Disciplinary Commission appointments.

4 All Disciplinary Commission members must have completed and passed the relevant online assessment as communicated by The Association from time to time.

5 A Disciplinary Commission Secretary must attend all Disciplinary Commissions. Neither the Chairman of the Disciplinary Commission nor any of the members of the relevant Disciplinary Commission may act as Disciplinary Commission Secretary.

6 The Disciplinary Commission Secretary must have completed The FA Secretary training and passed the online assessment within the previous two years.

Attendance of Children at Personal Hearings

7 **7.1** A child aged under 12 must not appear at a Disciplinary Commission as either a witness or the Participant Charged.

7.2 Where a child aged under 12 would otherwise have been charged with a disciplinary offence, alternative options should be considered to address the issues arising from any incident or behaviour. These could include:

7.2.1 convening a meeting to bring the parties together to talk through the issues.

7.2.2 the Affiliated Association Welfare Officer talking to the child to warn them about their behaviour and/or requesting the child undertake an education programme which is deemed relevant to the incident or behaviour. A parent/carer should be present at any meeting.

7.3 Where a child aged under 12 would have been a witness before a Disciplinary Commission, the following options should be considered:

7.3.1 the Affiliated Association Welfare Officer obtaining a written statement from the child, with the Disciplinary Commission proceeding on the basis of written submissions. The Affiliated Association Welfare Officer may need to write the statement in conjunction with the child and parent/carer.

7.3.2 convening a private meeting between the child and Affiliated Association Welfare Officer to establish the child's version of events, with the Affiliated Association Welfare Officer reporting verbally to Disciplinary Commission. The Affiliated Association Welfare Officer should make a contemporaneous note of the meeting and a parent/carer should be present throughout.

8 A child aged 12 or over may attend a Disciplinary Commission provided that:

8.1 they understand it is their duty to speak the truth;

8.2 their evidence is sufficiently important to justify it being heard;

8.3 the appropriate procedures relating to minors are adopted. The child must be accompanied by a parent/carer;

8.4 a child between the ages of 12 and 15 shall only give evidence via an electronic platform, or any method other than in person; and

8.5 a child between the ages of 16 and 17 shall be permitted to give evidence in person but a Disciplinary Commission may permit evidence to be given by another method if it is considered appropriate in the circumstances of the case.

9 Where a Disciplinary Commission is considering matters in adult football involving a child between the ages of 16 and 18 (inclusive), best practice would be to follow the guidance established for adults, except in cases where the individual has learning development needs. Those with learning development needs should be treated in a manner consistent with their mental capacity. If the suggestion is that the Participant has the cognitive reasoning of a child of a particular age, that age appropriate guidance should be followed.

Young people as witnesses

10 Evidence should only be received from young people (accompanied by a responsible adult) in front of the Disciplinary Commission, the Disciplinary Commission Secretary, the Participant Charged and their representative.

11 All others present at a hearing must remove themselves from the hearing whilst a young person is giving evidence.

12 Questions are to be asked by the Chairman of the Disciplinary Commission only.

13 At the end of the questioning the representative or Participant Charged will be asked whether there are any other questions that they believe should be asked of the witness.

14 If required additional questions may be put to the witness but only by the Chairman of the Disciplinary Commission.

15 Once all the questioning has been completed the young person will then leave the Disciplinary Commission room and will not be required to remain for the remainder of the hearing.

Disciplinary Commission Procedures

Case Papers

16 Case papers shall ordinarily be distributed:

16.1 in the case of a personal hearing, to the Participant Charged and the Disciplinary Commission at least three days prior to the hearing; and

16.2 in the case of hearing being conducted on written submissions, to the Disciplinary Commission at least one day prior to the hearing.

Personal Hearings

17 The duties of the Disciplinary Commission Secretary at a personal hearing shall include calling the evidence to be submitted in support of the Charge and generally assisting the Disciplinary Commission in its determination of the Charge.

18 A Participant Charged may be represented in accordance with, and subject to, paragraphs 10 and 11 of Part A: General Provisions.

19 The Participant Charged and any representative shall be admitted to the hearing. The Disciplinary Commission shall satisfy itself that the Participant Charged has had details of the Charge.

20 Evidence (including witness evidence) in support of the Charge shall be received by the Disciplinary Commission. In cases concerning a report from a Match Official, that report shall be received in evidence first. This report may have been submitted by email or through a web-site, in accordance with accepted procedures of The Association.

21 Subject to the confirmation of the Disciplinary Commission, the Participant Charged or their representative shall have the right to ask questions relevant to the matters in issue of any witness in support of the Charge.

22 After evidence in support of the Charge has been received by the Disciplinary Commission, any written statement made by the Participant Charged shall be considered by the Disciplinary Commission. The Participant Charged may then give evidence on their own behalf and in such event they may have questions asked of them by the Disciplinary Commission. The Participant Charged or their representative may then submit evidence and call witnesses.

23 At any time the Chairman and members of the Disciplinary Commission may ask questions of any witness or any representative. The Disciplinary Commission may draw such inferences as it considers appropriate from the failure of the Participant Charged to give evidence or answer a question put to them.

24 In the event of the evidence submitted in answer to the Charge disclosing a point which the Disciplinary Commission considers was not covered in the evidence of, or not put to, any witness in support of the Charge, the Disciplinary Commission may recall any witness and ask questions of them. The Participant Charged or their representative may also ask questions as at paragraph 21 above.

25 The evidence having been completed to the satisfaction of the Disciplinary Commission, the Participant Charged or their representative shall be entitled to make closing submissions based upon the evidence, but this may not include reference to facts not disclosed in the evidence presented to the Disciplinary Commission.

26 At the conclusion of the closing submissions, all persons shall withdraw from the Disciplinary Commission room whilst the Disciplinary Commission considers the evidence and submissions presented to it and determines whether the Charge has been proven or not. After reaching its decision, the Disciplinary Commission shall recall the Participant Charged and their representative. The Disciplinary Commission Secretary shall announce whether the Charge has been found proven or not proven.

27 If the Charge is found not proven the hearing will be declared closed.

28 If the Charge is found proven details of the record of Misconduct of the Participant Charged shall be received by the Disciplinary Commission. The Participant Charged, or their representative, may then make a plea in mitigation.

29 At the conclusion of the plea in mitigation, the Participant Charged and their representative shall again withdraw from the Disciplinary Commission room and the Disciplinary Commission shall determine what order or orders, if any, shall be made under paragraph 41 of Part A: General Provisions Section Two.

30 Subject to paragraph 31 below, the Participant Charged and their representative shall then be re-admitted and informed of the decision of the Disciplinary Commission by the Disciplinary Commission Secretary. This shall subsequently be confirmed in writing.

31 A Disciplinary Commission may, where it considers it appropriate, not announce its decision at the hearing but inform the Participant Charged that such decision will be communicated to them in writing through their Club Secretary.

APPENDIX III: DISCIPLINARY FINDINGS IN OTHER SPORTS

REGULATIONS RELATING TO CERTAIN DISCIPLINARY FINDINGS IN OTHER SPORTS

1 These Regulations came into effect on 1 August 2014.

2 These Regulations are made in accordance with Rule J of the Rules of The Association and are binding on all Participants.

3 Any breach of Regulation 5 may result in a charge of Misconduct under Rule E1.2 and shall be dealt with in accordance with the Rules of The Association.

4 Regulation 5 shall be given a broad and purposive construction in order to give effect to the purpose of protecting the integrity of football, and the perception of the integrity of football. Technical points of construction and procedure are secondary to those purposes.

5 It shall be a breach of this Regulation where any Participant is found by a court, tribunal or arbitral body to be in breach of a rule, regulation code, or equivalent, of any sport other than association football, concerning or related to any involvement in the following –

(I) Betting;

(II) Influencing the result, progress, conduct or any other aspect of or occurrence in a match, competition, race or event, for an improper purpose;

(III) Any competitor failing to perform to the best of their ability, for reward:

(IV) Offering or accepting any bribe, gift, reward or consideration of any nature related to any conduct within (II) OR (III) above;

(V) Failing to report any conduct within (IV) above;

(VI) Any attempt or agreement to do any act within (I) – (V) above.

6 No charge may be issued pursuant to Regulation 5 in respect of any finding that is the subject of an on-going appeal.

7 It shall be a defence to charge for a breach of Regulation 5 where a Participant can establish that the finding of a court, tribunal or arbitral body that a sport's rule, regulation or code, or equivalent has been breached, or the circumstances in which the finding was made, contravened natural justice.

8 The specific prohibition contained within Regulation 5 shall not fetter in any way The Association's ability to bring a charge for Misconduct contrary to Rule E3 of The Rules of The Association in respect of a finding that a Participant has breached any rule, regulation or code, or equivalent, of any sport other than association football, where such Misconduct by the Participant does not fall within the terms of Regulation 5.

APPENDIX IV: SMALL-SIDED FOOTBALL – DISCIPLINE PROCESS

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION DISCIPLINE PROCESS FOR SMALL-SIDED FOOTBALL

Introduction

Implementing an effective disciplinary process is an important factor for all formats of football, helping to establish a quality, organised, safe and enjoyable football experience for all players and officials. The issue of discipline is of equal importance in Small-Sided Football as it is in the 11v11 football, and subsequently should be shown proper attention and regard by Small-Sided Football providers when organising their competitions; particularly if the competitions wish to be appropriately sanctioned and affiliated to The Association.

The Association has developed this disciplinary process to accommodate the varied and different needs of Small-Sided Football. The Association recognises that applying the same disciplinary processes to Small-Sided Football as it does in 11v11 football does not satisfactorily meet the differing demands of this version of the game. However, this does not mean that The Association takes ill-discipline in Small-Sided Football any less seriously.

It is important to note for all Small-Sided Football providers, that failure or disregard in establishing and effectively implementing these disciplinary processes can and will lead to The Association removing affiliation and classifying providers competitions as being unsanctioned by The Association.

For all Small-Sided Football providers that affiliate to The Association nationally it is a condition of affiliation to agree to abide by the 'Heads of Agreement' that clearly state that the provider will manage disciplinary issues in accordance with this disciplinary process.

It is recommended that County FAs that affiliate local Small-Sided Football providers establish similar agreements.

The implementation of this disciplinary process will help create a safer and more enjoyable football environment for Small-Sided Football players and officials, but also importantly for the providers it can assist in retaining Participants playing in their competitions.

1 Discipline Ownership & Control

All issues of discipline that occur at a Small-Sided Football provider affiliated to The Association fall under the jurisdiction of the local County FA.

The ability for Small-Sided Football providers to manage discipline in their competitions for incidents outlined in Table 1 below have been delegated to the provider by the local County FA.

It is at the discretion of The Association to remove this delegated responsibility from a Small-Sided Football provider if the provider is unable to demonstrate competence in handling and managing disciplinary issues. In such cases the responsibility for all discipline in that competition will be returned to the local County FA.

2 Affiliation & Provision of Team Information

When affiliating competitions and slots to The Association or County FAs, all Small-Sided Football providers must provide the following information for all teams playing in their competitions to ensure that disciplinary cases can be managed appropriately:

- Team Name
- Team Captain/Manager contact details (name, address, email or telephone number

The Small-Sided Football provider must also ensure that The Association or County FA is updated with accurate team information throughout the course of the affiliation period. Small-Sided Football providers will not be affiliated unless this team information is provided accurately.

The only exceptions to this rule are outlined below:

2.1 Disciplinary Agreement:

On affiliation to The Association or County FA the Small-Sided Football Provider signs the Disciplinary Agreement in Appendix B where the provider agrees to operate a comprehensive system of recording and maintaining accurate team and player details. This agreement also requires the Small-Sided Football Provider to provide The Association/ County FA with team information (team name and team captain contact details) within 48 hours of receiving a request for this information. It also accepts that from time-to-time The Association or County FA may request to undertake a random spot-check of a Small-Sided Football providers competition to ensure that the provider has accurate team information for all teams in that competition.

As well as signing this Disciplinary Agreement, at the point of affiliation the Small-Sided Football provider must also provide written evidence to The Association or County FA to demonstrate the current systems that they operate and maintain to record accurate team information.

If the Small-Sided Football provider is able to comply with these points, the organisation will not be required to provide all team information to The Association / County FAs upon affiliation. If however, the Small-Sided Football provider consistently fails to provide accurate team information when requested this privilege can be revoked by The Association.

2.2 FA Small-Sided Football Accreditation

Small-Sided Football providers that have attained The FA Small-Sided Football Accreditation have demonstrated through the accreditation process that they have sufficient systems in place for recording and managing team information, and that as part of the accreditation they will provide The Association/County FAs with team details within 48 hours when requested in order for disciplinary cases to be managed. As a consequence, accredited Small-Sided Football providers will not be required to provide team information upon affiliation.

3 Issuing of Cautions and 'Timed Suspensions'

In Small-Sided Football yellow cards and associated cautions are not employed.

Referees should instead issue a blue card for a cautionable offence. The issuing of a blue card indicates that the recipient will serve an immediate 'timed suspension' ('sin bin').

The options for disciplining offenders are therefore as follows:

- Player shown a blue card and temporarily suspended from play
- Player issued with a discretionary second blue card and temporarily excluded from play
- Player issued with a red card and permanently excluded from play

A blue card offence should always be accompanied by a temporary suspension from play.

The period of timed suspension in Small-Sided Football shall be two minutes. The release of Players from a temporary suspension should be at the direction of the Referee.

3.1 Recording of Blue Cards

In Small-Sided Football cautionable offences that result in a blue card and a timed suspension from the match shall not be recorded and reported by the match official or Small-Sided Football provider.

Blue card offences should not be reported back to the County FA, and no disciplinary fine shall be incurred by the player.

4 Disciplinary Procedures for Red Card Offences

4.1 'Serious' Red Card Offences

Offences not classified in Table 1 below will be the responsibility of the local County FA. Once the County FA has reviewed the case the Small-Sided Football provider along with the player will be informed of the outcome and any disciplinary action.

For these offences match official are required to complete the Disciplinary Report in Appendix A and submit a copy to the Small-Sided Football provider and the relevant County FA.

4.2 'Less Serious' Red Card Offences (as outlined in Table 1)

Offences classified within Table 1 should be dealt with by the Small-Sided Football provider under the delegated-authority of the County FA covered in paragraph 1 above.

The match official should complete a 'Disciplinary Report' (Appendix A) and ensure that it is sent to the Small-Sided Football provider.

The Small-Sided Football provider should employ the following disciplinary tariff of suspensions in such cases as outlined in Table 1. The provider shall not fine the player.

Match Suspension Tariff:

Table 1

OFFENCE	PENALTY (TO BE ADMINISTERED BY SMALL SIDED
Receiving a second 'blue card' in the same match	1 Match suspension
Denying a goal or an obvious goal scoring	1 Match suspension
Use of offensive, insulting or abusive gestures	2 Match suspension
Attempting to kick or strike another player Violent conduct Serious foul play	3 Match suspension

5 Remit of Disciplinary Action

Any suspensions for offences dealt with by the County FA that are not covered in Table 1 apply to all levels of football (i.e. 11 a side and Small-Sided Football).

Red cards administered in Small-Sided Football for offences within Table 1 are the responsibility of the organiser to deal with according to The Association's recommended tariff of suspensions and are from Small-Sided Football only.

6 Personal Liability for 'Serious' Disciplinary Offences

Initial responsibility for a disciplinary issue will be with the individual that committed the offence. If this individual leaves the team but can be accurately identified, this individual shall retain responsibility for the payment of a fine and should be suspended from all forms of football until the fine is paid in accordance with the Football Debt Recovery Regulations.

If the individual responsible for the offence cannot be accurately identified, the responsibility for the payment of this fine will be with (in order of responsibility):

1. The small-sided team that the individual played for when committing the offence.
2. The team captain of the team that the individual played for.

7 Implementation of Disciplinary Procedures

A robust disciplinary process can only operate if a record is kept of the identity of participating teams and Players.

All Small-Sided Football providers should maintain details of participating teams and team contacts prior to the beginning of a competition. Providers should ensure that these details remain updated.

In addition Small-Sided Football providers should identify a system whereby the identity of participating Players is recorded prior to a game commencing. These records should be retained by the Organisers and referred to in the event of a serious incident or on suspicion that a Player is playing whilst under suspension.

The existence of these systems (in line with paragraph 2 above) shall be a requirement before The Association or County FA will provide sanction to a competition taking place.

In order for an effective discipline, affiliation and Referees appointment procedure to exist a good working relationship should exist between the Small-Sided Football provider and the County FA. County FA's and Small-Sided Football providers should establish a 'Heads of Agreement' document which identifies the responsibilities of each party in relation to maintenance of discipline and affiliation processes.

APPENDIX A

SMALL-SIDED FOOTBALL DISCIPLINARY REPORT

How to use:

- The Referee should complete this form after a red-card has been issued.
- One form should be completed for each red-card.
    - The first copy of this form should be retained by the Small-Sided Football provider
    - The second to be retained by the Referee
    - The third copy should be forwarded to the County FA (Red Cards Type Two Offences only)

Referees must report to the local County FA **all** Red Card Type Two Offence.

Venue	
Date	
Player	
Team	
Opposition Team	

I have disciplined this player for the following Offence:

CARD TYPE	OFFENCE	PLEASE TICK
Red Card Type One	Denying a goal or an obvious scoring opportunity by physical means or by deliberately handling the	
	Use of offensive, insulting or abusive language / gesture (including at a Referee)	
	A second blue card offence	
	Violent conduct	
	Serious Foul Play	
Red Cards Type Two (to be managed by County FA)	Serious Violent Behaviour causing injury, including any form of assault	
	Spitting	
	Any offences where the offender has also acted in a discriminatory manner for reasons of ethnic origin, colour, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability	
	Any other offence not covered above including offences after the match or after being dismissed	

Notes of incident	

Referee Name: .....

Signature: .....

Email Address: .....

Date: .....

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

APPENDIX B

SMALL SIDED FOOTBALL PROVIDER DISCIPLINARY AGREEMENT

This Disciplinary Agreement must be signed and adhered to by a Small-Sided Football provider upon affiliating to The Association or County FA if they do not wish to submit all team information details as part of the affiliation process.

The Small-Sided Football provider agrees to adhere to the following:

1 The Small-Sided Football provider agrees to appropriately affiliate all leagues and teams to The Association or County FA for the duration of this agreement.

2 The Small-Sided Football provider will work with The Association and appropriate County FAs to manage and maintain a robust discipline process in their competitions and will adhere to The Football Association Small-Sided Football Disciplinary Policy.

3 The Small-Sided Football provider will promptly forward all incident reports to the relevant County FA for every sending off for offences not covered under Table 1 of the procedures that occurs in their competitions within 5 working days. The Small-Sided Football provider will manage suspensions and disciplinary incidents that are considered 'less serious' and are covered within Table 1.in line with The Football Association Small-Sided Football Disciplinary Policy.

4 The Small-Sided Football provider will provide within 48 hours after receiving a request from a County FA the details of players that are involved in offences being dealt with by the County FA. If the Small-Sided Football provider is unable to identify or provide details for the player involved, as a minimum the Small-Sided Football provider must be able to produce the team captain / manager's name, address and contact details.

5 The Small-Sided Football provider will ensure that suspended players are unable to play in their competitions for the duration of the player's suspension.

6 The local County FA will manage disciplinary incidents outlined in The Football Association's Small-Sided Football Disciplinary Policy.

7 The County FAs will ensure that the Small-Sided Football provider is made aware of all outcomes that affect Players involved in their competitions.

8 The County FAs will ensure that the Small-Sided Football provider is informed of all Players that are suspended from participating in affiliated football.

9 The Small-Sided Football provider will ensure that they operate a robust and thorough system of recording and maintaining accurate team and Player details in all of their affiliated competitions. The Small-Sided Football provider at the point of affiliation will provide the County FA or The Association written details of this system that they operate.

10 The Association or County FA from time-to-time may request to undertake a spot-check of a Small-Sided Football provider's competition to ensure that the provider has the necessary team details for all teams involved in the competition.

The Small-Sided Football provider (named below) agrees to adhere to all of the points listed in this Disciplinary Agreement during the period of affiliation to The Association or County FA.

This agreement needs to be signed by the Small-Sided Football provider and returned to either The Association or County FA at the point of affiliation.

Name of Small-Sided Football provider:	
Name of Senior Representative at the Small-Sided Football provider:	
Role at the Organisation:	
Signed:	
Date:	

10 - KIT AND ADVERTISING REGULATIONS

Introduction

These Regulations are made pursuant to FA Rule J2 and The Association's Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees. Clubs are also referred to the Laws of the Game.

All references to a club or clubs in these Regulations include any team, whether or not part of a club.

Clubs participating in International competitions must also comply with all relevant regulations of FIFA, UEFA and other Confederations.

It is recommended that clubs and football boot and clothing manufacturers seeking clarification of any of the regulations do so by referring to the specific competition rules and The Association.

We would encourage clubs and football boot and clothing manufacturers to seek feedback at the earliest possible time, in relation to designs and advertising from The Association and their specific competition. Clubs and manufacturers are reminded to obtain the necessary permissions before manufacture.

Club's obligations and the permitted matters under these Regulations are subject at all times to FA Rule M (Heritage Assets). Nothing in these Regulations should be construed as permitting anything which would cause a Club to be in breach of FA Rule M (Heritage Assets).

Definitions and Interpretation

"Advertising" means any designation, message, logo, trademark, name or emblem of any nature.

"Clothing" means the Match clothing of a Player, Club Official or Match Official and shall include without limitation shirts, shorts, socks, undershorts, t-shirts (or any other item of clothing worn under the shirt), sweat-bands, headbands, hairbands, caps, captain's armband, tracksuits, "walk on" jackets (i.e. that worn by Players for the pre-match player line up), gloves, waterproofs, sweat tops, sock tie-ups. Also, any outer garments worn by substitutes and Club Officials in the Technical Area at any time. Save where stated to the contrary, Football Boots are not considered as Clothing.

"Clothing manufacturer" means any undertaking that carries out the business of the manufacture or licensing of football clothing and has been appointed by the Club concerned to supply the clothing.

"Club Crest" is as defined in the Rules of The Association.

"Club Identifier(s)" means the Club Crest (or part thereof), a club emblem previously used by the Club (or part thereof), playing name, initials, nickname, foundation year, team slogan that is closely and/or historically associated with the Club or a trademark registered by the Club, or a combination of such.

"Club Officials" in these Regulations includes any Club Official as defined in the Rules who has team duties such as managers, coaches, physiotherapists, and doctors and includes any person who takes up a position in the Technical Area at any time during a Match.

"Football Boots" means any footwear worn during the period of a Match by a Player or Match Official.

"Other Equipment" means medical bags, kit bags, blankets, towels, bottles and any medical equipment worn by a Player (including head protection, face masks, casts, kneepads or knee braces, elbow pads) that may be used on the field of play and / or in the Technical Area.

"Technical Area" shall have the meaning given to it in the Laws of the Game.

[Note: In calculating the area of any Advertising referred to in these Regulations, the usual mathematical formula will be used, and any outlines or box surrounds of the relevant designation, message, name, logo, emblem or mark, and all included space, shall be considered as part of the area of Advertising. If any further guidance is needed please contact The Association – sanctioning@thefa.com]

A. GENERAL

1. Advertising on Clothing and Football Boots is only permitted during the period of a Match in accordance with these Regulations and the Laws of the Game. This applies to Players, including substitutes, any others in the Technical Area, including Club Officials and to Match Officials. The rules of an Affiliated Association or Competition may provide that for matches under their jurisdiction a Club is obliged to obtain permission for any of the Advertising listed in Section C below, subject always to these Regulations. Clubs must seek the permission of the Competition organiser in order to wear any items of Clothing during any pre-match warm-up, ceremony or player line up that bear any slogan or message not otherwise covered by these Regulations (for example but not limited to a message of support regarding an ill team-mate).

2. Where the rules of an Affiliated Association or Competition require a Club to obtain permission under A(1), a new application for permission must be made to the appropriate body each time it is proposed to amend the Advertising. Subject to the provisions of Section B2 and Section C(5) below, or any relevant provisions of the appropriate Competition, there is no restriction on the number of such applications that may be made during the course of each season.

3. Disciplinary action in accordance with the Rules may be taken against a Club, Player, Club Official or Match Official for any breach of these Regulations.

4. The appearance on, or incorporation in, any item of Clothing, Football Boots or Other Equipment of any distasteful, threatening, abusive, indecent, insulting, discriminatory or otherwise ethically or morally offensive message, or any political or religious message, is prohibited. The Advertising of tobacco products is prohibited.

5. A Club shall observe all recognised Advertising standards and in particular those of the Advertising Standards Authority.

6. Advertising entailing the use of numerals is permitted only if such numerals clearly form part of the Advertising and cannot in any way be confused with Players' shirt numbers.

7. No colour or design may be used in Advertising that might create problems of identification for Match Officials and/or opponents. The colour and design of the Clothing of opponents, goalkeepers and match officials must be taken into account.

8. Without limiting the effect of the above, in the case of Match Officials under the age of 18 years, or a team comprising players all under the age of 18 years on 31 August in the current season, the appearance on or incorporation in any item of Clothing, Football Boots or Other Equipment of any reference whatsoever to a product, service or other activity which is considered by The Association as detrimental to the welfare, health or general interest of young persons, or is otherwise considered inappropriate, having regard to the age of the players or Match Officials, is prohibited.

   It is the view of The Association that examples of such products, services or related activities would include, but are not limited to, age-restricted products, services and related activities such as alcohol and gambling. Generally, reference to a public house or restaurant may be permissible, unless the establishment primarily or exclusively exists for the supply and consumption of alcohol (which is likely to be reflected in its alcohol licensing conditions). Alcoholic drinks, breweries and products, services or activities related to gambling are unlikely to be permissible under any circumstances.

   Prior to entering into any contractual agreement with a product, activity or service that may be considered to be detrimental or inappropriate to young persons, Clubs and Competitions should contact The Association or Affiliated Association from which it seeks sanction to seek approval.

9. Any issues arising in relation to the interpretation or effect of these Regulations shall be referred to The Association for its determination, which shall be final and binding (subject to provisions relating to Match Officials).

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

10. A Club, Match Official, Competition or Affiliated Association shall supply on demand to The Association any item of Clothing for consideration as to whether it complies with these Regulations.

B. PERMITTED ADVERTISING (NOT RELATING TO SPONSORS)

The following Advertising is permitted:

1. Club emblem and playing name

(i) On Football Boots

Club Identifiers may appear without restriction.

(ii) On all other Clothing

Club Identifiers may appear:

(a) once only on the front of the shirt, providing it does not exceed an area of 100 square centimetres (see Fig 1); and

(b) once only anywhere on the shorts providing it does not exceed an area of 50 square centimetres (see Fig 2); and

(c) once only on each sock providing it does not exceed an area of 50 square centimetres (see Fig 3).

An additional Club Identifier may appear on each sock providing it does not exceed an area of 50 square centimetres and, where it appears on a sock, is covered when a Football Boot is worn (see Fig 3).

(d) once only on each sock tie-up providing it does not exceed an area of 100 square centimetres. The sock tie-up may show the Player's name, Player's squad number, Competition name, sponsor designation and date of match or any combination of the same. Clubs must receive the approval of the Competition for the use of sock tie-ups.

(e) No more than two Club Identifiers or website address, may appear on the collar or collar zone of a shirt and/or tracksuit. Any single item may be used once only. Each item to have a surface area not exceeding 12 square centimetres, and any lettering in written / text identifications must not exceed 2 centimetres in height (see Fig 5). The collar zone is a 5 centimetre band starting at the base of a clearly defined collar.

(f) The club may incorporate in jacquard weave form, as tonal print or by embossing the shirt and/or shorts one of:

(i) its Club Identifiers or part thereof; or

(ii) A visual representation (including but not limited to pictures, images, illustrations and symbols) of objects closely identified with the Club and the area in which the Club is based, for example a local landmark.

(iii) Subject to the approval of a Competition, the names of individuals (e.g. club supporter) providing each is limited to 20 square centimetres, with unlimited repeats.

There is no limitation as to the number, size and positioning of the type of club identification chosen under this Regulation B1 (ii)(f).

The jacquard weave thread must be included in a thread that must be the same colour as the fabric into which it is woven. Tonal prints or embossing must be included in a tonal variation of the background colour(s) of the item of the shirt and/or shorts into which they are incorporated. The jacquard weave, embossing or tonal print must not dominate, contain a colour that contrasts with, or otherwise affect the distinctiveness of the shirt or shorts into which it is incorporated.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

(g) once only on the front of any walk on jackets and outer garments of Clothing including that worn by substitutes and Club Officials in the Technical Area at any time with size and positioning consistent with B1(ii)(a) and (b) above, except that there are no restrictions as to the position and size of the Club playing name. In addition once only on the back with no restriction as to the position or size.

(h) Once only without restriction of location on:

(i) Goalkeeper's gloves and outfield player's gloves up to a maximum area of 20 square centimetres.

(ii) sweatbands, headbands, goalkeeper's caps (see Fig 4) and hairbands up to a maximum area of 50 square centimetres.

2. Clothing Manufacturer

(i) On Football Boots

The established mark, logo, name or model/style of Football Boots or their manufacturer, or a combination of the same, may appear without restriction.

(ii) On goalkeeper gloves

A goalkeeper's name, including any appropriate nickname or initials, may appear on that goalkeeper's gloves provided it does not exceed an area of 20 square centimetres. Other names, places, appropriate nicknames or numbers of personal significance to that goalkeeper (e.g. the name or birthday of a family member, or the number of playing appearances made) may also appear on that goalkeeper's gloves provided it does not exceed an area of 20 square centimetres.

(iii) On all other Clothing

The established mark, logo or name of a Clothing manufacturer, or a combination of the same, may appear once only:

(a) on the shirt and on the shorts provided it is an area no greater than 20 square centimetres (see Fig 7).

(b) on each of a goalkeeper's gloves, on a goalkeeper's cap, sweatbands, headbands and hairbands provided such does not exceed an area of 20 square centimetres (see Fig 6).

(c) on each of an outfield player's gloves provided such does not exceed an area of 20 square centimetres.

(d) on the front and back of any t-shirt or any other item of Clothing worn under the shirt provided such does not exceed an area of 20 square centimetres and this is not visible outside the playing shirts during the period of the Match.

(e) on undershorts worn under playing shorts provided such does not exceed an area of 20 square centimetres and this is not visible outside the playing shorts during the period of the Match.

(f) (i) The established mark, logo or name of a Clothing manufacturer, or a combination of the same, may also appear up to twice on each sock between the top edge and the ankle, provided that it is an area no greater than 20 square centimetres for such mark, logo or name (or combination thereof) where it appears once on each sock or 10 square centimetres where it appears twice on each sock. It may be incorporated into the design of the socks, but must be limited to 10 square centimetres repeats and must be restricted to any turn-over on the socks (see Fig 8).

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

(ii) An additional established mark, logo or name of a Clothing manufacturer, or a combination of the same, may appear once only on each sock providing it does not exceed an area of 50 square centimetres and it is not visible when wearing a Football Boot.

(g) (i) An additional established mark, logo or name of the Clothing manufacturer may be used once or repeatedly on either/or both sleeves as part of the design on the trim or taping of shirts, shorts and socks. Such trim or taping shall be limited to down the outer seam of the shirt (armhole to the bottom of the shirt), or the length of the sleeve (neck to cuff), or across the bottom of each sleeve (cuffs) and to the bottom edge of the shorts or down the outer seam of the shorts and across the top edge of the socks (see Fig 9).

(ii) The mark, logo or name of the Clothing manufacturer which appears once or repeatedly, as part of the design on the trim or taping of the shirts, shorts and socks shall be restricted to a maximum width of 10cm on the shirts and shorts and to a maximum width of 5cm on brand-new (unworn) socks (see Figs 8 and 9).

(h) An established mark, logo or name or combination of the Clothing Manufacturer must appear on all Clothing of all Players and Club Officials wherever such Advertising appears consistent with the size and positioning set out at B.2(ii) above. Once submitted to and approved by a Competition, the established mark, logo or name or combination on players' and Club Officials' Clothing may not be modified during the course of that season, without the approval of the Competition.

(i) In addition to the club identification, the manufacturer may incorporate one of its types of identification in jacquard weave form or by embossing in the shirt and/or shorts. The type of manufacturer identification chosen must not exceed 20 square centimetres. There is no limitation as to the number and positioning of the type of manufacturer identification chosen.

The jacquard weave must be incorporated in the main colour and/ or one of the minor colours. It must neither dominate nor affect the distinctiveness of the kit.

3. Product marks and seals of quality

(i) On Football Boots

The official licensing product mark or seal of quality is permitted on the outside of Football Boots without restriction.

(ii) On all other Clothing

An official licensing product mark or seal of quality is permitted on the outside of the Clothing only if Competition rules so allow. When placed on a shirt, such mark or seal may not exceed 10 square centimetres in size and shall be placed on an area which is hidden when the shirt is tucked inside the shorts.

A second, smaller licensing mark or seal of quality is allowed on the shirt which must not exceed 5 square centimetres and must be placed along the torso outer seam. In addition to any licensing product mark(s) or seal(s) of quality which may appear on the shirt, such a mark or seal is permitted on the shorts. It may not exceed 5 square centimetres.

4. Numbers

(i) On Football Boots

A Player's shirt number may appear on his boots without restriction.

(ii) On all other Clothing

Where the Competition rules require a number on the back of the shirt, it should be clearly legible and positioned in the centre of the back of the shirt.

The number should be between 20 cm and 35 cm in height with provision for each competition to set specific criteria.

A number may also appear on the front of the shorts which must correspond with the number on the shirt.

The number should be between 10 cm and 15 cm in height with provision for each competition to set specific criteria.

Subject to any Competition rules that may apply, the officially designated logo or name of the Competition (or combination of the same) or the officially designated Club emblem may appear once only on each of the player's shirt numbers providing the logo, name or combination does not exceed an area of 20 square centimetres. The officially designated logo or name of the Competition's designated charity or combination of the same may also appear once only on each of the player's shirt numbers providing the logo, name or combination does not exceed an area of 20 square centimetres. No other Advertising or any other marking is allowed on players' shirt numbers.

5. Players' Names and Personalisation

(i) On Football Boots

A Player's name, including any appropriate nickname or initials, may appear on that Player's boots without restriction. Other names, places, appropriate nicknames or numbers of personal significance to that Player (e.g. the name or birthday of a family member, or the number of playing appearances made) may also appear on that Player's boots without restriction.

(ii) On goalkeeper gloves

A goalkeeper's name, including any appropriate nickname or initials, may appear on that goalkeeper's gloves provided it does not exceed an area of 20 square centimetres. Other names, places, appropriate nicknames or numbers of personal significance to that goalkeeper (e.g. the name or birthday of a family member, or the number of playing appearances made) may also appear on that goalkeeper's gloves provided it does not exceed an area of 20 square centimetres.

(iii) On all other Clothing

The name of a player may appear on the back of shirts or tracksuits only if Competition rules so permit. The height of the lettering must not be greater than 7.5 centimetres.

6. Other Logos

(i) On Football Boots

Except as permitted by paragraphs 1–5 above, the appearance of any logo of any description on a Player's Football Boots is prohibited.

(ii) On goalkeeper gloves

Except as permitted by paragraphs 1–5 above, the appearance of any logo of any description on a goalkeeper's gloves is prohibited.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

(iii) On all other Clothing

(a) The officially designated logo or name of an Affiliated Association or Competition may appear as one single area on each sleeve of shirts, provided Affiliated Associations or Competition rules so permit. Such mark must appear between the shoulder seam and the elbow and must not exceed 100 square centimetres.

(b) The officially designated logo, name of any awards or titles won in previous seasons or commemorative occasions (which may include any match details e.g. date, venue, opponents) or a unique number for each Player that represents their place in the chronological list of Players that have played for that Club or an individual player appearance milestone may appear as one single area on shirts, provided such does not exceed an area of 100 square centimetres and permission has been granted from the Competition in which the kit is to be worn.

(c) An image of the national flag of the country to which the Club is affiliated may appear: (a) as one single area on each sleeve of the playing shirt, and (b) as one single area in place of or alongside a Club Identifier on the collar or collar zone of a playing shirt and/or tracksuit (in accordance with Regulation B1(ii)(e)), provided that in each case the rules of the Affiliated Association and the Competition so permit and that it does not exceed an area of 25 square centimetres.

(d) The officially designated name, logo or emblem of a registered charity may appear as one single area on shirts, provided that such name, logo or emblem does not exceed an area of 100 square centimetres. Alternatively, such a charity name, logo or emblem may appear on shirts in the space reserved for the main club sponsor, either alone or in combination with a club sponsor logo, provided that a total area of 250 square centimetres is not exceeded.

Before any such charity name, logo or emblem is used on shirts, permission must be granted from the Competition in which the shirts are to be worn. Such permission may only be granted for a maximum of three charities for use by any one club in any one season. Competition requirements may also apply and are always subject to these Regulations.

A Club may request permission from The Association for the name, logo or emblem of a cause related to the Club that is not a registered charity to appear on a shirt for one match only (for example a player memorial). The requirements of this Regulation B6(iii)(d) with regards to size, positioning and obtaining permission from the relevant Competition shall remain applicable.

(e) A Competition may request permission from The Association for the inclusion of a designated name, logo or emblem of an initiative to appear as a single area on shirts, provided that such name, logo or emblem does not exceed an area of 100 square centimetres. Alternatively, such a name, logo or emblem may appear on shirts in the space reserved for the main club sponsor, either alone or in combination with a club sponsor logo, provided that a total area of 250 square centimetres is not exceeded. Permission will be at the sole discretion of The Association.

(f) The captain of each team may wear an armband in accordance with Affiliated Association or Competition Rules. If worn the captain's armband must not include any form of Advertising or sponsorship. With the prior agreement of the Affiliated Association or Competition the captain's armband may include the official club emblem, the Affiliated Association or Competition logo, or any initiative or emblem that promotes the game of football.

CLUB EMBLEM

Regulation B.1



Figure 1



Figure 2

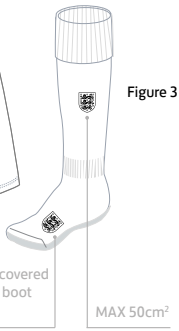


Figure 3

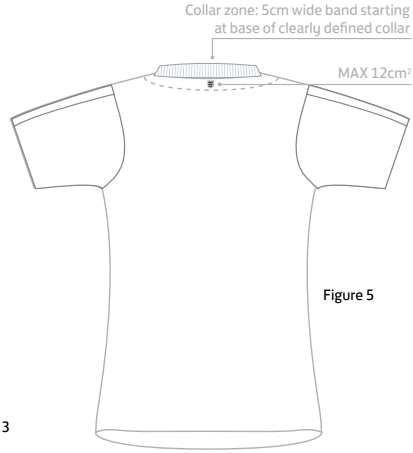


Figure 5



Figure 4

CLOTHING MANUFACTURER

Regulation B.2



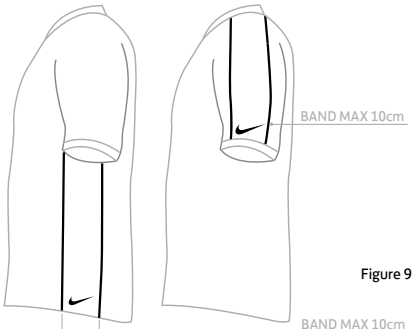


Figure 9

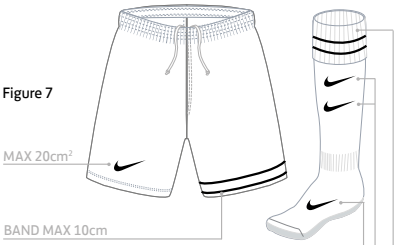
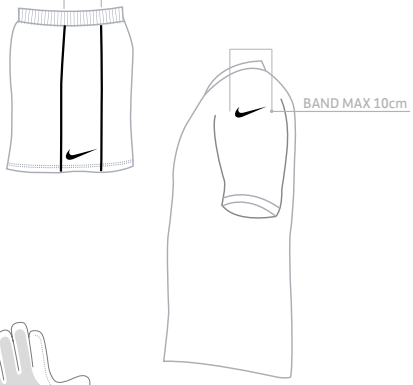


Figure 7

Figure 8



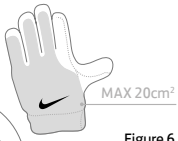
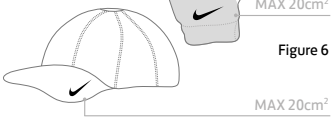


Figure 6



C. SPONSOR DESIGNATIONS

1. On Football Boots

Except as permitted by paragraphs B1–5 above, the appearance of any Advertising of any description, including sponsors' designations, on a Player's Football Boots is prohibited.

2. On all other Clothing

No sponsor Advertising is permitted anywhere on the Clothing of a Player on the field of play during a match except as provided for in this part C.

The following Advertising is permitted:

(i) Playing kit

(a) On the Clothing of a Player on the field of play, the following areas shall be permitted to be used for Advertising

- One single area not exceeding 250 square centimetres on the front of the shirt (see Fig 10);
- One single area not exceeding 100 square centimetres on the back of the shirt (see Fig 13);
- One single area not exceeding 100 square centimetres on each sleeve of the shirt, between the shoulder seam and the elbow (provided Affiliated Association or Competition Rules so permit) (see Fig 12);
- One single area not exceeding 100 square centimetres on the back of the shorts (see Fig 14); and
- Once only on each sock tie-up providing it does not exceed an area of 100 square centimetres (see Fig 11).

One or more company may be advertised and, in respect of any one company, one or more of its products. The same Advertising must appear in the same form on the Clothing of all Players and Club Officials, wherever such Advertising appears, throughout the entirety of the match.

(b) Any Advertising under C2(i) must be clearly separated from the items described in B above.

(ii) Walk on jackets and Tracksuits and other Clothing worn in the Technical Area

Advertising may appear on (a) walk on jackets; and (b) the tracksuits and other Clothing worn by Players and Club Officials in the Technical Area in accordance with the size and locations set out in C2(i) and can be either:

- the same sponsor(s) as worn on the playing kit (home or away strips)
- additional to the sponsors as worn on the playing kit
- different to the sponsors as worn on the playing kit
- a single sponsor that is an official partner of the relevant competition

3. Clubs may conclude sponsorship arrangements with different companies in respect of Advertising permitted under C2(i) above for both their "home" and "away" strips. Where Competition rules allow for a third strip to be worn, this may carry Advertising as worn on either the "home" or "away" shirt. The third strip may carry an alternative sponsor advertisement with the permission of the Competition. The Advertising must appear in the same form on the Clothing of all Players and Club Officials wherever such Advertising appears, throughout the entirety of the match.

4. Clubs with more than one team may conclude separate shirt Advertising agreements in respect of each of its teams.

5. Club playing name

   No Club in Membership of the Premier League, EFL, a League at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System, the Women's Super League, the Women's Championship or The FA Women's National League, may include the name of a sponsor in its Club playing name unless in the sole opinion of The Association the Club's playing name arises from a historical association with that Club such as a works sports and social club. Any other Club may include the name of a sponsor in its playing name with the prior written consent of its Affiliated Association and where such consent is given, Advertising on behalf of one company only shall be carried on the Club's match shirts irrespective of the provisions of B(4) and C2(i) above.

6. Competition Sponsorship

   (i) Subject to paragraph 6(ii) below, a Competition may enter into sponsorship agreements including but not limited to the name of a sponsor in its title.

   (ii) Where a Competition comprises teams of players all under the age of 18 years on 31 August in the current season, any reference whatsoever to a product, service or other activity which is considered by The Association as detrimental to the welfare, health or general interest of young persons, or is otherwise considered inappropriate, having regard to the age of the players, is prohibited.

   Examples of such products, services or related activities shall include, but are not limited to, age-restricted products, services and related activities such as alcohol and gambling. Reference to a public house or restaurant may be permissible, unless the establishment primarily or exclusively exists for the supply and consumption of alcohol (which may be reflected in its alcohol licensing conditions). Alcoholic drinks, breweries and products, services or activities related to gambling are unlikely to be permissible under any circumstances.

   Prior to entering into any contractual agreement with a product, activity or service that may be considered to be detrimental or inappropriate to young persons, Competitions should seek approval from The Association or Affiliated Association from which it requests sanction.

SPONSOR DESIGNATIONS

Regulation C.2(i) front of the shirt and sock tie-up



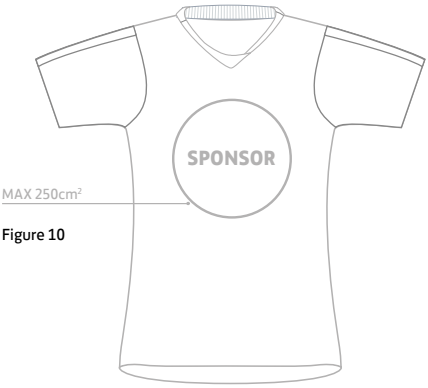


Figure 10

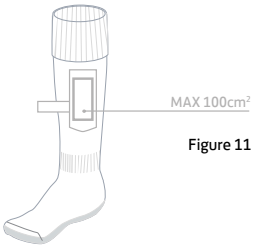


Figure 11

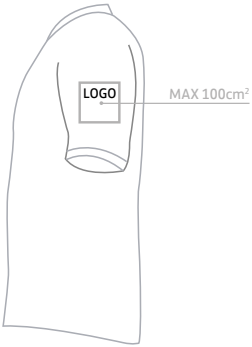


Figure 12

SPONSOR DESIGNATIONS

Regulation C.2(i) Back of the shirt and shorts

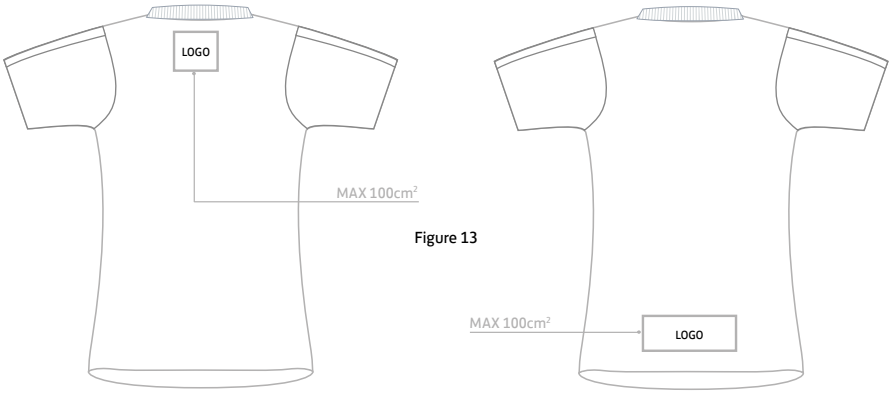
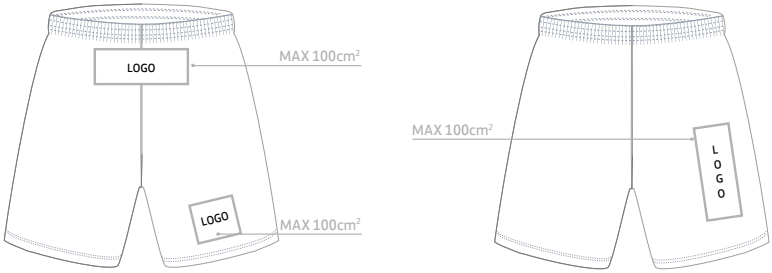


Figure 13

(Examples of where a single logo could be located)



MEASUREMENT PROCEDURES

In order to help clubs maximise the space for their sponsors within the regulations, we have provided some practical examples of how The FA would measure sponsor advertising on football club shirts.

If you would like assistance or require clarification of measurement and sizing relevant to your club sponsor, please email **sanctioning@TheFA.com**



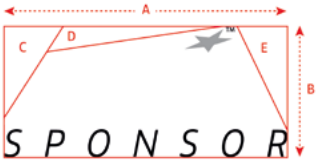
(A multiplied by B)



(A multiplied by B less C + D)

Items on kit will be measured according to their smallest geometric form (square, rectangle, triangle, circle etc), and the dimensions calculated using the usual mathematical formula.

To calculate the surface area, the widest part of the items will be measured from edge to edge. Exceptionally, items may be divided into several individual geometric forms for the purpose of calculating the surface area.



MAXIMUM 250cm²

(A multiplied by B less C + D + E)

MEASUREMENT PROCEDURES OF NEUTRAL COLOURED PATCHES/SHIRT COLOURS

A. **Sponsor advertising on a neutral coloured patch** – i.e. white sponsor logo on a black patch on a predominantly white/green shirt.

In this scenario the area measured would be the total area covered by the black patch on which the logo sits.



B. **Sponsor advertising on a patch which is based on one of the main colours of the shirt** – i.e. white sponsor logo on a red and white striped shirt.

In this scenario the area measured would only be that around the sponsor's logo even if this logo may stand out more prominently because of the white stripes in the shirt.



C. **Measuring of a 'chest ring'** – e.g. the white band around a club's shirt

If a club's traditional shirt contains a chest ring and that is one of the official colours of the playing kit, the area that is measured will only be around the sponsor's logo and not the whole of the chest ring.



D. MATCH OFFICIALS

No Advertising of any nature, save as set out below, is permitted on Match Officials' Clothing or Football Boots without the consent of The Association or Affiliated Association.

The following Advertising is permitted:

1. Clothing Manufacturer

   The established mark, logo or name of a Clothing manufacturer or a combination of the same, may appear:

   (a) once on the shirt provided it is an area no greater than 20 square centimetres.

   (b) once on the shorts provided it is an area no greater than 12 square centimetres.

   (c) incorporated into the design of the socks, but must be limited to an area no greater than 12 square centimetres.

   An additional established mark, logo or name of the Clothing manufacturer may be used once or repeatedly on either/both sleeves as part of the design on the trim or taping of shirts, shorts and socks. Such trim or taping shall be limited to down the outer seam of the shirt (armhole to the bottom of the shirt), or the length of the sleeve (neck to cuff), or across the bottom of each sleeve (cuffs) and to the bottom edge of the shorts or down the outer seam of the shorts and across the top edge of the socks.

   The established mark, logo or name of the Clothing manufacturer which appears once or repeatedly, as part of the design on the trim or taping of the shirts, shorts and socks shall be restricted to a maximum width of 10cm on the shirts and shorts and to a maximum width of 5cm on brand-new (unworn) socks.

2. Jacquard Weave

   A jacquard weave or similar technique such as embossing shall be allowed providing each is limited to 20 square centimetres, with unlimited repeats being acceptable. The design of such jacquard weave may be the manufacturer's mark, logo or name. The jacquard weave shading shall be restricted to two shades differing from the base colour, using a standard Pantone reference manual.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

3. Sponsor Advertising

(i) Sponsor Advertising is permitted only if in accordance with the following conditions:

(a) The advertising shall consist of:

(i) one single area not exceeding 150 square centimetres on one or both of the sleeves of the shirt, between the shoulder seam and the elbow; and/or

(ii) one single area not exceeding 100 square centimetres on the back of the shirt.

(b) Any sponsorship contract must be made between the sponsor and The Association, Professional Game Match Officials Limited, Competition or Affiliated Association. A Match Official is not permitted to enter into any personal Sponsor advertising contract.

(c) Advertising for Match Officials shall not be permitted if it creates a conflict of interest with the advertising worn by either of the two participating teams through a shared sponsor. In the event of such a conflict, match officials shall not wear advertising from the sponsor in question. Any related advertising shall also be removed from the referee review area (RRA) and / or the video operation room (VOR) during the match.

(d) Revenues from Sponsor Advertising contracts should be invested in refereeing matters.

(e) All Match Officials are provided with shirts, apparel and/or detachable badges, logo etc. carrying Sponsor Advertising free of charge.

(ii) Without limiting the effect of Regulation A above, Sponsor Advertising by Match Officials of any age, of tobacco-related products, gambling (including but not limited to casinos or betting companies), and alcohol is strictly prohibited.

4. Badges

Match kit shirts may carry the recognised badge of the appropriate Competition once only, which must be on either site of the breast pocket. This badge must not exceed an area of 20 square centimetres and, where it contains the established trademark, trade name or logo of a sponsor of the Competition, must be approved by The Association in advance.

In addition to the recognised competition badge the match kit shirt may carry once only on either site of the breast pocket an officially designated badge of FIFA, The Association, the relevant Affiliated Association or the Referees' Association (where relevant).

5. Sock Tie-Up

Each sock tie-up may show the name and/or badge of appropriate Affiliated Association or the Referees' Association providing it does not exceed an area of 100 square centimetres.

No Advertising is allowed.

6. Charitable and other causes

The officially designated name or logo of a registered charity or any initiative that promotes the game of football may appear as one single area on shirts, provided that such name or logo does not exceed an area of 100 square centimetres. Alternatively, such a name or logo may appear on shirts in the space reserved for the Competition sponsor, either alone or in combination with a Competition sponsor logo, provided that a total area of 150 square centimetres is not exceeded. Before any such name or logo is used on shirts, permission must be granted from the Competition in which the shirts are to be worn and The Association or Affiliated Association from which the Competition seeks sanction.

All charitable or other causes promoted under this provision must be conducted in accordance with Law 4 of the Laws of the Game.

11 - ANTI-DOPING REGULATIONS

PREAMBLE

This Preamble is a binding part of these Anti-Doping Regulations.

Any term used in these Anti-Doping Regulations denoting the masculine gender includes the feminine gender.

The headings contained in the Anti-Doping Regulations are provided for the purposes of convenience only and do not form part of and shall not affect the construction of the Anti-Doping Regulations.

Definitions are contained in Schedule Two to the Anti-Doping Regulations and the Rules.

1. EFFECTIVE VERSION

The amendments to these Anti-Doping Regulations shall come into full force and effect on 1 June 2025 (the **"Effective Date"**), replacing the Anti-Doping Regulations that were in force prior to the Effective Date.

Participants and other Persons should be aware that the current version of the Anti-Doping Regulations may not be the version published in The FA Handbook. The current version will be published on The Association's website, located at www.TheFA.com.

These Anti-Doping Regulations may be supplemented by further instructions and/or guidelines issued by The Association from time to time. Any supplemental instructions and/or guidelines are binding on Participants and other Persons.

2. AIMS OF ANTI-DOPING

Doping has become a constant concern of international sports organisations and national governments. The fundamental aims of anti-doping are threefold:

- to safeguard the physical health and mental integrity of Players;
- to uphold and preserve the ethics of sport; and
- to ensure that all competitors have an equal chance.

The above fundamental aims are adopted by The Association as laid down by FIFA, and they are derived from the World Anti-Doping Code.

3. PARTICIPANTS' AND OTHER PERSONS' ANTI-DOPING RESPONSIBILITIES

Participants accept the Anti-Doping Regulations as a condition of participation in football and shall be bound by them.

In particular, Players must –

- be aware of and comply with all applicable anti-doping policies and Rules and Regulations adopted by The Association;
- be aware in particular of what constitutes an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under the Anti-doping Regulations, including what substances and methods are prohibited under the Anti-doping Regulations;
- make themselves available for Sample collection at all times and provide whereabouts information as required;
- take responsibility for all substances that they ingest and for all substances and methods that they Use;
- inform medical personnel of their obligation not to Use Prohibited Substances and Prohibited Methods and to take responsibility to ensure that any medical treatment received does not contravene the Anti-Doping Regulations;

- co-operate with any investigation regarding a potential Anti-Doping Rule Violation;
- inform The Association and FIFA of any decision by a body (whether or not a signatory to the World Anti-Doping Code) that they infringed anti-doping rules in the last ten (10) years; and
- disclose the identity of their Player Support Personnel upon request by The Association or any other Anti-Doping Organisation with authority over the Player.

In particular, Player Support Personnel must –

- be aware of and comply with all applicable anti-doping policies and Rules and Regulations adopted by The Association;
- co-operate with The Association's Anti-Doping Programme;
- use their influence on values and behaviour to foster anti-doping attitudes among Players and other Participants;
- co-operate with any investigation regarding a potential Anti-Doping Rule Violation; and
- inform The Association and FIFA of any decision by a body (whether or not a signatory to the World Anti-Doping Code) that they infringed anti-doping rules in the last ten (10) years.

Other Participants and other Persons must –

- be aware of and comply with all applicable anti-doping policies and Rules and Regulations adopted by The Association, to the extent those policies, Rules and Regulations impose obligations on them;
- co-operate with any investigation regarding a potential Anti-Doping Rule Violation; and
- inform The Association and FIFA of any decision by a body (whether or not a signatory to the World Anti-Doping Code) that they infringed anti-doping rules in the last ten (10) years.

The Anti-Doping Rule Violations set out in the Anti-Doping Regulations may be committed by Participantsor other Persons. Where appropriate, the Anti-Doping Regulations stipulate if a particular Anti-Doping Rule Violation can only be committed by a certain category of Participants, such as Players or Player Support Personnel.

4. DRUG TESTING

Players are obliged to undergo drug tests as set out in these Anti-Doping Regulations. Testing may take place In-Competition (i.e. the period that commences at 23:59 on the day before a match in which a Player is scheduled to participate through to the end of that match and the completion of any sample collection process after the match) or Out-of-Competition (i.e. at any other time) and at any location without any advance notice.

The consent of a parent or guardian to Testing of a Player under the age of 18 pursuant to these Regulations, shall be inferred from the fact that the Player has been permitted by their parent or guardian to participate in football.

5. PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES AND PROHIBITED METHODS

Prohibited Substances and Prohibited Methods are set out or referenced in the List of Prohibited Substances and Prohibited Methods (the "Prohibited List"). Participants and other Persons should note that the Prohibited List may be updated from time to time by WADA independently of the Anti - Doping Regulations. Any changes made to the Prohibited List by WADA will be immediately binding on Participants and other Persons, and recognised and enforced by The Association.

Any substance or method that is added to the Prohibited List by WADA shall immediately be deemed a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method (as applicable) for the purpose of the Anti-Doping Regulations. The version of the Prohibited List that is current at any given time will be available on WADA's website located at www.wada-ama.org and on The Association's website, located at www.TheFA.com/anti-doping.

6. STRICT LIABILITY

Adverse Analytical Findings and the Use of Prohibited Substances and Prohibited Methods will be dealt with as strict liability violations. This means, for example, that a Player will be guilty of an Anti-Doping Rule Violation if a Prohibited Substance or any of its Metabolites or Markers is present in that Player's body. It is not necessary to demonstrate intent, Fault, negligence or knowing Use on the Player's part to establish an Anti-Doping Rule Violation for such presence, or for Use of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method; and a Player's alleged lack of intent, Fault, negligence or knowledge is not a valid defence to a charge that such an Anti-Doping Rule Violation has been committed.

7. MANDATORY PENALTIES

Participantsand other Persons should note that there are a number of mandatory penalties set out in the Anti-Doping Regulations, which are based on the penalties stipulated by WADA, and which may only be eliminated or reduced or suspended (as applicable) in accordance with the exceptional or specific circumstances set out in these Anti-Doping Regulations (see Part Seven).

8. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Personal information that is provided pursuant to these Anti-Doping Regulations shall be collected, stored, processed and/or disclosed in compliance with the applicable law for the purposes of carrying out these Anti-Doping Regulations (including the International Standard for the Protection of Privacy and Personal Information). More information on this processing, and individuals' data subject rights, can be found in The Association's Anti-Doping Privacy Policy.

9. ENQUIRIES

Any enquiries should be made to:

The Anti-Doping Manager
The FA Integrity Department
The Football Association
Wembley Stadium
PO Box 1966
London SW1P 9EQ

Email: integrity@thefa.com

ANTI-DOPING REGULATIONS

PART ONE – ANTI-DOPING RULE VIOLATIONS

General

1.

(a) These Anti-Doping Regulations are intended to implement the mandatory provisions of the World Anti-Doping Code (the "Code") and the International Standards (each as amended from time to time), and shall be interpreted in accordance with that purpose. The comments annotating various Code provisions are incorporated by reference into these Anti-Doping Regulations as if set out in full herein, and shall be used to interpret these Anti-Doping Regulations. In addition, where these Anti-Doping Regulations conflict with the provisions of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations in force from time to time, the provisions of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations shall prevail. Participants and other Persons shall be bound by these Anti-Doping Regulations and the Results Management authority of The Association, and also the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations and the Results Management authority of FIFA.

(b) These Anti-Doping Regulations shall apply to all Players and Player Support Personnel for a minimum of 12 months from the date on which they become a Participant.

Anti-Doping Rule Violations

2. Doping is defined as the occurrence of one or more of the anti-doping rule violations set forth in Regulations 3-13 (each, an "Anti-Doping Rule Violation"). The purpose of Regulations 3-13 is to specify the circumstances and conduct that constitute Anti-Doping Rule Violations. Committing an Anti-Doping Rule Violation will be regarded as a breach of the Anti-Doping Regulations, and therefore as a breach of Rule E 25 of the Rules of The Association.

3. Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in a Player's Sample

(a) The presence of any Prohibited Substance or any of its Metabolites or Markers in a Player's Sample constitutes an Anti-Doping Rule Violation by that Player under this Regulation 3.

(b) It is the Player's personal duty to ensure that no Prohibited Substance enters their body. Players are responsible for any Prohibited Substances or Markers found to be present in their Samples. Accordingly, it is not necessary that intent, Fault, negligence or knowing Use on the Player's part be demonstrated in order to establish an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under Regulation 3.

(c) Sufficient proof of an anti-doping rule violation under Regulation 3 is established by any of the following:

(i) presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in the Players "A" Sample where the Player waives analysis of the "B" Sample and the "B" Sample is not analysed; or

(ii) where the Player's "B" Sample is analysed and the analysis of the Player's "B" Sample confirms the presence of the Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers found in the Player's "A" Sample; or

(iii) where the Player's "A" or "B" Sample is split into two parts and the analysis of the confirmation part of the split Sample confirms the presence of the Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers found in the first part of the split Sample or the Player waives analysis of the confirmation part of the split Sample.

(d) Excepting those substances for which a Decision Limit is specifically identified in the Prohibited List or a Technical Document, the presence of any reported quantity of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in a Player's Sample shall constitute an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under Regulation 3.

(e) As an exception to the general rule of Regulation 3, the Prohibited List, International Standards and/or Technical Documents may establish special criteria for the reporting or the evaluation of certain Prohibited Substances.

(f) The penalties set out in Regulation 77 apply to this violation.

4. Use or Attempted Use by a Player of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method

(a) The Use or Attempted Use by a Player of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method constitutes an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under this Regulation 4.

(b) It is the Player's personal duty to ensure that no Prohibited Substance enters their body and that no Prohibited Method is Used. Accordingly, it is not necessary that intent, Fault, negligence or knowing Use on the Player's part be demonstrated in order to establish an Anti-Doping Rule Violation for Use of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method.

(c) The success or failure of the Use or Attempted Use of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method is not material. It is sufficient that the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method was Used or Attempted to be Used for an Anti-Doping Rule Violation to be committed.

(d) The penalties set out in Regulation 77 apply to this violation.

5. A Player evading, refusing or failing to submit to Sample collection

(a) A Player evading Sample collection; or refusing or failing to submit to Sample collection without compelling justification after notification by a duly authorised person constitutes an Anti-doping Rule Violation under this Regulation 5.

(b) The penalties set out in Regulation 81(a) apply to this violation.

6. Whereabouts Failures by a Player in a Registered Testing Pool

(a) Any combination of three missed tests and/or filing failures (as those terms are defined in the International Standard for Results Management ("ISRM")) within a twelve (12) month period by a Player in a Registered Testing Pool (whether the FIFA Pool, The Association's National Registered Testing Pool, or otherwise) is an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under this Regulation 6.

(b) Players who are included in a FIFA Pool ("FIFA Pool Players") and/or in The Association's National Registered Testing Pool ("NRTP Players") will be notified in writing by FIFA and/or The Association of that fact. FIFA Pool Players are subject to the applicable requirements of FIFA's Anti-Doping Regulations, which can be found at www.fifa.com. NRTP Players are subject to requirements set out in the International Standard for Testing and Investigations ("ISTI"), which will be notified to them when they are notified that they have been included in the NRTP. For the avoidance of doubt, FIFA Pool Players and NRTP Players also remain subject to all of the requirements of these Anti-Doping Regulations, save for the requirements that Regulation 16 makes applicable to Players who are not in the FIFA Pools or the NRTP.

(c) It is the responsibility of all FIFA Pool Players and NRTP Players and their Clubs to ensure that they are aware of the applicable requirements for Players in these Registered Testing Pools, including (i) the requirements to file whereabouts information and to be available for testing at that whereabouts, and (ii) a Player's liability for an Anti-Doping Rule Violation based on three failures in any twelve (12) month period to file the required whereabouts information and/or to be available for testing at the whereabouts specified in such filing.

(d) FIFA Pool Players must file the whereabouts information required by FIFA with The Association, in accordance with FIFA's Anti-Doping Regulations, and The Association will submit that information to the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit.

(e) The penalties set out in Regulation 81(b) apply to this violation.

7. Tampering or Attempted Tampering with any part of Doping Control by a Participant or other Person

(a) Tampering or Attempted Tampering with any part of Doping Control by a Participant or other Person constitutes an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under this Regulation 7.

(b) The penalties set out in Regulation 81(a) apply to this violation.

8. Possession of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method by a Player or Player Support Person

(a) Possession by a Player In-Competition of any Prohibited Substance or any Prohibited Method, or Possession by a Player Out-of-Competition of any Prohibited Substance or any Prohibited Method which is prohibited Out-of-Competition, constitutes an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under this Regulation 8 unless the Player establishes that the Possession is consistent with a Therapeutic Use Exemption ("TUE") granted in accordance with these Regulations or other acceptable justification.

(b) Possession by a Player Support Person In-Competition of any Prohibited Substance or any Prohibited Method, or Possession by a Player Support Person Out-of-Competition but in connection with a Player, Match or training of any Prohibited Substance or any Prohibited Method which is prohibited Out-of-Competition, constitutes an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under this Regulation 8, unless the Player Support Person establishes that the Possession is consistent with a TUE granted to a Player in accordance with these Regulations or other acceptable justification.

(c) The penalties set out in Regulation 77 apply to this violation.

9. Trafficking or Attempted Trafficking in any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method by a Participant or other Person

(a) Trafficking or Attempted Trafficking by a Participant or other Person in any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method constitutes an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under this Regulation 9.

(b) The penalties set out in Regulation 81(c) apply to this violation.

10. Administration or Attempted Administration by a Participant or other Person (a) to any Player In- Competition of any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method, or (b) to any Player Out-of-Competition of any Prohibited Substance or any Prohibited Method that is prohibited Out-of-Competition

(a) Administration or Attempted Administration by a Participant or other Person (i) to any Player In-Competition of any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method, or (ii) to any Player Out-of- Competition of any Prohibited Substance or any Prohibited Method that is prohibited Out-of- Competition, constitutes an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under this Regulation 10.

(b) The penalties set out in Regulation 81(c) apply to this violation.

11. Complicity or Attempted Complicity by a Participant or other Person

(a) Assisting, encouraging, aiding, abetting, conspiring, covering up, or any other type of intentional complicity or Attempted Complicity involving an Anti-Doping Rule Violation, Attempted Anti-doping Rule Violation, or violation of Regulation 105 by another Person, constitutes an Anti-doping Rule Violation under this Regulation 11.

(b) The penalties set out in Regulation 81(d) apply to this violation.

12. Prohibited association by a Participant or other Person

(a) Association by a Participant or other Person subject to the authority of an Anti-Doping Organisation in a professional or sport-related capacity with any Player Support Personnel constitutes an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under this Regulation 12 where that Player Support Person:

(i) if subject to the authority of an Anti-Doping Organisation, is serving a period of Ineligibility; or

(ii) if not subject to the authority of an Anti-Doping Organisation and where Ineligibility has not been addressed in a Results Management process pursuant to the Code, has been convicted of, or found in a criminal, disciplinary or professional proceeding to have engaged in, conduct which would have constituted a violation of Code-compliant Anti-doping rules if they had been applicable to such Player Support Person. The disqualifying status of such Player Support Person shall be in force for the longer of six years from the criminal, professional or disciplinary decision or the duration of the criminal, disciplinary or professional sanction imposed; or

(iii) is serving as a front or intermediary for an individual described in Regulation 12(a)(i) or (a)(ii).

(b) To establish a violation of Regulation 12, The Association must establish that the Participant or other Person knew of the Player Support Person's disqualifying status.

(c) The burden shall be on the Participant or other Person to establish that any association with a Player Support Person described in Regulation 12(a) is not in a professional or sport-related capacity and/or that such association could not have been reasonably avoided. If they discharge that burden (in either respect), that shall be a complete defence to the charge that the Participant or other Person has committed an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under this Regulation 12.

(d) The penalties set out in Regulation 81(e) apply to this violation.

13. Acts by a Participant or other Person to discourage or retaliate against reporting to authorities

(a) The following conduct by a Participant or other Person constitutes an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under this Regulation 13, where such conduct does not otherwise constitute a violation of Regulation 7:

(i) Any act that threatens or seeks to intimidate another Person with the intent of discouraging the Person from the good-faith reporting of information that relates to an alleged Anti-Doping Rule Violation or alleged non-compliance with these Anti-Doping Regulations and/or the Code to The Association, FIFA, WADA, UKAD or other Anti-Doping Organisation, a law enforcement, regulatory or professional disciplinary body, a hearing body or a Person conducting an investigation for The Association, FIFA, WADA, UKAD or other Anti-Doping Organisation.

(ii) Retaliation against a Person who, in good faith, has provided evidence or information that relates to an alleged Anti-Doping Rule Violation or alleged non-compliance with these Anti-Doping Regulations and/or the Code to The Association, FIFA, WADA, UKAD or other Anti-Doping Organisation, a law enforcement, regulatory or professional disciplinary body, a hearing body or a Person conducting an investigation for The Association, FIFA, WADA, UKAD or other Anti-Doping Organisation.

(b) For the purposes of this Regulation 13, retaliation, threatening, and intimidation include an act taken against such Person either because the act lacks a good faith basis or is a disproportionate response.

(c) The penalties set out in Regulation 81(f) apply to this violation.

PART TWO - MISCONDUCT RELATED TO THE ASSOCIATION'S ANTI-DOPING PROGRAMME

Misconduct

14. Breach of any of Regulations 15-18 (inclusive) does not constitute an Anti-Doping Rule Violation but instead shall constitute Misconduct within the meaning of Rule E.1 of the Rules of The Association, for which the Regulatory Commission shall have at its disposal all of the penalties set out in Regulation 41 of the Disciplinary Regulations, save that for a proven breach of Regulation 16 the penalty set out at Regulation 16(f) of these Anti-Doping Regulations shall apply.

15. Club filing failures (Players not in FIFA Pool or the NRTP):

(a) A Club must provide to The Association upon request any whereabouts information that The Association specifies from time to time in respect of any of that Club's Players who are not FIFA Pool Players or NRTP Players. That information shall include as a minimum:

(i) training dates;

(ii) start and finish times of training;

(iii) the address at which such training will take place; and

(iv) the Player's home address and any other address at which the Player regularly resides overnight.

(b) The Association (whether through the Anti-Doping Unit or otherwise) may issue directions from time to time about:

(i) the type of whereabouts information to be submitted by Clubs; and/or

(ii) the manner and time frame in which such whereabouts information must be submitted.

(c) It shall be a breach of this Regulation 15 for a Club to do one or more of the following:

(i) to fail to provide whereabouts information in the manner directed by The Association; or

(ii) to provide whereabouts information that is either initially inaccurate or has not been updated by the Club as necessary to ensure it remains accurate;

on three different occasions within any twelve (12) month period.

16. Missed tests (Players not in FIFA Pool or the NRTP):

(a) A Player who is not a FIFA Pool Player or an NRTP Player shall be deemed to be aware of the whereabouts information provided by their Club to The Association further to Regulation 15, and must be present and available for drug testing in accordance with that whereabouts information. If such Player is not present and available for drug testing in accordance with that whereabouts information on any occasion, then (subject only to Regulations 16(b) and 16(c)) they shall be notified by The Association that they are deemed to have missed a test and may be targeted for testing. It is a breach of this Regulation 16 for a Player who is not a FIFA Pool Player or an NRTP Player to miss three tests within any twelve (12) month period.

(b) Any Player who is eighteen (18) years old on or before 31 August in the relevant season who is not present and available for drug testing at the squad time and location stated in the whereabouts information provided by their Club will be deemed to have missed a test unless they satisfy the following two conditions:

(i) In advance of such absence, the Player provides The Association with details of an alternative venue at which they will be present and available for drug testing, which must include a stipulated sixty (60) minute time slot during which such testing may take place. This time slot must be on the same day as the Player's absence, must be between 6am and 11pm, and must not commence for at least two (2) hours from the time that the Player notifies The Association of their absence.

(ii) They are present and available for drug testing at that alternative venue for the whole of the sixty (60) minute time slot stipulated by them.

(c) Any Player who is not eighteen (18) years old on or before 31 August in the relevant season at a Club with an Under 18 squad in Professional Development League 1 (this excludes Professional Development Leagues 2 and 3) who is not present and available for drug testing at the squad time and location provided in the whereabouts information submitted by the Player's Club will be deemed to have missed a test unless they satisfy one of the following two conditions:

(i) they notify The Association of their absence in advance of that absence; or

(ii) following that absence, they provide The Association with satisfactory independent corroborative evidence of the reason for that absence.

(d) It is the responsibility of each Player to make themselves familiar with and to comply with any and all requirements of this Regulation that apply to the Player.

(e) This Regulation does not apply to Players who are included in any FIFA Pool or the NRTP for the period that they are so included.

(f) For a violation of this Regulation, a suspension of at least one year but of no more than two years must be imposed, with the precise length of the suspension to be fixed based on the Player's degree of Fault.

17. Interference:

(a) Interference with the conduct of a drug test or any other aspect of the Anti-Doping Programme by a Participant that does not amount to an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under Regulation 5 and/or 7 will be a breach of this Regulation 17. In addition, a Participant is liable for any such interference by a third party of which that Participant has knowledge. The actions set out in Regulations 17(b) - (e) (inclusive) are a non-exhaustive list of examples of conduct that shall be regarded as a breach of this Regulation 17.

(b) The independent private testing/screening of a Player for a Prohibited Substance for any reason whatsoever.

(c) Interference in the drug testing process that falls short of the Tampering/ Attempted Tampering violation set out in Regulation 7, including (for example but without limitation) handling Samples when not permitted or authorised to do so by a Competent Official.

(d) A Club failing to comply with the reasonable instructions of The Association or a Competent Official with regard to the adequacy of the Doping Control Station (which must contain the minimum facilities set out in the Procedural Guidelines).

(e) Conduct intended to procure that a Player is not presented for drug testing or is delayed from being presented for drug testing. This may include (by way of example and without limitation):

(i) a Club either failing to allow a Competent Official access to a Player to notify the Player of a test, or delaying such access;

(ii) a Club intentionally or negligently causing a failure to notify a Player or a delay in notifying a Player that they are required to submit to testing;

(iii) a delay in the Player submitting themselves for testing following such notification; and

(iv) a Club failing to present a selected Player for testing due to the Player sustaining a serious injury, where the Club fails to provide satisfactory evidence of the Player's admission to hospital and/or attendance at a medical consultation in relation to that injury to The Association within fourteen (14) days of the intended drug test. A serious injury is one which renders a Player incapable of taking a test and/or requires immediate attendance at hospital for medical treatment.

(f) For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this Regulation 17 shall prevent any of the conduct mentioned being pursued as an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under Regulation 5 (Evading, refusing or failing to submit to Sample Collection), Regulation 7 (Tampering or Attempted Tampering with any part of Doping Control by a Participant or other Person), and/or Regulation 11 (Complicity or Attempted Complicity by a Participant or other Person), where appropriate.

18. Possession or Use of a Prohibited Substance by a Player Support Person:

(a) It is a breach of this Regulation 18 for a Player Support Person to Use any Prohibited Substance or to Possess any Prohibited Substance without valid justification.

(b) Possession of a Prohibited Substance that constitutes an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under Regulation 8 (Possession of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method by a Player or Player Support Person) shall be dealt with as an Anti-Doping Rule Violation pursuant to that Regulation.

(c) Possession of a Prohibited Substance by a Player Support Person that does not constitute an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under Regulation 8 shall be dealt with as Misconduct pursuant to this Regulation 18 (or, where appropriate, under The Association's Social Drugs Regulations).

19. For the avoidance of doubt, Regulations 15-18 do not restrict The Association's general power to bring proceedings for Misconduct pursuant to Rule E.1 of the Rules of The Association in any circumstances that it deems appropriate, whether related to The Association's Anti-Doping Programme or otherwise. Instead, Regulations 15-18 simply identify specific examples of conduct related to The Association's Anti-Doping Programme that may be treated as Misconduct pursuant to that Rule E.1.

PART THREE – PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES AND PROHIBITED METHODS IDENTIFIED ON THE PROHIBITED LIST

20. The Prohibited List shall identify (a) those substances and methods that are prohibited as doping at all times (both In-Competition and Out-of-Competition) because of their potential to enhance performance in future or their masking potential, and (b) those substances and methods which are prohibited In-Competition only. The version of the Prohibited List current as at the Effective Date appears at Schedule Three.

21. The Prohibited List and its revisions shall come into effect under these Anti-Doping Regulations three (3) months after publication of the Prohibited List by WADA without requiring any further action by The Association. All Participants and other Persons shall be bound by the Prohibited List, and any revisions thereto, from the date they go into effect, without further formality. It is the responsibility of all Participants and other Persons to familiarise themselves with the most up-to-date version of the Prohibited List and revisions thereto.

22. For the purpose of the application of Part Seven (Consequences and other measures in respect of individuals), all Prohibited Substances shall be Specified Substances except as identified in the Prohibited List. No Prohibited Method shall be a Specified Method unless it is specifically identified as a Specified Method in the Prohibited List.

23. For the purpose of the application of Part Seven (Consequences and other measures in respect of individuals), Substances of Abuse shall include those Prohibited Substances which are specifically identified as Substances of Abuse on the Prohibited List because they are frequently abused in society outside of the context of sport.

24. WADA's determination of the Prohibited Substances and Prohibited Methods that will be included on the Prohibited List, the classification of substances into categories on the Prohibited List, the classification of a substance as prohibited at all times or In-Competition only, and the classification of a substance or method as a Specified Substance, Specified Method or Substance of Abuse, is final and may not be challenged by a Participant or other Person, including, but not limited to, based on an argument that the substance or method was not a masking agent or did not have the potential to enhance performance, represent a health risk, or violate the spirit of sport.

25. Changes to the Prohibited List and Technical Documents relating to substances or methods on the Prohibited List shall not, unless they specifically provide otherwise, be applied retroactively. As an exception, however, when a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method has been removed from the Prohibited List, a Participant or other Person currently serving a period of Ineligibility on account of the formerly Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method may apply to The Association to consider a reduction in the period of Ineligibility in light of the removal of the substance or method from the Prohibited List.

PART FOUR – DRUG TESTING AND INVESTIGATIONS PROCEDURES

26. A Player may be subject to In-Competition and Out-of-Competition Testing at any time and place by FIFA, WADA, and/or UKAD. Testing shall include, but shall not be limited to, urine tests, blood tests and/or dried blood spot tests. Save in exceptional and justifiable circumstances, all Testing shall take place without advance notice to the Player in question.

27. Administrative and procedural guidelines for the conduct of drug testing are set out in the Procedural Guidelines (see Schedule One). Procedural guidelines for Sample collection are also set out in the ISTI, a copy of which is available on WADA's website (www.wada-ama.org). In the event of inconsistency between the Procedural Guidelines and the ISTI, the ISTI shall prevail. For the avoidance of doubt, The Association may also exercise its powers of inquiry under the Rules of The Association to investigate possible instances of breach of these Anti-Doping Regulations.

PART FIVE – THERAPEUTIC USE EXEMPTIONS ("TUES")

28. The presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers, and/or the Use or Attempted Use, Possession, or Administration or Attempted Administration of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method, shall not be considered an Anti-Doping Rule Violation if it is consistent with the provisions of a TUE.

29. A Player may request permission to Use, for therapeutic purposes, substances or methods on the Prohibited List where such Use would otherwise be prohibited. The question of whether or not a TUE should be granted shall be determined by UKAD in accordance with the procedure and criteria for the grant of a TUE attached as Schedule Four to these Anti-Doping Regulations.

PART SIX – RESULTS MANAGEMENT

30. The Association's Results Management process is set out in this Part Six and in the ISRM. In the event of inconsistency between this Part Six and the ISRM, the ISRM shall prevail.

31. Results Management arising under these Anti-Doping Regulations shall be conducted by The Association and/or UKAD as agreed between them. References to The Association in this Part Six shall accordingly be deemed to encompass reference to UKAD as necessary, and references in the ISRM to the Results Management Authority shall be deemed to be references to either The Association or UKAD as necessary.

Review of Adverse Analytical Findings

32. Upon receipt of an Adverse Analytical Finding in relation to an "A" Sample, The Association (involving Independent Reviewers as it deems appropriate) shall conduct a review of any TUE granted to the Player as well as of the documentation relating to the Sample collection and the "A" Sample analysis, and any other relevant information, to determine:

- **(a)** whether the presence of the Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in the Player's Sample is consistent with a valid and applicable TUE held by the Player (or alternatively whether the Player should be invited to apply for a retroactive TUE); or
- **(b)** whether there has been any apparent departure from the ISTI or the International Standard for Laboratories ("ISL") that caused the Adverse Analytical Finding; or
- **(c)** whether it is apparent that the Adverse Analytical Finding was caused by an ingestion of the Prohibited Substance by a permitted route.

33. If pursuant to Regulation 32 The Association determines either that the Adverse Analytical Finding is consistent with a valid and applicable TUE held by the Player (including any retroactive TUE), or that there has been an apparent departure from either the ISTI or the ISL that caused the Adverse Analytical Finding, or that it is apparent that the Prohibited Substance was ingested by a permitted route, The Association shall advise the Player, FIFA, WADA, UKAD, and any other relevant NADO of that fact, and no further action shall be taken in relation to such Adverse Analytical Finding.

34. If pursuant to Regulation 32 The Association determines that there is neither a valid and applicable TUE with which the Adverse Analytical Finding is consistent, nor a departure from either the ISTI or the ISL that caused the Adverse Analytical Finding, and nor is it apparent that the Prohibited Substance was ingested by a permitted route, it shall send the Player a Notice in accordance with Regulation 46.

Review of Atypical Findings

35. Where a laboratory reports the presence in a Sample of a Prohibited Substance or its Markers or Metabolites as an Atypical Finding, The Association (using Independent Reviewers as it deems appropriate) will conduct a review to determine:

- **(a)** whether the presence of the Prohibited Substance or its Marker or Metabolite in the Player's Sample is consistent with a valid and applicable TUE held by the Player (or alternatively whether the Player should be invited to apply for a retroactive TUE, if they have not applied already); or
- **(b)** whether there has been any apparent departure from the ISTI or the ISL that caused the Atypical Finding; or
- **(c)** whether it is apparent that the Atypical Finding was caused by an ingestion of the Prohibited Substance by a permitted route.

36. If it is determined pursuant to Regulation 35 either that the Atypical Finding is consistent with a valid and applicable TUE held by the Player (including any retroactive TUE), or that there has been an apparent departure from either the ISTI or the ISL that caused the Atypical Finding, or that it is apparent that the Prohibited Substance was ingested by a permitted route, The Association shall advise the Player, FIFA, WADA, UKAD, and any other relevant NADO of that fact, and no further action shall be taken in relation to such Atypical Finding.

37. If it is determined pursuant to Regulation 35 that there is neither a valid and applicable TUE with which the Atypical Finding is consistent, nor a departure from either the ISTI or the ISL that caused the Atypical Finding, and it is not apparent that the Prohibited Substance was ingested by a permitted route, The Association will conduct any necessary follow-up investigation, including any further Testing that may be required.

38. Pending the outcome of the investigation, the Atypical Finding will be kept confidential, save that:

(a) if The Association determines that the "B" Sample should be analysed as part of the investigation, The Association shall notify the Player in accordance with Regulation 45(e), and such notice shall additionally include a description of the Atypical Finding and specify the Player's right to request copies of the "A" and "B" Sample laboratory documentation packages;

(b) if requested by The Association, FIFA, a FIFA Confederation, another member Association of FIFA, or a National Olympic Committee that is about to select Players to participate in an international competition recognised by FIFA, The Association may confirm that the Player has a pending Atypical Finding, after informing the Player; and

(c) if the Atypical Finding is, in the opinion of qualified medical or expert personnel, likely to be connected to a serious pathology that requires urgent medical attention, The Association will inform the Player of the Atypical Finding.

39. If The Association decides that the Atypical Finding should not be pursued as a potential Anti-Doping Rule Violation, it shall notify the Player, FIFA, WADA, UKAD, and any other relevant NADO. FIFA and/or WADA and/or UKAD and/or any other relevant NADO may either appeal that decision in accordance with Part Nine (Appeals) or may elect to pursue the Atypical Finding as an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under its own rules.

40. If The Association decides that the Atypical Finding should be pursued as one or more potential Anti-doping Rule Violations, it shall send the Player a Notice in accordance with Regulation 46.

Review of Atypical Passport Findings and Adverse Passport Findings

41. The Association will review Atypical Passport Findings and Adverse Passport Findings in accordance with Annex C to the ISRM. At such time as The Association is satisfied that an Anti-Doping Rule Violation has occurred, it shall send the Player a Notice in accordance with Regulation 45.

Review of Whereabouts Failures

42. The Association will conduct Results Management in relation to potential Whereabouts Failures by Players in a Registered Testing Pool in accordance with ISRM Annex B.3. At such time as The Association is satisfied that an Anti-Doping Rule Violation has occurred, it shall send the Player a Notice in accordance with Regulation 45.

Review of other evidence of a potential Anti-Doping Rule Violation

43. Where there is evidence of a potential Anti-Doping Rule Violation other than an Adverse Analytical Finding, an Atypical Finding, an Adverse Passport Finding, or Whereabouts Failures, The Association will review the file in accordance with ISRM Annex A (where applicable.

44. Where The Association concludes that the Participant or other Person may have committed one or more Anti-Doping Rule Violations, The Association shall send the Participant or other Person a Notice in accordance with Regulation 45.

Notice

45. Where it is determined, pursuant to Regulations 32-44, that a Participant or other Person may have committed one or more Anti-Doping Rule Violations, The Association shall promptly notify the Participant or other Person, their Club (where relevant), UKAD, FIFA, WADA, any other relevant NADO, and (with the consent of a Player) the Professional Football Association ("PFA"), in writing (the "Notice") of:

(a) the Anti-Doping Rule Violation(s) that The Association says the Participant or other Person may have committed;

(b) a summary of the facts and evidence relied upon by The Association in this regard;

(c) any Provisional Suspension to be imposed on the Participant or other Person pursuant to Regulation 54, along with an explanation of the Participant'sor other Person's Regulation 53(d) rights in relation to such Provisional Suspension;

(d) the Consequences applicable under these Anti-Doping Regulations if it is established that the Participant or other Person has committed the specified Anti-Doping Rule Violation(s) (including identifying any discretion that may exist in relation to such Consequences under these Rules);

(e) where the specified Anti-Doping Rule Violations are Regulations 3 or 4 Anti-Doping Rule Violations based on an Adverse Analytical Finding:

(i) the details of the Adverse Analytical Finding;

(ii) the Player's right to a copy of the laboratory documentation package for the Adverse Analytical Finding;

(iii) the right of the Player to request the analysis of the "B" Sample, explaining that any request for such analysis must be sent in writing so that it is received by The Association within ten (10) days of the Player's receipt of the Notice, failing which the right to the "B" Sample analysis shall be deemed to be waived; and

(iv) if such right is exercised, the right of the Player and/or the Player's representative to attend the opening and analysis of the "B" Sample by the laboratory that analysed the "A" Sample at a date and time to be specified by The Association in accordance with Regulation 48.

(f) where the specified Anti-Doping Rule Violation is based on an Adverse Passport Finding, that copies of the Athlete Biological Passport documentation package and the joint expert report are enclosed with the Notice;

(g) the right of the Participant or other Person to provide an alternative explanation (by a specified deadline) for the facts based on which The Association says the Participant or other Person may have committed an Anti-Doping Rule Violation (for example, in a case based on an Adverse Passport Finding, an alternative explanation for the data on which the Adverse Passport Finding is based);

(h) the right of the Participant or other Person to respond to the Notice (by a specified deadline) in one of the following ways, depending on the explanation (if any) provided:

(i) to admit the Anti-Doping Rule Violation(s) asserted, and accede to the Consequences specified in the Notice;

(ii) to admit the Anti-Doping Rule Violation(s) asserted, but to dispute and/or seek to mitigate the Consequences specified in the Notice, and to have the Consequences determined at a hearing; or

(iii) to deny the Anti-Doping Rule Violation(s) asserted, and (if The Association proceeds to charge in accordance with Regulation 56) to have the assertion and (if necessary) any Consequences determined at a hearing; and

(i) the opportunity for the Participant or other Person:

(i) to provide Substantial Assistance as set out in Regulation 85;

(ii) to benefit (if they admit the Anti-Doping Rule Violation(s)) from the one (1) year reduction of the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility pursuant to Regulation 88 (if applicable); and

(iii) to seek to agree a case resolution agreement as per Regulation 89.

46. Before sending the Notice to the Participant or other Person, The Association will organise a check of ADAMS and check with WADA and other relevant Anti-Doping Organisations as necessary to determine whether the Participant or other Person has committed any prior doping offence(s), and will identify the relevant Consequences for the Anti-Doping Rule Violation asserted in the Notice accordingly.

"B" Sample analysis

47. In a case involving an Adverse Analytical Finding, if the Player exercises the right to have their "B" Sample analysed, such analysis shall be conducted by the laboratory that analysed the "A" Sample (unless the ISL provides otherwise) on the date and at the time specified by The Association, and the Player and/or their representative may attend at the laboratory on that date and at that time, at the Player's cost, to witness the opening and analysis of the "B" Sample, as may representatives of The Association, FIFA, and UKAD (each at their own cost).

48. If the Player and/or their representative is unable to attend at the date and time specified by The Association for analysis of the "B" Sample, alternative dates and times will be offered in accordance with ISRM Article 5.1.2.4. If the Player and/or their representative are unable to attend on those alternative dates, the laboratory will arrange for an independent witness to attend the "B" Sample analysis on the specified date and time to verify, in accordance with the ISL, that the "B" Sample container shows no signs of Tampering and that the identifying numbers correspond to those on the Sample collection documentation.

49. If the Player admits the Anti-Doping Rule Violation(s) asserted in the Notice, and/or does not request analysis of their "B" Sample by the deadline referenced in Regulation 6(e)(iii), they will be deemed to have accepted the accuracy and reliability of the Adverse Analytical Finding based on the "A" Sample analysis alone, and analysis of the "B" Sample shall not be required. The Association may however proceed with such analysis at any time if it sees fit, in which case an independent witness shall attend the analysis for the purpose set out in Regulation 48.

50. Where a Player who has requested analysis of their "B" Sample has been Provisionally Suspended in accordance with Regulation 53, they shall remain Provisionally Suspended pending analysis of their "B" Sample. If the analysis of the "B" Sample does not confirm the Adverse Analytical Finding reported in respect of the "A" Sample, then (unless The Association asserts a Regulation 4 Anti-Doping Rule Violation against the Player) the entire test shall be considered negative and the Player, FIFA, UKAD, WADA, and any other relevant NADO will be so informed. In such circumstances, the Notice will be withdrawn, any Provisional Suspension imposed on the Player pursuant to Regulation 54 will be deemed automatically vacated with immediate effect (without the need for any further formality), and no further disciplinary action will be taken against the Player by The Association in relation to the original Adverse Analytical Finding (provided, however, that The Association may investigate why the "B" Sample did not match the "A" Sample). In addition, where the Player or the Player's team has been removed from a Competition as a result of the Adverse Analytical Finding, if it is still possible (without otherwise affecting the Competition) for the Player or team to be reinstated, the Player or team may be reinstated and continue to take part in the Competition.

51. If the "B" Sample analysis confirms the Adverse Analytical Finding reported in respect of the "A" Sample, The Association will provide the "B" Sample laboratory documentation package to the Player, and give the Player a short deadline to provide or supplement their explanation for the Adverse Analytical Finding, and/or to admit the Anti-Doping Rule Violation(s) specified in the Notice based on the Adverse Analytical Finding to potentially benefit from a one (1) year reduction in the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility under Regulation 89 (if applicable) and/or to accept a voluntary Provisional Suspension under Regulation 54 (if applicable). In case of doubt as to whether the "B" Sample analysis confirms the Adverse Analytical Finding in respect of the "A" Sample, The Association may refer the matter for further review by one or more Independent Reviewer(s), as The Association deems appropriate.

52. Where Regulation 49 or 50 applies, the Player shall not be responsible for the costs of the "B" Sample analysis. Where Regulation 51 applies, The Association may require the Player to pay the costs of the "B" Sample analysis.

Provisional Suspension

53. The ability of The Association to impose a Provisional Suspension under this Regulation 53 is separate from, and operates independently of, Rule E.16.

(a) When, in respect of a Player, an Adverse Analytical Finding or Adverse Passport Finding is received for a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method that is not a Specified Substance or Specified Method, The Association shall impose a Provisional Suspension on the Player ("Mandatory Provisional Suspension"). A Mandatory Provisional Suspension will come into effect on the date specified by The Association in the Notice issued to the Player.

(b) The Association may provisionally suspend a Participant or other Person in all other Anti-Doping Rule Violation cases (an "Optional Provisional Suspension"). An Optional Provisional Suspension will come into effect on the date specified by The Association in the Notice issued to the Participant or other Person.

(c) If a Provisional Suspension is based on an "A" Sample Adverse Analytical Finding, and subsequently analysis of the "B" Sample does not confirm that Adverse Analytical Finding, any Provisional Suspension that was imposed on a Player based on that Adverse Analytical Finding shall be lifted without delay.

(d) Where a Provisional Suspension is imposed, the Participant or other Person shall be entitled to either (i) a Provisional Hearing on a timely basis after its imposition; or (ii) an expedited hearing and determination of the charge against them.

(e) At a Provisional Hearing, a Provisional Suspension may only be lifted where –

(i) in respect of a Mandatory Provisional Suspension only, the Player establishes that (A) the violation is likely to have involved a Contaminated Product, or (B) the violation involves a Substance of Abuse and the Player establishes an entitlement to a reduced period of Ineligibility under Regulation 79(a);

(ii) in respect of either a Mandatory Provisional Suspension or Optional Provisional Suspension, (A) the Anti-Doping Rule Violation charged has no realistic prospect of being upheld due to a fundamental flaw in the case; or (B) there is a strong arguable case that in the circumstances of the particular case that no period of Ineligibility is likely to be imposed; or (C) other facts exist that make it clearly unfair, in all the circumstances, for the Participant or other Person to be subject to a Provisional Suspension prior to the final first instance decision on the merits. (Ground (C) is to be construed narrowly, and applied only in truly exceptional circumstances. For example, the fact that the Provisional Suspension would prevent the Participant or other Person Participating in a particular Competition or Match shall not qualify as exceptional circumstances for these purposes).

(f) A Regulatory Commission's decision not to lift a Mandatory Provisional Suspension due to a Player's assertion regarding a Contaminated Product shall not be appealable. Other decisions relating to Provisional Suspensions may be appealed in accordance with Regulation 118.

54. Voluntary acceptance of Provisional Suspension:

(a) Players may, on their own initiative, voluntarily accept a Provisional Suspension prior to the later of: (i) the expiration of ten (10) days from the report of the "B" Sample (or waiver of the "B" Sample) or ten (10) days from the Notice of any other Anti-Doping Rule Violation, or (ii) the date on which the Player first competes after such report or Notice.

(b) Other Participants and Persons on their own initiative may voluntarily accept a Provisional Suspension if done so within ten days from the notice of the Anti-Doping Rule Violation.

Charge Letter

55. Upon receipt of a response by a Participant or other Person to a Notice, The Association will assess any explanation provided, and may conduct such further investigation as it sees fit. As part of such investigation, The Association may require that the Participant or other Person attends a personal interview. At any such interview, the Participant or other Person is entitled to be accompanied by a legal adviser, one representative from their Club (where applicable) a representative of the PFA (where applicable). Such interview may be recorded and may be used by The Association in any disciplinary proceedings brought against such Participant or other Person, or in any related investigation and/or disciplinary proceedings (whether conducted by The Association or any other party).

56. Where, after receipt of the response of the Participant or other Person to the Notice, or expiry of the deadline to receive such response, and after conducting such further investigation as it sees fit (if any), The Association considers that the Participant or other Person has committed one or more Anti-doping Rule Violations, The Association will promptly charge the Participant or other Person with the relevant Anti-Doping Rule Violation(s).

57. The charge letter sent by The Association to the Participant or other Person (the "Charge Letter") will set out the following:

(a) the Anti-Doping Rule Violation(s) that The Association asserts the Participant or other Person has committed;

(b) a summary of the facts and evidence relied upon by The Association in support of that assertion;

(c) the Consequences that The Association will seek under these Anti-Doping Regulations if it is established that the Participant or other Person has committed the Anti-Doping Rule Violation(s) asserted;

(d) the right of the Participant or other Person to respond to the Charge Letter (by a specified deadline of not more than twenty (20) days, which may be extended only in exceptional cases) in one of the following ways:

(i) to admit the Anti-Doping Rule Violation(s) asserted, and accede to the Consequences specified in the Charge Letter, including (where applicable) the one (1) year reduction pursuant to Regulation 89 of the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility;

(ii) to admit the Anti-Doping Rule Violation(s) asserted, but to dispute and/or seek mitigation of the Consequences specified in the Charge Letter, and to have those Consequences determined at a hearing; or

(iii) to deny the Anti-Doping Rule Violation(s) asserted, and to have the assertion and (if necessary) any Consequences determined at a hearing;

(e) a warning that if the Participant or other Person does not deny the Anti-Doping Rule Violation(s) asserted or dispute the proposed Consequences or request a hearing by the prescribed deadline, the Participant or other Person will be deemed to have waived their right to a hearing and to have admitted the Anti-Doping Rule Violation(s) asserted and accepted the Consequences proposed in the Charge Letter (although, for the avoidance of doubt, this will not trigger any entitlement to the one (1) year reduction pursuant to Regulation 88);

(f) noting the position in relation to any Provisional Suspension in accordance with Regulation 53; and

(g) noting the opportunity for the Participant or other Person to provide Substantial Assistance as set out in Regulation 85, and/or to seek to enter into a case resolution agreement as per Regulation 89.

58. The Participant or other Person has the right to respond to the Charge Letter in any one of the following ways:

(a) admit the Anti-Doping Rule Violation(s) charged, and accede to the Consequences specified in the Charge Letter;

(b) admit the Anti-Doping Rule Violation(s) charged, but dispute and/or seek to mitigate the Consequences specified in the Charge Letter, and have the Consequences determined at a hearing; or

(c) deny the Anti-Doping Rule Violation(s) charged, and have the charge and (if necessary) any Consequences determined at a hearing; provided that if no response is received by the deadline specified in the Charge Letter, the Participant or other Person will be deemed to have admitted the Anti-Doping Rule Violation(s) charged, and, unless The Association (at its sole discretion) refers the determination of the applicable Consequences to a hearing, the Participant or other Person will also be deemed to have acceded to the Consequences specified in the Charge Letter.

59. The Charge Letter will be sent at the same time to the Participant or other Person charged, UKAD, FIFA, WADA, and any other relevant NADO, and The Association will cause it to be promptly reported into ADAMS. Thereafter, The Association may Publicly Disclose the charge in accordance with Code Article 14.3.1.

60. If by the deadline specified in Regulation 57(d) the Participant or other Person disputes the charge(s) and/or the Consequences specified by The Association in the Charge Letter and requests a hearing, the matter shall be referred to a Regulatory Commission.

61. For the avoidance of doubt, The Association may decide to withdraw a Charge Letter for good cause. In that event, The Association will promptly issue a reasoned decision confirming the withdrawal of the Charge and will send notice of the decision to the Participant or other Person who was the subject of the Charge Letter, and to each of UKAD, FIFA, WADA, and any other relevant NADO.

Statute of Limitations

62. The Association may not charge a Participant or other Person with an alleged Anti-Doping Rule Violation unless the Participant or other Person has been notified of the alleged Anti-Doping Rule Violation, or notification has been reasonably attempted, within ten years of the date on which the Anti-Doping Rule Violation is alleged to have occurred.

Retirement from sport

63. If a Participant or other Person retires while a Results Management process is underway, The Association retains jurisdiction to complete its Results Management process.

64. If a Participant or other Person retires before any Results Management process has begun, and The Association would have had Results Management authority over the Participant or other Person at the time the Participant or other Person committed an Anti-Doping Rule Violation, The Association has the authority to conduct Results Management in respect of that Anti-Doping Rule Violation.

Disciplinary Proceedings

65. Any disciplinary proceedings brought against a Participant or other Person will be conducted in accordance with The Association's Disciplinary Regulations and any other applicable regulations, save to the extent contrary provisions are included in these Anti-Doping Regulations or the ISRM. By way of such contrary provisions, in respect of appeals, (1) an Appeal Board shall be independently administered and members of an Appeal Board may be appointed by an independent party from outside of The Association's Judicial Panel, and (2) in any case where each of The Association, Participant or other Person, WADA, and UKAD consents, proceedings alleging an Anti-Doping Rule Violation may be heard directly at CAS without any other prior hearing.

66. In determining whether or not a Participant or other Person has committed an Anti-Doping Rule Violation and any relevant Consequences, Regulatory Commissions and Appeal Boards shall interpret these Anti-Doping Regulations as an independent and autonomous text and not by reference to any existing national laws. These Anti-Doping Regulations are intended to implement the Code in a harmonised manner, and are distinct in nature from criminal and civil laws. They are not intended to be subject to or limited by any national requirements and legal standards applicable to criminal or civil proceedings, although they do respect and reflect, and are intended to be applied in a manner that respects and reflects, human rights and the principle of proportionality.

67. When reviewing the facts and the law of a given case, all courts, arbitral tribunals and other adjudicating bodies should be aware of and respect the distinct nature of these Anti-Doping Regulations, and of the fact that the Code that these Anti-Doping Regulations implement represents the views of the global consensus of WADA's stakeholders as to what is necessary to protect and ensure fair sport.

Proof of Doping

68. Notwithstanding that a different burden and/or standard of proof may apply in other disciplinary proceedings brought pursuant to the Rules and Regulations of The Association, in proceedings alleging an Anti-Doping Rule Violation The Association shall bear the burden of proving, to the comfortable satisfaction of any Regulatory Commission or Appeal Board or any other relevant commission or board (as applicable), bearing in mind the seriousness of the allegations that are made, that an Anti-Doping Rule Violation has taken place. This standard of proof is greater than a mere balance of probability but less than proof beyond a reasonable doubt. For the avoidance of doubt, this Regulation 68 does not apply to a charge for Misconduct for a breach of any of Regulations 15-18.

69. Where these Anti-Doping Regulations place the burden of proof on a Participant or other Person to rebut a presumption or establish specific facts or circumstances, the standard of proof shall be on the balance of probabilities, except as provided in Regulations 71 and 72.

70. Facts relating to Anti-Doping Rule Violations may be established by any reliable means, including but not limited to admissions and data collected as part of the Athlete Biological Passport or other profiling data.

71. Analytical methods or Decision Limits approved by WADA after consultation within the relevant scientific community or which have been the subject of peer review shall be presumed to be scientifically valid. Any Participant or other Person seeking to challenge whether the conditions for such presumption have been met or seeking to rebut the presumption shall, as a condition precedent, first notify WADA and explain the basis for their position. A Regulatory Commission or Appeal Board or any other relevant commission or board (as applicable), on its own initiative, may also inform WADA of any such challenge/attempt to rebut the presumption. Within ten (10) days of WADA's receipt of such notice, and the case file related to such challenge, WADA shall also have the right to intervene as a party, appear as an amicus curiae, or otherwise provide evidence in such proceedings. In cases before CAS, at WADA's request, the CAS Panel shall appoint an appropriate scientific expert to assist the panel it is evaluation of the challenge/attempt to rebut the presumption.

(a) Compliance with an International Standard (as opposed to another alternative standard, practice or procedure) shall be sufficient to conclude that the procedures addressed by the International Standard were performed properly.

(b) WADA-accredited laboratories and other laboratories approved by WADA are presumed to have conducted Sample analysis and custodial procedures in accordance with the ISL. The Participant or other Person asserted to have committed an Anti-Doping Rule Violation may rebut this presumption by establishing that a departure from the ISL occurred that could reasonably have caused the Adverse Analytical Finding (or other factual basis for any other Anti-doping Rule Violation asserted). If the Participant or other Person rebuts the preceding presumption by showing that a departure from the ISL occurred which could reasonably have caused the Adverse Analytical Finding, then The Association shall have the burden to establish that such departure did not cause the Adverse Analytical Finding.

72. Departures from any other International Standard or other anti-doping rule or policy set forth in the Code or in these Anti-Doping Regulations shall not invalidate analytical results or other evidence of an Anti-Doping Rule Violation; provided, however, that if the Participant or other Person establishes that a departure from one of the specific International Standard provisions listed below could reasonably have caused an anti-doping rule violation based on an Adverse Analytical Finding or whereabouts failure:

(a) a departure from the ISTI related to Sample collection of Sample handling which could reasonably have caused an Anti-Doping Rule Violation based on an Adverse Analytical Finding, in which case The Association shall have the burden to establish that such departure did not cause the Adverse Analytical Finding;

(b) a departure from the ISRM or ISTI provisions relating to an Adverse Passport Finding which could reasonably have caused the Anti-Doping Rule Violation asserted, in which case The Association shall have the burden to establish that such departure did not cause the Anti-Doping Rule Violation;

(c) a departure from the ISRM relating to the requirement to provide notice to the Player of the "B" Sample opening which could reasonably have caused the Adverse Analytical Finding based on which the Anti-Doping Rule Violation is asserted, in which case The Association shall have the burden to establish that such departure did not cause the Adverse Analytical Finding; or

(d) a departure from the ISRM provisions relating to Player notification which could reasonably have caused a whereabouts failure based on which the Anti-Doping Rule Violation is asserted in which case The Association shall have the burden to establish that such departure did not cause the whereabouts failure.

73. Facts established by a decision of a court or professional disciplinary tribunal that is not the subject of a pending appeal shall be irrebuttable evidence of those facts against the Participant or other Person to whom the decision pertained, unless that Participant or other Person establishes that the decision contravened principles of natural justice. To the extent that this Regulation differs from Regulation 24 of the Disciplinary Regulations, this Regulation shall prevail. This Regulation applies only to Anti-Doping Rule Violation cases.

74. A Regulatory Commission or Appeal Board or any other relevant commission or board (as applicable) hearing an Anti-Doping Rule Violation charge may draw any such adverse inference as it sees fit against a Participant or other Person based on the Participant's or other Person's refusal to appear at the hearing or answer questions relating to the charge, after any request that they do so that is made in reasonable time.

PART SEVEN – CONSEQUENCES AND OTHER MEASURES IN RESPECT OF INDIVIDUALS

Ineligibility for Presence, Use or Attempted Use, or Possession of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method

75. The period of Ineligibility for a violation of Regulation 3 (Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in a Player's Sample), 4 (Use or Attempted Use by a Player of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method) or 8 (Possession of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method by a Player or Player Support Person) shall be as follows, subject to potential elimination, reduction, or suspension pursuant to Regulations 82 (Elimination of the period of Ineligibility where there is No Fault or Negligence), 83-84 (Reduction of the period of Ineligibility based on No Significant Fault or Negligence) or 85 - 87 (Elimination, reduction, or suspension of period of ineligibility or other consequences for reasons other than Fault).

76. Subject to Regulation 79(a), the period of Ineligibility shall be four (4) years where:

(a) The Anti-Doping Rule Violation does not involve a Specified Substance, unless the Participant or other Person can establish that the Anti-Doping Rule Violation was not intentional.

(b) The Anti-Doping Rule Violation involves a Specified Substance and The Association can establish that the Anti-Doping Rule Violation was intentional.

77. If Regulation 76 does not apply, the period of Ineligibility shall be two (2) years, subject to Regulation 80(a).

78. As used in Regulation 76, the term "intentional" is meant to identify those Participants or other Persons who engage in conduct which they knew constituted an Anti-Doping Rule Violation or knew that there was a significant risk that the conduct might constitute or result in an Anti-Doping Rule Violation and manifestly disregarded that risk. An Anti-Doping Rule Violation resulting from an Adverse Analytical Finding for a substance which is only prohibited In-Competition shall be rebuttably presumed to be not intentional if the substance is a Specified Substance and the Player can establish that the Prohibited Substance was Used Out-of-Competition. An Anti-Doping Rule Violation resulting from an Adverse Analytical Finding for a substance which is only prohibited In-Competition shall not be considered "intentional" if the substance is not a Specified Substance and the Player can establish that the Prohibited Substance was Used Out-of-Competition in a context unrelated to sport performance.

79. Notwithstanding any other provision in Regulations 75 - 79, where the Anti-Doping Rule Violation involves a Substance of Abuse:

(a) If the Player can establish that any ingestion or Use occurred Out-of-Competition and was unrelated to sport performance, then the period of Ineligibility shall be three (3) months, which may be reduced to one month if the Participant satisfactorily completes a Substance of Abuse treatment programme approved by The Association. The period of Ineligibility established in this Regulation 79(a) is not subject to any reduction based on any provision in Regulations 83 - 84.

(b) If the ingestion, Use, or Possession occurred In-Competition, and the Player can establish that the context of the ingestion, Use or Possession was unrelated to sport performance, the ingestion, Use, or Possession shall not be considered intentional for the purposes of Regulation 76 and shall not provide a basis for a finding of Aggravating Circumstances under Regulation 81.

Ineligibility for other Anti-Doping Rule Violations

80. The period of Ineligibility for Anti-Doping Rule Violations other than presence, Use or Attempted Use, or Possession of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method, shall be as follows, unless Regulations 83 - 84 (Reduction of the period of Ineligibility based on No Significant Fault or Negligence) or Regulations 85 - 87 (Elimination, reduction, or suspension of period of Ineligibility or other consequences for reasons other than Fault) are applicable:

(a) For violations of Regulation 5 (Evading, refusing or failing to submit to Sample collection) or 7 (Tampering or Attempted Tampering with any part of Doping Control by a Participant or other Person), the period of Ineligibility shall be four years except:

(i) in the case of failing to submit to Sample collection, if the Player can establish that the commission of the Anti-Doping Rule Violation was not intentional, the period of Ineligibility shall be two years;

(ii) in all other cases, if the Participant or other Person can establish exceptional circumstances that justify a reduction of the period of Ineligibility, the period of Ineligibility shall be in a range from two years to four years, depending on the Participant'sor other Person's degree of Fault; or

(iii) in a case involving a Protected Person or Recreational Player, the period of Ineligibility shall be in a range between a maximum of two years and, at a minimum, a reprimand and no period of Ineligibility, depending on the Protected Person's or Recreational Player's degree of Fault.

(b) For violations of Regulation 6 (Registered Testing Pool Whereabouts Failures), the period of Ineligibility shall be two years, subject to reduction down to a minimum of one year, depending on the Player's degree of Fault, provided that there shall be no reduction where a pattern of last-minute whereabouts changes or other conduct raises a serious suspicion that the Player was trying to avoid being available for Testing.

(c) For violations of Regulation 9 (Trafficking or Attempted Trafficking in any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method by a Participant or other Person) or 10 (Administration or Attempted Administration by a Participant or other Person to any Player In-Competition of any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method, or Administration or Attempted Administration to any Player Out-of-Competition of any Prohibited Substance or any Prohibited Method that is prohibited Out-of-Competition), the period of Ineligibility shall be a minimum of four years up to lifetime Ineligibility, depending on the seriousness of the violation. A Regulation 9 or Regulation 10 violation involving a Protected Person shall be considered a particularly serious violation and, if committed by Player Support Person for violations other than for Specified Substances, shall result in lifetime Ineligibility for Player Support Person. In addition, significant violations of Regulation 9 or Regulation 10 which may also violate non-sporting laws and regulations shall be reported to the competent administrative, professional or judicial authorities.

(d) For violations of Regulation 11 (Complicity or Attempted Complicity by a Participant or other Person), the period of Ineligibility imposed shall be a minimum of two years, up to lifetime Ineligibility, depending on the seriousness of the violation.

(e) For violations of Regulation 12 (Prohibited association by a Participant or other Person), the period of Ineligibility shall be two years, subject to reduction down to a minimum of one year, depending on the Participant or other Person's degree of Fault and other circumstances of the case.

(f) For violations of Regulation 13 (Acts by a Participant or other Person to discourage or retaliate against reporting to authorities), the period of Ineligibility shall be a minimum of two years, up to lifetime Ineligibility, depending on the seriousness of the violation by the Participant or other Person.

Aggravating circumstances which may increase the period of ineligibility

81. If The Association establishes in an individual case involving an Anti-Doping Rule Violation other than violations under Regulation 9 (Trafficking or Attempted Trafficking in any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method by a Participant or other Person), Regulation 10 (Administration or Attempted Administration by a Participant or other Person to any Player In-Competition of any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method, or Administration or Attempted Administration to any Player Out- of-Competition of any Prohibited Substance or any Prohibited Method that is prohibited Out-of- Competition), Regulation 11 (Complicity or Attempted Complicity by a Participant or other Person), or Regulation 13 (Acts by a Participant or other Person to discourage or retaliate against reporting to authorities), that Aggravating Circumstances are present which justify the imposition of a period of Ineligibility greater than the standard sanction, then the period of Ineligibility otherwise applicable shall be increased by an additional period of Ineligibility of up to two years (with the increase depending on the seriousness of the violation and the nature of the Aggravating Circumstances) unless the Participant or other Person establishes that they did not knowingly commit the Anti-Doping Rule Violation.

Elimination of period of Ineligibility where there is No Fault or Negligence

82. If a Participant or other Person establishes in an individual case that they bear No Fault or Negligence, the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility shall be eliminated.

Reduction of the period of Ineligibility based on No Significant Fault or Negligence – Reduction of sanctions in particular circumstances for violations of Regulation 3 (Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in a Player's Sample), Regulation 4 (Use or Attempted Use by a Player of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method) or Regulation 8 (Possession of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method by a Player or Player Support Person).

83. All reductions under this Regulation 83 are mutually exclusive and not cumulative.

(a) Specified Substances or Specified Methods

Where the Anti-Doping Rule Violation involves a Specified Substance (other than a Substance of Abuse) or Specified Method, and the Participant or other Person can establish No Significant Fault or Negligence, the period of Ineligibility shall be, at a minimum, a reprimand and no period of Ineligibility, and at a maximum, two years of Ineligibility, depending on the Participant's or other Person's degree of Fault.

(b) Contaminated Products

In cases where the Participant or other Person can establish both No Significant Fault or Negligence and that the detected Prohibited Substance (other than a Substance of Abuse) came from a Contaminated Product, the period of Ineligibility shall be, at a minimum, a reprimand and no period of Ineligibility, and at a maximum, two years' Ineligibility, depending on the Participant'sor other Person's degree of Fault.

(c) Protected Persons or Recreational Players

Where the Anti-Doping Rule Violation not involving a Substance of Abuse is committed by a Protected Person or Recreational Player and the Protected Person or Recreational Player can establish No Significant Fault or Negligence, the period of Ineligibility shall be, at a minimum, a reprimand and no period of ineligibility, and at a maximum, two years' Ineligibility, depending on the Protected Person's or Recreational Player's degree of Fault.

Reduction of the period of Ineligibility based on No Significant Fault or Negligence beyond the application of Regulation 83

84. If a Participant or other Person establishes in an individual case where Regulation 83 is not applicable that they bear No Significant Fault or Negligence, then (subject to further reduction or elimination as provided in Regulations 85 - 87) the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility may be reduced based on the Participant'sor other Person's degree of Fault, but the reduced period of Ineligibility may not be less than one-half of the period of Ineligibility otherwise applicable. If the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility is a lifetime, the reduced period under this Regulation 84 may be no less than eight (8) years.

Elimination, reduction, or suspension of period of Ineligibility or other Consequences for reasons other than Fault

85. Substantial Assistance in discovering or establishing Code violations:

(a) Prior to an appellate decision or the expiration of the time to appeal, The Association may suspend a part of the Consequences (other than Disqualification and mandatory Public Disclosure) imposed in an individual case where the Participant or other Person has provided Substantial Assistance to an Anti-Doping Organisation, criminal authority or professional disciplinary body:

(i) which results in the Anti-Doping Organisation discovering or bringing forward an Anti-Doping Rule Violation by another Person; or

(ii) which results in a criminal or disciplinary body discovering or bringing forward a criminal offence or a breach of professional rules committed by another Person and the information provided by the Participant or other Person providing Substantial Assistance is made available to The Association, UKAD or another Anti-Doping Organisation with Results Management responsibility; or

(iii) which results in WADA initiating a proceeding against a Signatory, WADA-accredited laboratory, or Athlete Passport Management Unit (as defined in the ISL) for non- compliance with the Code or an International Standard or Technical Document; or

(iv) (with the approval by WADA) which results in a criminal or disciplinary body bringing forward a criminal offence or a breach of professional or sport rules arising out of a sport integrity violation other than doping. After an appellate decision or the expiration of time to appeal, The Association may only suspend a part of the otherwise applicable Consequences (other than Disqualification and mandatory Public Disclosure) with the approval of WADA and FIFA.

(b) The extent to which the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility may be suspended shall be based on the seriousness of the Anti-Doping Rule Violation committed by the Participant or other Person and the significance of the Substantial Assistance that they have provided to the effort to eliminate doping in sport, non-compliance with the Code, and/or sport integrity violations. No more than three quarters of the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility may be suspended. If the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility is a lifetime, the non-suspended period under this Regulation 85(b)must be no less than eight (8) years. For the purposes of this Regulation 85(b), the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility shall not include any period of Ineligibility that could be added under Regulation 93(b). If so requested by a Participant or other Person who seeks to provide Substantial Assistance, The Association shall allow the Participant or other Person to provide the information to it subject to a Without Prejudice Agreement.

If the Participant or other Person fails to continue to cooperate and to provide the complete and credible Substantial Assistance upon which a suspension of the Consequences was based, The Association shall reinstate the original Consequences. If The Association decides to reinstate suspended Consequences or decides not to reinstate suspended Consequences, that decision may be appealed by any Person entitled to appeal under Regulation 118.

(c) To further encourage Participant and other Persons to provide Substantial Assistance to Anti-doping Organisations, at the request of The Association or at the request of the Participant or other Person who has, or has been asserted to have, committed an Anti-Doping Rule Violation or other violation of the Code, WADA may agree at any stage of the Results Management process, including after an appellate decision, to what it considers to be an appropriate suspension of the otherwise-applicable period of Ineligibility and other Consequences. In exceptional circumstances, WADA may agree to suspensions of the period of Ineligibility and other Consequences for Substantial Assistance greater than those otherwise provided in this article, or even no period of Ineligibility, no mandatory Public Disclosure and/or no return of prize money or payment of fines or costs. WADA's approval shall be subject to reinstatement of the Consequences, as otherwise provided in this article. Notwithstanding Regulation 118, WADA's decisions in the context of this paragraph may not be appealed.

(d) If The Association suspends any part of an otherwise applicable Consequence because of Substantial Assistance, it shall send notice providing justification for the decision to each Anti-doping Organisation with a right to appeal the decision under Regulation 118. In unique circumstances where WADA determines that it would be in the best interests of anti-doping, The Association may enter into appropriate confidentiality agreements limiting or delaying the disclosure of the Substantial Assistance agreement or the nature of Substantial Assistance being provided.

86. Admission of an Anti-Doping Rule Violation in the absence of other evidence:

Where a Participant or other Person voluntarily admits the commission of an Anti-Doping Rule Violation before receiving either (a) notification of a Sample collection that could establish the Anti-doping Rule Violation (in the case of a Regulation 3 Anti-Doping Rule Violation), or (b) a Notice (in the case of any other Anti-Doping Rule Violation), and that admission is the only reliable evidence of the violation at the time of the admission, the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility may be reduced by up to but not by more than one half.

87. Application of multiple grounds for reduction of a sanction:

Where a Participant or other Person establishes entitlement to a reduction in sanction under more than one provision of Regulation 82 (Elimination of the period of Ineligibility where there is No Fault or Negligence), 83 - 84 (Reduction of the period of Ineligibility based on No Significant Fault or Negligence) or 85 - 87 (Elimination, reduction, or suspension of period of Ineligibility or other consequences for reasons other than Fault), before applying any reduction or suspension under Regulations 85 - 87, the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility shall be determined in accordance with Regulations 75 - 79 (Ineligibility for presence, Use or Attempted Use, or Possession of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method), 80 (Ineligibility for other Anti-Doping Rule Violations), and 83 - 84 (Reduction of the period of Ineligibility based on No Significant Fault or Negligence). If the Participant or other Person establishes entitlement to a reduction or suspension of the period of Ineligibility under Regulations 85 - 87, the period of Ineligibility may be reduced or suspended, but not below one fourth of the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility.

88. Results Management agreements:

Where The Association sends a Participant or other Person a Charge Letter for an Anti-Doping Rule Violation that carries an asserted period of Ineligibility of four (4) or more years (including any period of Ineligibility asserted under Regulation 81), if the Participant or other Person admits the violation and accepts the asserted period of Ineligibility no later than twenty (20) days after receiving the Charge Letter, they shall receive a one (1) year reduction in the period of Ineligibility asserted by The Association. Where the Participant or other Person receives the one (1) year reduction in the asserted period of Ineligibility under this Regulation 88, no further reduction in the asserted period of Ineligibility shall be allowed under any other Regulation.

89. Case resolution agreements:

Where the Participant or other Person admits an Anti-Doping Rule Violation after being confronted with it by The Association and agrees to Consequences acceptable to The Association and WADA, at their sole discretion:

(a) the Participant or other Person may receive a reduction in the period of Ineligibility based on an assessment by The Association and WADA of the application of Regulations 75 – 87 to the asserted Anti-Doping Rule Violation, the seriousness of the violation, the Participant'sor other Person's degree of Fault, and how promptly the Participant or other Person admitted the violation; and

(b) the period of Ineligibility may start as early as the date of Sample collection or the date on which another Anti-Doping Rule Violation last occurred.

In each case, however, where this Regulation 89 is applied, the Participant or other Person shall serve at least one half of the agreed upon period of Ineligibility going forward from the earlier of (1) the date the Participant or other Person accepted the imposition of a period of Ineligibility; and (2) the date the Participant or other Person accepted a Provisional Suspension which they subsequently respected. The decision by The Association and WADA to enter or not enter into a case resolution agreement, and the amount of the reduction to, and the starting date of, the period of Ineligibility agreed, are not matters that may be determined or reviewed by a hearing panel and are not subject to appeal under Regulation 118. If so requested by a Participant or other Person who seeks to enter into a case resolution agreement under this Regulation, The Association shall allow the Participant or other Person to discuss the potential admission of the Anti-Doping Rule Violation with it subject to a Without Prejudice Agreement.

Multiple violations

90. For a Participant's or other Person's second Anti-Doping Rule Violation, the period of Ineligibility shall be the greater of:

(a) a six (6) month period of Ineligibility; and

(b) a period of Ineligibility in the range between:

(i) the sum of the period of Ineligibility imposed for the first Anti-Doping Rule Violation plus the period of Ineligibility otherwise applicable to the second Anti-Doping Rule Violation treated as if it were a first violation; and

(ii) twice the period of Ineligibility otherwise applicable to the second Anti-Doping Rule Violation treated as if it were a first violation.

The period of Ineligibility within this range shall be determined based on the entirety of the circumstances and the Participant's or other Person's degree of Fault with respect to the second violation.

The period of Ineligibility established in this Regulation 90 may then be further reduced by the application of Regulation 85.

91. A third Anti-Doping Rule Violation will always result in a lifetime period of Ineligibility, except that if the third violation fulfils the condition for reduction of the period of Ineligibility under Regulations 83 - 84, or involves a violation of Regulation 6 (Registered Testing Pool Whereabouts Failures), the period of Ineligibility shall be from eight (8) years to lifetime Ineligibility. The period of Ineligibility established in this Regulation 91 may then be further reduced by the application of Regulation 85.

92. An Anti-Doping Rule Violation for which a Participant or other Person has established No Fault or Negligence shall not be considered a violation for the purposes of Regulations 90 - 91. In addition, an Anti-Doping Rule Violation sanctioned under Regulation 79(a) shall not be considered a violation for the purposes of Regulations 90 - 91.

93. Additional rules for certain multiple offences:

(a) For the purpose of imposing sanctions under Regulations 90 - 91, except as provided in Regulations 93(b) and 93(c), an Anti-Doping Rule Violation will only be considered a second or third violation if The Association can establish that the Participant or other Person committed the additional Anti-Doping Rule Violation after the Participant or other Person received notice, or after The Association made a reasonable attempt to give notice, of the first (or the second, as applicable) Anti-Doping Rule Violation. Otherwise, the first and second Anti-Doping Rule Violations (or the second and third Anti-Doping Rule Violations, as applicable) shall be considered as one single first Anti-Doping Rule Violation, and the sanction imposed shall be based on the Anti-Doping Rule Violation that carries the more severe sanction, including the application of Aggravating Circumstances. Results in all Matches dating back to the earlier Anti-doping Rule Violation will be Disqualified as provided in Regulations 95 – 98.

(b) If The Association establishes that a Participant or other Person committed an additional Anti-doping Rule Violation prior to notification of the first Anti-Doping Rule Violation, and that the additional violation occurred twelve (12) months or more before or after the first notified violation, the period of Ineligibility for the additional violation shall be calculated as if it were a stand-alone first violation, and this period of Ineligibility will be served consecutively to, rather than concurrently with, the period of Ineligibility imposed for the first-notified violation. Where this Regulation 93(b) applies, the violations taken together shall constitute a single violation for purposes of Regulations 90 - 91.

(c) If The Association establishes that a Participant or other Person committed a Regulation 7 Anti-doping Rule Violation in connection with the Doping Control process relating to another asserted Anti-Doping Rule Violation, the Regulation 7 Anti-Doping Rule Violation shall be treated as a stand-alone first violation and the period of Ineligibility for such violation shall be served consecutively to, rather than concurrently with, the period of Ineligibility (if any) imposed for the underlying Anti-Doping Rule Violation. Where this Regulation 93(c) is applied, the violations taken together shall constitute a single violation for purposes of Regulations 90 - 91.

(d) If The Association establishes that a Participant or other Person has committed a second or third Anti-Doping Rule Violation during a period of Ineligibility, the periods of Ineligibility for the multiple violations shall run consecutively, rather than concurrently.

94. For the purposes of Regulations 90 - 91, each Anti-Doping Rule Violation must take place within the same ten (10) year period in order to be considered multiple violations.

Disqualification of individual results

95. An Anti-Doping Rule Violation in connection with an In-Competition test automatically leads to Disqualification of any awards received by individual Players in the relevant Match.

96. An Anti-Doping Rule Violation occurring during or in connection with a Competition may, upon the decision of the Competition, lead to Disqualification of all of the Player's individual results obtained in that Competition, except as provided in Regulation 97. Factors to be included in considering whether to Disqualify other results in a Competition might include, for example, the seriousness of the Player's Anti-Doping Rule Violation, and whether the Player tested negative in the other Matches in the Competition.

97. If the Player establishes that they bear No Fault or Negligence for the violation, the Player's individual results in the other Matches in the Competition shall not be Disqualified, unless the Player's results in Matches other than the Match in which the Anti-Doping Rule Violation occurred were likely to have been affected by the Player's Anti-Doping Rule Violation.

98. In addition to the automatic Disqualification of the results in the Match which produced the positive Sample under Regulation 95, all other competitive results of the Player obtained from the date a positive Sample was collected (whether In-Competition or Out-of-Competition), or other Anti-Doping Rule Violation occurred, through the commencement of any Provisional Suspension or Ineligibility period, shall, unless fairness requires otherwise, be Disqualified with all of the resulting Consequences.

Forfeited prize money

99. If The Association has recovered prize money forfeited as a result of an Anti-Doping Rule Violation, it shall take reasonable measures to allocate and distribute this prize money to the Player(s) who would have been entitled to it had the forfeiting Player not competed.

Financial Consequences

100. A fine may also be imposed for an Anti-Doping Rule Violation, but only where the maximum period of Ineligibility has been imposed, and only where doing so is in accordance with the principle of proportionality. Where a fine or costs order is imposed in respect of an Anti-Doping Rule Violation, this shall not be considered as grounds for reducing any period of Ineligibility applicable under these Anti-Doping Regulations.

Commencement of period of Ineligibility

101. Where a Participant or other Person is already serving a period of Ineligibility for an Anti-Doping Rule Violation, any new period of Ineligibility for an Anti-Doping Rule Violation shall commence on the first day after the current period of Ineligibility has been served. Otherwise, subject to Regulations 102 - 103, a period of Ineligibility shall commence from the date of the final hearing decision providing for the period of Ineligibility or, if the Participant or other Person waives the right to a hearing or there is no hearing, on the date that the period of Ineligibility is accepted or otherwise imposed.

102. Where there have been substantial delays in the hearing process or other aspects of Doping Control, and the Participant or other Person can establish that such delays are not attributable to them, the period of Ineligibility may be deemed to have started at any time from the date the Anti-Doping Rule Violation occurred (e.g. the date of the Sample collection) to take account of such delays. All competitive results achieved during the period of Ineligibility, including retroactive Ineligibility, shall be Disqualified.

103. Credit for Provisional Suspension or period of Ineligibility served:

(a) If a Provisional Suspension is respected by the Participant or other Person, the Participant or other Person shall receive a credit for such period of Provisional Suspension against any period of Ineligibility which may ultimately be imposed. If the Participant or other Person does not respect a Provisional Suspension, the Participant or other Person shall receive no credit for any period of the Provisional Suspension served. If a period of Ineligibility is served pursuant to a decision that is subsequently appealed, the Participant or other Person shall receive a credit for such period of Ineligibility served against any period of Ineligibility which may ultimately be imposed on appeal.

(b) If a Participant or other Person voluntarily accepts a Provisional Suspension in writing from The Association and thereafter respects the Provisional Suspension, the Participant or other Person shall receive a credit for such period of voluntary Provisional Suspension against any period of Ineligibility which may ultimately be imposed. A copy of the Participant's or other Person's voluntary acceptance of a Provisional Suspension shall be provided promptly to each party entitled to receive notice of an asserted Anti-Doping Rule violation as provided in these Anti-doping Regulations.

(c) No credit against a period of Ineligibility shall be given for any time period before the effective date of the Provisional Suspension or voluntary Provisional Suspension regardless of whether the Player elected not to compete or was suspended by the Player's Club.

Status during Ineligibility or Provisional Suspension

104. While subject to a period of Ineligibility or Provisional Suspension, a Participant or other Person may not participate in any capacity in a Match or activity (other than authorised anti-doping Education or rehabilitation programmes) authorised or organised by FIFA, any other Signatory, a club or other member organisation of any Signatory, or in competitions authorised or organised by any professional league or any international or national-level competition organisation or any elite or national-level sporting activity funded by a governmental agency.

105. A Participant or other Person subject to a period of Ineligibility longer than four years may, after completing four years of the period of Ineligibility, participate in local sports competitions not approved or otherwise under the authority of FIFA or any other Signatory or its member, but only so long as the local sports competition is not at a level that could otherwise qualify such Participant or other Person directly or indirectly to compete in (or accumulate points towards) a national championship or international competition, and does not involve the Participant or other Person working in any capacity with Protected Persons.

106. A Player subject to a period of Ineligibility shall remain subject to Testing and any possible requirement by The Association or an Anti-Doping Organisation to provide whereabouts information.

107. In addition, save where the Anti-Doping Rule Violation involved a reduced sanction further to Regulations 82 - 84, some or all financial support or benefits (if any) that might have otherwise been provided to the Participant or other Person shall be withheld by The Association, Signatories, Signatories' member organisations, and governments or government agencies.

108. As an exception to Regulation 104, a Player may return to train with a team or to use the facilities of a club or other member organisation of a FIFA member association or any other Signatory during the shorter of: (1) the last two (2) months of the Player's period of Ineligibility, or (2) the last one quarter of the period of Ineligibility imposed.

109. Where a Participant or other Person who has been declared Ineligible violates the prohibition against participation during Ineligibility as described in Regulation 104, the results of such participation shall be Disqualified and a new period of Ineligibility equal in length up to the original period of Ineligibility shall be added to the end of the original period of Ineligibility. The new period of Ineligibility, including a reprimand and no period of Ineligibility, may be adjusted based on the Participant'sor other Person's degree of Fault and other circumstances of the case. The determination of whether a Participant or other Person has violated the prohibition against participation, and whether an adjustment is appropriate, shall be made by The Association or the Anti-Doping Organisation whose Results Management led to the imposition of the initial period of Ineligibility. If the Participant or other Person does not accept any new period of Ineligibility (or, if applicable, reprimand) proposed by The Association or Anti-Doping Organisation, the matter shall proceed to a hearing before a Regulatory Commission in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations and ISRM Article 11.1. The Regulatory Commission's decision may be appealed pursuant to Part Nine.

110. A Participant or other Person who violates the prohibition against participation during a Provisional Suspension shall receive no credit for any period of Provisional Suspension served and the results of such participation shall be Disqualified. Where a Player Support Person or other Person assists a Person in violating the prohibition against participation during Ineligibility or a Provisional Suspension, The Association shall pursue the matter as a potential Regulation 11 (Complicity or Attempted Complicity by a Participant or other Person) Anti-Doping Rule Violation.

Automatic publication of Consequences

111. A mandatory Consequence in every case where an Anti-Doping Rule Violation has been committed shall be automatic publication of details of the relevant decision as provided in Regulation 136.

Reinstatement testing

112. A Player who is the subject of a suspension pursuant to these Anti-Doping Regulations remains subject to these Anti-Doping Regulations (including, without limitation, the requirement to submit to drug testing to determine compliance with these Anti-Doping Regulations) during their period of Ineligibility. Therefore, they must make themselves available for testing during that period of Ineligibility and must at the request of The Association (or other sports governing body if the Player moves outside of The Association's jurisdiction) provide details of their whereabouts to The Association (or other sports governing body, as applicable) to allow such testing to take place.

113. Any Player who retires from football while they are the subject of a period of Ineligibility pursuant to these Anti-Doping Regulations must make themselves available for testing if they seek to participate in any other sports competition. Where any such Player seeks a return to football activity, they may only make such return once they have notified The Association of their intention to return and have made themselves available for Out-of-Competition testing for a period equal to the period of Ineligibility they remained subject to when they retired, or six (6) months, whichever is the longer.

114. If a Player who is not suspended retires from football, such that they are no longer subject to testing by The Association or any other relevant authority, they may not return to participate in football activity unless they notify The Association in writing at least six (6) months before they expect to resume football activity and make themselves available for Out-of-Competition testing and (if requested) complies with the whereabouts requirements during that six month period. WADA in association with The Association may grant an exemption from this six (6) month written notice requirement where its application would be manifestly unfair to the Player.

(a) Where a Player decides to end their career in accordance with Rule C, the Player shall give written notice of retirement to The Association via the email address antidoping@thefa.com.

PART EIGHT – CONSEQUENCES FOR CLUBS

115. Where more than one member of a team has been notified of an Anti-Doping Rule Violation in connection with a Competition, the team may be subjected to Target Testing during the Competition.

116. If more than two Players of a team are found to have committed Anti-Doping Rule Violations during a Competition and in the same playing season, whilst registered to play for that team, a Regulatory Commission shall impose a sanction on the Club, in addition to any Consequences imposed on the Players who committed such Anti-Doping Rule Violations. This sanction shall automatically follow from the Anti-Doping Rule Violations committed by the Players. The Club will not be entitled to challenge the findings of the Regulatory Commission or Appeal Board in relation to the Anti-Doping Rule Violations committed by the Players, but shall be entitled only to address a Regulatory Commission in mitigation as to the sanction to be imposed on the Club.

117. The sanctions available to a Regulatory Commission in such circumstances shall be as follows:

(a) a points deduction;

(b) forfeit of a Match or Matches;

(c) exclusion of a team from a Competition; and/or

(d) a fine.

PART NINE – APPEALS

118. The following decisions – a decision that an Anti-Doping Rule Violation was committed, a decision imposing or not imposing Consequences for an Anti-Doping Rule Violation, or a decision that no Anti-doping Rule Violation was committed; a decision that an Anti-Doping Rule Violation proceeding cannot go forward for procedural reasons (including, for example, prescription); a decision by WADA not to grant an exception to the six (6) months' notice requirement for a retired Player to return to Competition under Regulation 114; a decision by WADA assigning Results Management responsibility; a decision by The Association not to bring forward an Adverse Analytical Finding or an Atypical Finding as an Anti-Doping Rule Violation, or a decision not to go forward with an Anti-Doping Rule Violation after an investigation; a decision to impose, or lift, a Provisional Suspension as a result of a Provisional Hearing; The Association's failure to comply with Regulation 53 (provisional suspensions); a decision that The Association lacks jurisdiction to rule on an alleged Anti-Doping Rule Violation or its Consequences; a decision to suspend, or not suspend, a period of Ineligibility or to reinstate, or not reinstate, a suspended period of Ineligibility under Regulation 85); a failure to comply with Regulation 90; a decision under Regulation 109; and a decision by The Association not to recognise another Anti-doping Organisation's decision – may be appealed by any of the following parties exclusively as provided for by this Part Nine:

- **(a)** the Participant or other Person who is the subject of the decision being appealed;
- **(b)** The Association;
- **(c)** any other party to the case in which the decision was rendered;
- **(d)** FIFA;
- **(e)** UKAD;
- **(f)** the NADO(s) of the Participant'sor other Person's country of residence, country of nationality, and country where they are licensed to participate in sport (if different from UKAD); and
- **(g)** WADA.

119. Decisions subject to possible appeal in accordance with Regulation 118 shall be notified immediately to UKAD, FIFA, WADA, and any other relevant NADO. In cases involving International-Level Players (as defined by FIFA), the decision may be appealed exclusively to CAS. Save as otherwise specified in this Part Nine, in all other cases the appeal shall proceed under The Association's Appeal Regulations.

120. The deadline for FIFA, UKAD, and any other relevant NADO to lodge an appeal shall be twenty-one (21) days from receipt of the decision. Any Regulation that stipulates a time limit applicable to other appellants in The Association's Appeal Regulations shall not apply to UKAD, FIFA, WADA, and any other relevant NADO in anti-doping cases.

121. The filing deadline for an appeal filed by WADA shall be the later of:

- **(a)** twenty-one (21) days after the last day on which any other party having a right to appeal could have appealed; or
- **(b)** twenty-one (21) days after WADA's receipt of the complete file relating to the decision.

122. FIFA and WADA shall also have the right to appeal to CAS against any decision of the Appeal Board in relation to an Anti-Doping Rule Violation that would otherwise be final and binding under The Association's Appeal Regulations. Such decisions of the Appeal Board shall be sent immediately to FIFA and WADA. The deadline for FIFA and WADA to lodge such an appeal shall be twenty-one (21) days from receipt of the decision and any case file from The Association. Cross appeals and other subsequent appeals by any respondent named in cases brought to CAS under the Code are specifically permitted. Any party with a right to appeal under these Anti-Doping Regulations must file a cross appeal or subsequent appeal at the latest with the party's answer.

123. Both the Participant or other Person who is the subject of the decision and The Association shall have the right to act as a respondent where an appeal is brought by UKAD, FIFA, WADA, and any other relevant NADO.

124. Any Anti-Doping Organisation that is a party to an appeal shall promptly provide the appeal decision to the Participant or other Person and to the other Anti-Doping Organisations that would have been entitled to appeal.

125. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Anti-Doping Regulations, where WADA has a right of appeal under these Anti-Doping Regulations against a decision, and no other party has appealed against that decision, WADA may appeal that decision directly to CAS without having first to exhaust any other remedy, including (without limitation) without having to appeal to the Appeal Board. Where The Association (Regulatory Commission or Appeal Board) fails to render a decision with respect to whether an Anti-Doping Rule Violation was committed within a reasonable deadline set by WADA, WADA may elect to appeal directly to CAS as if The Association had rendered a decision finding no Anti-Doping Rule Violation. If CAS determines that an Anti-Doping Rule Violation was committed and that WADA acted reasonably in electing to appeal directly to CAS, WADA's costs and legal fees shall be reimbursed by The Association.

126. The scope of review for any appeal pursuant to these Anti-Doping Regulations includes all issues relevant to the matter and is expressly not limited to the issues or scope of review before the initial decision maker. Any party to an appeal may submit evidence, legal arguments and claims that were not raised in the first instance hearing so long as they arise from the same cause of action or same general facts or circumstances raised or addressed in the first instance hearing. In making its decision in any appeal, CAS need not give deference to the discretion exercised by the body whose decision is being appealed.

PART TEN – CONFIDENTIALITY, REPORTING AND PUBLICATION

127. A Player has the right to access information relevant to their test held by The Association in relation to the Anti-Doping Programme. The Association may however refuse such access if, for example but without limitation, the release of such information:

- **(a)** would jeopardise any charges brought or to be brought by The Association or jeopardise an ongoing investigation whether or not this involves the Player who was being charged;
- **(b)** would jeopardise the rights of third parties (including the source(s) of information received by The Association); or
- **(c)** appears to be sought by the Player for an improper or collateral purpose.

128. Periodically, The Association may publish to UKAD or the public, in summary and anonymised form, reports of tests undertaken on Players.

129. If The Association charges a Participant or other Person with commission of an Anti-Doping Rule Violation, The Association shall notify UKAD, FIFA, WADA and any other relevant NADO simultaneously with the issue of the charge to the Participant or other Person. Notification shall include: the Participant'sor other Person's name, country and discipline within football, the Participant'sor other Person's competitive level, whether the test (if any) was In-Competition or Out-of-Competition, the date of Sample collection, the analytical result reported by the laboratory, and other information as required by the ISTI, or, for Anti-Doping Rule Violations other than under Regulation 3, the rule violated and the basis of the alleged violation.

130. FIFA, WADA, UKAD and any other relevant NADO shall be regularly updated on the status and findings of any review or proceedings conducted by The Association pursuant to these Anti-Doping Regulations, including by way of a prompt written reasoned explanation or decision explaining the resolution of the matter.

131. The Association shall notify FIFA, WADA, UKAD and any other relevant NADO of the decision of any Regulatory Commission and/or Appeal Board considering an Anti-Doping Rule Violation.

132. The recipient organisations shall not disclose any of this information beyond those persons with a need to know (which would include the appropriate personnel at the applicable Club) until The Association has made Public Disclosure or has failed to make Public Disclosure of this information.

133. Any information provided by The Association to third parties in respect of pending cases pursuant to these Anti-Doping Regulations shall be provided to them on the confidential basis set out in Code Article 14.1.5.

134. Any information relating to a whereabouts-related failure in respect of a Player shall not be disclosed beyond those persons with a need to know unless and until that Player is found to have committed an Anti-Doping Rule Violation or Misconduct based on such whereabouts-related failure. Such persons who need to know shall also maintain the confidentiality of such information until the same point.

135. The Association shall not comment publicly on the specific facts of a pending case, except in response to public comments attributable to the Participant or other Person concerned or their representatives.

136. In the event of an Anti-Doping Rule Violation being determined by a final decision in disciplinary proceedings (including any appeal proceedings), Results Management agreement, or case resolution agreement, or a Participant being found to have violated the prohibition against participation during a period of Ineligibility or Provisional Suspension (under Regulation 109), The Association shall make Public Disclosure by publishing on its website the details of the decision, including the violation, the name of the Participant or other Person who committed the violation, the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method involved (where applicable), and the Consequences imposed. Where the final decision is that no Anti-Doping Rule Violation has been committed, the decision may only be Publicly Disclosed, whether in its entirety or in redacted form, with the consent of the Participant or other Person. The Association shall use reasonable efforts to obtain such consent. Public Disclosure on The Association's website of any decision pursuant to this Regulation 136 shall be for the longer of either one month or the duration of any suspension imposed on the Participant or other Person.

137. The mandatory requirement to make Public Disclosure of decisions contained in Regulation 136 shall not apply (a) where the Participant or other Person who has committed an Anti-Doping Rule Violation is a Protected Person or a Recreational Player, or in the case of decisions finding Misconduct contrary to any of Regulations 14 - 17. Any optional Public Reporting in a case involving a Protected Person, Minor or a Recreational Player shall be proportionate to the facts and circumstances of the case. Any publication by The Association in relation to such cases will be entirely at its discretion.

138. Notwithstanding Regulation 136, the Regulatory Commission or Appeal Board may order that some or all of the text of any decision it reaches in an anti-doping case may not be published, where there are compelling reasons not to publish. In such cases, only the outcome may be published.

PART ELEVEN – EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Education requirements

139. A Club participating in either the Premier League, EFL, WSL or WSL2 will receive an education session for its Players each season. A failure of a Club to make reasonable endeavours to ensure the attendance of all of its Players at an education session may result in a charge of Misconduct.

140. Any Club with an Academy participating in either the Premier League or EFL will receive an education session for all of its Scholars each season. A failure of a Club to make reasonable endeavours to ensure the attendance of all of its Scholars at an education session may result in a charge of Misconduct.

141. A Club participating in either the Premier League, EFL, WSL or WSL2 shall at all times ensure that at least two members of its Player Support Personnel have completed a designated anti-doping education course as directed by The Association from time to time. At least one of the Club's Player Support Personnel shall at all times be a member of the Club's medical staff.

A failure by a Club to comply may result in a charge of Misconduct.

PART TWELVE – MISCELLANEOUS

Implementation of decisions

142. A decision regarding an anti-doping rule violation made by a Signatory Anti-Doping Organisation, an appellate body or CAS shall, after the parties to the proceeding are notified, automatically be binding beyond the parties to the proceeding and upon FIFA and The Association, as well as every Signatory in every sport with the effects described below:

(a) A decision by any of the above-mentioned bodies imposing a Provisional Suspension (after a Provisional Hearing has occurred or the Participant or other Person has either accepted the Provisional Suspension or has waived the right to a Provisional Hearing, expedited hearing or expedited appeal offered in accordance with Article 7.4.3 of the Code) automatically prohibits the Participant or other Person from participation in all sports within the authority of any Signatory during the Provisional Suspension.

(b) A decision by any of the above-mentioned bodies imposing a period of Ineligibility (after a hearing has occurred or been waived) automatically prohibits the Participant or other Person from participation in all sports within the authority of any Signatory for the period of Ineligibility.

(c) A decision by any of the above-mentioned bodies accepting an anti-doping rule violation automatically binds all Signatories.

(d) A decision by any of the above-mentioned bodies to Disqualify results in accordance with Article 10.10 of the Code for a specified period automatically Disqualifies all results obtained within the authority of any Signatory during the specified period.

143. The Association shall recognise and implement a decision and its effects as required by Regulation 142, without any further action required, on the date The Association receives actual notice of the decision.

144. A decision by an Anti-Doping Organisation, a national appellate body or CAS to suspend or lift Consequences shall be binding upon The Association without any further action required, on the date The Association receives actual notice of the decision.

145. Notwithstanding any provision in this Part Eleven, a decision of an anti-doping rule violation by a Major Event Organisation made in an expedited process during a Competition shall not be binding on The Association unless the rules of the Major Event Organisation provide the Participant or other Person with an opportunity to an appeal under non-expedited procedures.

146. The Association may decide to implement other anti-doping decisions rendered by Anti-DopingOrganisations not described in this Part Eleven, such as a Provisional Suspension prior to a ProvisionalHearing or acceptance by the Participant or other Person.

An anti-doping decision by a body that is not a Signatory shall be implemented by The Association ifThe Association finds that the decision purports to be within the authority of that body and the Anti-doping rules of that body are otherwise consistent with the Code.

Effective date

147. These Anti-Doping Regulations do not apply retrospectively to matters arising prior to the Effective Date. However:

(a) Anti-Doping Rule Violations that took place prior to the Effective Date count as prior violationsfor the purposes of determining sanctions under Part Seven for violations taking place after the Effective Date.

(b) Any Whereabouts Failure (whether a filing failure or a missed test) that took place prior to theEffective Date may be relied upon as one of the requisite elements of a Regulation 6 (Registered Testing Pool Whereabouts Failures) Anti-Doping Rule Violation under these Anti-DopingRegulations until twelve (12) months after it took place.

(c) For the purposes of assessing the period of Ineligibility for a second violation, the period ofIneligibility imposed for the first violation is taken into account: see Regulation 90(b)(i). Wherethe period of Ineligibility that was imposed for the first violation was determined based on rulesin force prior to the Effective Date, it shall be assumed for purposes of the calculation under 90(b)(i) that the period of Ineligibility imposed for the first violation was whatever period ofIneligibility would have been imposed for that first violation had these Anti-Doping Regulationsbeen applicable to the first violation.

(d) Any case that is pending as of the Effective Date and any case brought after the Effective Date based on an Anti-Doping Rule Violation that allegedly occurred prior to the Effective Date willbe governed by the substantive provisions of the Regulations in effect at the time the allegedAnti-Doping Rule Violation occurred, and not by the substantive anti-doping rules set out inthese Anti-Doping Regulations (unless the Regulatory Commission or Appeal Board or any otherrelevant commission or board (as applicable)) hearing the case determines that a lex mitior inthese Anti-Doping Regulations in relation to Consequences should apply instead), while theprocedural aspects of the case will be governed by these Anti-Doping Regulations.

(e) For these purposes, the retrospective periods in which prior violations can be considered forpurposes of multiple violations under Regulations 90 - 91 and the statute of limitations inRegulation 63 are procedural rules, not substantive rules, and should be applied retroactively,provided, however, that Regulation 62 will only be applied retroactively if the statute oflimitation period (whether the original one or as extended by subsequent Anti-DopingRegulations) has not already expired by the Effective Date. Where a final decision finding anAnti-Doping Rule Violation has been rendered prior to the Effective Date, but the Participant orother Person is still serving the period of Ineligibility as of the Effective Date, the Participant orother Person may apply to The Association before the period of Ineligibility has expired toreduce the period of Ineligibility in light of lex mitior in these Anti-Doping Regulations. TheAssociation's decision on that application may be appealed pursuant to Regulation 118.

Reference to days

Where the term "days" is used in these Anti-Doping Regulations, it shall mean calendar days, unless otherwise specified.

SCHEDULE ONE

PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES FOR THE CONDUCT OF DRUG TESTING AND INVESTIGATIONS

PART ONE – GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. General

1.1 Testing and investigations will be carried out in conformity with the ISTI and these Procedural Guidelines (as amended from time to time). Players may be drug tested at any place and any time, including during any period of Ineligibility. Testing shall only be undertaken for anti-doping purposes, although Samples collected in such testing may also be analysed to determine compliance with The Association's Social Drugs Regulations prohibiting the Out-of-Competition use of social drugs (as defined in those Regulations).

1.2 Drug testing refers to the collection of blood, urine and dried blood spot Samples. The minimum requirements for blood testing are set out in paragraph 5.1. Any Player may be subject to blood testing regardless of which league the Player participates in.

1.3 Drug testing may be conducted on Minors and should be carried out in accordance with the ISTI. Where a Minor is to be tested, any consent or signature that is required by these Anti-Doping Regulations is to be given by a representative of the Player's Club. It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that it has obtained, from a person with parental responsibility for any Minor, prior written consent to the conduct of drug testing upon such a Minor. No Minor may participate in any football activity without such consent being obtained.

1.4 Players are obliged to undergo drug testing as set out in the Anti-Doping Regulations and these Guidelines. In particular, every Player designated to undergo a drug test by a Doping Control Officer, or Blood Collection Officer, whether as a result of Target Testing or random selection, is obliged to provide a urine Sample, a blood Sample, and/or dried blood Sample, and to cooperate promptly and fully with all Competent Officials.

2. Doping Control Form

It should be noted that the Doping Control Form used in the Anti-Doping Programme is generic and not specific to football. In the event of any conflict between the terms of any form and the Anti-Doping Regulations or these Guidelines, the Anti-Doping Regulations and Guidelines shall prevail.

3. Test Distribution Planning

3.1 UKAD will draw up the test distribution plan for football. The test distribution plan must be compliant with the WADA Technical Document for Sport Specific Analysis (TDSSA) and the requirements of the ISTI. Players shall be selected for Sample collection using random selection methods and Target Testing, as required.

3.2 Target Testing shall be based on an assessment of the risks of doping and the most effective use of resources to ensure optimum detection and deterrence. If more than one Player in a team has tested positive, Target Testing may be performed on all Players in the team.

3.3 For individual Players, Target Testing may be performed as a consequence of:

(a) behaviour indicating doping;

(b) abnormal biological parameters (blood parameters, steroid profiles etc.);

(c) injury;

(d) repeated, or suspicious failure to make whereabouts filings;

(e) player test history;

(f) the conditions of a disciplinary order;

(g) reinstatement following a period of Ineligibility; or

(h) any other reason determined by UKAD or, in relation to social drugs Testing only, The Association.

Neither The Association nor UKAD is obliged to provide the Player or Club representative with a reason for the Player's selection for a Target Test.

3.4 Testing that is not Target Testing shall be determined by random selection.

4. Notification of Drug Testing

4.1 The Sample collection will be carried out by Chaperones, Doping Control Officers ("DCOs"), and/or Blood Collection Officers ("BCOs").

4.2 Before drug testing is carried out, the Competent Officials must show their identification cards to Players.

4.3 On arriving at a venue for In-Competition drug testing or for testing using the whereabouts information specified in Regulation 15, the Competent Officials will attempt to make contact with an official from the relevant Club. For an In-Competition test the official would be the Secretary of the home Club or (if the Secretary is not present or otherwise unavailable) another official from the home Club.

4.4 Any Player selected for drug testing will be requested to produce photographic identification to prove their identity. In the event a Player has no available identification then a third party may be asked to positively confirm the identity of the Player.

5. Facilities for the Collection of Samples

5.1 At all venues used for drug testing, Clubs are obliged to provide as a minimum the following secure areas (collectively known as the "Doping Control Station") for the collection of Samples:

(a) a clean, adequately lit, and private waiting area, with sufficient seating for the Players waiting to be tested;

(b) a clean, private working area of sufficient size to comfortably accommodate the persons referred to in paragraph 12.3 below, which should contain clean fixed surfaces for sampling equipment and Samples;

(c) private toilets; and

(d) where blood testing is being conducted, a chair and/or bed for the Player to use during the provision of the blood Sample, and sufficient space for the Player to lie down.

5.2 The Doping Control Station must be allocated for the sole use of the Competent Officials for the duration of the doping control process. Where practical, all areas required for the Doping Control Station must be linked with or proximate to each other. The Doping Control Station must be clearly identified. The Doping Control Station should be made available in a usable condition and should be clean.

5.3 The Competent Officials will provide the equipment that is required for the drug testing, including (where applicable) collection vessels, containers, Sample bottles, and approved sealing equipment.

5.4 Prior to the start of testing, the Competent Officials should satisfy themselves that the Doping Control Station facilities are adequate. Clubs must comply with any reasonable requests made by Competent Officials who do not believe that the facilities are adequate. The Association may make a written request for a Club to alter or improve its Doping Control Station or the facilities used for the same, and the Club shall alter or improve its Doping Control Station to meet the request within a reasonable timeframe to be stipulated by The Association.

5.5 The DCO(s) will make every effort to collect Samples as discreetly as possible and with maximum privacy, but it must be recognised that circumstances may impose difficulties upon a DCO that cannot easily be overcome.

5.6 Once the Competent Officials have confirmed their satisfaction with the facilities provided, only those people listed in paragraph 12.3 of these Guidelines should be allowed into the Doping Control Station until completion of the doping control process.

5.7 It is recommended that the Club arranges for a security guard/steward to be positioned outside the Doping Control Station to keep unauthorised persons from entering the Station. A 'No Entry' sign should be displayed.

6. Verification of whereabouts information

On occasion, The Association may send officials to training venues in order to verify in any respect the accuracy of the whereabouts information submitted by a Club or Player. Such verification may be conducted separately to or in conjunction with drug testing. Clubs must provide staff attending forthis purpose with all necessary assistance to complete this task satisfactorily. Any inaccuracy of the whereabouts information submitted by a Club or Player that is discovered in this manner may be treated as a breach of Regulation 15 and/or Regulation 16, as appropriate.

7. Random selection of Players

7.1. If it is decided to select Players on a random basis, the random selection by a draw of required Playerswill be conducted by the Lead DCO witnessed by the Competent Officials.

7.2 Only the Competent Officials need to be present for the draw. Although official(s) from the relevant Club(s) whose Players are subject to testing may be invited to be present, the absence of such officials will not invalidate the draw.

7.3 Additional "reserve" Players will be drawn in case a Player drawn is unable and/or fails to submit to the doping control process. For the avoidance of doubt, if a Player is determined to have failed without compelling justification to submit to the doping control process, they may be charged with an Anti-doping Rule Violation under Regulation 5.

7.4 During any test event, Target Testing of further Players may also be conducted at that time as a separate matter.

8. Target Testing

8.1 Target Testing may be conducted on Clubs or Players, including Players in the current representative England team squads.

8.2 A Player may be required to supply whereabouts information to The Association to allow Target Testing to take place.

9. Player rights and responsibilities

9.1. The Player's rights in relation to the drug testing process include the right to:

(a) have the team physician or other representative and (if required) an interpreter present;

(b) be informed and ask for additional information about the Sample collection process;

(c) request a delay (for valid reasons) in reporting to the Doping Control Station (to be granted at the discretion of the DCO/Chaperone); and

(d) request modifications to the drug testing process in accordance with Annex A of the ISTI (if the Player suffers from an impairment).

9.2 The Player's obligations in relation to the drug testing process include the requirement to:

(a) report immediately for a test following notification, unless there are valid reasons for a delay, as determined at the absolute discretion of the DCO or BCO;

(b) produce identification (in accordance with paragraph 4.4 above);

(c) remain within direct observation of the BCO, DCO or the Chaperone at all times from the point of notification until completion of the Sample collection; and

(d) comply with Sample collection procedures (where practicable the Player shall be advised of the possible consequences of failure to comply).

10. Notification of Players

10.1 Only in circumstances where such notification is required by the ISTI, an appropriate Club representative may be notified of the Players selected for testing prior to notification being provided to the Players. The Club representative should then be accompanied by the DCO or Chaperone to notify the Player.

10.2 The Club and all Club officials must ensure that the Competent Officials are given clear and unobstructed access to Players selected for testing without delay. Clubs and Club officials must provide the Competent Officials with all reasonable assistance they may require to locate the Player and carry out the notification process and Sample collection as expeditiously and as efficiently as possible. Clubs and Club officials must do all in their power to ensure that the Competent Officials make contact with Players selected for testing as soon as reasonably practicable. Any failure to comply with the above may be treated as a breach of Regulation 7 (Tampering or Attempted Tampering) or Regulation 17 (interference with the drug testing process), as appropriate.

10.3. Once contact has been made between the selected Player and the Competent Official, the Player will be notified of their selection for drug testing and must (in accordance with paragraph 9.2(a)) immediately report to the Doping Control Station. The Player must allow themselves to be chaperoned at all times following the notification. Save only where written acknowledgement is clearly impracticable at the time of notification, upon notification the Player must acknowledge that they have been selected for drug testing by signing the relevant section of the Doping Control Form. In those exceptional cases where written acknowledgement is impracticable at the time of notification, the Player should confirm the notification when they get to the Doping Control Station, by signing the relevant section of the form at that point.

10.4 If a Player is determined to have avoided notification without compelling justification, they may be charged with an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under Regulation 5 (evading, refusing or failing to submitto Sample collection) or (if Regulation 5 does not apply) with Misconduct.

11. Testing of reserves or other Players

Where a Sample cannot be collected from a Player due to injury, a Sample will be taken from another Player of the same team, either selected at random or pre-selected as a reserve. Clubs and Club officials must ensure that a Player pre-selected as a reserve does not leave the stadium, training ground or other relevant venue until the DCO has confirmed to Club officials that the Player is not needed.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

12. Collection of Samples

12.1. Having been notified, a Player must immediately report to the Doping Control Station. On reporting to the Doping Control Station, the Player must (if they have not done so already) acknowledge that they have been selected for drug testing by signing the relevant section of the Doping Control Form. They must then remain there until the testing process is completed. They may leave the Doping Control Station only under exceptional circumstances with the prior permission of the Lead DCO and then only if chaperoned by a DCO or Chaperone at all times until their return to the Doping Control Station.

12.2. If a Player fails or refuses to report to provide a Sample, reports but then refuses to provide a Sample, or otherwise fails to follow the directions of the Competent Officials, they may be subject to penalties for an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under Regulation 5 or Regulation 7 or (if neither Regulation 5 nor Regulation 7 applies) for Misconduct.

12.3 Only the following persons should be allowed into the working room of the Doping Control Station:-

(a) the DCO(s);

(b) the BCO(s);

(c) the Chaperone(s);

(d) the Player;

(e) the team physician or other representative nominated by the Player (and interpreter if required); and

(f) any other person specified by UKAD and/or The Association.

The Competent Officials may reasonably refuse access to the Doping Control Station to any person not listed in this paragraph 12.3.

12.4. Where a Sample is to be taken from a Player who is a Minor, the Player will be given the opportunity to have a representative present during the doping control process at all times. Even if a Minor declines a representative, the DCO shall consider whether another third party ought to be present during the notification of the Player.

13. Failure to comply with Doping Control

13.1. When any Competent Official becomes aware of any matters occurring before, during or after a Sample collection session that may lead to a determination of a failure to comply, they must inform the Lead DCO immediately.

13.2 The Lead DCO or a Competent Official shall then:

(a) inform the Player or other party concerned of the consequences of a possible failure to comply if practicable;

(b) complete the Player's Sample collection session, if possible;

(c) provide a detailed written report of any possible failure to comply to The Association and UKAD.

13.3. The Association shall then:

(a) inform the Player or other party concerned of the possible failure to comply in writing and grant the Player an opportunity to respond;

(b) notify WADA, and instigate an investigation of the possible failure to comply based on all relevant information and documentation; and

(c) document the evaluation process.

13.4. If The Association determines that there has been a potential failure to comply, it shall promptly notify the Player or other party in writing of the possible consequences, i.e. that a potential failure to comply will be investigated and that appropriate follow-up action will be taken in accordance with the Anti-doping Regulations.

13.5 Any additional necessary information about the potential failure to comply shall be obtained from all relevant sources, including the Player or other party, as soon as possible and recorded.

13.6 The Association shall investigate the potential failure to comply and take appropriate follow-up action in accordance with the Anti-Doping Regulations and any applicable disciplinary regulations.

13.7 The FA Anti-Doping Unit shall establish a system for ensuring that the outcomes of its investigation into the potential failure to comply are considered for the purposes of results management and, if applicable for further planning and Target Testing.

14. Urine, Blood and Dried Blood Samples

14.1. Urine, blood and dried blood Samples will be collected in accordance with the ISTI in force at the relevant time as per Regulation 28.

PART TWO – PROCEDURES SPECIFIC TO IN-COMPETITION TESTING

15. Selection of Matches

15.1 Drug testing may be conducted at any Match involving Participants and, save in exceptional and justifiable circumstances, no prior notice will be given either to the Clubs concerned or to the Players.

15.2 The Matches at which the drug tests are to be conducted will be decided by UKAD. All Matches are open to testing.

16. Procedures following the selection of Players

16.1. Once Players have been selected the Club must allow the Competent Officials access to observe the Players from the tunnel area and/or from an adjacent or nearby area of the pitch or stand where the Competent Officials can easily accompany the selected Players from the field of play in the event of substitution, injury or other reason for leaving the field of play.

PART THREE – PROCEDURES SPECIFIC TO OUT-OF-COMPETITION TESTING

17. General

Out-of-Competition testing may be conducted unannounced on any Player at any place and any time, whether or not such place and/or time has been provided by the Club or Player as part of the provision of whereabouts information.

18. Procedures following the selection of Players

18.1 Once Players have been selected, the Competent Officials must give Players a reasonable time to complete training or any other activity in which they are engaged before giving the verbal notification in accordance with paragraph 10.3 above.

18.2 The Club must allow the Competent Officials access to observe the Players complete training or any other activity in which they are engaged.

PART FOUR – STORAGE, DESPATCH AND ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES

19. Storage and Despatch of Samples

19.1 All Samples should be stored in a secure place pending despatch to the laboratory.

19.2 Where blood Samples are collected, the "A" and "B" Sample bottles may (depending on the transportation system being used) be placed into a plastic sleeve under the observation of the Player. The bottles will be placed into a temperature-controlled container for transportation, whatever the transportation system used.

19.3 Samples should be sent to the laboratory as soon as is reasonably practicable.

20. Use of accredited laboratories

For purposes of establishing an Adverse Analytical Finding, Samples shall be analysed only by WADA-accredited laboratories or laboratories otherwise approved by WADA.

21. The purpose of Sample analysis

21.1 Samples and related analytical data or Doping Control information shall be analysed to detect Prohibited Substances and Prohibited Methods identified in the Prohibited List and other substances as may be directed by WADA, and/or to assist in profiling relevant parameters, including DNA or genomic profiling, or for any other legitimate anti-doping or other football regulatory purpose. They may also be analysed to determine compliance with The Association's Social Drugs Regulations. Samples may be collected and stored for future analysis.

21.2 Investigations may be undertaken in relation to Atypical Findings and Adverse Passport Findings, and in relation to other indications of potential Anti-Doping Rule Violations, to gather intelligence or evidence (including, in particular, non-analytical evidence) in order to determine whether an Anti-doping Rule Violation has occurred.

22. Research on Samples

Samples, related analytical data and Doping Control information may be used for anti-doping research purposes, although no Sample may be used for research without the Player's written consent. Samples and related analytical data or Doping Control information used for research purposes shall first be processed in such a manner as to prevent Samples and related analytical data or Doping Control information being traced back to a particular Player.

23. Analysis of Samples

23.1. Laboratories shall analyse Samples and report results in conformity with the ISL. The head of the laboratory shall send the test results to UKAD. The head of the laboratory may also send results to The Association.

23.2 There shall be no limitation on the authority of a laboratory to conduct repeat or additional analysis on a Sample prior to the time The Association issues a Charge Letter to a Player, asserting the results of analysis of the Sample as the basis for a Regulation 3 Anti-Doping Rule Violation charge. If after issuing such a Charge Letter The Association wishes to conduct additional analysis on that Sample, it may do so with the consent of the Player or approval from the Regulatory Commission, Appeal Board or any other relevant hearing body.

23.3 After a laboratory has reported a Sample as negative, or the Sample has not otherwise resulted in an Anti-Doping Rule Violation charge, it may be stored and subjected for further analyses for the purpose of paragraph 22 at any time exclusively at the direction of either (a) the Anti-Doping Organisation that initiated and directed Sample collection, or (b) WADA. Any other Anti-Doping Organisation with authority to test the Player that wishes to conduct further analysis on a stored Sample may do so with the permission of the Anti-Doping Organisation that initiated and directed Sample collection or WADA, and shall be responsible for any follow-up results management. Any Sample storage or further analysis initiated by WADA or another Anti-Doping Organisation shall be at WADA's or that organisation's expense. Further analysis of Samples shall conform with the requirements of the International Standard for Laboratories.

23.4 Where The Association, UKAD, WADA, and/or a WADA-accredited laboratory (with approval from WADA or the Anti-Doping Organisation with Results Management authority) wishes to split an "A" or "B" Sample in order to use the first part of the split Sample for an "A" Sample analysis and the second part of the split Sample for confirmation, the applicable procedures in the ISL shall be followed.

23.5 WADA's right to take possession of Samples and related data:

(a) WADA may, in its sole discretion at any time, with or without prior notice, take physical possession of any Sample and related analytical data or information in the possession of a laboratory or Anti-Doping Organisation. Upon request by WADA, the laboratory or Anti-Doping Organisation in possession of the Sample or data shall immediately grant access to and enable WADA to take physical possession of the Sample or data. If WADA has not provided prior notice to the laboratory or Anti-Doping Organisation before taking possession of a Sample or data, it shall provide such notice to the laboratory and the Anti-Doping Organisation within a reasonable time after taking possession.

(b) After analysis and any investigation of a seized Sample or data, WADA may direct another Anti-doping Organisation with authority to test the Player to assume Results Management responsibility for the Sample or data if a potential Anti-Doping Rule Violation is discovered.

23.6 All Samples provided by Players further to Doping Control under the responsibility of The Association are the property of the designated Sample collection body. The designated Sample collection body shall immediately following Sample provision by the Player concerned transfer ownership of that Sample to The Association. Following consultation with The Association, UKAD may make reasonable directions in relation to the re-analysis of Samples based on knowledge and information arising after the initial analysis. The Association shall comply with such reasonable directions.

23.7 The Association will endeavour to ensure that the analysis of the "A" Sample is carried out as soon as possible after arrival at the designated laboratory.

23.8 Access to the laboratory during analysis should be restricted to authorised members of the laboratory and to authorised observers.

23.9 If at any stage any question, issue or problem arises in relation to the Sample, the laboratory may conduct any further or other tests necessary to clarify or resolve the matter at issue. The results of such tests may be relied upon by The Association in any disciplinary proceedings.

SCHEDULE TWO

DEFINITIONS

"ADAMS" means the Anti-Doping Administration and Management System, a web-based database management tool for data entry, storage, sharing, and reporting designed to assist stakeholders and WADA in their anti-doping operations in conjunction with data protection legislation;

"Administration" means providing, supplying, supervising, facilitating, or otherwise participating in the Use or Attempted Use by another Person of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method. However, this definition shall not include the actions of bona fide medical personnel involving a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method used for genuine and legal therapeutic purposes or other acceptable justification and shall not include actions involving Prohibited Substances which are not prohibited in Out-of-Competition Testing unless the circumstances as a whole demonstrate that such Prohibited Substances are not intended for genuine and legal therapeutic purposes or are intended to enhance sport performance;

"Adverse Analytical Finding" means a report from a WADA-accredited laboratory or other WADA- approved entity that identifies in a Sample the presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers (including elevated quantities of endogenous substances) or evidence of the Use of a Prohibited Method, consistently with the International Standard for Laboratories;

"Adverse Passport Finding" means a report identified as such, as described in the applicable International Standards;

"Aggravating Circumstances" means circumstances involving, or actions by, a Participant or other Person that may justify the imposition of a period of Ineligibility greater than the standard sanction. Such circumstances and actions shall include, but are not limited to: the Participant or other Person Used or Possessed multiple Prohibited Substances or Prohibited Methods, Used or Possessed a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method on multiple occasions, or committed multiple other Anti-doping Rule Violations; a normal individual would be likely to enjoy the performance-enhancing effects of the Anti-Doping Rule Violation(s) beyond the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility; the Participant or other Person engaged in deceptive or obstructive conduct to avoid the detection or adjudication of an Anti-Doping Rule Violation; or the Participant or other Person engaged in Tampering during Results Management. For the avoidance of doubt, the examples of circumstances and conduct described herein are not exclusive, and other similar circumstances or conduct may also justify the imposition of a longer period of Ineligibility;

"Anti-Doping Organisation" means WADA or a Signatory that is responsible for adopting rules for initiating, implementing or enforcing any part of the Doping Control process. Examples of anti-doping organisations include the International Olympic Committee or other Major Event Organisations that conduct testing at their events, international federations, and National Anti–Doping Organisations such as UKAD;

"Anti-Doping Rule Violation" means a breach of any one of Regulations 3-13 (inclusive);

"Athlete Biological Passport" means the program and methods of gathering and collating data as described in the International Standard for Testing and Investigations and International Standard for Laboratories;

"Attempt" means purposely engaging in conduct that constitutes a substantial step in a course of conduct planned to culminate in the commission of an Anti-Doping Rule Violation; provided, however, there shall be no Anti-Doping Rule Violation based solely on an attempt to commit a violation if the person renounces the attempt prior to it being discovered by a third party not involved in the attempt;

"Atypical Finding" means a report from a laboratory or other WADA-approved entity that requires further investigation as provided by the International Standard for Laboratories or related Technical Documents prior to the determination of an Adverse Analytical Finding;

"Atypical Passport Finding" means a report described as an Atypical Passport Finding in the applicable International Standards;

"Blood Collection Officer(s)" or "BCO(s)" means the person(s) appointed by UKAD or any other body so designated by The Association to carry out the doping control process including for example but without limitation the collection of blood Samples;

"CAS" means the Court of Arbitration for Sport, Lausanne, Switzerland;

"Chaperone" means the person(s) appointed by UKAD or any other body so designated by The Association to assist in the Doping Control Process;

"Code" means the World Anti-Doping Code;

"Competent Official" means a BCO, DCO or a Chaperone;

"Competition" has the same meaning as in the Rules of The Association;

"Consequences": a Participant's or other Person's Anti-Doping Rule Violation may result in one or more of the following:

(a) **"Disqualification"**, meaning the Participant's results in a particular Competition are invalidated, with all the resulting Consequences including the forfeiture of any medals, points and prizes;

(b) **"Ineligibility"**, meaning the Participant or other Person is suspended on account of an Anti-Doping Rule Violation for a specified period of time from participating in any Competition or other activity or funding as provided in Regulations 105 - 109 (Ineligibility for presence, Use or Attempted Use, or Possession of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method);

(c) **"Provisional Suspension"**, meaning means the Participant or other Person is barred temporarily from participating in any football or football activity prior to the final decision in respect of the relevant Anti-Doping Rule Violation at a Regulatory Commission hearing;

(d) **"Financial Consequences"**, meaning a financial sanction imposed for an Anti-Doping Rule Violation or to recover costs associated with an Anti-Doping Rule Violation; and

(e) **"Public Disclosure"**, meaning the dissemination or distribution of information to the general public or Persons beyond those Persons entitled to earlier notification in accordance with Regulation 137 (Public Disclosure).

Teams may also be subject to Consequences as provided in Regulations 116 - 118 (Consequences for Clubs);

"Contaminated Product" means a product that contains a Prohibited Substance that is not disclosed on the product label or in information available in a reasonable internet search;

"Decision Limit" means the value of the result for a threshold substance in a Sample above which an Adverse Analytical Finding shall be reported, as defined in the International Standard for Laboratories;

"Doping Control" means all steps and processes from test distribution planning through to ultimate disposition of any appeal and the enforcement of Consequences, including all steps and processes in between, including (but not limited to) Testing, investigations, the provision of whereabouts information, Sample collection and handling, laboratory analysis, Therapeutic Use Exemptions, Results Management, and hearings and appeals;

"Doping Control Officer(s)" or **"DCO(s)"** means the person(s) appointed by UKAD or any other body so designated by The Association to carry out the Doping Control process (or parts thereof), including (for example but without limitation) the collection of Samples. If there is more than one DCO present during the Doping Control process, the Lead DCO shall have overall authority for that process;

"Doping Control Station" means the area reserved to carry out the doping control process as described in the Procedural Guidelines;

"Effective Date" means the date specified in the preamble to these Anti-Doping Regulations;

"FA" or **"Football Association"** or **"The Association"** shall mean The Football Association or its designee. The Association may in its absolute discretion delegate any of its functions under the Regulations to UKAD (where it does so, relevant references to "FA", "Football Association" and "The Association" will be interpreted accordingly);

"Fault" means any breach of duty or any lack of care appropriate to a particular situation. Factors to be taken into consideration in assessing a Participant'sor other Person's degree of Fault include, for example, the Participant'sor other Person's experience, whether they are a Protected Person, special considerations such as impairment, the degree of risk that should have been perceived by the Player and the level of care and investigation exercised by the Player in relation to what should have been the perceived level of risk. In assessing the Participant's or other Person's degree of Fault, the circumstances considered must be specific and relevant to explain the Participant'sor other Person's departure from the expected standard of behaviour. Thus, for example, the fact that a Player would lose the opportunity to earn large sums of money during a period of Ineligibility, or the fact that the Player only has a short time left in their career, or the timing of the sporting calendar would not be relevant factors to be considered in reducing the period of Ineligibility under the provisions of Part Seven;

"FIFA Pool" means FIFA's registered testing pool and pre-competition testing pools, as described in the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations;

"FIFA Pool Player" means a Player in a FIFA Pool;

"In-Competition" means the period commencing at 23:59 on the day before a Match in which the Player is scheduled to participate through to the end of said Match and including the Sample collection process relating to said Match.

"International Standard" means a standard (e.g. the International Standard for Testing and Investigations) adopted by WADA in support of the World Anti-Doping Code, including any Technical Documents;

"ISL" means the International Standard for Laboratories;

"ISRM" means the International Standard for Results Management;

"ISTI" means the International Standard for Testing and Investigations;

"Major Event Organisation" means the continental associations of National Olympic Committees and other international multi-sport organisations that function as the ruling body for any continental, regional or other international event.

"Marker" means a compound, group of compounds or biological parameters that indicate the Use of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method;

"Match" means a single football match, including but not limited to any football match within the definition of "Match" contained in the Rules of The Association;

"Metabolite" means any substance produced by a biotransformation process; "Minor" means a natural person who has not reached the age of 18; "Misconduct" is as defined in the Rules;

"National Anti-Doping Organisation" or **"NADO"** means the entity(ies) designated by each country as possessing the primary authority and responsibility to adopt and implement anti-doping rules, direct the collection of Samples, manage test results, and the conduct of Results Management, all at the national level. This includes an entity that may be designated by multiple countries to serve as the regional anti-doping organisation for such countries. If this designation has not been made by the competent public authority(ies), the entity shall be the country's National Olympic Committee or its designee such as The Association. In respect of the United Kingdom, UKAD is the NADO.

"National Registered Testing Pool" or **"NRTP"** means the pool of highest priority Players (established at national level) who are subject to focussed testing In and Out-of-Competition as part of a test distribution plan and are therefore required to provide whereabouts information;

"National TUE Pool" means the list of athletes that are required to apply for and obtain a TUE from UKAD in advance of starting treatment, as published by UKAD from time to time (see ukad.org.uk).

"NRTP Player" means a Player in the NRTP;

"No Fault or Negligence" means that the Participant or other Person is able to establish that they did not know or suspect, and could not reasonably have known or suspected even with the exercise of utmost caution, that they had Used or been administered the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method or otherwise violated an Anti-Doping Rule. Except in the case of a Protected Person or Recreational Player, for any violation of Regulation 3, the Player must also establish how the Prohibited Substance entered their system;

"No Significant Fault or Negligence" means the Participant or other Person is able to establish that their Fault or negligence, when viewed in the totality of the circumstances and taking into account the criteria for No Fault or negligence, was not significant in relation to the Anti-Doping Rule Violation. Except in the case of a Protected Person or Recreational Player, for any violation of Regulation 3, the Player must also establish how the Prohibited Substance entered their system;

"Out-of-Competition" means any time which is not In-Competition;

"Participant" has the same meaning as in the Rules;

"Person" means any natural person or an organisation or other entity, including (without limitation) any official, director, servant or representative of The Association;

"Player" has the same meaning as the defined term in the Rules of The Football Association, in addition to any other football player who is not eligible to play for a Club by reason of a period of Ineligibility that has been imposed by The Association, FIFA or UEFA;

"Player Support Person(nel)" means any person working with, treating or assisting a Player participating in or preparing for Matches or training sessions, including but not limited to a coach, trainer, manager, agent, Intermediary (as defined in The Association's Regulations on Working with Intermediaries), FA Registered Football Agent (as defined in Football Agent Regulations), club staff, official, nutritionist, medical or paramedical personnel, or parent;

"Possession" means the actual physical possession, or the constructive possession (which shall be found only if the person has exclusive control or intends to exercise control over the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method or the premises in which a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method exists); provided, however, that if the person does not have exclusive control over the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method or the premises in which a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method exists, constructive possession shall only be found if the person knew about the presence of the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method and intended to exercise control over it. Provided, however, there shall be no Anti-Doping Rule Violation based solely on possession if, prior to receiving notification of any kind that the person has committed an Anti-Doping Rule Violation, the person has taken positive action demonstrating that they never intended to have possession and has renounced possession by expressly declaring it to an anti-doping organisation. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this definition, the purchase (including by any electronic or other means) of a prohibited substance or prohibited method constitutes Possession by the person who makes the purchase;

"Prohibited List" means the list of Prohibited Substances and Prohibited Methods that is produced by WADA as updated from time to time and recognised by The Association in accordance with these Anti-doping Regulations;

"Prohibited Method" means any method defined as such in the Prohibited List;

"Prohibited Substance" means any substance or class of substances defined as such in the Prohibited List;

"Protected Person" means a Participant or other natural Person who at the time of the Anti-Doping Rule Violation: (1) has not reached the age of sixteen (16) years; (2) has not reached the age of eighteen (18) years and is not included in any Registered Testing Pool and has not represented any country in international competition in an open category; or for whom (3) for reasons other than age, it has been determined they lack legal capacity under relevant legislation;

"Provisional Hearing" means an expedited abbreviated hearing on notice that occurs prior to the full hearing of the charge and provides the Player with an opportunity to make representations, whether written or oral, in respect of a Provisional Suspension only;

"Recreational Player" means a Player who, within the five (5) years prior to committing any Anti-doping Rule Violation, (1) has not been an International-Level Player (as defined by FIFA) or a National- Level Athlete (as defined by UKAD under its current rules); (2) has not represented any country in international competition in an open category; and (3) has not been included in any Registered Testing Pool, FIFA Pool, or other whereabouts information pool;

"Registered Testing Pool" means the pool of highest priority Players (established at the national level or at national level) who are subject to focussed testing In and Out-of-Competition as part of a test distribution plan and are therefore required to provide whereabouts information in accordance with the ISTI;

"Results Management" means the process encompassing the timeframe between notification as per Article 5 of the ISRM, or in certain cases (e.g., Atypical Finding, Adverse Passport Findings, Whereabouts Failures), such prenotification steps expressly provided for in Article 5 of the ISRM, through the sending of the Charge Letter and until the final resolution of the matter, including the end of the hearing process at first instance and on appeal (if an appeal was lodged);

"Sample" means any biological material collected for the purpose of Doping Control;

"Signatory" means the entities signing the Code and agreeing to implement the Code and International Standards, as provided in Article 23 of the Code;

"Specified Method" means any method specified as such in the Prohibited List; "Specified Substance" means any substance classified as such in the Prohibited List; "Substances of Abuse" means any substance classified as such in the Prohibited List;

"Substantial Assistance": A person providing substantial assistance must:

(1) fully disclose in a signed written statement or recorded interview all information they possess in relation to Anti-Doping Rule Violations or other proceedings described in Regulation 86; and

(2) fully cooperate with the investigation and adjudication of any case related to that information, including, for example, presenting testimony at a hearing if requested to do so by an anti-doping organisation or hearing panel. Moreover, the information provided must be credible and must comprise an important part of any case or proceeding that is initiated or, if no case or proceeding is initiated, must have provided a sufficient basis on which a case or proceeding could have been brought;

"Tampering" means intentional conduct which subverts the Doping Control process but which would not otherwise be included in the definition of Prohibited Methods. Tampering shall include, without limitation, offering or accepting a bribe to perform or fail to perform an act, preventing the collection of a Sample, affecting or making impossible the analysis of a Sample, falsifying documents submitted to The Association, UKAD, or another Anti-Doping Organisation or TUE Committee or hearing body, procuring false testimony from witnesses, committing any other fraudulent act upon The Association, UKAD, or other Anti-Doping Organisation or hearing body to affect Results Management or the imposition of Consequences, and any other similar intentional interference or Attempted interference with any aspect of Doping Control;

"Target Testing" means selection of specific Players for testing based on criteria set forth in the ISTI;

"Testing" means the parts of the Doping Control process involving test distribution planning, Sample collection, Sample handling, and Sample transport to the laboratory;

"Therapeutic Use Exemption" or **"TUE"**, means an exemption to take a substance for medical purposes which is normally prohibited under these Anti-Doping Regulations. The procedure for the grant of a Therapeutic Use Exemption is set out in the Regulations and Schedule Four;

"Trafficking" means selling, giving, transporting, sending, delivering or distributing (or Possessing for any such purpose) a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method (either physically or by any electronic or other means) by a Participant or other Person to any third party; provided, however, this definition shall not include the actions of a bona fide medical personnel involving a Prohibited Substance used for genuine and legal therapeutic purposes or other acceptable justification, and shall not include actions involving Prohibited Substances that are not prohibited in Out-of-Competition testing unless the circumstances as a whole demonstrate such Prohibited Substances were not intended for genuine and legal therapeutic purposes or intended to enhance sport performance;

"UKAD" means United Kingdom Anti-Doping, the NADO for the United Kingdom;

"Use" means the utilisation, application, ingestion, injection or consumption by any means whatsoever of any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method;

"WADA" means the World Anti-Doping Agency; and

"Without Prejudice Agreement" means a written agreement between The Association and a Participant or other Person that allows the Participant or other Person to provide information to The Association in a defined time-limited setting with the understanding that if an agreement for Substantial Assistance or a case resolution agreement is not finalised, the information provided by the Participant or other Person in this particular setting may not be used by The Association against the Participant or other Person in any Results Management proceeding, and that the information provided by The Association may not be used by the Participant or other Person in any Results Management proceeding. Such an agreement shall not preclude The Association or Participant or other Person using any information or evidence gathered from any source other than during the specific time-limited setting described in the agreement.

SCHEDULE THREE

PROHIBITED LIST

See FA.com for details

The version of the Prohibited List that is current at any given time is available on WADA's website and on The Association's website.

https://www.wada-ama.org/en/prohibited-list

SCHEDULE FOUR

GUIDE TO THERAPEUTIC USE EXEMPTIONS

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Anti-Doping Regulations permit Players to apply for permission to use, for therapeutic purposes, substances or methods on the Prohibited List whose use is otherwise prohibited under the Anti-doping Regulations. In order to excuse the presence or Use or Possession or Administration of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method that would otherwise amount to an Anti-Doping Rule Violation, a TUE must be obtained that covers such presence or Use or Possession or Administration. The process for obtaining a TUE will be managed by UKAD on behalf of The Association, in accordance with this Guide.

1.2 Any Player who consults a doctor and is prescribed treatment or medication shall enquire whether the prescription contains any Prohibited Substances or involves the Use of any Prohibited Methods. If so, the player should check with their doctor if they could use an alternative medication or treatment. If alternatives do not exist, are unsuitable, or have failed to be effective (if trialled), an application for a TUE should be made in accordance with this Guide.

1.3 The International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions (the "International Standard for TUEs") sets out the circumstances in which Players may claim such a therapeutic use exemption (or "TUE"). This Guide adopts and incorporates the International Standard for TUEs, as amended from time to time. All persons shall be deemed to accept the International Standard for TUEs and any such amendments thereto as binding upon them without further formality. In the case of any discrepancy between the International Standard for TUEs and this Guide, the International Standard for TUEs shall prevail.

1.4 This Guide may be updated at any time by The Association to take account of changes in the International Standard for TUEs or any other procedural changes. The version of this Guide in force at any given time will be published on The Association's website, at www.TheFA.com.

1.5 Subject only to paragraph 1B2 (which identifies limited circumstances in which a retroactive TUE may be granted), Players within the National TUE Pool must obtain a TUE, by following the process for TUE applications detailed in Sections 1A and 1B of this Guide, prior to Using or Possessing the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method in question.

Any Player not in the National TUE Pool does not need a TUE in advance but instead may apply for it after a test, in accordance with paragraph 1B2(c), provided that use of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method prior to that time shall be at the Player's own risk.

1.6 Players must take note that TUEs issued to them by UKAD in accordance with this Guide may not be automatically recognised by UEFA or FIFA or organisers of other competitions in which they participate. It is the Player's responsibility to ensure that they comply with any additional TUE requirements placed on the Player by FIFA or UEFA or such other competition organiser. Any TUE granted by UKAD will not be valid for purposes of UEFA or FIFA or other competitions unless and until it is recognised by them. The Association and/or UKAD will support the Player in seeking such recognition. If UEFA or FIFA refuses to recognise that TUE, then the review and appeal rights set out in Article 4 of the World Anti-Doping Code will apply, but if those rights are not exercised or if they are exercised unsuccessfully, then UKAD will determine whether the original TUE should nevertheless remain valid for national-level competition and Out-of-Competition Testing.

1.7 A Player may not apply to more than one body for a TUE.

1.8 The Association will recognise and respect any TUE granted to a Player by FIFA or UEFA or other body provided that the grant is consistent with the Code and the International Standard for TUEs and is within the grantor's authority. If The Association does not think the TUE should be recognised, the review and appeal rights set out in Article 4 of the World Anti-Doping Code will apply, but if those rights are not exercised or if they are exercised unsuccessfully, then that TUE will become valid for all purposes, including for purposes of The Association's Anti-Doping Regulations.

1.9 A Player who seeks a TUE from UKAD consents to the disclosure of confidential medical records for the purposes of the TUE application as set out in this Guide, including:

(a) the disclosure by the Player's physician(s) of any further information required by UKAD or the UK TUE Committee to process the Player's TUE application;

(b) the communication by UKAD of the information in the application and/or supplemental information from the Player's physician(s) to members of the UK TUE Committee and (as required) on an anonymised basis to other independent medical or scientific experts consulted by the UK TUE Committee; and

(c) the communication of the grant or denial of a TUE, including the details of any conditions or restrictions on such grant, and any supporting documentation or information, to The Association, FIFA, WADA and other Anti-Doping Organisations. The data will be processed by UKAD, The Association and any other relevant party for the purposes of carrying out these Anti-doping Regulations.

1.10 Should the Player wish to revoke the consent set out in the preceding paragraph, they must notify UKAD and the Player's physician(s) in writing of the fact, provided that upon such revocation of consent the application for a TUE (or for renewal of an existing TUE) will be deemed denied.

Section 1A: Process for applying for a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE)

1A1 An application for a TUE:

- must not be made simultaneously to both UKAD and another body;
- should be made on forms provided by UKAD, UEFA or FIFA, provided that they are in English and comply with the International Standard for TUEs;
- must be completed legibly, fully and accurately, in English, and must be signed by the Player and by any physician(s) supporting the application;
- must specify the dose, frequency, route and duration of proposed administration of the otherwise Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method;
- must also include a comprehensive medical history of the Player and the results of all clinical examinations, laboratory investigations and imaging studies relevant to the application. For TUE applications involving imaging studies and respiratory function tests, copies of images or physiological data should be submitted, as well as any interpretative reports that may have been produced;
- must also enclose copies of any prior application(s) that the Player has made for the TUE, to whomever made, and the decision made on such application(s), or else must confirm that the Player has not made any prior application for the TUE;
- must provide completely accurate and up-to-date contact details for the Player and for each physician supporting the application, including in each case a current mailing address and phone number; and
- must be sent to UKAD either by e-mail or post (if posted, in an envelope marked "Private and confidential TUE Application"):

  TUE
  UK Anti-Doping,
  Sport Park,
  3 Oakwood Drive,
  Loughborough, LE11 3QF

  or by e-mail: tue@ukad.org.uk

1A2 Players should retain a copy of the application and enclosures sent to UKAD, along with proof of the date of mailing/emailing.

1A3 UKAD will make best efforts to carry out an administrative review of the application within three (3) working days of receipt to confirm that the application:

- falls within UKAD's TUE jurisdiction. If the Player falls under the TUE jurisdiction of UEFA or FIFA, then UKAD will forward the application to UEFA or FIFA (as applicable) for review. Any delay shall be at the risk of the Player, who is responsible for making the application to the correct authority in the first place;
- has been completed fully and accurately in accordance with paragraph 1A1, above; and
- is accompanied by sufficient medical information to process the application.

1A4 If the application is incomplete and/or otherwise does not meet the necessary requirements, it will be returned to the Player with an explanation to that effect, and they shall be invited to re-apply in compliance with the necessary requirements. Any delay shall be at the risk of the Player, who is responsible for submitting a proper and complete application.

1A5 If the application passes the administrative review, UKAD will forward it to three members of the UK TUE Committee, one of whom will be designated as the Chair. The Chair will coordinate the responses of the UK TUE Committee and provide a final decision to UKAD with respect to the application. The Chair shall also be responsible for requesting, where necessary, further specialist input to support the UK TUE Committee in making a final decision. Timeframes for the review of TUE applications are set out in Section 1D.

1A6 The members of the UK TUE Committee shall meet the following criteria:

- each of them shall be a physician with experience in the care and treatment of Players and a sound knowledge of clinical, sports and exercise medicine;
- in cases where specific expertise is required (for example, for Athletes with impairments where the substance or method pertains to the Athlete's impairment), at least one (1) member or expert of the UK TUE Committee should possess such expertise; and
- a majority of the UK TUE Committee members must not have any official responsibility within football. At the discretion of the Chair, however, one of the three physicians may be a Football Association medical officer, in order to provide sport-specific expertise, provided that such person must otherwise satisfy these criteria; and (b) they will observe confidentiality with respect to the entire TUE process.

1A7 The UK TUE Committee will review the application, including the medical information provided, and make a decision as soon as reasonably practicable. The UK TUE Committee will only grant the TUE if the Player demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Committee, on the balance of probabilities, that all four of the following conditions are met:

(a) The Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method in question is needed to treat a medical condition, supported by relevant clinical evidence.

(b) The Therapeutic Use of the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method will not produce any additional enhancement of performance beyond what might be anticipated by a return to the Player's normal state of health following the treatment of the medical condition.

(c) The Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method is an indicated treatment for the medical condition, and there is no reasonable permitted Therapeutic alternative.

(d) The necessity for the Use of the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method is not a consequence, wholly or in part, of the Player's prior Use (without a TUE) of a substance or method which was prohibited at the time of such Use.

1A8 Where it does not need any further information to process the application, the UK TUE Committee will make best efforts to make a decision within seven (7) days of its receipt of the application. Where it considers it appropriate to seek further medical or scientific opinion or information in relation to the application, whether from the Player or their physician or from a third party, the UK TUE Committee shall do so as quickly as is practicable, provided that the identity of the applicant shall not be disclosed to any third party. The UK TUE Committee shall make its decision as soon as reasonably practicable after receipt of the further information or opinion.

1A9 The UK TUE Committee's decision to grant a TUE must be unanimous to be valid.

1A10 If the UK TUE Committee grants the TUE, it shall detail in its decision (a) the approved substance or method, the dosage(s), frequency and route of Administration permitted, (b) the duration of the exemption granted; and (c) any conditions or requirements that the Player must satisfy.

1A11 If the UK TUE Committee denies the TUE, it shall state its reasons for doing so in the decision itself.

1A12 UKAD will send copies of the UK TUE Committee's decision, on a confidential basis, to the Player and/or to the Player's designated representative. UKAD may send The Association a copy where necessary. UKAD will also share a copy of the decision on a confidential basis to WADA and other Anti-Doping Organisations, in accordance with paragraph 1.9(c), above.

1A13 If the UK TUE Committee denies the TUE application, then at the same time as UKAD sends a copy of the decision to the Player, it shall also advise the Player of the right to appeal the decision to the UK TUE Appeal Panel in accordance with Section 1D of this Guide.

1A14 The submission of false or misleadingly incomplete information in support of a TUE application may result in the bringing of disciplinary charges for breach of Regulation 7 of the Anti-Doping Regulations (Tampering or Attempted Tampering) or (as appropriate) for Misconduct.

Section 1B: Timing of Applications for TUEs and Effective Dates for TUE Grants

1B1 In accordance with the International Standard for TUEs, subject only to the exceptions set out in paragraph 1B2, a Player is required to obtain a TUE in advance of Using or Possessing the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method in question. They must apply for the TUE as soon as the requirement for the TUE arises and no less than twenty-one (21) days before participating in an event or competition.

Retroactive TUE applications

1B2 A Player may only be granted a retroactive TUE for their prior Use of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method if all four of the conditions set out at paragraph 1A7 are met and:

- **(a)** emergency or urgent treatment of a medical condition was necessary; or
- **(b)** there was insufficient time, opportunity or other exceptional circumstances that prevented the Player from submitting, or the UK TUE Committee to consider, an application for the TUE prior to Doping Control; or
- **(c)** the Player falls into the category of Players allowed to apply for a retroactive TUE under paragraph 1.5;
- **(d)** the Player Used Out-of-Competition, for Therapeutic reasons, a Prohibited Substance that is only prohibited In-Competition

1B3 In exceptional circumstances and notwithstanding any other provision in this Schedule Four, a Player may apply for and be granted retroactive approval for their therapeutic Use of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method if, considering the purpose of the Code, it would be manifestly unfair not to grant a retroactive TUE. In the case of International-Level and National-Level Players (as defined by the Code), any such grant must be with the prior approval of WADA.

1B4 An application for a TUE covering emergency treatment or treatment of an acute medical condition should be made within five (5) working days of the commencement of Use of the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method in question. UKAD may extend this deadline if the Player provides compelling reasons why it should do so.

1B5 If a Player is tested who falls into the category of Players allowed to apply for a retroactive TUE under paragraph 1.5, the Player must submit an application for a retroactive TUE in accordance with Section 1A of this Guide so that it is received by UKAD no later than five (5) working days after an Adverse Analytical Finding is reported in respect of the Sample collected from the Player. UKAD may extend this deadline if the Player provides compelling reasons why it should do so.

Effective dates for TUE grants

1B6 A Player may not assume that the Player's application for a TUE (or for renewal of a TUE) will be granted. Any Use or Possession of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method before an application has been granted shall be entirely at the Player's own risk.

1B7 A TUE granted by a UK TUE Committee may be cancelled if the Player does not promptly comply with any requirements or conditions imposed by the UK TUE Committee upon grant of the TUE.

1B8 If there is a change to the dose, frequency, route or duration of the administration of the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method where a TUE has been granted, the TUE will no longer be valid and the Player must apply for a new TUE immediately.

1B9 On expiry of the term of a TUE granted by the UK TUE Committee, a Player who wishes to continue to use the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method in question must again apply for a TUE in accordance with Section 1A of this Guide. A player should submit an application for a new TUE well in advance of that expiry date, so that there is sufficient time for a decision to be made on the application before the TUE expires.

Section 1C: Expiration or Cancellation of a TUE

1C1 A TUE granted pursuant to this Guide:

(a) shall expire in accordance with paragraph 1A.10 at the end of any term for which the TUE was granted;

(b) may be cancelled by UKAD if the Player does not promptly comply with any requirements or conditions imposed by the UK TUE Committee upon grant of the TUE; or

(c) may be withdrawn by the UK TUE Committee (as applicable) if it is subsequently determined that the criteria for grant of a TUE are not in fact met.

1C2 Expiration of a TUE pursuant to paragraph 1C1(a) shall take effect automatically at the end of the term for which the TUE was granted without the need for any further notice or other formality.

1C3 Cancellation of a TUE pursuant to paragraph 1C1(b) or withdrawal of a TUE pursuant to paragraph 1C1(c) shall be notified by UKAD to the Player and/or the Player's designated representative and all other relevant Anti-Doping Organisations. Such notice shall take effect upon receipt. UKAD may also notify The Association where necessary.

1C4 In the event of an expiration, cancellation or withdrawal of the TUE pursuant to paragraph 1C1, the Player shall not be subject to any consequences based upon the Player's Use or Possession of the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method in question in accordance with the TUE at any time prior to the effective date of expiry, cancellation or withdrawal of the TUE. If the analysis of the Player's "A" Sample indicates the presence of a Prohibited Substance or the Use of a Prohibited Method, The Association shall consider whether such finding is consistent with Use of the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method prior to that date, in which case there shall be no case to answer.

Section 1D: Process for Appealing a Denial or Conditional Grant of a Therapeutic Use Exemption

1D1 A Player who wishes to appeal a decision of the UK TUE Committee must lodge written notice of the appeal with UKAD within ten (10) working days of the date of receipt of the decision in question. The only available grounds of appeal shall be that the decision is not consistent with the requirements of the International Standard for TUEs.

1D2 The notice should be sent to UKAD at the following address, in an envelope marked "Private and confidential TUE Appeal":

TUE
UK Anti-Doping,
Sport Park,
3 Oakwood Drive,
Loughborough,
LE11 3QF

or by e-mail: tue@ukad.org.uk

1D3 UKAD will pass the notice of appeal, along with the complete file of the original TUE application, to the UK TUE Appeal Panel. The UK TUE Appeal Panel will be made up of three (3) members meeting the criteria set out at clause 1A7, but who were not involved in the decision being appealed.

1D4 The UK TUE Appeal Panel will review the application, including the medical information provided, and make a decision as soon as reasonably practicable, in accordance with the requirements set out in the International Standard for TUEs and without being bound in any way by the decision being appealed.

1D5 The UK TUE Appeal Panel must make its decisions unanimously for a TUE to be granted. Where it considers it appropriate to seek further medical or scientific opinion or information in relation to the appeal, whether from the Player or their physician or from a third party, the UK TUE Appeal Panel shall do so as quickly as is practicable, provided that the identity of the applicant shall not be disclosed to any third party. The UK TUE Appeal Panel shall make its decision as soon as reasonably practicable after receipt of the further information or opinion. The Chair of the UK TUE Appeal Panel will provide a copy of the written decision to UKAD as soon as practicable, the target being within two (2) working days of the decision being made.

1D6 If the UK TUE Appeal Panel grants the TUE, it shall detail in its decision (a) the duration of the exemption; and (b) any conditions or requirements that the Player must satisfy.

1D7 If the UK TUE Appeal Panel denies the TUE, it shall state its reasons for doing so in the decision itself.

1D8 UKAD will send copies of the UK TUE Appeal Panel's decision, on a confidential basis, to the Player and/or the Player's designated representative. UKAD may also notify The Association where necessary. UKAD will also share a copy on a confidential basis to WADA and other Anti-Doping Organisations, in accordance with paragraph 1.9(c), above.

1D9 The foregoing provisions of this Section 1D shall be without prejudice to:

(a) the right of a Player to appeal to the UK TUE Appeal Panel against any decision of the UK TUE Committee denying a TUE, on the grounds that such decision did not comply with the International Standard for TUEs;

(b) the right of a Player to request that WADA exercise its discretion to intervene and overturn any decision of the UK TUE Appeal Panel, on the grounds that such decision did not comply with the International Standard for TUEs;

(c) the right of WADA, on its own initiative, to reverse a TUE decision if it determines that such decision did not comply with the International Standard for TUEs; and

(d) the right of the Player or UKAD (or FIFA or UEFA in accordance with their rules) to appeal to CAS against any decision made by WADA reversing a TUE decision made pursuant to this Guide.

1D10 Until such time as the grant of a TUE application made pursuant to this Guide has been reversed by WADA, or the denial of a TUE application made pursuant to this Guide has been reversed by WADA, or overturned on appeal, such grant or denial shall remain in full force and effect.

1D11 Where UKAD fails to take action on a properly submitted application for a TUE within a reasonable time, this failure to decide may be considered a denial of the application for the purpose of the appeal rights provided in this schedule.

TUE APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM UKAD'S WEBSITE: https://www.ukad.org.uk/

12 - SOCIAL DRUGS REGULATIONS

1. EFFECTIVE DATE

1.1 These Social Drugs Regulations are issued pursuant to FA Rule J1.3.1. The amendments to the Social Drugs Regulations shall come into full force and effect on 1 July 2026 (the "Effective Date").

1.2 The substantive amendments to the Social Drugs Regulations that are introduced by this version shall not apply to conduct occurring prior to the Effective Date. Instead, that conduct and its consequences shall be governed by the substantive provisions of the Social Drugs Regulations and the Rules and Regulations of The Association that were in force at the time the conduct occurred, save that if these Social Drugs Regulations provide for lesser consequences for that conduct, the lesser consequences will apply. In any event, all procedural aspects of any case will be governed by this version of the Social Drugs Regulations, whenever the conduct at issue occurred. However, all procedural aspects of any case will be governed by this version of the Social Drugs Regulations, whenever the conduct at issue occurred.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 As of the Effective Date, the term "Social Drug" means any of the following: amphetamine, cannabinoids (for example, hashish and marijuana), cocaine, diamorphine (aka heroin), ketamine, lysergic acid diethylamide (aka LSD), mephedrone, methadone, methylamphetamine, methylenedioxymethylamphetamine (aka MDMA or ecstasy) and methylenedioxyethylamphetamine (MDEA).

2.2 The Association may at any time designate further substances as "Social Drugs" for the purposes of these Social Drugs Regulations.

2.2.1 Any changes to the list of Social Drugs after the Effective Date will be published on The Association's website (located at TheFA.com) and will take effect from the date of such publication. The PFA will be notified at least 14 days in advance of such changes.

2.2.2 The Association's designation of a substance as a Social Drug is final and may not be challenged on any basis.

2.3 Where used in these Social Drugs Regulations:

2.3.1 The terms "Appeal Board", "Club", "Match", "Misconduct", "Player", "Participant" and "Regulatory Commission" have the same meaning as they are given in FA Rule A2.

2.3.2 "Administration" means providing, supplying, supervising, facilitating, or otherwise participating in the Use or Attempted Use by another Participant of a Social Drug.

2.3.3 "Attempt" means purposely engaging in conduct that constitutes a substantial step in a course of conduct planned to culminate in the commission of a breach of these Regulations; provided, however, there shall be no breach based solely on an attempt to commit a breach if the Participant renounces the attempt prior to it being discovered by a third party not involved in the attempt.

2.3.4 "In-Competition" means the period commencing at 23:59 on the day before a Match in which the Player is scheduled to participate through to the end of said Match, including any Sample collection process after the conclusion of the Match.

2.3.5 "Marker" means a compound, group of compounds, or biological variable(s) that indicate the Use of a Social Drug.

2.3.6 "Metabolite" means any substance produced by a biotransformation process.

2.3.7 "No Fault or Negligence" means that the Participant is able to establish that he did not know or suspect, and could not reasonably have known or suspected even with the exercise of utmost caution, that he had Used or been administered the Social Drug or otherwise violated these Regulations. Except in the case of a Player who has not reached the age of 18, for any breach of Regulation 4.1.1, the Player must also establish how the Social Drug entered his system.

2.3.8 "Out-of-Competition" means any time that is not In-Competition.

2.3.9 "Player Support Person(nel)" means any person working with, treating or assisting a Player participating in or preparing for Matches or training sessions, including but not limited to a coach, trainer, manager, agent, Intermediary (as defined in The Association's Regulations on Working with Intermediaries), FA Registered Football Agent (as defined in Football Agent Regulations), club staff, official, nutritionist, medical or paramedical personnel, or parent.

2.3.10 "Possession" has the same meaning as given to it at Regulation 4.1.3.1.

2.3.11 "Provisional Suspension" means the Participant is barred temporarily from participating in any football or football activity prior to the final decision of the Regulatory Commission in respect of the alleged breach.

2.3.12 "Sample" means any biological material collected for the purpose of testing pursuant to these Social Drugs Regulations, including (without limitation) hair and urine.

2.3.13 "Social Drug" has the meaning given to it at Regulation 2.1.

2.3.14 "Social Drug Finding" means a report from a laboratory accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 that identifies in a Sample collected Out-of-Competition the presence of a Social Drug or any of its Metabolites or Markers.

2.3.15 "Tampering" has the same meaning as given to it at Regulation 4.1.8.1.

2.3.16 "Trafficking" means selling, giving, transporting, sending, delivering, or distributing (or Possessing for any such purpose) a Social Drug (either physically or by any electronic or other means) by a Participant to any third party.

2.3.17 "Use" means the utilisation, application, ingestion, injection, consumption, or other use by any means whatsoever of any Social Drug.

2.4 Terms denoting the male gender shall be read to include as an alternative the female gender.

2.5 Unless otherwise indicated, references to a "Regulation" are to a particular provision in these Social Drugs Regulations, as amended from time to time.

3. PURPOSE

3.1 These Social Drugs Regulations are not concerned with the presence, Use, etc. of Social Drugs during the In-Competition period or with the illicit enhancement of sports performance. Such concerns are addressed solely and exclusively by The Association's Anti-Doping Regulations. To that end, nothing in these Social Drugs Regulations is intended to be interpreted or applied or should be interpreted or applied in a manner that undermines the strict application and enforcement of The Association's Anti-Doping Regulations in accordance with their terms. In particular, if any conduct that would constitute a breach of these Social Drugs Regulations also constitutes a breach of the Anti-Doping Regulations, it shall be pursued as a breach of the Anti-Doping Regulations, and not as a breach of these Social Drugs Regulations.

3.2 Instead, these Social Drugs Regulations have been adopted because experience shows that, due to their age, spare time, disposable income, etc., Players are at risk of being exposed to Social Drugs while Out-of-Competition, with the following potential consequences:

3.2.1 Damage to the physical and/or mental health and welfare of a Player using Social Drugs (and so to his career, as well as to his general well-being), both in the short- term and (because of the addictive qualities of Social Drugs) in the long-term.

3.2.2 Players under the influence of Social Drugs injuring themselves or others during training, due to the negative effect that Social Drugs can have on both mental and physical functioning (such as motor functioning, reaction time, altered perception, concentration, judgment, and decision-making).

3.2.3 Players testing positive immediately after a match for a Social Drug taken Out-of-Competition (because metabolites of the drug remain in the system for several days or even weeks), and consequently being banned from the sport under the Association's Anti-Doping Regulations.

3.2.4 Harm to public health where Players' Use of Social Drugs is copied by young players and fans who see them as role models.

3.2.5 Damage to the image and reputation of the sport, with parents potentially being deterred from permitting their children to pursue a career in the sport and/or commercial partners potentially being deterred from associating their brands with the sport.

3.3 The purpose of these Social Drugs Regulations is to prevent these damaging consequences by providing for (i) courses of education, counselling and treatment, where appropriate, to rehabilitate Players who have become involved with Social Drugs while Out-of-Competition; and (ii) the imposition of proportionate sanctions when necessary to address such conduct and to deter similar conduct in the future.

3.4 These Social Drugs Regulations are to be interpreted and applied (including where an issue arises that is not expressly provided for in these regulations) by reference to the foregoing objectives. This purposive interpretation and application will take precedence over any strict legal or technical interpretations that may otherwise be proposed.

4. PROHIBITED CONDUCT

4.1 Subject always to Regulation 4.3, each of the following shall constitute a breach of these Social Drugs Regulations (whether or not it takes place in connection with a training session or other activity organised by a Club):

4.1.1 The presence of a Social Drug or its Metabolite(s) or Marker(s) in a Sample provided by a Player while he is Out-of-Competition.

4.1.1.1 Subject to Regulation 4.1.1.3, such presence is a strict liability offence, i.e., to establish a breach of Regulation 4.1.1 no proof is required that the Player ingested the Social Drug intentionally, recklessly, negligently or even knowingly; and nor is proof of lack of such intent, recklessness, negligence or knowledge a defence to a charge for breach of Regulation 4.1.1.

4.1.1.2 The following evidence shall be sufficient to establish the presence of a Social Drug or its Metabolite(s) or Marker(s) in a Sample collected from the Player while he was Out-of-Competition: (A) a Social Drug Finding in respect of the Player's "A" Sample, where the Player waives analysis of the "B" Sample; (B) a Social Drug Finding in respect of the Player's "A" Sample, where analysis of the Player's "B" Sample confirms that Social Drug Finding; or (C) where the Player's Sample has been split into two parts, and there has been a Social Drug Finding in respect of the first part of the split Sample, and the Player waives analysis of the confirmation part of the split Sample, or else analysis of the confirmation part of the split Sample confirms the Social Drug Finding made in respect of the first part of the split Sample.

4.1.1.3 It shall be a defence to a charge brought under Regulation 4.1.1 for a Player to prove that his ingestion of a Social Drug took place during a period of time during which he was not a Participant and therefore was not bound by these Social Drugs Regulations.

4.1.2 The Use or Attempted Use of a Social Drug by a Player while he is Out-of-Competition.

4.1.2.1 Such Use is a strict liability offence, i.e., to establish the offence of Use of a Social Drug by a Player while he is Out-of-Competition, in breach of Regulation 4.1.2, no proof is required that the Player Used the Social Drug intentionally, recklessly, negligently or even knowingly; and nor is proof of lack of such intent, recklessness, negligence or knowledge a defence to a charge of Use in breach of Regulation 4.1.2.

4.1.2.2 In contrast, to establish the offence of Attempted Use of a Social Drug by a Player while Out-of-Competition, The Association must prove intent on the part of the Player.

4.1.3 Possession of a Social Drug by a Player while he is Out-of-Competition.

4.1.3.1 "Possession" means the actual physical possession, or the constructive possession (which shall be found only if the Participant has exclusive control or intends to exercise control over the Social Drug or the premises in which a Social Drug exists); provided, however, that if the Participant does not have exclusive control over the Social Drug or the premises in which a Social Drug exists, constructive possession shall only be found if the Participant knew about the presence of the Social Drug and intended to exercise control over it. There shall be no breach of these Regulations based solely on possession if, prior to receiving notification of any kind that the Participant has committed a breach under these Regulations, the Participant has taken positive action demonstrating that he never intended to have possession and has renounced possession by expressly declaring it to The Association. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this definition, the purchase (including by any electronic or other means) of a Social Drug constitutes Possession by the Participant who makes the purchase. The term "Possession" shall also encompass circumstances where a Player Support Personnel or other third party is holding a Social Drug on behalf of the Player while he is Out-of-Competition, at the direction of the Player and/or with the Player's knowledge and acquiescence.

4.1.4 Possession of a Social Drug by a Player Support Person or other Participant on behalf of a Player for Use by the Player when the Player is Out-of-Competition.

4.1.5 Administration or Attempted Administration of a Social Drug by a Player or other Participant to a(nother) Player (with or without his knowledge) while the (other) Player is Out-of-Competition.

4.1.6 Trafficking or Attempted Trafficking of one or more Social Drugs by a Player or other Participant.

4.1.7 Evading Sample collection; or refusing or failing to submit to Sample collection without compelling justification.

4.1.8 Tampering or Attempted Tampering by a Participant.

4.1.8.1 "Tampering" means intentional conduct which subverts any step or process carried out pursuant to these Social Drugs Regulations, from test planning through to ultimate disposition of any appeal and the enforcement of Consequences (including all steps and processes in between). Tampering shall include, without limitation, offering or accepting a bribe to perform or fail to perform an act, preventing the collection of a Sample, affecting or making impossible the analysis of a Sample, falsifying documents submitted to The Association or any other relevant body, procuring false testimony from witnesses, committing any other fraudulent act upon The Association or any other relevant body, and any other similar intentional interference or Attempted interference with any aspect of any step or process carried out pursuant to these Social Drugs Regulations.

4.1.9 Assisting, encouraging, aiding, abetting, conspiring, covering up, or any other type of intentional complicity (or Attempt at the same) by a Player or other Participant in relation to a breach by another Player or other Participant of these Social Drugs Regulations.

4.2 All Players, Player Support Personnel, and other Participants are responsible for ensuring that they know what substances have been designated Social Drugs and what conduct is prohibited under these Social Drugs Regulations. Professed ignorance of these Social Drugs Regulations shall not be a defence to a charge of breach of these Social Drugs Regulations nor provide mitigation in respect of sanction. Nor shall it be a defence that the breach did not have any effect on any Player's sports performance.

4.3 A Player with a documented medical condition may apply in advance in writing to The Association for permission to Use a Social Drug for a defined period to treat that condition. Such application must be accompanied by accurate and complete medical evidence justifying such Use. The Association may grant or deny such application, conditionally or otherwise, in its absolute discretion. Any permission granted must be in writing in order to be valid for these purposes. Any presence of a Social Drug in a sample, or any Use, Possession, Administration or supply of a Social Drug that is consistent with such permission shall not amount to a breach of these Social Drugs Regulations. An application for permission to use a Social Drug will not be considered for retroactive approval except in cases where the emergency treatment or treatment of an acute medical treatment was necessary or due to exceptional circumstances there was insufficient time or opportunity for a Player to submit an application prior to drug testing.

5. MONITORING/INVESTIGATING COMPLIANCE

5.1 In accordance with its general power under Rule F to monitor compliance with its Rules and regulations, The Association may monitor compliance with these Social Drugs Regulations as it sees fit, including (without limitation) by having Samples collected from Players while they are Out-of-Competition and analysed by a duly credited laboratory for the presence of Social Drugs, their Metabolites, and Markers.

5.1.1 Samples may be collected for this purpose at any time and place during Out-of-Competition periods, without any advance notice, including (without limitation) in reliance on whereabouts information provided pursuant to the Anti-Doping Regulations.

5.1.2 The procedures set out in Schedule One for the collection and analysis of Samples shall apply.

5.2 The Association may also exercise its powers of inquiry under Rule F to investigate possible instances of breach of these Social Drugs Regulations.

5.3 The private testing/screening of Players for Social Drugs by any Participant is prohibited, and amounts to Misconduct contrary to Rule E. A Club may refer any good faith concerns that it has about a Player's or other Participant's lack of compliance with these Social Drugs Regulations to The Association, which shall address such concerns as it sees fit.

5.4 Where The Association has evidence that it considers may justify a charge of Misconduct based on a breach of these Social Drugs Regulations, prior to issuing any charge The Association may inform the Player or other Participant in question of that evidence in writing, and give him the opportunity to provide a written explanation in response within a designated time.

5.4.1 In respect of Players, the letter may also (where the Player is registered with a Club) be sent to a senior representative of his Club. If the Player is a member of the PFA and consents to the letter being sent to a representative of the PFA, the letter will also be sent to that representative.

5.4.2 Instead of or in addition to any written explanation, The Association may require the Player or other Participant to attend a personal interview to answer its questions. He may be accompanied at the interview by one representative of his Club, a legal adviser, and/or (where relevant) a representative of the PFA. Such interview may be recorded, and the recording may be used by The Association in any disciplinary proceedings brought against such Player or other Participant or others.

6. SUPPORT AND REHABILITATION OF PLAYERS THROUGH EDUCATION, COUNSELLING AND/OR TREATMENT

6.1 The Association will identify options for support and rehabilitation through education, counselling and/ or treatment of Players who breach these Social Drugs Regulations, for consideration by the Regulatory Commission in the exercise of its powers under Regulation 8.1.1 and Regulation 8.6.1 in referring a Player for education, counselling and/or treatment. Where the Player is a member of the PFA and so consents, The Association will identify such options in close consultation with the PFA.

6.2 If The Association has evidence that it considers may justify a charge against a Player of Misconduct based on a breach of these Social Drugs Regulations, it may at any time require that Player to meet with a specialist in drug misuse and addiction for assessment and evaluation. The specialist's report shall be provided to The Association and the Player.

6.3 The Regulatory Commission may at any time order a Player charged with breach of the Social Drugs Regulations to meet with a specialist in drug misuse and addiction for assessment and evaluation, in order to assist the Regulatory Commission in deciding whether to exercise its powers under Regulation 8.6.1.

7. DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

7.1 A breach of these Social Drugs Regulations shall constitute Misconduct contrary to Rule E25. Accordingly, The Association may bring disciplinary proceedings for Misconduct pursuant to Rule E1.2 against the Player or other Participant involved in the breach. The Regulations for Football Association Disciplinary Action shall apply to such proceedings, as amended/supplemented below.

7.2 The Association may provisionally suspend a Player or other Participant on or at any point after (a) the date that it notifies him of a Social Drug Finding (where applicable); (b) the date that he admits to a breach of these Social Drugs Regulations (before being charged); or (c) the date that it charges him with a breach of these Social Drugs Regulations. No appeal shall lie against the imposition of a Provisional Suspension, but the Player or other Participant who is the subject of the Provisional Suspension shall be entitled to an expedited hearing and determination of the charge against him.

7.3 Where a Social Drug Finding is reported, The Association shall afford the Player involved confirmatory analysis of the "B" Sample. The Player may request or waive such confirmatory analysis as he sees fit. If analysis of the "B" Sample is undertaken and it does not confirm the presence of a Social Drug or its Metabolite(s) or Marker(s) in the "B" Sample, the entire test shall be considered negative, any charge based on the Social Drug Finding shall be withdrawn, and any Provisional Suspension that has been imposed based on the Social Drug Finding shall be lifted automatically, without the need for further formality.

7.4 The Association must prove an alleged breach of these Social Drugs Regulations on the balance of probabilities. It may prove facts establishing that breach by any reliable means. Departures from the procedural guidelines set out at Schedule One or any procedure relevant to these Social Drugs Regulations will not invalidate analytical results or other evidence of a breach of these Social Drugs Regulations, unless the Participant establishes that such a departure could reasonably have caused that breach.

7.5 Where these Social Drugs Regulations place the burden of proof on a Participant to rebut a presumption or establish specific facts or circumstances, the standard of proof will also be on the balance of probabilities.

8. CONSEQUENCES

8.1 Subject to the other provisions of this Regulation 8:

8.1.1 For a breach of Regulation 4.1.1 (presence in a Sample), Regulation 4.1.2 (Use or Attempted Use), Regulation 4.1.3 (Possession by a Player), or Regulation 4.1.4 (Possession by a Player Support Person or other Participant), the following consequences shall be imposed:

(a) if it is the Participant's first breach of these Social Drugs Regulations, then the Regulatory Commission shall (i) issue a warning, (ii) require the Player to undergo a course of assessment/evaluation, education, counselling and/or treatment, and (iii) may impose a fine in such amount as the Regulatory Commission sees fit.

(b) if it is the Participant's second or subsequent breach of these Social Drugs Regulations, the Regulatory Commission shall impose a three month period of suspension. However, the period of suspension imposed under this Regulation 8.1.1(b) shall be reduced to one month if the Participant agrees to complete, to The Association's satisfaction, a course of assessment/evaluation, education, counselling, and/or treatment.

8.1.2 For a breach of Regulation 4.1.5 (Administration or Attempted Administration) or Regulation 4.1.6 (Trafficking or Attempted Trafficking), 4.1.7 (evading Sample collection; or refusing or failing to submit to Sample collection without compelling justification), or Regulation 4.1.8 (Tampering or Attempted Tampering) a sanction within the following range shall be imposed:

(a) for a first breach of these Social Drugs Regulations – a suspension in the range of 4 to 12 months;

(b) for a second breach of these Social Drugs Regulations – a suspension in the range of 12 to 48 months;

(c) for a third breach or subsequent breach of these Social Drugs Regulations – a suspension of 24 months or more.

8.1.3 For a breach of Regulation 4.1.9 (complicity), the sanction shall be the same as if the Player or other Participant had personally committed the breach in which he was complicit. Any course of assessment/evaluation, education, counselling and/or treatment that may be imposed pursuant to this Regulation 8.1.3 shall be appropriate to the nature of the relevant Participant's breach of Regulation 4.1.9.

8.1.4 For a breach of Regulation 5.3 (private testing for Social Drugs), the general powers for sanctioning Misconduct set out under the Regulations for Football Association Disciplinary Action shall apply.

8.2 If a Participant refuses or fails to complete any imposed course of assessment/evaluation, education, counselling and/or treatment to the satisfaction of The Association, then The Association may refer the matter back to the Regulatory Commission to determine what (if any) further consequences should be imposed. In the event that such refusal or failure relates to a course agreed to by a Participant under Regulation 8.1.1(b), such additional sanction shall include (as a minimum) the imposition of an additional two-month period of suspension.

8.3 For purposes of Regulation 8.1, a breach of the predecessor Rules and/or regulations to these Social Drugs Regulations shall be treated as a prior breach of these Social Drugs Regulations even though it took place prior to the Effective Date, provided that it took place within ten years of the breach of the Social Drugs Regulations for which a sanction is now being determined.

8.4 Notwithstanding any other provision in these Social Drugs Regulations:

8.4.1 If a Participant establishes in any case that he bears No Fault or Negligence for the breach in question, any otherwise applicable sanction will be eliminated. No Fault or Negligence will only be found in exceptional circumstances and shall not apply where offending conduct is intentional.

8.4.2 In imposing sanctions, a Regulatory Commission (or where relevant an Appeal Board) must apply any mitigating and/or aggravating factors, to include but not limited to the disciplinary record of the Participant and other factors that may be communicated by the Association from time to time.

8.4.3 Where a Participant voluntarily admits to having committed a breach of these Social Drugs Regulations before receiving notice that The Association is investigating such breach and before receiving notice of a Sample collection that could establish such breach, and that admission is the only reliable evidence of the breach at the time of admission, then any fine may be waived, and any otherwise applicable period of suspension may be reduced by up to one half, even if that takes it below the minimum period specified in Regulation 8.1.

8.5 Generally, a period of suspension shall start running from the date that such suspension is imposed. However:

8.5.1 The Participant shall be given credit for any period of Provisional Suspension that he has served.

8.5.2 Where the Participant admits the breach promptly after being notified of it by The Association, the Regulatory Commission may back-date the period of suspension so that it is deemed to have started on or at any time after the date that the breach occurred. This discretion may not be exercised, however, where the period of suspension has been reduced under Regulation 8.4.3.

8.6 In any case that is brought before a Regulatory Commission for breach by a Player of these Social Drugs Regulations, in addition to applying the foregoing provisions of this Regulation 8:

8.6.1 The Regulatory Commission may refer the Player for evaluation and assessment by one or more specialists in drug misuse and addiction, in order to determine whether it is appropriate to require the Player to attend a course of education, counselling, and/or treatment designed to assist in his rehabilitation.

8.6.2 The Regulatory Commission may order that the Player be tested with or without prior notice, including during any period of suspension and/or any course of education, counselling, and/or treatment, in order to monitor his ongoing compliance with these Social Drugs Regulations.

8.7 In accordance with Regulation 41 of The Association's Disciplinary Regulations, in any case of breach of these Social Drugs Regulations the Regulatory Commission may where it sees fit impose a fine in addition to any other consequences specified in this Regulation 8, provided that such fine should not take the place of or reduce any period of suspension that would otherwise be imposed. The Regulatory Commission may also order the Player or other Participant charged to pay a contribution towards the costs incurred by The Association.

9. DISCIPLINARY DECISIONS

9.1 Any decision by a Regulatory Commission to uphold or not to uphold a charge for breach of these Social Drugs Regulations, and/or imposing consequences or not imposing consequences for such a breach, may be appealed by the Player or other Participant in question and/or by The Association to an Appeal Board, in accordance with Rule H and the Regulations for Football Association Appeals.

9.2 Regulation 17 of the The Association's Disciplinary Regulations (General Provisions) shall not apply to decisions under these Social Drugs Regulations in respect of cases involving alleged breaches of Regulations 4.1.1 to 4.1.4 (but shall apply to breaches of Regulations 4.1.5 to 4.1.9). Instead, subject to Regulation 9.3 and Regulation 10, cases involving alleged breaches of Regulations 4.1.1 to 4.1.4 shall be confidential in all respects between The Association and the Participant concerned.

9.3 The Association may comment publicly in respect of a case brought under these Regulations in response to public comments made by any Participant or his representatives in relation to the case.

10. MISCELLANEOUS

10.1 Each Participant acknowledges that any of his personal information that is provided to The Association by him or on his behalf shall be processed for the purposes of carrying out these Social Drugs Regulations and ensuring the integrity of the sport. More information on the data processed for these purposes, and the Participant's rights, is set out in The Association's Anti-Doping Privacy Policy.

10.2 The Association may report any breach of these Social Drugs Regulations that may also constitute a breach of non-sporting laws and/or regulations to the competent authority. If that authority decides to investigate and/or bring charges against a Participant in relation to the matter so reported, The Association may stay any related investigation and/or proceedings that it has previously commenced for breach of these Social Drugs Regulations.

SCHEDULE ONE

PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES FOR THE CONDUCT OF SOCIAL DRUG TESTING

1. General

1.1 Players may be tested for Social Drugs at any time Out-of-Competition pursuant to the Social Drugs Regulations. Such testing will be carried out in conformity with these Procedural Guidelines (as amended from time to time).

1.2 Testing for Social Drugs may involve the collection of Samples of hair and/or urine and/or any other suitable biological material.

1.3 Players are obliged to undergo drug testing as set out in the Social Drugs Regulations and these Procedural Guidelines. In particular, every Player designated to undergo a Social Drugs test, is obliged to provide a Sample when requested to do so, and to cooperate promptly and fully with the Sample collection process.

1.4 The Sample collection process will be carried out by Social Drugs Control Officers ("SDCOs"), who are persons appointed by The Association to carry out and assist with the Sample collection process. A Football Association Supervising Officer ("FASO") may also be present (i) to act as a point of liaison between the Club and Player and SDCOs, (ii) to facilitate the conduct of Social Drugs testing, and (iii) to report any matters of interest or concern to The Association. (SDCOs and FASOs are collectively referred to below as "Competent Officials").

1.5 On arriving at a venue for Social Drugs testing, the Competent Officials will attempt to make contact with an official from the relevant Club. Once such contact is made, Club officials will ensure that, following the arrival of the Competent Officials at the venue, no Player leaves the venue until completion of the Sample collection process or otherwise with the express authorisation of the Competent Officials. Any failure to do so may be treated as a breach of Regulation 4.1.8 of the Social Drug Regulations (Tampering or Attempted Tampering), Regulation 4.1.9 of the Social Drugs Regulations (Complicity), or Rule E3, or otherwise as appropriate.

2. Facilities for the Collection of Samples

2.1 Clubs shall make available for the purposes of Social Drugs testing the same facilities that it makes available for testing pursuant to The Association's Anti-Doping Regulations, i.e., its Doping Control Station (referred to as the "Social Drugs Testing Station" for the purpose of these Procedural Guidelines).

2.2 The Competent Officials will provide the equipment that is required for the Social Drugs testing, including (where applicable) collection vessels, containers, Sample bottles, and approved sealing equipment.

2.3 Prior to the start of testing, the Competent Officials should satisfy themselves that the Social Drugs Testing Station facilities are adequate. Clubs must comply with any reasonable requests made by Competent Officials who do not believe that the facilities are adequate.

2.4 The SDCO(s) will make every effort to collect Samples as discreetly as possible and with maximum privacy, but it must be recognised that circumstances may impose difficulties upon SDCOs that cannot easily be overcome.

2.5 Once the Competent Officials have confirmed their satisfaction with the facilities provided, only those people listed in paragraph 7.2 of these Procedural Guidelines should be allowed into the Social Drugs Testing Station until completion of the doping control process.

2.6 It is recommended that the Club arranges for a security guard/steward to be positioned outside the Social Drugs Testing Station to keep unauthorised persons from entering the Station. A 'No Entry' sign should be displayed.

3. Selection of Players

3.1 Players shall be selected for Social Drugs testing by way of target testing, or by random selection at the venue at which testing takes place.

3.2 Target testing shall be based on a risk assessment and the most effective use of resources to ensure optimum detection and deterrence. If more than one Player in a team has tested positive, target testing may be performed on all Players in the team.

3.3 For individual Players, target testing may be performed as a consequence of:

(a) behaviour indicating the use of Social Drugs;

(b) other reasonable cause to suspect the use of Social Drugs; or

(c) any other reason determined by The Association.

The Association is not obliged to provide the Player or any Club representative with a reason for the Player's selection for a target test.

3.4 If it is decided to select Players on a random basis, the random selection by a draw of required Players will be conducted by the Competent Officials.

3.5 Only the Competent Officials need to be present for the draw. Although official(s) from the relevant Club(s) whose Players are subject to testing may be invited to be present, the absence of such officials will not invalidate the draw.

3.6 Additional "reserve" Players will be drawn in case a Player drawn is unable and/or fails to submit to Sample collection.

3.7 Subject to any instructions provided by The Association, the timing of the draw will be at the complete discretion of the Competent Officials.

4. Notification of Players

4.1 An appropriate Club representative may be notified of the Players selected for testing, prior to notification being provided to the Players.

4.2 The Club and all Club officials must ensure that the Competent Officials are given clear and unobstructed access to Players selected for testing without delay. Clubs and Club officials must provide the Competent Officials with all reasonable assistance they may require to locate the Player and carry out the notification process and Sample collection as expeditiously and as efficiently as possible. Clubs and Club officials must do all in their power to ensure that the Competent Officials make contact with Players selected for testing as soon as reasonably practicable. Any failure to comply with the above may be treated as a breach of Regulation 4.1.8 of the Social Drug Regulations (Tampering or Attempted Tampering), Regulation 4.1.9 of the Social Drugs Regulations (Complicity), or Rule E3, or otherwise as appropriate.

4.3 The Club and Club Officials must allow the Competent Officials access to observe the Players complete training or any other activity in which they are engaged.

4.4 The Competent Officials must give Players to be tested a reasonable time to complete training or any other activity in which they are engaged before giving the verbal notification in accordance with paragraph 4.7 below.

4.5 Before Social Drugs testing is carried out, each Competent Official must show their identification cards, clearly identifying themselves as persons duly authorised by The Association to undertake Sample collection for the purpose of Social Drugs testing.

4.6 Any Player selected for Social Drugs testing will be requested to produce photographic identification to prove his identity. In the event a Player has no available identification, a third party may be asked to positively confirm the identity of the Player.

4.7 Once contact has been made between the selected Player and the Competent Official, the Player will be notified of his selection for Social Drugs testing and requirement to attend the Social Drugs Testing Station. Save only where written acknowledgement is clearly impracticable at the time of notification, upon notification the Player must acknowledge by way of signature that he has been selected for Social Drugs testing. In those exceptional cases where written acknowledgement is impracticable at the time of notification, the Player should confirm the notification when he gets to the Social Drugs Testing Station, by providing his signature at that point.

4.8 If a Player is found to have avoided notification without compelling justification, or he fails or refuses to provide a Sample within a reasonable period of being requested to do so, he may be charged with a breach of Regulation 4.1.8 (evading Sample collection, or refusing or failing to submit to Sample collection) or (if Regulation 4.1.8 does not apply) with Misconduct.

5. Player rights and responsibilities following notification

5.1 The Player's rights in relation to the Social Drugs testing process are the right to:

(a) have the club doctor or physio or other representative and (if required) an interpreter (to be supplied by the Club or the Player) present;

(b) be informed and ask for additional information about the Sample collection process;

(c) request a delay (for valid reasons) in reporting to the Social Drugs Testing Station (to be granted at the discretion of the Competent Officials); and

(d) request reasonable modifications to the Social Drugs testing process (if the Player suffers from a relevant impairment).

5.2 The Player's obligations in relation to the Social Drugs testing process include the requirement to:

(a) report promptly for a test following notification, unless there are valid reasons for a delay, as determined at the absolute discretion of the Competent Officials;

(b) produce identification (in accordance with paragraph [4.6] above);

(c) when requested, to remain within direct observation of the Competent Officials at all times from the point of notification until completion of the Sample collection; and

(d) comply with Sample collection procedures. (Where practicable, the Player shall be advised of the possible consequences of failure to comply).

6. Testing of reserves or other Players

Where a Sample cannot be collected from a Player for any reason, a Sample will be taken from another Player of the same team, either selected at random or pre-selected as a reserve. Clubs and Club officials must ensure that a Player pre-selected as a reserve does not leave the stadium, training ground or other relevant venue until the Competent Officials have confirmed to Club officials that the Player is not needed.

7. Collection of Samples

7.1 Having been notified, a Player must immediately report to the Social Drugs Testing Station (unless the Competent Officials permit a delay in reporting to complete training or other activity). On reporting to the Social Drugs Testing Station, the Player must (if he has not done so already) acknowledge that he has been selected for drug testing by providing his signature. He must then remain there until the testing process is completed. He may leave the Social Drugs Testing Station only under exceptional circumstances with the prior permission of a Competent Official.

7.2 Only the following persons are allowed into the working room of the Social Drugs Testing Station:-

(a) the Competent Officials;

(b) the Player;

(c) the club doctor or physio or other representative nominated by the Player (and interpreter if required); and

(d) any other person specified by The Association.

The Competent Officials may reasonably refuse access to the Social Drugs Testing Station to anyperson not listed in this paragraph 7.2.

7.3 Where a Sample is to be taken from a Player who is a Minor, the Player must be accompanied by an adult representative, selected by the Player and of the same gender as the Player, where practicable, present during the Sample collection process at all times. The Competent Officials shall also consider whether another third party ought to be present during the notification of the Player who is a Minor.

7.4 The collection of Samples of hair and/or urine and/or any other suitable biological material will be carried out in accordance with relevant laboratory requirements/procedures, which will be notified to the Player by the Competent Officials (and may be published on The Association's website).

7.5 For the avoidance of doubt, a Player will not be able to choose which type of Sample to provide, e.g., if a Player is requested to provide a urine sample, a urine sample must be provided.

8. Storage and Despatch of Samples

8.1 All Samples should be stored in a secure place pending despatch to the laboratory.

8.2 Samples should be sent to the laboratory as soon as is reasonably practicable.

9. Use of accredited laboratories

For purposes of establishing a Social Drugs Finding, Samples shall be analysed only by laboratories accredited to ISO/IEC 17025. Such laboratories shall be selected exclusively by The Association, or by any other body as may be designated by The Association.

10. The purpose of Sample analysis

Samples and related analytical data shall be analysed to detect the presence of Social Drugs or their Metabolite(s) or Marker(s). Samples may be collected and stored for future analysis.

11. Analysis of Samples

11.1 Laboratories shall analyse Samples and report results.

11.2 There shall be no limitation on the authority of a laboratory to conduct repeat or additional analysis on a Sample prior to the time The Association issues a charge pursuant to the Regulations asserting the results of analysis of the Sample as the basis for the charge. If after issuing such a charge The Association wishes to conduct additional analysis on that Sample, it may do so with the consent of the Player or with the approval of the Regulatory Commission, Appeal Board, or any other relevant hearing body.

11.3 Where The Association wishes to split an "A" or "B" Sample in order to use the first part of the split Sample for an "A" Sample analysis and the second part of the split Sample for confirmation, the laboratory shall undertake procedures to ensure the integrity of the Sample.

11.4 All Samples provided by Players for the purposes of Social Drugs are the property of The Association.

11.5 If at any stage any question, issue, or problem arises in relation to the Sample, the laboratory may conduct any further or other tests necessary to clarify or resolve the matter at issue. The results of such tests may be relied upon by The Association in any disciplinary proceedings.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

13 - EQUALITY POLICY

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION EQUALITY POLICY

The Association is responsible for setting the standards and values to apply throughout football at every level. Football is for everyone; it belongs to, and should be enjoyed by, anyone who wants to participate in it.

The aim of this Policy is to ensure that everyone is treated fairly and with respect and that The Association is equally accessible to all.

All Participants should abide and adhere to this Policy and to the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

The Association's commitment is to promote inclusion and to confront and eliminate discrimination whether by reason of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status or civil partnership, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability, pregnancy and maternity and to encourage equal opportunities.

This Policy is fully supported by the Board of The Association and the Director of Football Regulation and Administration is responsible for the implementation of this Policy.

The Association will ensure that it treats people fairly and with respect and that it will provide access and opportunities for all members of the community to take part in, and enjoy, its activities.

The Association will not tolerate harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying, abuse or victimisation of a Participant, which for the purposes of this Policy and the actions and sanction applicable is regarded as discrimination, whether physical or verbal. The Association will work to ensure that such behaviour is met with appropriate action in whatever context it occurs.

The Association commits itself to the immediate investigation of any allegation, when it is brought to their attention, of discrimination and where such is found to be the case, The Association will require that the practice stop and impose sanctions as appropriate.

The Association is committed to inclusion and anti-discrimination and raising awareness and educating, investigating concerns and applying relevant and proportionate sanctions, campaigning, achieving independently verified equality standards, widening diversity and representation and promoting diverse role models are all key actions to promote inclusion and eradicate discrimination within football.

July 2016

14 - FA POLICIES ON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND ADULTS AT RISK

The Affiliated English Football Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Adults policy can both be viewed via **TheFA.com - http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-1-footballs-safeguarding-framework**. This allows our policy to be updated as necessary and in line with relevant legislation and government guidance.

The Safeguarding Regulations should be read in conjunction with the Affiliated Football Safeguarding Children Policy as required.

The Safeguarding Adults at Risk Regulations should be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy as required.

15 - SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN REGULATIONS

PREAMBLE

This Preamble is provided for guidance. If there is any inconsistency between the Preamble and the operative parts of the Safeguarding Children Regulations below, the operative parts shall prevail.

As set out in The Association's Safeguarding Children Policy, The Association is committed to safeguarding children within football and has Case Management procedures in place to assess the risk of harm that individuals may pose to children in football.

In assessing that risk, children's welfare is the paramount consideration.

Towards this, The Association has the power under the Safeguarding Children Regulations to issue an order where any one or more of the following applies:

(i) The individual fails to comply with any part of The Association's Criminal Records Check (CRC) process;

(ii) The individual has been barred by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) from engaging in regulated activity relating to children;

(iii) The individual has been disqualified from working with children under the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000;

(iv) The individual is subject to any other restriction on their involvement with children not within (ii) or (iii) made pursuant to statute;

(v) The individual has been convicted of, or made the subject of a caution for, an "Offence" defined in Regulation 1.1; or

(vi) Following a risk assessment, The Association is satisfied that the individual poses or may pose a risk of harm to children; or

(vii) Following a risk assessment, The Association is satisfied that the individual is or was in a position of trust in relation to another person and has engaged in sexual activity and/or an inappropriate relationship with that person.

GENERAL

1 **1.1** In these Regulations:

"Case Manager" shall mean the individual from The Association appointed to manage a particular case.

"Offence" shall mean any one or more of the offences contained in the Schedules of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 and any other criminal offence which reasonably causes The Association to believe that the person accused of the offence poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children.

"position of trust" shall mean any position where an individual is in a relationship of trust with any person with responsibility and/or authority in relation to that person, and shall include without limitation those who care for, advise, supervise, train, coach, teach, instruct, manage, tutor, mentor, assess, develop, guide, treat or provide therapy to children and young people.

1.2 The Safeguarding Review Panel shall determine its own procedures save that in making findings of fact the test that the Safeguarding Review Panel shall apply shall be the civil standard of the balance of probability. Where a case is referred to the Safeguarding Review Panel pursuant to these Regulations it shall have the discretion to depart from the procedures set out in these Regulations where it considers it appropriate to do so.

1.3 The actions that may be taken under these Regulations by a Case Manager may also be taken by the Case Manager's nominee.

1.4 The Association may notify other parties of the terms of any order imposed under these Regulations where the Case Manager considers that such notification is appropriate in order to give effect to the terms of the order.

1.5 Where urgent cases arise under these Regulations the Chair of the Safeguarding Review Panel may exercise the functions and powers of the Case Manager and/or the Safeguarding Review Panel, as provided for by these Regulations, on an interim basis. An interim decision taken by the Chair of the Safeguarding Review Panel shall not be final until such time as it has been maintained by the Safeguarding Review Panel, which shall have the right to maintain, modify or make any other order as it considers appropriate in relation to the decision taken by the Chair of the Safeguarding Review Panel.

1.6 A Participant must immediately report to The Association any alleged incident, facts or matters regarding potential abuse or harm against a child, or any sexual offence against anyone (whether an adult or child). Any failure to do so may amount to Misconduct.

THE ASSOCIATION'S SAFEGUARDING PROCESS

2. Any person, regardless of their age, applying for or currently in such a position that The Association in its discretion considers relevant must comply with the requirements of The Association's Safeguarding process.

Such persons will include but not be limited to:

(i) Those in "Regulated Activity" as defined in Part V of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012. An individual will fall within the definition where:

(a) their duties include teaching, training, instructing, caring for, supervising or providing guidance or advice on wellbeing to Children or driving a vehicle (on behalf of an organisation) only for Children; and

(b) such duties happen frequently (e.g. once a week or more often) or intensively (e.g. on 4 or more days in a 30 day period, or overnight); and

(c) the individual carrying out any of the duties described in (a) and (b) above is unsupervised.

Any person falling within this Regulation 2(i) shall be referred to as a "Regulated Activity Person"; and

(ii) Those who would otherwise fall within the definition of a Regulated Activity Person but for the fact that their duties are supervised (a "Supervised Person").

The requirements of The Association's Safeguarding process are:

2.1 (a) In respect of a Regulated Activity Person, to obtain and provide to The Association a DBS Enhanced Criminal Records Check with Children's Barred List

(b) In respect of a Supervised Person, to obtain and provide to The Association a DBS Enhanced Criminal Records Check

2.2 To provide any such further detail, explanation or clarification of any part of the matters disclosed pursuant to Regulation 2.1 (a) or (b) above, as may be required by The Association;

2.3 To comply with any other request or requirement which may assist The Association in progressing or completing any investigation, risk assessment or other enquiry as part of the Safeguarding process;

2.4 Where required, to provide a reference or references that attest to their suitability to be involved in youth football. The spouse or partner of the person subject to this requirement cannot act as a referee for this purpose. Any reference provided by a spouse or partner will not be accepted; and

2.5 To comply with each of the requirements set out in Regulations 2.1 – 2.4 within any such time limit as The Association may stipulate.

2.6 To comply with any order imposed by the Safeguarding Review Panel.

Any person who fails to comply with any of the requirements set out in Regulation 2 shall be subject to an immediate suspension from football activity, on such terms and/or for such period as The Association may stipulate.

Where an individual is subject to a suspension under Regulation 2.6, that suspension will remain effective (and not subject to any review by The Association) until such time as:

(i) The individual successfully appeals against their suspension pursuant to Regulation 5; or

(ii) The individual complies with the requirements set out in Regulation 2 that resulted in their suspension.

Any requirement under this Regulation 2, or any suspension arising from any failure to comply with any of the requirements of this Regulation, shall apply whether or not a person withdraws their application or ceases to hold the relevant position at any time before, during or after the investigation, risk assessment or final order of the Safeguarding Review Panel.

INTERIM ORDERS

3. Upon receipt by The Association of:

3.1 Notification that an individual has been charged with an Offence;

3.2 Notification that an individual is the subject of an investigation by the Police, Children's Services or any other authority relating to an Offence; or

3.3 Any other information which causes The Association reasonably to believe that a person poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children,

The Association shall have the power to make any interim order including, but not limited to, issuing an interim suspension order suspending the individual from all or any specific football activity for such a period and on such terms and conditions as it considers appropriate. Interim orders shall be issued by the Case Manager, who shall provide the individual with written notification of the interim order, the reason(s) for its imposition and of the right of appeal pursuant to Regulation 5.

4. **4.1** In determining whether an order under Regulation 3 should be made, the Case Manager shall give consideration, inter alia, to the following factors:

4.1.1 Whether a child is or children are or may be at risk of harm;

4.1.2 Whether the matters are of a serious nature; and/or

4.1.3 Whether an order is necessary or desirable to allow the conduct of any investigation by The Association or any other authority or body to proceed unimpeded having regard to the need for any suspension order to be proportionate.

If the Association believes it requires further information from an individual in order to assess whether an order under Regulation 3 should be made and/or to properly assess the factors in Regulation 4.1, the Case Manager may request further information from that individual. Such information must be provided in accordance with the deadline set by the Case Manager.

4.2 The Case Manager will notify the individual in writing of the terms of any interim suspension order or other interim order.

5. An individual who is subject to an interim order under Regulation 3 or under Regulation 2.6 shall have the immediate right to appeal the interim order. The right to appeal may be exercised at any time during the period covered by the interim order. Where an individual exercises their right to appeal, they shall have no further right to appeal the interim order save for where, following a review under Regulation 11, the Safeguarding Review Panel makes a material and more onerous change to the interim order (either by way of modification of the original interim order or by making another order).

6. Appeals under Regulation 5 shall be considered by the Safeguarding Review Panel.

7. To bring an appeal under Regulation 5, the individual as the appellant, must give notice in writing to The FA Judicial Services Department with a copy sent to the Case Manager. The notice must request an appeal and state the grounds for that appeal. The appellant may submit any written material in support of the appeal. Such material must be submitted to The Association, as the respondent, and the Safeguarding Review Panel within 14 business days of giving such notice or it may not be considered by the Safeguarding Review Panel. Following the earliest of (a) receipt by The Association of any such material in support of the appeal, (b) the end of the 14 business days period to provide such material, or (c) receipt of confirmation from appellant that no such material will be provided, The Association, as the respondent, may submit any material which it relies on, to the appellant and the Safeguarding Review Panel within 14 business days thereafter.

8. The Safeguarding Review Panel shall determine all procedural matters for the conduct of the appeal, including requiring more information from either the appellant or the respondent. Unless the Safeguarding Review Panel in its discretion exceptionally allows the appellant and the respondent to address it in person, the Safeguarding Review Panel shall only consider the written material submitted by the appellant in support of the appeal, together with any written material submitted by the respondent. In exercising its discretion as to whether exceptionally to allow the individual and the Case Manager to address it in person (whether through a representative or otherwise), whether that be as a result of the application made by the appellant or otherwise, the Safeguarding Review Panel shall give consideration to the following reasons (which is not an exhaustive list):

8.1 Whether the terms of any order under consideration would affect the individual's paid employment within football, in which case, the appellant shall be entitled to address the Safeguarding Review Panel in person; and/or

8.2 Whether exceptional material is put before the Safeguarding Review Panel.

9. In determining an appeal, the Safeguarding Review Panel shall have the power to make any order in relation to the interim order as it considers appropriate, including maintaining, modifying or removing it.

10. Any appeal under Regulation 5 shall be determined by the Safeguarding Review Panel at the earliest opportunity, following the receipt of notice in writing and any written material in support of the appeal from the appellant and written material submitted by the respondent (and, in cases where the individual and Case Manager were permitted to address it in person, following any oral hearing).

11. An individual who is subject to an interim order is entitled to request a review of the interim order at the first opportunity following the expiry of 6 months from the date of the order being imposed or, if that order has been appealed under Regulation 5, the date upon which that appeal is determined (whether on the written papers or following an oral hearing), and at the same interval thereafter. An individual who wishes to exercise their right to review must notify the Case Manager in writing whereupon the matter will be referred to a Safeguarding Review Panel. The Safeguarding Review Panel will not review an interim order before the expiry of the relevant 6 month period except in exceptional circumstances and/or where there is a material change in the circumstances in which the order was made. Any review under Regulation 11 shall not be considered by the Safeguarding Review Panel which conducted an appeal in the same case under Regulation 5. The Safeguarding Review Panel may maintain, modify, or remove any interim order, or make any other order it considers appropriate. Where an individual is subject to ongoing criminal proceedings relating to the matter(s) which gave rise to the interim order the interim order will last for the length of the criminal proceedings at least, unless the individual is able to demonstrate why that should not be the position on the facts of their individual case. This does not affect the individual's right to review in accordance with Regulation 11.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

12. The total period of an interim order under Regulation 3 shall not last beyond the final determination of any related case under the Rules of the Association. Where an interim order is imposed on an individual under Regulation 3 above, The Association shall bring and conclude any proceedings under the Rules of The Association against the person relating to the matters as soon as reasonably practicable.

DETERMINATION FOLLOWING ANY ORDER MADE PURSUANT TO STATUTE BARRING OR RESTRICTING INVOLVEMENT WITH CHILDREN

13. **13.1** Where any individual is:

13.1.1 Barred from regulated activity relating to children in accordance with section 3 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (as may be amended);

13.1.2 Disqualified from working with children in accordance with section 35 of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000; and/or

13.1.3 Subject to any other order, not within Regulations 13.1.1 or 13.1.2, issued pursuant to statute restricting their involvement with children,

The Association shall have the power to make any order, including but not limited to an order that any individual be suspended from all or any specific football activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as it considers appropriate. Any such order shall be issued by the Case Manager.

13.2 All such orders shall be reviewed at the next meeting of the Safeguarding Review Panel. The Safeguarding Review Panel may maintain, modify or remove any such order, or make any other order as it considers appropriate.

ORDER FOLLOWING CONVICTION OR CAUTION

14. **14.1** Where the Case Manager becomes aware that an individual has a caution or conviction which leads to a concern about that individual's continued participation in football activity involving a child or children, the Case Manager may refer a case to the Safeguarding Review Panel in order to seek an order under Regulation 14.

14.2 The Association's Safeguarding Review Panel shall have the power to make any order in respect of any individual convicted of, or made the subject of a caution in respect of, an Offence, including but not limited to a suspension from all or any specific football activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as it considers appropriate.

OTHER ORDERS

15. In addition to The Association's powers under Regulations 2.6, 3, and 13, where the Case Manager has reasonable cause to suspect that there are grounds for concern about an individual's continued participation in football activity involving a child or children, the Case Manager may refer a case to the Safeguarding Review Panel in order to seek an order under Regulation 15.

Following such a referral, the Safeguarding Review Panel shall have the power to make any order that it considers appropriate, including but not limited to an order that any individual be suspended from all or any specific football activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as it considers appropriate, if it is satisfied that the individual poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children and/or that the individual is or was in a position of trust in relation to any person and has engaged in sexual activity and/or an inappropriate relationship with that person.

RISK ASSESSMENTS

16. The Case Manager may conduct a risk assessment of an individual's participation in football following any order or referral made under Regulation 13, 14 or 15. This risk assessment may be in such form and prepared by any person, as the Case Manager, at their discretion, considers appropriate.

PROCEDURE

17. Before an order or referral is made under Regulation 13, 14 or 15, the Case Manager must use reasonable endeavours to notify the individual in writing. Such written notification must explain the order sought and the reason for it, and include a copy of the risk assessment and all other written material that the Case Manager intends to rely upon in seeking the order, save for any exceptional material dealt with under Regulation 24.

18. The individual shall have 14 days to reply to this notification and to provide any written material that they wish the Safeguarding Review Panel to take into account in considering whether or not to impose, maintain, modify or remove any order under Regulation 13, 14 or 15.

19. Following the receipt of the reply and/or other written material from the individual, or the expiry of the 14 day period if no reply is received, the Case Manager may:

19.1 Decide that no further action is currently required as there are no longer grounds for an order or referral under Regulation 13, 14 or 15;

19.2 Make any such further inquiries as they consider appropriate in light of any matters raised by the individual in response to the written notification; or

19.3 Refer the case to the Safeguarding Review Panel.

20. Where further inquiries are made by the Case Manager, any written material arising from those inquiries may only be relied on by the Case Manager if that written material has been sent to the individual and they have had 14 days to reply to it, save for any exceptional material dealt with under Regulation 24. If the written material is relied upon, any response by the individual must also be considered by the Safeguarding Review Panel.

21. A Safeguarding Review Panel may issue such further order, requirement, or instruction as it considers appropriate for the purpose of giving effect to its decision.

22. The Safeguarding Review Panel shall determine all procedural matters for the conduct of a case it is considering under Regulation 13, 14 or 15. Unless the Safeguarding Review Panel in its discretion exceptionally allows the individual and the Case Manager (and/or a representative of either) to address it in person, the case shall be considered on the basis of the following written material only:

22.1 The written notification and all written material provided with it by the Case Manager to the individual;

22.2 The reply, if any, and all other written material submitted by the individual in response to the written notification;

22.3 Any further written material provided by the Case Manager to the individual subsequently to the written notification; and

22.4 Any response from the individual to such further written material and all other written material submitted with that response.

23. In exercising its discretion as to whether exceptionally to allow the individual and the Case Manager to address it in person, whether that be as a result of an application made by either party or otherwise, the Safeguarding Review Panel shall give consideration, inter alia, to the following factors:

23.1 Whether the terms of any order under consideration would affect the individual's paid employment within football in which case the individual shall be entitled to address the Safeguarding Review Panel in person;

23.2 Whether exceptional material is to be put before the Safeguarding Review Panel; and/or

23.3 Whether an oral hearing has previously been conducted pursuant to Regulation 10 in relation to the same matter.

COSTS ORDERS

24. Save where otherwise provided, any costs incurred in referring a matter to a Safeguarding Review Panel, or responding to that referral, will be borne by the party incurring the costs.

EXCEPTIONAL MATERIAL

25. **25.1** In considering an interim order under Regulation 5, a review of any interim order under Regulation 11, or whether or not to make any order under Regulation 15, as a general rule the Safeguarding Review Panel may not consider any material provided by either the Case Manager or the individual which the other party has not seen and had a reasonable opportunity to reply to.

25.2 Exceptionally, in respect of any of the matters set out at Regulation 25.1, the Case Manager may make an application to an Exceptional Material Panel for permission to submit material to the Safeguarding Review Panel that has not been sent to the individual ("exceptional material"), where the Case Manager considers that the exceptional material concerned should not be sent to the individual for any one or more of the following reasons:–

25.2.1 Revealing it to the individual may create a risk of harm to any person or persons, and/or

25.2.2 Revealing it to the individual may amount to a criminal offence or otherwise be unlawful.

25.3 Where the Case Manager makes an application to an Exceptional Material Panel for permission to submit exceptional material to the Safeguarding Review Panel under Regulation 25.2 above, the Case Manager shall give notice of the application to the individual in writing at least fourteen days before the Exceptional Material Panel considers the application, unless the Case Manager considers that such written notice should not be given, as to give such notice may in itself:

25.3.1 Create a risk of harm to any person or persons; and/or

25.3.2 Amount to a criminal offence or otherwise be unlawful.

25.4 Any reply by an individual to a notice referred to in Regulation 25.3 must be passed to the Exceptional Material Panel for consideration.

25.5 The Exceptional Material Panel may, at its discretion, allow or reject the application in whole or in part.

25.6 In the event that the Exceptional Material Panel grants an order allowing the exceptional material to be submitted to the Safeguarding Review Panel, the Exceptional Material Panel shall give consideration as to whether either or both of the following may be provided to the individual:

25.6.1 A redacted version of the exceptional material; and/or

25.6.2 A summary of the exceptional material.

25.7 An Exceptional Material Panel shall be made up of one or more of the members of the Safeguarding Review Panel. A person that sits on an Exceptional Material Panel determining an application under Regulation 25.2 in relation to a particular individual may not be a member of the Safeguarding Review Panel that will have conduct of the case referred under Regulation 15 in relation to that individual.

SUPERVISION ORDERS

26. Unless otherwise discharged, a Supervision Order will last for the length of time ordered by the Panel. Before its expiry, The Association may apply for an extension, or further extensions, for a period not exceeding 3 years from the date of the first order.

DISCRETION TO REFER TO THE SAFEGUARDING REVIEW PANEL

27. Any of the powers and/or case management functions exercised by a Case Manager under these Regulations may instead be exercised by the Safeguarding Review Panel if the Case Manager, in their sole discretion, determines that the matter should be referred to the Safeguarding Review Panel ("a general referral"). The Case Manager shall make a general referral to the Safeguarding Review Panel where the facts and circumstances of a case are exceptional and/or of significant public interest, though the Case Manager's discretion to make a general referral will not be limited to such cases.

28. Where the Case Manager makes a general referral to the Safeguarding Review Panel, the same rights of review and appeal arise as if the decision of the Safeguarding Review Panel had been made by the Case Manager. Any review or appeal of the decisions of the latter will be heard by a Safeguarding Review Panel, none of the members of which shall have been a member of the Safeguarding Review Panel which was involved in any earlier decision on that case.

RIGHT OF APPEAL

29.

29.1 The individual or The Association may appeal to an Appeal Board any decision of the Safeguarding Review Panel made under Regulations 13.1.3, 14 or 15. Subject to Regulation 29.3 and 29.4, such appeals shall be conducted in accordance with Part C: Appeals Non-Fast-Track of the Disciplinary Regulations ("Appeal Regulations"). Subject to this right of appeal, decisions of the Safeguarding Review Panel shall be final and binding.

29.2 Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in the Appeal Regulations, an Appeal Board convened to hear an appeal pursuant to Regulation 29.1 shall take place as a full rehearing of the case.

29.3 Paragraph 10 of the Appeal Regulations shall be replaced with the following: "The Appeal Board shall hear new evidence only where it has given leave that it may be presented. An application for leave to present new evidence must be made in the Notice of Appeal or the Response. Such application must set out the nature and the relevance of the new evidence, and why it was not presented at the original hearing. The Appeal Board shall not grant leave to present new evidence unless satisfied with the reason given as to why it was not, or could not have been, presented at the original hearing and that such evidence is relevant. The Appeal Board's decision shall be final. Where leave to present new evidence has been granted, in all cases the other party will be given an opportunity to respond".

29.4 Any decision of the Appeal Board shall be final and binding with no further right of appeal.

WRITTEN MATERIAL

30. For the purposes of these Regulations, "written material" may include photographic, video, electronic and/or audio evidence.

16 - SAFEGUARDING ADULTS AT RISK REGULATIONS

PREAMBLE

This Preamble is provided for guidance. If there is any inconsistency between the Preamble and the operative parts of the Safeguarding Adults at Risk Regulations below, the operative parts shall prevail.

As set out in The Association's Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy, The Association is committed to safeguarding Adults at Risk within football and has Case Management procedures in place to assess the risk of harm that individuals may pose to Adults at Risk in football.

In assessing that risk, the welfare of Adults at Risk is the paramount consideration. Towards this, The Association has the power under the Safeguarding Adults at Risk Regulations to issue an order where any one or more of the following applies:

(i) The individual fails to comply with any part of The Association's Criminal Records Check (CRC) process;

(ii) The individual has been barred by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) from engaging in regulated activity relating to Adults at Risk;

(iii) The individual is included on the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Adults Barred List;

(iv) The individual has been convicted of, or made the subject of a caution for, an "Offence" defined in Regulation 1.1;

(v) Following a risk assessment, The Association is satisfied that the individual poses or may pose a risk of harm to Adults at Risk; or

(vi) Following a risk assessment, The Association is satisfied that the individual is or was in a position of trust in relation to another person and has engaged in sexual activity and/or an inappropriate relationship with that person.

GENERAL

1. **1.1** In these Regulations:

"Case Manager" shall mean the individual from The Association appointed to manage a particular case.

"Offence" shall mean any one or more of the offences contained in the Schedules of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 and any other criminal offence which reasonably causes The Association to believe that the person accused of the offence poses or may pose a risk of harm to an Adult at Risk; and

"position of trust" shall mean any position where an individual is in a relationship of trust with any person with responsibility and/or authority in relation to that person and shall include without limitation those who care for, advise, supervise, train, coach, instruct, teach, manage, tutor, mentor, assess, develop, guide, treat or provide therapy to Adults at Risk.

1.2 The Safeguarding Review Panel shall determine its own procedures save that in making findings of fact the test that the Safeguarding Review Panel shall apply shall be the civil standard of the balance of probability. Where a case is referred to the Safeguarding Review Panel pursuant to these Regulations it shall have the discretion to depart from the procedures set out in these Regulations where it considers it appropriate to do so.

1.3 The actions that may be taken under these Regulations by a Case Manager may also be taken by the Case Manager's nominee.

1.4 The Association may notify other parties of the terms of any order imposed under these Regulations where the Case Manager considers that such notification is appropriate in order to give effect to the terms of the order.

1.5 Where urgent cases arise under these Regulations the Chair of the Safeguarding Review Panel may exercise the functions and powers of the Case Manager and/or the Safeguarding Review Panel as provided for by these Regulations, on an interim basis. An interim decision taken by the Chair of the Safeguarding Review Panel shall not be final until such time as it has been maintained by the Safeguarding Review Panel, which shall have the right to maintain, modify or make any other order as it considers appropriate in relation to the decision taken by the Chair of the Safeguarding Review Panel.

1.6 A Participant must immediately report to the Association, any alleged incident, facts or matters regarding potential abuse or harm against an Adult at Risk, or any sexual offence against anyone (whether an Adult at Risk or not). A failure to do so may amount to Misconduct.

2. For these purposes, the term Adult at Risk or Adults at Risk means any person who falls within any one or more of the following:

2.1 Section 42 of The Care Act 2014;

2.2 Section 59 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 as amended by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012; and

2.3 any adult who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental health issues, learning or physical disability, sensory impairment, age or illness and who is or may be unable to take care of themselves or unable to protect themselves against significant harm or serious exploitation.

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS AT RISK PROCESS

3. Any person, regardless of their age, applying for or currently in such positions that The Association in its discretion considers relevant whose duties include regularly caring for, training, supervising, administering treatment and/or therapy or medical treatment to an Adult at Risk may be required by The Association to comply with the requirements of The Association's Safeguarding Adults at Risk process. These requirements are:

3.1 To obtain and provide to The Association a DBS Enhanced Criminal Records Check (to include the Adults Barred List check where the duties fall within the definition of "Regulated Activity" under the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012) or to obtain and provide to The Association a DBS Enhanced Criminal Records Check without a check of the adults barred list where the duties do not fall within the definition of "Regulated Activity" under the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 or other DBS check according to role.

3.2 To provide any such further detail, explanation or clarification of any part of the matters disclosed pursuant to Regulation 3.1 above as may be required by The Association;

3.3 Where required, to provide a reference or references that attest to their suitability to be involved in football involving Adults at Risk. The spouse or partner of the person subject to this requirement cannot act as a referee for this purpose. Any reference provided by a spouse or partner will not be accepted; and

3.4 To comply with each of the requirements set out in Regulations 3.1-3.4 within any such time limit as The Association may stipulate.

3.5 To comply with any order imposed by the Safeguarding Review Panel.

Any person who fails to comply with any of the requirements set out in Regulation 3 shall be subject to an immediate suspension from football activity, on such terms and/or for such period as The Association may stipulate.

Where an individual is subject to a suspension under Regulation 3.5, that suspension will remain effective (and not subject to any review by The Association) until such time as:

(i) The individual successfully appeals against their suspension pursuant to Regulation 6; or

(ii) The individual complies with the requirements set out in Regulation 3 that resulted in their suspension.

Any requirement under this Regulation 3, or any suspension arising from any failure to comply with any requirement of this Regulation, shall apply whether or not a person withdraws their application or ceases to hold the relevant position at any time before, during or after the investigation, risk assessment or final order of the Safeguarding Review Panel.

INTERIM ORDERS

4. Upon receipt by The Association of:

4.1 Notification that an individual has been charged with an Offence;

4.2 Notification that an individual is the subject of an investigation by the Police or any other authority relating to an Offence; or

4.3 Any other information which causes The Association reasonably to believe that a person poses or may pose a risk of harm to an Adult at Risk, The Association shall have the power to make any interim order including, but not limited to, issuing an interim suspension order suspending the individual from all or any specific football activity for such a period and on such terms and conditions as it considers appropriate. Interim orders shall be issued by the Case Manager, who shall provide the individual with written notification of the interim order, the reason(s) for its imposition and of the right of appeal pursuant to Regulation 7.

5. **5.1** In determining whether an order under Regulation 4 should be made, the Case Manager shall give consideration, inter alia, to the following factors:

5.1.1 Whether Adults at Risk may be at risk of harm from the individual

5.1.2 Whether the matters are of a serious nature; and/or

5.1.3 Whether an order is necessary or desirable to allow the conduct of any investigation by The Association or any other authority or body to proceed unimpeded having regard to the need for any suspension order to be proportionate.

If the Association believes it requires further information from an individual in order to assess whether an order under Regulation 4 should be made and/or to properly assess the factors in Regulation 5.1, the Case Manager may request further information from that individual. Such information must be provided in accordance with the deadline set by the Case Manager.

5.2 The Case Manager will notify the individual in writing of the terms of any interim suspension order or other interim order.

6. An individual who is subject to an interim order under Regulation 4 or under Regulation 3.6 shall have the immediate right to appeal the interim order. The right to appeal may be exercised at any time during the period covered by the interim order. Where an individual exercises their right to appeal, they shall have no further right to appeal the interim order save for where, following a review under Regulation 12, the Safeguarding Review Panel makes a material and more onerous change to the interim order (either by way of modification of the original interim order or by making another order).

7. Appeals under Regulation 6 shall be considered by the Safeguarding Review Panel.

8. To bring an appeal under Regulation 6, the individual as the appellant, must give notice in writing to The FA Judicial Services Department with a copy sent to the Case Manager. The notice must request an appeal and state the grounds for that appeal. The appellant may submit any written material in support of the appeal. Such material must be submitted to The Association, as the respondent, and the Safeguarding Review Panel within 14 business days of giving such notice or it may not be considered by the Safeguarding Review Panel. Following the earliest of (a) receipt by The Association of any such material in support of the appeal, (b) the end of the 14 business day period to provide such material, or (c) receipt of confirmation from the appellant that no such material will be provided, The Association, as the respondent, may submit any material which it relies on, to the appellant and the Safeguarding Review Panel within 14 business days thereafter.

9. The Safeguarding Review Panel shall determine all procedural matters for the conduct of the appeal, including requiring more information from either the appellant or the respondent. Unless the Safeguarding Review Panel in its discretion exceptionally allows the appellant and the respondent to address it in person, the Safeguarding Review Panel shall only consider the written material submitted by the appellant in support of the appeal, together with any written material submitted by the respondent. In exercising its discretion as to whether exceptionally to allow the individual and the Case Manager to address it in person (whether through a representative or otherwise), whether that be as a result of the application made by the appellant or otherwise, the Safeguarding Review Panel shall give consideration to the following reasons (which is not an exhaustive list):

9.1 Whether the terms of any order under consideration would affect the individual's paid employment within football, in which case, the appellant shall be entitled to address the Safeguarding Review Panel in person; and/or

9.2 Whether exceptional material is put before the Safeguarding Review Panel.

10. In determining an appeal, the Safeguarding Review Panel shall have the power to make any order in relation to the interim order as it considers appropriate, including maintaining, modifying or removing it.

11. Any appeal under Regulation 6 shall be determined by the Safeguarding Review Panel at the earliest opportunity, following the receipt of notice in writing and any written material in support of the appeal from the appellant and written material submitted by the respondent (and, in cases where the individual and Case Manager were permitted to address it in person, following any oral hearing).

12. An individual who is subject to an interim order is entitled to request a review of the interim order at the first opportunity following the expiry of 6 months from the date of the order being imposed or, if that order has been appealed under Regulation 6, the date upon which that appeal is determined (whether on the written papers or following an oral hearing), and at the same interval thereafter. An individual who wishes to exercise their right to review must notify the Case Manager in writing whereupon the matter will be referred to a Safeguarding Review Panel. The Safeguarding Review Panel will not review an interim order before the expiry of the relevant 6 month period except in exceptional circumstances and/or where there is a material change in the circumstances in which the order was made. Any review under Regulation 12 shall not be considered by the Safeguarding Review Panel which conducted an appeal in the same case under Regulation 6. The Safeguarding Review Panel may maintain, modify, or remove any interim order, or make any other order it considers appropriate. Where an individual is subject to ongoing criminal proceedings relating to the matter(s) which gave rise to the interim order the interim order will last for the length of the criminal proceedings at least, unless the individual is able to demonstrate why that should not be the position on the facts of their individual case. This does not affect the individual's right to review in accordance with Regulation 12.

13. The total period of an interim order under Regulation 4 shall not last beyond the final determination of any related case under the Rules of the Association. Where an interim order is imposed on an individual under Regulation 4 above, The Association shall bring and conclude any proceedings under the Rules of The Association against the person relating to the matters as soon as reasonably practicable.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

DETERMINATION FOLLOWING ANY ORDER MADE PURSUANT TO STATUTE BARRING OR RESTRICTING INVOLVEMENT WITH ADULTS AT RISK

14. **14.1** Where any individual is:

14.1.1 Barred from regulated activity relating to Adults at Risk;

14.1.2 Included in the list of individuals considered unsuitable to work with Adults at Risk, as kept by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS); and/or

14.1.3 Subject to any other order, not within Regulation 14.1.1 or 14.1.2, issued pursuant to statute restricting their involvement with Adults at Risk,

The Association shall have the power to make any order, including but not limited to an order that any individual be suspended from all or any specific football activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as it considers appropriate. Any such order shall be issued by the Case Manager.

14.2 All such orders shall be reviewed at the next meeting of the Safeguarding Review Panel. The Safeguarding Review Panel may maintain, modify or remove any such order, or make any other order as it considers appropriate.

ORDER FOLLOWING CONVICTION OR CAUTION

15. **15.1** Where the Case Manager becomes aware that an individual has a caution or conviction which leads to a concern about that individual's continued participation in football activity involving a child or children, the Case Manager may refer a case to the Safeguarding Review Panel in order to seek an order under Regulation 15.

15.2 The Association's Safeguarding Review Panel shall have the power to make any order in respect of any individual convicted of, or made the subject of a caution in respect of, an Offence, including but not limited to a suspension from all or any specific football activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as it considers appropriate.

OTHER ORDERS

16. In addition to The Association's powers under Regulations 3.6, 4, and 14, where the Case Manager has reasonable cause to suspect that there are grounds for concern about an individual's continued participation in football activity involving Adults at risk, the Case Manager may refer a case to the Safeguarding Review Panel in order to seek an order under Regulation 16.

Following such a referral, the Safeguarding Review Panel shall have the power to make any order that it considers appropriate, including but not limited to an order that any individual be suspended from all or any specific football activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as it considers appropriate, if it is satisfied that the individual poses or may pose a risk of harm to Adults at Risk and/or that the individual is or was in a position of trust in relation to any person and has engaged in sexual activity and/or an inappropriate relationship with that person.

RISK ASSESSMENTS

17. The Case Manager may conduct a risk assessment of an individual's participation in football following an order or referral made under Regulation 14, 15 or 16. This risk assessment may be in such form and prepared by any person, as the Case Manager at their discretion, considers appropriate.

PROCEDURE

18. Before an order or referral is made under Regulation 14, 15 or 16, the Case Manager must use reasonable endeavours to notify the individual in writing. Such written notification must explain the order sought and the reason for it, and include a copy of the risk assessment and all other written material that the Case Manager intends to rely upon in seeking the order, save for any exceptional material dealt with under Regulation 24.

19. The individual shall have 14 days to reply to this notification and to provide any written material that they wish the Safeguarding Review Panel to take into account in considering whether or not to impose, maintain, modify or remove any order under Regulation 14, 15 or 16.

20. Following the receipt of the reply and/or written material from the individual, or the expiry of the 14 day period if no reply is received, the Case Manager may:

20.1 Decide that no further action is currently required as there are no longer grounds for an order or referral under Regulation 14, 15, or 16;

20.2 Make any such further inquiries as they consider appropriate in light of any matters raised by the individual in response to the written notification; or

20.3 Refer the case to the Safeguarding Review Panel.

21. Where further inquiries are made by the Case Manager, any written material arising from those inquiries may only be relied on by the Case Manager if that written material has been sent to the individual and they have had 14 days to reply to it, save for any exceptional material dealt with under Regulation 24. If the written material is relied upon, any response by the individual must also be considered by the Safeguarding Review Panel.

22. A Safeguarding Review Panel may issue such further order, requirement, or instruction as it considers appropriate for the purpose of giving effect to its decision.

23. The Safeguarding Review Panel shall determine all procedural matters for the conduct of a case it is considering under Regulation 14, 15 or 16. Unless the Safeguarding Review Panel in its discretion exceptionally allows the individual and the Case Manager (and/or a representative of either) to address it in person, the case shall be considered on the basis of the following written material only:

23.1 The written notification and all written material provided with it by the Case Manager to the individual;

23.2 The reply, if any, and all other written material submitted by the individual in response to the written notification;

23.3 Any further written material provided by the Case Manager to the individual subsequently to the written notification; and

23.4 Any response from the individual to such further written material and all other written material submitted with that response.

24. In exercising its discretion as to whether exceptionally to allow the individual and the Case Manager to address it in person, whether that be as a result of an application made by either party or otherwise, the Safeguarding Review Panel shall give consideration, inter alia, to the following factors:

24.1 Whether the terms of any order under consideration would affect the individual's paid employment within football in which case the individual shall be entitled to address the Safeguarding Review Panel in person;

24.2 Whether exceptional material is to be put before the Safeguarding Review Panel; and/or

24.3 Whether an oral hearing has previously been conducted pursuant to Regulation 10 in relation to the same matter.

COSTS ORDERS

25. Save where otherwise provided, any costs incurred in referring a matter to a Safeguarding Review Panel, or responding to that referral, will be borne by the party incurring the costs.

EXCEPTIONAL MATERIAL

26. **26.1** In considering an interim order under Regulation 6, a review of any interim order under Regulation 12, or whether or not to make any order under Regulation 16, as a general rule the Safeguarding Review Panel may not consider any material provided by either the Case Manager or the individual which the other party has not seen and had a reasonable opportunity to reply to.

26.2 Exceptionally, in respect of any of the matters set out at Regulation 26.1, the Case Manager may make an application to an Exceptional Material Panel for permission to submit material to the Safeguarding Review Panel that has not been sent to the individual ("exceptional material"), where the Case Manager considers that the exceptional material concerned should not be sent to the individual for any one or more of the following reasons:

26.2.1 Revealing it to the individual may create a risk of harm to any person or persons, and/or

26.2.2 Revealing it to the individual may amount to a criminal offence or otherwise be unlawful.

26.3 Where the Case Manager makes an application to an Exceptional Material Panel for permission to submit exceptional material to the Safeguarding Review Panel under Regulation 26.2, the Case Manager shall give notice of the application to the individual in writing at least fourteen days before the Exceptional Material Panel considers the application, unless the Case Manager considers that such written notice should not be given, as to give such notice may in itself:

26.3.1 Create a risk of harm to any person or persons; and/or

26.3.2 Amount to a criminal offence or otherwise be unlawful.

26.4 Any reply by an individual to a notice referred to in Regulation 26.3 must be passed to the Exceptional Material Panel for consideration.

26.5 The Exceptional Material Panel may, at its discretion, allow or reject the application in whole or in part.

26.6 In the event that the Exceptional Material Panel grants an order allowing the exceptional material to be submitted to the Safeguarding Review Panel, the Exceptional Material Panel shall give consideration as to whether either or both of the following may be provided to the individual:

26.6.1 A redacted version of the exceptional material; and/or,

26.6.2 A summary of the exceptional material.

26.7 An Exceptional Material Panel shall be made up of one or more of the members of the Safeguarding Review Panel. A person that sits on an Exceptional Material Panel determining an application under Regulation 24.2 in relation to a particular individual may not be a member of the Safeguarding Review Panel that will have conduct of the case referred under Regulation 16 in relation to that individual.

OTHER ORDERS AVAILABLE FOLLOWING RISK ASSESSMENT

27. Following a referral under Regulation 16, in addition to its ability to make an order under Regulation 16, the Safeguarding Review Panel may make any other order consistent with the aims of the Adults at Risk Policy that it considers appropriate in the circumstances.

SUPERVISION ORDERS

28. Unless otherwise discharged, a Supervision Order will last for the length of time ordered by the Panel. Before its expiry, The Association may apply for an extension, or further extensions, for a period not exceeding 3 years from the date of the first order.

DISCRETION TO REFER TO THE SAFEGUARDING REVIEW PANEL

29. Any of the powers and/or case management functions exercised by a Case Manager under these Regulations may instead be exercised by the Safeguarding Review Panel if the Case Manager, in their sole discretion, determines that the matter should be referred to the Safeguarding Review Panel ("a general referral"). The Case Manager shall make a general referral to the Safeguarding Review Panel where the facts and circumstances of a case are exceptional and/or of significant public interest, though the Case Manager's discretion to make a general referral will not be limited to such cases.

30. Where the Case Manager makes a general referral to the Safeguarding Review Panel, the same rights of review and appeal arise as if the decision of the Safeguarding Review Panel had been made by the Case Manager. Any review or appeal of the decisions of the latter will be heard by a Safeguarding Review Panel, none of the members of which shall have been a member of the Safeguarding Review Panel which was involved in any earlier decision on that case.

RIGHT OF APPEAL

31.

31.1 The individual or The Association may appeal to an Appeal Board any decision of the Safeguarding Review Panel made under Regulations 14.1.3, 15 or 16. Subject to Regulation 31.3 and 31.4, such appeals shall be conducted in accordance with Part C: Appeals Non-Fast-Track of the Disciplinary Regulations (the "Appeal Regulations"). Subject to this right of appeal, decisions of the Safeguarding Review Panel shall be final and binding.

31.2 Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in the Appeal Regulations, an Appeal Board convened to hear an appeal pursuant to Regulation 31.1 shall take place as a full rehearing of the case.

31.3 Paragraph 10 of the Appeal Regulations shall be replaced with the following: The Appeal Board shall hear new evidence only where it has given leave that it may be presented. An application for leave to present new evidence must be made in the Notice of Appeal or the Response. Such application must set out the nature and the relevance of the new evidence, and why it was not presented at the original hearing. The Appeal Board shall not grant leave to present new evidence unless satisfied with the reason given as to why it was not, or could not have been, presented at the original hearing and that such evidence is relevant. The Appeal Board's decision shall be final. Where leave to present new evidence has been granted, in all cases the other party will be given an opportunity to respond.

31.4 Any decision of the Appeal Board shall be final and binding with no further right of appeal.

WRITTEN MATERIAL

32. For the purposes of these Regulations, "written material" may include photographic, video, electronic and/or audio evidence.

17 - FOOTBALL AGENT REGULATIONS

Introduction and Interpretation

These Regulations are made in accordance with Rule J and are binding on all Participants.

A number of provisions of these Regulations are temporarily suspended. The suspended provisions primarily arise out of the recommendation made by FIFA for National Associations to suspend the application and enforcement of certain provisions of the FFAR (see FIFA Circular 1873, dated 30 December 2023). The suspended provisions are shaded in grey. Where a provision is partially shaded in grey, only the shaded wording is subject to the temporary suspension. For the avoidance of doubt, any provision that is not shaded in grey is effective.

Unless otherwise stated, definitions are as set out in Rule A of The Association's Rules and Appendix I of these Regulations.

These Regulations came into force on 1 June 2026.

TITLE I. GENERAL RULES

1. SCOPE

1.1 These Regulations govern the occupation of Football Agents and FA Registered Football Agents within the territory under the jurisdiction of The Association and apply to:

a) any conduct or activity connected to a National Transaction;

b) any conduct or activity connected to a Representation Agreement with a Club;

c) Football Agent Services for or on behalf of a Club;

d) any conduct or activity connected to a Representation Agreement with a Player or Coach (save where that Representation Agreement solely governs Football Agent Services related to a Specified International Transaction);

e) Football Agent Services for or on behalf of a player or coach in respect of a National Transaction;

f) Approaches made in respect of Players, Coaches and Clubs to enter into a Representation Agreement and/or for the provision of Football Agent Services;

g) Approaches made in respect of Minors to enter into a Representation Agreement and/or for the provision of Football Agent Services; and

h) Approaches made by or on behalf of Football Agents/FA Registered Football Agents in respect of Minors in relation to Other Services.

TITLE II. REGISTRATION WITH THE FA

2. REGISTRATION

2.1 Before carrying out any conduct or activity that falls within the scope of these Regulations as set out in Regulation 1.1, a Football Agent must first register with The Association to become an FA Registered Football Agent in accordance with the FA Registration Requirements.

Guidance

There does not need to be any impending Transaction for a Football Agent to register with The Association.

2.2 To register with The Association, a Football Agent must (i) hold a FIFA Licence; and (ii) complete in full and submit to The Association the relevant registration documentation, in the form prescribed by The Association from time to time.

2.3 Upon satisfactory completion and receipt of the registration documentation, The Association shall issue written confirmation of registration to the FA Registered Football Agent and shall publish such FA Registered Football Agent's name in such manner as The Association considers appropriate.

2.4 An FA Registered Football Agent's registration with The Association shall constitute an enforceable undertaking by the FA Registered Football Agent to act in accordance with the Rules and regulations of The Association (including these Regulations).

2.5 Subject to the suspension or withdrawal of a registration (including where so ordered by a Regulatory Commission or Appeal Board and/or pursuant to Regulation 2.9 or 2.10), an FA Registered Football Agent's registration with The Association shall last indefinitely.

2.6 An FA Registered Football Agent must procure that their Agency complies with any requirement of The Association pursuant to its Rules and regulations (including these Regulations).

2.7 For as long as an FA Registered Football Agent remains registered with The Association, they will be entitled to use the following designation, and no variation thereof, after their name in business relations: "FA Registered Football Agent". An FA Registered Football Agent shall not be entitled to hold themself out as having any connection with The Association other than this designation (for the avoidance of doubt, the usage of The Association's crest by the FA Registered Football Agent is prohibited).

2.8 If the FA Registered Football Agent is issued with a Digital ID, the FA Registered Football Agent must present the Digital ID to a Player (or the Player's legal guardian if that Player is a Minor), Coach or Club upon request.

2.9 An FA Registered Football Agent must comply with the FA Registration Requirements at all times. If an FA Registered Football Agent fails to satisfy the FA Registration Requirements, the FA Registered Football Agent's registration shall be immediately suspended or withdrawn.

2.10 Upon an FA Registered Football Agent's FIFA Licence being suspended or withdrawn that person's registration with The Association shall be automatically and immediately suspended or withdrawn, until such time as The Association directs otherwise.

TITLE III. ACTING AS AN FA REGISTERED FOOTBALL AGENT

3. GENERAL PROVISIONS

3.1 Only an FA Registered Football Agent may perform Football Agent Services.

3.2 Without prejudice to Regulation 3.1, a Player, Coach or Club may represent themself in any matter relating to a Transaction.

3.3 An FA Registered Football Agent may conduct their business affairs through an Agency. In such circumstances, the FA Registered Football Agent must ensure that any employees, contractors, agents or other representatives of the Agency, or persons working for the Agency, that are not FA Registered Football Agents do not:

a) perform Football Agent Services within the scope of these Regulations as set out in Regulation 1.1; or

b) make any Approach to a Player, Coach or Club to enter into a Representation Agreement and/or for the provision of Football Agent Services; or

c) enter into a Representation Agreement with a Player, Coach or Club.

An FA Registered Football Agent who fails to ensure that the requirements under Regulations 3.3(a) to 3.3(c) are met will be in breach of this Regulation 3.3.

Guidance

Where an FA Registered Football Agent conducts their business affairs through an Agency, the relevant Representation Agreement must be entered into by the FA Registered Football Agent and may, in addition, be entered into by their Agency. Where an Agency is party to a Representation Agreement, and provided that all parties to the Representation Agreement have provided written consent, any other FA Registered Football Agent employed by the Agency may perform Football Agent Services in respect of that Representation Agreement.

If the FA Registered Football Agent leaves that Agency, the consequences shall be a matter for the Agency, the FA Registered Football Agent and their clients to determine in accordance with the relevant Representation Agreement, the FA Registered Football Agent's terms of engagement with their Agency and any other applicable terms and conditions in place between the parties.

3.4 An FA Registered Football Agent is fully responsible for any conduct by their Agency, its employees, contractors, agents or other representatives or persons working for it (including in accordance with Regulation 3.3) irrespective of whether such conduct is authorised by the FA Registered Football Agent.

Guidance

An FA Registered Football Agent must ensure that the employees, contractors, agents or other representatives of their Agency, together with persons working for such Agency, are made aware of the requirements of these Regulations.

3.5 The following natural or legal persons may not have an Interest in any affairs of a Football Agent, FA Registered Football Agent or their Agency:

a) Players, Coaches and Clubs.

b) Any person who is ineligible to become a Football Agent under Article 5 of the FFAR.

c) Any person or entity that owns or holds, whether directly or indirectly, any rights relating to the registration of a player, in violation of article 18bis or article 18ter of the RSTP.

4. REPRESENTATION

4.1 An FA Registered Football Agent may only perform Football Agent Services for a Player, Coach or Club:

a) after having entered into a Representation Agreement with that Player, Coach or Club; or

b) if employed by an Agency, after an FA Registered Agent who conducts their business affairs through the same Agency has entered into a Representation Agreement with that Player, Coach or Club, provided that:

(i) the Agency is also party to the Representation Agreement; and

(ii) all parties to the Representation Agreement have provided written consent.

Guidance

Pursuant to Regulation 3.3, it is the responsibility of the FA Registered Football Agent that has entered into the Representation Agreement to ensure that the performance of Football Agent Services in relation to that Representation Agreement is carried out only by FA Registered Football Agents.

Any FA Registered Football Agent performing Football Agent Services in respect of a Transaction must comply with these Regulations, including but not limited to Regulation 6.2.

4.2 Only an FA Registered Football Agent may make an Approach to a Player, Coach or Club or enter into a Representation Agreement with a Player, Coach or Club for the provision of Football Agent Services.

4.3 A Representation Agreement concluded between a Player or Coach and an FA Registered Football Agent may not exceed two years. This term may be extended by a new Representation Agreement only. Any automatic renewal provision, or any other provision that purports to extend any term of the Representation Agreement beyond the maximum period is not permitted and shall be null and void.

Guidance

A Representation Agreement concluded between an Engaging Club or Releasing Club and an FA Registered Football Agent is not subject to a maximum duration.

4.4 An FA Registered Football Agent may only enter into one Representation Agreement with the same Player or Coach at any one time.

Guidance

In cases of permitted dual representation, this provision does not prevent an FA Registered Football Agent who has entered into a Representation Agreement with a Player or Coach from entering into a tripartite Representation Agreement with that Player or Coach and a Club at the time of a National Transaction.

4.5 Before entering into a Representation Agreement with a Player or Coach, or before amending an existing Representation Agreement with a Player or Coach, the FA Registered Football Agent shall:

a) inform the Player or Coach in writing that they should consider taking (i) independent legal advice in relation to the Representation Agreement; and (ii) in addition or as an alternative, advice from the PFA or LMA (as applicable) provided that the representative / employee of the PFA / LMA is not performing Football Agent Services for that Player or Coach; and

b) obtain the Player or Coach's written confirmation that they have either obtained or decided not to take such independent legal advice and/or advice from the PFA or LMA.

Guidance

A Player or Coach's written confirmation pursuant to Regulation 4.5(b) above must be evidenced in an Annex to the Representation Agreement in the form prescribed by The Association in the Standard Representation Agreement.

4.6 An FA Registered Football Agent may execute multiple Representation Agreements with the same Engaging Club or Releasing Club at any one time, subject to those agreements relating to different Transactions.

4.7 A Representation Agreement must contain the entire agreement between the parties in relation to the Football Agent Services to be provided, and shall, at a minimum, contain all Obligatory Terms of the relevant Standard Representation Agreement and the following minimum requirements:

a) The names of the parties;

b The duration (if applicable);

c) The amount of the service fee due to the FA Registered Football Agent;

d) The nature of the Football Agent Services to be provided; and

e) The parties' signatures.

The parties may add other terms so long as they are consistent with the Obligatory Terms of the Standard Representation Agreement and the requirements of these Regulations and the FFAR.

Guidance

The Association has published the following template Standard Representation Agreements: (i) Player/Coach – FA Registered Football Agent; (ii) Club – FA Registered Football Agent; and (iii) Player/Coach – Club – FA Registered Football Agent (i.e. tripartite).

These standard templates are compliant with the requirements of these Regulations and the FFAR. Players, Clubs and FA Registered Football Agents should ensure that they are either using these standard templates or inserting the Obligatory Terms set out in these templates into their Representation Agreements.

A Representation Agreement entered into with a player or coach whilst registered with a club not affiliated to The Association or not participating in a Competition authorised by The Association shall not be required to use the Obligatory Terms of the Standard Representation Agreement, but must comply with FIFA's minimum requirements as set out in Article 12.7 of the FFAR.

4.8 Any clause in a Representation Agreement that:

a) limits a Player or Coach's ability to autonomously negotiate and conclude an employment contract without the involvement of an FA Registered Football Agent; and/or

b) penalises a Player or Coach if they autonomously negotiate and/or conclude an employment contract without the involvement of an FA Registered Football Agent,

is not permitted and will be null and void.

4.9 A Representation Agreement may be terminated at any time by a party if that party has just cause to do so. A party revoking or terminating a Representation Agreement without just cause must compensate another party for any resulting damage. There is just cause to terminate a Representation Agreement when a party can no longer reasonably be expected to continue the contractual relationship for the agreed term due to:

a) the withdrawal or suspension of a FIFA Licence;

b) the withdrawal or suspension of an FA Registered Football Agent's registration with The Association;

c) the withdrawal, suspension or expiry of an FA Registered Football Agent's additional authorisation to deal with Minors;

d) a ban on taking part in any football-related activity; and/or

e) a ban on registering new players, either nationally or internationally, for at least one entire registration period.

Guidance

For the avoidance of doubt, this Regulation shall not affect any other legal rights that the parties may have to terminate the Representation Agreement.

4.10 Any novation of a Representation Agreement must be recorded in the form prescribed by The Association from time to time and submitted to The Association within 14 days of execution.

4.11 An FA Registered Football Agent may assign or sub-contract Football Agent Services duties or responsibilities in relation to a Player, Coach or Club to another FA Registered Football Agent. In such circumstances, the assignor or sub-contractor FA Registered Football Agent and the assignee or sub-contractee FA Registered Football Agent must between them:

a) lodge a copy of the Representation Agreement between the assignor or sub-contractor FA Registered Football Agent and the Player, Coach or Club;

b) record the terms upon which those obligations are assigned or sub-contracted and incorporate the written consent of the Player, Coach or Club in a single document in the form of a Standard Sub-contract Agreement; and

c) complete and lodge such document in the same way as for a Representation Agreement under Regulation 8.3(g)(i).

4.12 Any term of a Representation Agreement that breaches the requirements of these Regulations is not permitted and will be null and void. In such cases, The Association shall have the power to notify the parties of any such breach whereupon the parties shall remedy the breach by making the necessary amendments as notified. Failure to remedy any breach shall constitute a breach of these Regulations, separate from and in addition to the initial breach.

5. REPRESENTATION OF MINORS

5.1 An FA Registered Football Agent may not, before 1 September in the Academic Year in which the Minor reaches the age of 16:

a) make an Approach to a Minor or their legal guardian (whether directly or indirectly) in relation to any Football Agent Services or Other Services;

b) make an Approach to a Minor or their legal guardian (whether directly or indirectly) in relation to entering into a Representation Agreement; or

c) enter into any agreement with a Minor or their legal guardian (whether a Representation Agreement or an agreement other than a Representation Agreement, including but not limited to agreements relating to Other Services).

Subject to the foregoing, such an Approach to or agreement with a Minor may only be made once prior written consent has been obtained from the Minor's legal guardian.

Guidance

For the purposes of the years 2025 to 2027, Regulation 5.1 shall mean as follows:

PERIOD IN WHICH MINOR REACHES THE AGE OF 16	*DATE FROM WHICH AN APPROACH MAY BE MADE TO THE MINOR / AN FA REGISTERED FOOTBALL AGENT MAY ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE MINOR*
1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025	*1 September 2024*
1 September 2025 to 31 August 2026	*1 September 2025*
1 September 2026 to 31 August 2027	*1 September 2026*

5.2 Subject to Regulation 5.1, before an FA Registered Football Agent may:

a) make an Approach to, or represent, a Minor in relation to any Football Agent Services;

b) represent a Club in a Transaction involving a Minor; or

c) enter into any agreement with a Minor (whether a Representation Agreement or an agreement other than a Representation Agreement),

they must obtain additional authorisation to deal with Minors from The Association in accordance with this Regulation 5.

5.3 In order to obtain additional authorisation to deal with Minors from The Association, an FA Registered Football Agent must satisfy The Association of their suitability on terms prescribed by The Association from time to time, which shall include, but not be limited to, checks by The Association in relation to an FA Registered Football Agent's criminal record, in the United Kingdom and/or overseas (including presentation by the FA Registered Football Agent, and approval by The Association, of a valid and current FA Registered Football Agent DBS check (or equivalent)).

Guidance

Additional authorisation to deal with Minors can be applied for by a Football Agent at the same time as registering with The Association for the first time or at any point after they become so registered.

Before granting/renewing an additional authorisation to deal with Minors, The Association shall be entitled to require an FA Registered Football Agent to complete a course on dealing with Minors as part of fulfilling the FA CPD Requirements and charge a fee in relation to the costs associated with carrying out any criminal record checks.

For the avoidance of doubt, a DBS check obtained for any other football-related roles (e.g. coaching, refereeing, club welfare etc.) will not be accepted.

5.4 Additional authorisation to deal with Minors shall be valid for three years, subject to the FA Registered Football Agent continuing to satisfy the requirements set out in Regulation 5.3 after additional authorisation has been obtained. If an FA Registered Football Agent with such additional authorisation fails to satisfy these requirements at any time, the additional authorisation shall be automatically and immediately suspended or withdrawn, until such time as The Association directs otherwise.

5.5 If an FA Registered Football Agent with additional authorisation to deal with Minors becomes aware or ought reasonably to know that they do not satisfy The FA's requirements for dealing with Minors (including those set out in Regulation 5.3), the FA Registered Football Agent must immediately notify The Association in writing.

5.6 A Representation Agreement between an FA Registered Football Agent and a Minor shall only be enforceable where:

a) the Representation Agreement meets the minimum requirements provided in Regulation 4.7;

b) the FA Registered Football Agent has complied with Regulations 5.1 and 5.2; and

c) the Representation Agreement is signed by the Minor and their legal guardian in such form as may be prescribed by The Association from time to time.

5.7 Any violation of Regulation 5.1 shall be sanctioned, at a minimum, with a fine and a suspension of an FA Registered Football Agent's registration with The Association of up to two years.

6. TRANSACTIONS

6.1 A Player, Coach, Club, FA Registered Football Agent or other Participant must not arrange matters so as to conceal or misrepresent the reality or substance of any matters in relation to a Transaction.

Guidance

For the avoidance of doubt this includes but is not limited to the following:

- *a failure to disclose the role of an individual in a Transaction;*
- *the representative of a Player solely representing a Club in a Transaction (to include in circumstances where a lawyer is said to be acting for the Player); and*
- *the creation of sham agreements for which services are not provided (in part or in full).*

6.2 Upon completion of a Transaction, the FA Registered Football Agent(s), player, coach and Club(s) (as applicable) involved in the Transaction (whether directly or indirectly) must complete an Agents Form and submit it to The Association as directed by The Association from time to time.

Guidance

A failure to submit a copy of the completed Agents Form may result in the delay or failure to register a player with The Association as is required under FA Rule C.

The Agents Form requires any FA Registered Football Agent, player, coach or Club involved in a Transaction to declare that the arrangement complies with these Regulations, save that there is no requirement for a Player or Coach to complete an Agents Form where the Transaction is the international transfer of that Player, or the move of that Coach, from a Club to a club that is not affiliated to The Association or is not participating in a Competition authorised by The Association. The Club and any relevant FA Registered Football Agent representing the Club must still complete the Agents Form in these circumstances.

Subject to the foregoing, an Agents Form must also be completed in circumstances where a player, coach or Club negotiate and conclude a Transaction without engaging an FA Registered Football Agent pursuant to Regulation 6.6 below.

6.3 An FA Registered Football Agent may only perform Football Agent Services and Other Services for one party in a National Transaction, save that:

a) An FA Registered Football Agent may perform Football Agent Services and Other Services for more than one party in the same National Transaction (permitted dual or multiple representation), provided that:

(i) The FA Registered Football Agent obtains all parties' prior written consent to them providing services to any other party to the National Transaction ("**the other party(ies)**") in the form prescribed by The Association from time to time;

(ii) Once the FA Registered Football Agent and the other party(ies) have agreed terms, but prior to them entering into a Representation Agreement, the FA Registered Football Agent must inform all parties in the form prescribed by The Association from time to time of the full particulars of the proposed arrangements including, without limitation, the proposed fee (if any) to be paid by all parties to the FA Registered Football Agent;

(iii) All parties are given the reasonable opportunity to take independent legal advice, meaning that, in the case of a Player or Coach, the FA Registered Football Agent must inform the Player or Coach in writing that they should consider taking: (i) independent legal advice; and (ii) in addition or as an alternative, advice from the PFA or LMA (as applicable) provided that the representative / employee of the PFA / LMA is not performing Football Agent Services for that Player or Coach, prior to providing written consent in the form prescribed by The Association from time to time; and

(iv) Having been given such opportunity, all parties provide their express written consent for the FA Registered Football Agent to enter into a Representation Agreement with the other party(ies) on the proposed terms in the form prescribed by The Association from time to time.

b) Where any party does not provide its express consent in accordance with the above requirements, the FA Registered Football Agent is not permitted to proceed with the provision of services to the other party(ies), or to receive any remuneration from the other party(ies) in respect of the relevant National Transaction, and the other party(ies) are not permitted to receive any services from the FA Registered Football Agent or make any payment to the FA Registered Football Agent in respect of the relevant National Transaction. The FA Registered Football Agent may continue to represent the first party (only) in respect of the relevant National Transaction and be paid for such services in accordance with these Regulations and the terms of the relevant Representation Agreement.

6.4 When acting for a Releasing Club, an FA Registered Football Agent may not perform Football Agent Services or Other Services for any other party (e.g. the Player/Coach and/or the Engaging Club) in the same National Transaction.

6.5 An FA Registered Football Agent and a Connected Football Agent may not perform Football Agent Services or Other Services for different players, coaches or Clubs in the same National Transaction, except in accordance with Regulation 6.3.

6.6 A Player, Coach or Club may negotiate and conclude a Transaction without engaging an FA Registered Football Agent. If this is the case, this shall be explicitly stated in the relevant transfer or employment agreement.

6.7 Any party to a Transaction, or a proposed Transaction, is prohibited from:

a) proposing in any way, either directly or indirectly, to any other party to the Transaction that the Transaction is dependent upon a Player, Coach or Club's agreement to contract with a specific FA Registered Football Agent; or

b) making the Transaction conditional on a Player, Coach or Club's agreement to contract with a specific FA Registered Football Agent.

7. SERVICE FEE – GENERAL PRINCIPLES

7.1 An FA Registered Football Agent may charge a service fee to a Player, Coach or Club as agreed in a Representation Agreement.

Guidance

Where an FA Registered Football Agent undertakes Football Agent Services for a Player, the Player may discharge his obligations to pay the FA Registered Football Agent as specified in the Representation Agreement as follows: (i) by paying the FA Registered Football Agent directly; and/or (ii) upon written request by the Player to the Club, by the Club making a deduction from the Player's net salary in favour of the FA Registered Football Agent or discharging the Player's liability towards the FA Registered Football Agent on the Player's behalf as a taxable benefit (in which case the provisions set out in Regulation 7.3 apply).

7.2 Payment of the service fee due under a Representation Agreement shall be made exclusively by the Player, Coach or Club client of the FA Registered Football Agent. A Player, Coach or Club may not contract with or authorise any third party to make such payment.

7.3 The only exception to the principle in Regulation 7.2 is when an FA Registered Football Agent is representing a Player or Coach and their negotiated annual Remuneration is less than USD 200,000 (or equivalent), not counting any conditional payments. When an FA Registered Football Agent is representing a player or coach, an Engaging Club may agree with a player or coach to pay the service fee for that National Transaction to their FA Registered Football Agent in accordance with the Representation Agreement. All of the following conditions must apply:

a) The service fee payment made by the Engaging Club on behalf of the player or coach shall not affect the fiduciary duty of the FA Registered Football Agent to the player or coach. It must also not create any dependency or subordination of the FA Registered Football Agent towards the Engaging Club.

b) The service fee payment made by the Engaging Club on behalf of the Player or Coach must be no higher than the agreed service fee in the Representation Agreement between the player/coach and the FA Registered Football Agent.

Guidance

Where a higher service fee has been agreed between the player/coach and the FA Registered Football Agent, the relevant Representation Agreement should be amended accordingly and lodged with The Association in accordance with Regulation 8.3(g)(i).

c) The Engaging Club may not deduct any service fee payment made pursuant to Regulation 7.3 from the Player or Coach's Remuneration.

7.4 Where the FA Registered Football Agent and the Player/Coach agree in the Representation Agreement that a service fee (either by way of lump sum or by instalments) is to be paid in respect of a National Transaction, it shall be calculated on the basis of the Player/Coach's Remuneration as set out in the employment contract concluded by the Player/Coach in respect of which he was represented by the FA Registered Football Agent.

7.5 The service fee due to an FA Registered Football Agent shall be paid on an invoice basis.

7.6 An FA Registered Football Agent is entitled to receive a service fee only if the fee corresponds to the services stipulated in advance in a Representation Agreement, and the Representation Agreement is in force at the time at which the relevant Football Agent Services are performed.

7.7 Where a Player or Coach's employment contract has a duration longer than the associated Representation Agreement between the Player/Coach and the FA Registered Football Agent, provided that it is expressly agreed with the Player/Coach in the Representation Agreement, the FA Registered Football Agent may receive agreed service fee instalments after the expiry of the Representation Agreement, until:

a) the earlier of:

(i) the expiry of the Player or Coach's employment contract; or

(ii) the date upon which the Player or Coach signs a new employment contract without the involvement of that FA Registered Football Agent; or

b) such date as has been expressly agreed by the parties.

7.8 An FA Registered Football Agent must not have a direct or indirect interest of any nature in relation to a registration right or economic right in a Player or Coach.

Guidance

Any arrangement which grants an FA Registered Football Agent the ability to receive either a percentage of or remuneration linked to a future registration event involving a player is prohibited.

A service fee calculated based on the amount received by a club for the upcoming transfer to which the FA Registered Football Agent has provided Football Agent Services shall not be considered a "future registration event".

7.9 Where a negotiated employment contract is less than six months in duration, payment shall be made in a single instalment at the expiry of the negotiated employment contract.

7.10 An FA Registered Football Agent may not receive a service fee when engaged to perform Football Agent Services relating to a Minor unless the relevant player is entering into their first or subsequent professional contract with a Club and that contract comes into force.

Guidance

For the avoidance of doubt, for the purposes of this Regulation 7.10 professional contract does not mean a Scholarship Agreement or PGA Contract. As per FA Rule C, Players must be aged 18 or over in order to enter into a Playing Contract, save that a Player aged 17 may enter into a Playing Contract where they are not in Full-time Education.

7.11 Where an FA Registered Football Agent acts on behalf of an Engaging Club and a Player or Coach in the same National Transaction under Regulation 6.3 (permitted dual representation), the Engaging Club may pay up to 50% of the total service fee due.

7.12 An FA Registered Football Agent is not entitled to receive any service fee not yet due deriving from a negotiated employment contract where the negotiated employment contract is prematurely terminated by the Player or Coach without just cause and the FA Registered Football Agent still represents the Player or Coach at the time of that termination.

7.13 All service fee payments to FA Registered Football Agents shall be made through the FIFA Clearing House in accordance with the FIFA Clearing House Regulations.

7.14 In respect of service fee payments to FA Registered Football Agents:

a) payment shall be made directly to the FA Registered Football Agent;

b) where a Club makes a service fee payment to an FA Registered Football Agent (including where the Engaging Club and the Player or Coach expressly agree to deduct the service fee payment due to the FA Registered Football Agent from the Player or Coach's Remuneration) the Club must submit proof of payment to The Association within 14 days of the receipt of the service fee; and

Guidance

Proof of payment must be submitted to The Association in relation to the payment of all service fees made by a Club. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes the payment of fees agreed under a Representation Agreement which was entered into under The Association's Working with Intermediaries Regulations, before these Regulations came into force.

c) where a Player or Coach makes a service fee payment to an FA Registered Football Agent, the FA Registered Football Agent must declare receipt of the payment and submit proof of such receipt to The Association within 14 days of the receipt of the service fee.

Guidance

For the avoidance of doubt, this does not include where an Engaging Club makes the service fee payment to an FA Registered Football Agent having expressly agreed with the Player or Coach to deduct the service fee payment from the Player or Coach's Remuneration pursuant to Regulation 7.14(b).

7.15 Any and all remuneration or payments of whatever nature, and howsoever arising, and whether direct or indirect, made to any person in relation to any Football Agent Services for or on behalf of a Club, must be made by the Club only, and must be fully recorded in the accounting records of the Club.

7.16 Save where Regulation 7.17 applies, an FA Registered Football Agent must not pass any remuneration directly relating to Football Agent Services to any other person.

7.17 Regulation 7.16 shall not affect:

a) the ability of an FA Registered Football Agent to pass remuneration directly relating to Football Agent Services to a person when:

(i) acting further to Regulation 4.11;

(ii) passing such remuneration to their Agency as named under the applicable Representation Agreement;

b) the ability of an Agency to pay:

(i) its employees or contractors in relation to bona fide services provided to the Agency; or

(ii) any other parties for purposes unrelated to any Football Agent Services.

8. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

8.1 An FA Registered Football Agent may:

a) provide Football Agent Services to any Player, Coach or Club that executes a written Representation Agreement that contains the minimum terms described in Regulation 4;

b) not make an Approach to a Player, Coach or Club that is bound by an exclusive Representation Agreement with another Football Agent, except in the final two months of that exclusive Representation Agreement;

c) not enter into a Representation Agreement with a Player, Coach or Club that is bound by an exclusive Representation Agreement with another Football Agent, except in the final two months of that exclusive Representation Agreement.

8.2 A Representation Agreement that is entered into between an FA Registered Football Agent and a Player, Coach or Club in the final two months of that Player, Coach or Club's pre-existing exclusive Representation Agreement with another Football Agent must not commence until the expiry of the pre-existing exclusive Representation Agreement.

8.3 An FA Registered Football Agent shall:

a) always act in the best interests of their client Players, Coaches and/or Clubs and in accordance with their fiduciary duties;

b) respect and adhere to the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of the competent bodies of FIFA, the confederations and National Associations;

c) notify The Association and any client Players, Coaches or Clubs of any suspension or withdrawal of their FIFA Licence without delay and in any event within 14 days;

d) avoid conflicts of interest while providing their Football Agent Services;

e) comply with the ongoing disclosure and reporting requirements, as provided for under the FFAR and these Regulations;

f) immediately report any breaches of these Regulations, or FIFA, confederation or National Association rules, regulations or codes of conduct to the relevant authority or body (which shall, for the avoidance of doubt, always include The Association);

g) lodge with The Association:

(i) within 14 days of execution, amendment or termination, or by the time of The Association's registration of the Transaction to which it relates, whichever the earlier: any Representation Agreement entered into with: (i) a Player or a Coach; or (ii) a player or a coach which relates to the international transfer of the player, or the move of the coach, from a club to a Club;

(ii) immediately upon request: any Representation Agreement entered into with a Club;

(iii) within 14 days of execution: any agreement with a Player, Coach or Club other than a Representation Agreement, including but not limited to agreements relating to Other Services;

(iv) within 14 days of payment of a fee related to any agreement entered into with a Player, Coach or Club other than a Representation Agreement: confirmation of receipt and proof of receipt of such payment;

(v) within 14 days of occurrence: any contractual or other arrangement between the FA Registered Football Agent and another Football Agent to cooperate in the provision of any services or to share the revenue or profits of any part of their Football Agent Services in relation to a Player, Coach or Club;

(vi) within 14 days of occurrence: any information that may impact the obligation to meet the eligibility requirements or the FA Registration Requirements set out in these Regulations; and

(vii) within 14 days of occurrence: any settlement agreement entered into with a Player, Coach or Club or another Football Agent or Agency.

Guidance

A settlement agreement for the purposes of this Regulation shall include but not be limited to any agreement with another Football Agent or Agency which purports to resolve any past, existing, or future dispute between the parties regarding a Player, Coach and/or Club in relation to Football Agent Services.

h) upload to the FA Platform, the documents required under Article 16.2(k) of the FFAR within 30 days of a request by The Association;

i) disclose to The Association any other agreement of any nature that they or their Agency has entered into with a Player, Coach or their Image Rights company regarding the provision of services; and

j) acknowledge and comply with the following provisions of the FFAR (to the extent in force from time to time): Article 16.2(f), Article 16.2(g), Article 16.2(j), Article 16.2(k), Article 17, Article 19, Article 20.1 and Article 20.2.

8.4 An FA Registered Football Agent may not, either directly or indirectly, engage, or attempt to engage, in the following conduct:

a) Make an Approach, enter into negotiations, take any steps, solicit or in any way facilitate discussions between parties with a view to a Transaction (including the making of statements to the media), regarding any Player or Coach with the aim of inducing them to prematurely terminate their employment contract without just cause or violate any obligations in their employment contract.

b) Offer or pay any undue personal, pecuniary or other advantage to:

(i) any official or employee of a National Association or, club in connection with Football Agent Services; or

(ii) a Player or Coach (or any family member or legal guardian or friend of that Player or Coach) in relation to a Representation Agreement with that FA Registered Football Agent.

c) Conceal material facts from a client Player, Coach or Club, including without limitation:

(i) failing to declare a conflict of interest (even if such conflict would otherwise be permitted in accordance with these Regulations); or

(ii) failing to report a written offer (by any means of communication) made to a Player, Coach or Club as soon as reasonably practicable and in any event within 24 hours of receipt of the offer.

d) Accept payment of any transfer compensation or training reward that is payable in connection with a player's transfer between clubs. This includes, without limitation, any rights as described in article 18ter of the RSTP.

e) Be involved in a bridge transfer as defined in the RSTP or own or hold any rights relating to the registration of a player, in violation of article 18bis or article 18ter of the RSTP.

f) Loan or gift money to a Club or Club Official (or any Associate, Connected Person, Associated Undertaking, Group Undertaking, Parent Undertaking, Subsidiary Undertaking or Fellow Subsidiary Undertaking thereof).

Guidance

This includes, but is not limited to, loans or gifts of money made by any party connected to the FA Registered Football Agent (or where conducting their business affairs through an Agency, any party connected to that Agency), or to any party connected to the Club or Club Official, with the intention of circumventing this Regulation.

g) Engage with a person who is not an FA Registered Football Agent in relation to Football Agent Services that fall within the scope of these Regulations as set out in Regulation 1.1.

Guidance

FA Registered Football Agents should check The Association's website to identify whether an individual is an FA Registered Football Agent before engaging with any such person in relation to Football Agent Services.

For the avoidance of doubt, an FA Registered Football Agent will not be in breach of this Regulation 8.4(g) when engaging with a non-registered parent/guardian of a Minor in relation to that Minor's registration with a Club, provided that parent/guardian is not providing Football Agent Services.

h) Violate these Regulations in any other way.

8.5 With regard to disclosure and reporting, an FA Registered Football Agent shall:

a) immediately inform a client Player, Coach or Club of any written offer (by any means of communication) they have received in relation to the Player, Coach or Club, with written confirmation of the offer to be provided to the Player, Coach or Club as soon as reasonably practicable and in any event within 24 hours of receipt of the offer;

Guidance

For the avoidance of doubt, a written offer shall include an offer of a new employment contract at the Player or Coach's existing Club.

b) provide to a client Player, Coach or Club, on request, a copy of the relevant Representation Agreement or any other written agreements in relation to Other Services, a copy of the employment contract or any other written documents obtained in relation to the Football Agent Services, a schedule detailing payments of any kind whatsoever (including all remuneration, fees and expenses) made to the FA Registered Football Agent in relation to a Transaction in which they were involved;

c) within 30 days of the end of each Reporting Period provide any Player or Coach with whom they have or have had a Representation Agreement with an Annual Return. The Association shall be entitled to request a copy of any Annual Return from any Reporting Period and the FA Registered Football Agent must comply with any such request within 14 days of the date of the request; and

d) upon request, cooperate with the relevant body of each National Association, confederation and/or FIFA with respect to any request for any type of information in any form.

8.6 FA Registered Football Agents, Players, Coaches, Clubs and Club Officials shall disclose in writing any actual or potential conflict of interest they might have in relation to a National Transaction and shall obtain the express written consent of the other parties involved in the National Transaction (in the form prescribed by The Association from time to time) in order for their activity in the National Transaction to continue. A copy of this form shall be disclosed to The Association within 14 days of being completed and in any event no later than at the time of the registration of a National Transaction by The Association.

8.7 FA Registered Football Agents, Players, Coaches, Clubs and Club Officials must take all reasonable steps to keep copies of electronic communications and any records of telephone conversations that relate to Football Agent Services, and must not alter, erase, destroy or conceal any such document with the intention of preventing the disclosure of all or any part of it to The Association.

Guidance

For the purposes of this Regulation:

- *Subject to the below, The Association expects any such document to be retained for no less than 6 years, or the period stipulated in any applicable data retention policy (whichever is longer).*
- *Any time limits on retention shall not apply where any such document is, or might reasonably be considered to be, relevant to (a) any potential or current disciplinary investigation or inquiry by The Association, or (b) any disciplinary proceedings commenced by The Association.*

For the avoidance of doubt, document retention policies and procedures must comply with data protection legislation (including the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018).

In order to ensure compliance with the requirements of this Regulation, messaging platform functions such as 'disappearing messages' (or similar) should not be used for communications relating to Football Agent Services.

8.8 To the extent permissible by law, an FA Registered Football Agent, Player, Coach or Club must notify The Association of any settlement agreement that it has entered into with HMRC or any other statutory tax authority that relates to:

(a) Football Agent Services, or

(b) payments related to such Football Agent Services, within 14 days of entry into the settlement agreement.

TITLE IV. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF PLAYERS, COACHES AND CLUBS

9. Engagement of FA Registered Football Agents

9.1 Players, Coaches and Clubs:

a) may engage an FA Registered Football Agent to perform Football Agent Services in relation to any conduct or activity that falls within the scope of these Regulations, as set out in Regulation 1.1, provided that they do not choose to undertake such activities themselves;

b) shall pay the service fee agreed with an FA Registered Football Agent in accordance with the respective Representation Agreement, employment contract and transfer agreement (as applicable);

c) shall satisfy themselves that an FA Registered Football Agent is appropriately licensed by FIFA and registered with The Association prior to signing the relevant Representation Agreement;

Guidance

In respect of an FA Registered Football Agent representing a Minor or a Club in a National Transaction involving a Minor, Coaches and Clubs must ensure that the FA Registered Football Agent has obtained additional authorisation to deal with Minors from The Association in accordance with Regulation 5.

d) shall cooperate with the relevant body of each National Association, confederation and/or FIFA with respect to any request in relation to an FA Registered Football Agent made by those bodies;

e) may request from the FA Registered Football Agent a schedule detailing all payments of any kind whatsoever (including all remuneration, fees and expenses) made by and/or regarding that client Player, Coach or Club;

f) for Clubs, shall submit to The Association within 14 days of execution, amendment or termination, or by the time of The Association's registration of the Transaction to which it relates, whichever is the earlier: any Representation Agreement entered into by the Club;

g) for Clubs, shall upload to the FA Platform within 14 days of occurrence or, where applicable, by the time of The Association's registration of the related Transaction, whichever the earlier:

(i) the information requested on the FA Platform on completion of each National Transaction in which the Club is involved;

(ii) any amendment to, or termination of, a relevant Representation Agreement;

(iii) any agreement with an FA Registered Football Agent other than a Representation Agreement, including but not limited to Other Services, and the information requested on the FA Platform;

(iv) the information requested on the FA Platform following the payment of a fee related to any agreement entered into with an FA Registered Football Agent other than a Representation Agreement;

h) shall immediately report any breaches of these Regulations to FIFA and The Association; and

i) acknowledge and shall comply with the following provisions of the FFAR (to the extent in force from time to time): Article 18.1(f), Article 19, Article 20.1 and Article 20.2.

9.2 A Player, Coach, Club or Club Official must disclose to The Association any agreement or contractual or other arrangement whether formal or informal that exists between any Player, Coach, Club or Club Official and any FA Registered Football Agent (or Agency) whereby any money is paid by or on behalf of such FA Registered Football Agent (or such Agency) to such Player, Coach, Club or Club Official. Such disclosure must be made:

a) within 14 days of the FA Registered Football Agent (or Agency) entering into such a contractual or customary arrangement with the Player, Coach, Club or Club Official; or

b) within 14 days of an individual registering as an FA Registered Football Agent (where any such contractual or customary arrangement with the Player, Coach, Club or Club Official was entered into prior to the individual registering as an FA Registered Football Agent).

9.3 A Club shall disclose to The Association any agreement of any nature that it has entered into with an FA Registered Football Agent and/or Agency regarding the provision of services.

9.4 A Player or Coach shall disclose to The Association any agreement of any nature that they or their Image Rights company has entered into with an FA Registered Football Agent and/or Agency regarding the provision of services.

9.5 Players, Coaches and Clubs (and their Club Officials, when applicable) may not, either directly or indirectly, engage, or attempt to engage, in the following conduct:

a) engage with or appoint a person who is not an FA Registered Football Agent in relation to Football Agent Services that fall within the scope of these Regulations as set out in Regulation 1.1;

Guidance

Players, Coaches and Clubs/Club Officials should check The Association's website to identify whether an individual is an FA Registered Football Agent before engaging with or appointing any such person in relation to Football Agent Services.

For the avoidance of doubt, a Player, Coach or Club/Club Official will not be in breach of this Regulation 9.5(a) when engaging with a non-registered parent/guardian of a Minor in relation to that Minor's registration with a Club, provided that parent/guardian is not providing Football Agent Services.

b) accept or request any undue personal, pecuniary or other advantage from a Football Agent, their Agency or any employees, contractors or other representatives of the Agency;

c) give, offer or seek to offer consideration or a promise of any kind, either directly or indirectly, to a Football Agent (or to any family member of, or other person connected with, that Football Agent), other than the service fee agreed;

d) for Players and Coaches, enter into a Representation Agreement with a Football Agent or FA Registered Football Agent whilst that Player or Coach is under an exclusive Representation Agreement with another Football Agent or FA Registered Football Agent, except in the final two months of that exclusive Representation Agreement;

Guidance

A Representation Agreement that is entered into between a Player or Coach and a Football Agent/FA Registered Football Agent in the final two months of the Player or Coach's pre-existing exclusive Representation Agreement with another Football Agent/FA Registered Football Agent must not commence until the expiry of the pre-existing exclusive Representation Agreement.

e) for Clubs, interfere in, or influence, the freedom of a Player or Coach to select a Football Agent or FA Registered Football Agent;

f) have an Interest in an Agency or the affairs of a Football Agent or FA Registered Football Agent, in accordance with Regulation 3.5;

g) for Clubs, either directly or indirectly, induce or coerce a Player or Coach to breach the terms of their Representation Agreement with their Football Agent;

h) fail to immediately report any breach of these Regulations or the FFAR to The FA and FIFA;

i) permit a Football Agent, FA Registered Football Agent or their Agency to have an Interest in them; or

j) any other breach of these Regulations.

9.6 A Club shall use reasonable endeavours to ensure that its Club Officials (and, if appointed by or representing the Club in a role involving such duties as would ordinarily be carried out by Club Officials, FA Registered Football Agents) and Manager comply with the requirements of these Regulations.

Guidance

Duties ordinarily carried out by Club Officials include, but are not limited to, recruitment, scouting and analysis.

9.7 No Club participating in the Premier League, EFL or National League System from Steps 1 to 4 may enter into any form of sponsorship agreement with a Football Agent, FA Registered Football Agent or Agency. Any sponsorship agreement entered into between any Club and a Football Agent, FA Registered Football Agent or Agency that is not subject to this prohibition shall be disclosed to The Association by the relevant Club(s).

9.8 Where a Player / Coach has a Representation Agreement with an FA Registered Football Agent, a Club must deal with that FA Registered Football Agent in relation to any National Transaction concerning the Player / Coach unless the Player / Coach:

a) represents themselves in any matter relating to a National Transaction pursuant to Regulation 3.2; and

b) provides a prior written request to the Club requesting it not to do so, such written request also to be provided by the Player / Coach to the FA Registered Football Agent as soon as reasonably practicable and in any event prior to the National Transaction taking place.

TITLE V. DISCLOSURE AND PUBLICATION

10. DISCLOSURE AND PUBLICATION

10.1 The Association shall be entitled to publish:

a) the name and FA registration number of every FA Registered Football Agent registered with The Association, as well as, where applicable, the name of their Agency;

b) in any manner and at any time it considers appropriate, a list of all Transactions involving a Player, Coach or Club in which any FA Registered Football Agent or their Agency has been involved;

c) in any manner and at any time it considers appropriate, the total consolidated amount of all payments made by all Players, Coaches and Clubs to FA registered Football Agents or their Agencies; and

d) any decision made pursuant to these Regulations, in any manner and at any time it considers appropriate, including the name and any other relevant information relating to an FA Registered Football Agent in respect of whom a disciplinary decision has been made, including where an FA registration is suspended or withdrawn. This is in addition to The Association's powers to publish contained in the General Provisions Relating to Inquiries, Commissions of Inquiry, Regulatory Commissions of The Association, Other Disciplinary Commissions, Appeal Boards and Safeguarding Review Panel Hearings, or elsewhere in its Rules and regulations.

10.2 The Association shall be entitled to make available to Clubs and FA Registered Football Agents details of all Players who have a valid Representation Agreement in place with an FA Registered Football Agent and the identity of that FA Registered Football Agent.

TITLE VI. DISPUTES

11. JURISDICTION

11.1 Disputes arising out of, or in connection with, a Representation Agreement without an international dimension shall be exclusively determined between the parties under Rule K (Arbitration) of the Rules.

TITLE VII. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

12. COMPETENCE AND ENFORCEMENT

12.1 Subject to Regulation 12.3, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee and, where relevant, the independent Ethics Committee are competent to impose sanctions on Participants in accordance with Article 21.1 of the FFAR.

12.2 The FIFA general secretariat shall monitor compliance with the FFAR in accordance with Article 21.2 of the FFAR.

12.3 The Association is competent to impose sanctions on any Football Agent, FA Registered Football Agent, Player, Coach, Club or other Participant that violates these Regulations. The Association has jurisdiction regarding any conduct that falls within the scope of these Regulations as set out in Regulation 1.1.

12.4 Any breach of these Regulations shall be Misconduct in accordance with Rule E1. Any charge for Misconduct shall be dealt with in accordance with the Rules of The Association and shall be determined by a Regulatory Commission of The Association.

12.5 The Association shall monitor compliance with these Regulations. In particular:

a) Any party that receives a notice from The Association requesting information shall cooperate in full by complying, upon reasonable notice, with requests for any documents, information or any other material of any nature held by it, as well as with requests to procure and provide any documents, information or any other material of any nature not held by the party but which the party is entitled to obtain. Failure to comply with these requests from The Association may lead to sanctions being imposed by The Association. If requested by The Association, a document (or an excerpt) shall be provided in English.

b) Electronic notifications sent to the address provided by The Association from time to time or in TMS are considered valid means of communication and will be deemed sufficient to establish time limits.

12.6 The Association may, in its sole discretion, refer to (and provide documents to) another National Association, a confederation and/or FIFA for resolution of any complaint or allegation of a breach or circumvention of these Regulations or of the FFAR applying to Football Agents/FA Registered Football Agents where the subject matter involves any Transaction where any player, coach, club, or Football Agent/FA Registered Football Agent is subject to the jurisdiction of the other National Association, the relevant confederation and/or FIFA.

TITLE VIII. FINAL PROVISIONS

13. TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

13.1 Representation Agreements that expire on or after 1 January 2024 in force at the time at which the FFAR were approved (on 16 December 2022) shall remain valid (but not be extended) until they expire.

Guidance

The FFAR were approved by FIFA Council on 16 December 2022.

For the purposes of this provision, the meaning of Representation Agreement shall include a Representation Contract (as defined under The Association's Working with Intermediaries Regulations in force at the time at which the FFAR were approved).

Representation Agreements concluded prior to the approval of the FFAR (on 16 December 2022) shall remain unaffected by these Regulations, irrespective of when a Transaction connected to such Representation Agreements occurs. However, such Representation Agreements may not be extended.

13.2 Any new Representation Agreements or renewals of existing Representation Agreements concluded after the approval of the FFAR (on 16 December 2022) shall be in compliance with the FFAR and these Regulations as from 1 January 2024.

13.3 A person that has executed any such Representation Agreement under Regulations 13.1 and 13.2 shall obtain a FIFA Licence pursuant to the FFAR to continue providing Football Agent Services as from 1 January 2024.

13.4 From 1 January 2024, The Association shall continue to have the power to bring charges and impose sanctions in respect of prior breaches of The Association's Working with Intermediaries Regulations. A person that is subject to a suspension under The Association's Working with Intermediaries Regulations at the point at which these Regulations come into force shall remain suspended in accordance with the prior decision of the Regulatory Commission or Appeal Board in that case (as applicable).

13.5 An FA Registered Football Agent with a valid additional authorisation to deal with Minors under The Association's Working with Intermediaries Regulations in force immediately prior to these Regulations taking effect (a **"Legacy Additional Authorisation"**) shall have additional authorisation to deal with Minors under these Regulations. The continuing additional authorisation of an FA Registered Football Agent with a Legacy Additional Authorisation shall be subject to compliance with Regulations 5.4 and 5.5 and, in any event, expire no more than three years after the Legacy Additional Authorisation was granted.

14. MISCELLANEOUS

14.1 To the extent that any provision of these Regulations or its performance contravenes any applicable law or regulation, it shall be deemed to be null and void, provided, however, that such determination shall not affect the validity and enforceability of any other provision of these Regulations, which shall remain in full force and effect.

APPENDIX I: DEFINITIONS

"Academic Year" means from 1 September to 31 August (inclusive).

"Agency" means an organisation, entity, firm or private company retaining, comprising, employing or otherwise acting as a vehicle for the business affairs of one or more Football Agents or FA Registered Football Agents.

"**Agents Form"** means the applicable standard form as issued by The Association from time to time which details the involvement (or otherwise) of FA Registered Football Agents in respect of a particular Transaction.

"Annual Return" means a schedule (in the form prescribed by The Association from time to time) detailing all payments of any kind whatsoever (including all remuneration, fees and expenses) made by a Player or a Coach (or by a Club on behalf of the Player or Coach) to an FA Registered Football Agent during a Reporting Period.

"Approach" means (i) any physical, in-person contact or contact via any means of electronic communication with a Player, Coach or Club; (ii) any direct or indirect contact with another person or organisation linked to a Player, Coach or Club, such as a family member or friend; or (iii) any action when a Football Agent or FA Registered Football Agent uses or directs another person or organisation to contact a Player, Coach or Club on their behalf in the manner described in (i) or (ii) above.

Guidance

For the avoidance of doubt, an Approach is not limited to the initial contact.

A Lawyer who is an FA Registered Football Agent shall not be deemed to have made an Approach to the extent that the Lawyer has any contact with a Player, Coach or Club for the purposes of, or in anticipation of, providing legal representation services to that Player, Coach or Club, provided that such services fall within the definition of Permitted Legal Advice or otherwise fall outside of the definition of Football Agent Services.

"club" means any football club that plays the game of football in any country in a competition authorised and recognised by the relevant National Association.

"coach" means an individual employed in a football-specific occupation by a club and whose: (i) employment duties consist of one or more of the following training and coaching players, selecting players for matches and competitions, making tactical choices during matches and competitions; and/or (ii) employment requires the holding of a coaching licence in accordance with a domestic or continental licensing regulation.

"Coach" means an individual employed in a football-specific occupation by a Club and whose: (i) employment duties consist of one or more of the following training and coaching players, selecting players for matches and competitions, making tactical choices during matches and competitions; and/or (ii) employment requires the holding of a coaching licence in accordance with a domestic or continental licensing regulation.

"Connected Football Agent" means a Football Agent/FA Registered Football Agent is connected to another Football Agent/FA Registered Football Agent as a result of their: (i) being employed or contractually retained by the same Agency through which Football Agent Services are conducted; (ii) both being directors, shareholders in, or co-owners of the same Agency through which Football Agent Services are conducted; (iii) being married to one another, domestic partners, siblings of one another, or parent and child or stepchild; or (iv) them having made any contractual or other arrangements, whether formal or informal, to cooperate, on more than one occasion, in the provision of any services or to share the revenue or profits of any part of their Football Agent Services or (v) being employed or contractually retained by Agencies with the same ultimate beneficial owner(s).

"Digital ID" means a form of digital identification which The Association may issue to an FA Registered Football Agent from time to time.

"Engaging Club" means a Club that may engage a player or coach.

"FA CPD Requirements" means any continuing professional development standards that The Association may require an FA Registered Football Agent to comply with from time to time.

"FA Platform" means the digital platform operated by The Association, or such other system as The Association requires from time to time, through which information must be submitted to or lodged with The Association as required by these Regulations.

"FA Registered Football Agent" means a natural person who has registered with The Association in accordance with the FA Registration Requirements.

"FA Registration Requirements" means the requirements that a person must satisfy in order to register with The Association (including but not limited to those set out at Regulation 2 and the FA CPD Requirements), as prescribed by The Association from time to time.

"FFAR" means The FIFA Football Agent Regulations (as amended from time to time).

"FIFA Licence" means a licence issued by FIFA to perform Football Agent Services.

"FIFA Platform" means the digital platform operated by FIFA through which the licensing process, dispute resolution process, continuing professional development (CPD) and reporting shall occur.

"Football Agent" means a natural person licensed by FIFA to perform Football Agent Services.

"Football Agent Services" means football-related services performed for or on behalf of a player, coach or club, including any negotiation, communication relating or preparatory to the same, or other related activity, with the purpose, objective and/or intention of concluding a Transaction.

For the avoidance of doubt, a Club Official is not acting as an FA Registered Football Agent when they carry out any Football Agent Services in relation to any matter relating to a Transaction for or on behalf of that Club. Similarly, a Lawyer is not acting as an FA Registered Football Agent when they solely and exclusively undertake or provide Permitted Legal Advice in relation to any matter relating to a Transaction.

"Interest" means (i) any beneficial ownership of a legal person through which the relevant activities of those entities are conducted, except an ordinary and freely accessible non-transferrable personal membership entitling its owner to a single vote in club affairs; and/or (ii) being in a position that may enable the exercise of a material, financial, commercial, administrative, managerial or any other influence over the affairs of a natural or legal person whether directly or indirectly and whether formally or informally.

An Interest for the purposes of these Regulations includes an Interest of:

(a) A spouse, partner, child, stepchild, parent, legal guardian or sibling of the relevant person;

(b) A company in which any legal or beneficial interest or any proportion or share is held by the relevant person or any spouse, partner, child, stepchild, parent, legal guardian or sibling of the relevant person; and/or

(c) A company over whose affairs financial, commercial, administrative, managerial or any other control or influence can be exercised by the relevant person or any spouse, partner, child, stepchild, parent, legal guardian or sibling of the relevant person.

Guidance

A Player or Coach that is the spouse, partner, child, stepchild, parent, legal guardian or sibling of a Football Agent will not be deemed to have an Interest in the business or affairs of a Football Agent or Agency by the simple fact of being the spouse, partner, child, stepchild, parent, legal guardian or sibling of that Football Agent. Similarly, a Football Agent that is the spouse, partner, child, stepchild, parent, legal guardian or sibling of a Player or Coach will not be prohibited from having an Interest in the business or affairs of a Football Agent or Agency by the simple fact of being the spouse, partner, child, stepchild, parent, legal guardian or sibling of that Player or Coach.

"Lawyer" means an individual who is duly authorised by the appropriate professional or regulatory body to act in the capacity of a legal executive, solicitor or barrister in the United Kingdom, or the equivalent profession in a jurisdiction outside the United Kingdom.

"Legacy Additional Authorisation" means shall have the meaning given to it in Regulation 13.5.

"LMA" means League Managers Association.

"Minor" means a Player or Coach under the age of 18.

"National Association" means a member association of FIFA.

"National Transaction" means (i) the employment, unemployment, registration or deregistration of a player with a Club; (ii) the employment or unemployment of a coach with a Club; (iii) the transfer of the registration of a player to a Club; or (iv) the creation, termination or variation of a player or coach's terms of employment with a Club.

"Obligatory Terms" means the clauses set out in a Standard Representation Agreement, and marked bold therein, that parties are required under Regulation 4.7 to include unaltered in Representation Agreements.

"Other Services" means any services performed by a Football Agent or FA Registered Football Agent for or on behalf of a player, coach or club other than Football Agent Services, including but not limited to providing legal advice, financial planning, scouting, consultancy, management of image rights and negotiating commercial contracts.

"Permitted Legal Advice" means advice or assistance provided by a Lawyer to a Player, Coach or Club, either directly or indirectly, in relation to any Transaction where:

(a) the Lawyer has entered into terms of engagement with the Player, Coach or Club in the form required by the Lawyer's professional regulator and solely operates under those terms;

(b) the Lawyer is providing the advice or assistance as part of a practice which is regulated by the Lawyer's professional regulator;

(c) the advice or assistance either relates to: (i) the legal form of the documents that arise out of the Transaction, or the legal implications of that Transaction, as opposed to the negotiation of the substantive terms of the Transaction and, in particular, the remuneration terms of the Transaction; or (ii) a dispute arising out of a Transaction; and

(d) the Lawyer is remunerated in a manner which is deemed acceptable by that Lawyer's professional regulator for carrying out such advice or assistance.

Guidance

This shall not preclude an in-house Lawyer at the PFA or LMA from providing legal advice in relation to these Regulations.

"PFA" means the Professional Footballers' Association.

"player" means any football player who plays the game of football in any country and is recognised as such by their National Association.

Guidance

For the avoidance of doubt, a Player (as defined within the Rules of The Association) is deemed to be a player for the purposes of these Regulations.

"Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal" means the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal set out by FIFA from time to time.

"Regulations" means these Football Agent Regulations of The Association, as amended from time to time.

"Releasing Club" means a Club that a player or coach is leaving to be employed and/or registered by an Engaging Club.

"Remuneration" means gross financial compensation for employment set out in a negotiated employment contract, which includes base salary, any sign-on fee, and any amount payable if certain conditions are fulfilled (for example, a loyalty or performance bonus). For the avoidance of doubt, any future transfer compensation agreed to and any non-salary benefits, such as the provision of a vehicle, accommodation or telephony services, are not considered in the calculation of the gross financial compensation.

"Reporting Period" means the period between 1 July of the previous calendar year and 30 June of the current calendar year.

"Representation Agreement" means a written agreement for the purpose of establishing a legal relationship to provide Football Agent Services.

"RSTP" means the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, as amended from time to time.

"Single-Entity League" means an entity affiliated to a member association that organises a league (or leagues) and represents the common interests of its clubs, for example, by acting as the employer of all club players.

"Specified International Transaction" means a Specified Transaction involving the transfer of a Player, or the move of a Coach, from a Club to a club that is not affiliated to The Association or is not participating in a Competition authorised by The Association.

"Specified Transaction" means a Transaction where all of the parties involved are defined and identified.

"Standard Representation Agreement" means a Representation Agreement in the form prescribed by The Association from time to time.

"Standard Sub-contract Agreement" means an agreement in relation to the assignment or sub-contracting of Football Agent Services duties or responsibilities in relation to a Player, Coach or Club from one FA Registered Football Agent to another FA Registered Football Agent in the form prescribed by The Association from time to time.

"Transaction" means (i) the employment, unemployment, registration or deregistration of a player with a club or a Single-Entity League; (ii) the employment or unemployment of a coach with a club, Single-Entity League or a National Association; (iii) the transfer of the registration of a player from one club to another; (iv) the creation, termination or variation of a player or coach's terms of employment.

Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice versa.

17 - FOOTBALL AGENT REGULATIONS

18 - THIRD PARTY INTEREST IN PLAYERS REGULATIONS

PREAMBLE

These Regulations are made in accordance with the Rules of The Association and are binding on all Participants. These Regulations are founded on the principle that no party, other than a Club itself, should be placed in a position where it may be able to influence the manner in which a Club operates, its policies or the performance of its teams. The Association considers that a party holding an interest in the registration, federative, economic or similar rights of a Player may, as a consequence of that interest, have such ability. The purpose of these Regulations is to ensure that no such 'third party' interests are held in Players playing for Clubs.

Any breach of these Regulations shall be Misconduct and shall be dealt with in accordance with the Rules of The Association and shall be determined by a Regulatory Commission of The Association. All other decisions by The Association pursuant to these Regulations shall be made by or under the delegated authority of the Football Regulatory Authority and shall be made at its absolute discretion.

In dealing with any issue under these Regulations, regard shall be given to the substance of any dealings or arrangements and not just their legal form.

Definitions are set out in: (i) Rule A; (ii) Section E of these Regulations; and (iii) Appendix I of The Association's Regulations on Working with Intermediaries or Football Agent Regulations (as applicable).

A. PROHIBITION ON THIRD PARTY INTEREST

Club Obligations

1. No Club may enter into 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.

2. No Club may enter into an Agreement with a party whereby that Club:

- makes or receives a payment, whether directly or indirectly, or
- assigns, novates, sells, grants, acquires or otherwise transacts in any rights or obligations whatsoever, or
- incurs any liability
- to, or from that party as a result of, in connection with, or in relation to
- the proposed or actual registration (whether permanent or temporary), or
- the transfer of registration, or
- the employment or continued employment
- by the Club of a player, save where:

2.1 the Agreement is permitted pursuant to Regulation B ("Permitted Club Agreements"); or

2.2 The Association has provided its formal written approval of the Agreement in advance pursuant to Regulation D ("Club or Player Agreements Requiring Prior Written Approval").

Player Obligations

3. No Player may enter into or be party to an Agreement with another party whereby that Player

- makes or receives a payment, whether directly or indirectly, or
- assigns, novates, sells, grants, acquires or otherwise transacts in any rights or obligations whatsoever, or
- incurs any liabilityto, or from that party as a result of, in connection with, or in relation to
- the proposed or actual registration (whether permanent or temporary), or

- the transfer of registration, or
- the employment or continued employment

of that Player, save where:

3.1 the Agreement is permitted pursuant to Regulation C ("Permitted Player Agreements"); or

3.2 The Association has provided its formal written approval of the Agreement in advance pursuant to Regulation D ("Club or Player Agreements Requiring Prior Written Approval").

B. PERMITTED CLUB AGREEMENTS

1. Subject always to the Rules and Regulations of The Association, FIFA and any relevant Competition, and unless formally approved in advance by The Association pursuant to Regulation D, a Club may only enter into an Agreement otherwise prohibited pursuant to Regulation A.2 above where it:

Agreements arising from the permanent or temporary transfer of registration of a player

1.1 In the case of a Registering Club, agrees to acquire the registration of a player in consideration for payment to a Transferring Club (or, if so required under the rules and/or regulations of an overseas league or association, directly to said overseas league or association) of a Fee, subject to the requirements of the Player Status Rules and,

1.1.1 in the circumstances of a permanent transfer of registration, such that any existing interest of any party in the registration, federative or economic rights or rights of any other nature whatsoever of the player is extinguished absolutely save for the Transferring Club's entitlement to receive a Sell-On Fee or Contingent Sum; or

1.1.2 in the circumstances of a temporary transfer of registration, such that any existing interest of any party other than the Transferring Club in the registration, federative or economic rights or rights of any other nature whatsoever of the player is extinguished absolutely;

1.2 in the case of a Transferring Club, agrees to transfer the registration of a player in consideration for receipt from a Registering Club of a Fee, subject to the requirements of the Player Status Rules and, in the circumstances of a permanent transfer of registration, such that any existing interest of the Transferring Club in the registration, federative or economic rights or rights of any other nature whatsoever of the player is extinguished absolutely save for the Transferring Club's entitlement to receive a Sell-On Fee or Contingent Sum;

1.3 agrees to remunerate and/or make any other payments whatsoever to or for the benefit of a Player whose registration it holds or who it employs subject to the requirements of the Player Status Rules;

1.4 enters into a Representation Contract with an Intermediary in accordance with The Association's Regulations on Working with Intermediaries or a Representation Agreement with an FA Registered Football Agent in accordance with Football Agent Regulations (as applicable);

1.5 agrees to pay Incidental Expenses;

1.6 agrees or is required to pay or receive a Training Compensation Payment or a Solidarity Payment and/or any other levies or payments payable to or by a Recognised Club pursuant to the statutes or regulations of FIFA or any other football governing body or Competition from time to time, or otherwise properly due to or from such governing body or Competition;

Financing Agreements secured against Fees or other receivables

1.7 In the case of a Transferring Club or Former Club, agrees to receive a Fee, Training Compensation Payment or a Solidarity Payment from:

1.7.1 a Financial Institution,

1.7.2 a Competition in accordance with the provisions of the Rules of the Competition in force at the time; or

1.7.3 The Association in accordance with the provisions of its Rules in force at the time in default of payment of the same by the Recognised Club from which it is due.

1.8 in the case of a Transferring Club, agrees to assign its entitlement to a Fee to a Financial Institution, a Group Undertaking or a Permitted Individual;

1.9 in the case of a Registering Club agrees to pay a Financial Institution to which the Transferring Club has assigned its entitlement to a Fee;

1.10 in the case of a Registering Club, agrees to pay a party to which an Overseas Transferring Club has assigned its entitlement to a Fee, save where that party holds or has held an interest in the registration, federative or economic rights or rights of any other nature whatsoever of the player to which the Fee relates;

1.11 in the case of a Transferring Club, enters into borrowing arrangements with a Financial Institution secured on future instalments of a Fee due from a Registering Club in respect of a player whose registration the Transferring Club has already transferred;

1.12 in the case of a Transferring Club or Former Club, agrees or is required to assign its entitlement to a Fee, Training Compensation Payment or a Solidarity Payment to HMRC or another UK statutory agency;

Other arrangements

1.13 agrees with a player to acquire a right (whether optional, contingent or otherwise) to employ that player at a future date;

1.14 agrees with a Recognised Club to acquire a right (whether optional, contingent or otherwise) to acquire a player at a future date;

1.15 is required to pay Value Added Tax (or any equivalent tax) pursuant to any Agreement or payment permitted by this Regulation B or approved pursuant to Regulation D.

2. In respect of those Agreements permitted under Regulation B.1.7 through B.1.14, a Club must lodge the completed Agreement together with all supporting documentation with The Association within 5 working days of its completion or at the time of submission of the corresponding payment to The Association's Clearing House when appropriate, whichever is the earlier. This requirement is additional to any other disclosure requirement pursuant to the Rules and Regulations of The Association, FIFA and any relevant Competition.

3. In respect of any Agreement permitted under Regulation B.1.13 through B.1.14, the identity of any Intermediary or FA Registered Football Agent (as applicable) or any other person who will be conducting Intermediary Activity or Football Agent Services (as applicable) for the Club and/or player in the registration of that player for that Club must be disclosed to The Association. This includes any individual who may not be registered with The Association as an Intermediary or FA Registered Football Agent (as applicable) at the time that the Agreement is disclosed but who intends to so register by the time of the registration of the player. This requirement is additional to any other disclosure requirement pursuant to the Rules and Regulations of The Association, FIFA and any relevant Competition

C. PERMITTED PLAYER AGREEMENT

1. Subject always to the Rules and Regulations of The Association, FIFA and any relevant Competition, and unless formally approved in advance by The Association pursuant to Regulation D, a Player may only enter into or be party to an Agreement otherwise prohibited pursuant to Regulation A.3 above where that Player:

1.1 enters into a Playing Contract in accordance with the Player Status Rules; or

1.2 enters into a Representation Contract with an Intermediary in accordance with The Association's Regulations on Working with Intermediaries or a Representation Agreement with an FA Registered Football Agent in accordance with The Association's Football Agent Regulations (as applicable); or

1.3 enters into an Image Rights Agreement; or

1.4 enters into a Commercial Agreement; or

1.5 agrees to pay Incidental Expenses.

D. CLUB OR PLAYER AGREEMENTS REQUIRING PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL

1. Save where permitted pursuant to Regulations B or C, a Club or Player may enter into an Agreement otherwise prohibited pursuant to Regulation A.2 or A.3 respectively only where it has obtained in advance the formal written approval of The Association to do so

2. A Club or Player must disclose any proposed Agreement to The Association for its consideration and approval prior to its completion.

3. The Association shall have the power to require of any Participant the provision of any information, documentation or other material of any nature which The Association considers appropriate for its consideration of any matter under these Regulations.

4. In considering whether approval should be granted, The Association shall have regard to, and shall apply principles consistent with, the purpose and intention of its Rules and Regulations together with the Rules and Regulations of FIFA and of any relevant Competition.

TYPICAL AGREEMENTS REQUIRING PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL

Buying out an existing interest in a player

5. An Agreement wherein a Registering Club proposes to acquire the interest of an Overseas Club or any Third Party which has any interest in the registration, federative or economic rights or rights of any other nature whatsoever of a player may be approved only where:

5.1 the Club is seeking to register the player; and

5.2 all sums payable by the Club to a Third Party as a consequence of the Agreement will be paid prior to the expiry of the initial term of the contract of employment between the Club and the player; and

5.3 all sums payable by the Club are paid via The Association using the relevant designated account as prescribed by The Association from time to time; and

5.4 the Club does not grant any right, commit to any payment or confer any benefit whatsoever, whether contingent or otherwise, to any party in relation to the future sale of the player, save only where it agrees to pay a Sell-On Fee or Contingent Sum to the Transferring Club; and

5.5 as a consequence of the Agreement, any existing interest in the registration, federative or economic rights or rights of any other nature whatsoever of the player will be extinguished absolutely; and

5.6 the Club undertakes to commit each and every term of the Agreement to writing and to lodge this Agreement in its final form together with all associated documentation with The Association within 5 working days of its completion.

Other financing Agreements

6. An Agreement wherein a Club proposes to enter into borrowing or another form of financing or investment that is secured against, or has a return directly linked to the value or future value of any Player employed by a Club may be approved subject to such conditions as may be required by The Association from time to time.

7. An Agreement wherein a Transferring Club proposes to assign its entitlement to a Fee to any party other than a Financial Institution, Group Undertaking or Permitted Individual may be approved subject to such conditions as may be required by The Association from time to time.

8. An Agreement wherein a Registering Club proposes to pay a party to which an Overseas Transferring Club has assigned its entitlement to a Fee, in circumstances where that party holds or has held an interest in the registration, federative or economic rights or rights of any other nature whatsoever of the player to which the Fee relates, may be approved subject to such conditions as may be required by The Association from time to time.

Other Agreements

9. Any other proposed Agreement that does not fall within the typical Agreements requiring prior written approval set out at Regulations D.5 through D.8 above, will be considered for approval at The Association's discretion.

E. DEFINITIONS

'Agreement', which shall be interpreted broadly and purposively for the purposes of these Regulations, means any agreement, arrangement, obligation, undertaking or understanding whether oral or written, formal or informal, contractual or otherwise, binding in law or otherwise, and of any nature whatsoever; and which includes for these purposes any attempt to enter into any such Agreement.

'Commercial Agreement' means a sponsorship or marketing agreement wherein a player receives remuneration or payment in consideration for his/her marketing or advertising of or association with a product or undertaking in circumstances which do not grant to any party the ability materially to influence that player's performance in Matches and/or Competitions.

'Contingent Sum' means any payment or fee or other valuable consideration agreed and/ or payable as part of the transfer of the registration of a player that is contingent on the happening of a future event (e.g. player appearances)

'Fee' means any one or more of a Transfer Fee, Contingent Sum, Loan Fee or Sell-on Fee or any part thereof.

'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 definition 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).

'Former Club' means a Recognised Club that has previously held the registration of a player.

'Group Undertaking' has the meaning set out in section 1161(5) of the Companies Act 2006.

'Image Rights Agreement' means any Agreement whereby a player transfers to any person ('the transferee') the right to exploit his image or reputation either in relation to football or non-footballing activities in circumstances which do not grant to the transferee or any other party the ability materially to influence that player's performance in Matches and/or Competitions.

'Incidental Expenses' means any legitimate expenses incurred by a Club or player in connection with registering a player, including the costs of pre-registration medical examinations, travel and relocation expenses, visa and work permit fees, fees for legal services (other than Intermediary Activity as defined in The Association's Regulations on Working with Intermediaries or Football Agent Services as defined in The Association's Football Agent Regulations (as applicable)) and the payment of insurance premiums on policies for the Club's benefit and like expenses, subject to all other applicable Rules and Regulations of The Association, FIFA and any relevant Competition.

'Loan Fee' means any payment or fee or other valuable consideration agreed and/ or payable as compensation in exchange for the transfer of registration of a player on a temporary basis.

'National Association' means a member association of FIFA.

'Overseas Club' means any Recognised Club that plays the game of football in any country other than England in a competition sanctioned and recognised by the relevant National Association (with the exception of Clubs outside England that play in competitions sanctioned by The Association).

'Overseas Transferring Club' means an Overseas Club that will transfer or has transferred as a consequence of the Agreement the registration of a player to a Registering Club.

'Overseas Player' means any player who plays the game of football in any country other than England and is recognised as such by their National Association.

'Permitted Individual' means an Official or Officer of the relevant Transferring Club who is, at the time of the proposed assignment, subject to and fully compliant with the requirements of the applicable Owners' and Directors' Test.

'Recognised Club' means any football club that plays the game of football in any country in a competition sanctioned and recognised by the relevant National Association.

For the avoidance of doubt, a Club (as defined under the Rules of The Association) is deemed to be a Recognised Club for the purposes of these Regulations.

'Registering Club' means a Recognised Club that will acquire or has acquired, as a consequence of the Agreement the registration of a player from a Transferring Club.

'Sell-on Fee' means any payment or fee or other valuable consideration agreed and/or payable as part of the transfer of the registration of a player that entitles a Transferring Club to a financial interest in a future Transfer Fee related to the player.

'Solidarity Payment' means any payment made pursuant to the requirements of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players in relation to the Solidarity Mechanism as defined within those regulations or any successor or replacement thereof.

'Third Party' means any natural or legal person, undertaking or entity that is not a Club or an Overseas Club.

'Training Compensation Payment' means any payment made pursuant to the requirements of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players in relation to Training Compensation as defined within those regulations or any successor or replacement thereof.

'Transfer Fee' means any payment or fee or other valuable consideration agreed and/ or payable as compensation in exchange for the transfer of registration of a player on a permanent basis.

'Transferring Club' means a Recognised Club that will transfer or has transferred as a consequence of the Agreement the registration of a player to a Registering Club.

19 - OWNERS' AND DIRECTORS' TEST

THESE REGULATIONS ARE MADE PURSUANT TO RULE J1.6 OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Regulations for the Owners' and Directors' Test For Clubs Competing in The National League (National League North and National League South only), The Southern Football League, The Isthmian Football League and The Northern Premier League ("The Leagues")

("The Regulations").

These Regulations shall be effective from 5 May 2026.

Guidance

The previous iteration of these Regulations, as contained within the 2025/2026 FA Handbook, shall continue to take effect until 4 May 2026 inclusive.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In these Regulations the following words shall have the following meanings:

"The Association" means The Football Association Limited, of Wembley Stadium, London, HA9 0WS.

"Associate" means a person deemed to be:

(i) anyone of a close relationship with that person who, in the reasonable opinion of The Association, is or is likely to be acting with that person; or

(ii) any company of which that person is a Director or over which that person is able to exercise control or influence; or

(iii) any person who is an employee or partner of that person or is in close relationship with any such employee or partner; or

(iv) if that person or any associate of that person is a company, then any holding company or subsidiary of that company or a subsidiary of its holding company, or any Director or employee of the company or any such holding company or subsidiary or person in a close relationship with any such Director or employee; or

(v) if that person has an agreement or arrangement (whether legally binding or not) with any other person in relation to the exercise of their voting power in a Club or in relation to the holding or disposal of their interest in a Club, then that other person.

"Applicant Officer" means any person applying to become an Officer of a Club.

"Authorised Signatory" means any existing Officer of the Club.

"Bankruptcy Order" means an order adjudging an individual bankrupt.

"Bankruptcy Restriction Order" and **"Interim Bankruptcy Restriction Order"** mean the orders of the same name made under the provisions of Schedule 1A of the Insolvency Act 1986.

"Club" means any association football club that is from time to time, competing in any of The National League (National League North and National League South only), The Southern Football League, The Isthmian Football League and The Northern Premier League.

"Competition" means any competition (whether a league or knock-out competition or otherwise) sanctioned by The Association.

"Confirmation" means the confirmation sent by The Association to a Club stating whether or not the Applicant Officer is permitted to act as an Officer of the Club.

"Conviction" means a formal finding made by a court of competent jurisdiction that a person is guilty beyond reasonable doubt of a criminal offence, whether that finding was made before or after these Regulations came into effect, and whether or not that finding is considered to be final pending resolution of any appeal against that finding. The word **"Convicted"** shall be construed accordingly.

"Declaration" means the Declaration form as prescribed by The Association and shown at Schedule 1 to these Regulations, such forms to be signed by both the Applicant Officer and an Authorised Signatory (who may not be the same person).

"Director" shall have the meaning given to it in FA Rules.

"Dishonest Act" means any act which would reasonably be considered to be dishonest.

"Disqualifying Condition" means those criteria listed at (i) to (xiv) in the Declaration.

"Effective Date" means 1 August 2013.

"Football Club" means any association football club.

"Foreign Officer" means any director of any football club and/or in respect of any football club participating in a league outside of England, any individual person operating the equivalent powers, holding the equivalent role or registration, having received the equivalent election, or having been named on an equivalent form as an Officer as defined above, in any jurisdiction other than England.

"Group Undertaking" means as set out in Section 1161(5) of Companies Act 2006.

"Individual Voluntary Arrangement" means an arrangement made under the provisions of Part VIII of the Insolvency Act 1986 ("the 1986 Act").

"Insolvency Event" refers to any one of the following;

(a) entering into a Company Voluntary Arrangement pursuant to Part 1 of the 1986 Act or a compromise or arrangement with its creditors under Part 26 of the Companies Act 2006 or a restructuring plan under Part 26A of the Companies Act 2006 or any compromise agreement with its creditors as a whole; or

(b) lodging a Notice of Intention to Appoint an Administrator or Notice of Appointment of an Administrator at Court in accordance with paragraph 26 or paragraph 29 of Schedule B1 to the 1986 Act, an application to the Court for an Administration Order under paragraph 12 of Schedule B1 to the 1986 Act (other than paragraph 12(1)(c)) or where an Administrator is appointed or an Administration Order is made ("Administrator" and "Administration Order" having the meanings attributed to them respectively by paragraphs 1 and 10 of Schedule B1 to the 1986 Act); or

(c) an Administrative Receiver (as defined by section 251 of the 1986 Act), a Law of Property Act Receiver (appointed under section 109 of the Law of Property Act 1925) or any Receiver appointed by the Court under the Supreme Court Act 1981 or any other Receiver is appointed over any assets which, in the opinion of The Association, are material to the Club's ability to fulfil its obligations as a member of the League; or

(d) the coming into force of a moratorium pursuant to Part A1 of the Insolvency Act 1986; or

(e) shareholders passing a resolution pursuant to section 84(1) of the 1986 Act to voluntarily wind up; or

(f) a meeting of creditors is convened pursuant to section 95 or section 98 of the 1986 Act; or

(g) a winding up order is made by the Court under section 122 of the 1986 Act or a provisional liquidator is appointed under section 135 of the 1986 Act; or

(h) ceasing or forming an intention to cease wholly or substantially to carry on business save for the purpose of reconstruction or amalgamation or otherwise in accordance with a scheme of proposals which have previously been submitted to and approved in writing by The Association; or

(i) being subject to any insolvency regime in any jurisdiction outside England and Wales which is analogous with the insolvency regimes detailed in sub-paragraphs (a) to (h) above;

"Instruction" means the written notification from The Association to a Club and Officer stating that an individual is not permitted to hold the position of Officer.

"League" means any league sanctioned by The Association.

"Notice" means the notification from The Association issued to a League giving notice that the Club's membership of the League is to be suspended in accordance with League Rules.

"Officer" means any Director of any Club, and/or in respect of any Club, any individual person operating the powers that are usually associated with those of:

(a) a director of a company incorporated under the Companies Act 2006 (as a company limited by shares or guarantee);

(b) an officer of a registered society under the Cooperative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 (**"a registered society"**); or

(c) a Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer of a Club that is an unincorporated association.

Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the following individuals shall be deemed to qualify as an Officer:

(a) a person registered as a company secretary of the Club with the Registrar of Companies;

(b) a person registered with the Financial Conduct Authority as an officer of the Club in the case of a registered society;

(c) a person for whom a Form AP.01 (to be filed with the Registrar of Companies) has been completed in relation to the Club;

(d) a person that has been named by the Club on the latest Form A submitted to The Association as being an Officer of the Club and any subsequent amendments thereto that are required to be advised to The Association under FA Rule A3.10.2;

(e) a person who has been elected to become a director of the Club at a meeting of the board of directors or members of the Club;

(f) a person who has been elected to become Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer of a Club that is an unincorporated association at a meeting of the Management Committee or members of the Club;

There shall be excluded from the definition of Officer any legal or professional advisers acting in their legal or professional capacity without any interest (in excess of a 5% shareholding) in the Club other than as its advisers.

"Parent Undertaking" means as set out in Section 1162 of Companies Act 2006.

"Registered Offender" means any Person who is required to notify personal information to the police in accordance with Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 or any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof.

"Serving Officer" means any person qualifying as an Officer of a Club before the Effective Date and continuing to qualify as such at that date.

"Shares" means shares of any class or other equity securities.

"Significant Interest" means the holding and/or possession of the legal or beneficial interest in, and/or the ability to exercise the voting rights applicable to, Shares in the Club which confer in aggregate on the holder(s) thereof ten (10) per cent or more of the total voting rights exercisable in respect of the Shares of the Club. All or part of any such interest may be held directly or indirectly or by contract including, but not limited to, by way of membership of any group that in the opinion of The Association are acting in concert, and any rights or powers held by an Associate shall be included for the purposes of determining whether an interest or interests amounts to a **"Significant Interest"**.

"Sports Governing Body" means any ruling body of a sport that is recognised by the International Olympic Committee, UK Sport, Sport England, another of the home countries' sports councils, or any other national or international sports association, league, or other competent governing body or any sport, wherever situated.

1.2 In these Regulations, the phrase "qualifying as/qualifies as an Officer" shall mean when an individual satisfies one or more of the criteria set out within the definition of Officer as described above.

2. GENERAL

2.1 No Serving Officer who becomes subject to a Disqualifying Condition on or after the Effective Date may continue to act as an Officer of a Club.

2.2 No Serving Officer who is subject to a Disqualifying Condition as at the Effective Date for which he would be disqualified, save for the fact that he is a Serving Officer, may become an Officer of another Club until such time as he is no longer subject to the Disqualifying Condition.

2.3 No person who is subject to a Disqualifying Condition (and who is not a Serving Officer) may become an Officer of a Club.

2.4 No person who qualifies as or becomes an Officer on or after the Effective Date who becomes subject to a Disqualifying Condition on or after the Effective Date may continue to act as an Officer of a Club.

2.5 The Association shall have the power to publish in the public press, on a website or in any other manner considered appropriate:

2.5.1 the outcome of its consideration of any Declaration or Confirmation (including, for the avoidance of doubt, the fact that a person has failed to satisfy the requirements of these Regulations):

2.5.1.1 the fact and/or detail of any Instruction or Notice issued; or

2.5.1.2 any other matter relating to the application of these Regulations to a Club, an Applicant Officer or an Officer, whether or not this reflects on the character or conduct of the Club, Applicant Officer or Officer.

Each Applicant Officer, Officer and Club shall be deemed to have consented to such publication as The Association considers appropriate.

3. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Submission of Declaration

3.1.1 No later than 14 days prior to the date on which it is anticipated that a person shall become or qualify as an Officer of a Club, that Club must submit to The Association a duly completed Declaration in respect of the Applicant Officer signed by the Applicant Officer and by an Authorised Signatory.

3.1.2 The Association shall use its best endeavours to send the Confirmation to the Club within 14 days of receipt of a completed Declaration. The Confirmation shall be given to the Club in writing, by post or email and copied to the League of which the Club is a member.

3.1.3 The Applicant Officer shall not be permitted to act as an Officer of that Club until such time as The Association gives written confirmation to the Club.

3.2 Notification of an Officer becoming subject to a Disqualifying Condition

3.2.1 Upon an Officer becoming subject to any Disqualifying Condition(s) contained in a submitted Declaration, or that results in a change to any other information contained in the Declaration:

3.2.1.1 the Officer in respect of whom the Declaration was submitted shall within three working days give full written particulars thereof to his Club; and

3.2.1.2 the Club shall thereupon within three working days give such particulars to The Association.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

3.2.2 Upon The Association becoming aware by virtue of the circumstances given in paragraph 3.2.1 above, or by any other means, that a person is subject to a Disqualifying Condition, The Association will:

3.2.2.1 issue the Instruction to the person that he is disqualified, and requiring him to remove himself as an Officer within 7 days of the date of the Instruction or such period as The Association stipulates in the Instruction and provide evidence of the removal to The Association to be received within three working days of the removal;

3.2.2.2 issue the Instruction to the Club that, in default of the Officer's removal, it shall procure the removal of the Officer from that position within such period as The Association stipulates in the Instruction and provide evidence of the removal to The Association to be received within three working days of the removal.

3.3 Notification of Person ceasing to be an Officer

3.3.1 A Club shall inform The Association of the removal of any Officer who is not subject to a Disqualifying Condition within 7 days.

4. DISCIPLINARY PROVISIONS

4.1 The Association shall have the power to prescribe fixed fines in respect of any default, as per Schedule 2 to these Regulations. There shall be no appeal against any such penalties.

4.2 Any Club that:

4.2.1 fails to comply with its obligations under these Regulations; or

4.2.2 knowingly allows a Declaration to be submitted that is false in any particular

shall be guilty of Misconduct. The Association's powers to bring disciplinary proceedings under the Disciplinary Regulations shall apply, save that The Association may at its discretion, and in place of or in addition to issuing formal disciplinary charges, issue the Club with a Fixed Penalty in accordance with Schedule 2.

4.3 Any Officer who:

4.3.1 fails to comply with his obligations under these Regulations; or

4.3.2 submits a Declaration that is false in any particular,

shall be guilty of Misconduct. The Association's powers to bring disciplinary proceedings under the Disciplinary Regulations shall apply.

5. SUSPENSION OF LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP

5.1 Where any person acts as an Officer of a Club in breach of any of paragraphs 2.1-2.4 and/ or 3.1.3, and that Club fails to remove that Officer having been instructed to do so by The Association (as per paragraph 3.2.2); then The Association may issue a Notice suspending the Club's membership to the League of which the Club is a member and forward a copy to the Club.

5.2 The suspension of the Club's membership of the League may only be lifted upon written notification from The Association.

6. APPEALS

6.1 There will be a right of appeal for:

6.1.1 an Applicant Officer where a Confirmation is issued to a Club under paragraph 3.1.2;

6.1.2 an Officer made subject to an Instruction under paragraph 3.2.2; or

6.1.3 a Club made subject to a Notice under paragraph 5.1.

6.2 Save in respect to the time for lodging and hearing an appeal, the appeal shall be conducted in accordance with the Appeal Regulations. Any appeal to The Association must be lodged in writing within 7 days of the date of the Confirmation, Instruction or Notice. Any appeal hearing will be held within 14 days of the appeal being lodged with The Association.

6.3 The effect of the Confirmation, Instruction or Notice may be suspended pending the outcome of an appeal upon application to the Chairman of the Appeal Board.

6.4 An appeal will be allowed only on the basis that:

6.4.1 none of the Disqualifying Conditions apply; or

6.4.2 any applicable Disqualifying Condition has or will within 14 days of the date of the appeal being lodged with The Association cease to exist; or

6.4.3 the Disqualifying Condition is a conviction that is subject to an appeal which has not yet been determined and in all the circumstances it would be unreasonable for the individual to be disqualified as an Officer pending the determination of that appeal; or

6.4.4 the Disqualifying Condition is in respect of a conviction of a court of foreign jurisdiction; or suspension, ban or any sanction by a Sports Governing Body; or any form of suspension, ban or other form of disqualification by a professional body; or a finding of a breach of a rule set out in Disqualifying Condition (vi) and there are compelling reasons why that particular conviction, suspension, ban, or sanction, disqualification, or finding should not lead to disqualification.

7. IMPLEMENTATION

7.1 These Regulations come into effect on 23 July 2020.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

SCHEDULE ONE

AS AMENDED FROM 20 May 2026

THE DECLARATION

ALL SECTIONS TO BE COMPLETED BY ANY PERSON SEEKING TO BECOME AN OFFICER ON OR AFTER 20 MAY 2026 OF A CLUB THAT IS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE (STEP 2 ONLY), THE ISTHMIAN LEAGUE, THE NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE OR THE SOUTHERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Any individual completing this Form should read the Owners' and Directors' Test Regulations supplied to their Club Secretary or shown on TheFA.com before doing so. All questions below must be completed by the Applicant Officer. The Form must be signed by the Applicant Officer and on behalf of the Club.

Applicant Officer's Full Name	
Previous or Other Names	
Date of Birth	
Full Home Address	
Email Address	
Full Name of Club ("the Club") *(if a company the full company name Is to be provided)*	
Company Number *(if applicable)*	
Position to be held *(eg Chairman, Director etc)*	
Proposed Start Date	
Proposed Shareholding *(enter % to be held or "N/A")*	
I have held a position as an Officer of a Football Club since 1 February 2005: *(enter "Yes" or "No")*	

(If "Yes" insert details below):

FROM	TO	POSITION	NAME OF CLUB

I confirm that I am aware of the duties and responsibilities of an Officer as set out in UK Law and of a Football Club as set out in the Rules, Regulations and Articles of The Association and the League of which the above named Club is a member. I have considered taking professional advice on this matter where appropriate.

I hereby declare that:

(i) I am not either directly or indirectly involved in or have the power to determine or influence the management or administration of another Football Club (including the direct or indirect holding of a Significant Interest in that Football Club) against which the Club may play fixtures in any Competition sanctioned by The Association and acknowledge that The Association may exercise its absolute discretion in the application of this Disqualifying Condition to protect the integrity of the game based on any involvement that I may have in more than one club given the position of those clubs in the game;

(ii) I am not prohibited by law from being an Officer (including but not limited to being subject to a disqualification order as a director of a UK registered company under the Company Directors' Disqualification Act 1986 (as amended or any equivalent provisions in any jurisdiction that has a substantially similar effect) or being subject to an undertaking given to the Secretary of State under that Act (as amended or any equivalent provisions in any jurisdiction that has a substantially similar effect) unless a court of competent jurisdiction makes an order under that Act permitting an appointment as an Officer);

(iii) I have not been convicted of any of the following offences, or where I have, this conviction is now considered spent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974;

- **(a)** an offence involving a Dishonest Act;
- **(b)** corruption;
- **(c)** perverting the course of justice;
- **(d)** committing a serious breach of any requirement under the Companies Act 1985 or 2006 or any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof;
- **(e)** dishonestly receiving a programme broadcast from within the UK with intent to avoid payment under Section 297 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988;
- **(f)** admitting spectators to watch a football match at unlicensed premises under Section 9 of the Football Spectators Act 1989;
- **(g)** ticket touting under Section 166 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994;
- **(h)** any attempt or conspiracy to commit any of the offences set out in paragraphs (a) to (g) above;
- **(i)** having an unspent conviction by a court of competent jurisdiction anywhere in the world (including any attempt and/or any conspiracy to commit the same) that results in a sentence of at least 12 months imprisonment but for the avoidance of doubt, not a suspended jail sentence unless that sentence is subsequently activated for a period of at least 12 months for whatever reason;
- **(j)** any conviction for a like offence to any of the offences set out in paragraphs (a) to (h) above by a competent court having jurisdiction outside of England and Wales.

(iv) I am not a Registered Offender and am not required to notify personal information pursuant to Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003;

(v) I am not subject to a banning order in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Football Spectators Act 2000 (or any equivalent provision in any jurisdiction that has a substantially similar effect);

(vi) I have not breached or admitted breaching (irrespective of any sanction actually imposed on me or whether any disciplinary proceedings were brought) at any time:

- **(a)** Rule E5 of The Association in relation to bribes, gifts or rewards or other matters in relation to matches;
- **(b)** Rule E8 of The Association in relation to betting;
- **(c)** Rule E9 of The Association in relation to attempts and agreements to breach Rules E5.1 or E8 of The Association;
- **(d)** Any other rule in force from time to time in relation to the prohibition on betting on football matches played in England and Wales;
- **(e)** Any rule of any other ruling body of football in relation to the prohibition of betting on football (whether in England or Wales or elsewhere);

(vii) I am not subject to a suspension, ban or other form of disqualification by;

- **(a)** a Sports Governing Body from involvement in the administration of a sport; or
- **(b)** a professional body, including, by way of example and without limitation, The Law Society, Bar Council or The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales or any equivalent body in any jurisdiction outside of England and Wales, whether directly (for example a sanction against the individual in particular) or indirectly (for example a direction to persons subject to the jurisdiction of the sanctioning body that they should not employ, contract with or otherwise engage or retain the services of the person in question);

(viii) I have not in relation to the assessment of compliance with these Regulations (and/or any similar or equivalent rules of the Premier League, the English Football League, the Women's Super League or the Women's Championship) at any time:

- **(a)** Failed to provide all relevant information (including, without limitation, information relating to any other individual who would qualify as an Officer but has not been disclosed, including where they are acting as a proxy, agent or nominee for another individual or entity) or
- **(b)** Provided false, misleading or inaccurate information.

(ix) I am not subject to a Bankruptcy Order, Interim Bankruptcy Restriction Order, Bankruptcy Restriction Order or an Individual Voluntary Arrangement or any other formal compromise arrangement with my creditors recognised under law or any equivalent provisions in any jurisdiction that has a substantially similar effect, and in each case as may be amended from time to time;

(x) I have not been an Officer of a Football Club that has been expelled from either the Premier League, EFL, National League, Isthmian League, Northern Premier League, Southern Football League, Women's Super League or Women's Championship whilst I have been an Officer of that Football Club or in the 30 days immediately following me having resigned as an Officer of that Football Club;

(xi) I have not been a Foreign Officer of a football club that has been expelled from a professional or semi-professional league outside of England whilst I was a Foreign Officer of that football club or in the 30 days immediately following me having resigned as a Foreign Officer of that football club;

(xii) Since 1 February 2005 I have not been an Officer of:

(a) two or more Football Clubs or Parent Undertaking or Group Undertaking of a Football Club that have entered into an Insolvency Event and in respect of which a sporting sanction was applied either:

- whilst I have been an Officer of those companies; or
- in the 30 days immediately following me having resigned as an Officer of those companies; or

(b) one Football Club or Parent Undertaking or Group Undertaking of a Football Club that has entered into two separate Insolvency Events and in respect of which a sporting sanction was applied either:

- whilst I have been an Officer of that Football Club or Parent Undertaking of a Football Club; or
- in the 30 days immediately following me having resigned as an Officer of that Football Club or Parent Undertaking of a Football Club.

(xiii) I am not an Intermediary or FA Registered Football Agent (as defined in Football Agent Regulations) and/or registered or licensed as an intermediary or agent pursuant to the rules or regulations of FIFA or any member association of FIFA.

(xiv) I have not engaged in conduct outside of the United Kingdom that, in the reasonable opinion of The Association, would constitute an offence of the sort described in Disqualifying Condition (iii) if such conduct had taken place in the United Kingdom, whether or not such conduct resulted in a Conviction.

(For the avoidance of doubt, where any Football Club or Parent Undertaking has been subject to more than one Insolvency Event during the process of compromising its creditors (for example administration followed by exit via a company voluntary arrangement ('CVA')), this will only count as one Insolvency Event).

I confirm that I am not currently the subject of any current legal proceedings for any of the offences detailed at items (ii) or (iii)(a) to (j) above. Where such proceedings exist full details are included with this Declaration. I confirm that I shall advise The Association in writing immediately of the outcome of any such proceedings when determined.

I understand that the words or terms 'Applicant Officer', 'Authorised Signatory', 'Club', 'League', 'Competition', 'Conviction', 'Declaration', 'Confirmation', 'Instruction, 'Notice', 'Officer', 'Football Club', 'Dishonest Act', 'Registered Offender', 'Sports Governing Body', 'Bankruptcy Order', 'Interim Bankruptcy Restriction Order', 'Bankruptcy Restriction Order', 'Individual Voluntary Arrangement', 'Parent Undertaking', 'Group Undertaking', 'Insolvency Event' and 'Significant Interest' above have the meanings set out in the Regulations of The Association.

I, the Applicant Officer, confirm that I have read the 'notes and definitions' that accompany this form and acknowledge that my data will be processed for the purposes of ensuring the integrity of the sport and in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. I am aware that more information about how my data will be used, and my rights, are set out in The Association's Owners' and Directors' Test Privacy Policy.

I certify that the above information is correct and I acknowledge and agree that The Association shall be entitled to undertake such checks as may be necessary to verify the information contained within this Declaration. I acknowledge that:

(a) if I provide a false declaration then I am liable to such penalties as are set out in the Disciplinary Regulations;

(b) having submitted this Declaration, in the event that I become unable to satisfy any of the conditions (i) to (xiv) shown above, that:

- **(i)** I must notify the Club within three working days; and
- **(ii)** I will be unable to act as an Officer of a Club;

(c) The Association shall have the power to publish in the public press, on a website or in any other manner it considers appropriate:

- **(i)** the outcome of its consideration of any Declaration or Confirmation (including, for the avoidance of doubt, the fact that I have failed to satisfy the requirements of these Regulations);
- **(ii)** the fact and/or detail of any Instruction or Notice issued; or
- **(iii)** any other matter relating to the application of these Regulations to me as an Applicant Officer or Officer, whether or not this reflects on my character or conduct.

In signing this Declaration the Applicant Officer confirms his or her agreement to be bound by The Association's Rules and Regulations and that he or she will be considered to be a Participant pursuant to The Association's Rules and Regulations.

Applicant Officer signature

Signed: _____

Name (Print): _____

Date: _____

Authorised Signatory signature

I hereby confirm that I am an Authorised Signatory of the Club and that to the best of the Club's knowledge and belief the above information is correct. I acknowledge that:

(a) if the Club gives a false declaration then it is liable to such penalties as are set out in the Disciplinary Regulations;

(b) The Association shall have the power to publish in the public press, on a website or in any other manner it considers appropriate:

(i) the outcome of its consideration of any Declaration or Confirmation (including, for the avoidance of doubt, the fact that any Applicant Officer or Officer of the Club has failed to satisfy the requirements of these Regulations);

(ii) the fact and/or detail of any Instruction or Notice issued; or

(iii) any other matter relating to the application of these Regulations to the Club, an Applicant Officer or Officer of the Club, whether or not this reflects on the character or conduct of the Club, Applicant Officer or Officer.

Signed: _____

Name (Print): _____

Date: _____

For and on behalf of the Club

(Note – the Authorised Signatory signing on behalf of the Club must be an existing Officer of the Club unless directed by The Association)

All Pages Of This Form Must Be Returned To:

ODT Declarations
Licensing & Sanctioning Department,
The Football Association,
Wembley Stadium,
PO Box 1966
London
SW1P 9EQ

or by email to odt@TheFA.com

A copy is to be provided to your League.

SCHEDULE TWO

OADT – OVERDUE FORMS FINE TARIFF

DAYS OVERDUE	0-7	8-21	22 AND OVER*
National League North and National League South	£300	£400	£500
Southern Football League / Northern Premier League / Isthmian Football League – Premier Divisions	£150	£200	£250
Southern Football League / Northern Premier League / Isthmian Football League –Non- Premier Divisions	£75	£100	£125

* Clubs fined this amount for each period of four weeks that form remains unsubmitted.

OADT – FALSE INFORMATION FINE TARIFF

LEAGUE	FIXED FINE FOR PROVISION OF FALSE INFORMATION
National League North and National League South	£2,000
Southern Football League/ Northern Premier League/ Isthmian Football League – Premier Divisions	£1,000
Southern Football League/ Northern Premier League/ Isthmian Football League – Non-Premier Divisions	£500

20 - SANCTION AND CONTROL OF COMPETITIONS REGULATIONS

REGULATIONS FOR THE SANCTION AND CONTROL OF COMPETITIONS AT STEP 1 OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM AND BELOW

Preamble

Competitions receive sanction from The Association or County FAs to demonstrate that each Competition comprises clubs that are affiliated to a County FA; that each set of rules complies with FA requirements and that the Competitions may benefit from the use of registered match officials, may play against other affiliated clubs and benefit from other services offered by The Association and County FAs. All Affiliated Associations sanctioning Competitions and all Competitions shall observe the Rules and Regulations of The Association. Any rule, regulation or practice of any such Association or Competition that is inconsistent with the Rules and Regulations of The Association shall be void and unenforceable. For further avoidance of doubt, the fact that a Competition has been sanctioned whether directly or indirectly by The Association shall not render enforceable any such rule, regulation or practice that would otherwise be void and unenforceable under the Rules of The Association.

In order to receive sanction from The Association or an Affiliated Association, a Competition must have its Rules approved by the sanctioning Association and provide a list of its member clubs and teams, all of which must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association for the appropriate season.

Applications to form new Competitions should be directed to the Affiliated Association which has the majority of clubs expected to participate. The application must state whether the Competition comprises new clubs/teams or whether it proposes to invite clubs/teams from existing Competitions. Applications to form a new Competition involving clubs/teams from existing Competitions must allow time for the sanctioning Association to consult with the existing Competitions and relevant Associations in order to assess the impact of the new Competition before deciding whether to approve or reject the application.

1. A Competition consisting of clubs, all of which are Members of one Affiliated Association only, shall make application for sanction to, and the Competition shall be sanctioned by, and be under the jurisdiction of that Association.

2. Competitions at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System and competitions in the top five tiers of the Women's Pyramid shall make application for sanction to The Association. Other competitions consisting of clubs within the area of, or affiliated to, two or more Affiliated Associations shall make application for sanction to, and may be affiliated with, the association which has the majority of the Competition's clubs in membership. In the case of any dispute as to the correct sanctioning Association, this will be determined by The Association. In its absolute discretion, The Association may vary the provisions of this Regulation as it sees fit.

3. A Competition may be used for advertising and/or sponsorship purposes and the name of the donor of a Trophy or any other presentation may form part of the title of a Competition only with the prior consent of The Association or appropriate Affiliated Association. The title sponsor of a Competition may be changed from season to season.

4. If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a Trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with in accordance with the Competition rule governing the dissolution of the Competition as set out in The Association's Standard Codes of Rules and approved by the sanctioning Association.

5. The sanctioning Association(s) may not allot a club/team to a Competition. The sanctioning Association may permit the Competition to make provision in its Rules to restrict the number of Competitions, except FA and County Cup Competitions, in which its teams take part. An exception to the Regulation shall be in Competitions that form part of the National League System, Regional NLS Feeder Leagues and the Women's Football Pyramid and Girls' Football, as determined from time to time by The Association. In accordance with FIFA Statutes, Clubs applying to play in a Competition under the jurisdiction of another National Association must have the permission of their County FA, The Association, other National Association, UEFA and FIFA.

6. In accordance with the Player Status Rules, Players without a written contract are not restricted as to the clubs for which they may register and play provided they comply with the Rules and Regulations of any Competition in which their club(s) may be engaged.

7. Application for sanction of a Competition must be made in a timely fashion. Following approval of the Rules by the sanctioning Association, Competitions shall complete and submit FA Form "D" giving a full list of clubs participating in the Competition for the relevant season. All participating clubs must be correctly affiliated to an Affiliated Association before the Competition starts the season.

All Competitions

i. Applications for sanction must receive approval from the Competition's sanctioning Association for:

ii. The rules of the Competition and related Competitions (e.g. League plus League Cups); and

iii. All Member clubs being correctly affiliated to an Affiliated Association; and

iv. The terms and conditions of any offer of sponsorship, which must include details of the offer made and the proposed distribution/use of sponsorship monies.

v. The proposed Rules of the Competition must be submitted to the sanctioning Association at least 28 days prior to the date set for the Competition's AGM or SGM. The request for approval must clearly set out the proposed departures from the Standard Code of Rules, highlighting any alterations.

vi. Late submissions may result in the Rules not being approved in time to be considered at the General Meeting.

vii. For Competitions sanctioned for the previous season only changes to the Rules of the previous season need be submitted. Such changes to the Rules of the previous season must be set out clearly alongside the existing rule with an explanation for the proposed change and state whether the change has been proposed by clubs, the Board or Management Committee or is a mandatory change required by The Association or sanctioning Association.

viii. Proposed rules that do not comply with the mandatory elements of the Standard Code of Rules published by The Association from time to time will need to be amended to satisfy the requirements of the sanctioning Association before being put before the Competition's General Meeting. Any proposed rule that runs contrary to FA policies shall also be amended or withdrawn before being considered by the Competition's AGM or SGM.

ix. A Competition is not allowed to alter its Constitution, Rules or clubs without the consent of The Association or the Affiliated Association(s) sanctioning the Competition.

x. Rule changes may not be made after they have been approved by the sanctioning Association(s) giving consent to the Competition, unless such intended alteration has first been submitted to, and approved by, that Association, and subsequently by a General Meeting of the Competition.

xi. Competitions shall submit a complete list of all member clubs prior to each season on FA Form "D" or in the manner prescribed by The Association from time to time.

xii. Prior to the start of a Competition's season, the Competition shall ensure that all participating teams are correctly affiliated and shall make available to the sanctioning Association a list of all participating teams.

xiii. Applications for sponsorship may be made at any time although sanctioning Associations will require up to 14 days to consider and approve applications

xiv. Sponsorship terms and conditions can only apply and refer to the Competition and its member clubs. The terms of sponsorship must not impose any requirement on clubs which refers to their participation in other unrelated Competitions.

xv. When required to do so by the sanctioning Association, Competitions shall provide a copy of the minutes of their AGM and a copy of the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.

xvi. Competitions shall not allow matches to be played until their member clubs are affiliated and Rules or Rule changes are approved by the sanctioning Association(s).

xvii. Youth (up to and including U18) Competitions must have appointed a Youth League Welfare Officer (YLWO) before sanction may be granted.

xviii. Separate rules must be submitted for Youth sections/Competitions.

Charity Competitions/Matches

Charity Competitions should refer to FA Rule B for specific guidance on staging charity matches. Sanctioning Associations will need to know whether the match / Competition involves affiliated teams or scratch teams.

8. When an application for sanction is made by a Competition the Affiliated Association(s) concerned may require that the Competition Rules provide that representation of the association(s) be by the inclusion of non-voting member(s) of the Management Committee. This arrangement is for the guidance of the Competition to ensure compliance with Association Rules and instructions.

9. The sanctioning Association(s) may approve modifications of the Laws of the Game defined by the International FA Board in Competitions for players under the age of 16, women's football, veterans' football (over 35 years of age) and disability football.

10. If a difference of opinion arises between Affiliated Associations over the right of sanction and jurisdiction, any of the association(s) may appeal to The Association in accordance with FA Rule H and the Appeal Regulations.

11. In the event of a Competition being refused sanction or affiliation by an Affiliated Association the applicants have the right of appeal to The Association in accordance with FA Rule H and the Appeal Regulations.

12. A Competition shall consist of a maximum number of member clubs as approved by the sanctioning Association. The voting rights of member clubs shall be determined by the Rules of the Competition subject to the approval of the sanctioning Association(s).

13. With the exception of any club competing in the Women's Super League, if a club is required to do so by its parent Affiliated Association, a club must enter a suitable Cup Competition of that Association. However, in the absence of any existing suitable County Cup Competition, women's clubs may enter a Competition jointly organised by a neighbouring Affiliated Association. Only the matches of such Competition(s) will take precedence over other Competitions in which the club competes, except the Premier League, the EFL and the EFL Cup Competition.

With the consent of its parent Affiliated Association, a club may enter suitable Cup Competition(s) of other Affiliated Association(s). Ties in The FA Youth Challenge Cup Competition will take precedence with the exception of ties in other FA Competitions and first team League fixtures.

Affiliated Association(s) Cup Competition games which involve the Reserve or Youth teams of a club do not take precedence over arranged first team League fixtures of The National League, Northern Premier, Isthmian and Southern Leagues.

14. **(a)** A club may not withdraw or resign without penalty unless it has complied with the obligations set out in the Rules of the Competition, in so far as such Rules are consistent with the following provisions of this Regulation and the other Rules and Regulations of The Association. Competitions may, through the sanctioning Association, use the regulations of the Football Debt Recovery process to collect football debts of clubs/teams that withdraw without satisfying their obligations to the Competition.

(b) A Competition may require a club to give written notice of an intention or provisional intention to resign or withdraw at the end of a season. Where such notice has been submitted a club must either confirm or rescind the notice, in writing, by 31st March in that season.

(c) A Competition may not, in its Rules and Regulations, adopt or give effect to any Rule, Regulation or practice whereby:-

(i) a club intending or having a provisional intention to resign or withdraw at the end of a season is required to give notice of such intention before 31st December in that season;

(ii) any penalty or other obligation is imposed upon a club intending to resign or withdraw at the end of a season for not having given notice of such intention prior to 31st December.

(iii) any club is or can be required to give notice of an intention or provisional intention to resign or withdraw before being able to apply for membership of another Competition.

(d) Subject to the provisions of this Regulation, a club shall be permitted to resign or withdraw from a Competition at the end of a season.

(e) For the avoidance of doubt and without prejudice to the generality of Regulation 19, any rule, regulation or practice in breach of this Regulation shall be void and unenforceable.

(f) Without at least seven days' written notice to a Competition, a Participant (FA Rule A2) may not make an approach to or have contact with a club still in membership of that Competition with regard to the club becoming a member of another Competition. The approaching Participant (A) may not approach the same Club a second time in the same playing season; (B) may approach only one Club within the same Competition at any time; and (C) may not approach another Club in the same Competition within 28 days of an earlier notice of approach or acknowledgment.

15. **(a)** A Competition must make provision in its Rules for a right of appeal to the sanctioning Association, as provided for in FA Rule B. The Rules of Competitions sanctioned by The Association must make provision for the payment of a minimum fee of £50.

(b) No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an Annual or Special General Meeting unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.

16. In Charity Competitions:-

(a) conducted on a league principle, not less than 1/10th of the gross gate receipts of each match must go to Charity. If the receipts are insufficient to cover ground expenses of the match the percentage may not be taken. Expenses must not include those of the competing clubs;

(b) conducted as a knock-out cup, of the gross gate receipts at least 1/10th of the Preliminary Round(s) and at least 1/3rd of the Semi-Final and Final Ties must go to charity;

(c) a salary or honorarium must not be paid to any official;

(d) at the close of each Competition an audited Balance Sheet or Financial Statement must be forwarded to the sanctioning Association together with confirmation from the Charity(ies) of the amount donated.

17. Competitions shall fix the fees and expenses to be paid to Match Officials officiating in their matches within the limits laid down by the sanctioning Association. Officials shall neither ask for, nor receive a larger fee than that fixed by the Competition.

18. Referees must not be called upon to perform duties extraneous to the Laws of the Game which would bring them into direct contact unnecessarily with participating players, e.g. when match report cards were being signed by players.

19. Competitions must not impose bonds on their member clubs as a guarantee of the good behaviour of their players on or around the field of play.

20. The Rules of the Competition must comply with the Standard Code of Rules issued by The Association and as altered from time to time for the level at which the Competition competes.

21 - NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM REGULATIONS

1. DEFINITIONS

In the interpretation of these Regulations: any words and expressions, unless otherwise defined herein, shall be words and expressions as defined as follows:-

"The Association" means The Football Association Limited.

"Club" means a football club for the time being in a League in membership of the NLS or Feeder Leagues (as applicable).

"Committee" in these Regulations means the relevant Committee appointed by the Association.

"Competition" in these Regulations means a League in the NLS.

"Conditional Licence" means a Licence with conditions attached to be met by a Club within a period determined by the Competition in which the Club holding the Licence is allocated by the Committee. Such period is not to exceed 1 March in the Membership Year to which the Licence relates. Save in exceptional circumstances a Conditional Licence cannot be granted to a Club for successive Membership Years in respect of the same Criterion.

"Criteria" means the Criteria for participation in Play Off Matches as set out in regulation 9 of these Regulations.

"Feeder Leagues" means Regional NLS Feeder Leagues from where a Club can enter the NLS.

"League" means any competition sanctioned by The Association and/or an Affiliated Association in membership of the NLS or Feeder Leagues (as applicable).

"Licence" means an annual licence required to be held by a Club to be a member of a Competition that may be either an Unconditional Licence or Conditional Licence.

"NLS" means the National League System of competitions controlled by The Association where promotion and relegation links exist between participating Leagues.

"Playing Season" means the period between the date on which the first competitive fixture in the League is played each year until the date on which the last competitive fixture in the League is played. For Clubs participating in Play Off Matches this does include the period when Play Off Matches are played.

"Play Off Match(es)" means matches played between Clubs in a Play Off Position on a format to be determined by each League provided that the format is the same across each Step.

"Play Off Position" means the position of a Club at the end of each Playing Season which is provided for in Standardised Rule 12 as qualifying the Club to take part in a Play Off Match to qualify for promotion to the next Step for the next Playing Season.

"Regular Season" means the period between the date on which the first competitive fixture in the League is played each year and the date on which the last competitive fixture in the League is played, excluding Play Off Matches.

"Regulations" means these regulations.

"Rules" means The Association's Standardised Rules or The Association's Standard Code of Rules under which a League is administered.

"Tiebreaker" means the following method of ranking two or more Clubs in order to determine which Club should be ranked higher than the other(s):

- Stage 1 – highest goal difference (in League matches only, and divided by the total number of League matches played by that Club at the end of the current Regular Season).
- Stage 2 – if any Clubs remain tied after Stage 1, most goals scored (in League matches only, and divided by the total number of League matches played by that Club at the end of the current Regular Season).

- Stage 3 – if any Clubs remain tied after Stage 2, most League matches won (divided by the total number of League matches played by that Club at the end of the current Regular Season).
- Stage 4 – if any Clubs remain tied after Stage 4, the Clubs shall participate in a one-off play-off match (or series of play-off matches) to determine their final ranking (with the format and rules of any such play-off match(es) to be determined by the Committee at its absolute discretion).

"Step" means the level at which a Club participates in the NLS or Feeder League (as applicable).

"Unconditional Licence" means a Licence without any conditions attached.

2. THE NLS SHALL BE OPERATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REGULATIONS.

The aims and objectives of the NLS are to provide:

2.1 Clubs with a level of competitive football appropriate to their playing ability, stadium/ ground facilities and geographical location.

2.2 A framework for discussion on matters of policy and common interest to Leagues and Clubs.

2.3 The seasonal movement of Clubs.

2.4 A co-ordinated approach between Leagues regarding the final date of the Playing Season.

All Leagues are bound by the Regulations. A Club is bound by the Regulations from the date it has qualified for placement into the NLS until such time as it leaves the NLS for whatever reason.

3. NLS LEAGUE STRUCTURE

3.1 The current structure of the NLS is set out below:

STEP 1	National League			
STEP 2	National League North		National League South	
STEP 3	Isthmian League - Premier	Northern Premier League - Premier	Southern League - Premier South	Southern League - Premier Central
STEP 4	Isthmian League - D1 South Central	Isthmian League - D1 North	Northern Premier League - D1 West	Southern League - D1 Central
	Isthmian League - D1 South East	Northern Premier League - D1 Mids	Northern Premier League - D1 East	Southern League - D1 South
STEP 5	Step 5 – 16 divisions			
STEP 6	Step 6 – 17 divisions			

The Leagues currently at Steps 5 and 6 are set out at the end of the Regulations.

Each Step shall have the following maximum number of Clubs: Step 1 – 24, Step 2 – 48, Step 3 – 88, Step 4 – 160, Step 5 – 320, Step 6 – 340. Clubs will be placed in the most geographically appropriate division.

3.2 Any league wishing to become part of the NLS must apply to the Committee by 31st December in the relevant year in such form and/or providing such information as shall be required by the Committee from time to time. The decision as to whether or not a league should be admitted to the NLS shall be made by the Committee which will then decide on the Step at which the League will compete.

3.3 Any League wishing to propose an adjustment to its position within the NLS must apply in writing to the Committee by 31st December in any year for such proposal to be determined by the Committee in order, if approved, to have effect in the following Playing Season.

4. RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

The Committee shall provide for the seasonal promotion, relegation or the movement of Clubs.

5 DETAILED PROMOTION AND RELEGATION ISSUES

5.1 The criteria for entry to the NLS and the criteria for ground/stadium facilities and the Criteria for participation in Play Off Matches shall be determined by the Committee. All criteria so determined shall be published by The Association from time to time.

5.2 Subject to 5.5, at the conclusion of each Playing Season, the following procedures will apply to promotion / relegation subject to the application of the Rules:

Step 1 and Step 2

These regulations do not deal with promotion from Step 1

The Clubs finishing in the bottom four places at Step 1 at the end of the Playing Season will be relegated and placed in 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 promotion to 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 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.

Step 2 and Step 3

The Clubs in the bottom four places in each of the two divisions at Step 2 at the end of the Regular Season will be relegated and placed in a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 3 for the following Playing Season.

They will be replaced by the Clubs finishing in 1st position in each of the four divisions at Step 3 together with a further four Clubs determined by a series of Play Off Matches.

Where a Club finishes in 1st position in a division at Step 3 but does not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 2, the Club finishing in 2nd position in that division at Step 3 shall be automatically promoted to Step 2.

Where the Clubs finishing in 1st and 2nd position in a division at Step 3 do not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 2:

- No Club shall be automatically promoted to Step 2 from that division at Step 3.
- The structure and draw of the Play Off Matches in that division at Step 3 shall be adjusted as necessary by the Competition (such adjustment to be approved by the Committee).
- The Clubs finishing in the highest relegation positions in each of the two divisions at Step 2 shall be ranked by points-per-game (League matches only) and the Club with the highest points-per game shall be granted a reprieve from relegation (subject to any Tiebreaker required).

Subject to meeting the criteria for promotion to Step 2, the Clubs finishing in 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th positions in each division of Step 3 shall be eligible to take part in the Play Off Matches.

The Play Off Matches in each division of Step 3 shall be as follows:

- Qualifying Round – (a) the Club finishing in 4th position shall play the Club finishing in 7th position ("**QR1**"), and (b) the Club finishing in 5th position shall play the Club finishing in 6th position ("**QR2**").
- Semi-Finals – (a) the winner of QR1 shall play the Club finishing in 3rd position ("**SF1**"), and (b) the winner of QR2 shall play the Club finishing in 2nd position ("**SF2**").
- Final – the winner of SF1 shall play the winner of SF2 in the final Play Off Match, and the winner shall be promoted to Step 2.

All Play Off Matches shall be played over one leg at the ground of the participating Club that finished in the highest position at the end of the Regular Season.

Clubs finishing below 7th position will not be eligible to take part in the Play Off Matches.

Where a Club does not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 2, it shall not be permitted to take part in the Play Off Matches and shall not be replaced. The structure and draw of the Play Off Matches shall be adjusted as necessary by the Competition (such adjustment to be approved by the Committee).

The promoted Clubs will be placed in a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 2 for the following Playing Season.

Step 3 and Step 4

The Clubs finishing in the bottom four places in each of the four divisions at Step 3 at the end of the Regular Season will be relegated and placed in a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 4 for the following Playing Season.

They will be replaced by the Clubs finishing in 1st position in each of the eight divisions at Step 4 together with a further eight Clubs determined by a series of Play Off Matches.

Where a Club finishes in 1st position but does not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 3, the Club finishing in 2nd position in that division at Step 4 shall be automatically promoted to Step 3.

Where the Clubs finishing in 1st and 2nd position in a division at Step 4 do not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 3:

- No Club shall be automatically promoted to Step 3 from that division at Step 4.
- The structure and draw of the Play Off Matches in that division at Step 4 shall be adjusted as necessary by the Competition (such adjustment to be approved by the Committee).
- The Clubs finishing in the highest relegation positions in each of the four divisions at Step 3 shall be ranked by points-per-game (League matches only) and the Club with the highest points-per game shall be granted a reprieve from relegation (subject to any Tiebreaker required).

Subject to meeting the criteria for promotion to Step 3, the Clubs finishing in 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th positions in each division of Step 4 shall be eligible to take part in the Play Off Matches.

The Play Off Matches in each division of Step 4 shall be as follows:

- Qualifying Round – (a) the Club finishing in 4th position shall play the Club finishing in 7th position ("**QR1**"), and (b) the Club finishing in 5th position shall play the Club finishing in 6th position ("**QR2**").
- Semi-Finals – (a) the winner of QR1 shall play the Club finishing in 3rd position ("**SF1**"), and (b) the winner of QR2 shall play the Club finishing in 2nd position ("**SF2**").
- Final – the winner of SF1 shall play the winner of SF2 in the final Play Off Match, and the winner shall be promoted to Step 3.

All Play Off Matches shall be played over one leg at the ground of the participating Club that finished in the highest position at the end of the Regular Season.

Clubs finishing below 7th position will not be eligible to take part in the Play Off Matches.

Where a Club does not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 3, it shall not be permitted to take part in the Play Off Matches and shall not be replaced. The structure and draw of the Play Off Matches shall be adjusted as necessary by the Competition (such adjustment to be approved by the Committee).

The promoted Clubs will be placed in a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 3 for the following Playing Season.

Step 4 and Step 5

The Clubs finishing in the bottom four places in each of the eight divisions at Step 4 at the end of the Regular Season will be relegated and placed in a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 5 for the following Playing Season.

Clubs relegated for finishing in the bottom four places in each of the eight divisions at Step 4 will be replaced by the Clubs finishing in 1st position in each of the sixteen divisions at Step 5 together with a further 16 Clubs (one Club from each of the sixteen divisions at Step 5) determined by a series of Play Off Matches.

Where a Club finishes in 1st position but does not meet the minimum criteria for promotion to Step 4, the Club finishing in 2nd position in that division at Step 5 shall be automatically promoted to Step 4.

Where the Clubs finishing in 1st and 2nd position in a division at Step 5 do not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 4:

- No Club shall be automatically promoted to Step 4 from that division at Step 5.
- The structure and draw of the Play Off Matches in that division at Step 5 shall be adjusted as necessary by the Competition (such adjustment to be approved by the Committee).
- The Clubs finishing in the highest relegation positions in each of the eight divisions at Step 4 shall be ranked by points-per-game (League matches only) and the Club with the highest points-per game shall be granted a reprieve from relegation (subject to any Tiebreaker required).

Subject to meeting the criteria for promotion to Step 4, the Clubs finishing in 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th positions in each division of Step 5 shall be eligible to take part in the Play Off Matches.

The Play Off Matches in each division of Step 5 shall be as follows:

- Semi-Finals – (a) the Club finishing in 2nd position shall play the Club finishing in 5th position ("**SF1**"), and (b) the Club finishing in 3rd position shall play the Club finishing in 4th position ("**SF2**").
- Final - the winner of SF1 shall play the winner of SF2 in the final Play Off Match, and the winner shall be promoted to Step 4.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

All Play Off Matches shall be played over one leg at the ground of the participating Club that finished in the highest position at the end of the Regular Season.

Clubs finishing below 7th position will not be eligible to take part in the Play Off Matches.

Where one Club does not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 4, it shall not be permitted to take part in the Play Off Matches and shall be replaced by the Club finishing in 6th position. If the Club finishing in 6th position also does not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 4, the Club finishing in 7th position shall be the replacement Club. If the Club finishing in 7th position does not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 4, there shall be no replacement Club.

Where a second Club does not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 4, it shall not be permitted to take part in the Play Off Matches and shall be replaced by the Club finishing in 7th position (unless the Club finishing in 7th position is already participating in the Play Off Matches or does not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 4, in which case there shall be no replacement Club).

Where fewer than four Clubs are eligible to take part in the Play Off Matches, the structure and draw of the Play Off Matches shall be adjusted as necessary by the Competition (such adjustment to be approved by the Committee).

The promoted Clubs will be placed in a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 4 for the following Playing Season.

Step 5 and Step 6

The Clubs in the bottom two places in each of the sixteen divisions at Step 5 at the end of the Regular Season will be relegated and placed in a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 6 for the following Playing Season.

These Clubs will be replaced by (i) the Clubs finishing in 1st position at the end of the Regular Season in each of the two divisions operated by the South West Peninsula League; (ii) the Clubs finishing in 1st position at the end of the Regular Season in each of the remaining fifteen divisions at Step 6; and (iii) a further fifteen Clubs determined by a series of Play Off Matches within those remaining fifteen divisions (i.e. not including the two divisions operated by the South West Peninsula League).

Where a Club finishes in 1st position but does not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 5, the Club finishing in 2nd position in that division at Step 6 shall be automatically promoted to Step 5.

Where the Clubs finishing in 1st and 2nd position in a division at Step 6 operated by the South West Peninsula League do not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 5:

- No Club shall be automatically promoted to Step 5 from that division at Step 6.
- The Clubs finishing in the highest relegation positions in each of the divisions at Step 5 (shall be ranked by points-per-game (League matches only) and the Club with the highest points-per game shall be granted a reprieve from relegation (subject to any Tiebreaker required).

Where the Clubs finishing in 1st and 2nd position in one of the remaining fifteen divisions at Step 6 do not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 5:

- No Club shall be automatically promoted to Step 5 from that division at Step 6.
- The structure and draw of the Play Off Matches in that division at Step 6 shall be adjusted as necessary by the Competition (such adjustment to be approved by the Committee).
- The Clubs finishing in the highest relegation positions in each of the divisions at Step 5 shall be ranked by points-per-game (League matches only) and the Club with the highest points-per game shall be granted a reprieve from relegation (subject to any Tiebreaker required).

Subject to meeting the criteria for promotion to Step 5, the Clubs finishing in 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th positions in each of the remaining fifteen divisions at Step 6 shall be eligible to take part in the Play Off Matches.

The Play Off Matches in each of the remaining fifteen divisions of Step 6 shall be as follows:

- Semi-Finals – (a) the Club finishing in 2nd position shall play the Club finishing in 5th position ("**SF1**"), and (b) the Club finishing in 3rd position shall play the Club finishing in 4th position ("**SF2**").
- Final – the winner of SF1 shall play the winner of SF2 in the final Play Off Match, and the winner shall be promoted to Step 5.

All Play Off Matches shall be played over one leg at the ground of the participating Club that finished in the highest position at the end of the Regular Season.

Clubs finishing below 7th position will not be eligible to take part in the Play Off Matches.

Where one Club does not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 5, it shall not be permitted to take part in the Play Off Matches and shall be replaced by the Club finishing in 6th position. If the Club finishing in 6th position also does not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 5, the Club finishing in 7th position shall be the replacement Club. If the Club finishing in 7th position does not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 5, there shall be no replacement Club.

Where a second Club does not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 5, it shall not be permitted to take part in the Play Off Matches and shall be replaced by the Club finishing in 7th position (unless the Club finishing in 7th position is already participating in the Play Off Matches or does not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 5, in which case there shall be no replacement Club).

Where fewer than four Clubs are eligible to take part in the Play Off Matches, the structure and draw of the Play Off Matches shall be adjusted as necessary by the Competition (such adjustment to be approved by the Committee).

The promoted Clubs will be placed in a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 5 for the following Playing Season.

Power of the Committee

Where this Regulation 5.2 does not provide a resolution to a particular combination of promotion and relegation scenarios, the Committee shall determine at its absolute discretion how to resolve the matter.

Step 6 and relegation

At the end of the Regular Season the Clubs in the bottom three positions of each of the seventeen Step 6 divisions will be liable to relegation. Where a Step 6 division is operating with fewer than 18 Clubs at the end of the Regular Season (or where the number of Clubs could fall below 18 following promotion, relegation and/or lateral movements), the Committee shall decide at its absolute discretion whether the Clubs in the bottom three, bottom two or bottom positions of that division will be liable to relegation. The final number of Clubs to be relegated will be confirmed once promotion candidates from Feeder Leagues and any vacancies are known. If reprieves are required the Clubs third from bottom in each applicable division will be ranked on a points per match basis (then goal difference, then goals scored if required) - the Club(s) with the best points per match will be reprieved. If all third from bottom Clubs are reprieved, and a further reprieve(s) is required, the same process will apply for Clubs in second from bottom in each applicable division (and so on).

5.3 At Steps 2-5 the Club finishing in last place in the table at the end of the Regular Season will be relegated and not reprieved.

5.4 At Steps 1 to 6, if a Club becomes eligible to take part in a Play Off Match and refuses to take part in that match or if a Club qualifies for promotion and refuses to be promoted then that Club shall be relegated from the division it last played in and shall play the following Playing Season in the division at the next Step level below. If the refusal/ineligibility applies to a Club currently operating at Step 6, the Club will be removed from the NLS and placed in the appropriate Regional NLS Feeder League, provided there is an eligible Club at Feeder League level to replace them.

5.5 A vacancy occurs within the NLS when a Club:

(a) notifies the League in which it holds membership that it shall resign from the League (either with immediate effect or at the end of the Playing Season);

(b) is withdrawn or removed from the League for any reason; or

(c) is relegated in accordance with Regulation 5.8 (in circumstances where that Club has not otherwise been relegated).

5.6 Where a Club notifies the League in which it holds membership that it shall resign from the League at the end of the Playing season, that resignation may only be withdrawn before the end of the Playing Season with the consent of that League.

5.7 Where a vacancy occurs within the NLS the following procedures will apply:

TIMING / CIRCUMSTANCES OF VACANCY	PROCEDURE
After the AGM of the League in which the Club holds membership, but before the League has commenced its first fixture (in any division)	• Only internal changes to the constitution of a League are allowed following the AGM of that League • The League is not otherwise permitted to fill the vacancy for that Playing Season. • Where a League decides to make an internal change to fill the vacancy, it shall be filled by the Club finishing in the highest relegation position in that division of the League at the end of the previous Playing Season. • Where a League does not fill the vacancy via an internal change, the Club shall be treated as a relegated Club for the purposes of the standings of that division of the League and will be placed in (and remain in) bottom place until the end of the forthcoming Playing Season. • The vacancy shall therefore pass to the Step below and shall be filled as follows: – The Clubs finishing in the highest relegation positions in the divisions of that Step at the end of the forthcoming Regular Season shall be ranked by points-per-game (League matches only) and the Club with the highest points-per game shall be granted a reprieve from relegation (subject to the Club being eligible for a reprieve and subject to any Tiebreaker required). • Where the Club finishing in the highest relegation position in a division has already been granted a reprieve (or is not eligible for a reprieve), it shall not form part of any ranking process and shall not be replaced in that process. • Where all the Clubs finishing in the highest relegation position in the divisions of that Step have already been granted a reprieve (or are not eligible for a reprieve), the Clubs finishing in the next highest relegation positions in the divisions will be ranked according to the process set out above (and so on). • Where the number of vacancies is greater than the number of Clubs eligible to be reprieved, the Committee shall determine how to fill those vacancies at its absolute discretion.

After the first fixture has commenced in the League in which the Club holds membership, but before the completion of fixtures in the division of the League in which the vacancy has occurred	• The playing record of the Club shall be expunged (and the playing records of the other Clubs in the division shall be adjusted accordingly). • The Club's points total will be reduced to 0. • The Club shall be treated as a relegated club for the purposes of the standings of that division and shall be placed in (and remain in) bottom place until the end of the Playing Season. • The vacancy shall therefore pass to the Step below and shall be filled as follows: – The Clubs finishing in the highest relegation positions in the divisions of that Step at the end of the Regular Season shall be ranked by points-per-game (League matches only) and the Club with the highest points-per-game shall be granted a reprieve from relegation (subject to the Club being eligible for a reprieve and subject to any Tiebreaker required). • Where the Club finishing in the highest relegation position in a division has already been granted a reprieve (or is not eligible for a reprieve), it shall not form part of any ranking process and shall not be replaced in that process. • Where all the Clubs finishing in the highest relegation position in the divisions of that Step have already been granted a reprieve (or are not eligible for a reprieve), the Clubs finishing in the next highest relegation positions in the divisions will be ranked according to the process set out above (and so on). • Where the number of vacancies is greater than the number of Clubs eligible to be reprieved, the Committee shall determine how to fill those vacancies at its absolute discretion.
After the completion of fixtures in the division of the League in which the vacancy has occurred, but before Club allocations for the following Playing Season have been determined by The Association	• The standings of that division for the most recent Playing Season shall not be affected. • The Club shall be treated as a relegated Club (regardless of final standing). • Where the Club did not finish the Playing Season in a relegation position, the Club that finished the Playing Season in the highest relegation position in that division shall be granted a reprieve from relegation. • In any event, the vacancy shall pass to the Step below and shall be filled as follows: – The Clubs finishing in the highest relegation positions in the divisions of that Step at the end of the Regular Season shall be ranked by points-per-game (League matches only) and the Club with the highest points-per-game shall be granted a reprieve from relegation (subject to the Club being eligible for a reprieve and subject to any Tiebreaker required). • Where the Club finishing in the highest relegation position in a division has already been granted a reprieve (or is not eligible for a reprieve), it shall not form part of any ranking process and shall not be replaced in that process.

	• Where all the Clubs finishing in the highest relegation position in the divisions of that Step have already been granted a reprieve (or are not eligible for a reprieve), the Clubs finishing in the next highest relegation positions in the divisions will be ranked according to the process set out above (and so on). • Where the number of vacancies is greater than the number of Clubs eligible to be reprieved, the Committee shall determine how to fill those vacancies at its absolute discretion.
After the completion of fixtures in the same division of the League in which the vacancy has occurred, and after Club allocations for the following Playing Season have been determined by The Association	• The Committee shall determine how to fill the vacancy at its absolute discretion. ***Guidance*** *To the extent possible, the Committee shall aim to fill the vacancy in a way which causes the least disruption to the NLS.*
Relegation in accordance with Regulation 5.8 (in circumstances where that Club has not otherwise been relegated)	• The standings of that division for the most recent Playing Season shall not be affected. • The Club shall be treated as a relegated Club (regardless of final standing). • The Club that: (a) finished the most recent Playing Season in the highest relegation position in that division and (b) is eligible to be granted a reprieve from relegation, shall be granted a reprieve from relegation.

Power of the Committee

Where this Regulation 5.7 does not provide a resolution for a particular vacancy, the Committee shall determine at its absolute discretion how to resolve the matter.

5.8 Clubs are not allowed to enter into a ground share agreement in order to gain promotion or to retain membership at a particular Step where the Club has failed to attain or maintain the relevant Grade.

Clubs are not allowed to enter into a ground share agreement at a ground already shared by two Clubs, save for in exceptional circumstances as determined by the Committee in its absolute discretion.

5.9 Stadium Accreditation Programme requirements will be in accordance with the Rules.

Each Playing Season, a Club participating at Step 1 to Step 6 must attain the following Stadium Accreditation by 31 March:

STEP	GRADE
Step 1	Grade 1
Step 2	Grade 2
Step 3	Grade 3
Step 4	Grade 4
Step 5	Grade 5
Step 6	Grade 6

Where a Club fails to attain the relevant grade by 31 March in a Playing Season, it will not be eligible for promotion or to participate in any Play Off Match in that Playing Season and will be relegated to the Step immediately below at the end of the Playing Season (save for where that Club also fails to meet the Stadium Accreditation criteria applicable for the Step immediately below, in which case the Committee shall decide (at its sole discretion) where to place the Club for the following Playing Season).

Clubs promoted from Feeder Leagues must install floodlights in working order by 30th September following promotion. Failure to do this will result in a sanction being imposed at the discretion of the League of which the Club is a member. If by 31st March in the year following promotion the floodlights are still not installed then the Club will be a relegated Club and be dealt with accordingly.

5.10 If a Club is relegated for not achieving the required Grade for the Step at which it is playing (regardless of whether the Club finishes in a relegation position or not), it will not be eligible for promotion again until the ground has attained the required Grade for the Step to which that Club wishes to be promoted. The Club must attain that Grade at by 31st March in the year in which it seeks promotion.

5.11 Where a club resigns from a League, that club will not be eligible for promotion for at least one Playing Season following the Season in which it resigned. Regulation 5.10 shall also apply if, in the Playing Season during which the Club resigns, that Club failed to attain the required Grade for the Step at which it was playing.

5.12 In the event of any question arising regarding the interpretation of these Regulations it will be decided by The Association in its sole discretion.

6. THE MOVEMENT OF CLUBS WITHIN THE NLS OTHER THAN BY PROMOTION OR RELEGATION

6.1 Movement of a Club from participation in one League to another is not permitted other than by promotion and relegation or otherwise as set out in these Regulations or League Rules save with the approval of the Committee.

It may be necessary from time to time to move Clubs laterally at the same Step. Each year the Committee (or sub-committee thereof) will consider whether any lateral movements may be necessary at each Step and the final decision shall rest with the Committee / sub-committee. Only a Club subject to lateral movement from one League to another may appeal that decision pursuant to Regulation 8.2(b).

6.2 If a Club wishes to move to either: (a) another division at the Step of the NLS at which its current division operates, or (b) another division at a Step of the NLS below that at which its current division operates, that Club must make an application in writing to the Committee on or before 31st March in each year to be effective for the following Playing Season. In the event of such application being successful the League from which the Club is moving (if applicable) shall not levy a financial penalty on that Club.

6.3 (i) If a Club (whether a Members' Club or a Company) is wound up, liquidated, or is removed from its League or withdraws from football competition ('the Former Club'), and a new Club ('the New Club') is established which wishes to be placed within the NLS, it will be allowed to make an application only to join a League/ division at Step 5 of the NLS unless the Former Club was in either Step 4 or Step 5 when the event which caused it to cease its membership occurred in which case it must re-join the NLS at a minimum of two Steps below the level at which it was at the time the event occurred, or withdrew from football competition, whichever is lower. Where the Former Club was a member of Premier League or EFL then the Committee shall at its absolute discretion determine in which League the New Club shall be placed for the following Playing Season and will set out at its complete discretion the requirements to be met by the New Club.

In order for consideration to be given to the placement in the NLS of the New Club in the following Playing Season, an initial application must be received by the Committee by 1st March or within twenty-one days of the Former Club being wound up, liquidated, resigning or being removed from its League or withdrawing from football competition, if such date is later than 1st March.

The full application accompanied by all necessary documents including evidence of security of tenure having been granted to the New Club and affiliation to a County Football Association must be received by 31st March or within twenty-one days of the Former Club being wound up, liquidated, resigning or being removed from its League or withdrawing from football competition, if such date is later than 1st March. The application shall be copied to the League of which membership is being requested. The application will be determined by the Committee.

In considering any application, the Committee will set out at its sole discretion the requirements to be met by the New Club.

In the event of more than one application being received within twenty-one days of the Former Club being wound up, liquidated, resigning or being removed from its League or withdrawing from football competition, the Committee will consider at its discretion which application will be considered in accordance with this Regulation.

(ii) If a Club is removed from its League and wishes to remain in the NLS it shall apply to the Committee within five working days of it receiving written notification of its removal from its League. The Committee will consider such application and will place the Club in what it considers at its sole discretion to be the most appropriate League/division for the following Playing Season.

6.4 If a Club (whether a Members' Club or a Company) ceases to be a member of its league and that Club (that is not a New Club as defined at 6.3 above) wishes to be placed within the NLS for the immediately following Playing Season, then unless otherwise determined by the Committee, it may be allowed to make an application to join a League/division below the most recent League/division of which the Club was a member.

In order for consideration to be given to the placement in the NLS by the Club in the immediately following Playing Season, an initial application must be received by the Committee in accordance with the procedures set out at 6.3 above. The application shall be copied to the League of which membership is being requested. The application will be determined by the Committee at its absolute discretion.

In considering any application, the Committee will set out at its sole discretion the requirements to be met by the Club in determining whether to approve the application.

6.5 *For the purposes of this Regulation 6.5, references to a "club" shall mean a club participating in a league below the NLS and Feeder Leagues in which the default day for league fixtures to be played is a Saturday.*

If two or more Clubs (or a Club and a club) ("the Merging Clubs") are proposing a transaction or series of transactions that result in the merging or consolidation ("the Proposed Merger") of those Clubs (or Club and club) into one Club ("the Merged Club") then a formal application to do so must be received by the Committee and the league(s) of which the Merging Clubs are members by 31st December to be valid for the following Playing Season.

A Deed of Agreement, which shall be legally binding on all parties must be submitted to The Association by 31st March in the year immediately following receipt of the application. The Committee shall determine at its absolute discretion where the Merged Club is to be included in the NLS for the following Playing Season subject to the provisions of item 6.5.5 below.

A Deed of Agreement, which shall be legally binding on all parties must be submitted to The Association by 31st March in the year immediately following receipt of the application. The Committee shall determine at its absolute discretion where (or whether, if the application involves a club) the Merged Club is to be included in the NLS for the following Playing Season subject to the provisions of item 6.5.5 below.

In arriving at its decision the Committee may apply the following minimum criteria:

6.5.1 The requirements of Standardised Rule 2.9 for the current Playing Season must be met by each of the Merging Clubs. If one or more of the Merging Clubs is subject to an insolvency event then Standardised Rule 2.9.2 shall be applied to such club(s), otherwise Standardised Rule 2.9.1 shall be applied;

6.5.2 The proposed playing name of the Merged Club must be acceptable to the Committee; and

6.5.3 The Merged Club must have security of tenure to a ground that meets the relevant Stadium Accreditation requirements;

6.5.4 Any other criteria that the Committee may from time to time deem to be appropriate;

6.5.5 The Merged Club will ordinarily be placed at the lower of the Steps at which the Merging Clubs ended the Playing Season in which the application is made (or outside the NLS if the transaction involves a club). For the purposes of this Regulation, if one of the Merging Clubs has finished that Playing Season in a relegation place, then they will be deemed to have ended the Playing Season at the Step to which they would have been relegated without the Proposed Merger proceeding.

Any decision regarding whether a proposed transaction or series of transactions falls to be considered under this Regulation shall be determined by the Committee at its absolute discretion.

7. PLACEMENT OF A CLUB INTO A LEAGUE

7.1 Usually a club can only enter the NLS at Step 6 via a Feeder League. However a League may seek approval from the Committee to receive a club or team not currently in membership of a League within the NLS provided that there is: (a) exceptional circumstances, (b) a vacancy within its constitution, (c) the club meets the entry criteria and (d) promotion and relegation issues have been satisfied. Such request must be received from the league by no later than 1st February. Any decision shall only be capable of Appeal to The Association by the affected League.

7.2 Reserve teams, including a team from a club or Club which is not considered by the Committee to be sufficiently separate from another club or Club, will not be permitted to compete above Step 6 in the NLS. There must be a minimum of two Steps between a first and reserve team. This does not apply at Steps 6 and Feeder League level. No two teams from the same Club can play at the same Step.

7.3 Teams from Higher Education or Further Education establishments are not permitted to compete above Step 5. This does not prevent any such establishment forming a Club which complies with all entry criteria and which is separate from the establishment itself.

7.4 Where a Club moves from one League to another, for whatever reason, the League from which it is being moved must provide the League to which the Club is being moved with a certificate confirming that the Club being moved does not owe any money or other property of any nature to the League from which it is being moved. The Club being moved cannot compete in its new League until such certification has been provided and the onus will be on the Club being moved to ensure that it has cleared all indebtedness to its previous League.

8. PROCEDURES FOR THE DETERMINATION OF ANY MATTER, DISPUTE OR DIFFERENCE BY THE COMMITTEE

8.1 The Committee may adopt such procedures for the determination of any matter, dispute or difference as it considers appropriate and expedient, having regard to the aims and objectives set out at Regulation 2. The Committee may require the attendance at a meeting or the written observations of any League or Club, as it considers appropriate to assist its determination.

8.2 (a) Any dispute or difference between a League and a Club relating to promotion and relegation issues, lateral movement and/or other eligibility criteria must be referred for determination to the Committee; such determination shall be final and binding subject only to Arbitration in accordance with Rule K.

(b) Subject to Regulation 6.1 above, any decision of the Committee shall be subject to a right of appeal to an Appeal Board. The decision of that Appeal Board shall be final and binding on all parties.

All referrals of appeals shall be conducted in accordance with the Appeal Regulations save for (i) appeals in relation to Stadium Accreditation decisions where the procedures are outlined in Regulation 8.2(c) below and (ii) appeals in relation to decisions made pursuant to Regulations 6.1 and 6.2 above where the procedures are outlined in Regulation 8.2(d) below.

(c) Procedures for Stadium Accreditation Appeals

(i) The ratification of the Stadium Accreditation decision must be sent in writing within 14 days of the final decision date, currently 31st March.

(ii) Appeals in relation to Stadium Accreditation Appeals must be submitted to The Association's Judicial Services Department within seven days from the date of the written decision outlining the Grounds of Appeal, with a copy to The Association's National League System Department.

(iii) Unless both parties agree that a hearing should be conducted on the papers, the Committee will appear before an Appeal Board with the Appellant to respond to the application and there is no requirement to make a formal response in writing.

(iv) In all cases the Committee will submit any documentation including the Stadium Accreditation report that was considered by the Committee in relation to the Stadium Accreditation decision, (which the appellant would already have received).

(v) Dates would be set annually in advance by the Judicial Services Department for the hearing of Stadium Accreditation appeals and details of the dates would be notified to all Clubs in the correspondence from the Committee notifying the decision of the Stadium Accreditation assessment.

(d) Procedures for appeals against decisions made pursuant to Regulation 6.1 and 6.2

(i) Such appeals must be submitted to The Association's Judicial Services Department within seven days from the date of the written decision outlining the Grounds of Appeal, with a copy to The Association's National League System Department.

(ii) The Committee's response to the appeal shall be submitted to The Association's Judicial Services Department within seven days of the date the Club's appeal was submitted, with a copy to The Association's National League System Department.

(iii) In all cases the Committee will submit any documentation considered by the Committee in relation to the relevant decision (which the appellant would already have received) with its response.

(iv) The Committee will appear before an Appeal Board with the Appellant for determination of the appeal.

(v) Dates would be set annually in advance by the Judicial Services Department for the hearing of such appeals and details of the dates would be notified to the Club in the correspondence from the Committee notifying them of the relevant decision.

8.3 The Committee may, at its discretion, delegate the resolution of any matter, dispute or difference arising under these Regulations to anybody it considers to be appropriate (including a sub-committee or commission which may include members of council not on the Committee or a body constituted by a County Football Association).

9. CRITERIA FOR THE PARTICIPATION IN PLAY-OFF MATCHES

In order to qualify for Play Off Matches a Club must comply with:

- Security of Tenure – see Standardised Rule 2.3.2
- Solvency – see Standardised Rule 13.B.2
- Ground Share requirements, i.e. not ground share in order to gain promotion – see 5.7 of these Regulations
- Stadium Accreditation – see 5.8 of these regulations and the relevant criteria document

10. ARBITRATION

The fact of participation in the NLS and signifying agreement to be bound by the Regulations shall constitute an agreement between each League and Club to refer to Arbitration any challenge in law arising out of, or in relation to, the Regulations in accordance with the provisions of FA Rule K.

11. LICENSING SYSTEM

A Club shall be required to hold a Licence to be a member of a Competition at Steps 1 to 4 of the NLS.

(a) The Association shall through the appropriate Committee operate a Licensing System to apply to all Clubs competing at Steps 1 to 4 of the National League System ("NLS"). A Club is required to hold a Licence to be a member of a Competition at Steps 1 to 4 of the NLS. The Licensing System to be applied is as shown at an Appendix to the Standardised Rules.

(b) Each Competition at Steps 1 to 4 of the NLS shall be responsible for the operation, assessment and granting of the Licence in respect of its Clubs through the Standardised Rules as approved by a Committee of The Association. A Competition at Steps 1 to 4 shall take all reasonable and practical steps to co-operate with The Association in the application of the Licence.

(c) In the event that a Competition fails to apply the Licensing System set out in the Standardised Rules to the satisfaction of The Association, then The Association shall have the powers of the Board of that Competition as set out in the Standardised Rules to apply such Licensing System. In addition, The Association may, if necessary, bring an action against the Competition for Misconduct under the Rules of The Association.

12. PRECEDENCE

In the case of conflict between the Regulations for the Operation of the NLS and the Rules, the Regulations take precedence.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

LEAGUES/DIVISIONS AT STEPS 5 AND 6 OF THE NLS (SEASON 2026-27)

STEP 5	STEP 6
Combined Counties League Premier Div North	Combined Counties League Div 1
Combined Counties League Premier Div South	Eastern Counties League Div 1 North
Eastern Counties League Premier Div	Eastern Counties League Div 1 South
Essex Senior League	Hellenic League Div 1
Hellenic League Premier Div	Midland League Div 1
Midland League Premier Div	Northern Counties East Div 1
North West Counties League Premier Div	North West Counties League Div 1 North
Northern League Div 1	North West Counties League Div 1 South
Northern Counties East League Premier Div	Northern League Div 2
Southern Counties East League Premier Div	South West Peninsula League Premier Div East
Spartan South Midlands League Premier Div	South West Peninsula League Premier Div West
Southern Combination Football League Premier Div	Spartan South Midlands League Div 1
United Counties League Premier Div North	Southern Combination Football League Div 1
United Counties League Premier Div South	Southern Counties East League Div 1
Wessex League Premier Div	United Counties League Div 1
Western League Premier Div	Wessex League Div 1
	Western League Div 1

APPENDIX A

Regional NLS Feeder League Regulations

1. League Structure

1.1 The Leagues currently operating as Feeder Leagues are set out at the end of the Appendix.

1.2 At Feeder League level the maximum number of Clubs in each division shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority taking into account all relevant factors. In any case, this shall not be more than 18 Clubs. The minimum amount of Clubs should be 14.

1.3 Any league wishing to become a Feeder League must apply to the FA Leagues Committee by 31st December in the relevant year in such form and /or providing such information as shall be required by the Committee from time to time. The decision as to whether or not a league should be admitted as a Feeder League shall be made by the Committee.

2. Rules and Regulations for Promotion and Relegation

2.1 All Feeder League Clubs seeking promotion to Step 6 must make an application using the prescribed form direct to The Association, copied to their existing League, by 31st December in the relevant year. In order to be considered for promotion Clubs must finish in 1st position in their Feeder League. If the Club finishing in 1st position does not wish to be promoted or fails to meet the entry criteria then the Club finishing in 2nd position will be eligible for promotion. If the Club in 2nd position does not seek promotion or fails to meet the entry criteria then Clubs down to 5th position may be considered for promotion provided that they meet the appropriate entry criteria. Clubs finishing below 5th position may not be considered for promotion and only one Club may be considered for promotion from each League. Each application must be accompanied by the agreed application fee, as determined by the Committee, which is non-refundable.

2.2 Clubs competing in a Feeder League must comply fully with the minimum requirements of Grade 8. To be considered for promotion to Step 6, Clubs must meet the requirements of Grade 7 and attain Grade 6 by 31st March in the year following promotion. Clubs can be promoted from Feeder Leagues to Step 6 without floodlights, provided that that all other requirements of Grade 7 are met by 31st March in the Playing Season in which the Club wishes to gain promotion and that the Club has the following in place:-

- Planning permission granted for floodlights.
- That by 30th September following promotion that floodlights are installed and in working order.
- A development / business plan
- Quotations / estimates for the work to be carried out.
- Funding applications submitted, if required.

Failure to install floodlights in working order by 30th September following promotion will result in a sanction being imposed at the discretion of the League of which the Club is a member. If by 31st March in the year following promotion the floodlights are still not installed then the Club will be a relegated Club and be dealt with accordingly.

3. Placement of a Club in a League

3.1 The matter of draft placements for Clubs in Feeder Leagues is for the League in conjunction with its Sanctioning Authority. Once drafted, proposed placements are to be submitted to the Committee for ratification by an appropriate date as prescribed by the Committee from time to time. This is save for Clubs being allocated to Feeder Leagues having been relegated from Step 6, which is a matter for the Committee.

3.2 Reserve and 'A' teams may participate in Feeder Leagues. Clubs should note the provision concerning Reserve teams at Step 6 under Regulation 7.2 in the 'National League System Regulations'.

4. Movement of a Club between Leagues

4.1 Movement of a Club from participation in one League to another is not permitted other than by promotion and relegation or otherwise as set out in League Rules save with the approval of the Committee.

It may be necessary from time to time to move Clubs laterally at the same Step. Each year the Committee (or sub-committee thereof) will consider whether any lateral movements may be necessary at each Step and the final decision shall rest with the Committee/sub-committee. Only a Club subject to lateral movement from one League to another may appeal that decision pursuant to Regulation 5.2(b).

4.2 Any Club wishing to move from one League to another must make an application in writing to the Committee on or before 31st March in each year to be effective for the following Playing Season. In the event of such application being successful, the League from which the Club is moving shall not levy a financial penalty on that Club.

5. Procedures for the determination of any matter, dispute or difference by the Committee

5.1 The Committee may adopt such procedures for the determination of any matter, dispute or difference as it considers appropriate and expedient, having regard to the aims and objectives set out in Regulation 2. The Committee may require the attendance at a meeting or the written observations of any League or Club, as it considers appropriate to assist its determination.

5.2 (a) Any dispute or difference between a League and a Club relating to promotion and relegation issues, lateral movement and/or other eligibility criteria must be referred for determination to the Committee; such determination shall be final and binding subject only to Arbitration in accordance with Rule K.

(b) Subject to Regulation 4.1 above, any decision of the Committee shall be subject to a right of appeal to an Appeal Board. The decision of that Appeal Board shall be final and binding on all parties.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

All referrals of appeals shall be conducted in accordance with the Appeal Regulations save for (i) appeals in relation to Stadium Accreditation decisions where the procedures are outlined in Regulation 5.2(c) below and (ii) appeals in relation to decisions made pursuant to Regulations 4.1 and 4.2 above where the procedures are outlined in Regulation 5.2(d) below.

(c) Procedures for Stadium Accreditation Appeals

(i) The ratification of the Stadium Accreditation decision must be sent in writing within 14 days of the final decision date, currently 31st March.

(ii) Appeals in relation to Stadium Accreditation Appeals must be submitted to The Association's Judicial Services Department within seven days from the date of the written decision outlining the Grounds of Appeal, with a copy to The Association's National League System Department.

(iii) The Committee will appear before an Appeal Board with the Appellant to respond to the application and there is no requirement to make a formal response in writing.

(iv) In all cases the Committee will submit any documentation including the Stadium Accreditation report that was considered by the Committee in relation to the Stadium Accreditation decision, (which the appellant would already have received).

(v) Dates would be set annually in advance by the Judicial Services Department for the hearing of Stadium Accreditation appeals and details of the dates would be notified to all Clubs in the correspondence from the Committee notifying the decision of the Stadium Accreditation assessment.

(d) Procedures for appeals against decisions made pursuant to Regulation 4.1 and 4.2

(i) Such appeals must be submitted to The Association's Judicial Services Department within seven days from the date of the written decision outlining the Grounds of Appeal, with a copy to The Association's National League System Department.

(ii) The Committee's response to the appeal shall be submitted to The Association's Judicial Services Department within seven days of the date the Club's appeal was submitted, with a copy to The Association's National League System Department.

(iii) In all cases the Committee will submit any documentation considered by the Committee in relation to the relevant decision (which the appellant would already have received) with its response.

(iv) The Committee will appear before an Appeal Board with the Appellant for determination of the appeal.

(v) Dates would be set annually in advance by the Judicial Services Department for the hearing of such appeals and details of the dates would be notified to the Club in the correspondence from the Committee notifying them of the relevant decision.

5.3 The Committee may, at its discretion, delegate the resolution of any matter, dispute or difference arising under these Regulations to anybody it considers to be appropriate (including a sub-committee or commission which may include members of council not on the Committee or a body constituted by a County Football Association).

Leagues with Regional NLS Feeder League status - 2026-27 season:

Anglian Combination Premier Div
Bedfordshire County League Premier Div
Cambridgeshire County League premier Div
Central Midlands League Div North
Central Midlands League Div South
Cheshire League Premier Div
Devon League Premier Div East
Devon League Premier Div West
Dorset Premier League
Essex & Suffolk Border League Premier Div
Essex Olympian League Premier Div
Gloucestershire County League Premier Div
Hampshire Premier League Senior Div
Herts Senior County League Premier Div
Humber Premier League Premier Div
Kent County League Premier Div
Leicestershire Senior League Premier Div
Lincolnshire Football League Premier Div
Liverpool County Premier League Premier Div
Manchester Football League Premier Div
Mid Sussex Football League Premier Div
Middlesex County League Premier Div
Midland League Div 2
Northamptonshire Combination Premier Div
Northern Football Alliance Premier Div
North Riding Football League Premier Div
Nottinghamshire Senior League Senior Div
Oxfordshire Senior League Premier Div
Peterborough & District League Premier Div
Salop Leisure Football League Premier Div
Sheffield & Hallamshire County Senior League Premier Div
Somerset County League Premier Div
Southern Combination Div Two
Spartan South Midlands League Div 2
St Piran Football League Premier East
St Piran Football League Premier West
Staffordshire County Senior League Premier Div
Suffolk & Ipswich League Senior Div
Surrey Elite Intermediate League Intermediate Div
Thames Valley Premier League Premier Div
Wearside League
West Cheshire League Div 1
West Lancashire League Premier Div
West Midlands (Regional) League Div 1
West Yorkshire League Premier Div
Wiltshire Football League Premier Div
York Football League Premier Div
Yorkshire Football League

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

22 - WOMEN'S FOOTBALL PYRAMID REGULATIONS

1. DEFINITIONS

In the interpretation of these Regulations, the following words and expressions, unless otherwise defined herein, shall have the following meanings:

"Affiliated Association" shall have the meaning set out in the Rules.

"Board" means National Leagues Pyramid Board or such other subcommittee of the Board as determined from time to time.

"Club" means a football club for the time being in membership of a League.

"County Association" shall have the meaning set out in the Rules.

"County League" means a geographical grouping of one or more divisions within which any divisions playing 11 v 11 open age football are considered to be participating at Tier 7.

"Football Creditors" shall have the meaning set out in the Rules.

"League" means any league sanctioned by The Association and/or an Affiliated Association in membership of the Women's Football Pyramid.

"Minimum Standards" means the minimum standards for participation at Tier 3 and Tier 4 (as applicable) as issued by The Association from time to time.

"Other Criteria for Promotion" means any additional promotion criteria communicated by the Board to Clubs in the relevant Tier from time to time.

"Parent Association" shall have the meaning set out in the Rules.

"Playing Season" means the period between the date on which the first competitive fixture in a League is played each year until the date on which the last competitive fixture in a League is played.

"Regional League" means a regional grouping of divisions participating at Tier 5 and Tier 6.

"Regional League Format A" means a Regional League with a maximum membership of 36 Clubs and comprising one division participating at Tier 5 and two divisions participating at Tier 6.

"Regional League Format B" means a Regional League with a maximum membership of 42 Clubs and comprising one division participating at Tier 5 and three divisions participating at Tier 6.

"Regulations" means these regulations.

"Rules" means the rules of The Association as amended from time to time.

"The Association" shall have the meaning set out in the Rules.

"Tier" means the level at which a Club participates in the Women's Football Pyramid.

"Tier 1 Promotion Requirements" means the requirements for promotion to Tier 1 as set by the Tier 1 and Tier 2 League.

"Tier 2 Promotion Requirements" means the requirements for promotion to Tier 2 as set by the Tier 1 and Tier 2 League.

"Women's Football Pyramid" means the system of women's leagues controlled by The Association where promotion and relegation links exists between the participating Leagues.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 The Women's Football Pyramid shall be operated in accordance with these Regulations.

2.2 The aims and objectives of the Women's Football Pyramid are:

2.2.1 To provide clubs with a level of competitive football appropriate to their playing ability, stadium/ground facilities, economic means and geographical location.

2.2.2 To provide a framework for discussion on matters of policy and common interest to Leagues and Clubs.

2.2.3 To allow the seasonal movement of clubs.

2.3 All Leagues and Clubs participating in the Women's Football Pyramid shall be bound by and comply with these Regulations. Every League and Club shall be deemed, as participants of the Women's Football Pyramid, to have accepted these Regulations and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Board in relation thereto, subject to any right of appeal prescribed in these Regulations.

3. MEMBERSHIP OF A LEAGUE IN THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL PYRAMID

3.1 The structure of the Women's Football Pyramid is as set out at Appendix A. Reserve sections/divisions sit outside of the Women's Football Pyramid.

3.2 Subject to regulation 3.3, a League in Tier 3 to Tier 6 inclusive is permitted to operate with between 10 and 12 Clubs per division.

3.3 A Regional League may only operate as a Regional League Format B provided that:

3.3.1 the Tier 5 division operates with no more than 12 teams and each Tier 6 division operates with no more than 10 teams;

3.3.2 the Regional League has consulted with the County Leagues (at Tier 7) for that geographical region; and

3.3.3 this operating position has been approved:

(a) at a general meeting of the Regional League; and

(b) by the Board (whose decision shall be final and binding).

3.4 The top division of a County League shall play open age 11 v 11 format of football.

3.5 Where a County League wishes for any of its divisions (other than the top division) to play the 11 v 11 format of football or flexible format(s), the County League must obtain the approval of its members at its general meeting.

3.6 Any league wishing to become part of the Women's Football Pyramid (**"Applicant League"**) must (subject to the below) enter at Tier 7. An Applicant League must apply to The Association by 31st December in the year before the Playing Season in which it wishes to play in the Women's Football Pyramid will commence in such form and/or providing such information as shall be required by The Association from time to time. A league will only be permitted to enter the Women's Football Pyramid above Tier 7 if there are exceptional circumstances. The decision as to whether or not a league should be admitted to, and the Tier at which it will play in the Women's Football Pyramid shall be made by the Board.

3.7 Any League whose membership of the Women's Football Pyramid is suspended or withdrawn by the Board, or due to resignation by the League, will not be eligible to participate in any business of the Women's Football Pyramid, including the promotion and relegation process, during the period of suspension or after the date of such withdrawal or resignation of membership.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

4. GENERAL PROVISIONS REGARDING PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

4.1 The Women's Football Pyramid shall provide for the seasonal promotion and relegation of Clubs between Tiers within the system. A League that signifies its acceptance to be bound by these Regulations must be in a position to promote and relegate Clubs at the conclusion of each Playing Season. In extenuating circumstances, where a League is not in a position to relegate due to that League not being up to strength, it must obtain the permission of the Board.

4.2 A Club shall be promoted or relegated to the correct designated league or division in the Women's Football Pyramid according to its geographic location other than at Tier 7, where Clubs will enter a League according to their County Association affiliation, subject to Regulation 7.2.

5. DETAILED PROMOTION AND RELEGATION PROVISIONS

5.1 The criteria for entry into a League at Tier 1 or Tier 2 shall be determined by the Tier 1 and Tier 2 League.

5.2 The criteria for entry into a League at Tier 3 to Tier 7, including the stadium accreditation and ground grading criteria, shall be set by the Board.

5.3 The agreed criteria in respect of ground grading for each Tier are contained in the Stadium Accreditation Criteria Document and Women's Football Pyramid Ground Grading Document as published by The Association from time to time.

5.4 It may be necessary from time to time to move Clubs laterally between Leagues at the same Tier to accommodate the movement of Clubs by normal promotion and relegation. Where this is necessary, no Club will be asked to move more than once in any three seasons, unless, as determined by the Board it would be advantageous to the Club to do so earlier than three seasons.

5.5 A Club may apply to the Board to be considered for lateral movement or voluntary relegation at the end of the Playing Season. Any such application must be made by 31 March and must be copied to its League.

5.6 Notwithstanding any applications received by the Board in accordance with Regulation 5.5, each year the Board will consider whether any lateral movements may be necessary at Tiers 3 to 7; if so the Clubs likely to be affected shall be notified and, if the Club does not wish to be moved laterally, given the opportunity to present a case to the Board.

In coming to its decision the Board will have regard to any representations made by any party, the distance to be travelled by any Club to be moved compared to the distance travelled in the Playing Season prior to movement, the financial impact on the Club to be moved, the frequency with which the Club has been moved in the past, the number of Clubs both in the division to which the Club is to be moved and in the division from which the Club is moved, and any other matter that it considers to be relevant.

5.7 At the conclusion of the Playing Season the following procedures regarding promotion and relegation will apply:

Tier 1 and Tier 2

The procedures below are subject to each Club demonstrating compliance with the Tier 1 Promotion Requirements where applicable, which shall be determined by the Tier 1 and Tier 2 League at its absolute discretion.

Save as otherwise set out below:

- the Club finishing in bottom place in Tier 1 shall be automatically relegated to Tier 2;
- the Club finishing in first place in Tier 2 shall be automatically promoted to Tier 1;
- the Club finishing in second place in Tier 2 shall participate in a play-off match against the Club finishing in third place in Tier 2 (**"Tier 2 Play-Off Match"**), and the winner shall participate in the Tier 1 Play-Off Match;

- the Club finishing in thirteenth place in Tier 1 shall participate in a play-off match against the winner of the Tier 2 Play-Off Match (**"Tier 1 Play-Off Match"**); and
- the winner of the Tier 1 Play-Off Match will participate in Tier 1 for the following Playing Season, and the loser of the Tier 1 Play-Off Match will participate in Tier 2 for the following Playing Season.

If the Club finishing in first place in Tier 2 either: (a) does not wish to be considered for promotion, or (b) is not able to demonstrate compliance with the Tier 1 Promotion Requirements, then the following shall apply:

- The Club finishing in second place in Tier 2 shall be automatically promoted to Tier 1.
- There shall be no Tier 2 Play-Off Match.
- The Club finishing in third place in Tier 2 shall participate in the Tier 1 Play-Off Match.

If the Clubs finishing in first and second place in Tier 2 either: (a) do not wish to be considered for promotion, or (b) are not able to demonstrate compliance with the Tier 1 Promotion Requirements, then the following shall apply:

- The Club finishing in third place in Tier 2 shall be automatically promoted to Tier 1.
- There shall be no Tier 2 Play-Off Match.
- There shall be no Tier 1 Play-Off Match.
- The Club finishing in thirteenth place in Tier 1 shall participate in Tier 1 for the following Playing Season.

If the Clubs finishing in first and third place in Tier 2 either: (a) do not wish to be considered for promotion, or (b) are not able to demonstrate compliance with the Tier 1 Promotion Requirements, then the following shall apply:

- The Club finishing in second place in Tier 2 shall be automatically promoted to Tier 1.
- There shall be no Tier 2 Play-Off Match.
- There shall be no Tier 1 Play-Off Match.
- The Club finishing in thirteenth place in Tier 1 shall participate in Tier 1 for the following Playing Season.

If the Club finishing in second or third place in Tier 2, either: (a) does not wish to be considered for promotion, or (b) is not able to demonstrate compliance with the Tier 1 Promotion Requirements, then the following shall apply:

- There shall be no Tier 2 Play-Off Match.
- The Club finishing in second or third place in Tier 2 that wishes to be promoted and is able to demonstrate compliance with the Tier 1 Promotion Requirements shall participate in the Tier 1 Play-Off Match.

If the Clubs finishing in second and third place in Tier 2, either: (a) do not wish to be considered for promotion, or (b) are not able to demonstrate compliance with the Tier 1 Promotion Requirements, then the following shall apply:

- There shall be no Tier 2 Play-Off Match.
- There shall be no Tier 1 Play-Off Match.
- The Club finishing in thirteenth place in Tier 1 shall participate in Tier 1 for the following Playing Season.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

If the Clubs finishing in first, second and third place in Tier 2 either: a) do not wish to be considered for promotion, or (b) are not able to demonstrate compliance with the Tier 1 Promotion Requirements, then the following shall apply:

- There shall be no Tier 2 Play-Off Match.
- There shall be no Tier 1 Play-Off Match.
- The Club finishing in thirteenth place in Tier 1 shall participate in Tier 1 for the following Playing Season.
- The Club finishing in bottom place in Tier 1 shall be granted a reprieve from relegation and shall participate in Tier 1 for the following Playing Season.

Compliance with the Tier 1 Promotion Requirements shall be determined by the Tier 1 and Tier 2 League at its absolute discretion.

Tier 2 and Tier 3

The procedures below are subject to each Club demonstrating compliance with the Tier 2 Promotion Requirements where applicable, which shall be determined by the Tier 1 and Tier 2 League at its absolute discretion.

Save as set out otherwise below:

- each Club finishing in eleventh place and below in Tier 2 shall be automatically relegated to the appropriate geographical division of Tier 3 (as determined by the Board at its absolute discretion); and
- the Clubs finishing in first place in each of the divisions at Tier 3 shall be automatically promoted to Tier 2.

If one of the Clubs finishing in first place in one of the Tier 3 divisions either: (a) does not wish to be considered for promotion or (b) is not able to demonstrate compliance with the Tier 2 Promotion Requirements, then the following shall apply:

- The Club finishing in second place in that Tier 3 division shall be automatically promoted to Tier 2.

If both of the Clubs finishing in first place in each of the two Tier 3 divisions either: (a) do not wish to be considered for promotion or (b) are not able to demonstrate compliance with the Tier 2 Promotion Requirements then the following shall apply:

- The Clubs finishing in second place in each of the Tier 3 divisions shall be automatically promoted to Tier 2.

If the Clubs finishing in first and second place in one of the two Tier 3 divisions either: (a) do not wish to be considered for promotion, or (b) are not able to demonstrate compliance with the Tier 2 Promotion Requirements, then the following shall apply:

- The Club finishing in second place in the other Tier 3 division shall be automatically promoted to Tier 2.

If the Clubs finishing in first and second place in one of the two Tier 3 divisions and the Club finishing in second place in the other Tier 3 division either: (a) do not wish to be considered for promotion, or (b) are not able to demonstrate compliance with the Tier 2 Promotion Requirements, then the following shall apply:

- The Club finishing in eleventh place in Tier 2 shall be granted a reprieve from relegation and shall participate in Tier 2 for the following Playing Season.

If both of the Clubs finishing in first place in each of the two Tier 3 divisions and a Club finishing in second place in one of the two Tier 3 divisions either: (a) do not wish to be considered for promotion, or (b) are not able to demonstrate compliance with the Tier 2 Promotion Requirements, then the following shall apply:

- The Club finishing in second place in the other Tier 3 division shall be automatically promoted to Tier 2.
- The Club finishing in eleventh place in Tier 2 shall be granted a reprieve from relegation and shall participate in Tier 2 for the following Playing Season.

If the Clubs finishing in first and second place in each of the two Tier 3 divisions either: (a) do not wish to be considered for promotion, or (b) are not able to demonstrate compliance with the Tier 2 Promotion Requirements then the following shall apply:

- The Clubs finishing in eleventh place and below in Tier 2 shall be granted a reprieve from relegation and shall participate in Tier 2 for the following Playing Season.

Tier 3 and Tier 4

The procedures below are subject to each Club demonstrating compliance with the stadium accreditation criteria, the Minimum Standards for participation in Tier 3 and/or the Other Criteria for Promotion where applicable, which shall be determined by the Board at its absolute discretion (save for compliance with the Minimum Standards for participation in Tier 3, which shall be determined by the Tier 3 and Tier 4 League at its absolute discretion).

Save as otherwise set out below:

- each Club finishing in eleventh place and below in each of the two divisions at Tier 3 shall be relegated to the appropriate geographical division of Tier 4 (as determined by the Board at its absolute discretion); and
- the Clubs finishing in first place in each of the divisions at Tier 4 shall be automatically promoted to Tier 3.

If a Club finishing in first place in a Tier 4 division: (a) does not wish to be considered for promotion, or (b) is not able to demonstrate compliance with the stadium accreditation criteria, the Minimum Standards for participation in Tier 3 and/or the Other Criteria for Promotion, then the following shall apply:

- The Club finishing in second place in that Tier 4 division shall be automatically promoted to Tier 3.

If the Clubs finishing in first and second place in a Tier 4 division either: (a) do not wish to be considered for promotion, or (b) are not able to demonstrate compliance with the stadium accreditation criteria, the Minimum Standards for participation in Tier 3 and/or the Other Criteria for Promotion, then the following shall apply:

- The Club finishing in third place in that Tier 4 division shall be automatically promoted to Tier 3.

If the Clubs finishing in first, second and third place in a Tier 4 division either: (a) do not wish to be considered for promotion or (b) are not able to demonstrate compliance with the stadium accreditation criteria and the Minimum Standards for participation in Tier 3 and/or the Other Criteria for Promotion then the following shall apply:

- No Club from that Tier 4 division shall be promoted.
- The highest placed Club in the division of Tier 3 to which that Tier 4 division is geographically linked that would otherwise be liable to relegation shall be granted a reprieve and shall participate in Tier 3 for the following Playing Season.

Tier 4 and Tier 5

The procedures below are subject to each Club demonstrating compliance with the stadium accreditation criteria, the Minimum Standards for participation in Tier 4 (as stipulated by The Association from time to time) and/or the Other Criteria for Promotion where applicable, which shall be determined by the Board at its absolute discretion (save for compliance with the Minimum Standards for participation in Tier 4, which shall be determined by the Tier 3 and Tier 4 League at its absolute discretion).

Save as otherwise set out below:

- each Club finishing in eleventh place or below in each of the four divisions at Tier 4 shall be relegated to the appropriate geographical division of Tier 5 (as determined by the Board at its absolute discretion); and
- the Clubs finishing in first place in each of the eight divisions at Tier 5 shall be automatically promoted to Tier 4.

If a Club finishing in first place in a Tier 5 division either: (a) do not wish to be considered for promotion, or (b) are not able to demonstrate compliance with the stadium accreditation criteria, certain of the Minimum Standards for participation in Tier 4 (as stipulated by The Association from time to time) and/or the Other Criteria for Promotion, then the following shall apply:

- The Club finishing in second place in that Tier 5 division shall be automatically promoted to Tier 4.

If the Clubs finishing in first and second place in a Tier 5 division either: (a) do not wish to be considered for promotion, or (b) are not able to demonstrate compliance with the stadium accreditation criteria, certain of the Minimum Standards for participation in Tier 4 (as stipulated by The Association from time to time) and/or the Other Criteria for Promotion, then the following shall apply:

- The Club finishing in third place in that Tier 5 division shall be automatically promoted to Tier 4.

If the Clubs finishing in first, second and third place in a Tier 5 division either: (a) does not wish to be considered for promotion, or (b) is not able to demonstrate compliance with the stadium accreditation criteria, certain of the Minimum Standards for participation in Tier 4 (as stipulated by The Association from time to time) and/or the Other Criteria for Promotion, then the following shall apply:

- No Club from that Tier 5 division shall be promoted.
- The highest placed Club in the Tier 4 division to which that Tier 5 division is geographically linked that would otherwise be liable to relegation shall be granted a reprieve from relegation and shall participate in Tier 4 for the following Playing Season.

Tier 3 and Tier 4 Minimum Standards

Each Playing Season, a Club participating at Tier 3 or Tier 4 must demonstrate compliance with the applicable Minimum Standards by 30 April.

Compliance with the Minimum Standards shall be determined by the Tier 3 and Tier 4 League at its absolute discretion.

Where a Club participating at Tier 3 or Tier 4 fails to demonstrate compliance with the applicable Minimum Standards by 30 April, it will not be eligible for promotion and will be relegated to the Tier immediately below at the end of the Playing Season (save for where a Club participating at Tier 3 also fails to meet the applicable Minimum Standards for participation at Tier 4, in which case the Board shall decide (at its absolute discretion) where to place the Club for the following Playing Season).

Tier 5 and Tier 6

The procedures below are subject to each Club demonstrating compliance with the ground grading criteria for participation in Tier 5 and/or the Other Criteria for Promotion, which shall be determined by the Board at its absolute discretion.

Regional League Format A

Save as otherwise set out below:

- where the Tier 5 division within a Regional League Format A is operating with 11 Clubs or more, each Club finishing in eleventh place and below in that Tier 5 division shall be relegated to the appropriate geographical division in Tier 6 within that Regional League Format A (as determined by the Board at its absolute discretion); and
- where the Tier 5 division within a Regional League Format A is operating with fewer than 11 Clubs, each Club finishing in ninth place and below in that Tier 5 division shall be relegated to the appropriate geographical division in Tier 6 within that Regional League Format A (as determined by the Board at its absolute discretion).

In the event that a Tier 5 division within a Regional League Format A does not receive any Club relegated from Tier 4, the highest placed Club in a relegation place in that particular Tier 5 division shall remain in Tier 5 and shall not be relegated.

Save as otherwise set out below:

- The Club finishing in first place in a Tier 6 division within a Regional League Format A shall be automatically promoted to the Tier 5 division within that Regional League Format A.

If a Club finishing in first place in a Tier 6 division within a Regional League Format A either: (a) do not wish to be considered for promotion, or (b) are not able to demonstrate compliance with the ground grading criteria for participation in Tier 5 and/or the Other Criteria for Promotion then the following shall apply:

- The Club finishing in second place in that Tier 6 division shall be automatically promoted to the Tier 5 division within that Regional League Format A.

If the Clubs finishing in first and second place in a Tier 6 division within a Regional League Format A either: (a) do not wish to be considered for promotion, or (b) are not able to demonstrate compliance with the ground grading criteria for participation in Tier 5 and/or the Other Criteria for Promotion then the following shall apply:

- The Club finishing in third place in that Tier 6 division shall be automatically promoted to the Tier 5 division within that Regional League Format A.

If the Clubs finishing in first, second and third place in a Tier 6 division within a Regional League Format A either: (a) do not wish to be considered for promotion, or (b) are not able to demonstrate compliance with the ground grading criteria for participation in Tier 5 and/or the Other Criteria for Promotion, then the following shall apply:

- No Club from that Tier 6 division shall be promoted.
- The highest placed Club in the Tier 5 division of that Regional League Format A that would otherwise be liable to relegation shall be granted a reprieve from relegation and shall participate in Tier 5 for the following Playing Season. Where applicable, this shall be in addition to any Club remaining in that division of Tier 5 because no Club is being received from Tier 4 as set out above.

Regional League Format B

Save as otherwise set out below:

- where the Tier 5 division within a Regional League Format B is operating with 11 Clubs or more, each Club finishing in tenth place and below in that Tier 5 division shall be relegated to the appropriate geographical division in Tier 6 within that Regional League Format B (as determined by the Board at its absolute discretion); and

- where the Tier 5 division within a Regional League Format B is operating with fewer than 11 Clubs, each Club finishing in eighth place and below in that Tier 5 division shall be relegated to the appropriate geographical division in Tier 6 within that Regional League Format B (as determined by the Board at its absolute discretion).

In the event that a Tier 5 division within a Regional League Format B does not receive any Club relegated from Tier 4, the highest placed Club in a relegation place in that particular Tier 5 division shall remain in Tier 5 and shall not be relegated.

Save as otherwise set out below:

- The Club finishing in first place in a Tier 6 division within a Regional League Format B shall be automatically promoted to the Tier 5 division within that Regional League Format B.

If a Club finishing in first place in a Tier 6 division within a Regional League Format B either: (a) do not wish to be considered for promotion, or (b) are not able to demonstrate compliance with the ground grading criteria for participation in Tier 5 and/or the Other Criteria for Promotion, then the following shall apply:

- The Club finishing in second place in that Tier 6 division shall be automatically promoted to the Tier 5 division within that Regional League Format B.

If the Clubs finishing in first and second place in a Tier 6 division within a Regional League Format B either: (a) do not wish to be considered for promotion, or (b) are not able to demonstrate compliance with the ground grading criteria for participation in Tier 5 and/or the Other Criteria for Promotion, then the following shall apply:

- The Club finishing in third place in that Tier 6 division shall be automatically promoted to the Tier 5 division within that Regional League Format B.

If the Clubs finishing in first, second and third place in a Tier 6 division within a Regional League Format B either: (a) do not wish to be considered for promotion, or (b) are not able to demonstrate compliance with the ground grading criteria for participation in Tier 5 and/or the Other Criteria for Promotion, then the following shall apply:

- No Club from that Tier 6 division shall be promoted.
- The highest placed Club in the Tier 5 division of that Regional League Format B that would otherwise be liable to relegation shall be granted a reprieve from relegation and shall participate in Tier 5 for the following Playing Season. Where applicable, this shall be in addition to any Club remaining in that division of Tier 5 because no Club is being received from Tier 4 as set out above.

Tier 6 and Tier 7

In a Tier 6 division following Regional Format A, each Club finishing in eleventh and twelfth place shall be relegated to the appropriate County League at Tier 7. Where there are three Tier 7 County Leagues sitting beneath that Tier 6 division, the Club finishing tenth shall also be relegated.

In a Tier 6 division following Regional Format B, each Club finishing in ninth and tenth place shall be relegated to the appropriate County League at Tier 7. Where there are three Tier 7 County Leagues sitting beneath that Tier 6 division, the Club finishing in eighth place shall also be relegated.

All Tier 6 divisions within the same Regional League must relegate from the same position downwards (e.g. if one Tier 6 division relegates the teams placed eighth, ninth and tenth, then all other Tier 6 divisions within that Regional League must do the same).

The movement of Clubs from Tier 7 (County Leagues) to Tier 6 will be via a promotion pool.

Clubs in a League at Tier 7 playing open age 11 v 11 format can apply to the Board to be considered for promotion into Tier 6. Any such application must be made by 31 March in each year and priority will be based on the finishing positions of those Clubs. In the event that the champion Club at Tier 7 has not applied for promotion by 31 March in the relevant year, that Club will nevertheless still be considered for promotion to Tier 6.

The Board, in consultation with the relevant Joint Liaison Committee, shall decide which Clubs shall be promoted into Tier 6 (and into which division at Tier 6), taking into account:

(a) the travel requirements for the relevant Club as well as for the member Clubs of the division it will be joining;

(b) the number of vacancies after any relegation has occurred;

(c) any applicable stadium accreditation criteria; and

(d) other published criteria for promotion pool applications.

Changes to Divisional Size

Where a Regional League is adjusting the number of Clubs within a division, they must make provisions for the club movements 12 months prior to the changes taking place. A Regional League must obtain approval for any such changes at a general meeting of the Regional League and from the Board.

Play-Off Matches

Save for where the Board may determine otherwise in accordance with this Regulation 5.8:

- Where play-off matches are required in order to determine promotion and relegation in any Playing Season, these play-off matches shall be organised at the end of the Playing Season, provided that the Clubs were given notice prior to the start of that Playing Season or, if such notice was not given, by majority agreement of all the Clubs which could be involved in the play-off matches.
- Where the Clubs participating in the play-off match(es) are members of the same League (or divisions within the same League), the rules for the play-off match(es) shall be determined by that League.
- Where the Clubs participating in the play-off match(es) are members of a different League, the rules for the play-off match(es) shall be determined by the Board.

Tiers within the same League

In exceptional circumstances and only in the case of Leagues which have divisions at more than one Tier, the promotion and relegation between Tiers which form part of the same League may be decided by a majority of those persons eligible to attend and vote at a Special General Meeting or Annual General Meeting where this is considered, subject to the approval of the Board.

Additional Teams

Second or subsequent teams from the same Club already competing in the Women's Football Pyramid are not permitted to play above Tier 6.

Power of Board

Where this Regulation 5.6 does not provide a resolution to a particular combination of promotion and relegation scenarios, the Board shall determine at its absolute discretion how to resolve the matter.

6. THE MOVEMENT OF CLUBS WITHIN THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL PYRAMID OTHER THAN BY PROMOTION OR RELEGATION

6.1 Movement of a Club from participation in one League to another is not permitted other than by promotion and relegation save with the approval of the Board or in accordance with Regulation 5.5, such approval being final and binding.

6.2 A new Club intending to participate in a League at Tier 7 or a Club already participating in a League at Tier 7 shall be permitted to apply to the Board to compete in a League sanctioned by any County Association, regardless of whether the Club is in membership of it, where the Club can establish that: (a) the travelling required to compete in a League sanctioned by a County Association is significantly less onerous than the travelling that would be required to compete in the appropriate League sanctioned by the County Association with which it has membership (or its Parent Association, where applicable); (b) the format is not suitable for the Club; or (c) other extenuating circumstances exist. The Board shall decide, at its absolute discretion, whether this exception applies, after taking into consideration the impact on the affected Leagues and their member Clubs, the development of women's football in the area and after promotion and relegation in each affected League has been decided. The Board's decision shall be final and binding. Where the Board decides that the exception applies, the position may be subject to annual review.

6.3 If a Club (whether a members' club or a company) is wound up, liquidated or withdrawn or removed from a League/division in the Women's Football Pyramid and then wishes to reform and/or re-enter the Women's Football Pyramid the following Playing Season, unless otherwise determined by the Board, it will be allowed to make an application only to join a League/division a minimum of two Tiers below the League/division in which it was a member when wound up, liquidated, withdrawn or removed (e.g. from Tier 1 to Tier 3 or below, from Tier 2 to Tier 4 or below, from Tier 3 to Tier 5 or below etc.). This relates only to Clubs that wish to reform and/or return for the following Playing Season and subject to the approval of the Board as set out above.

6.4 If two or more Clubs ("the Merging Clubs") are proposing a transaction or series of transactions that result in the merging or consolidation ("the Proposed Merger") of those Clubs into one Club ("the Merged Club") then a formal application to do so must be received by the Board and the League(s) of which the Merging Clubs are members by 31st December to be valid for the following Playing Season.

A deed of agreement, which shall be legally binding on all parties must be submitted to The Association by 31st March in the year immediately following receipt of the application. The Board shall determine at its absolute discretion where the Merged Club is to be included in the Women's Football Pyramid for the following Playing Season subject to the provisions of item 6.5.5 below.

In arriving at its decision the Board may apply the following minimum criteria:

6.4.1 with regard to each of the Merging Clubs:

6.4.1.1 The shareholders or members of the Club have voted to agree to the transfer of the Club's membership to the new entity and/or a licensed insolvency practitioner(s) appointed to the Club has agreed to sell or transfer some or all of the Club's assets to the new entity.

6.4.1.2 All Football Creditors in the Club must be paid in full or transferred in full (with each creditor's consent) to the new entity, and evidenced as such.

6.4.1.3 All other creditors in the Club must be paid in full or transferred in full (with each creditor's consent) to the new entity and evidenced as such.

6.4.1.4 The proposed new entity has provided financial forecasts to the Board and the League showing its ability to fund the Club for the next twelve (12) months or to the end of the Playing Season following transfer (whichever is the longer) and that evidence of funding sources has been provided.

6.4.1.5 The Board must have given approval for the transfer to take place.

In the event that requirement 6.4.1.1 and/or 6.4.1.3 are not fully complied with, and only where the Board, at its absolute discretion, deems there to have been exceptional circumstances surrounding the application for the merger, it may approve the merger (subject to compliance with all other provisions above);

6.4.2 the proposed playing name of the Merged Club must be acceptable to the Board;

6.4.3 the Merged Club must have security of tenure to a ground that meets the relevant ground grading requirements;

6.4.4 any other criteria that the Board may from time to time deem to be appropriate; and

6.4.5 the Merged Club will ordinarily be placed at the lower of the Tiers at which the Merging Clubs ended the Playing Season in which the application is made. For the purposes of this Regulation, if one of the Merging Clubs has finished that Playing Season in a relegation place, then they will be deemed to have ended the Playing Season at the Tier to which they would have been relegated without the Proposed Merger proceeding or if one of the Merging Clubs has finishing the Playing Season in a promotion place, then they will be deemed to have ended the Playing Season at the Tier to which they would have been promoted without the Proposed Merger proceeding.

Any decision regarding whether a proposed transaction or series of transactions falls to be considered under this Regulation shall be determined by the Board at its absolute discretion.

6.5 In the event that a League in the Women's Football Pyramid ceases to exist, the Board will use its reasonable endeavours to place the Clubs previously playing in that League at the next highest level of the Women's Football Pyramid for the following Playing Season (but is under no obligation to do so), unless otherwise requested by a Club.

7. ELECTION OF A CLUB INTO A LEAGUE

7.1 Subject to Regulation 7.3, a Club can only enter the Women's Football Pyramid at Tier 7 and only to the County League of their Parent County Association.

7.2 Any Club shall, with the permission of the Board, be permitted to compete in a League sanctioned by any County Association, regardless of whether the Club is in membership of it, where the Club can establish that: (a) the travelling required to compete in a League sanctioned by a County Association is significantly less onerous than the travelling that would be required to compete in the appropriate League sanctioned by the County Association with which it has membership (or its Parent Association, where applicable); (b) the format is not suitable for the Club; or (c) other extenuating circumstances exist. The Board shall decide, whether such permission shall be granted, after taking into consideration the impact on the affected Leagues and their member Clubs, the development of women's football in the area and after promotion and relegation in each affected League has been decided. The Board's decision shall be final and binding. If permission is granted, this may be subject to annual review.

7.3 In exceptional circumstances a League may seek approval from the Board to elect a Club not currently in membership of that League provided that there is: (a) exceptional circumstances (b) a vacancy within its constitution (c) the Club meets the entry criteria and (d) promotion and relegation issues have been satisfied.

8. CHANGE IN PLAYING NAME

A Club participating in a League at Tier 6 or above shall not be permitted to change its playing name (i.e. the name under which the Club competes in a League), as recorded when affiliating to their Parent Association, save with the prior written permission of the Board. Any application for a change of playing name must be received by the Board on or before 1 May in a Playing Season in order for it to be considered by Board for adoption in the following Playing Season. The Board will use its absolute discretion in deciding whether to approve a change in a Club's playing name.

A Club participating in a League at Tier 7 seeking to change its playing name must follow the relevant provisions contained within the rules of its County Association. Any approved name changes shall be adopted in the following playing season regardless of any provisions to the contrary in the County Association's Rules.

Any Club applying to the promotion pool with a pending change to playing name for the following season must inform the Board of this potential change.

9. WOMEN'S FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

The Women's Football Conference (the **"Conference"**) will comprise of representatives from Leagues and the representatives appointed by that Board in accordance with its constitution. The objective of the Conference is to take steps to protect and further the interests of women's and girls' Association football.

10. JOINT LIAISON COMMITTEES (JLCS)

Regional JLCs will be established to consider matters relating to the development of the Women's Football Pyramid in their regions. In particular JLCs will be responsible for recommending the promotion and relegation of Clubs between Tiers 6 and 7, and will operate in accordance with their terms of reference.

The JLCs will be established on a regional basis and will comprise representatives of the Leagues at Tiers 6 and 7.

Both the Conference and the JLCs may refer a matter to the Board for determination.

11. PLAYING ORDER OF PRECEDENCE IN THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL PYRAMID

Any Club with more than one team in the Women's Football Pyramid (including external reserve sections) shall always fulfil its fixtures in this order of precedence, subject to the players being properly registered with the League(s): first team, any second team, any subsequent team.

A League shall deal with any breach of this Regulation by the teams of a member Club playing within the same League. Any breach of this Regulation by teams of a Club playing in more than one League shall be reported to the Board who shall deal with it as appropriate.

12. PROCEDURES FOR THE DETERMINATION OF ANY MATTER, DISPUTE OR DIFFERENCE BY THE BOARD

12.1 The Board may adopt such procedures for the determination of any matter, dispute or difference as it considers appropriate and expedient, having regard to the aims and objectives set out at Regulation 2. The Board may require the attendance at a meeting or the written observations of any League or Club, as it considers appropriate to assist its determination.

12.2 Any dispute or difference between a League and a Club relating to promotion and relegation issues, lateral movement and/or other eligibility criteria must be referred for determination to the Board; such determination shall be final and binding subject only to arbitration in accordance with Rule K.

12.3

(a) Any other decision of the Board shall be subject to a right of appeal to an Appeal Board. The decision of that Appeal Board shall be final and binding on all parties. All referrals of appeals shall be conducted in accordance with Part C of the Disciplinary Regulations (Appeals – Non-Fast Track), save for appeals in relation to decisions made pursuant to Regulation 5, 6.3 and/or 7.3 where the procedures are outlined in Regulation 12.3(b) below.

(b) Procedures for appeals against decisions made pursuant to Regulation 5.4, 5.5, 5.6 and/or 7.3.

(i) Such appeals must be submitted to The Association's Judicial Services Department within seven days from the date of the written decision outlining the Grounds of Appeal, with a copy to The Association's Women's Football Pyramid Department.

(ii) The Board's response to the appeal shall be submitted to The Association's Judicial Services Department within seven days of the date the Club's appeal was submitted, with a copy to The Association's Women's Football Pyramid Department.

(iii) In all cases the Board will submit any documentation considered by the Board in relation to the relevant decision (which the appellant would already have received) with its response.

(iv) The Board will appear before an Appeal Board with the Appellant for determination of the appeal.

(v) Dates shall be set annually in advance by the Judicial Services Department for the hearing of such appeals and details of the dates shall be notified to the Club in the correspondence from the Board notifying them of the relevant decision.

12.4 The Board may, at its discretion, delegate the resolution of any matter, dispute or difference arising under these Regulations to any body it considers to be appropriate (including a subcommittee or commission which may include members of council not appointed to the Board or a body constituted by a County Association).

13. HOME GROWN PLAYER RULES

13.1 Each Club participating at Tier 1 or Tier 2 of the Women's Football Pyramid must comply with the Home Grown Player Rules set out in this Regulation 13.

13.2 For the purposes of this Regulation 13 only, the following capitalised terms shall have the meanings set out below:

"Club" means any football club for the time being participating in any Competition.

"Competition Match" means any match played or to be played in the Competitions.

"Competitions" means each League and the Cup Competition.

"Cup Competition" means the annual league cup competition for Clubs.

"Home Grown Player" means a Player who, irrespective of their nationality or age, has been registered with a Club and/or any other football club affiliated to The Association or an Affiliated Association, for a period, continuous or not of three seasons or 36 months prior to their 21st birthday (or the end of the season during which they turn 21). A season will be deemed to commence for all Clubs on the same date as the date on which the summer transfer window in that season closes for Clubs in the Leagues, and expire on the date of the final League Competition Match of the season.

"League" means a league competition operating at either Tier 1 or Tier 2 of the Women's Football Pyramid (i.e. the WSL or WSL2, or any successor league competition).

"Player" means any Contract Player, Non-Contract Player or other football player who, subject to League rules, plays or who is eligible to play for a Club in the Competitions.

"Playing Season" means the period specified by the Leagues which shall be between the date in each football season on which the first Competition Match is played until the date on which the last Competition Match is played.

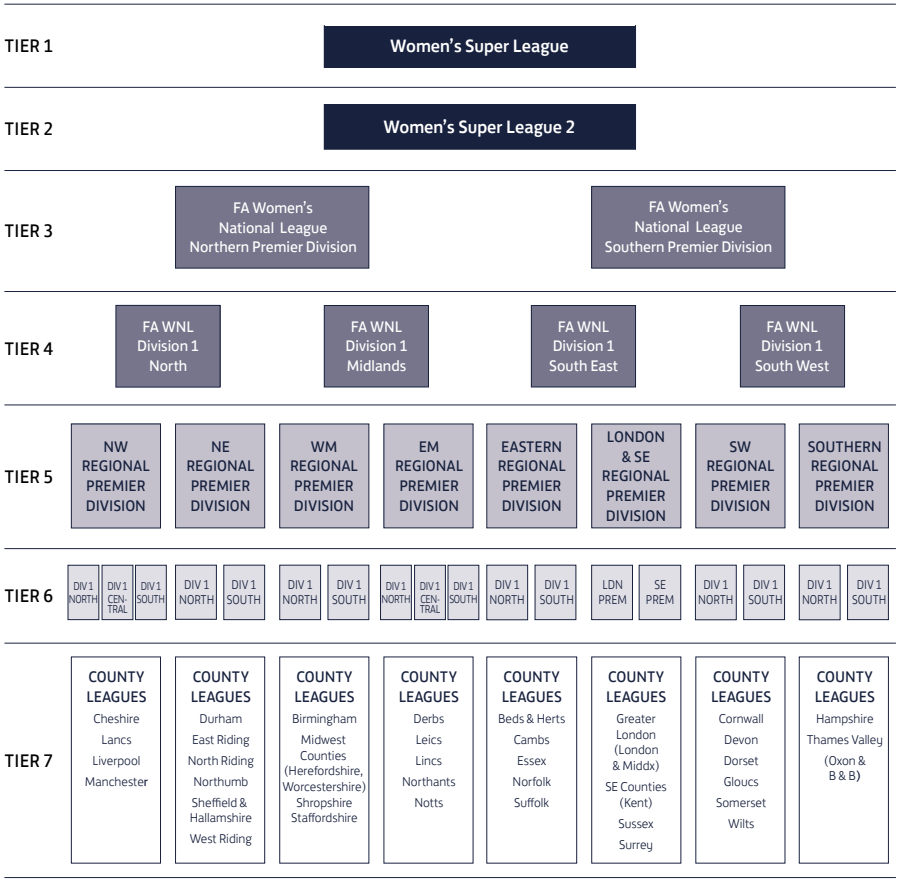
"Squad List" means the list of Players registered to play for a Club in the Competitions at any one time during a Playing Season, prepared and submitted to the competition secretary by a Club in accordance with League rules.

13.3 From the date of its first Competition Match of the Playing Season to the date of its final Competition Match of the Playing Season, each Club participating in a Tier 1 League is required to have a minimum of eight registered Home Grown Players in its Squad List.

13.4 From the date of its First Competition Match of the Playing Season to the date of its final Competition Match of the Playing Season, each Club in participating in a Tier 2 League is required to have at least the minimum number of registered Home Grown Players in its Squad List as set out in the table below.

A	B
Number of players who are in the squad list	Minimum number of registered Home Grown Players required
25	15
24	14
23	14
22	13
21	13
20	12
19	11
18 and under	11

APPENDIX A



RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

23 - REFEREES

PREAMBLE

Pursuant to The Football Association Rule J1.4, the Board is authorised to make regulations with reference to Match Officials as they deem expedient. These 'Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees' (the "Regulations") are the regulations made under that Rule.

County Football Associations are responsible for the administration of Referees registered with The Association who reside in their area as determined by The Association. Service Associations have administrative responsibility for Referees who are serving members of the Armed Forces.

Affiliated Associations shall appoint a Referees' Committee, or an alternative appropriately constituted group, to carry out its functions under these Regulations.

These regulations fully embrace The Association's Equality Policy, Safeguarding Children Policy and Regulations and Safeguarding Adults at Risk Regulations.

For the purpose of these Regulations the terms used will be defined as follows:

Administer - to carry out the administrative procedures relating to the registration and control of Referees as required or determined by The Association from time to time.

Affiliated Association - a County Football Association or Service Association.

Annual Review - the review by a Competition of its List of Match Officials entitled to be appointed for a match in that Competition, to establish the suitability of each Referee to continue to be eligible to be retained on that List. This will take place between the last day of the playing season and the 31 July each year. Such a review will take into consideration the Referee's administration, fitness, conduct and performance on the field of play as defined in these Regulations, as modified by any written instructions to a Competition from the Association from time to time. The Competition must provide reasons for the removal of a Match Official from their List to the Parent Association of the Match Official.

Appointing Authority - The Association or an Affiliated Association that appoints a Referee to take part in a match.

Club Mark - a numerical indication of a Referee's performance on the field of play, reported by competing Clubs after a match, on a scale defined by The Association.

County Football Association - an association accorded the status of a County Football Association pursuant to the Rules of The Association.

County Referee - a Referee who has demonstrated to the satisfaction of The Association or Affiliated Association, as required by these Regulations, the ability to officiate at Level 5b and above.

Examine - to supervise, in written and/or other form of examination, Trainee Referee candidates to the requirements and standards determined by The Association from time to time.

The FA Futsal Referee Course - a course of instruction for refereeing Futsal as determined by The Association.

The FA Referee Course (previously referred to as The FA Basic Referee Course) - a course of instruction for refereeing 11 a side football, 9 a side football and mini soccer as determined by The Association leading to the examination of Referee candidates.

FIFA List - those Referees and Assistant Referees, nominated by The Association and selected by FIFA, eligible for appointment to international matches.

Futsal - a form of small sided football approved by FIFA.

Futsal Observer - those individuals authorised by The Association to produce Observer reports at levels determined by The Association in relation to futsal.

Futsal Only Referee - a person registered as qualified under these Regulations who may only be appointed as a Match Official for Futsal matches.

Junior County Referee - a Referee who has completed successfully the Basic Referee Training Course, having reached the age of 16 years.

League - a Competition sanctioned under relevant Regulations by The Association or an Affiliated Association.

Marking Season - except as otherwise determined by The Association, the marking season for promotion/retention for Match Officials operating at Level 5a and upwards shall be from the 1st July until the last day of April in the following year. Mid-season promotions for Level 5a upwards will be determined by The Association on an annual basis.

National Association - a member association of FIFA.

National Group - those Referees selected by The Association, eligible for appointment to games in the Premier League, EFL and other matches as determined from time to time.

Observer report - written appraisal of a Referee's performance on the field of play, carried out by an Observer, or a Futsal Observer, on behalf of The Association, Affiliated Association or competition and submitted to the appropriate body.

Observers - those individuals authorised by The Association to produce Observer reports at levels determined by The Association.

Parent Association - the Affiliated Association within whose boundaries a referee resides (except for Service referees and the Amateur Football Alliance).

Playing Season - that period of the year when The Association permits football to be played.

Referee - a person registered as qualified under these Regulations who may be appointed as a Match Official, including but not limited to referees, assistant referees, fourth officials, additional assistant referees, reserve assistant referees, any category of 'video' match officials, Observers, Referee Coaches, Referee Mentors, Referee Developer Trainers and Tutors.

Referee Coach - a Referee authorised by The Association or an Affiliated Association to provide face to face development for Match Officials on matchdays.

Referee Developer - a Referee authorised by The Association to deliver refereeing courses.

Referee Developer Trainer - a referee authorised by The Association to provide training, development and quality assurance for the Referee Developers.

Referee Mentor - a Referee authorised by The Association or an Affiliated Association to provide one-on-one support, guidance, and feedback to newer or developing Referees.

Registration Period - from 1 June in each year, (or the date of successful completion of the Basic Referee Training Course if later) to the following 30 June.

Senior County Referee - a Referee who has demonstrated to the satisfaction of The Association or Affiliated Association, as required by these Regulations, the ability to officiate at Level 5 and above.

Service Association - an Affiliated Association having responsibility for the administration of the game as determined by The Association from time to time in or relating to Her Majesty's Regular Forces (the Royal Navy, the Army, the Royal Air Force).

Specialist Assistant Referee - Referees who are permitted by The Association to officiate almost exclusively as Assistant Referees.

Step 2 List - those Referees selected by the Association as eligible for appointment to games within specific Leagues determined by The Association to be suitable for Level 2 Referees.

Step 3/4 Leagues - those nominated divisions, within specific Leagues as determined and considered by The Association, suitable for Level 3 Referees.

Step 5/6 Leagues - those nominated divisions, within specific Leagues as determined and considered by The Association, suitable for Level 4 Referees.

Technical Irregularity - any failure by a Referee to meet any requirement imposed on, or notified to, the Referee by The Association or an Affiliated Association. This includes, but is not limited to, any failure to comply with an administrative requirement imposed on a Referee such as the requirement to file reports, answer correspondence, attend match venues or disciplinary or regulatory hearings at a particular time, etc. or any breach of Regulation 10 or 13.

The Association - means The Football Association.

Trainee Referee - a Referee candidate who is undergoing the FA Basic Referee Course, will be recognised and classified as a Level T Referee and may be appointed as a Match Official in accordance with these regulations.

Youth Referee - means a registered Referee who is aged 14 or 15.

For the purposes of these Regulations, The Association shall act through the Board, which shall delegate such functions to the Referees' Committee.

1. REGISTRATION

(a) No person shall be appointed as a Match Official in any Match or Competition under the jurisdiction of The Association either directly or indirectly unless registered in accordance with these Regulations.

A Competition may include in its regulations a provision by which a person who is not a registered Match Official may carry out the duties of a Match Official in a specific Match but only in circumstances where a registered Match Official cannot be appointed to or officiate in that Match. In these circumstances the appointed unregistered and/or unqualified Match Official will carry the same powers and duties of an appointed registered Match Official for the purpose of that match.

(b) A Referee must be registered with The Association through the Affiliated Association within the area in which the Referee resides, which will be deemed that referee's Parent Association (or County). The Parent Association for serving members of The Armed Forces is the Affiliated Association of the service in which they serve; such referees may also register as an Associate Referee with the Affiliated Association in whose area they reside. A Referee will be required to pay the standard national registration fee to be determined annually by The Association. Registration will run from the date of registration until the following 30 June. A Referee may become an Associate Referee with another Affiliated Association but will not be required to pay a further fee. A Referee may register as a Futsal Only Referee.

The Memorandum attached to these regulations details the responsibilities of Affiliated Associations in respect of Referees administered by them.

(c) In cases where the boundaries of Affiliated Associations overlap, the Affiliated Associations concerned must mutually agree responsibility of the training and examination of Trainee Referees. Once the FA Basic Referee Course has been completed, the registration of the Referee must then be transferred to the Affiliated Association of the area in which the Referee resides. A Referee who changes residence from one administrative area to another will be required to be released by the original Association before being registered with their new Association for administrative purposes but will not be required to pay a further registration fee for that season.

(d) Referees shall not be registered with The Association until they are able to satisfy the Affiliated Association of their date of birth. A Trainee Referee must be 14 years of age or older at the time of registration.

(e) A Referee who has failed to register as a Referee with The Association for between two and three seasons shall not be re-registered until they have successfully undertaken and completed a Laws of the Game examination, as determined by the Affiliated Association. A Referee who has not been registered for between three and five seasons must successfully complete two online development modules and successfully undertaken and completed a Laws of the Game examination, as determined by the Affiliated Association. The Affiliated Association may then register the Referee at their former Level (up to Senior County Referee) once they are satisfied with his/her their competence. A Referee who has not been registered for more than three seasons must attend and successfully complete the practical assessment and examination of The FA Referee Course, at which point they will be registered at a level (up to Senior County Referee) determined by the Affiliated Association. The Affiliated Association must not charge more than the sum determined from time to time by The Association for attendance at the assessment and examination.

(f) A Referee's registration may be:

(i) suspended by the Affiliated Association pursuant to Regulation 7(a); or

(ii) suspended or cancelled by The Association pursuant to Regulations 7(h) and 7(i).

(g) Applications for the re-instatement of a Referee whose registration has been suspended or cancelled under Regulation 1(f) must be referred to The Association.

2. REFEREE RECRUITMENT, TRAINING AND EXAMINATION

(a) The Association and Affiliated Associations shall be responsible for the recruitment, training and examination of Referees.

(b) The requirements and standards for Referee training and examination shall be agreed by The Association.

(c) Initial Referee training course fees shall be set by The Association for:

- FA Referee Course
- Futsal
- Small Sided Football
- Disability Football

(d) FA Referee Course - A candidate will undergo training and evaluation, including assessments as determined by The Association.

(e) All other formats of initial Referee training will be examined at the end of the period of training.

(f) The minimum age a candidate may be presented for initial examination of the FA Referee Course and all other forms of refereeing will be 14 years.

(g) Candidates who do not reach the standard required by The Association in the initial examination may be re-examined at a time appropriate to the needs of the individual as determined by The Association and/or the Affiliated Associations.

3. CLASSIFICATION

(a) On behalf of The Association, each Affiliated Association must classify Referees administered by their Association. The classification period runs from 1 June in each year, or the date of successful completion of the initial examination, until the referee has been promoted or reclassified as part of the agreed processes.

As at 1 June in each year every Referee is to be classified as follows;

International	FIFA List Referee
Level 1	Select Group or National Group Referee
Level 2	Step 2 List Referee
Level 3	Step 3/4 Leagues Referee
Level 4	Step 5/6 Leagues Referee*
Level 5a	Senior County Referee. This classification includes Referees who have served at a higher Level.**
Level 5b	County Referee
Level 5c	Junior County Referee (16 years of age or over)
Level Y1/Y2	Youth Referee (14 or 15 years of age)

Level D — Referee Workforce (a Referee officiating in 6 or fewer matches a season)

- Referee Developer
- Observer
- Referee Mentor
- Referee Coach
- Referee Developer Trainer

** Any such Referee registered with the Guernsey FA, Jersey FA and the Isle of Man FA and officiating on those islands may be classified as Level 4i according to criteria approved by The Association.*

*** Where a Referee has achieved a Level higher than Level 5 and is not retained, the Referee will usually be reclassified as a Level 5 Referee, with the option of further promotion in the normal way or until a status of non-active is declared by the individual.*

The Association may designate Referees as Specialist Assistant Referees who will officiate almost exclusively as Assistant Referees according to guidelines determined from time to time.

A Referee may be registered under one or more of the following specialist categories; such registration may be applied solely in addition to a Level 1 to 10 registration.

MSR	-	Mini Soccer Referee
SS	-	Small Sided Referee
International	-	FIFA List Referee
1W	-	WSL Referee
2W	-	WSL2 Referee
3W	-	Women's National Referee
4W	-	Women's Regional Referee
YW	-	Women's Youth Referee
International	-	FIFA List Referee
FR1	-	Tier 1 National Referee
FR2	-	Tier 2 National Referee
FR3	-	Tier 3 Regional Referee
FR4	-	County Referee
FRY	-	Referee aged U16

(b) When a Referee changes residence from one Affiliated Association to another, the classification Level will be accepted by the Affiliated Association into whose area the Referee has moved.

(c) A Referee moving to England from another country must provide proof of their current Referee status from their National Association. The Association will determine their classification Level.

(d) Trainee Referees undertaking the FA Referee Course must be registered as Level T after successful completion of the final course examination. A Level T Referee will automatically become a Level 5c and/or 4W Referee (16 years of age or over) or Level Y or YW (14 or 15 years of age) upon successful completion of the FA Referee Course.

(e) A Level Y or YW Referee will automatically become a Level 5c or 4W Referee on reaching the age of 16

(f) FIFA nominations:

Nominations will be approved annually by The Association's Referees' Committee.

Priority will be given to developing English officials who show the potential to officiate at future major international finals and tournaments.

A FIFA official who ceases to be on the FIFA list will not be considered for future nomination although consideration may be given in exceptional circumstance to an official who resigned from the FIFA list for significant personal reasons.

The following factors will be taken into consideration for each potential nominee:

- Domestic performances
- International performances
- Potential to officiate in future major international tournaments with special consideration being given to UEFA EURO Championships and FIFA World Cups
- Fitness and lifestyle management
- Availability
- Ambassadorial qualities
- Organisation and attitude (including feedback, reporting, self-analysis etc...)

Consideration will be given to operational requirements and the strategic planning of the overall makeup of the English FIFA lists.

(g) An Affiliated Association may take any action it deems appropriate in relation to the classification of a Referee pursuant to Regulation 7(a).

(h) The Association may take any action it deems appropriate in relation to the classification of a Referee pursuant to Regulations 7(h) and 7(i).

(i) A Level D Referee who operates as a Referee Coach, Referee Mentor, Referee Developer, Observer or Referee Developer Trainer must seek authorisation to perform their role from the Association or Affiliated Association on an annual basis and must satisfy the Association or Affiliated Association of their suitability on terms prescribed by the Association's Referees Committee from time to time.

4. PROMOTION

In addition to specific criteria outlined below, candidates for promotion may be required to undertake all or some of the following:

- Physical fitness test(s).
- Laws of the Game test(s).
- Competition rule and regulations test(s).
- Completion of online referee development content.
- Interview.

Account may be taken of administration, availability, and club evaluations. Account may also be taken of a candidate's disciplinary record (e.g. any proven charges of Misconduct (as defined in and pursuant to the Rules of The Association) and/or any action taken pursuant to Regulation 7.

Men's Game Pathway

(a) Selection and promotion within Levels 4 to International will be determined as follows:

International Level	Annual nomination by The Association to FIFA, selected from those eligible Referees as at the date of nomination determined by FIFA.
Level 1	Referees who have been promoted from Level 2 for outstanding ability as determined by The Association.
Level 2	Referees who have been promoted from Level 3 for outstanding ability as determined by The Association.
Level 3	Referees who have been promoted from Level 4 for outstanding ability as determined by The Association.
Level 4	Referees who have been promoted from Level 5 for outstanding ability as determined by The Association following nomination by the Affiliated Association to act as an Assistant Referee on the Step 3/4 Leagues and as a Referee on selected Step 5/6 Leagues.

Referees will be required to complete successfully an annual fitness test and other criteria as determined by The Association prior to having their classification confirmed. On initial selection for promotion to a higher Level, Referees may be required to attend an interview to ascertain their suitability against criteria determined by The Association. The Association will determine the acceptable number of matches required for consideration to be selected for Levels 4 and above.

(b) Referees must apply for promotion in writing to their Parent Association should they wish to be considered for promotion within Levels 5a-5c. Selection will be based on criteria as determined by The Association and communicated to County FAs by 31 July in the given season.

(c) The Parent Association may charge promotion candidates an administration fee (the sum to be determined from time to time by The Association); the administration fee will be refunded to a candidate who completes the promotion process, regardless of whether or not they are promoted.

The responsibility of promoting Referees within Levels 5a-5c and Y to 5 rests with the Referee's Parent Association. All selections must be made as part of a quarterly review process taking place on 31 October, 31 December, 28 February, 31 May each year.

Levels 5a and 5b

Promotion from Level 5b to Level 5a and Level 5c to Level 5b shall be based on criteria as determined by The Association and communicated to the Affiliated Associations on an annual basis by no later than 31 July.

Women's Game Pathway

(d) Promotion through the Women's Football pyramid will follow the criteria above, excepting that Referees choosing the women's pathway cannot automatically cross over to the same Men's pyramid classification.

As at 1 June in each year Referee is to be classified as follows:

International	-	FIFA List Referee
Level 1W	-	WSL Referee
Level 2W	-	WSL2 Referee
Level 3W	-	Women's National Referee
Level 4W	-	Women's Regional Referee

Level YW - Women's Youth Referee (14 or 15 years of age)

International Level - annual nomination by The Association to FIFA, selected from those eligible Referees as at the date of nomination determined by FIFA. Nominees must operate regularly at the highest level of the national women's competition.

Level 1W - Referees who have been promoted from Level 2W for outstanding ability as determined by The Association.

Level 2W - Referees who have been promoted from Level 3W for outstanding ability as determined by The Association.

Referees will be required to complete successfully an annual fitness test and other criteria as determined by The Association prior to having their classification confirmed. On initial selection for promotion to a higher Level, Referees may be required to attend an interview to ascertain their suitability against criteria determined by The Association. The Association will determine the acceptable number of matches required for consideration to be selected for Levels 2 and above.

Level 3W

Promotion from Level 4W to Level 3W shall be based on criteria as determined by The Association and communicated to the Affiliated Associations on an annual basis by no later than 31 July.

A Trainee Referee who wishes to join the women's football pathway will automatically become a Level 4W Referee (16 years of age or over) or Level YW (14 or 15 years of age) upon successful completion of the Referee Course.

A Level YW Referee will automatically become a Level 4W Referee on reaching the age of 16.

Futsal Pathway

(e) The Futsal pathway can be followed singularly as a registered Futsal Only Referee with an Affiliated Association or as a Referee who has successfully completed The FA Futsal Referee Course. Promotion through the Futsal Pathway will follow the criteria below.

International - FIFA list referee

FR1 - Select Group Referee

FR2 - National List Referee

FR3 - Regional Referee

FR4 - County Referee

FRY - Youth Referee

FRT - Trainee Referee

International Referees are nominated annually by The Association to FIFA, selected from those eligible Referees operating as FR1 at the date of nomination determined by FIFA.

FR1 - Referees who have been promoted from FR2 for outstanding ability as determined by The Association.

FR2 - Referees who have been promoted from FR3 for outstanding ability as determined by The Association.

Referees will be required to successfully complete an annual fitness test and other criteria as determined by The Association prior to having their classification confirmed. The Association will determine the acceptable number of matches, observer reports and average observer report mark required for consideration to be selected for Levels FR2 and above.

FR3 & FR4

Promotion from level FR3 to FR4 shall be based on criteria as determined by The Association and communicated to the Affiliated Associations on an annual basis no later than 31 May.

A Trainee Referee will become classified as FR4 upon successful completion of the FA Futsal Referee Course.

A Youth Referee will automatically become classified as FR4 upon reaching the age of 16.

5. COMPETITIONS

(a) Affiliated Associations must advise successful candidates of the result of the initial examination, in writing, as well as providing them with details of local competitions on which they are eligible to officiate.

(b) Referees under the age of 16 are only eligible to officiate in competitions where the players' age band is at least one year younger than the age of the Referee e.g. a 15 year old referee may only referee in competitions where the age banding is 14 or younger. This also applies to those mentioned in Regulation 1(a) regarding unregistered and or unqualified Referees.

(c) Referees under the age of 16 must not participate either as a Referee or Assistant Referee in any open age competition. This also applies to those mentioned in Regulation 1(a) regarding unregistered and/or unqualified Referees.

(d) The Association will advise Affiliated Associations annually of those Competitions, and the recognised Leagues and divisions, which have been granted Step 5/6 Leagues status.

(e) A Competition acting alone may not suspend a Match Official from its List at any time during the playing season (such power resting solely with The Association or Affiliated Association as appropriate under Regulation 7 below).

A Competition can only remove a Match Official from its List during the season with the written approval and permission of the Association or the Parent Association of the Match Official.

A Competition may remove a Match Official from its List as part of the Annual Review and must provide reasons for the removal to the Parent Association of the Match Official.

(f) The practical performance on the field of play of Match Officials officiating at Step 5/6 Leagues and above shall be appraised and reviewed during and at the end of each marking season.

Competitions at Step 5/6 Leagues and above are responsible for informing Referees of their performance at regular intervals during the season.

Competitions shall provide annually to The Association or Affiliated Association as appropriate a List of the Match Officials they have appointed with the Marks and Observer reports obtained in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 12 of these Regulations.

The Association and/or competitions may wish clubs to mark Referees, but not all competitions make use of this opportunity. An example of the marking Guide and form to be used in Step 5/6 Leagues is shown at Appendix A. Similarly an example of a marking guide and form for all other affiliated football is shown at Appendix B.

(g) A Match Official may appeal to the relevant Affiliated Association, or where appropriate The Association, against a decision of a Competition to remove or suspend the Match Official from its List.

(h) A Competition shall not have the power to act in relation to the Registration of a Referee.

Any allegation of behaviour alleged to constitute a breach under Regulation 7 (a)(i) or (ii) below must be reported to The Association or Affiliated Association in accordance with Regulation 7 (c) below.

(i) Match Officials' Fees and Expenses are set or approved by Affiliated Associations. Match Officials officiating in competitions at Step 5/6 Leagues and above may not receive any other financial reward or incentive based on their on field of play performances from any Affiliated Association or Competition, other than the set fees and expenses.

(j) A Competition may add a new referee to its List for a period not exceeding 6 months, on a probationary basis. By the end of this period of time, the Competition must either confirm the referee as an addition to its List or inform the Parent Association of the Match Official that it will no longer offer them appointments.

6. TRAINING

(a) The Association shall identify the training requirements of Referees at all levels and be responsible for accrediting courses of instruction to meet those requirements.

(b) Referees will be required to attend accredited training at intervals determined by The Association. Only training delivered by accredited or approved Referee Developers will be valid.

(c) Training may be delivered, at the appropriate levels, in conjunction with Affiliated Associations, Match Officials' associations or the Referees' Association by Referee Developers accredited or approved by The Association.

References to a Referees' Committee in Regulations 7 and 8 below shall be deemed to include any duly appointed commission or panel of that Referees' Committee, or an alternative appropriately constituted group.

7. CONDUCT OF REFEREES

Action by an Affiliated Association

(a) Where The Association is not the Appointing Authority, the Affiliated Association shall have the power to act at any time in relation to the registration or classification of a Referee who has:

(i) less than proficiently applied the Laws of the Game; or

(ii) committed a Technical Irregularity; or

(iii) wilfully mis-stated their age or date of birth; or

(iv) a Football Banning Order imposed on them; or

(v) not acted in the best interests of the game.

(b) Any behaviour alleged to constitute a breach under Regulation 7(a) (i) or (ii) above must have been notified to, or otherwise come to the attention of the Affiliated Association within 14 days of the relevant incident(s) for such to be acted upon by the Affiliated Association.

(c) Such action may only be taken by the Affiliated Association's Referees' Committee.

(d) Where it is determined that a circumstance listed in Regulation 7(a) applies, the Referees' Committee shall confirm this in writing to the Referee, together with the supporting facts and state that the matter will be determined by the Referees' Committee.

(e) Within 14 days of the date of the Referees' Committee's communication, the Referee shall provide a response which:

(i) sets out a statement of their case (to include whether they admit or deny the matter(s), (if applicable), and any submissions with regards to any action that the Referees' Committee may take); and

(ii) states whether they wish for the matter to be dealt with:

- on written submissions alone; or
- at a personal hearing (in which case a fee of £25 must accompany the response).

(f) Where no response is provided by the Referee, the Referees' Committee shall determine the matter in such manner and upon such evidence as it considers appropriate.

(g) When determining the matter (either on written submissions or following a personal hearing), the Referees' Committee shall:

- determine whether or not a matter is proven (if applicable); and
- save for cancellation of the Referee's registration, shall have the power to act in relation to the registration of the Referee as it considers appropriate. This may include, but is not limited to, censure, a period of remedial training, reclassification or the suspension of the Referee's registration.

Action by The Association

(h) Where The Association is the Appointing Authority, The Association shall have the power to act at any time in relation to the registration or classification of a Referee who has:

(i) less than proficiently applied the Laws of the Game; or

(ii) committed a Technical Irregularity; or

(iii) wilfully mis-stated their age or date of birth.

(i) The Association shall have the power to act at any time in relation to the registration or classification of a Referee who has:

(i) proved to have been concerned as an agent for a Club or a Player in the transfer or attempted transfer and/or engagement of a Player; or

(ii) a Football Banning Order imposed on them; or

(iii) not acted in the best interests of the game; or

(iv) been found to have committed an act of Misconduct as a Participant (as defined in and) pursuant to the Rules of The Association or an Affiliated Association.

(j) Any behaviour alleged to constitute a breach under Regulation 7(h) (i) or (ii) above must have been notified to, or otherwise come to the attention of The Association within 14 days of the relevant incident(s) for such to be acted upon by The Association.

(k) Such action may only be taken by The Association's Referees' Committee.

(l) Action in respect of the registration of Match Officials appointed to Competitions of The Association and other Competitions including Step 3/4 Leagues and above in the Order of Precedence (Section 9) will be considered by the appropriate committee of The Association.

(m) Where it is determined that a circumstance listed in Regulation 7(h) applies, the Referees' Committee shall confirm this in writing to the Referee, together with the supporting facts and state that the matter will be determined by the Referees' Committee.

(n) Within 14 days of the date of the Referees' Committee's communication, the Referee shall provide a response which:

(i) sets out a statement of their case (to include whether they admit or deny the matter(s) (if applicable), and any submissions with regards to any action that the Referees' Committee may take; and

(ii) states whether they wish for the matter to be dealt with:

- on written submissions alone; or
- at a personal hearing (in which case a fee of £25 must accompany the response).

(o) Where no response is provided by the Referee, the Referees' Committee shall determine the matter in such manner and upon such evidence as it considers appropriate.

(p) When determining the matter (either on written submissions or following a personal hearing), the Referees' Committee shall:

- determine whether or not a matter is proven (if applicable); and
- have the power to act in relation to the registration of the Referee as it considers appropriate. This may include, but is not limited to, censure, a period of remedial training, reclassification or the suspension or cancellation of the Referee's registration.

Acts of Misconduct

(q) Where a Referee is subject to a Misconduct charge, no action will be taken by the Referees' Committee in relation to the registration or classification of the Referee pursuant to Regulation 7(i) until the matter has been determined by a Disciplinary or Regulatory Commission (as applicable) and any appeal determined by an Appeal Board.

(r) Proceedings before the Referees' Committee shall not operate to provide an appeal against the decision of a Disciplinary or Regulatory Commission or Appeal Board, which shall be deemed final and binding.

Interim Suspension

(s) Where considered appropriate in the circumstances, the Referees' Committee may order that the registration of a Referee be suspended with immediate effect, in relation to matters to be considered under Regulation 7(i) above in the latter case the reason for such suspension is to be notified to the Referee in writing and reported to the Commission hearing any resultant charge.

Guide to Personal Hearings

A Referees' Committee may adopt such procedures as it considers appropriate and expedient for the determination of the matter before it; and shall not be bound by any enactment of rule or law relating to the admissibility of evidence in proceedings before a court of law.

The following may be used as a guide to the procedures to be followed at a personal hearing, unless the Referees' Committee considers it appropriate to amend them:

(i) The Referee to be asked if the matters in question are admitted or denied.

(ii) Evidence in support to be called.

(iii) Evidence in response to be submitted by the Referee.

(iv) The Referees' Committee shall be entitled to ask questions of the Referee.

(v) The Referees' Committee and the Referee (as appropriate) shall be entitled to ask questions of any witness giving evidence.

(vi) The Referees' Committee may draw such inferences as it considers appropriate from any failure of the Referee to give evidence or answer a question.

(vii) In the event any evidence disclosing a point which the Referees' Committee considers was not covered in the evidence of, or not put to, a particular witness, the Referees' Committee may recall and ask questions of such witness. The Referee may also ask questions.

(viii) After the evidence has been completed to the satisfaction of the Referees' Committee, the Referee shall be entitled to make submissions based upon the evidence, but this may not include reference to facts not disclosed in the evidence presented to the Referees' Committee. This may include submissions as to any action that the Referees' Committee may take.

(ix) At the conclusion of the submissions, all persons shall withdraw whilst the Referees' Committee considers the evidence and submissions presented to it and determines the matter.

(x) After reaching a decision, the Referees' Committee shall either:

- recall the Referee, and announce its decision and any action to be taken in relation to the Referee's registration (and confirm that the decision and any relevant action shall be subsequently confirmed in writing); or
- inform the Referee that its decision and any action to be taken will be communicated in writing in due course.

A Referee may be represented by an individual or individuals (including a legal representative), provided that they notify the Referees' Committee both of the fact that they are to be represented and of the identity of the representative(s) by the date on which their response is submitted. The representatives may speak on behalf of the Referee but shall not be allowed to give evidence.

A personal hearing may proceed in the absence of the Referee where the Referees' Committee is satisfied that there are no reasonable grounds for the Referee's failure to attend.

8. APPEALS AGAINST DECISIONS OF A REFEREES' COMMITTEE

(a) Where The Association or an Affiliated Association, through its Referees' Committee, makes an order in relation to the registration or classification of a Referee there shall be a right of appeal by the Referee against the decision.

Where the order is made under Regulation 7, the appeal procedure is outlined below. In all other cases the appeal shall follow the procedure determined by the appropriate body i.e. The Association or Affiliated Association.

(b) (i) Notice of an appeal against a decision of a Referees' Committee made under Regulation 7 must be lodged with The Association or appropriate Affiliated Association within 14 days of notification of the decision appealed against, accompanied by a fee as determined by The Association.

(ii) An Appeal shall be considered by an Appeal Board of The Association established specifically to deal with appeals from decisions under Regulation 7, none of whom shall have been party to the original decision. A decision of the Appeal Board shall be final and binding.

(iii) The Notice of Appeal must:

(1) identify the specific decision(s) being appealed

(2) set out the grounds of appeal; and

(3) set out a statement of the facts upon which the appeal is based.

(iv) The grounds of appeal shall be that the body whose decision is appealed against:

(1) failed to give the Referee a fair hearing;

(2) misinterpreted or failed to comply with any rules or regulations of The Association relevant to its decision;

(3) came to a decision to which no reasonable such body could have come; and/or

(4) made an order that was excessive.

v) The Appeal Board may adopt such procedures as it considers appropriate and expedient for the just determination of an appeal brought before it, and shall not be bound by any enactment or rule of law relating to the admissibility of evidence in proceedings before a court of law.

The following is set out as a guide to the conduct of a hearing before the Appeal Board:

(1) The Appellant to address the Appeal Board, summarising its case;

(2) The Respondent to address the Appeal Board, summarising its case;

(3) The Appeal Board may put questions to the parties at any stage;

(4) The Respondent to make closing submissions;

(5) The Appellant to make closing submissions;

(6) The Appellant and the Respondent to withdraw whilst the Appeal Board considers the submissions and determines the matter; and

(7) The Appellant and the Respondent to be recalled and the decision and any orders consequential to it announced to both parties. Alternatively, where it considers it appropriate, the Appeal Board may decide not to announce its decision, but make it known at a later date, in writing. In any event, the Appeal Board shall publicise a written statement of its decision (see Regulation 8(b)(ix) below).

(vi) The Appeal Board shall proceed in the absence of any party, unless it is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for the failure of the party to attend, and shall do so in such manner as it considers appropriate.

(vii) A decision of the Appeal Board shall be final and binding and there shall be no right of further challenge.

(viii) The Appeal Board shall have power to:

(1) allow or dismiss the appeal; or

(2) remit the matter for re-hearing by the Referees' Committee; or

(3) exercise any power which the body against whose decision the appeal was made could have exercised; or

(4) make any further or other order considered appropriate, either generally, or for the purpose of giving effect to its decision. Any fee may be returned or forfeited, in whole or in part, at the discretion of the Appeal Board, who shall also have the power to determine by whom the costs of the appeal shall be borne.

(ix) As soon as practicable after the hearing, the Appeal Board shall publish a written statement of its decision, which shall state:

(1) the names of the parties, the decision(s) appealed against and the grounds of appeal;

(2) whether or not the appeal is allowed; and

(3) the order(s) of the Appeal Board.

The written statement shall be signed and dated by the chair of the Appeal Board and be the conclusive record of the decision.

9. APPOINTMENTS

(a) Registered Referees shall not officiate in any Competition, which is not sanctioned, or match in which unaffiliated clubs compete.

(b) The "Order of Precedence" of appointments, whether as a Referee or Assistant Referee shall be as follows:

(i) The FA Challenge Cup Competition and The FA Women's Challenge Cup Competition (Fourth Round Proper onwards);

(ii) The Premier League, WSL and The FA Women's League Cup;

(iii) EFL, Step 1, Step 2 List competitions and WSL2;

(iv) The FA Challenge Trophy Competition;

(v) The FA Challenge Vase Competition;

(vi) Affiliated Association nominated Senior Cup Competitions.

(vii) The FA Youth, FA County Youth Challenge Cup Competitions and The FA Women's Challenge Cup (prior to Fourth Round Proper);

(viii) Step 3/4 Leagues, the Women's National League and Cup (Tier 3/4), Inter League Cup and FA Sunday Cup;

(ix) Step 5/6 Leagues (including selected Step 7 divisions);

(x) Senior County Leagues (men's game) and Regional Leagues (tier 5/6) (women's game);

(xi) Intermediate County League;

(xii) County Junior Leagues (men's and women's); and

(xiii) All other competitions, including Youth Competitions.

** Affiliated Association appointments only take precedence over National League System, The FA Youth and FA County Youth Challenge Cup Competitions appointments if the appointment is in the Affiliated Association's nominated Senior Cup Competition or in the Semi-final and/or Final of any other Affiliated Association Competition whether the appointment is as a Referee or an Assistant Referee.*

*** Fourth Officials where appointed do not form part of the Order of Precedence and usually do not take precedence over an active appointment.*

(c) Referees must attend personal hearings when required to do so. At Step 3/4 Leagues or above Match Officials' appointments already received, take precedence over requests to attend personal hearings. On receipt of notification of a personal hearing Referees must close the date with all appropriate competitions.

(d) Where release from an appointment is required to enable a Referee to take a more senior appointment at least four days' notice must be given to the relevant Affiliated Association or competition by the association or competition requesting the release. Where fewer than four days' notice is given, The Association or Competition must obtain permission from the Affiliated Association or Competition for the Referee to be released.

(e) Once The Association or an Affiliated Association has appointed a Match Official if, subsequently, the match is postponed, abandoned or results in a draw and the rearranged fixture is then scheduled to take place less than four complete days from the date of the original match, The Association or Affiliated Association appointment will take priority over any other appointment already accepted by the Referee from a competition lower in the order of precedence, unless The Association or Affiliated Association waive their right to the services of the match official so appointed.

(f) "Fourth Officials" are appointed to certain rounds of FA Competitions, Premier League, EFL and National League matches and associated Competitions. The duties and responsibilities of the Fourth Official are detailed in the Laws of the Game and in the Competition Rules. Such appointments form part of the Order of Precedence within the Competitions listed above.

(g) Reserve Assistant Referees may only be appointed in FA, Premier League and EFL Competitions, with the approval of The Association. They have no duties other than to replace an official who is unable to officiate.

(h) With the exception of appointments made by The Association, Referees must obtain permission from their Parent Association (or County Association), or The Association in order to officiate in matches outside the United Kingdom.

10. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

A Referee shall at all times act impartially. Where a Referee believes that there is a material interest conflicting with the duties and obligations of a Match Official and any appointment, then the Referee shall decline to act or officiate and declare it to the Appointing Authority (whose decision in relation to any dispute or difference in such matters shall be final and binding).

11. REFEREES' UNIFORMS

(a) All Match Officials in Competitions under the jurisdiction of The Association and Affiliated Associations must wear uniforms comprising a plain shirt which shall be almost entirely black with a white or black collar and black shorts. Socks will be black; the sock top will be black, white or the colour of the shirt or its collar. Affiliated Associations may give permission for Referees to wear non-black shirts in a Competition which the Affiliated Association organises and/or sanctions. The shirt(s) must be almost entirely of a single colour. Where a Competition appoints neutral assistant referees, only one non-black coloured shirt is permitted; the colour must be designated and competition rules must ensure that the match officials can wear black or the designated colour without clashing with the Players.

(b) Headgear may be worn in extreme weather conditions. It must be plain black and not restrict the vision of the Match Official.

(c) The following Competitions may be exempt from (a) above, on application to The Association subject to the conditions below:

- WSL and WSL2;
- The Premier League;
- EFL; and
- Competitions with Step 1 List, Step 2 List, Step 3/4 Leagues and Step 5/6 Leagues Status.

Application must be submitted annually prior to 1 May for the following season. Approval will be considered only for shirts that are almost entirely of a single colour and where the competition confirms to The Association that all Match Officials will be provided with shirts, shorts and socks free of charge.

(d) Match Officials officiating in FA Competition matches are required to wear the FIFA or Football Association badge (where awarded) or the badge of their Affiliated Association. No other competition badge should be worn.

(e) Advertising and branding on Match Officials' uniforms must be in accordance with The Association's Kit & Advertising Regulations relating to advertising on the clothing of Players, Club Officials and Match Officials.

12. RETURNS

(a) Annually, in accordance with the instructions of The Association issued from time to time, competitions shall provide to The Association or appropriate Affiliated Association lists of Match Officials used. Such lists shall include the marks (or other evaluation) awarded by clubs, and Observer reports where appropriate, during the specified period, together with any other information required.

(b) Not later than the date decided by The Association, Affiliated Associations shall nominate suitable Referees for consideration by The Association for selection to the Step 3/4 Leagues Assistant Referees List.

(c) Competitions that are required to administer fitness tests must submit the results to The Association and the Referee's Parent Affiliated Association.

13. CODES OF CONDUCT

Match Officials shall be bound by Codes of Conduct such as are instructed by The Association from time to time.

14. REPORTING MISCONDUCT

(a) Referees must submit full details on all matters of misconduct, sendings off and cautions only to the appropriate Association or Affiliated Association responsible for administering misconduct and not to any other organisation or Competition.

(b) Referees may include on the normal Competition match report forms the names and club details of those personnel reported for misconduct but must not include any details of the incident and for all on-field offences they can only report the name of the player/players cautioned/sent off, the club, the time of offence and the relevant FA offence code.

(c) Should any match official be approached to supply any details, they should immediately report the matter to the Association or Affiliated Association.

GUIDE TO MARKING

The mark awarded by a club must be based on the Referee's overall performance. It is most important that the mark is awarded fairly and not based upon isolated incidents or previous games. The Referee's performance should be determined by the table below which should act as a guide for the overall mark which should fall within the mark range for each standard of performance.

MARK RANGE	COMMENT
100-86	The Referee demonstrated very accurate decision-making and controlled the game very well using management and communication skills effectively to add value to the game.
85-76	The Referee demonstrated accurate decision-making and controlled the game well using management and communication skills to contribute positively to the game.
75-61	The Referee demonstrated reasonably accurate decision-making and despite some shortcomings generally controlled the game well.
60 and below	The Referee demonstrated shortcomings in the accuracy of decision-making and control which affected the game.

Notes

- Club officials should use the full range of marks within each category to help distinguish between different performance levels, e.g. within the 85-76 category a mark of 84 indicates a better performance than a mark of 77.
- While some Referees may have below average performances, there will usually have been some positive aspects of their performance, so extremely low marks should be very rare.
- When club officials are marking a Referee, they should always look at the game as a whole and not isolated decisions. The result of the match should not influence the mark and disciplinary action should be judged objectively.
- When a mark of 60 or lower is awarded, an explanation must be provided to the Competition using the box provided on the marking form. The purpose of this is to assist Referees to improve their performance levels, so the comments should be as helpful as possible.

HOW TO DECIDE ON THE REFEREE'S MARK

The following questions focus on the key areas of a Referee's performance. They are intended as an "aide memoire", are not necessarily comprehensive and need not be answered individually. It is, however, worth considering them before committing yourself to a mark for the Referee.

CONTROL AND DECISION-MAKING

- How well did the Referee control the game?
- Were the players' actions recognised correctly?
- Were the Laws applied correctly?
- Were all incidents dealt with efficiently/effectively?
- Were all the appropriate sanctions applied correctly?

APPENDIX A

CLUB REPORT ON MATCH REFEREE

(Supply League)

Form to be completed after every match

Date: _____ Competition: _____

Home Club _____ V Away Club _____

Referee: _____

Referee's Performance:
Please tick appropriate box

a) Overall control

Disappointing ☐ Reasonable ☐ Good ☐ Excellent ☐

b) Overall decision making

Disappointing ☐ Reasonable ☐ Good ☐ Excellent ☐

c) Communication and Player Management

Disappointing ☐ Reasonable ☐ Good ☐ Excellent ☐

Mark out of 100 ☐

Section 3: Additional Comments (Continue Overleaf if necessary)

If any area is marked "disappointing", or the mark awarded is 60 or less, detailed, constructive comments which could help improve the Referee's future performances are required.

Name (please print): _____

Position held in Club: _____ Signature: _____

Please return to: _____

within 48 hours of the match.

APPENDIX B

CLUB MARKING OF REFEREES

Both teams are required to award the Referee a mark in all matches on a scale 1-100 based on the following guide

Date: _____ Competition: _____

Home Club V Away Club

_____ _____

Referee: _____

Overall control and decision making:

The mark must reflect the Referee's overall Level of control, accuracy of decision making and management of and communication with players. When deciding on a mark consideration should be given to such aspects of the Referee's performance as: impartiality, confidence, fitness, positioning, signalling, use of advantage, handling of major incidents.

A mark between 91-100 would be regarded as 'excellent'

A mark between 71 and 80 would represent the standard expected

Our club awards an overall mark of ☐ out of 100

When awarding a mark of 60 or less, an explanation must be provided in the box below to the League/Competition with comments which could help the Referee improve future performances.

(Signed): _____

(Secretary): _____

Club: _____

- Was the Referee always within reasonable distance of incidents?
- Was the Referee well positioned to make critical decisions, especially in and around the penalty area?
- Did the Referee understand the players' positional intentions and keep out of the way accordingly?
- Did the Referee demonstrate alertness and concentration throughout the game?
- Did the Referee apply the use of the advantage to suit the mood and temperature of the game?
- Was the Referee aware of the players' attitude to advantage?
- Did the Referee use the assistants effectively?
- Did the officials work as a team, and did the Referee lead and manage them to the benefit of the game?

COMMUNICATION AND PLAYER MANAGEMENT

- How well did the Referee communicate with the players during the game?
- Did the Referee's Level of involvement/profile suit this particular game?
- Did the Referee understand the players' problems on the day – e.g. difficult ground/weather conditions?
- Did the Referee respond to the changing pattern of play/mood of players?
- Did the Referee demonstrate empathy for the game, allowing it to develop in accordance with the tempo of the game?
- Was the Referee proactive in controlling of the game?
- Was the Referee's authority asserted firmly without being officious?
- Was the Referee confident and quick thinking?
- Did the Referee appear unflustered and unhurried when making critical decisions?
- Did the Referee permit undue questioning of decisions?
- Did the Referee deal effectively with players crowding around after decisions/incidents?
- Was effective player management in evidence?
- Was the Referee's body language confident and open at all times?
- Did the pace of the game, the crowd or player pressure affect the Referee negatively?

FINAL THOUGHTS

- Always try to be objective when marking. You may not obtain the most objective view by marking immediately after the game.
- Judge the performance over the whole game. Don't be too influenced by one particular incident.
- Don't mark the Referee down unfairly because your team was unlucky and lost the game or some disciplinary action was taken against your players.

APPENDIX C

MEMORANDUM OF AFFILIATED ASSOCIATION RESPONSIBILITIES FOR REGISTERED REFEREES

Affiliated Associations must provide, as a minimum, the following for Referees administered by them:

Allocation to Leagues
The Association is responsible for the allocation of Referees promoted to, or serving on, the National Contributory Leagues List of Assistant Referees to a suitable Supply League on which to referee. The allocation of Referees to officiate as Assistant Referees in the recognised division of one Supply League only, in which teams from the Affiliated Association operate, is the responsibility of the Affiliated Association to ensure that local football is not deprived of Referees.

Referees successfully completing the Referee Course are to be advised in writing, in accordance with the Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees, of the leagues on which they may operate.

Appointments
Affiliated Associations make appointments to their individual Competitions. In addition, they are invited to make nominations in respect of FA Competitions at the request of The Association's Refereeing Department.

Benevolent Scheme
Affiliated Associations are encouraged to make available access to any Benevolent Scheme it runs to Referees. They may also access, on behalf of a Referee, The Football Association Benevolent Fund.

County Football Association Badge
The Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees require Referees to wear the badge of the Affiliated Association who administers his registration on FA Competitions, where such a badge is available. This provides County identity for Match Officials when operating both within and outside their Affiliated Association boundary. Affiliated Associations should make the Affiliated Association badge available to Referees.

County Football Association Handbook
Affiliated Associations should provide, as a minimum, the County Cup Competition Rules, details of Club Secretaries and details of grounds/match venues.

General Advice
General advice and guidance on all football related matters should be communicated by the Affiliated Association to those Referees it administers.

In-Service Training
Referees at Level 4 and below are provided with in-service training by Affiliated Associations. In-service training for Referees in the promotion scheme is mandatory in accordance with the Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees and may be co-ordinated in conjunction with National Referee Managers. Other in-service training (i.e. Supply League Referees, Pre-Cup Final training, assessor training, etc) should be provided for Referees as appropriate. Funding may be accessed to meet some of the training and development needs.

Laws of the Game
All referees must be provided with a current edition of the Laws of the Game by their Parent Association and any Law amendment bulletin published by The Association.

Legal Advice
Affiliated Associations may assist in the provision of legal advice where appropriate to Referees. This could involve seeking advice from The Association on behalf of the Referee in certain circumstances.

Liaison with the National Referee Managers
Affiliated Associations should make every use of the services of the National Referee Managers in the support of its responsibilities for registered Referees as outlined in this Memorandum.

Licensed Referee Tutor Courses
Affiliated Associations should identify those candidates it considers suitable to attend Licensed Referee Tutor Courses in accordance with the criteria notified by The Association from time to time. The Association makes financial provision for these courses.

Mentor Scheme
Affiliated Associations are required to provide Mentor support for Referees undertaking the Referee Course (previously the Basic Referee Course). It is recognised that mentoring is an aid to retention and Affiliated Associations are encouraged to extend the service to other Referees wherever possible.

Monitoring of Financial Provision
Affiliated Associations are required to develop and produce a County Development Plan linked to the National Game Strategy which details key initiatives and targets to support recruitment, retention and development of Referees as well as offering details on the financial support provided by The Association. Returns are to be submitted to The Association upon request.

Nominations to the Contributory League List
Affiliated Associations are required to nominate eligible and suitable Referees to join the Contributory League Assistant Referees List from their Senior County Referees on request from The Association's Refereeing Department. Those Referees who are nominated for consideration to the Contributory League Assistant Referees List must have successfully completed the required fitness test as determined by The Association's Referees' Committee from time to time.

Personal Accident Insurance
Affiliated Associations are encouraged to investigate the need for Personal Accident Insurance for Referees.

PGMOL
The Professional Game Match Officials Ltd is responsible for officials operating in the Premier League, EFL and Panel Leagues.

Promotion and Assessment Scheme
Affiliated Associations are responsible for the promotion of Referees up to Level 5 - Senior County Referee, in accordance with the Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees, by ensuring that Referees are active at the appropriate Level and are regularly assessed. The promotion assessment scheme is part funded by The Association. Senior County Referees and below, outside the promotion scheme, who are administered by their Parent Association should be regularly assessed for development purposes.

Public Liability Insurance
A minimum of £5 million, as recommended by The Association, cover for public liability insurance.

Recruitment and Training of New Referees
The recruitment and training of new Referees is an important area which Affiliated Associations have responsibility towards the development of the future of the game. The Association supports this with provision of financial and material support.

Referee Discipline
The Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees devolve the responsibility for Referee discipline, of those Referees not operating on the National List of Contributory League Officials or above, to the Referee's Parent Association. Where an alleged offence is committed by a Referee whilst acting as a Match Official in any capacity (on or off the field) the matter will be dealt with by a Referees' Committee or Commission thereof, except where the charge relates to FA Rule E. In this and all other circumstances the Referee will be dealt with as any other Participant. Referees should be made aware of the process by which any acts of misconduct, or indiscipline in relation to their registration, will be dealt with by the Affiliated Association.

Registration
Registrations for Referees must be in accordance with the Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees as amended by The Association from time to time. Affiliated Associations will collect the National Registration fee and, where appropriate, any Associate Referee fee levied by them for Referees administered by another Affiliated Association. Except where determined otherwise, Affiliated Associations will be responsible for the provision of CRC and any other checks on Referees as decided by The Association.

Safeguarding Children Training
In accordance with the Rules of The Association, every participant in a position of trust e.g. coach, referee, medic, welfare officer etc... is required to undergo Safeguarding Children Training. The Association's Referees Department and Equality and Child Protection Unit will provide appropriate guidance.

Schools of Excellence and Referee Academies
Affiliated Associations are strongly encouraged to include a School of Excellence (or Referee Academy) for referees.

Transfers
Affiliated Associations are responsible for ensuring that Referees who move to another administrative area are notified to the receiving Association. On receipt of that notification, the receiving Affiliated Association should ensure that the Referee is made aware of the refereeing activities in the County.

24 - FOOTBALL DEBT RECOVERY REGULATIONS

The FDR Regulations are applicable to Participants at Steps 5 and 6 of the National League System and below and Tier 3 and below of The FA Women's Football Pyramid.

Each Affiliated Association shall operate a system to adjudicate upon and facilitate the recovery of Football Debt, which conforms with the FDR Regulations.

Unless otherwise defined in the FDR Regulations, words and expressions shall have the same meaning as set out in the Rules, as amended from time to time.

The following defined terms are used in the FDR Regulations only:

"Alleged Creditor" means a Club, or Competition which is allegedly owed a Football Debt by an Alleged Debtor;

"Alleged Debtor" means a Club, Player (except Players who are under 18 years old and play in an Under 18 Competition), Club Official, Official, Manager, Management Committee Member, or member or employee of a Club which allegedly owes a Football Debt to an Alleged Creditor;

"Appeal Board" means the appeal board of an Affiliated Association;

"Appeal Notification" means a written and dated notification of the decision of the Appeal Board in respect of a claim;

"Deadline" means the expiry date of the 28 day period which commenced when the relevant Football Debt arose. In the event of a dispute as to when the relevant Football Debt arose (and/or whether the Notice of Claim has been filed prior to the Deadline), the relevant Affiliated Association may, in its absolute discretion, determine the matter;

"FDR Regulations" means the Football Debt Recovery Regulations;

"Football Debt" means:

(i) where the Alleged Creditor is a Club, costs incurred by that Club on behalf of an Alleged Debtor arising directly from the payment of disciplinary fines issued in respect of that Alleged Debtor; and

(ii) where the Alleged Creditor is a Competition, fines issued by that Competition which remain unpaid by the Alleged Debtor after the Competition has exhausted all avenues to recover the fine(s) pursuant to the rules of that Competition.

For the avoidance of doubt, incidental costs do not fall within the scope of the FDR Regulations. In the event of a dispute as to what constitutes a Football Debt, the relevant Affiliated Association may, in its absolute discretion, determine the matter;

Guidance

Where the Alleged Creditor is a Competition, a Football Debt will only crystalise once the relevant Competition has exhausted all avenues to recover the fine(s) pursuant to the rules of that Competition, including the issuance of further fines and the withdrawal of fixtures.

"Formal Request" means a written and dated request for payment of a Football Debt;

"Notice of Appeal" means a written and dated notice of appeal against a decision of the Affiliated Association in respect of a claim;

"Notice of Claim" means a written notice of claim for the recovery of a Football Debt from an Alleged Debtor which is submitted by the Alleged Creditor to the Alleged Creditor's Affiliated Association prior to the Deadline ;

"Notification" means a written and dated notification of the decision of the Affiliated Association in respect of a claim.

COMMENCING A CLAIM

1. In the first instance, an Alleged Creditor must take reasonable steps to recover a Football Debt, including the serving of a Formal Request on the Alleged Debtor within 10 days of the date on which the relevant Football Debt arose.

2. If a Football Debt has not been recovered within 10 days of the date of the Formal Request, the Alleged Creditor may submit a Notice of Claim, provided this is done prior to the Deadline.

Guidance

The deadline by which a Notice of Claim must be submitted to the Alleged Creditor's Affiliated Association is 28 days from the date on which the Football Debt arose. In the event of a dispute as to when the relevant Football Debt arose and/or whether the Notice of Claim has been filed prior to the Deadline, the relevant Affiliated Association shall, in its absolute discretion, determine the matter.

3. In order for a Notice of Claim to be valid, an Alleged Creditor must (i) include all relevant details about the Football Debt(s) which is the subject of the claim and the manner in which it is alleged to have arisen and what steps have been taken to recover it; (ii) provide a copy of the Formal Request and; (iii) provide the full name, last known address and date of birth of the Alleged Debtor (if known); (iv) pay an administration fee of £25 in respect of each Football Debt detailed in the Claim at the same time as filing the Notice of Claim. This fee may be added to the total debt claimed from the Alleged Debtor.

4. Upon receipt of a valid Notice of Claim, the Affiliated Association shall take steps to verify whether the Football Debt(s) is payable by the Alleged Debtor to the Alleged Creditor. The Affiliated Association shall provide a Notification to the Alleged Creditor and Alleged Debtor within 21 days of receipt of the Notice of Claim.

PAYMENT OF A CLAIM

5. If a claim is upheld by the Affiliated Association, the Alleged Debtor must make payment of the Football Debt directly to the Alleged Creditor within 21 days of the date of the Notification.

6. If a claim is partially upheld by an Affiliated Association, the Alleged Debtor must make payment of such proportion of the Football Debt as directed by the Affiliated Association, in its absolute discretion, in the Notification, directly to the Alleged Creditor within 21 days of the date of the Notification.

7. If a claim is rejected by the Affiliated Association, no payment is payable by the Alleged Debtor to the Alleged Creditor.

APPEALS

8. If a Claim is upheld or partially upheld by the Affiliated Association, the Alleged Debtor may submit a Notice of Appeal to the Affiliated Association within 21 days of the date of the Notification.

9. If a Claim is rejected or partially upheld by the Affiliated Association, the Alleged Creditor may submit a Notice of Appeal to the Affiliated Association within 21 days of the date of the Notification.

10. In order for a Notice of Appeal to be valid, the Alleged Debtor/Alleged Creditor must (i) detail all relevant reasons why the Notification should be overturned in full or in part; (ii) provide a copy of the Notification and copies of all paperwork previously submitted to the Affiliated Association in respect of the claim; (iii) provide the full name, last known address and date of birth of the Alleged Debtor/Alleged Creditor (if known).

11. Upon receipt of a valid Notice of Appeal, an Appeal Board shall determine, in its absolute discretion, whether to uphold, partially uphold or reject the appeal and shall provide an Appeal Notification to the Alleged Creditor and Alleged Debtor within 21 days of receipt of the Notice of Appeal. The decision of the Appeal Board shall be final.

12. If an appeal is rejected by an Appeal Board, the Appeal Fee shall be retained by the Affiliated Association.

13. If an Appeal Notification directs that the entirety or a proportion of the Football Debt(s) is payable by the Alleged Debtor to the Alleged Creditor, such sum must be paid directly to the Alleged Creditor within 21 days of the date of the Appeal Notification.

MISCELLANEOUS

14. If a claim is upheld or partially upheld by an Affiliated Association/Appeal Board and payment of the Football Debt has not been received by the Alleged Creditor within 21 days of the date of the Notification/Appeal Notification, the Alleged Debtor will be automatically suspended from all footballing activity by the Affiliated Association until (i) the sum directed to be paid by the Affiliated Associated/Appeal Board has been paid to the Alleged Creditor in full, and (ii) the Alleged Debtor has received notification from the Affiliated Association that the suspension has been lifted. Any Alleged Debtor breaching such a suspension will be liable to be charged under FA Rule E10 of the Rules of The Association.

25 - YOUTH FOOTBALL

REGULATIONS FOR THE CONTROL OF YOUTH FOOTBALL

(Players under the age of 18 on 31st August in the current season)

1. A County Association may form a County Youth Football Association, or carry out the duties by a Committee of its own association.

2. The constitution of the Youth Association, or Committee, must be submitted to The Association.

MEMORANDUM: CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE AND SCHOOL GAMES

One of the important aspects of games in school is the opportunity they afford of developing a pupil's sense of loyalty and honour. It is therefore of concern when interest in games outside the school conflict with a pupil's loyalty to the school and/or school organisations' activities.

1. It is usually the pupil of outstanding Football ability whose services are sought by any Club, and the Player is most likely to be a member of the school or association team. While schools' matches are often arranged on Saturday mornings and Club matches take place in the afternoon, it is considered that a player should not play in two matches on the same day, for the one match is likely to affect play in the other.

2. An outside Club or organisation should consult the head-teacher before selecting any child of school age to play for a team, and should accept the head-teacher's decision on these matters. Head-teachers of schools should not restrain pupils, who are not selected for school games of any kind, from playing for an outside organisation during their free time.

26 - AREAS OF OVERLAPPING ASSOCIATIONS

(25th August, 1950 and 12th January, 1951)

1. A County Association is not permitted to alter or extend its area without the consent of The Association. Consent shall be given only after a Commission of Inquiry is held at which all parties concerned shall have an opportunity of attending.

2. District, Junior and Youth associations must be Members of a County Association.

3. The playing ground shall constitute the Headquarters of Clubs with the following exceptions:-

a. Clubs concerned with Public Offices, Banks, Railways, Business Houses and similar institutions;

b. Clubs which have not a recognised playing ground;

c. Clubs which cannot obtain a suitable and convenient ground within the area of their County Associations. The Headquarters of the excepted Clubs shall be within the area of the County Association to which they claim to belong.

4. The Membership of Clubs with associations which overlap shall be restricted to the areas determined by the Overlapping Reports of 1908 and 1927 as follows:-

Amateur Football Alliance See Note 1.

Army FA See Note 1.

Birmingham County FA Area: The County of Warwick and 30 miles from Stevenson Place, Birmingham (except that part of the County of Worcestershire which is in the area of the Worcestershire Football Association).

Cambridge University FC See Note 1.

Cheshire County FA Area: County of Chester. Overlapped by Liverpool County Football Association.

Derbyshire FA Area: County of Derby. Overlapped by Sheffield & Hallamshire Football Association.

Essex County FA Area: County of Essex. Overlapped by London Football Association.

Gloucestershire FA and Somerset County FA

a. The boundary of the Gloucestershire Football Association stipulated by the 1908 Overlapping Commission shall remain.

b. Clubs whose headquarters are in, and Referees who reside in, that area of the City and County of Bristol which had extended into the County of Somerset since the 1908 Commission's decision, or in any contemplated extension by that administrative body, should affiliate to or register with the Somerset County FA as their parent association and, if they wish, also apply to affiliate to or register with the Gloucestershire FA.

Hertfordshire FA Area: County of Hertford, Overlapped by London Football Association.

Kent County FA Area: County of Kent. Overlapped by London Football Association.

Lancashire FA Area: County of Lancaster. Overlapped by Liverpool County Football Association and Manchester County Football Association. See also Note 3.

Liverpool County FA Area: 18 miles in Lancashire and eight miles in Cheshire from Liverpool Town Hall.

London FA Area: 12 miles from Charing Cross.

Manchester County FA Area: 12 miles from Manchester Town Hall and to be confined to Lancashire.

Middlesex County FA Area: County of Middlesex Overlapped by London Football Association.

Nottinghamshire FA Area: County of Nottingham. Over-lapped by Sheffield & Hallamshire Football Association.

Oxford University AFA See Note 1.

Royal Air Force FA See Note 1.

Royal Navy FA See Note 1.

Sheffield & Hallamshire FA Area: 20 miles from Sheffield Parish Church (since 1909 – Sheffield Cathedral).

Staffordshire FA Area: County of Stafford. Overlapped by Birmingham County Football Association. See also Note 2.

Surrey County FA Area: County of Surrey. Overlapped by London Football Association.

West Riding County FA Area: The West Riding of Yorkshire except that part which is in the area of Sheffield & Hallamshire Football Association namely 20 miles from Sheffield Parish Church (Cathedral).

Worcestershire FA Area: That part of the County of Worcester south of a straight line from Hagley Railway Station to Barnt Green Railway Station and continued from Barnt Green Railway Station in a straight line to Headless Cross.

5. Where Clubs have a Membership with more than one association, the associations concerned shall appoint a Joint Committee to deal with all matters in dispute except those concerning Cup Competitions.

6. A County Association may accept entries for its Competitions from Clubs having Membership with another County Association provided the assent of that association has been obtained and it shall have control of all matters in connection with the Competitions.

7. A County Association which is overlapped by one or more associations shall notify all its Clubs, Competitions and Referees within its area of their right to affiliate or register with the association concerned.

Note 1. The areas of the Services Associations are not defined: those of the Universities refer to persons in residence. The Amateur Football Alliance operates in England. Clubs may be added each year from other associations, but they shall remain in Membership with their County Associations. The Rules of the Alliance shall be in conformity with the Rules and Practice of The Association.

Note 2. Walsall & District Football Association became part of Staffordshire Football Association in 1925.

Note 3. In agreement with the Cumberland Football Association and the Lancashire Football Association eight clubs in the South Cumberland area of Millom have been placed in Membership with the Lancashire Football Association, for all purposes from the end of season 1969-70.

Note 4. In connection with Clause 4 of this Memorandum it has been agreed that, when a Club has to obtain a ground in a neighbouring County, it will remain affiliated with its original County Association.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE



Miscellaneous



27 - STANDARDISED RULES

These Rules have been compiled by The Football Association for the mandatory use of all sanctioned Competitions at Steps 1 to 6 inclusive of the National League System.

It should be noted that where the Rules have been printed in [ ] they are optional and where a gap has been left the appropriate word, figure or amount needs to be inserted.

Whilst additions may be allowed to the Standardised Rules these must first be approved by The Football Association.

1. DEFINITIONS

1.1 In these Rules:

"Acquisition Debt" means the aggregate amount of all obligations incurred by the Proposed Acquiror (to the extent they are or will be secured over the assets of the target Club) and incurred by the target Club in connection with or following the acquisition of Control of the target Club for or in respect of borrowings of any nature.

"Affiliated Association" means an Association accorded the status of an affiliated Association under the Rules of The FA.

"Agent" shall be as defined in the Rules of The FA.

"AGM" shall mean the annual general meeting held in accordance with the Articles of the Competition.

"Appointing Authority" means [The FA] [the Competition].

"Articles" means the Articles of Association of the Company and reference to a number of following the word "Article" is a reference to an Article so numbered in the "Articles".

"Board" means the Board of Directors of the Company appointed in accordance with the Articles or, in the case of a Competition which is an unincorporated association, the management committee elected to manage the running of the Competition.

"Board Directive" means an order or instruction issued by the Board.

"Bond" means a sum of money deposited with the Competition as part of the requirements of membership of the Competition.

"Club" means a Club for the time being in membership of the Company (including a Club which has had a transfer of membership approved under Rule 2.11 below).

"Commercial Agreements" means all or any Agreement or Agreements with any third party including but not limited to broadcasting, media, sponsorship, marketing, merchandising, licensing and advertising, for the general promotion of each or any of the Clubs in the Competition and the Company, and which have the object of promoting the welfare and general commercial interest and increasing the financial resources of each of the Clubs, the Company and the Competition.

"Company" means The [ ] Limited, company registration number [ ] which administers the Competition and shall, where the Competition is an unincorporated entity, include that entity.

"Company Secretary" means the person appointed by the Board and registered at Companies House as the Company Secretary of the Company.

"Competition" means the [ ] League.

"Competition Match" means any match played or to be played under the jurisdiction of the Company.

"Competition Office" means the registered Offices or addresses where League business is transacted.

"Competition Secretary" means such person or persons appointed or elected to carry out the administration of the Competition.

"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.

"Contractual Disputes Tribunal" shall be as defined in Rules of The FA.

"Control" shall be as defined in the Rules of the FA.

"Creditor Compromise" shall mean an agreement reached by a Club under a Company Voluntary Arrangement (under the Insolvency Act 1986) or a Scheme of Arrangement (under the Companies Act 1985 or Companies Act 2006) or a restructuring plan (under Part 26A of the Companies Act 2006).

"Criteria Document" means the document entitled "National Stadium Accreditation Criteria Document" issued by The FA from time to time and shall, unless stated to the contrary, mean the latest edition of the document.

"Day" means any day on which the Competition Office is open for normal business but excluding, unless the Board determines otherwise, a Saturday, a Sunday or a Bank or Public Holiday.

"Embargo" means a ban placed by the Board on a Club in respect of player registrations, as more fully defined in Appendix H.

"Embargoed Club" means any Club subject to an Embargo.

"Event Doctor" means an individual qualified in accordance with the requirements set out in 'Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds' (known as the 'Green Guide'), as in force from time to time (formerly known as a crowd doctor).

"Fees Tariff" means a list of fees approved [by the Company] [by the Board] for any matters for which fees are payable under the Rules.

"FIFA Quality Concept" means the:

(a) FIFA Quality Concept Handbook of Requirements for Football Turf Surfaces (January 2012 Edition); and

(b) FIFA Quality Concept – Handbook of Test Methods for Football Turf (January 2012 Edition), and any amendment or modification thereof.

"FIFA Recommended One / IATS or Two Star Certificate" means the certificate of that name awarded by FIFA following compliance with the applicable requirements of the FIFA Quality Concept.

"Fines Tariff" means a list of fines approved [by the Company] [by the Board] for any breach of the Rule.

"First Aider" means a person who holds a valid 'Emergency Medical First Aid in Football' or 'Emergency First Aid in Football' accreditation (or such equivalent qualification deemed acceptable by The FA from time to time).

"Football Creditor" means any one of the following:

- The Football Association Limited.
- Any Club affiliated with an Affiliated Association.
- Any League sanctioned by The Association or an Affiliated Association.
- Any full time or part time employee of a Club, or former full time or part time employee of a Club, in respect of sums due to such person by way of arrears of remuneration or expenses. This excludes for these purposes all and any claims for redundancy, unfair or wrongful dismissal or other claims arising out of the termination of the contract or in respect of any period after the actual date of termination.
- The Professional Footballers' Association Limited.

- The Football Foundation.
- The Premier League Stadium Fund.
- Any Affiliated Association.
- Any pension scheme or plan administered by or on behalf of the Competition.

"Football Turf (3G) Pitch (FTP)" means a field of play (as that term is defined in the Laws of the Game) that has, following installation and prior to the commencement of each subsequent Playing Season, been awarded the relevant FIFA Performance requirement (FIFA Two and One Star or Pro and Quality) and which otherwise conforms to the requirements of the Laws of the Game.

"Grass Pitch" means a field of play (as that term is defined in the Laws of the Game) that is natural grass, predominantly natural grass or intended to be predominantly natural grass and which conforms to the requirements of the Laws of the Game.

"Ground" means the ground on which the Club's first team plays its Competition fixtures.

"Group" shall be as defined in the Rules of The FA.

"Insolvency Event" means any one of the following:

(a) entering into a Company Voluntary Arrangement pursuant to Part 1 of the Insolvency Act 1986 ("the 1986 Act") or a compromise or arrangement with its creditors under Part 26 of the Companies Act 2006 or a restructuring plan under Part 26A of the Companies Act 2006 or any compromise agreement with its creditors as a whole; or

(b) lodging a Notice of Intention to Appoint an Administrator or Notice of Appointment of an Administrator at the Court in accordance with paragraph 26 or paragraph 29 of Schedule B1 to the 1986 Act, an application to the Court for an Administration Order under paragraph 12 of Schedule B1 to the 1986 Act (other than paragraph 12 (1)(c)) or where an Administrator is appointed or an Administration Order is made in respect of it ("'Administrator" and "Administration Order" having the meanings attributed to them respectively by paragraphs 1 and 10 of Schedule B1 to the 1986 Act); or

(c) an Administrative Receiver (as defined by section 251 of the 1986 Act), a Law of Property Act Receiver (appointed under section 109 of the Law of Property Act 1925) or any Receiver appointed by the Court under the Supreme Court Act 1981 or any other Receiver is appointed over any assets which, in the opinion of the Board, are material to the Club's ability to fulfil its obligations as a member of the League; or

(d) the coming into force of a moratorium pursuant to Part A1 of the Insolvency Act 1986; or

(e) shareholders passing a resolution pursuant to section 84(1) of the 1986 Act to voluntarily wind up; or

(f) a meeting of creditors is convened pursuant to section 95 or section 98 of the 1986 Act; or

(g) a winding up order is made by the Court under section 122 of the 1986 Act or a provisional liquidator is appointed under section 135 of the 1986 Act; or

(h) ceasing or forming an intention to cease wholly or substantially to carry on business save for the purpose of reconstruction or amalgamation or otherwise in accordance with a scheme of proposals which have previously been submitted to and approved in writing by the Board; or

(i) being subject to any insolvency regime in any jurisdiction outside England and Wales which is analogous with the insolvency regimes detailed in (a) to (h) above; and/or

(j) have any proceeding or step taken or any court order in any jurisdiction made which has a substantially similar effect to any of the foregoing.

"Intermediary" means any natural or legal person who carries out or seeks to carry out Intermediary Activity and has registered with The Association in accordance with The FA Intermediaries Regulations.

"Intermediary/Agent Activity" means acting in any way and at any time, either directly or indirectly, for or on behalf of a Player or a Club in relation to any matter relating to a Transaction. This includes, but is not limited to, entering into a Representation Contract with a Player or a Club. For the avoidance of doubt, a Club Official is not acting as an Intermediary or Agent when they carry out any Intermediary/Agent Activity in relation to any matter relating to a Transaction for or on behalf of that Club. Similarly, a Lawyer is not acting as an Intermediary or Agent when they solely and exclusively undertake or provide Permitted Legal Advice in relation to any matter relating to a Transaction.

"Long Term Loan" means a loan transfer of a Player who is a qualifying Player within the terms of the Rules from either: (a) any date during the first Registration Period to any date during the second Registration Period, or (b) any date during the first or second Registration Period to the end of that Playing Season. For the purposes of this definition only, a "Registration Period" shall mean one of the periods determined by The FA during which players may be registered for a professional men's club.

"Match Officials" means the referee, the assistant referees and any fourth official appointed to a Competition Match.

"Membership Year" means the period in each calendar year from the holding of one annual general meeting of the Company to the holding of the next annual general meeting.

"National League System" means the system of competitions controlled by the FA where promotion and relegation links exist between participating Leagues.

"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.

"Officer" means an individual who is required to make an Owners' and Directors' Declaration by The FA.

"Online Player Registration System" means the relevant online player registration system as determined by The FA from time to time.

"Option" shall be as defined in the Rules of The FA.

"Owners' and Directors' Declaration" means a declaration to The FA required from an Officer from time to time.

"Paid in Full" shall mean when a Club has either:

- paid (in cleared funds) to the supervisor of its Creditor Compromise or its administrator, sufficient funds to pay all its creditors in full (100p in the £) and to cover the costs of the Creditor Compromise or the administration and confirmation of this fact has been received in writing from the supervisor/administrator; or
- paid (in cleared funds) sufficient to settle in full (100p in the £) any debts owed to creditors outside a Creditor Compromise.

"Parent Undertaking" shall be as defined in the Rules of The FA.

"Participant" shall be as defined in the Rules of The FA.

"Person" shall be as defined in the Rules of The FA.

"Pitch" means a Grass Pitch or Football Turf Pitch.

"Pitch Test" means the test(s) conducted by a FIFA accredited field test institute or UKAS accredited test institute in accordance with the requirements of the FIFA Quality Concept or IATS.

"Player" means any Contract Player, Non Contract Player or other Player who plays or who is eligible to play for a Club or is subject to any suspension from playing.

"Player Status Rules" shall be as defined in the Rules of The FA.

"Playing Season" means the period between the date on which the first league fixture in the Competition is played each year until the date on which the last league fixture in the Competition is played. For Clubs participating in play off matches this does include the period when play off matches are played.

"Play Off Position" means the position of a Club in the table at the end of each Playing Season which is provided for in Rule 12 as qualifying the Club to take part in a play off match to qualify for promotion to the next step of football for the next Playing Season.

"Proposed Acquiror" shall have the meaning given to it in Rule 2.16.

"Qualified Medical Practitioner" means a graduate health care professional e.g. a doctor, physiotherapist, paramedic, nurse, sport therapist or sports rehabilitator, having the appropriate valid medical insurance, and being registered with a recognised professional body, (e.g. the General Medical Council, Health Care Professions Council, Royal College of Nursing, Society of Sports Therapists, Sports Therapy Association, Sports Therapy Organisation or Federation of Holistic Therapists Directory Service).

"Rules" means these rules under which the Competition is administered.

"Satisfied" shall mean that a creditor has consented, and provided evidence of such, to accept a sum in full and final settlement of its debt from a Club. For the avoidance of doubt, a vote to approve a Company Voluntary Arrangement ('CVA') by the creditors of a Club, held in accordance with Insolvency Law in operation from time to time, shall deem those debts admitted to the CVA as being Satisfied. The Board shall determine at its absolute discretion whether an amount is satisfied under the Rules.

"Scholar" means a player that has entered into a Scholarship Agreement.

"Scholarship Agreement" means an agreement entered into between a Club and a player pursuant to the Player Status Rules.

"Secured" shall mean that one of the following legally recognised undertakings has been provided for the payment of the specified sum in full by the AGM at the end of the Playing Season in which the transfer of membership takes place:

(i) A solicitor's undertaking for the full amount outstanding;

(ii) A bank guarantee is held for the full amount outstanding;

In each case to be paid and satisfied in full by no later than the AGM at the end of the Playing Season in which the transfer took place.

The Board shall determine at its absolute discretion whether an amount is Secured or Satisfied under the Rules.

"Short Term Loan" means a loan transfer for a period of no fewer than 28 days in any one season.

"Significant Interest" means the holding and/or possession of the legal or beneficial interest in, and/or the ability to exercise the voting rights applicable to, shares or other securities in the Club which confer in aggregate on the holder(s) thereof ten (10) per cent or more of the total voting rights exercisable in respect of the Shares of any class of Shares of the Club. All or part of any such interest may be held directly or indirectly or by contract including, but not limited to, by way of membership of any group that in the opinion of the Board are acting in concert, and any rights or powers held by an Associate (as defined in the Rules of The FA Challenge Cup) shall be included for the purposes of determining whether an interest or interests amounts to a "Significant Interest".

"SSAP" means a sporting sanctions appeal panel to be appointed to determine an appeal against a deduction of points under Rule 13.

"Stadium Accreditation Programme" means the accreditation programme through which a Club's stadium is assessed against the relevant requirements set out in the Criteria Document.

"Subsidiary Undertaking" shall be as defined in the Rules of The FA.

"Team Sheet" means a form provided by the Competition referred to in Rule 8.21.

"The FA" means The Football Association Limited.

"Transaction" means any negotiation or other related activity, including any communication relating or preparatory to the same, the intention or effect of which is to create, terminate or vary the terms of a player's contract of employment with a Club, to facilitate or effect the registration of a player with a Club, or the transfer of the registration of a player from a club to a Club (whether on a temporary or permanent basis). A completed Transaction is one that has so achieved the creation, termination or variation of the terms of the player's contract of employment with a Club, the registration of the player with a Club or the transfer of the registration from a club to a Club.

"Transmission-Free Period" means the period determined by The FA from time to time pursuant to Article 48 of the UEFA Statutes and the Regulations Governing the Implementation of Article 48 of the UEFA Statutes.

"WGS" means the Whole Game System and the procedures for the operation thereof as determined by The FA from time to time.

"Work Experience Player" means a Player whose registration is held by a competition other than the Competition and is registered under a Scholarship. The Club taking the Player on work experience will register the Player Non Contract with a league in which they take part to fulfil the football element of the Scholarship, not the educational part.

"written" or **"in writing"** means the representation or reproduction of words or symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise.

"Youth Loan" means a loan transfer for a period of no fewer than 28 days of a Player who is a qualifying Player within the terms of the Rules.

1.2 The Rules are taken from the Standardised Rules determined by The FA from time to time. In the event of any omissions from the Standardised Rules then the requirements of the Standardised Rules shall be deemed to apply to the Competition.

1.3 Words or expressions used in these Rules shall, if not inconsistent with the subject or context, bear the same meanings as in the Articles.

1.4 All Clubs shall adhere to the Rules. Every Club shall be deemed, as a member of the Company to have accepted the Rules and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Board in relation thereto, subject to the provisions of Rule 16.

1.5 The Competition will be known as [" "] (or such other name as the Company may adopt). The Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the Company [in accordance with the Articles]. A Club which ceases to exist or which ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever shall thereupon automatically cease to be a member of the Company.

1.6 The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the Company acting (save where otherwise specifically mentioned herein) through the Board in accordance with the Rules Regulations and Practices of The FA.

1.7 The Company shall be part of the National League System established by The FA and shall sign such documents as are required from time to time to confirm such membership(s).

2. MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Each Club shall register its Ground, and its pitch dimensions, with the Competition prior to the start of each Playing Season. It will be misconduct on the part of a Club to alter its pitch dimensions during a season unless with prior written consent of the Board. The Board may at any time require a Club, at its own cost, to submit a report from a qualified independent source certifying the pitch dimensions.

Dimensions of the field of play for all Competition matches shall be:-

Length – Maximum 120 yards (110 metres) – Minimum 110 yards (100 metres)

Width – Maximum 80 yards (75 metres) – Minimum 70 yards (64 metres)

No Club shall move to another Ground without first obtaining written consent of the Board; such consent not to be withheld unreasonably. In consideration whether to give such consent the Board shall have regard to all the circumstances of the case and shall not grant consent unless it is reasonably satisfied that such consent:-

- would be consistent with the objectives of the Competition as set out in the Memorandum of Association;
- would be appropriate having in mind the relationship (if any) between the locality with which by its name or otherwise the applicant Club is traditionally associated and that in which such Club proposes to establish its Ground;
- would not adversely affect such Club's Officials, Players, supporters, shareholders, sponsors and others having an interest in its activities;
- would not have an adverse effect on visiting Clubs;
- would not adversely affect Clubs having their registered Grounds in the immediate vicinity of the proposed location, and
- would enhance the reputation of the Competition and promote the game of association football generally.

The Club must disclose, as soon as practicable, plans and details of any proposed move to a new stadium. The location of the proposed new stadium must meet with the approval of the Board.

Without prejudice to the provisions of Rule 4.12 a Club shall forthwith notify the Competition of any proposed change in its circumstances relating to the occupation of its Ground. By way of example, and without limitation, a proposed change may include a sale of any freehold interest (with or without subsequent leaseback) or any surrender or variation or a lease or licence.

2.2 All Clubs shall have Grounds and headquarters situated in England, the Channel Islands, Isle of Man if applicable or Wales and the Competition Secretary shall send their names and particulars to The FA annually by the date appointed by, and in the format required by, The FA. Clubs playing in England shall be duly affiliated at all times to a recognised County Football Association. Welsh Clubs shall be affiliated to The FA of Wales. Each Club shall return to the Competition Secretary a fully completed questionnaire relating to Form "D" required by The FA by the date given in the circular letter accompanying the questionnaire issued by the Competition Secretary.

2.3 A Club's Ground may be shared with another Club or any other club (including a club engaged in another sport) providing, where sharing with a football club the Club or club playing in the most senior competition has priority of fixtures at all times and, where sharing with a club engaged in another sport, the Club has priority of fixtures [unless agreed otherwise by the Competition at its sole discretion, applicable only to that Competition, and valid only for one season at a time but open to annual renewal]. A Club will not be permitted to ground share to gain promotion or to avoid relegation. Ground sharing may not be permitted when one of the sharers retains the use of another ground unless that club can show by means of a refused planning permission or similar that it cannot meet the requirements of the Criteria Document at that ground. Any Club wishing to share a Ground or intending to move to a new Ground must obtain the written consent of the Board. Any Ground sharing for a period exceeding thirteen (13) weeks must be in writing and a written agreement must first be approved by the Board before being entered into and (except in an emergency) must be completed by 31 March in any year to be effective for the following Playing Season. A copy of the completed signed and dated agreement must be received by the Competition within fourteen days of the approval being sent to the Club.

2.4 The Club as at 31 March in any year shall either:

(i) Own the freehold of the Ground, or

(ii) Have a lease for the Ground that extends uninterrupted for a minimum of the current and following Playing Season, or

(iii) Possess an agreement for the use of the Ground that is acceptable to The Football Association following consultation with the relevant Competition.

Guidance: *From the 2025/26 Season, Clubs at Step 1 with a lease for their Ground shall be required to have a lease that extends uninterrupted for a minimum of that season and the following five Playing Seasons.*

In each case the Club must provide to the Competition of which it is a member and to The Football Association:

If the Ground is freehold either currently dated Official Copies of the freehold title at the Land Registry in the name of the entity in membership of the Competition or, if unregistered, a Certificate of Title from the Club's solicitor showing that the Ground is owned by the entity in membership of the Competition, or

If the Ground is held leasehold a copy of the signed and dated lease in the name of the entity in membership of the Competition; if the expiry date of the lease has already passed or is dated before the end of the next full Playing Season, a certificate from the Club's solicitor as to whether or not a notice has been given by the landlord to terminate the lease. In addition the Club must provide evidence of registration at the Land Registry, or explain why the Lease is not registered.

If the Ground is subject to an acceptable agreement a copy of the signed and dated agreement for the use of the Ground together with confirmation from The Football Association, following consultation with the relevant Competition, that the agreement is acceptable.

The Club must disclose whether the Club's occupation of the Ground is subject to any third party option, whether the ground is charged by way of security and whether or not any break clauses in the lease or agreement have been exercised either by the landlord or the tenant.

In all cases The Football Association and the Competition of which it is a member have the right to call for further information.

2.5 A Club's Ground must comply with the Criteria Document for the step in the National League System at which the Club is playing. Each Club that is required to hold a safety certificate issued in accordance with safety legislation must lodge a current copy with the Competition. If a Clubs' ground is subject to any reduction in capacity by a public authority it must immediately inform the Competition.

2.6 No club which is a "nursery" club [or a reserve side] of a football club shall be eligible for membership of the Company.

A club shall be deemed to be a "nursery" club if it is under obligation, written or otherwise, to a football club by reason of which it has not the sole and entire control of its own management, finance and Players.

2.7 Clubs seeking membership or applying to retain membership of the Company must comply with the requirements provided for in the Criteria Document for the step at which the club is seeking to play or the step at which the Club is playing. Only clubs which meet these criteria in full will be eligible for membership. All Clubs visited by representatives of the Stadium Accreditation Programme in pursuance of the Criteria Document will pay a non-returnable fee. In the absence of a procedure for application for membership being established by The FA, the Board shall establish such procedure.

The FA shall establish a procedure for inspecting Clubs' grounds from time to time to ensure that the grade attained by that ground is maintained.

2.8 The Competition and the FA shall determine a time scale whereby all Clubs in membership must attain the grade provided for in the Criteria Document. 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 League 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.

[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.

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 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.]

2.9 Any Club which is incorporated must be incorporated in England and Wales. Any Club wishing to incorporate shall notify The FA, its Affiliated Association and the Company Secretary before it makes any resolutions in this regard and Rule 2.16 shall also apply where the Club participates at Step 2 of the National League System. Any person wishing to be appointed as an Officer to a Club at Step 2 and below must comply with the requirements of The FA Owners' and Directors' Test Regulations and send to the [League] [Company] Secretary a copy of the Owners' and Directors' Declaration within 5 days of sending the same to The FA (save where Rule 2.16 applies).

2.10 AT STEPS 3 TO 6 ONLY

In the event that any Club which is an unincorporated association incorporates itself it shall notify the [Company] [Competition] Secretary in writing within 14 days of the passing of the resolution to take this action and shall with such notice provide the [Company] [Competition] Secretary with a copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company. Any amendments to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of a Club must be notified to the Competition Secretary in writing within 14 days of the passing of the resolution with a copy of the change(s).

2.11 Transfer of Membership

Transfer as a Going Concern

2.11.1 In the event that any Club which resolves to transfer its membership of the Competition from one legal entity to a different legal entity, other than in the circumstances shown at 2.11.2 below, the Board will use the following minimum criteria in deciding whether to approve that transfer:

(a). The shareholders or members of the Club have voted to agree to the transfer of the Club's membership to the new entity.

(b) All Football Creditors in the Club must be paid in full or transferred in full (with each creditor's consent) to the new entity, and evidenced as such.

(c) All other creditors in the Club must be paid in full or Secured or transferred in full (with each creditor's consent) to the new entity and evidenced as such.

(d) The proposed new entity has provided financial forecasts to The FA and the Competition showing its ability to fund the Club for the next twelve (12) months or to the end of the Playing Season following transfer (whichever is the longer) and that evidence of funding sources has been provided.

(e) The FA must have given approval for the transfer to take place.

Transfer from Insolvency

2.11.2 In the event that any Club that is subject to an Insolvency Event resolves to transfer its membership of the Competition to a new entity, the Board will use the following minimum criteria in deciding whether or not to approve that transfer:

(a) The shareholders or members of the Club have voted to agree to the transfer of the Club's membership to the new entity and/or a licensed insolvency practitioner(s) appointed to the Club has agreed to sell or transfer some or all of the Club's assets to the new entity;

(b) All Football Creditors in the Club must be Paid in Full and evidenced as such;

(c) The proposed new entity has provided financial forecasts to The FA and the Competition showing its ability to fund the Club for the next twelve (12) months or to the end of the Playing Season following transfer (whichever is the longer) and that evidence of funding sources has been provided;

(d) The FA must have given approval for the transfer to take place; and

(e) All other creditors in the Club must be satisfied and evidenced as such (this provision to be read in conjunction with 2.11.3 below.)

In the event that requirement (a) and/or (e) is not fully complied with, and only where the Board, at its absolute discretion, deems there to have been exceptional circumstances surrounding the application for the transfer, it may approve the transfer (subject to compliance with all other provisions above) and may apply such conditions as it deems appropriate including, without limitation, the deduction of points.

2.11.3 Nothing in Rule 2.11.2 above shall limit in any way the application of Rule 13B of these Rules.

NATIONAL LEAGUE ONLY

2.11.4 Where the transfer of a Club's membership of the Competition pursuant to either Rule 2.11.1 or Rule 2.11.2 results in an acquisition of Control, then Rule 2.16 shall also apply.

ALL LEAGUES RESUME HERE

2.12 The Competition shall allow for up to [ ] member Clubs. There will be [ ] divisions of [...] Clubs in each division where possible. The divisions will be called [ ]. The Clubs competing in each division each season will be confirmed by the Annual General Meeting of the Company each year. A Club entered into membership at the Annual General Meeting shall be subject to the application of the Rules until the date of the following Annual General Meeting. It shall be allowed for these numbers to be increased to accommodate any anomaly in the National League System.

2.13 Any Club or Club representative found guilty of serious irregularities regarding Players Contract payments under The FA Rules may be expelled from the Company in accordance with [the Articles or] these Rules and, in addition, may be fined such sum as the Board shall determine.

2.14 The Company will hold a membership register of the full name of the company/unincorporated entity constituting each Club. If the Club is an incorporated entity, it must provide the Company with its company name and registration number. If the Club is an unincorporated entity, it must provide the Company with the name of an individual in whose name the membership of the Company will be vested. A Club must notify the Company of all proposed changes to the information held by the League in the membership register in respect of the Club including any proposed change of company name or the name of an individual in whose name the membership of the Company is vested. [Clubs are required to submit a fully completed membership form prior to the Annual General Meeting each Season.]

The Company will provide a copy of its membership register to The FA annually.

Ownership and Change of Control

2.15 Each Club shall publish its legal name, form (e.g. unincorporated association, company limited by shares or guarantee etc) and any identifier (e.g. company number). In addition for those Clubs that are owned, then the Club shall also publish the identities of the ultimate owner (i.e. the name of an individual) of each Significant Interest in the Club. Such information shall as a minimum be published on the Club's official website on a page accessible directly from the home page of that official club website and within the Club's official matchday programme.

NEXT SECTION IS FOR NATIONAL LEAGUE (STEP 2) ONLY

Acquisition of Control

2.16 If any Person proposes to acquire Control of a Club (a **"Proposed Acquiror"**):

2.16.1 the Club and/or the Proposed Acquiror shall, as far in advance of the proposed acquisition of Control as reasonably possible and in any event no later than 10 Days prior to the date on which it is anticipated that such acquisition of Control will take place:

(a) pay a non-refundable fee of £5,000 to the Competition;

(b) submit to The FA and to the Board a duly completed Owners' and Directors' Declaration in respect of each Person who will become an Officer upon the proposed acquisition of Control;

(c) submit such documentation and information as may be requested by the Board, to include but not limited to the Acquisition Materials set out at Appendix [ ];

(d) submit to the Board up-to-date budget information prepared to take into account the consequences of the acquisition of Control on the Club's future financial position; and

(e) where Rule 2.11.1 or Rule 2.11.2 applies, submit evidence that the requirements of the Rule have been met;

2.16.2 notwithstanding Rule 2.16.1, the Board shall have power to require the Club and/or the Proposed Acquiror to appear before it and to provide evidence of the ultimate source and sufficiency of any funds with which that Person proposes to acquire Control and/or invest in or otherwise make available to the Club; and

2.16.3 upon consideration of the information provided by the Club and/or the Proposed Acquiror, the Board may apply any conditions in respect of the Club's ongoing membership of the Competition, including but not limited to: a requirement to provide further information, adherence to a budget, the imposition of an Embargo, request for financial guarantees, and/or payment of a Bond. In addition to the powers set out in this Rule, the provisions, criteria and powers set out in Appendix [ ]: The Licensing System shall also apply.

2.17 No Person may acquire Control of a Club (and no Club may permit a Person to acquire Control of it) until such time as:

2.17.1 the Board receives confirmation from The FA that all Persons that are required to do so have complied with the process set out in Rule 2.16.1(b) and no such Persons are subject to a Disqualifying Event under the Owners' and Directors' Test Regulations;

2.17.2 the Board provides confirmation of its satisfaction with the information provided pursuant to Rule 2.16.1(c), 2.16.1(d) and/or 2.16.1(e) (as applicable); and

2.17.3 the Club and Proposed Acquiror have accepted any conditions imposed pursuant to Rule 2.16.3.

2.18 Any Officer of a Club who (whether intentionally, negligently or recklessly) causes, allows or permits any Person to acquire Control of the Club in breach of Rule 2.17 shall be in breach of these Rules.

2.19 Where any act of the Club, any Group Undertaking or any Officer thereof recognises:

2.19.1 any Person as an Officer; or

2.19.2 any form of transfer (legal or beneficial) or any trust or joint ownership arrangements in relation to any share and the rights which may be exercised by a shareholder,

without first having complied with Rule 2.17 in full, it will constitute a breach of these Rules by that Club.

2.20 A Club and its Officers must not:

2.20.1 enter into any agreement pursuant to which a Person agrees to acquire Control of the Club, subject to approval of the Board; and/or

2.20.2 announce that any such agreement has been concluded subject to the approval of the Board.

ALL OTHER LEAGUES RESUME HERE

2.21 In the event that an Insolvency Event occurs in relation to any Club, that Club must inform and keep informed the [Competition] [Company] Secretary and The FA immediately.

The Board shall have the power to suspend a Club on notification of it having entered an Insolvency Event.

At the discretion of the Board, a suspension may take effect from the giving of the notice or it may be postponed subject to any conditions as the Board may think fit to impose.

In the event that a Club is suspended or its suspension is postponed, the Board shall have power to make such payments as it may think fit to the Club's Football Creditors out of any monies due to that club from the Company.

2.22 An Officer must submit an Owners' and Directors' Declaration to The FA in accordance with the Reporting Requirements set out in The FA's Owners' and Directors' Regulations that apply from time to time. The Club must provide a copy of any such Owners' and Directors' Declaration to the Competition at the time it is submitted to The FA.

No individual will be permitted to act as an Officer if they fail to meet any of the requirements of the Owners' and Directors' Declaration, as set out in the Rules of The FA.

In the event that an individual/entity is found to have either:

- Completed false or misleading statements on their Owners' and Directors' Declaration;
- Acted as an Officer when in breach of the requirements of the Owners' and Directors' Declaration;
- Acted as an Officer without The FA having given written confirmation to the Club in accordance with The FA's Owners' and Directors' Regulations that the individual may so act; then the individual/entity or Club shall be subject to such fine or other sanction as may be determined by The FA.

In the event that the Competition receive a Notice from The FA issued in accordance with The FA's Owners' and Directors' Test Regulations for the suspension of that Club's Competition membership, then that Club shall be suspended from the Competition with effect from 14 days from the date of the Notice. An appeal of the effect of the Notice is to The FA and can only be made by the affected Club and in accordance with the appeal procedures set out in the FA Owners' and Directors' Test Regulations. The effect of the Notice shall be suspended pending the outcome of an appeal.

The FA shall advise the Competition and the Club in writing where it becomes satisfied that a Disqualifying Condition as defined in the FA Owners' and Directors' Test no longer applies. Upon receipt of this written notification from The FA, the Competition may remove the suspension of the Club's Competition membership.

Where a Club is suspended and that causes a match in the Competition not to be played, the Board shall determine how the outcome of that match shall be treated.

2.23 Within fourteen days of a change in a Significant Interest at a Club or the appointment or removal of any director of a Club, written notice thereof, together with such details as are required to be filed with the Registrar of Companies, shall be deposited at the Competition Office.

2.24 If during the course of a season the Board decide that the organisation and management or finances of a particular Club fall below the standards appropriate to membership of the Competition, the Competition Secretary shall be instructed to warn the Club at once that it may be excluded from membership of the Competition at the end of that playing season. Such a Club shall have the right to appeal to The FA within 14 days of the date of notification of the Board's decision.

2.25 The Competition, through the Board shall be empowered from time to time by subscription, levy or otherwise to require Clubs to contribute such sum or sums of money to the funds of the League as may be necessary for the proper conduct of the business of the League. Such contributions by Clubs may be collected by deduction from sums due to Clubs under any promotion agreement [commercial contract] or from sponsorship money due or by whatever means the Board shall think fit. There shall be added to any sums to be contributed from Clubs, if applicable, Value Added Tax at the then prevailing rate.

2.26 Any Club failing to be represented throughout an Annual General Meeting or any other general meeting called in accordance with the [Rules] [Articles] without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. [Whenever required to do so all Clubs shall ensure their Manager, or an Assistant Manager, attend in person any Meeting of Clubs called by the Board. Failure to do so without just cause shall be a breach of these Rules and be dealt with in accordance with the Fines Tariff.]

2.27 The Competition and each Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination.

2.28 The Competition and each Club does not and must not [by its rules or regulations or] in any manner whatsoever unlawfully discriminate against any person within the meaning and scope of the Equality Act 2010 or any law, enactment, order or regulation relating to discrimination (whether by way of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability, or otherwise).

2.29 The Competition and each Club shall make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community, irrespective of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability, or otherwise.

2.30 Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate sanctioning Association for investigation.

2.31 Each Club shall comply with the provisions of Appendix [ ] – the 'Licencing System', as approved by the FA Council from time to time.

3. MEMBERSHIP – ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

3.1 Any Club allocated for membership of the Company shall submit to the Company a fully completed Membership application form and the application fee [and non-refundable ground inspection fee].

3.2 Clubs which have qualified for membership of the Company must confirm their acceptance of membership on the appropriate Competition form to be received by the Company at least [ ] 14 days prior to the next Annual General Meeting of the Company accompanied where appropriate by the membership fee.

The annual subscription shall be paid by each Club to the Company no later than [7 days before the Annual General Meeting of the Company in each year].

NATIONAL LEAGUE ONLY

The Board may determine that such annual subscription fees are deducted from central payments during the applicable season.

ALL OTHER LEAGUES RESUME HERE

4. POWER OF THE BOARD

4.1 The Board shall have power to deal with all matters of management of the Competition covered by the Rules. The Board shall conduct the business of the Competition and shall meet as often as is necessary for this purpose.

The Board may appoint such committees as it deems appropriate which shall be fully empowered to act on the Board's behalf subject to ratification by the Board. The Board shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of the Football Association or affiliated Association.

4.2 Save where specifically provided otherwise in these Rules, the Board shall have power to apply, act upon and enforce these Rules and shall have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Company or the Competition including any not provided for in these Rules. The Board shall also have the power to issue an order or instruction, by way of a Board Directive, in the best interest of the Competition, on any matter not provided for in these Rules, with which Clubs must comply or be subject to sanction under Rule 4.6, save where any such Directive is inconsistent with a Rule or Regulation of The FA, in which event the Directive will not create a binding obligation on Clubs.

4.3 All decisions of the Board shall be binding, subject to a right of appeal to The FA pursuant to Rule 16. Decisions of the Board must be notified, in writing, to all concerned within fourteen days of the making of such decision.

Upon becoming aware of any breaches of these Rules the Board shall write to the entity suspected of a breach formally charging the party giving at least 7 days' notice of the time, date and venue of the meeting at which the charge shall be considered.

The party charged will respond in writing to the Board within 7 days stating whether or not the charge is admitted and in default the Competition will deal with the case on the evidence it has at the time. If the charge is disputed or if the party admitting the charge wishes to present a plea in mitigation, it shall have the right to a personal hearing. The party charged also has the right to waive the 7 day requirement and allow the charge to be considered in less than 7 days after the party has been charged.

If the party charged disputes the charge or wishes to have a personal hearing to present a plea in mitigation then it shall submit its case in writing to be received by the Competition Secretary at least 7 days prior to the date of the meeting set to consider the charge and in default the Board will be at liberty to proceed to hear the charge without the benefit of written submissions from the party charged.

4.4 Where the Rules provide for the imposition of a financial penalty under the Fines Tariff then the Notice of Charge given by the Board under Rule 4.3 above shall refer to the penalty provided for in the Fines Tariff.

If the Rule provides that the penalty for such a breach is in the discretion of the Board then the notice shall also state as such. If the penalty set by Rules is not a financial penalty then such penalty must still be referred to in the Notice of Charge.

All breaches of the Laws of the Game Rules and Regulations of the Football Association shall be dealt with in accordance with FA Rules by the appropriate Association prior to any action by the Competition in accordance with FA Regulations.

4.5 All fines and charges imposed by the Board shall be received by the Company within twenty-eight days of the date of notification of imposition (unless otherwise ordered). Any Club or person breaking this Rule shall be liable to such penalties as the Board may impose.

4.6 If a Club fails to comply with a Board Directive within the timescale set out in the notification of such order or instruction, it may not be allowed to play or take part in the business of the Company until the expiry of 7 days from the day the order or instruction is complied with.

4.7 Except where otherwise mentioned, all communications shall be addressed to the Competition Secretary, who shall conduct the correspondence of the Competition [and keep a record of its proceedings].

4.8 A Club must at all times attend satisfactorily to the business of the Competition and/or the correspondence of the Competition or Company.

4.9 If a Club is asked to submit a report in relation to any alleged violation of these Rules it may have a personal hearing, providing it notifies its intention of such within fourteen days of the date of notification from the Company, or the case will be dealt with in its absence.

4.10 The Board shall have the power to arrange representative matches at their discretion.

4.11 A match (or matches) may be played each season [year] between two Clubs nominated by the Board and it shall be a requirement for such match (or matches) to be played on the date(s) nominated by the Board. All matters concerning the match (or matches) will be decided by the Board.

4.12 In the event of any issue concerning the membership of any Club with the Competition the Board may require a Bond to be paid by or on behalf of the Club on such terms and for such period as it may in its entire discretion think fit.

5. INTERESTS IN MORE THAN ONE CLUB

Except with the prior written consent of the Board no person, company or business institution (including insolvency practitioners) may at any time be interested in more than one Club or in a Club and any other club playing in a Competition sanctioned by The FA. The definition of "interested" shall be the same as provided for by the Rules of the FA Challenge Cup Competition in force from time to time.

6. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

6.1 A qualifying Player registration

The FA's rules will apply in respect of all matters concerning players.

6.1.1 A Player is one who has been registered via the relevant Online Player Registration System and such registration has been: (a) approved by the Competition and (b) in the case of a:

(i) Contract Player – approved by the league the player is transferring from and The FA.

(ii) Loan player (if loaned from a club participating in the Premier League or the EFL) – approved by the league the player is transferring from and The FA.

(iii) Loan player (if loaned from a club participating in the NLS) – approved by The FA.

6.1.2 At Steps 1 to 4, a Player's registration with a Club as a Contract Player shall continue until the earlier of the date upon which: (a) the contract between the Contract Player and the Club expires, (b) the Contract Player's registration is transferred to another club, or (c) the contract is cancelled in accordance with Rule 6.5.

It is the responsibility of all Clubs to ensure any player signing a registration form has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate and in the case of Contract Players, including those on loan, must have approval from The FA.

Any relevant registration/transfer/loan forms must be uploaded onto the Online Player Registration System within five (5) days of the Player signing the forms.

The Registration of Players are subject to fees in accordance with the fees tariff.

The status of a player must be clearly stated on the registration information submitted. Hard copies of the registration form are not required to be submitted to the Competition. However, these must be completed, signed and retained by Clubs in case of dispute or in case requested by The FA and/or the Competition. The registration of a Player will be valid from the date of registration to the end of that Playing Season only save for: (a) a Contract or Loan Player whose contract or loan expires before the end of the Playing Season, or (b) a Contract Player registered with a club participating at Steps 1 to 4), where in each case the registration shall be valid for the term of the applicable contract or loan.

There must be a minimum gap of 14 days between the commencement date of a Player's registration with one Club and the commencement date of a Player's registration with any subsequent Club (save where that Player is to register and play as a goalkeeper).

6.1.3 A Player may only play under his correct status. Any change of a Player's status during the currency of a registration must be notified to the Competition within five (5) days of the change of registration being affected.

In the event of a Player changing his status with the same Club either from Contract to Non-Contract or from Non-Contract to Contract then that Player must sign a new registration form (which is to be retained by the Club), complete a new registration process via the Online Player Registration System, and be re-registered. In default the Player re-registering will be ineligible to play in a match under the jurisdiction of the Competition and Rule 6.9 will be applied in such circumstances where a Club is found guilty of playing a Player who has changed status without re-registering.

A Player whose registration under Contract is cancelled by mutual consent and immediately re-registered by the same Club or a different Club on a non-contract basis shall not subsequently be registered as a Contract player with the Club for which his Contract was cancelled, within three months of the date of the cancellation except with the consent of the Board and The FA.

6.1.4 The Board shall have the power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct subject to the right of Appeal to the FA or the relevant County Football Association. Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated conduct, which may deter a Participant from being involved in this Competition. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the Player is registered with.

(Note:- action under this clause shall not be taken against a Player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the appropriate Association, and then only in cases of the Player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any case be subject to an Appeal to the Football Association. For the purposes of this Rule, bringing the Competition into disrepute can only be considered where the Player has received in excess of 112 days suspension, or 10 matches in match based discipline, in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.)

6.1.5 The Board shall also have the power to place an Embargo on the registration, transfer or loan transfer of Players by any Club deemed to be in breach of these Rules. Where a Club has been subject to an Embargo that is ongoing (if applied by the Competition or another) then the Embargo shall continue to apply until the Club can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board that the circumstances that resulted in the Embargo no longer apply.

6.2 Registration Period

6.2.1 The Registration Period shall commence at midnight and end at 5.00pm on the following dates:

STEP	COMMENCES	ENDS
1 & 2	On the day after a Club's final Match of the Playing Season	Fourth Thursday in March
3 & 4	On the day immediately following the AGM of the Competition	Fourth Thursday in March
5 & 6	On the day when the online registration process opens	[Fourth Thursday in March] [31st March]

After 5.00pm on the [fourth Thursday in March] [31st March] new registrations, new loans, and transfer of registrations will be declined or will be approved subject to such limitations and restrictions as the Board may determine and, if so determined, the Player shall only be eligible to play in the matches for which permission is granted by the Board.

6.3 Player Status

The status of a player may be:-

- Contract Player
- Non-Contract
- Work Experience
- Scholar
- Short Term Loan
- Long Term Loan
- Youth Loan

6.4 Registrations and Registration Procedures

6.4.1 Registration Deadlines / Player Eligibility

STEPS 1 TO 4 ONLY

A Player will only be eligible to play in a Competition Match if the appropriate information is provided via the Online Player Registration System and received by the Company by either: (a) 5pm on the last normal business Day before the day of the Competition Match when it is scheduled to be played on a Saturday, Sunday or a Bank or Public Holiday, or (b) at least four (4) hours before the scheduled kick-off time when a Competition Match is scheduled to be played on a midweek Day (each a "Registration Deadline"). No Player whose registration, including Loan registrations, is received after the applicable Registration Deadline will be eligible to play. Any loan registration must also be approved by The FA, and in the case of a loan player whose registration is being transferred from a Premier League or EFL club the relevant releasing league, before that Player can be considered eligible to play.

The registration of a Player is not automatically valid and it is the responsibility of the Club to ensure the player is NOT registered with any other Club. When the Player involved was previously registered with another Club it is necessary for that Club to complete the standard Competition transfer form or to have completed the standard Competition cancellation of registration form prior to or at the same as the registration to the new Club.

ALL STEPS 5 & 6 COMPETITIONS

A Player will only be eligible to play in a match organised by the Company under these Rules if the appropriate information is provided via the Online Registration System and received by the Company at least four (4) hours before the scheduled kick-off time of such match. No Player whose registration, including Loan registrations, is received by the Company less than four (4) hours before the match organised by the Company in which he is required to play will be eligible. Any loan registration must also be approved by The FA and relevant releasing league before that Player can be considered eligible to play.

The registration of a Player is not automatically valid and it is the responsibility of the Club to ensure the player is NOT registered with any other Club. When the Player involved was previously registered with another Club it is necessary for that Club to complete a transfer form via the Online Player Registration System or for the players' original registration to have been cancelled prior to or at the same time as the registration to the new Club.

ALL COMPETITIONS

Clubs are responsible for all players being validly registered before fielding any player in a Competition Match.

Any Club found to have been in breach of any part of Rule 6.4.1 will be deemed to have played an ineligible player and will be dealt with in accordance with Rule 6.9.

6.4.2 Each Club must have at least sixteen (16) Players registered fourteen (14) days before the start of each Playing Season.

6.4.3 [A registration form, when submitted to the Competition, must be accompanied by the financial details, i.e. the appropriate page of the contract for Players under written contract or the standard Competition form for Players not under written contract.]

6.4.4 In the event of a Player signing registration forms for more than one Club, priority of registration shall decide for which Club he is entitled to play. The Club submitting the latter form shall be notified of the prior registration of the Player, and the circumstances under which the registration forms were signed shall be investigated by the Board. Any Player found to have signed registration forms for more than one Club, or any Club found to have knowingly induced a registered Player of another Club to sign a registration form, shall be dealt with by the Board in such a manner as it shall think fit.

6.4.5 Except where mutually agreed between the Clubs in writing, and specific approval has been given by the Board a Club cannot register more than one Contract or Non-Contract Player, registered to another Club or club at any one time unless a period of 28 days has elapsed between the first and the second notice of approach or acknowledgement.

6.4.6 If a non-contract Player also registers for a club not in membership of the Competition, his registration for the Competition may be retained by the Club.

LOAN AND WORK EXPERIENCE THRESHOLDS

Number and Type of Registrations Permitted

6.4.7 Subject to Rule 6.4.8, the following numbers and types of registrations are permitted during a Playing Season:

TYPE OF REGISTRATION	WHO DOES IT APPLY TO?	LENGTH	RIGHT OF RECALL	NUMBER PERMITTED DURING A PLAYING SEASON	NUMBER PERMITTED TO/FROM ONE CLUB
SHORT TERM LOAN (also see Rule 6.6.2)	Any Contract Player	Minimum: 28 days, Maximum: 93 days[1]	Cannot be recalled within first 28 days (except Goalkeepers or where player is being permanently transferred to another club)	12	2 permitted to or from any one Club or club at any one time
LONG TERM LOAN (Also see Rule 6.6.3)	Any Contract Player	(a) Full Playing Season; or (b) Any date during First professional game registration period to any date during second professional game registration period; or (c) Any date during second professional game registration period to the end of Playing Season	Within the first or second registration period during which players may be registered for a professional men's club (except where the Player is a goalkeeper or where the Player is being transferred permanently)	6	2 permitted to or from any one Club or club at any one time

TYPE OF REGISTRATION	WHO DOES IT APPLY TO?	LENGTH	RIGHT OF RECALL	NUMBER PERMITTED DURING A PLAYING SEASON	NUMBER PERMITTED TO/FROM ONE CLUB
YOUTH LOAN (Also see Rule 6.6.4)	Contract Players aged 20 or below on 1 July immediately preceding the Playing Season	Minimum: 28 days Permitted at any time of the Playing Season Cannot extend beyond the date immediately preceding the date of the Player's 21st birthday or the date the Player's contract with their parent club expires	Player may continue to train and play for their parent club (in non-first team matches)	Unlimited (to or from clubs at Steps 1-4)	2 permitted to or from any one Club or club at any one time
WORK EXPERIENCE (Also see Rule 6.6.5)	Work Experience Player	No minimum or maximum limits	No specific restrictions on ability to recall player Player may continue to play for their parent club (in non-first team matches)	Unlimited	3 permitted to or from any one Club or club at any one time

[1] Note: there are additional Short Term Loan restrictions for players registering from EFL clubs. These can be found in the EFL's Regulations.

6.4.8 No more than a combination of four (4) Short Term, Long Term or Youth Loans from any one club during a single Playing Season are permitted. One additional Youth Loan may be added to this figure.

Team Sheets

6.4.9 A Club may name up to a maximum of five (5) players on a Team Sheet who are registered as either a Short Term Loan, Long Term Loan, [Youth Loan] or Work Experience. A breach of this Rule by a Club which results in more than 5 of such players entering the field of play during the course of a Competition Match shall be treated as that Club having played an ineligible player(s) and will be dealt with in accordance with Rule 6.9.

Registration Embargo / Clubs in Default of Payment Obligations

6.4.10 The Company may, at its discretion, refuse any further registration of players, i.e. place under a registration embargo, any Club which has not completed payment of a transfer or loan arrangement made with another Club (or club) or arranged for the payment to be adequately secured. The Club (or club) which holds the Player's Contract will continue to pay the Player in accordance with his Contract.

Additional Goalkeeper Registrations

6.4.11 The Company at its discretion may approve at any time the registration of an additional goalkeeper on a short-term basis if none of the Clubs' registered goalkeepers are available ahead of a Competition Match.

Subject to the approval of the EFL, this may include the registration of a goalkeeper on a temporary transfer from a club in membership of the EFL for a minimum of 7 days. Any such registration shall count as a Short Term Loan for the purposes of the thresholds set out at Rule 6.4.7 and 6.6.2.

STEP 1 TO 4 LEAGUES ONLY

The Company at its sole discretion may approve the registration of a Player after the Registration Deadline for fixtures scheduled for a bank holiday or a public holiday.

ALL LEAGUES RESUME HERE

6.5 Transfers

6.5.1 The transfer of a Contract Player's registration from one Club to another must be in writing, on a completed transfer agreement that is signed by the Contract Player and the two Clubs, and accompanied by the Player's contract and registration form. The forms must be submitted via the relevant Online Player Registration System.

Such Contract Player does not become a registered Player of the Club seeking his transfer until the forms have been approved by The FA and the Competition(s).

CANCELLATIONS

Where a Club cancels the registration of a Contract Player, for any reason whatsoever, the Club must submit a notification via the relevant Online Player Registration System or on the relevant Competition/FA form and such cancellation must be approved by the relevant parties. To be valid, such notification must be signed by an authorised signatory of that Club and the Player.

Where a Club cancels the registration of a Non-Contract Player for any reason whatsoever, the Club must submit via the relevant Online Player Registration System and/or the relevant Competition form. To be valid, such notification must be signed by an authorised signatory of the Club.

TERMINATIONS

Where the registration of a Contract Player has been terminated by either the Club or the Player, this must be in accordance with the provisions of the Player Status Rules.

6.5.2 The transfer of a Non-Contract Player's registration from one Club to another must be: (a) in writing, on the relevant Competition transfer form, signed by the Non-Contract Player and the two Clubs (as required by the Competition), and (b) submitted via the relevant Online Player Registration System for approval and registration. Such Non-Contract Player does not become a registered Player of the Club seeking his transfer until the transfer has been approved by the Competition. A Non-Contract Player whose registration for a Club is cancelled or transferred for any reason whatsoever cannot, without the consent of the Board, return to his original Club until a minimum of fourteen (14) days has elapsed from the date of the cancellation or transfer.

6.5.3 A Club shall submit to the Board any contract it proposes to enter into which gives the Club or any other party to the proposed contract any rights relating to the transfer of the registration of a Player at a date in the future from or to the Club or any rights relating to the employment for the Player by the Club. Any such proposed contract shall be subject to the approval of the Board.

6.6 Temporary Transfers (Loans)

6.6.1 Where the Rules of the relevant League permit, Short Term Loans, Youth Loans and Long Term Loans of Contract players shall be allowed to or from Clubs in membership of:

- The Premier League
- The EFL
- Any League operating at Step 1 to 6 of the National League System

on such terms and conditions as shall be mutually agreed by the two clubs and the player. For Loan Transfers between Clubs in the same Competition the transfer must be completed via the Online Player Registration System, with a Competition Temporary Transfer Form completed and retained by the Club. For Loan Transfers between Clubs in different Competitions the transfer must be completed via the Online Player Registration System, to include any applicable loan form (as communicated by The FA from time to time).

The player being taken on loan, [including Youth Loan,] must sign a Competition contract registration form which will be valid for the full period of the loan, including any extension to the loan period.

If the original Loan agreement contains a pre-agreed recall clause, a Player may be recalled by the loaning Club submitting written confirmation to the borrowing Club, the Competition and The FA. Where no pre-agreed recall clause exists, the cancellation must be agreed between the loaning Club, the borrowing Club and the Player. The loaning Club must submit written confirmation to the borrowing Club, the Competition and The FA. The Competition's standard cancellation form must be used to prematurely end the Temporary Transfer period. The temporary registration for the borrowing Club will automatically be deemed to be cancelled upon maturity of the temporary transfer period.

Where a Short Term Loan, [or Youth Loan] expires, and is not renewed so as to run continuously, any subsequent Short Term Loan, [or Youth Loan] of that Player to the same Club will be subject to a minimum duration of 28 days and will be considered a new loan (including for the purposes of Rule 6.4.7).

Guidance

A continuous renewal of a Short Term Loan (or Youth Loan) means that the start date of the renewal must commence from the date immediately following the date of the expiry of the last loan period. For example, if a loan expires on a Saturday, in order for it to be considered continuous, the extension must commence on the next day (i.e. the Sunday).

Any such loan continuation will not be accepted if the registering Club does not submit the relevant documents within 5 days of signature, or if the registering Club has played a fixture in the period between the date of expiry of the last loan and the time the relevant documents are submitted.

Where a Short Term Loan, [Youth Loan] or Long Term Loan (or period of Work Experience) expires on or after the last match of the season and the Club finishes in a Play-Off Position, and both Clubs agree, the Loans shall be extend to include the Club's remaining Play-Off Matches. Any such extension is not subject to any time limits that would otherwise apply, and must be agreed in writing by the player's parent Club and be registered with the Competition in accordance with these Rules and registered with The FA in accordance with the Player Status Rules.

6.6.2 Short Term Loan Transfers – A Club can have up to a maximum of twelve (12) Short Term Loans during a Playing Season. The minimum period of a Short Term Loan transfer must be twenty-eight (28) days with a maximum of ninety-three (93) days in any one Playing Season. Clubs playing in Competitions at Steps 1 to 4 of the National League System may register players on a Short Term Loan from clubs in the EFL.

The Competition shall not approve more than two (2) Short Term Loan transfers to or from any one club, including EFL Clubs, at any one time (subject to the overall limit of four (4) Players joining a Club from another club in any Playing Season as set out at Rule 6.6.1).

On completing the Competition Temporary Transfer Form (for internal Temporary Transfers) or FA form H3 (for Temporary Transfers involving two competitions), a Club must retain copies in case of dispute or if called in case requested by the Competition or The FA. Clubs must also take the appropriate action on the Online Player Registration System.

To extend the period of any Short Term Loan transfer a further Competition Temporary Transfer Form (for internal Temporary Transfers) or FA form H3 (for Temporary Transfers involving two competitions) must be completed and copies retained as directed above. If the Short Term Loan transfer is extended only the Club for whom the Player was originally registered will be allowed to cancel the agreement at any time within the extension period, i.e. after 28 days. In the case of a goalkeeper Clubs may mutually agree, if they so wish, to include a recall clause in the agreement to enable the Club for who the Player was originally registered to recall the Player at any time during the loan period. Players other than goalkeepers may not be recalled within the first month, i.e. 28 days, of any loan except where the Player is to be permanently transferred to another club by their parent club (subject to the agreement of the loaning club, the borrowing Club and the Player, which may set out in the original loan agreement).

Any Short Term Loan transfer which may terminate after the last day for registrations may be extended for a further period provided the maximum period of 93 days is not exceeded.

Short Terms Loan Transfers which become permanent before their expiry date shall not count against a Club's quota of days or Players.

6.6.3 Long Term Loan Transfers – Clubs may have up to a maximum of six (6) Long Term Loan Transfers of any age during a Playing Season.

Clubs playing in Competitions at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System may register players on a Long-Term Loan from other clubs playing in Competitions at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System.

Only Clubs playing in Competitions at Steps 1 to 4 of the National League System may register players on a Long-Term Loan from clubs in the Premier League or EFL.

A Player on Long Term Loan may be recalled on any date from the beginning of the Loan until the agreed summer transfer window deadline, provided that the initial 28 days have elapsed, except in the case of a goalkeeper, and within the agreed winter transfer window, except for a goalkeeper or where the Player is to be transferred permanently by the Club (or club) holding his registered contract in each case, subject to the agreement of the loaning Club, the borrowing Club and the Player, which may be pre-agreed in a recall clause in the original Loan agreement.

To extend the period of any long term loan transfer a further Competition Temporary Transfer Form (for internal Temporary Transfers) or FA form H3 (for Temporary Transfers involving two competitions) must be completed and copies retained as directed above.

The Competition shall not approve more than two (2) Long Term Loan transfers to or from any one club, including Premier League and EFL clubs, at any one time (subject to the overall limit of four (4) Players joining a Club from another club in any Playing Season as set out at Rule 6.6.1).

A Player registered on a Long Term Loan from a club participating in the Premier League or the EFL may, provided it is agreed between the two clubs and the Player, continue to train with and/or play for his loaning club in any match other than matches played as part of the Premier League Competition, EFL Competition, EFL Cup, FA Cup or, where the parent club is in the EFL, the EFL Trophy (i.e. First Team matches.) Participation by the Player in First Team matches for the borrowing Club shall take precedence.

6.6.4 Youth Loan Transfers

Subject to any further restrictions set out below, Youth Loan Transfers apply to:-

- Contract Players aged 20 or under on 1 July immediately preceding the Playing Season in question.

At Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System, Youth Loans are permitted at any time during the Registration Period, subject to the below provisions.

Unlimited Youth Loan Transfers shall be allowed to or from Clubs in membership of the Competitions at Steps 1-4 of the National League System, save that the Competition shall not approve more than two (2) Youth Loan transfers to or from anyone club at any one time (subject to the overall limit of four (4) Players joining a Club from another club in any Playing Season as set out at Rule 6.6.1).

Clubs playing in Competitions at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System may register players on a Youth Loan from other clubs playing in Competitions at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System.

Only Clubs playing in Competitions at Steps 1 to 4 of the National League System may register players on a Youth Loan from clubs in the Premier League and the EFL.

It shall be a condition of any Youth Loan involving a Contract Player to whom Premier League Rules or EFL Regulations apply that for the duration of the period of the Youth Loan the Player continues to fully comply with any programme of education in place for that Player.

A Player registered on a Youth Loan from a club participating in the Premier League or the EFL may, provided it is agreed between the two clubs and the Player, continue to train with and/or play for his loaning Club (or club) in any match other than matches played as part of the Premier League Competition, EFL Competition, EFL Cup, FA Cup or, where the parent club is in the EFL, the EFL Trophy (i.e. First Team matches.) Participation by the Player in First Team matches for the borrowing Club shall take precedence.

Any days on which the Player participates in a Reserve Team match and/or attends any training sessions for the loaning Club (or club) shall still count towards the period of the Youth Loan.

The minimum period of a Youth Loan shall be 28 days, thereafter a break clause may be included. In the case of a goalkeeper, the clubs may mutually agree to include a recall clause in the agreement to enable the parent club to recall the Player at any time during the loan period. Players other than goalkeepers may not be recalled within the first month, i.e. 28 days, of any loan except where the Player is to be permanently transferred to another club by their parent club (subject to the agreement of the loaning club, the borrowing Club and the Player, which may set out in the original loan agreement).

Youth Loans cannot extend beyond the date immediately preceding the date of the Player's 21st birthday and/or the Player's contract period with their parent club.

6.6.5 Work Experience Players

A Scholar may register as a Work Experience Player with a club at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System.

Work Experience Players can be registered for any period of time, but can be recalled by their parent club at any time during that period.

A Work Experience Player may continue to train and play for either the parent club or the work experience club in any age-restricted or reserve team match or in any match in the football pyramid below the EFL, but not in any first team match played as part of the Premier League Competition, EFL Competitions, EFL Cup or EFL Trophy.

6.7 Club List of Players and Transfer List

[Clubs shall furnish the Competition Secretary by 1st June with the following details:

6.7.1 a list of Contract Players whose agreements do not terminate at the end of the current season;

6.7.2 a list of contract Players in respect of whom the Club has exercised an Option in accordance with the Player Status Rules;

6.7.3 a list of Contract Players in respect of whom the existing agreements do not include an Option but which the Club is desirous of offering further engagements, in accordance the Player Status Rules;

6.7.4 a list of Contract Players in respect of whom the Club has exercised an Option in accordance with the Player Status Rules but whose registration the Club is prepared to transfer;

6.7.5 a list of Contract Players the Club has released;

6.7.6 a list of all Players whose registration the Club wishes to be cancelled;

Clubs shall also complete the standard Competition forms and return these by this date.

A Club relegated from the Football League Limited shall advise the Competition Secretary by 30th June the names of Players retained by that Club for the season, taking into consideration the contents of Football League Rule 53.]

6.8 Substitute Players

A Club at its discretion may use five substitute Players at any time in a match, provided this is in accordance with the Laws of the Game. A substitution can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission. When a Club is making a substitution it shall use a board to show the number of the Player to be substituted and the number of the substitute Player. The substitution board used shall be branded as determined by the Competition.

At Step 1, a maximum of [ ] substitutes may be nominated.

At Step 2, a maximum of [ ] substitutes may be nominated.

At Steps 3 to 6, a maximum of five substitutes may be nominated.

All nominated substitutes must be included on the official Team Sheet handed to the Referee before the match in accordance with Rule 8.21. A substitute may not be used to replace a Player who has been suspended from the match by the Match Officials.

If a Player does not take part in the match for which he is a nominated substitute he shall be deemed as not having played for the Club in that match.

6.9 Playing an Ineligible Player

Any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a match or matches shall have any points gained from that match or matches deducted from its record, up to a maximum of 12 points (save for in relation to a knock-out match or matches – e.g. the Play-Offs - in which case the Club shall be disqualified from the relevant knock-out competition(s)), and have levied upon it a fine. The Board may also order that such match or matches be replayed on such terms as are decided by the Board which may also levy penalty points against the Club in default.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

The Board may vary its decision in respect of the points gained (or disqualification) in circumstances where;

(a) the ineligibility is due to the failure to obtain an International Transfer Certificate; or

(b) where the ineligibility is related to a change in the Player's status with the Club for whom he is registered; or

(c) where the Board determined that exceptional circumstances exist.

6.10 Financial Arrangements

6.10.1 Subject to clauses 6.10.2 to 6.10.7 and to the Rules and Regulations of The FA, a Club may negotiate a financial arrangement with its Players.

6.10.2 All Players under a written contract must be registered with the Competition and The FA.

6.10.3 All payments and benefits due and/or made to the Player must be shown in the contract.

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

6.10.5 All salaried payments (whether to Contract or Non-Contract Players) must be subject to PAYE and National Insurance.

6.10.6 All salary payments due on written Contracts must be stated gross, before PAYE and National Insurance deductions.

6.10.7 Any Players paid expenses should be reimbursed via an expense claim form. The club should retain all expense records in a format acceptable to the HM Revenue and Customs.

7. CLUB COLOURS

7.1 On or before a date specified by the Company each year, every Club shall notify the Competition Secretary, in writing, of details of their first choice colours for outfield players and their goalkeeper (shirts, shorts and socks) and such details shall be published in the Competition Handbook and/or on the Competition's website for the ensuing Playing Season.

The colours registered by each Club shall be worn during the following season when playing at home. Shirts must be numbered [1 to 25] [in accordance with the Competition squad numbering provision] such that the numbers can be clearly identified by officials and spectators. Striped, hooped or otherwise patterned shirts shall have numbers affixed to contrasting patches or numbers in a contrasting colour with bold outline. No changes to the first choice colours or combination of colours shall be permitted without the consent of the Board. Subject to the consent of the Board, each Club is authorised on one occasion per Playing Season to wear an alternative strip in a home match.

7.2 When playing away from home, clubs must play in colours (shirts, shorts and socks) which are clearly distinguishable from those of their opponents and the Match Officials, in particular the goalkeeper must play in kit clearly distinguishable from the colours of the shirts worn by all other Players in the match and the Match Officials.

Neck and cuff rim colours on shirts are not regarded as basic colours for the purpose of this Rule. Subject to the foregoing a Club may, if it wishes, wear colours not registered with the Competition for away matches. It is the responsibility of the visiting Club to check that their colours will not clash.

The goalkeeper may wear tracksuit trousers acceptable to the Match Referee.

7.3 No Club shall be permitted to register or play in shirts the colour of which is likely to cause confusion with the outfits worn by the Match Officials (i.e. black or dark blue).

7.4 The Players' shirts must be clearly numbered in accordance with the Team Sheet handed to the match referee before a match and there must be no change of numbers during the match except for a change of goalkeeper or if permitted by the match referee because of a blood injury. [The shirt numbers, and short numbers if worn, used in all matches played under the jurisdiction of the Competition must be the official numbers as determined by the Competition.]

7.5 [A Club may apply to the Board for permission to print on the reverse of each Player's shirt the surname of that Player, provided the printed surname is the same as that which is registered on the Online Player Registration System and the printing complies with The FA's Kit and Advertising Regulations. Any such application must be submitted to the Board at least 14 days prior to the start of the Playing Season.]

7.6 The Captain shall wear a distinguishing armband [provided by the Competition] to indicate his status.

7.7 Both sleeves of the shirts of all Players in matches played under the jurisdiction of the Company shall carry a Competition logo as supplied by the Competition on an annual basis if so decided by the Board. When playing in other competitions the shirts of all Players must include the Competition logo.

7.8 A Club may apply to the Board for permission to use either: (a) a variation of the Competition logo referred to in Rule 7.7 (for example, a variation in size or colour) or (b) in relation to one sleeve of the shirt only, an alternative in place of the Competition logo referred to in Rule 7.7 (for example, advertising). The cost of producing any variation or alternative shall be the sole responsibility of the applicant Club.

Advertising must comply with The FA's Kit and Advertising Regulations.

7.9 The colours of clothing worn by ballboys/girls must not clash with the colours of either competing Club and the Match Officials.

8. PLAYING OF MATCHES

ARRANGEMENT OF FIXTURES

8.1 The Board shall fix the date on which the Playing Season shall commence.

8.2 All matches shall be played under the Rules and Regulations of The FA and in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board.

8.3 All Competition matches shall be arranged as soon as practicable. The copyright in all lists of arrangements of such fixtures shall be vested in the Company.

8.4 All matches shall be played on the home and away principle and the Board shall determine how the fixtures shall be arranged.

Steps 1 to 4 only

Saturday (and in the case of Step 1, Saturday and midweek) fixtures in the Competition shall take precedence over all other competitions in which a Club may engage with the exception of:

- The FA Challenge Cup/Welsh Cup
- The FA Challenge Trophy Competition

Scheduled Saturday fixtures in the Competition must not be re-arranged without permission of the Competition Secretary. Clubs may be ordered to re-arrange outstanding matches, at the discretion of the Board, and where necessary their prospective opponents instructed accordingly. Clubs with open dates on Saturdays may be instructed to play any outstanding Competition fixture on such date. A minimum of ..... days' notice will be given in respect of any such re-arrangement.

Steps 2 to 4 only

Fixtures in the Competition shall take precedence over fixtures in any cup competition of the Affiliated Association to which a club is affiliated, save that the fixtures in the Nominated Cup Competition of the Affiliated Association to which a Club is first affiliated shall take precedence over midweek fixtures of that Club on one week in each month of the Playing Season as nominated by that Affiliated Association before the commencement of the Playing Season and by such method as communicated by The FA from time to time.

A re-arranged fixture in the Nominated Cup Competition of the Affiliated Association cannot take precedence over a fixture in the Competition that has already been scheduled, but the re-arranged fixture may be scheduled outside of the nominated period where no Competition fixture has been scheduled.

Steps 5/6 only

Saturday fixtures in the Competition shall take precedence over all other competitions in which a Club may engage with the exception of:

- The FA Challenge Cup/Welsh Cup
- The FA Challenge Vase Competition

The Nominated Cup Competition for which the club is eligible, of the Affiliated Association to which it was first affiliated.

Scheduled Saturday fixtures in the Competition must not be re-arranged without permission of the Competition Secretary. Clubs may be ordered to re-arrange outstanding matches, at the discretion of the Board, and where necessary their prospective opponents instructed accordingly. Clubs with open dates on Saturdays may be instructed to play any outstanding Competition fixture on such date. A minimum of ..... days' notice will be given in respect of any such arrangement.

Midweek fixtures in the Competition shall not take precedence over fixtures in the Nominated Cup Competition of the Affiliated Association to which it was first affiliated.

8.5 In the event of any Club being required to play an FA Cup, FA Trophy or FA Vase match within 72 hours before and/or after a scheduled Competition fixture (or fixtures) it shall have the right to apply in writing as soon as practically possible (but in any event no later than 48 hours after becoming aware of the relevant Cup fixture) to have its Competition fixture(s) postponed with or without the consent of its opponent. At the same time as it makes the application a copy shall be sent to its opponent(s) who shall raise any objection within a further 24 hours of notification. Thereafter the Competition shall decide in its absolute discretion as soon as reasonably possible as to whether or not the application is approved. The Competition may, in its absolute discretion, consider an application to postpone a Competition fixture(s) made by an applicant Club more than 48 hours after it became aware of the relevant Cup fixture.

8.6 The standard kick-off times shall be as follows:

Saturday matches - 3.00 pm

Midweek matches - 7.45 pm [unless a Club notifies the Competition Secretary in writing before the commencement of each Playing Season to state that it wishes all its home midweek matches to kick off at pm].

All agreed changes to time of kick-off to be notified to the Board immediately for confirmation.

Clubs with ground sharing agreements must arrange for home matches to be played on Friday, Saturday or Sunday. If a clash of fixtures occurs with the sharing Club and for any reason a match is unable to be played on a Saturday, the match must be played on either the day before ie on Friday, or the day after ie on Sunday. If Clubs are unable to agree on the date then it will be played on the Sunday unless the Board decides otherwise. The decision of the Board shall be final and binding. Official bank holidays and Sundays - [ ] unless agreed otherwise by the two Clubs and the Board; application shall be made to the Competition Secretary by both Clubs at least 21 days before the relevant date.

[All Competition midweek fixtures will be scheduled for Tuesday Evenings, pm Kick-Off.]

To re-schedule a midweek fixture for an evening other than [a Tuesday] [a Club's usual midweek night] will require written agreement of both Clubs and the Competition Secretary.

8.7

8.7.1 The Board may change any Competition fixtures , including the kick off time, during the season to suit the overall interests of the Competition (including for broadcasting or live streaming purposes). The [Board] [Competition Secretary] shall notify both participating Clubs in writing about any change to a Competition fixture.

Any decision made pursuant to this Rule 8.7.1 is made at the absolute discretion of the Board and cannot be appealed by either of the participating Clubs pursuant to Rule 16.1 or 16.4.

8.7.2 The Board shall have the power to decide whether a ground is suitable for Competition matches and to order a Club whose ground is deemed unsuitable to play its home matches at an alternative suitable ground.

8.8 [ ] weeks' notice is required from both participating Clubs wishing to re-arrange a Saturday match to Friday evening or Sunday. A request made in less than this period of time will only be considered by the Board in exceptional circumstances and granted at their sole discretion.

8.9 A Club may not enter its first team in any outside competition, other than those listed in Rule 8.4, without the prior permission of the Board. The Competition Secretary must be informed in writing of all fixtures, postponements, abandonments and results of all matches played in any other competition.

8.10 When a Club obtains the consent of the Board to postpone a fixture due to the non-availability of its Players, that Club shall be liable to pay any expenses directly attributable to such postponement which have been incurred by the opposing Club. Any claim by the opposing Club must be submitted to the Competition Secretary within three working days of such postponement, with a copy to the Club that obtained the postponement. If the reason for the postponement is the illness of the Club's Players, medical certificates for those Players must be submitted to the Competition Secretary within three working days of such postponement together with a list of all Players registered by that Club with the Competition at the date of postponement with full details of each Player's inability to play entered against each name on the list.

The amount of claim will be at the discretion of the Board.

PRE-MATCH ARRANGEMENTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

8.11 Each Club must take every precaution to keep its ground in good playing condition and amenities (including floodlights) in good working order and complying with the Criteria Document throughout the Playing Season.

8.12 All Clubs must have [a facsimile machine,] a mobile telephone and an email address operational at all times. These will be published in the Competition Handbook and/or on the Competition's website unless a Club requests otherwise.

8.13 The home Club shall advise the visiting Club and the Match Officials of the date and time of kick-off of each match and the team colours, including the colour of the goalkeeper's jersey, it will be wearing, to be received at least five days prior to the match and the visiting Club and the Match Officials must acknowledge receipt to be received at least three days before the match.

Where the home Club has a Football Turf Pitch, it shall advise the visiting Club and Match Officials of any footwear requirements issued by the Football Turf Pitch manufacturer that will apply to players, medical staff and Match Officials (and any other individuals permitted to enter the field of play) at least five days prior to the match. The visiting Club must disseminate this information to its players and club officials.

Failure by the visiting Club to ensure its players or club officials comply with any footwear requirements communicated by the home Club in accordance with this Rule may result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

The visiting Club must include in its acknowledgement the team colours, including the colour of the goalkeeper's jersey, it will be wearing.

8.14 The home Club is responsible for publishing a full match programme acceptable to the Board for each of its Competition matches. [A full match programme available electronically only shall be acceptable providing that each Club has approval from the Board before the commencement of the Playing Season and must be continuous for the whole of that Playing Season.] A Team Sheet will not be considered sufficient to comply with this Rule.

The visiting Club must send in writing to the home Club details of their matchday squad and management team together with any supplementary information required by the Competition from time to time (this may include their Club crest, Club history, up-to-date pen pictures of their current Players registered with the Competition for the season, latest team photograph and/or kit colours) at least five days before the scheduled date of the match between the two Clubs.

The home Club programme must include the details sent by the visiting Club in the match day programme [and a copy of each match day programme shall be sent by the home Club to the Competition Secretary within 3 days of the match with the relevant match report form unless advised of an alternative arrangement by the Competition Secretary.]

Clubs will be responsible for all comments in their match day programme in respect of the Competition, the Company or other member Clubs, notwithstanding any disclaimers to the contrary. No part of a Club's programme issued for a match in any competition shall, in the opinion of the Board, bring the Competition or the Company into disrepute.

All Clubs will be responsible for their official website or similar computer related information system, which is within the public domain. Nothing shall be included on the website which in the opinion of the Board brings the Competition or the Company into disrepute.

8.15 The postponement of matches due to ground conditions must be carried out in accordance with Rule 14.2.

8.16 Where a match is re-arranged or cancelled after the officials have been appointed, it is the duty of the home Club to notify the officials of the cancellation of their appointments immediately. Clubs in default of this Rule may be subject to any action decided by the Board.

8.17 The Board shall determine the policy of the Competition for the issuing of match day passes. A home Club cannot refuse the admission into the ground of an away Club Official, as defined in the Rules of the Association, save for that individual being subject to a suspension or banning order from the Association or Competition.

8.18 All Clubs at Steps 1 to 6 are required to have a working and serviced defibrillator available at all home matches.

8.19 Clubs shall be permitted access to the field of play at least sixty (60) minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time, such access to include the use of fully working floodlights where necessary.

Players and Club officials accessing a Football Turf Pitch must adhere to any applicable footwear requirements.

MATCH MANAGEMENT

8.20 All matches shall be of ninety minutes duration (subject to any allowance for time lost). The half time interval in all matches shall not exceed fifteen minutes. Save where a match is abandoned, any match which is of less than ninety minutes duration may be ordered by the Board to stand as a completed match or replayed for the full period of ninety minutes.

8.21 Each Club must hand the Team Sheet containing name(s) of Players taking part in a match (including the name(s) and number(s) of the nominated substitute(s) to the Referee and a representative of their opponents in the presence of the Referee at least forty five minutes before the scheduled time of kick-off. The Players' numbers (in accordance with Rule 7) and the colours of the playing strip must be clearly stated. Any Clubs in breach may be fined.

8.22 Any Club altering its team selection or numbering after Team Sheets have been exchanged may be fined. A Player who is named on the Team Sheet may be replaced without fine if he is injured warming up after exchange of the Team Sheet. Any subsequent changes must be notified to the referee and to a representative of the opponents before the actual kick-off.

[The name of the Doctor or Medical Practitioner in attendance (in accordance with Rule 25) must be entered on the Team Sheet in the appropriate space provided.]

8.23 Clubs taking the field of play – For all matches under the jurisdiction of the Competition, Clubs shall be required to enter the field of play together, preceded by the Match Officials, not less than 5 (five) minutes before the advertised time of kick-off.

8.24 Each Club shall be prepared to kick-off at the scheduled time unless a satisfactory explanation is offered. Any Club commencing a Competition match with less than 11 Players may be subject to a fine. Each team participating in a match shall represent the full available strength of each competing Club.

8.25 In all Competition Matches the number of Players and officials of a Club seated on the team benches, in the designated technical area, must not exceed 11 unless the team bench facility provides more than 11 individual seats. Additional seating near or around the team benches in the designated technical area is not permitted.

8.26 Only one person at a time has the authority to convey tactical instructions to the Players during the match from within the technical area.

8.27 All team officials and substitutes seated on the bench shall be listed on the official Team Sheet when it is submitted to the Match Officials. Only those persons listed on the official Team Sheet shall be permitted in the technical area.

8.28 The occupants of the technical area must behave in a responsible manner at all times. Misconduct by occupants of this area will be reported by the Referee to The FA, who shall have the power to impose sanctions as deemed fit. Any occupant dismissed from the technical area shall immediately go to a location within the ground from which they cannot view the remainder of the game.

8.29 With the exception of the team manager, the team coach and any substitutes who are warming up or warming down, all other personnel are to remain seated on the trainer's bench. The team manager or team coach is allowed to move to the edge of the technical area to issue instructions to his team.

8.30 [All occupants of the technical area must wear corporate bench kit as directed by the Competition. The only exception would be the Team manager who will be allowed to wear suits and overcoats not displaying any sponsorship logos. [Corporate bench kit must also be worn by the players and staff in warm-ups and warm-downs, and where possible in media interviews on match days]. Failure to wear the bench kit will result in a fine.]

8.31 Match Videos

NEXT SECTION IS FOR NATIONAL LEAGUE, NATIONAL LEAGUE NORTH AND NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH ONLY

The Home Club in all matches played under the jurisdiction of the Competition shall film the game in its entirety with an uninterrupted view and provide a full match video to a content management solution as specified by the Competition and in a timeframe as determined by the Competition. The Away Club may film the match if this is agreed by the Home Club, such agreement is not to be unreasonably withheld.

Clubs are permitted to use or duplicate match footage with the permission of the Competition only. Filming shall be in a format as directed by the National League from time to time.

NEXT SECTION IS FOR STEP 3 & 4 LEAGUES ONLY

Where matches played under the jurisdiction of the Competition are filmed, Clubs may only use or duplicate that match footage with the permission of the Competition. The Away Club may film the match if this is agreed by the Home Club, such agreement is not to be unreasonably withheld. A copy of the match footage must be retained for at least 6 months and provided to The FA or the Competition upon request.

ALL LEAGUES RESUME HERE

MATCH STREAMING BY A CLUB

8.32 Unless determined otherwise by The FA, a Club participating in a Competition Match may offer a live stream of that match online subject to compliance with the following conditions:

8.32.1 consent of the Board to the live stream taking place must be obtained;

8.32.2 the two competing Clubs must consent to the live stream taking place and agree any associated live streaming arrangements (including the costs associated with those arrangements, if applicable);

8.32.3 subject to Rule 8.32.4, the live stream cannot take place during the Transmission-Free Period;

8.32.4 where the live stream is to take place during the Transmission-Free Period, it must be geo-blocked so that it is not accessible in the UK (or any Crown Dependency of the UK); and

8.32.5 a copy of the live stream footage must be provided to The FA, the Board or the opposing Club upon request following the Competition Match.

8.33 A Club must provide evidence of compliance with the conditions set out in Rule 8.32 upon request by The FA or the Board.

8.34 The FA or the Board may take action against any Club for a failure to comply with any of the conditions set out in Rule 8.32 or any failure to comply with a request made pursuant to Rule 8.33.

POST MATCH MANAGEMENT

8.35 Each Club shall submit the fully completed copy of the appropriate match result forms by first class post, or facsimile, or email, or as otherwise instructed by the Competition to the Appointing Authority and the Competition within 3 days of the match. When a Club considers that the Referee has discharged his duties incompetently and awards a mark of 60 or less, a detailed report must be sent to the Appointing Authority within three days of the match by the method instructed by the Appointing Authority. Clubs in default of any provision of the Rule will be subject to a fine for each offence.

8.36 In the event that a match is either: (a) abandoned before half time, or (b) postponed after spectators have been permitted to enter the ground, the Club playing at home will issue a voucher to each spectator valid for free admission if the match is ordered to be replayed or is rescheduled. In the event that the match is abandoned during or after the half time interval the Club playing at home is not obliged to issue such a voucher.

In the event that a match is postponed before kick-off, then the Club playing at home will inform spectators who have already paid for admission, how they can make an application for reimbursement of that admission cost.

8.37 In the event that a match is abandoned for reasons over which neither Club has control, the Club playing at home shall retain the gate receipts for such uncompleted match and the Board has the power to order that either: (a) the original match stands as a completed match, or (b) the match shall be replayed (and the terms upon which the match is to be replayed).

8.38 In the event of a match being abandoned due to the conduct of one Club or its members or supporters, the Board has the power to order that either: (a) the original match stands as a completed match, (b) the match is replayed (and the terms upon which the match is replayed), or (c) the match is not replayed, and to award either one or three points to the Club not at fault. Subject to Rule 8.40, the Board cannot levy a financial penalty due to the conduct of a Club.

8.39 In the event of the match being abandoned due to the conduct of both Clubs or their members or supporters, no financial penalty can be applied by the Board to either Club and the Board has the power to order that either: (a) the original match stands as a completed match, or (b) the match shall be replayed (and the terms upon which the match is to be replayed).

8.40 In the event of a match having to be postponed or abandoned and one Club is found to be at fault then opponents for that match shall be compensated by the Club at fault. In the case of a visiting Club where it has undertaken all or part of its journey then travelling expenses and meal allowances may be claimed based on the total mileage involved in the whole journey. In exceptional circumstances, expenses for overnight accommodation up to a maximum of 18 persons may be claimed. In some instances compensation may also be claimed when neither of the Clubs is at fault. The Board will determine the amount of compensation payments to be made, if any.

All claims for compensation by either Club in the case of either an abandoned match or a postponed match must be received by the Competition Secretary within 14 days of the date of the match to which the claim relates.

POST MATCH ADMINISTRATION

8.41 The home Club shall be responsible for notifying the Competition immediately following the conclusion of each home Competition match the result of that match together with the attendance, the times of all goals scored in the match and the scorer of each goal. In any FA or Affiliated Association Competition the home Club if two Clubs are playing the tie, or the Club if the match involves a team outside of the Competition, must also follow this procedure.

8.42 In the event of the match being postponed, not completed or abandoned, the home Club must immediately notify the following by telephone (or by any other means as communicated by the Competition from time to time): the Competition results service, the Competition Secretary and, in the case of a match postponement, the Appointing Authority, the visiting Club and the Match Officials. When a postponement occurs in any FA or County Cup competition, the home Club, if two Clubs are playing the tie, or the Club if the match involves a team outside of the Competition, must also follow this procedure.

8.43 Where a match has been postponed for any reason, the two Clubs concerned must agree within 7 days of the postponement a new date (which shall, save in exceptional circumstances, be within 35 days of the original date) and in default the Board is empowered to order Clubs to play on a date it considers suitable.

Any Club without just cause failing to fulfil an engagement to play a Competition match on the appointed date shall for each offence be liable to expulsion from the Competition and/or such other disciplinary action the Board may determine, including the deduction of up to a maximum of three points from the offending Club's record, any expenses incurred by their opponents, and a fine.

In the event of a Club being in breach of the previous paragraph of this Rule then the Board may award points to the Club not at fault as if the match had been played and the League table shall reflect the position as if the match had been played with the result awarded by the Board.

9. REGISTERED INTERMEDIARIES/AGENTS

9.1 An Intermediary/Agent cannot have an involvement in any Club in an official capacity (as defined by the Board) nor may he hold office with the Competition.

9.2 All Clubs must comply with The FA Regulations concerning Intermediaries/Agents.

10. FINANCIAL RECORDS

10.1 All Clubs shall keep their accounting records for recording the fact and nature of all receipts and payments so as to disclose with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the financial position including the assets and liabilities of the Club.

10.2 The home Club shall retain all gate receipts. The Away [visiting] Club shall be entitled to 15% of the Ground's maximum capacity or a minimum of 600 tickets at Steps 1-2, whichever is the greater, subject to any stipulation by the relevant safety authority affecting these figures. A reasonable allocation of the total disabled spectator accommodation where appropriate shall be made available to disabled supporters of the Away Club.

At Step 1, the Away Club's allocation entitlement shall include a minimum of 90 covered seat tickets.

At Step 2, the Away Club's allocation entitlement shall include a reasonable number of covered seat tickets.

Clubs must ensure that all gate receipts are fully and properly recorded and accounted for in the accounting records of the club.

Clubs should have a system in operation for home games that enables them to accurately report on the following;

- A record of all tickets sold in advance
- A reconciliation of cash received by category of entrant through each turnstile
- The number of entrants through each turnstile
- A schedule of the numbers admitted to parts of the stadium that do not pass through a turnstile
- A list of complimentary tickets authorised

This documentation should be reconciled to the overall takings and declared attendance for each home game.

NEXT SECTION IS FOR NATIONAL LEAGUE ONLY

10.3 Sale of tickets for away supporters - Clubs are required to sell tickets for their away matches if required to do so by the Home Club and Home Clubs are required to supply tickets for their home matches to the Away Club for sale by the Away Club to its supporters if so requested by the Away Club. These tickets are to be made available on a sale or return basis and must be ordered by the Away Club at least five weeks before the Competition match to which they relate. The Home Club must deliver those tickets to the Away Club at the latest four weeks before the Competition match to which they relate. Where any match is arranged at shorter notice the above steps shall be taken as soon as is reasonably practicable. Visiting supporters should also have the same opportunity to take advantage of pre-booking discounts that apply to home supporters.

For League matches only the Away Club shall be entitled to a commission representing five (5) per cent of the aggregate sales (exclusive of VAT) of tickets sold on behalf of the Home Club, unless otherwise agreed between the Clubs. The Away Club shall submit a VAT invoice, in respect of the commission due, to the Home Club within five working days of the match taking place.

The Away Club may charge a booking fee of transaction charge to the customer providing this is exactly the same in every respect as that which it charges for tickets to its own home matches.

Unless otherwise agreed between the Clubs unsold tickets must be returned, and received by the Home Club, no later than 48 hours prior to the date of the match. Payments for tickets sold by an Away Club must be made to the Home Club within five working days of the date of the match taking place.

Any Club making late payment shall:-

Pay interest to the Home Club at the rate of 5 (five) per cent per annum over Barclays Bank base rate in force from time to time calculated on a daily basis, on the outstanding sum from the due date to the actual date of payment to the Home Club, and

Forfeit its entitlement to the 5 (five) per cent commission detailed above.

ALL LEAGUES RESUME HERE

10.4 For Competition league matches only, the travelling expenses of match officials shall be pooled, each Club rendering on the match report details of all payments made.

The Company shall, at the conclusion of the season, divide the total cost of officials in each division by the total number of Clubs in that division and where the total payment made by the Club is less than the equal share of the pool, the Club shall pay the difference within 14 days of the date of posting of the written notification to the Club.

Where the sum paid by the Club is more than the equal share of the pool, the Club will be reimbursed from the pool of monies received from all the other Clubs.

10.5 In the event of a transfer of a player where a consideration is agreed, the consideration can only be paid between the two clubs (the transferor and transferee clubs).

The full name of each contracting club should be stated in the transfer agreement. The full consideration involved must be recorded in the accounting records of both clubs.

10.6 Any Club temporarily transferring a player's registration to another club should invoice the receiving club in accordance with the terms of the loan agreement. The player concerned should remain on the payroll of the Club holding his permanent registration for the period of the loan.

10.7 All loans extended to a Club must be documented in full in the accounting records of the Club. Documentation supporting each loan must be retained and should include the following information:-

- The value of the loan.
- The length of the loan.
- The interest rate charged, and whether this is fixed or variable.
- Repayment terms.
- The full names of the individual or corporate body extending the loan.
- The terms in the event of a default on the loan.

The document should be signed by two directors, Officers or Executive Committee Members who are independent of the party extending the loan.

10.8 Within nine months of its accounting reference date, each Club shall submit to the Company a copy of its full annual financial statements as approved by the Club's board or committee and confirmation that the annual financial statements have been circulated to its members/shareholders.

10.9 All Clubs must comply with The FA's Third Party Interest in Players Regulations.

11. FOOTBALL CREDITORS

Where a Club defaults in making any payments to any Football Creditor, the Club shall be subject to such penalty as the Board may decide, including, but not limited to, an Embargo; a points deduction; a Bond; a suspension; or any combination thereof.

12. CHAMPION, RELEGATION

12.1 Three points will be awarded for a win at home or away and one point for a drawn match at home or away.

12.2 At the end of the Playing Season of each competition a table will be compiled showing the playing record of each Club in each division of the Competition. The playing record of each Club must include any points deduction made by the Competition or by the FA and in any situation where points per game are calculated the calculation will be made after taking into account the deduction of any such points.

The position of each Club in the table so compiled shall be determined in order with the Club being awarded the highest number of points being first and the Club being awarded the second highest number of points being placed second and so on. In the event of two or more clubs being awarded the same number of points the highest placed Club shall be decided as follows:

12.2.1 Goal difference – If any two or more Clubs have scored the same number of points their position in the division shall be determined on goal difference, that is to say, the difference between the total number of goals scored by and against a Club in League Matches in that Season, and the higher or highest placed Club shall be the Club with the higher or highest goal difference.

12.2.2 In the event of the goal difference being equal the highest placed Club shall be the Club which has scored the most goals;

12.2.3 In the event that two or more Clubs have the same goal difference and have scored the same number of goals then the highest placed Club shall be the Club which has won the most matches.

12.2.4 In the event of the two Clubs still being equal the Club which has the better playing record against the other Club in their head to head Competition matches during the Season will be the highest placed Club.

12.2.5 If the records of two or more Clubs are still equal and it is necessary for any reason to determine the position of each then the Clubs concerned shall play off a deciding match or matches on a neutral ground or grounds with the net gate money after deducting the usual matches expenses being divided equally between the two competing Clubs.

12.3 Promotion, relegation and lateral movement of Clubs shall be in accordance with the principles established by the Leagues Committee of The FA.

12.4 [each League to insert provision for promotion and relegation not covered by the LC]

12.5 If no Clubs are eligible or wish promotion, the number of Clubs to be relegated will be reduced.

12.6 In the event of a Club, not being placed in a relegation position at the end of the season, wishing to resign from the Competition at the end of the season, or having been removed from membership under the Articles the number of Clubs to be relegated shall be reduced accordingly.

12.7 In the event of a Club opting to be relegated or being removed from membership under the Articles such Club or Clubs will replace the Club or Clubs otherwise due for relegation in accordance with Regulation 5.4 in the Regulations for the Establishment and Operation of the National League System.

NEXT SECTION IS FOR NATIONAL LEAGUE ONLY

12.8 The Board may nominate Clubs to participate in sanctioned international competitions. The Board shall nominate the highest placed Club(s) from the previous season or apply any other reasonable method in its absolute discretion. Subject to FA approval, such nominated Clubs shall be obliged to participate and may apply to the Board to request necessary fixture alterations to enable its participation and may apply to the Board for a contribution to any reasonable travel costs sustained directly related to its participation that are not adequately covered by income from the sanctioned competition organiser or from shares of net gate receipts.

ALL OTHER LEAGUES RESUME HERE

13. INSOLVENCY PROVISIONS

13.A SPORTING SANCTIONS

13.A.1 If an Insolvency Event shall occur in relation to any Club that Club shall be deducted 10 (ten) points.

13.A.2 Where a Club takes or suffers an Insolvency Event:

13.A.2.1 during the Playing Season but prior to 5:00 p.m. on the fourth Thursday in March, the points deduction shall apply immediately;

13.A.2.2 during the Playing Season but after 5:00 p.m. on the fourth Thursday in March then Rule 13.A.3 shall apply; and

13.A.2.3 outside the Playing Season, the points deduction shall apply in respect of the following Playing Season such that the Club starts that Playing Season on minus 10 points (including a Club or Clubs Relegated from the [ ] League, where such Club shall be subject to Rule 13 of the [ ] League Rules or where it has been necessary under the National League System Regulations for a Club or Clubs to be moved from one league to another and such Club would have been subject to Rule 13).

13.A.3 Where the circumstances set out in Rule 13.A.2.2 apply and at the end of that Playing Season, having regard to the number of Competition points awarded (ignoring any potential deduction):-

(i) the Club would be relegated in accordance with The [ ] League Rules, the points deduction will apply in the next following Season; or

(ii) the Club would not be relegated as aforesaid, the points deduction will apply in that Playing Season and [ ] League Rules will then apply (if appropriate) following the imposition of the points deduction.

13.A.4 For the purposes of this Rule 13

(i) where any Insolvency Event is taken or suffered other than on a Business Day (as defined by the Insolvency Rules 1986 as amended from time to time) then for the purposes of determining the timing of any points deduction only the action taken or suffered will be deemed to have been taken or suffered on the immediately preceding Business Day; and

(ii) if a Company Voluntary Arrangement is approved, then approval of that Company Voluntary Arrangement shall be deemed to have been given at the date of the first meeting of creditors called to consider that Company Voluntary Arrangement, and not the date of any adjourned meeting of the creditors or the meeting of shareholders.

13.A.5 For the avoidance of doubt, where a Club is subject to more than one Insolvency Event (for example Administration followed by a Company Voluntary Arrangement), the Club shall only be deducted one set of 10 points, such deduction to apply with effect from the first Insolvency Event.

13.A.6 The Competition shall serve the Club with written notice of the points deduction (the 'Notice').

13.A.7 A Club may appeal against such a points deduction. Any such appeal will be conducted in accordance with Part C: Appeals: Non-Fast Track of the Disciplinary Regulations, save that the following paragraphs of those Regulations will not apply – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 21, 23 and 24. In place of those Regulations, the following Rules 13.A.8 to 13.A.12 will apply.

13.A.8 The Notice of Appeal shall be lodged with the FA within 7 days of the date of the Notice.

13.A.9 A Club may appeal against an automatic deduction of points solely on the ground that the insolvency proceedings arose solely as a result of a Force Majeure event (the 'Appeal'). For the purposes of this Rule 13, a 'Force Majeure' event shall be an event that, having regard to all of the circumstances, is reasonably considered to have been unforeseeable and unavoidable.

13.A.10 The Appeal Board shall have the power to:-

13.A.10.1 Confirm the deduction of ten points; or

13.A.10.2 Set aside the deduction of ten points and substitute a deduction of such lower number of points as it shall deem appropriate; or

13.A.10.3 Order that there shall be no sanction at all.

13.A.11 The decision of the Appeal Board shall be final and binding. Any costs incurred by any party in appeal proceedings brought before the Appeal Board shall be met by the Club in any event and shall be considered as a sum due to the Company.

13.A.12 Any sanctions imposed pursuant to these provisions shall not be taken into account in respect of any other sanctions, penalties or fines that may be imposed by the Competition in respect of any breaches of its Rules, Regulations or Articles of Association by the Club.

13.B GENERAL INSOLVENCY

13.B.1 In the event of a Club entering an Insolvency Event between the end of the AGM and start of the AGM immediately following thereafter ('the next AGM') then it shall automatically be relegated by one Step at the next AGM, unless one of the following requirements has been met, namely:

(i) Prior to the next AGM it has Paid in Full all its creditors (including but not limited to Football Creditors); or

(ii) Prior to the next AGM it has Paid in Full its Football Creditors and entered a compliant Creditor Compromise.

For the purposes of this Rule, a Creditor Compromise shall be considered compliant if it provides for the following:

- That all Creditors will be paid in Full;
- The first payment under the terms of the Creditor Compromise shall be made within 28 days of the approval of the Creditor Compromise and shall constitute a minimum of 10% of the total sum payable;
- The balance shall be paid in equal amounts over the remaining period of the Creditor Compromise;
- The period of the Creditor Compromise shall not extend beyond three years from the date of approval.

Notwithstanding the above, in the event of a Club being subject to an Insolvency Event at the date of the AGM, then the Club may be subject to such sanction as the Board may determine, (including expulsion from membership of the Competition) unless the Board is satisfied that by no later than 5pm on 31 July (or, if the 31 July falls on a weekend, 5pm on the immediately preceding Business Day) that the Club (or any new entity to which its membership is subsequently transferred under 2.11.2 above) is in a financial position to complete all of its fixtures for the immediate following Playing Season.

This sanction shall apply in addition to any Club being relegated pursuant to its playing record in the same period namely that in the event of the Club having already been relegated by one Step it shall be relegated two Steps.

This provision is subject to Rule 2.11.1 in respect of Clubs which have transferred their membership pursuant to an Insolvency Event and in that case where there is any conflict between any provision of Clause 13 and Rule 2.11.1 then this Clause 13 shall prevail.

13.B.2 A Club shall not be eligible for promotion or to compete in the Play Offs at the end of a Playing Season if at 5pm on the date on which the last scheduled League fixture is due to be played that Club:

(i) has entered an Insolvency Event between the date of the AGM and 5pm on the date on which the last scheduled League fixture is played and has not Paid in Full all its creditors to which the Insolvency Event applies (including but not limited to Football Creditors) or Paid in Full all its Football Creditors and entered a Creditor Compromise to have Paid in Full all other creditors over an agreed period not extending more than three years following the date of approval of the Creditor Compromise: or

(ii) has not complied with the terms of a Creditor Compromise by which it is bound or is to seek to extend the period of the Creditor Compromise.

13.B.3 The sanctions contained herein shall be in addition to and not in substitution for any other sanctions contained within the Rules and, in particular, the sanctions set out in rule 13.A. For the avoidance of doubt, where a Club is subject to more than one connected Insolvency Event, for example Administration followed by a Company Voluntary Arrangement, any sanction applied to it in accordance with Rule 13.B.1 shall be applied in one Playing Season only except as provided for in Rule 13.B.1

Compliance With/Extension of Creditor Compromises

13.B.4 Any Club must inform the Competition in writing (and provide supporting evidence) within seven (7) days of the Club:

(i) making a payment under the terms of a Creditor Compromise and provide evidence of that payment;

(ii) becoming aware of any failure to comply with the terms of any Creditor Compromise entered into by it (including the failure to make a payment by the due date);

(iii) making an application to extend or vary the terms of the Creditor Compromise entered into by it and provide a copy of the application,

(iv) completing all its obligations under an Insolvency Event and receiving confirmation of such from the relevant Insolvency Practitioner, or

(v) becoming aware of any consent by creditors to compromise the whole or part of the debt admitted into the Creditor Compromise.

13.B.5 Following the approval of a Creditor Compromise, if creditors subsequently consent to compromise the whole or part of the debt admitted to the Creditor Compromise or if any Club makes a successful application to vary the terms of its Creditor Compromise so that the Creditor Compromise is not compliant as provided for in Rule 13.B.1 then that Club shall be automatically relegated by one Step at the end of the Playing Season in which the event takes place. If the Club has already been relegated due to its position in the final table of the Division in which it is competing then it shall be relegated two Steps.

13.B.6 In the event of any Club

(i) Failing to comply with the terms of any Creditor Compromise entered into by it (whether securing Payment in Full of all of its creditors or not) including the failure to make a payment by the due date; and/or

(ii) Breaching any of the provisions of Rule 13.B.4 or failing to notify the Competition of any consent by creditors to compromise the whole or part of the debt admitted thereby rendering the Creditor Compromise as non-compliant as required in Rule 13.B.1.

Then the Board shall have the power to impose such sanction as it deems appropriate, including, but without limitation to expulsion of that Club, the relegation of that Club, the deduction of points and an Embargo.

13.B.7 Where a Club has transferred its membership under Rule 2.11.2 the provisions of Rule 13.B in relation to a Creditor Compromise shall be applied to the former entity that was subject to the Insolvency Event and/or the new entity

13.B.8 **NATIONAL LEAGUE ONLY**

Clubs Relegated from the Football League

In the event of any Club entering the Competition from the EFL whilst subject to any Insolvency Event, then that Club shall be eligible for membership of the Competition and the provisions of Clause 13.B.1 will not apply to it at the AGM at which it is first elected into membership but will apply in all seasons after its first season of membership of the Competition.

ALL LEAGUES RESUME HERE

13.B.9 In the case of a Club or Clubs relegated from a league in the National League System or subject to lateral movement under the National League System Regulations, Rule 13.B.1 shall apply from the date of the AGM of the League of which the Club or Clubs were a member in the immediately preceding Playing Season where the AGM of the Company is later.

14. MATCH OFFICIALS

14.1 Match Officials for all Competition matches shall be appointed by the Appointing Authority.

14.2 No Club shall postpone a Competition match on account of the apparent state of the ground. In the event that such circumstances prevail, Clubs should comply with procedures provided for in the document published by The FA "Recommended procedure for the guidance of Clubs and Referees in determining the suitability of grounds in adverse weather conditions". Should the ground be declared unfit it is the responsibility of the home Club to immediately advise the Competition, the Appointing Authority, the visiting Club and the Match Officials.

14.3 In the event of any of the Match Officials appointed for a match not being in attendance at the match or becoming unable to complete the match it shall be completed under the control of the remaining Match Officials unless the competing Clubs are able to agree upon a substitute who is acceptable to the Match Referee; should the appointed Match Referee fail to appear then the senior Assistant Referee must take charge. Any substitute agreed for a match shall be considered a Match Official for the purposes of that match.

In the event that a Club causes a match to be abandoned in relation to the operation of this Rule then that Club shall be charged with failing to fulfil a fixture (Rule 8.38 refers).

14.4 Match Officials should be present at the appointment at least [ ] minutes prior to the scheduled time of kick-off. The appointed Referee may be required to visit the ground earlier if requested to do so by the home Club.

14.5 In cases where it is found necessary to stop play owing to the weather or other cause, the Referee must wait a reasonable length of time before deciding on abandonment.

14.6 Referees must report on the relevant form all cases where teams commence a match late or without eleven Players on the field of play. Referees must also report their own or any assistant referees' late arrival in any matches, and notify those concerned at the time of their intention. Assistant referees must also send an explanation of their late arrival to the Appointing Authority in writing by the method instructed by the Appointing Authority within 3 days of the match.

14.7 At Steps 2 to 6, the home Club will be responsible for paying the Match Officials the fees and match expenses set by the Appointing Authority either: (a) on the day of the match in their dressing room, within a reasonable time after the conclusion of the match (including matches abandoned for any reason), or (b) by BACS payment if this is actioned within 24 hours of the kick off time. In the case of a postponed match, whether or not gate money is taken, any Match Official who has travelled to the match will be entitled to claim travelling expenses and half their match fee from the home Club. Where provided by the home Club, each Match Official must complete and submit a claim form for expenses.

14.8 The home Club shall be responsible for providing Assistant Referees with distinctive flags of a suitable size in an acceptable condition.

14.9 Three match balls proposed to be used in the match and, if applicable, supplied by the Company under a ball sponsorship agreement must be submitted to and approved by the Referee before the commencement of the match in his/her dressing room.

It is the responsibility of the Club playing at home in each match played under the jurisdiction of the Competition to provide match balls in accordance with any match ball agreement signed by the Company. [The official Competition match ball must be used in all Competition matches and pre-match warm-ups.]

14.10 [The away Club is responsible for the provision of its own practice balls for use prior to the start of each match, as supplied by the Competition under a ball sponsorship agreement.]

14.11 Match Officials officiating in Competitions using the reporting functionality in The FA's Match Official Administration System (MOAS) must report all breaches of Rule via MOAS within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match. Match Officials officiating in Competitions not using the reporting functionality in MOAS must report all breaches of Rule to the Competition Secretary in writing within three days of the match on the appropriate form by first class post or electronically.

15. WITHDRAWAL OF CLUBS

15.1 A Club must notify the Company not later than 31st March each year of its intention to withdraw from the Competition at the end of that Playing Season. Failure to do so will make a Club liable to a fine.

This Rule shall not operate so as to preclude promotion, relegation or lateral movement of any Club to another competition in accordance with Rule 12.

15.2 If, between the holding of the Company annual general meeting and the commencement of the next Playing Season, any Club, either:

(i) ceases to operate for any reason; or

(ii) gives notice to the Company that it does not intend to compete in the Competition during the next Playing Season:

then no adjustment shall be made to the number of Clubs participating in the Competition for that Playing Season and the remaining Clubs will form the Competition for that Playing Season.

15.3 If, after the commencement of a Playing Season, any Club either:

(i) ceases to operate for any reason; or

(ii) gives notice to the Company that it does not intend to continue competing in the Competition for any reason:

then the Company will expunge the playing record of that Club and any monies due to that Club from the Company shall be forfeited. The Company shall have the discretion to issue charges against that Club and to issue fines against that Club in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

15.4 From the operative date in Rule 15.2 or 15.3, the Club concerned shall no longer be a member of the Company and shall not be entitled to any further payment from the Company but may be required to make payment to the Company.

16. PROTESTS, APPEALS, DISPUTES ARISING FROM PLAYER CONTRACTS

Protests, claims or complaints relating to Rules

16.1 Subject to Rules 16.5 and 16.10 below, all protests, claims or complaints relating to these Rules shall be heard and determined by the Board (or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Board), which shall have the power to regulate its own procedure. The Clubs or Players protesting, claiming or complaining must email such protest, claim or complaint to the Competition Secretary and deposit a fee which shall be forfeited in the event of the protest, claim or complaint not being upheld, and the unsuccessful party (or parties) may, in addition, be ordered to pay the costs at the direction of the Board.

16.2 All such protests, claims and complaints must be received in writing by the Competition Secretary within fourteen days of the event or decision to which the protest, claim or complaint relates.

16.3 The Board may compel any party to the protest, claim or complaint to pay such expenses as the Board shall direct.

16.4 An intention to appeal against a decision of the Board must be lodged with The FA within seven days of the Board providing written notification of its decision.

A notice of appeal against a decision of the Board must be lodged with The FA within fourteen days of the Board providing written notification of its decision, accompanied by the relevant fee which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. A copy of the notice of appeal must also be sent to the Competition Secretary.

All appeals to The FA must be lodged in accordance with Part C: Appeals Non-Fast Track of The FA's Disciplinary Regulations.

Disputes arising from a Player's Contract

Disciplinary Matters

16.5 Within seven days of receipt of any notice of a fine or suspension imposed by a Club under the Player's contract, the Player may appeal that decision to the Board by giving notice of appeal to the Club and the Board. The Board shall have the power to regulate its own procedure and shall hear the appeal within fourteen days of receipt of the notice of appeal. The grounds of appeal available to the Player shall not be limited and the Board shall have full power to review the facts and any evidence (including hearing from any relevant witnesses).

16.6 Within seven days of receipt of the Board's decision, either the Club or the Player may appeal against the decision of the Board to the Contractual Disputes Tribunal in accordance with the Player Status Rules. An appeal to the Contractual Disputes Tribunal shall be heard within 14 days of receipt of the notice of further appeal or, if exceptional circumstances exist which means that the appeal cannot be heard in that time frame, it shall be heard as soon as practicable. Any reference to the 'League Appeals Committee' in the Player's contract shall be deemed as a reference to the Contractual DisputesTribunal.

Termination

16.7 A Club, on giving fourteen days' notice to a Player to terminate his Player's contract, must state in the notice his right of appeal to the Board and also the address of the Competition Secretary to whom he must appeal. The notice must advise the Player of the necessity of forwarding two copies of his appeal with the deposit fee specified in the Fees Tariff, to the Competition Secretary within seven days of the receipt of the notice from the Club. A copy of such notice must be received by the Competition Secretary within seven days of the sending of the notice in order to be valid.

16.8 A Player on giving fourteen days' notice to his Club to terminate his Player's contract must also notify the Company and The FA of the reasons for the termination of the agreement. A copy of such notice must be received by the Competition Secretary within seven days of the sending of the notice in order to be valid.

16.9 If the recipient of a notice referred to in Rules 16.7 and 16.8 above wishes to do so, they may appeal against the relevant notice to the Board within seven days of the date of receipt of the notice in writing by email to the Competition Secretary with the relevant appeal fee as set out in Schedule A to these Rules. The Board shall have the power to regulate its own procedure. The grounds of appeal available to the appellant shall not be limited and the Board shall have full power to review the facts and any evidence (including hearing from any relevant witnesses).

16.10 Within seven days of receipt of the Board's decision, either the Club or the Player may appeal against the decision of the Board to the Contractual Disputes Tribunal in accordance with the Player Status Rules. An appeal to the Contractual Disputes Tribunal shall be heard within 14 days of receipt of the notice of further appeal or, if exceptional circumstances exist which means that the appeal cannot be heard in that timeframe, it shall be heard as soon as practicable. Any reference to the 'League Appeals Committee' in the Player's contract shall be deemed as a reference to the Contractual Disputes Tribunal.

17. MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS

(a) Undertakings to be given by Club Employees

All Clubs must incorporate in any contracts of employment with their employees, including Player, an undertaking on the part of the employee not to bring The Competition or any Club into disrepute and an undertaking on the part of the employee not knowingly to do anything or omit to do anything which will cause the Club to be in breach of the Laws of the Game, the Rules of The Football Association or the Rules of the Competition.

Without prejudice to the generality of this rule, all Clubs at Step 2 and below must ensure they, and where appropriate any Officers of the Club, comply with the obligations of The Football Association's Owners' and Directors' Test.

(b) Misconduct in pre-arranging the result of matches.

Any Club, Official or Player offering or receiving a payment or any form of inducement to or from any Club or the Official or Player of any Club; or any Club, Official or Player receiving or seeking to receive any payment or other form of inducement from any other person or organisation to win, lose, or draw a Match under the jurisdiction of the Competition or in which the Club participates by reason of membership of the Competition shall be deemed guilty of misconduct.

(c) Any person charged and found guilty of bringing the Competition into disrepute and any Club, Officer or Member charged and found guilty of misconduct as defined by the Board or of inducing or attempting to induce a player of another Club to join his own Club shall be liable to such penalty as the Board shall deem appropriate.

18. TROPHY

The Company shall present to the Winners of all divisions in the Competition [ ] souvenirs, [for the Players, for the secretary, team manager and for assistant and coaching staff.] Additional souvenirs cannot be presented except by consent of the Board, and then at the expense of the requesting Club.

In addition, a Competition championship trophy will be presented as and when the Board determine.

The Clubs concerned will also receive a permanent souvenir.

The trophies are the property of the Company and may never be won outright. A runners' up trophy and medals may also be awarded at the discretion of the Company.

The recipient Club shall be responsible for engraving their details on the trophy before returning same.

The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the trophies:

"We, A.B. the of Football Club, C.D. and E.F members of and representing the said Club, having been declared winners of the [ ] Trophy and the same having been delivered to us by the said Competition, do hereby on behalf of the said Club, jointly and severally agree to return the same to the Competition Secretary, on or before 1st March next in good order and condition, suitably inscribed, in accordance with the Rules of the Competition and if the said Trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care, we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair."

Any Club not returning the Competition trophy by the due date, returning them in poor condition or without being engraved will be fined .

19. ALTERATIONS TO RULES

No alteration to the Rules shall be made until they have been approved by The FA. Alterations to Rules shall be approved at a general meeting of the Company [in accordance with article [ ] of the Articles of Association of the Company].

Proposals for alterations to Rules, together with the name of their proposers and seconders, shall be received by the Competition Secretary not later than 31st October prior to the date fixed for the Annual General Meeting of the Company in each year or not later than eight weeks before the holding of an Extraordinary General Meeting called for the purpose of amending the Rules

20. ADMISSION CHARGES

The minimum charge for admission to all matches shall be determined from time to time by the Board.

Admission charges must be the same for home and visiting supporters at Competition matches for equivalent accommodation. If there is no equivalent accommodation, the Board may in its absolute discretion consider the changes set by the home Club and determine a reasonable equivalent admission charge for visiting supporters, which shall be implemented by the home Club until the end of the current Playing Season.

Clubs may, with the prior written permission of the Board, vary general admission charges for adults to an amount below the minimum charge from time to time determined by the Board (including allowing free admission). Any such variation must be applied to both home and visiting (or neutral) supporters.

Concessionary admission charges or pricing policies for disabled people and their carers / helpers, senior citizens, students, children, unemployed, armed forces etc, if available for home supporters, must be offered on a similar basis to visiting supporters.

[The minimum charge shall apply pro-rata to any Season Ticket albeit with a discount of up to 15%. A Club may provide its Sponsors with complimentary tickets at any time but the value of the said complimentary tickets shall not exceed 10% of the value of the relevant sponsorship per season,]

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

21. LONG SERVICE

21.1 The Board shall be empowered to grant a long service award for 21 years' service with a member Club, providing such an award has not already been made by any other competition.

21.2 [Clubs may enter into agreement with Players after five years continuous service providing for a testimonial. Players shall be qualified for a second testimonial after a further five years continuous service. If a Player is eligible for and entitled to a testimonial, his Club may grant him a monetary consideration, sanctioned by the Board of Directors, in lieu of such testimonial.]

22. CENTENARY AWARDS

A Club celebrating its centenary whilst in membership of the Competition shall be presented with a commemorative award by the Board.

23. FOOTBALL TURF PITCHES

23.1 The Pitch

With effect from the commencement of Season 2016/17 Competition Matches may be played on:

(a) Grass Pitch; or

(b) Football Turf Pitch in Steps 1 to 6

23.2 Ground Maintenance

The Club is to be responsible for the maintenance of the Pitch and for the general maintenance of the ground. The Club must ensure that adequate arrangements are in place to maintain its Pitch in good order, as required under these Rules.

23.3 Pitch Standards

All Pitches must be flat and free from surface depressions and excessive undulations. The maximum slopes allowable shall not exceed an even gradient of vertical to horizontal 1:41 in any direction.

The Competition may require a Club to take such steps as the Board shall specify if not satisfied that an adequate standard of the Pitch is being maintained, including but not limited to the Board commissioning an independent report (including a Pitch Test) on the state of the Pitch, the cost of such independent report to be borne by the Club concerned.

23.4 New Installations

Where a Club proposes to install a Football Turf Pitch (or replace an existing Football Turf Pitch) the following shall apply:

For matches played under the auspices of The National League at Step 1& 2 of the National League System:-

(a) the Club shall disclose to the Competition, as soon as reasonably practicable but in any event not later than 7 days following the Club's final match of the Playing Season preceding the scheduled commencement of installation, full details of the proposed contractor installing the Football Turf Pitch and the timescales for installation. The proposed Football Turf Pitch must have a design and specification that is capable of attaining the FIFA Recommended Two Star Certificate following installation;

(b) no installation works shall commence until such time as the Competition has given written approval for the proposed installation and the timetable thereof. Installation may only take place outside the Playing Season;

(c) installation must be scheduled to be completed in sufficient time to enable the completion of a Pitch Test and for confirmation of the results thereof to be supplied to the Competition no later than 14 days prior to the commencement of the following Playing Season;

(d) the Club shall procure that:

(i) a Pitch Test is carried out on the newly installed Football Turf Pitch; and

(ii) the FIFA accredited field test institute provides the Competition with a copy of their official reports to FIFA immediately following completion of the Pitch Test; and

(e) the Club shall provide a copy of the FIFA Quality Pro Certificate within 7 days of receipt to the Competition.

For matches played at Step 3 and below of the National League System:-

(f) the Club shall disclose to the Competition, as soon as reasonably practicable full details of the proposed contractor installing the Football Turf Pitch and the timescales for installation. The proposed Football Turf Pitch must have a design and specification that is capable of attaining the FIFA Quality Certificate or Quality Pro Certificate following installation. Clubs must be awarded the FIFA Quality Pro Certificate by 31 May in the season before promotion to Step 2, save for those pitches installed on or prior to 31 July 2016 as set out in Rule 23.5 below;

(g) no installation works shall commence until such time as the Competition has given written approval for the proposed installation and the timetable thereof;. The Competition will not grant approval unless the Club is able to evidence that:

- Installation works are scheduled to take place before 15 July in any year with a confirmed end date.
- Any necessary funding for the installation works is in place.
- A fully executed groundshare agreement (in a form acceptable to the Competition) is in place for the period of the installation.
- Where required pursuant to a lease, permission for the installation works has been obtained.

If approval is granted but installation works do not commence by 15 July in the relevant year, the Competition may withdraw its approval and order that the works cannot commence until the end of the Playing Season.

(h) the Club shall procure that:

(i) a Pitch Test is carried out on the newly installed Football Turf Pitch; and

(ii) the FIFA accredited field test institute provides the Competition with a copy of their official reports to FIFA immediately following completion of the Pitch Test; and

(i) the Club shall provide a copy of the FIFA Quality Certificate or Quality Pro Certificate within 7 days of receipt to the Competition in which it is in membership.

23.5 Only Clubs with FIFA Quality Pro certified Football Turf Pitches will be eligible to take part in matches under the auspices of The National League at Step 1 & 2 of the National League System SAVE THAT:

(a) a Club which has a ground with the recommended FIFA Quality Certificate installed by 31 July 2016 can be promoted to Step 2 of the National league System providing that it undertakes that upon renewal of the Pitch the Club will install a Pitch that is awarded a FIFA Quality Pro Certificate or be relegated to the appropriate Step; or

(b) a Club can be promoted to Step 2 provided that:

(i) By 31 May in the season prior to promotion, the Club undertakes that its Pitch will be awarded a FIFA Quality Pro Certificate by no later than the following 31 May (i.e. 31 May in the Club's first season participating at Step 2),

(ii) The Club's undertaking must include at least the following information:

1. Details about how any necessary works will be completed (including any relevant planning permissions required and a plan for those to be obtained).

2. Details of the costs involved in completing the works and evidence to demonstrate how those costs will be funded

; and

(iii) By 31 March in the Club's first season participating at Step 2, the Club provides an update to the Board detailing the progress made with reference to the undertaking, an updated funding position and such other information as the Board considers necessary.

Failure by the Club to obtain a FIFA Quality Pro Certificate for its Pitch by 31 May in the Club's first season participating at Step 2 will lead to the Club being relegated to the appropriate Step.

23.6 Annual Requirements

Without prejudice to the obligations set out in Paragraph 23.3 above, Clubs that have a Football Turf Pitch shall:-

(a) take such steps and/or refrain from such actions as are necessary to ensure that the Football Turf Pitch continues to meet the requirements for a FIFA Quality Certificate or Quality Pro Certificate (as applicable) at all times during each Playing Season including, without limitation, complying with all requirements of the FIFA Quality Standard;

(b) where required to undertake Pitch Tests:

(i) conduct an initial Pitch Test between 1 January and 31 May in the relevant Playing Season (in addition to any Pitch Test carried out in accordance with Rule 23.4(d) or Rule 23.4(h));

(ii) where the initial Pitch Test is failed, conduct a further Pitch Test by 31 July following the relevant Playing Season;

(iii) procure that the FIFA accredited field test institute undertaking any Pitch Test provides to The Competition a copy of their official reports to FIFA immediately following completion of the Pitch Test;

(iv) provide a copy of the FIFA Quality Certificate or Quality Pro Certificate to the Competition and Football Foundation by 31 July following the relevant Playing Season; and

(c) co-operate with all reasonable requests made by the Competition, the Association or FIFA for the performance of the Football Turf Pitch to be measured.

Where either (i) a Club fails to undertake a Pitch Test where required to do so, or (ii) the Pitch Test is failed, that Club shall not be permitted to use its ground for Competition Matches and the Club must enter a groundshare with another Club or club which is acceptable to the Competition, including but not limited to that Club or club's ground meeting the relevant Stadium Accreditation Programme requirements.

23.7 Where the Board is aware, by whatever reason, a Football Turf Pitch fails to meet the requirements of the FIFA Quality Certificate or Quality Pro Certificate (as applicable), including following any Pitch Test, the Club shall forthwith, at its cost, take such steps as the Board shall specify to ensure the Football Turf Pitch is restored to the requirements of the FIFA Quality Certificate or Quality Pro Certificate (as applicable).

23.8 The Competition shall have the right to order the postponement of a match where the Football Turf Pitch fails to meet the requirements of the FIFA Quality Certificate or Quality Pro Certificate (as applicable).

23.9 Where a Club has a Football Turf Pitch, any visiting Club is allowed to train, at no cost to that Club, on the Football Turf Pitch on the day before the relevant match or at a mutually agreed time. The length of this training session may not exceed one hour, unless agreed otherwise with the home Club. The visiting Club must notify the home Club of its intention to exercise this right no later than 2 weeks prior to the scheduled match (or within 48 hours of the arrangement of the fixture, if later).

23.10 A breach of any of the requirements of Rule 23 which results in the postponement or abandonment of a match shall be dealt with in accordance with Rule 8.39.

23.11 Pitch Protection

[In order to protect any Pitch, unless otherwise mutually agreed between both participating Clubs, the following procedures shall be adopted by Players and Officials in the periods immediately before and after a Match and at half time:

(a) the Pitch shall only be used for warming up or warming down by Players named on the Team Sheet;

(b) pre-match warming up by either team shall not commence until 45 minutes before the kick-off time at the earliest, shall not last for more than 30 minutes, and shall end no later than 10 minutes before the kick-off time;

(c) if portable goals are provided they shall be used for all goalkeeping drills other than crossing practice;

(d) the goalmouth area shall be used by goalkeepers only if portable goals are not provided or for crossing practice and then only for not more than 20 minutes;

(e) for the purposes of warming up and warming down each team shall use only part of the Pitch between the edge of a penalty area and the half way line or as otherwise directed by the groundsman;

(f) all speed and stamina work shall be undertaken off the Pitch parallel to the touchline opposite the side to be patrolled by the assistant referee or, in the absence of sufficient space, in that part of the Pitch described in paragraph (e) above or as otherwise directed by the groundsman;

(g) Players using the Pitch at half time as aforesaid shall give due consideration to any other activity or entertainment taking place on the Pitch at the same time;

(h) the Home Club may water the Pitch at half time provided it gives reasonable notice to the referee and the other Club that it intends to do so and that any such watering is carried out evenly over the entire length and width of the Pitch; and

(i) any warming down after the conclusion of the Match shall last for no longer than 15 minutes and for that purpose neither penalty area shall be used].

23.12 Promotion and Relegation to and from The National League

As a pre-condition of entry into The National League (Step 1) any Club proposing to enter with a Football Turf Pitch must by no later than 31st May in its proposed year of entry provide the Competition with an irrevocable undertaking that in the event of it gaining promotion to The Football League at any time that it will comply in full with the applicable criteria, policies and regulations of The Football League in relation to the playing surface and together with such undertaking will provide credible and acceptable evidence as to how it would do so. In the event of the undertaking being breached at the relevant time and as a result the Club not being eligible to be admitted as a member of The Football League then the Club shall not retain its place in The National League and instead shall automatically be relegated to National League North or South and may have levied upon it a fine as determined by the Board in its sole discretion. Such Club shall not be accepted into membership of The National League (Step 1) until such time as it installs a Grass Pitch so that it complies in full with the playing surface regulation of The Football League. This provision shall cease to apply in the event of The Football League accepting clubs with a Football Turf Pitch.

24. INSURANCE

24.1 PLAYERS

All Clubs shall be members of a Players personal accident insurance scheme. The policy cover shall be at least equal to the minimum recommended cover determined from time to time by The Football Association.

[Each Club shall submit to the Board a copy of the insurance policy document together with the last premium payment receipt fourteen days prior to the start of the Playing Season.]

24.2 PUBLIC LIABILITY

All Clubs must have Public Liability cover of at least ten million pounds (£10,000,000).

Each Club shall submit to the Board a copy of the insurance policy document together with the last premium payment receipt fourteen days prior to the start of the Playing Season.

25. QUALIFIED MEDICAL PRACTITIONER

The safety of Players (and, where applicable, others) is of paramount importance. These Rules set out the medical requirements for Clubs participating within the National League System. Nothing in these Rules:

- *prevents any Club from arranging medical provisions that exceed any minimum medical requirements prescribed by these Rules; or*
- *replaces, reduces, or affects in any way the obligations imposed on Clubs or any other persons by statute or common law in the fields of medicine, occupational health and/or health and safety (or any other area).*

While not forming part of these Rules, from time to time The FA issues guidance in respect of medical matters, which is published on The FA's website and distributed to Participants as appropriate.

25.1 Subject to Rule 25.2, the following table sets out the designated Qualified Medical Practitioner or First Aider which each Club, operating at its respective Step of the National League System, shall have in attendance throughout all Competition Matches:-

Step 1 Clubs	Each Club shall have at least one Qualified Medical Practitioner having a valid Advance Trauma Medical Management in Football (ATMMiF) qualification.
Step 2 Clubs	Each Club shall have at least one Qualified Medical Practitioner, having a valid Intermediate Trauma Medical Management in Football (ITMMiF) qualification.
Step 3 Clubs	Each Club shall have at least one Qualified Medical Practitioner, having a valid Emergency Medical First Aid in Football (EMFAiF) qualification.
Step 4 Clubs	Each Club shall have at least one First Aider, or Qualified Medical Practitioner having a valid Emergency Medical First Aid in Football (EMFAiF) qualification.
Step 5 Clubs	Each Club shall have at least one First Aider having a valid Emergency First Aid in Football (EFAiF) qualification.
Step 6 Clubs	Each Club shall have at least one First Aider who has a valid Emergency First Aid in Football (EFAiF) qualification.

25.1.1 At Steps 1 to 3 only, the Qualified Medical Practitioner shall visit both the home and away teams' dressing rooms before leaving the ground. The name of the practitioner present at the Competition Match must be entered on the team sheet.

25.2 In exceptional circumstances, where the home Club is unable to ensure that Qualified Medical Practitioner or First Aider shall be present at a Competition Match, the home Club shall;

25.2.1 Make alternative arrangements appropriate for the level of Competition Match.

25.2.2 Liaise with the away Club in advance of the Competition Match to ensure that each Club is aware of the medical provision that will be available at the Competition Match.

25.2.3 Fully document any alternative arrangements within the home Club's Emergency Medical Emergency Action Plan and share the updated plan with the away Club, prior to the Competition Match taking place.

25.3 Clubs shall ensure their Qualified Medical Practitioner or First Aider keeps detailed up-to-date medical records for all Players in the form and in accordance with the requirements and guidelines published by The FA from time to time.

25.4 When a Player's registration is about to be transferred, the Club that Player is registered to must make such records as referred to in Rule 25.3 available to the Qualified Medical Practitioner or First Aider of the Club that the Player is being transferred to. This procedure shall also apply to all Players whose registrations are temporarily transferred under the provisions for Long, Short and Youth Loans.

25.5 All Clubs are required to have a Medical Emergency Action Plan (MEAP) in place. A copy of which must be submitted to the Competition on the standard form provided by no later than 1st August in each year and placed clearly in the home, away and match officials dressing rooms.

EVENT DOCTORS

25.6 Any persons employed as an Event Doctor shall comply with any relevant health and safety legislation.

26. PLAYER TRANSFERS BETWEEN CLUBS

When Players are transferred (Contract, Non-Contract, Scholars or loan on temporary transfer) between member Clubs (or between member Clubs and clubs) it is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that the Competition receives copies of all relevant documents pertaining to the transfer including full details of any payment schedules agreed in writing or otherwise between the two Clubs. Should a Club fail to meet the payment schedules lodged with the Competition on receipt of notification an embargo on further Players registrations will be placed upon the defaulting Club together with a 1% levy per day on the outstanding payments as detailed in the [ ]

27. PROVISION FOR MEMBERSHIP FORM TO BE SIGNED BY EACH CLUB EACH PLAYING SEASON

28. PROVISION FOR FULL & ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

29. PROMOTION AGREEMENTS

30. GENERAL MEETINGS

31. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

32. COMPETITION OFFICERS

33. Each Club shall at all times comply with all reasonable requests by the Competition to ensure due compliance by the Competition with its Commercial Agreements and shall not enter into any new agreements with any direct competitor to the Competition's title sponsor [or any third party with whom the Competition has entered into a commercial agreement.]

34. Each Club must utilise any match boards provided by the Competition's sponsor and must procure that any corporate bench kit shall be worn during competitive and first team matches, as directed by the Competition. In the event that a Competition does not have a bench kit sponsor, a Club may enter into its own bench kit sponsor agreement providing any such agreement is in writing and the Club obtains the consent of the Competition in writing before entering into such agreement which must include a break clause which facilitates ending the agreement if the Club is promoted, relegated or laterally moved to another competition, or the Competition negotiates a new agreement in the future. A full copy of such agreement must be provided to the Competition Secretary within five (5) days of the sending of such request by the Competition.

In the event of any Club having an existing agreement with a competitor to any of the to the Competition's sponsors in respect of match boards and/or other commercial or advertising obligations, the Club is permitted to honour that agreement on an on-going basis, with the consent of the Competition provided the Club's agreement was signed before that of the Competition and a full copy of any such agreement must be provided to the Competition Secretary within five (5) days of the sending of such request by the Competition. For the avoidance of doubt, the Club would not be permitted to extend said agreement beyond the existing term.

35. Each Club shall permit photography, filming and audio and web broadcasting at their home ground to enable the Competition to comply with the terms of any Commercial Contract (as defined in the Articles), which may be entered into by the Company and will provide all necessary facilities as may reasonably be requested by the Competition or any broadcaster as may be nominated by the Competition.[Appendix.....]

36. Any distribution of any income received by the Company from any source whatsoever shall be entirely at the discretion of the Board.

NATIONAL LEAGUE ONLY

The amount of central funding available for distribution will be agreed by the Board from time to time and will be distributed to Clubs, subject to the Board's discretionary rights above, in the ratio of 70% of the total agreed fund to Clubs in the Premier Division and 30% to Clubs in the North and South Divisions. The Board's discretion not to distribute central funding to a Club or Clubs will extend to, but may not be limited to, Clubs subject to a winding-up petition and/or an Insolvency Event. Payment of central funding withheld under this rule will not be distributed retrospectively.

ALL LEAGUES RESUME HERE

37. The Company shall be entitled either directly or through its duly appointed agents to inspect the books, accounts and financial records of any Club and that Club shall make available to the Company all information as may be required from time to time in that respect.

NEXT SECTION IS FOR NATIONAL LEAGUE ONLY

38. CLUB FINANCE RECORDS

(a) The Company shall be entitled either directly or through its duly appointed agents to inspect any Member Club books, accounts and financial records and the Club shall make available to the Company all information as may be required from time to time in that respect.

(b) Current HMRC debt.

With effect from 1 July 2011 any Club which has not, within twenty-eight (28) days of the relevant due date, paid to HMRC the amounts due to be paid to HMRC to discharge:-

- the Club's full liability for VAT, and PAYE & NIC due in respect of any and all employees or former employees of the Club for the immediately preceding payment period;
- the Club's full liability for VAT, PAYE & NIC which becomes due as a result of an assessment issued by HMRC, with the exception of amounts formally disputed until such time determination is made on HMRC's claim, and/or

- defaults on the terms of any 'time to pay' agreement,

shall report the default event to the Competition prior to the month end following the month in which the debt falls due.

39. CENTRAL FUNDING

39.1 The Competition has the right not to make any Payments from central funding to Clubs who are subject to an Insolvency Event.

39.2 Clubs shall irrevocably waive their right to receive monies and also waive their right to receive such monies when at any time funds are due from them to Football Creditors within or without The Competition and further irrevocably authorise and appoint the Competition as their attorney to pay any monies which would otherwise be due to their Football Creditors to such Football Creditors on their behalf if deemed appropriate by the Board.

Any Club responsible for such payment arising shall pay a fee in accordance with the Standard Fees Tariff.

39.3 Members of the Competition hereby irrevocably authorise the Board that in the event of each or any of them taking steps which would comprise an Insolvency Event to withhold any payment that might otherwise be due and permanently waive their right to receive the same subject only to the Board's discretionary right to pay such monies to their Football Creditors as referred to in 39.2 above or 39.4 below.

39.4 Whether there is any withholding pursuant to Rule 39.1 or not the member further irrevocably appoints the Company as its attorney to pay and discharge out of any monies that would otherwise be due to it pursuant to its membership of the Company and/or the Competition any sums that may be due to other members of the Company or any other Football Creditor as defined within the Rules of the Competition.

39.5 In the event of any such payments being made as set out in Rule 39.2 and 39.4 the Board shall be obliged to advise the relevant members in writing of the payments it has made on its behalf within 28 days of such payments.

NEXT SECTION IS FOR LEAGUES AT STEPS 1-4

40. FINANCIAL REPORTING INITIATIVE

A club shall comply with the provisions of Appendix [ ], 'Financial Reporting Initiative' as shall be enforced from time to time as determined by the Board and approved by the Football Association.

NEXT SECTION IS FOR NATIONAL LEAGUE ONLY

BUDGET MONITORING SCHEME & PERMITTED LOANS

41. A Club shall comply with provisions of Appendix E, 'Budget Monitoring Scheme & Permitted Loans' as shall be enforced from time to time as determined by the Board.

NEXT SECTION IS FOR LEAGUES AT STEPS 1-4

42 An Embargo may be imposed pursuant to any of the relevant preceding or subsequent Rules and Regulations or Appendices but in any event shall be imposed:-

- where a Club has undergone an Insolvency Event
- where a Club has been served with a winding-up petition which has not been satisfied in full or to the satisfaction of the petitioning creditors as evidenced by written agreement or
- where a Club has either defaulted on such an agreement or has omitted or incorrectly reported its failure to adhere to the terms of any agreement.

Any Embargo is without prejudice to any other penalties that the Competition may wish or be entitled to impose pursuant to any other Rule or Regulation or Appendix in relation to any matter giving rise to the right to impose an Embargo including but not limited to any default, or any agreement reached with creditors or failure to report the default or incorrectly reporting the Club's adherence to any agreement with creditors.

The following appendices are incorporated within the membership rules and should be read in conjunction with the aforementioned rules. The rules and appendices were approved and passed by the Clubs at the Annual General Meeting (insert date ..... 20.....).

ALL OTHER LEAGUES RESUME HERE

SCHEDULE A

FEES TARIFF

RULE	SUBJECT MATTER	AMOUNT (£)
2.7	Grading	
3.1	Application for membership	
3.1	Grading	
3.2	Membership	
3.2	Annual Subscription	
6.1.1	Registration Forms	
6.1.1	Additional forms	
13.A.7	Sporting sanctions appeal	
16.1	Appeal to Board	
16.4	Appeal to The FA	
16.5	Appeal by Player	
16.6	Appeal by Club	
16.10	Arbitration	

FINES TARIFF

RULE	OFFENCE	UP TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF (£)
2.2	Failure to return Form D questionnaire	
2.2	Failure to complete Form D	
2.2	Failure to provide affiliation number	

RULE	OFFENCE	UP TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF (£)
2.10	Failure to notify change in Memorandum and Articles within 14 days	
2.15	Failure to publish legal name and ownership	
2.17	Failure to notify occurrence of an Insolvency Event	
2.22	Failing to attend any General Meeting	
3.2	Failure to pay Annual Subscription 7 days before AGM	
4.5	Failure to pay amount due within 28 days	
4.8	Failing to attend to business	
6.4.2	Failure to register 16 players prior to start of the season	
6.7	Failure to return Retained List by the due date	
6.8	(i) Failure to use a board for substitutions in a match (ii) Named substitute not registered but not taking part	
6.9	Playing ineligible Player	
7.1	Failure to provide details of colours by due date	
7.1	Failure to wear registered colours at home	
7.1	Failure to number all shirts	
7.1	Failure to have numbers on striped etc shirts on contrasting patch	
7.2	Failure to change relevant item in event of clash	
7.2	Goalkeeper not wearing kit different to ALL OTHER Players	
7.4	Failure to wear official shirt/short numbers in a match	
7.4	Failure of Player to wear number in accordance with Team Sheet	
7.6	Captain not wearing armband	
7.7	Failure to wear official sleeve logos in a match	
8.4	Failure to play County Cup match midweek	
8.6/8.23	Late kick off	
8.9	(i) Playing in competition without permission (ii) FAILURE TO NOTIFY RESULT TO THE COMPETITION SECRETARY	
8.12	Failure to play County Cup match midweek	
8.13	Failure to comply with footwear requirements issued by the home Club	

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

RULE	OFFENCE	UP TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF (£)
8.14	Failure to provide acceptable match programme	
8.14	Failure to provide programme information to hosts when playing away	
8.15	Failure to carry out inspection procedure in accordance with 14.2	
8.16	Failure to notify cancellation or rearrangement to Match Officials	
8.18	Failure to have a defibrillator present at home matches	
8.20	Late Team Sheet	
8.20	Incomplete Team Sheet	
8.21	Altering Team Sheet after exchange (except for Player injured in warm up)	
8.23	Failure to start with Eleven Players	
8.23	Failure to play full strength team	
8.24 - 8.28	Benches	
8.29	Failure of all occupants of the technical area to wear corporate bench kit	
8.30	Failure by a home Club to provide a full match video	
8.31	Failure to send result form within the required timescales as detailed in 8.31	
8.32 - 8,36, 14.3	Causing Abandonment	
8.37	Failure to provide details of match immediately following end of match	
8.38	Failure to notify postponement or abandonment	
8.39	Failure to fulfil fixture	
8.39	Failure to agree new date of postponed match in time set	
10.8/10.14	Failure to submit accounts within nine months of accounting reference date	
14.7	Failure to pay Match Officials on day of match in dressing room	
14.8	Failure to provide flags	
14.9	Failure to play with Match balls required by The Competition	
14.10	Failure to provide practice balls to visitors	
15	Failure to give notice of resignation by due date	
18	Failure to return trophy by due date	
18	Failure to return trophy engraved	

RULE	OFFENCE	UP TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF (£)
18	Failure to return trophy in good condition	
24.1	Failure to insure Players	
24.2	Failure to implement public liability insurance to required level	
25	Failure to have medical personnel as stated	
34	Failure to utilise match boards provided by the Competition's sponsor in a match	

SCHEDULE B - INDEX

SUBJECT	RULE
Abandonments	8.30 – 8.36, 14.3, 14.5, 14.7
Admission charges	20
Agents	9.1, 9.2
Annual match, champions v cup winners	4.11
Appeals	4.3, 13.5-13.4, 16.4
Arbitration	16.10
Ballboys/girls	7.9
Balls, match	14.9
Balls, practice	14.10
Bench kit	34
Board, the	4.1-4.13
Cancellation, of contracts	6.5.1
Cancellation, of matches	8.16
Ceasing to operate, a club	12
Centenary awards	22
Champion club, declaration of	12
Club colours	7.1-7.8
Contributions, to league funds	2.21
Creditors	2.11.2,2.11.3, 4.5, 11
Criteria document	2.7, 2.8
Dates, of matches	8.13
Deduction of points	13.A.1, 13.A.2
Definitions	1.1
Directors, change of	2.18

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

SUBJECT	RULE
Duration, of matches	8.17
Fees, to match officials	14.7
Filming	35
Financial arrangements, with Players	6.10
Financial records	10.1
Financial statements	10.7
Fines	4.5
Fixtures, precedence of	8.4
Form D	2.1
Form H3	6.6.2
Gate receipts	10.2
General meetings	2.22
Ground sharing	2.3, 4.12, 8.6
Incorporation, by a club	2.10, 2.14
Ineligible Players	6.9
Insolvency event	2.17, 13A, 13B
Inspection, of grounds	2.7
Instructions, of the Board	4.6
Insurance	24.1, 24.2
Interests, in more than one club	5
International transfer certificate	6.11
Kick-off time	8.6
List of Players	6.7
Loans	10.6
Loan Transfers	6.6
Long Service	21
Match boards	34
Match officials	14.1-14.11
Medical certificates	8.10
Medical personnel	25
Medical records	25
Membership	2.1
Misconduct	17
Number of clubs	2.12
Number of Players	8.21

SUBJECT	RULE
Nursery club	2.6
Owners' and Directors' Declaration	2.18
Passes, match day	8.16
Photography	35
Playing condition, of grounds	8.11
Playing season	8.1
Playing surfaces	23
Postponements	8.5, 8.9, 8.10, 8.15, 8.34, 8.36, 8.37, 14.2, 14.7, 23.8, 23.10
Programmes	8.14
Promotion and relegation	12
Protests	16.1-16.3
Publication of Ownership	2.15
Re-arranging matches, to Friday or Sunday	8.8
Registration forms	6.4
Registrations, closing date for	6.2.1
Representative matches	4.10
Result/report forms	8.29
Results, of matches	8.35
Rules, alterations to	19
Scholars	6.3.1
Sponsors	34
Standards, appropriate to membership	2.17
Status, of Players	6.3
Subscription	3.1, 3.2
Substitute Players	6.8
Suspension, of a club	2.14
Team Sheets	8.18, 8.19
Technical area	8.22-8.26
Temporary transfers	10.5
Termination of contract	16.5, 16.6
Transfers	6.5, 10.4, 26
Travelling expenses, of match officials	10.3, 14.7
Trophy	18
Websites	8.14
Withdrawal, of a club from a competition	15

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

APPENDIX [ ] – THE LICENSING SYSTEM

This Licensing System has been compiled by the National League System Policy Body and approved by The FA Council for the mandatory use of all Competitions at Steps 1 to 4 (inclusive) of the National League System and should be read in conjunction with the Standardised Rules ("the Rules") and The FA's Sanction and Control of Competitions Regulations.

DEFINITIONS

Unless otherwise stated, definitions are as stated in the Rules.

"The FA" or **"The Association"** means The Football Association Limited.

"Board Safeguarding Champion" means a member of a Club's board who provides oversight and champions the safeguarding of children and young people (under the age of 18) and adults at risk in all Club activities.

"Competition" means a league at Steps 1-4 of the National League System.

"Licence" means the annual licence required to be held by a Club who wishes to be a member of a Competition, which may be either an Unconditional Licence or a Conditional Licence.

"Licence Criteria" as stated in Annex 1, each of which is a Criterion.

"Conditional Licence" a Licence with conditions attached to be met by a Club within a period determined by the Competition in which the Club holding the Licence is allocated by the Leagues Committee. Such period is not to exceed 1 March in the Membership Year to which the Licence relates. Save in exceptional circumstances, a Conditional Licence cannot be granted to a Club for successive Membership Years in respect of the same Criterion.

"Unconditional Licence" a Licence without any conditions attached.

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS AND APPLICATION OF THE LICENCE

1.1 The Association operates a Licensing System for Clubs at Steps 1 to 4 of the National League System. The Association has delegated to each Competition the operation, determination and monitoring of the Licence as set out in this Licensing System ("the delegated powers"). The Association retains a right to apply the operation, determination and monitoring of the Licence as set out in Section 2 below. The Competition may in accordance with the Rules delegate its responsibilities under this Licensing System to a Sub Committee or similar body.

1.2 A Club must hold a Licence to be a member of a Competition.

1.3 A Licence is granted for a Membership Year. In each Membership Year the Competition must monitor the compliance of each Club in relation to the Licence Criteria unless the Licence has been withdrawn by the Competition or has been or is to be surrendered by a Club.

1.4 If at any time during a Membership Year the Competition becomes aware that a Club no longer fulfils any of the Licensing Criteria then the Competition shall review that Club's Licence in relation to the non-fulfilment such that a Licence may be withdrawn, suspended or have conditions imposed or varied or have sporting/financial penalties imposed upon it.

1.5 A Club must give written notification to the Competition of which it is a member of any breach of any Licence Criterion within 5 working days of the breach occurring.

1.6 If a Club's Licence is suspended then that Club cannot participate in the Competition from that date until the expiry of seven days from the day the default is remedied, unless otherwise agreed by the Competition. If the Competition refuse or withdraw a Licence then that Club cannot participate in the Competition.

1.7 A Club that does not hold a Licence to be a member of a Competition may apply to The Association to be placed elsewhere within the National League System in accordance with National League System Regulations but shall not be automatically entitled to such a place.

2. ROLE OF THE ASSOCIATION

2.1 At any time The Association can make representations in writing to the Competition with regard to the Licence of a Club and the Competition shall respond in writing within 5 working days of receipt of the representation.

2.2 The Association has the right to apply at any time the delegated powers where in the reasonable opinion of The Association the Competition has failed to do so or has failed to do so adequately and the procedure set out in paragraph 2.3 has been followed. This right includes determining any sanctions for non-compliance by a Club with the Licence Criteria. In the event that The Association exercises the delegated powers then they shall be applied by The Association's Chief Regulatory Officer or any officer acting on a delegated authority.

2.3 The procedure to be adopted in the event that The Association wish to apply delegated powers as provided for in paragraph 2.2 is that The Association's Chief Regulatory Officer or any officer acting on a delegated authority shall give written notice to the Competition setting out the matter in respect of which it wishes to apply delegated powers, the decision it wishes to apply and the full reasons for this. The Competition shall reply in writing within five working days of receipt of The Association's written notice, or 3 May following the submission of the application if earlier, setting out its responses to the proposal including the Competition's agreement or otherwise to The Association's notice. If agreed then the decision required by The Association shall be applied by the Competition and shall be treated as a decision of the Competition. If not agreed then The Association may, after considering the responses of the Competition, confirm its decision to exercise delegated powers to the Club and the Competition in writing. In the event that The Association has applied the delegated powers then the decision of the Competition shall be set aside and the decision of The Association shall apply subject to an appeal by the Club and or the Competition as set out in Section 7.

3. LICENSING PROCESS AND TIMETABLE

3.1 Each Club is required to apply for a Licence using the application form. The application form is to be received by the Competition by 14 March in respect of the Membership Year immediately following. A Club shall be assessed by the Competition in accordance with the Licensing Criteria in order to be granted a Licence.

3.2 The Competition will conclude the assessment process by 21 April of the Membership Year and notify The Association in writing of its licensing decisions by that date in a form reasonably determined by The Association.

3.3 The Competition must advise each of its member Clubs of its licensing decision in writing on or before the 5 May following the submission of an application, other than for a Club to which The Association has exercised the delegated powers in accordance with paragraph 2.3.

3.4 The Competition shall advise The Association in writing of any subsequent decision in relation to any Licence during a Membership Year. Such notification to be transmitted to The Association within five working days of the date of the decision of the Competition.

3.5 The Competition may request the attendance of a Club at a meeting to consider the assessment of that Club in relation to the Licence or request any further information it deems appropriate. Such attendance, once requested, shall be mandatory and shall be made by an Officer of the relevant Club.

4. LICENCE CRITERIA

4.1 The Licence Criteria are as set out in Annex 1. Each Licence Criterion is to be met for a Club to be granted an Unconditional Licence. A Conditional Licence may be issued as stated in the Licence Criteria.

5. TRANSFER OF A LICENCE

5.1 If a Club wishes to transfer its Licence from one entity to another then it may only do so with the written consent of the Competition and The Association. The requirements to be met for the transfer of a Licence are set out in Rule 2.11.

6. SAFEGUARDING

6.1 By 14 March in a Membership Year a Club must provide to the Competition evidence of publication of the Club's Safeguarding Policy, the name of the Club's Welfare Officer and evidence of publication (via the Club's website) of the method through which the Club's Welfare Officer may be contacted.

6.2 By 14 March in a Membership Year a Club must confirm in writing to the Competition the name of the Officer who will act as the Board Safeguarding Champion.

6.3 By 14 March in a Membership Year, a Club must carry out and submit to the Competition a Safeguarding Risk Assessment that has been agreed and signed by the Club Welfare Officer and Board Safeguarding Champion.

7. MOVEMENT OF CLUBS

7.1 In the event that a Club moves from one Competition to another then the Licence will be retained by the Club and must be applied by the Competition of which that Club becomes a member. The Competition which receives a Club by such transfer may review that Club's Licence at any time and take such action as may have been available on the original application.

7.2 (Step 1 only) A Club relegated from the English Football League shall be subject to assessment for a Licence by the Competition on becoming a member of the National League in a timescale determined by the Competition and such relegated Club shall fully co-operate with such assessment in a timely manner. Such a Club must not be refused a Licence in its first Membership Year although any conditions for the grant of the Licence must be satisfied by no later than 1 March following the application.

7.3 (Step 4 only) A Club promoted to the Competition from Step 5 of the National League System shall be subject to assessment for the Licence by the Competition on becoming a member of the Competition. The timescale for assessment against the Licence Criteria shall be determined by the Competition and such a Club shall fully co-operate with the assessment in a timely manner. Such a Club must not be refused a Licence in its first Membership Year although any conditions for the grant of the Licence must be satisfied by no later than 31 March in that Membership Year. The Competition shall notify a Club of the decision in relation to a Licence in writing and notify The Association at the same time.

8. APPEALS

8.1 All decisions of the Competition in relation to a Licence shall be subject to appeal only by the Club which submitted an application form for that Licence. The appeal shall be determined in accordance with The FA's Appeal Regulations save that any such appeal must be lodged in writing within 5 working days of the date of notification of the decision to be appealed against and any appeal hearing must be held within 14 days of the appeal being lodged with The Association.

8.2 All decisions of The Association where it applies the delegated powers in accordance with Section 2 shall be subject to appeal only by the Competition and the Club which submitted an application form for a Licence. The appeal shall be determined in accordance with The FA's Appeal Regulations save that it must be lodged in writing within 5 working days of the date of notification of the final decision of The Association to apply delegated powers and any appeal hearing must be held within 14 days of the appeal being lodged with The Association.

8. RULES AND FA RULES

8.1 The application of the Licence Criteria and processes shall not restrict the application of the Rules and FA Rules in any way. Any information provided under the licensing processes may be used by the Competition and or The Association in the application of the Rules and FA Rules respectively.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

9. MISCONDUCT

9.1 Any Club and or Club Official that knowingly provides information to the Competition in relation to the Club's Licence that is found to be false in any particular then that Club and or Club Official may be charged with Misconduct under the Rules or FA Rules.

LICENCE CRITERIA ANNEX 1

1. LEGAL

1.1 Confirmation of the legal entity that is the Club

1.1.1. By 14 March in a Membership Year a Club must confirm to the Competition its company name and number (if incorporated) and a list of all individuals with a Significant Interest in the Club or the name of the nominee in whose name the membership of the Company is vested (if an unincorporated association) as at the 1 March immediately preceding.

1.1.2. The Criteria will be met where the details provided by a Club complies and accords with information already provided to the Competition.

1.1.3. If a Club fails to provide the information or if the information provided does not comply and accord to that held by the Competition then the Club must explain any differences within a timescale set by the Competition. If the explanation provided by the Club does not satisfy the Competition then the Competition may refuse the Licence, issue a Conditional Licence and or penalise the Club at its discretion.

1.2 The Rules or Articles of Association of a Club are required to meet the provisions of Rules I2.1 to I2.4 of The Association.

1.2.1 The criteria shall be met where the Club's articles or Rules meet the requirements of FA Rules I2.1 to I2.4. The Association shall by 14 March in a Membership Year provide the Competition with a written confirmation as to any Club of which it is aware whose articles or Rules do not satisfy the requirements of Rule I2.1 to I2.4 of The Association.

1.2.2 In cases where non-compliance is identified then a Conditional Licence may be granted such that the Club must amend its articles or Rules within 60 days of being instructed to do so by the Competition. The Club must provide evidence of the changes to the Competition and to The Association for consideration. If the changes are not made and evidenced to the satisfaction of The Association within the 60 day period then the Club's Licence may be suspended by the Competition with immediate effect until such time as the provisions of FA Rule I2.1 to I2.4 have been met.

2. OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL

2.1 Confirmation of ownership and control

2.1.1 By 14 March in a Membership Year a Club must provide written confirmation of its ownership and control as at the 1 March immediately preceding together with supporting documentation to evidence the same.

2.1.2 If a Club fails to provide the confirmation by the due date then the Licence may be refused or issued subject to conditions.

2.2 Publication of ownership

2.2.1 By 14 March in a Membership Year a Club must provide the Competition with evidence of compliance with Rule 2.15 at the 1 March immediately preceding. Evidence may include copies of pages from the Club's website and copies of the Club's matchday programme.

2.2.2 If a Club fails to provide the confirmation and or the evidence required or has not met the requirements of Rule 2.15 at 1 March immediately preceding then the Club may be issued with a Conditional Licence such that it is directed by the Competition to satisfy Rule 2.15 within 30 days. The failure to comply with this direction so may result in a penalty that may include the suspension of the Licence.

2.3 Change of control – National League only

2.3.1 Where a change of control of a Club has occurred in a Membership Year then it must have been assessed by the Competition in accordance with Rule 2.16. Compliance with Rule 2.16 shall be deemed to meet the criteria.

2.3.2 If through any means the Competition becomes aware that a change of control has occurred at a Club in the Membership Year that it has not assessed in accordance with Rule 2.16 then in addition to the powers of the Competition set out at Rule 2.16 the Competition may refuse a Licence, attach conditions to a Licence and / or apply a penalty at the discretion of the Competition.

3. INTEGRITY

3.1 Owners' and Directors' Test

3.1.1 By 14 March in a Membership Year a Club at Step 2 and below must confirm to the Competition that the Club has met the reporting requirements of The Association's Owners' and Directors' Test Regulations as at 1 March immediately preceding in a Membership Year.

3.1.2 If at 1 March the Competition has received a Notice issued by The Association in accordance with the Owners' and Directors' Test Regulations and the Club's membership of the Competition has been suspended at that date then the Licence may be refused.

3.2 Interests in more than one Club

3.2.1 By 14 March in a Membership Year a Club must provide a written confirmation in a form determined by the Competition that it satisfies the requirements of Rule 5 as at the 1 March immediately preceding.

3.2.2 In the event that the written confirmation is not provided by the due date then the Club must be subject to a penalty determined by the Competition that may include a fine, Embargo, suspension, refusal of the Licence or the granting of a Conditional Licence.

3.2.3 If at any time during a Membership Year the Competition become aware of a matter to be considered under Rule 5 via the written confirmation provided by the Club or by any other means such that in the opinion of the Competition the breach brings or is likely to bring into question the integrity of the Competition then that Club's Licence may be refused, suspended, withdrawn or a Conditional Licence may be issued.

3.3 Management of a Club

3.3.1 If the Competition has determined that as at 1 March in a Membership Year a Club is in breach of Rule 2.13 and or 2.20 such that the Club is to be expelled or excluded from the Competition in accordance with the Rules then the Licence may be refused or a Conditional Licence may be issued.

4. FINANCE

4.1 Annual financial statements

4.1.1 By 14 March in a Membership Year a Club must provide to the Competition a copy of its full annual financial statements for the period of its most recent complete financial year.

4.1.2 The annual financial statements are to be prepared in accordance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements, the rules of the Club, Rule I1.3 or I1.4 of The Association as appropriate and are to be evidenced as having been approved on behalf of the Club by its Board of Directors or Committee and circulated to its members/shareholders.

4.1.3 The Association shall by 14 March in a Membership Year provide the Competition with a written confirmation as to any Club of which it is aware whose annual financial statements for the period of its most recent complete financial year do not satisfy the requirements of Rule I1.3 or I1.4 of The Association.

4.1.4 Where the annual financial statements are not provided to the Competition by the due date or do not satisfy the requirements at paragraph 4.1.2 above then the Licence may be refused or a Conditional Licence issued. The Club may also be subject to a penalty determined by the Competition.

4.2 Filing of annual financial statements – Club companies only

4.2.1 In the case of a Club that is a corporate body (or similar), then that Club must by 14 March in a Membership Year confirm to the Competition that the annual accounts for its latest complete financial year are not overdue for filing at 1 March immediately preceding with regulatory bodies such as the Registrar of Companies at Companies House (or similar).

4.2.2 Where the Competition becomes aware by any means that the annual accounts were overdue for filing at 1 March then the Club must be subject to a penalty determined by the Competition that may include licence refusal or the issuing of a Conditional Licence.

4.3 Football Creditors

4.3.1 By 14 March in a Membership Year a Club must provide a written confirmation in a form requested by the Competition that it is not in default of amounts owed by the Club at the 1 March immediately preceding in respect of Football Creditors. The confirmation must also include any on-going proceedings against the Club in relation to Football Creditors. The Club must provide details of any such proceedings whether through football procedures recognised by the Competition or legal procedures, such as a winding up petition.

4.3.2 This Criterion shall be met where the Competition has assessed a Club and found it to comply with the provisions of Rule 11. The date of assessment shall be 1 March in a Membership Year. Where a Club has reported or the Competition has become aware by any means that a Club has defaulted on payments to Football Creditors then in addition to the powers set out at Rule 11 then the Competition may refuse the Licence, issue a Conditional Licence or suspend the Licence pending the supply of any further information requested by the Competition and for a period as the Competition shall determine.

4.4 PAYE and VAT

4.4.1 A Club must be assessed under the Financial Reporting Initiative in respect of PAYE and VAT. The assessment of a Club and the application of the requirements of the Financial Reporting Initiative to a Club shall be deemed to be compliance with the criteria.

4.5 Evidence of Funding – Step 1 and 2 only

4.5.1 A Club must be compliant with the requirements of Appendix E Budget Monitoring Scheme and Permitted Loans in relation to the Membership Year.

4.6 Insolvency Event

4.6.1 By 14 March in a Membership Year a Club must confirm to the Competition in writing whether or not it is subject to an Insolvency Event as at the 1 March immediately preceding. If a Club is so subject to an Insolvency Event then the Club may be subject to assessment by the Competition in accordance with the requirements of Rule 13.B. In addition to the requirements at Rule 13.B the Competition may refuse the licence, withdraw a Licence or issue a Conditional Licence.

4.6.2 Irrespective of the content of paragraph 4.6.1, a Club subject to Insolvency Events (e), (f), (g) or (h) as defined in the Rules is not entitled to hold a Licence and must not be permitted to participate in the Competition from the date of the Insolvency Event. A Licence shall automatically lapse should a Club become subject to Insolvency Events (e), (f), (g) or (h) as defined in the Rules.

5. GROUNDS AND SECURITY OF TENURE

5.1 At 31 March in a Membership Year a Club must have satisfied the provisions of Rules 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.7 and 2.8.

5.2 Compliance with Rules 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.7 and 2.8 shall be deemed to meet the Criteria.

5.3 A Club that fails to meet the requirements of Rules 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.7 and 2.8 at 31 March may be refused a Licence.

6. REPORTING OF CHANGES

6.1 A Club is required to advise the Competition in writing of any changes to the application of any of the Licence Criteria to its Licence at any time which might directly or indirectly affect the application of the Licence Criteria. The written notification is to be received by the Competition within three working days of the change occurring.

6.2 If the Competition becomes aware of a change at a Club by any means then the Competition must consider any such change in relation to the application of the Licence Criteria to the Club.

6.3 If a Club fails to advise the Competition of such a change then it may be subject to a penalty determined by the Competition, including and not limited to suspension or withdrawal of the Club's Licence, Embargo or financial penalty or a points deduction.

APPENDIX [X]: ACQUISITION MATERIALS

The materials listed below are non-exhaustive examples which the Board considers reasonable to request in the context of a proposed acquisition of Control.

The Board will use its discretion and judgment in relation to the materials it requests and in relation to the scope and application of the items referred to below in the context of the particular facts and circumstances of the proposed acquisition of Control.

NO	DETAIL
1.	An organisational chart showing proposed corporate structure post-acquisition and clearly listing all entities and persons within the overall structure and their percentage shareholdings of each entity within the Group, including (but not limited to) all Parent Undertakings and Subsidiary Undertakings where relevant.
2.	Copies of all documents relating to changes in the corporate structure of each entity within the Group within the preceding three years of the date of the submission of the Acquisition Materials.
3.	Confirmation of the legal identity, jurisdiction of incorporation, jurisdiction of tax residence and status of each Person within the Group (for example: private individual, limited company, partnership, fund, listed or unlisted etc.) and background information about each such Person.
4.	For each entity within the Group, verification of the following information (for example, from the appropriate company registry or copies of deeds where available): • Incorporation. • Constitutional documents. • Articles of association / bye-laws. • Registered office. • Trading address(es) if different from registered office. • Names and address of directors. • Most recent financial statements (if an existing company). • Detailed biographies of the directors (or equivalent) of each entity within the Group, and certified copy passports for each. • Description of the activities of each entity within the Group.
5.	List of registered holders (together with details of the current and proposed ultimate beneficial owners ("**UBO**"), if different) of the shares of each entity within the Group (including name and address), with details of the shares held (or owned) and copies of any share certificates.
6.	Copies of all shareholder agreements and all other agreements regarding the shares of each entity within the Group (including pledges, security interests, options, pre-emption rights, nomineeships, trust agreements, etc.) or any other arrangements conferring rights (including voting rights) on third parties which might impair or influence the exercise by any registered holder or beneficial owner of any right attached to or deriving from the shares.
7.	Details of share/loan capital allotted, issued, or agreed to be allotted or issued by each entity within the Group since the date of the latest annual accounts of the Club.

NO	DETAIL
8.	In respect of each proposed Officer and/or any Person who is proposed to acquire Control and/or, where the proposed Officer is a corporate entity, that entity's UBO: • Name, residential address(es) and date of birth (to be confirmed by provision of certified copy documents e.g. passport). • Certified copies of all passports held. • Nature and extent of the interest, including details of the shares held (or owned). • Confirmation that they will not be acting as trustee or nominee (or similar arrangement) for any undisclosed third party.
9.	In respect of each proposed Officer and/or any Person who is proposed to acquire Control and/or, where the proposed Officer is a corporate entity, that entity's UBO, documentary evidence providing details of the financial circumstances and sources of wealth.
10.	Lists of directors and every person generally authorised by any entity within the Group to represent or bind the Club.
11.	Details of the overall management structure of the Group.
12.	Detailed information as to the Acquisition Debt to be incurred and obligors for such debt and the source of funds to be invested in or otherwise made available to the Club.
13.	A copy of any financial model used in connection with the proposed acquisition, which will include profit and loss, balance sheet and cash flow projections relating to the Group and will contain an acquisition debt cash flow model showing the debt servicing of any Acquisition Debt (for these purposes assuming completion of the acquisition of Control of the Club).
14.	Details of the purchaser's principal bankers and a letter of reference from them, which is to include (i) confirmation of the total value of assets held with the bank, (ii) its understanding as to the source of funds, and (iii) confirmation as to the number of years the purchaser has been a client of the bank.
15.	Details of the purchaser's principal lawyers and accountants and confirmation of their appointments from the firms concerned;
16.	Details of the purchaser's lead financial advisors and a letter of confirmation which confirms (i) their appointment and (ii) whether they consider that sufficient funds are available for the acquisition of the Club.
17.	A copy of the proposed business plan for the Club.
18.	A copy of any Heads of Terms and Sale and Purchase Agreements.
19.	A list of any competition, regulatory or other clearances required for the acquisition.
20.	Confirmation that no entity or person referred to in the previous paragraphs is subject to UK Sanctions or is a UK Sanctions Restricted Person.
21.	General description of the Club's current banking and financing arrangements, as well as details of the banking and financing arrangements to be entered into in connection with the proposed acquisition of Control (including details of bank accounts and debt financing facilities).

28 - WOMEN'S FOOTBALL PYRAMID STANDARD CODE OF RULES

This document contains the Women's Football Pyramid League Rules developed by The Football Association for Tiers 3-6 of the Women's Football Pyramid (the "**WFP Rules**").

The WFP Rules are mandatory for all Competitions at Tiers 3-6 of the Women's Football Pyramid.

Competitions seeking sanction must draft their Rules in conformity with the WFP Rules, using the same numbering and standard headings. Certain sections of the Rules are for specific competitions, which is noted in italics. Where the rules do not apply to a certain competition, this section should be omitted from their rule set.

In all cases where a [ ] is shown the necessary name, address, number or wording to complete that rule must be inserted or selected (as applicable).

Competitions may add to the core of the WFP Rules, which is mandatory, providing the additions are approved by the Sanctioning Authority and do not conflict with the mandatory rules or any relevant principles and policies established by The FA.

Competition Rules together with any proposed amendments presented as current text, new text and rationale should be submitted for approval by the Women's Football Board via WomensPyramid@TheFA.com by June 1st or 28 days prior to the league AGM, whichever is earlier.

Guidance from the Sanctioning Authority should be sought in advance if there is any doubt as to the acceptability of additional rules.

DEFINITIONS

1. **(A)** In these Rules:

"Affiliated Association" means an Association accorded the status of an Affiliated Association under the rules of The FA.

"AGM" shall mean the annual general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

"**Club"** means a club for the time being in membership of the Competition.

"**Club Portal"** means the system used by Clubs to affiliate teams as determined by The FA from time to time.

"Competition" means the [ ] League.

"Competition Match" means any match played or to be played under the jurisdiction of the Competition.

"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.

"Contractual Disputes Tribunal" shall be as defined in the rules of The FA.

"Deposit" means a sum of money deposited with the Competition as part of the requirements of membership of the Competition.

"Fees Tariff" means a list of fees approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committee/[WNL EOC] for any matters for which fees are payable under the Rules, as set out at Schedule A.

"Fines Tariff" means a list of fines approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committee/[WNL EOC] for any breach of the Rules, as set out at Schedule A.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

"Ground" means the ground on which the Club's Team(s) plays its Competition Matches.

"Long Term Loan" means a temporary transfer that commences and concludes during WSL and WC recognised registration periods.

"Management Committee" means in the case of a Competition which is an unincorporated association the management committee elected to manage the running of the Competition and where the Competition is incorporated it means the Board of Directors appointed in accordance with the articles of association of that company.

"Match Officials" means the referee, the assistant referees and any fourth official appointed to a Competition Match.

"MOAS" means Match Official Appointment System.

"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.

"Officer" means an individual who is appointed or elected to a position in a Club or Competition which requires that individual to make day to day decisions.

"Participant" shall have the same meaning as set out in the rules of The FA from time to time.

"Player" means any Contract Player, Non Contract Player or other player who plays or who is eligible to play for a Club.

"Player Registration System" means The FA system to register players as determined by The FA from time to time.

"Player Status Rules" shall be as defined in the rules of The FA.

"Playing Season" means the period between the date on which the first competitive fixture in the Competition is played each year until the date on which the last competitive fixture in the Competition is played.

"Rules" means these rules under which the Competition is administered.

"Sanctioning Authority" means The FA.

"Scholarship" means a Scholarship as defined in The FA rules.

"Season" means the period of time between one AGM and the next AGM.

"Secretary" means such person or persons appointed or elected to carry out the administration of the Competition.

"SGM" means a special general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

"Short Term Loan" means a loan transfer for a period of no fewer than 28 days and no more than 93 days in any one Playing Season.

"Team" means a team affiliated to a Club, including where a Club provides more than one team in the Competition in accordance with the Rules.

"The FA" means The Football Association Limited.

"Transfer Window" ("First Transfer Window" and "Second Transfer Window") shall have the meaning given to it in the WSL and WC Competition Rules.

"Virtual Meetings" means meetings held electronically.

"WC" means Women's Championship.

"WNL" means The FA Women's National League.

"WNL Board" means the sub-committee of the Women's Football Board established to administer The FA Women's National League and its competitions.

"WNL EOC" shall mean the FA WNL Executive Operational Committee established by the [WNL Board] to carry out the day to day management and administration of the The FA Women's National League and its competitions as provided within these Rules.

"WSL" means Women's Super League.

"written" or **"in writing"** means the representation or reproduction of words or symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise.

(B) Unless stated otherwise, terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and also the other way around.

GOVERNANCE RULES

COMPETITION NAME, CONSTITUTION

2. **(A)** The Competition will be known as [" "] (or such other name as the Competition may adopt). The Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the Competition. A Club which ceases to exist or which ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever shall automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.

(B) This Competition shall consist of not more than [36/40/72 (plus Reserve Section)] Teams for the [] season approved by the Sanctioning Authority.

(C) *WNL Only*

The Clubs in membership of the League shall be divided into six equal divisions (or as close to equal if there is an odd number in the membership) called Northern Premier Division, Southern Premier Division, Division One North, Division One Midlands, Division One South East & Division One South West respectively. Clubs in these Divisions will be known as the Full Member Clubs of the League.

The Reserve Section of the League may only include teams from full WNL member Clubs and full member WC and WSL Clubs. A Reserve team of a club that is relegated from the WNL may remain in the WNL Reserve Section for one season thereafter. A Reserve team may be permitted to remain in the Reserve Section for longer than one season if agreed by the Clubs at each AGM.

Regional Leagues Only

The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be primarily the Area under the jurisdiction of the following County Football Associations [ ] and as deemed appropriate by the Women's Football Board from time to time.

(D) The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the [WNL Board]/ Management Committee in accordance with the rules, regulations and policies of The FA.

(E) All Clubs shall adhere to the Rules. Every Club shall be deemed, as a member of the Competition, to have accepted the Rules and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the [WNL Board and the WNL EOC]/ Management Committee in relation to them subject to the provisions of Rule 7.

(F) The Rules are taken from the WFP Rules determined by The FA from time to time. In the event of any omissions from the WFP Rules then the requirements of the WFP Rules shall be deemed to apply to the Competition.

(G) 1. All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority and must have a constitution approved by the Sanctioning Authority.

2. This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Sanctioning Authority and the constituent Teams of Clubs may be grouped in divisions, each not exceeding 12 Teams of Clubs if at Tier 5 and [10/12] Teams of Clubs if at Tier 6 for the [] season.

(H) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination:

1. The Competition and each Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and should abide and adhere to The FA Equality Policy and any legislative requirements (including those contained in the Equality Act 2010).

2. This Competition and each Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community.

3. Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.

(I) Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the Competition including but not limited to, England Football Accredited and RESPECT programmes. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(J) All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children and Regulations for Safeguarding Adults at Risk as determined by The FA from time to time.

(K) Clubs shall not enter any of their Teams playing in the Competition in any other competitions (with the exception of FA and Parent County FA Competitions) except with the written consent of the [WNL Board]/Management Committee. Clubs must apply for consent no later than 1st September each season unless the Competition deems exceptional circumstances exist. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(L) A club seeking membership or applying to retain membership of the Competition must comply with the requirements of the tier at which the club is seeking to play or the tier at which the Club is playing, pursuant to the Women's Football Pyramid Regulations. Only clubs which meet those requirements in full will be eligible for membership. The final decision regarding whether a club meets the requirements for the tier at which they wish to play (or are playing) will be made by The FA.

CLUB NAME

3. **(A)** Any Club wishing to change its name must make a formal application to obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority following consultation with their County FA and the [WNL Board]/Management Committee, in accordance with the Women's Football Pyramid Regulations. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

4. **(A)** The annual subscription shall be payable, in accordance with the Fees Tariff for each Team payable on or before the AGM of the Competition in each year.

(B) In the event of any issue concerning the membership of any Club with the Competition the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee may require a Deposit to be paid (in accordance with the Fees Tariff) by or on behalf of the Club on such terms and for such period as it may in its entire discretion think fit.

(C) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the annual subscription and deposit (if required) have been paid.

(D) Clubs must ensure that all its Teams participating in the Competition are recorded as affiliated on the Club Portal for the forthcoming Playing Season by the following date [ ]. Clubs must advise the Secretary in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority, or on the prescribed form, of details of its headquarters, its Officers and any other information required by the Competition.

(E) *WNL Only*

Applications by Clubs to enter an additional team(s) must be made in writing to the Secretary by 1st July.

MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

5. (A) *Regional League Only*

The Management Committee shall comprise of the Officers of the Competition and a minimum of one member (but not more than [ ] members) who shall all be elected at the AGM.

(B) *Regional League Only*

Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination provided that the Officer notifies the Secretary in writing not later than [ ] in each year. All other candidates for election as Officers of the Competition or members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the secretaries of two Clubs, not later than [ ] in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM. In the event of there being no nomination for any office by the date stated in the earlier part of this Rule, nominations may be received at the AGM.

The term of office for position of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer shall be three years. No person may occupy these positions for more than three terms. The term of office for all other elected Management Committee roles shall be two years. No person may occupy these positions for more than two terms. In the event of there being no nominations received for any role, the person shall be able to stand for re-election without nomination for a rolling tenure of 1 year.

(C) *Regional League Only*

The Management Committee shall meet a minimum of twice a season or as and when required. On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Management Committee.

(D) Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the Competition and keep a record of its proceedings.

(E) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their Officers and sent to the Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

6. (A) *WNL Only*

The WNL Board may appoint sub-committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary. Pursuant to this power, the WNL Board has appointed the WNL EOC to carry out the day-to-day management of the Competition and as such, the WNL EOC shall have the powers as set out under these Rules until such time as the WNL Board determines otherwise. The decisions of the WNL EOC, unless otherwise specified by the WNL Board, shall not require ratification when made pursuant to a power contained within these Rules. The WNL EOC shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of The FA or Affiliated Association.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

Regional League Only

The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary. The decisions of all sub-committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification. The Management Committee shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of The FA or Affiliated Association.

(B) Subject to the permission of the Sanctioning Authority having been obtained, the [WNL Board]/ Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each Season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call on each Club to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the Season.

(C) *Regional League Only*

Each member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee meetings and have one vote at all such meetings but no member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly relating to that member or to the Club so represented or where there may be a conflict of interest. This shall also apply to the procedure of any sub-committee.

(D) *Regional League Only*

In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chair shall have a second or casting vote.

(E) The [WNL Board and the WNL EOC]/Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce these Rules and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition. Any action by the Competition must be taken within 28 days of the Competition being notified.

With the exception of Rules 6(J), 8(H), and 9, for all alleged breaches of a Rule the [WNL EOC]/ Management Committee shall issue a formal written charge to the Club concerned. The Club charged shall be given 7 days from the date of notification of the charge to reply. In such reply a Club may:

1) Accept the charge and /or submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the [WNL EOC]/ Management Committee; or

2) Accept the charge and notify the Competition [ ] that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee; or

3) Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee;

4) Deny the charge and notify the Competition [ ] that it wishes to have a hearing before the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee.

Where the Club charged fails to respond within 7 days, the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee shall determine the charge in such manner and upon such evidence as it considers appropriate.

Having considered the reply of the Club (whether in writing or at a hearing), the [WNL EOC]/ Management Committee shall make its decision and, in the event that the charge is accepted or, proven, decide on the appropriate penalty (with reference to the Fines Tariff where applicable).

Where required, hearings shall take place as soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of the reply of the Club as more fully set out above.

The maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is £250 in a Regional League and £1000 in the WNL and, when setting any fine, the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence; taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

No Participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

All breaches of the Laws of the Game, or the Rules and Regulations of The FA shall be dealt with in accordance with FA Rules by the appropriate sanctioning Association.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

(F) All decisions of the [WNL Board and/or the WNL EOC]/Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7.

Decisions of the [WNL Board and/or the WNL EOC]/Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 7 days.

(G) *Regional League Only*

A minimum of [%] of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any of its sub-committees.

(H) *Regional League Only*

The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill any vacancies that may occur in their number.

(I) A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the [WNL Board and/or the WNL EOC]/Management Committee and must attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the [WNL Board and/or the WNL EOC]/Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(J) Subject to a Club's right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges must be paid within 14 days of the date of notification of the decision. Any Club failing to do so will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine within a further 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.

(K) *Regional League Only*

A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or Competition Match may have any reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.

(L) The [WNL Board]/Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the AGM or SGM called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Playing Season, subject to the provisions of the Women's Football Pyramid Regulations (which shall take precedence if applicable).

(M) The business of the Competition as determined by the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee may be transacted by electronic means.

(N) Where requested by the [WNL EOC] /Management Committee, a Club must attend an event organised by the Competition or the Sanctioning Authority.

Failure to attend will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

PROTESTS, CLAIMS OR COMPLAINTS RELATING TO RULES

7. **(A)** 1. All questions of eligibility, qualification of Players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee.

2. Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities will not be entertained by the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee prior to the commencement of the Match.

(B) Except in cases where the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged with the Secretary within 7 days (excluding Sundays) of the Competition Match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

Regional League Only

A member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of their Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

(C) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum in accordance with the Fees Tariff. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the inquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.

(D) All parties to a protest or complaint must receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days before the protest or complaint being heard.

1. All parties must have received a minimum of 7 days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.

2. Should a Club elect to state its case in person then it should indicate such when forwarding the written response.

(E) The [WNL EOC]/Management Committee shall also have power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee shall direct.

(F) An intention to appeal against a decision of the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority, with a copy sent to the Secretary, within 7 days of the [WNL EOC]/ Management Committee providing written notification of its decision.

A notice of appeal against a decision of the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority, with a copy sent to the Secretary, within 14 days of the Management Committee providing written notification of its decision, accompanied by the relevant fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff) which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority.

(G) No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an AGM or SGM unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.

(H) All protests, claims or complaints relating to these Rules shall be heard and determined by the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee, or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee.

The Clubs or Players protesting, claiming or complaining must send a copy of such protest, claim or complaint and deposit a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff) which shall be forfeited in the event of the protest, claim or complaint not being upheld, and in these circumstances may, in addition, be ordered to pay the costs at the direction of the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee.

All such protests, claims and complaints must be received in writing by the Secretary within 14 days of the event or decision causing any of these to be submitted.

Disputes arising from a Player's Contract

(I) 1. *Disciplinary Matters*

Within seven days of receipt of any notice of a fine or suspension imposed by a Club under the Player's contract, the Player may appeal that decision to the [WNL Board]/Management Committee by giving notice of appeal to the Club and the [WNL Board]/Management Committee. The [WNL Board]/ Management Committee shall have the power to regulate its own procedure and shall hear the appeal within 14 days of receipt of the notice of appeal. The grounds of appeal available to the Player shall not be limited and the [WNL Board]/ Management Committee shall have full power to review the facts and any evidence (including hearing from any relevant witnesses).

Within seven days of receipt of the [WNL Board]/Management Committee's decision, either the Club or the Player may appeal against the decision of the [WNL Board]/Management Committee to the Contractual Disputes Tribunal in accordance with the Player Status Rules. An appeal to the Contractual Disputes Tribunal shall be heard within 14 days of receipt of the notice of further appeal or, if exceptional circumstances exist which means that the appeal cannot be heard in that time frame, it shall be heard as soon as practicable. Any reference to the 'League Appeals Committee' in the Player's contract shall be deemed as a reference to the Contractual Disputes Tribunal.

2. *Termination*

A Club, on giving 14 days' notice to a Player to terminate the Player's contract, must state in the notice the Player's right of appeal to the [WNL Board]/Management Committee and also the address of the Secretary to whom he must appeal. The notice must advise the Player of the necessity of forwarding a copy of their appeal with the fee specified in the Fees Tariff, to the Secretary within seven days of the receipt of the notice from the Club in order to be valid.

A Player on giving 14 days' notice to their Club to terminate their contract must also notify the Competition and The FA of the reasons for the termination of the agreement. A copy of such notice must be received by the Secretary within seven days of the sending of the notice in order to be valid.

If the recipient of a notice referred to in this Rule 7 I. 2 above wishes to do so, they may appeal against the relevant notice to the [WNL Board]/Management Committee within seven days of the date of receipt of the notice in writing by email to the Secretary with the fee specified in the Fees Tariff. The [WNL Board]/Management Committee shall have the power to regulate its own procedure. The grounds of appeal available to the appellant shall not be limited and the [WNL Board]/Management Committee shall have full power to review the facts and any evidence (including hearing from any relevant witnesses).

Within seven days of receipt of the [WNL Board]/Management Committee's decision, either the Club or the Player may appeal against the decision of the [WNL Board]/Management Committee to the Contractual Disputes Tribunal in accordance with the Player Status Rules. An appeal to the Contractual Disputes Tribunal shall be heard within 14 days of receipt of the notice of further appeal or, if exceptional circumstances exist which means that the appeal cannot be heard in that timeframe, it shall be heard as soon as practicable. Any reference to the 'League Appeals Committee' in the Player's contract shall be deemed as a reference to the Contractual Disputes Tribunal.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8. **(A)** The AGM shall be held no earlier than 15 June and not later than [ ] in each year. At this meeting the following business (in the following order) shall be transacted provided that at least [ ] members are present and entitled to vote:

1. Confirm the minutes of the last AGM.
2. Adopt the annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts from the previous season or accounting period.
3. (i) Acceptance of clubs to fill vacancies as per Women's Football Pyramid Regulations

   WNL Only

   (ii) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies within the Reserve Section.
4. Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing Season as per Women's Football Pyramid Regulations.

5. *Regional League Only*

   Election of Competition Officers and Management Committee members.

6. Appointment of auditors/verifiers.

7. Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14)

8. Agree the date for the beginning of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition.

9. Agree the date for the end of the Playing Season.

10. Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted by the Chair as being relevant to an AGM.

Clubs currently in membership of the Competition shall be entitled to vote on items 1 to 3 above.

Those clubs set to be accepted as Clubs in accordance with item 3 above shall be entitled to attend the AGM but cannot vote on items 1-3 above.

All Clubs (i.e. those Clubs currently in membership of the Competition and those accepted as Clubs in accordance with item 3) shall be entitled to vote on items 4 to 10 above.

(B) A copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet, statement of accounts and agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least 14 days prior to the meeting, together with any proposed Rule changes.

(C) A signed copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet and statement of accounts shall be sent to the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of its adoption by the AGM.

(D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an AGM. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. 14 days' notice shall be given of any AGM.

(E) Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the Competition during the Playing Season being concluded or who are not continuing membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the Season being concluded. This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 12.

(F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of hands or count of email or virtual responses (for virtual meetings), unless a ballot be demanded by at least 50% of the delegates qualified to vote or otherwise provided by the Rules or the Chair so decides.

(G) No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Club.

(H) Any continuing Club must be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(I) *WNL Only*

Officers of the Competition shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM, but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a club (see Rule 8(G)).

Regional League Only

Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM, but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a club (See Rule 8(G))

(J) Where a Competition is an incorporated entity, the Officers of the Competition shall ensure that the Articles of Association of the Competition are consistent with the requirements of these Rules.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

9. **(A)** On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call an SGM.

(B) The [WNL Board]/Management Committee may call an SGM at any time.

(C) At least 7 days' notice shall be given of a meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.

(D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.

(E) Any Club failing to be represented at an SGM shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(F) *WNL Only*

Officers of the Competition shall be entitled to attend and vote at all SGMs but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a club (see Rule 9(D)).

Regional League Only

Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all SGMs , but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a club (See Rule 9(D))

AGREEMENT TO RULES OF THE COMPETITION

10. **(A)** Membership of the Competition shall constitute an agreement between the Competition and a Club to be bound by and comply with these Rules (including any decision of the [WNL Board and/or WNL EOC]/ Management Committee made pursuant to these Rules).

(B) Any change of Chair, Secretary or Directors of the Club must be notified to the parent County Football Association to which the Club is sanctioned and to the Secretary of this Competition.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

11. **(A)** Any Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a Team from the Competition on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the Competition must notify the Secretary in writing of such intention by 31 March each season. This does not apply to a Club moving in accordance with Rule 22(B). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(B) The Management Committee shall have the discretion to deal with a Team being unable to start or complete its fixtures for a Playing Season, including, but not limited to, issuing a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Where a Club has more than one Team and one or more of those Teams is unable to start or complete its fixtures for a Playing Season, the Sanctioning Authority shall have the discretion to determine which Team shall be deemed as unable to start or complete its fixtures and to deal with that Team accordingly, including, but not limited to, issuing a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(C) Notwithstanding the powers of the [WNL Board]/Management Committee pursuant to Rule 6(I), in the event of a Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £50, the [WNL Board]/Management Committee shall be empowered to refer the debt under The FA Football Debt Recovery provisions.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

EXCLUSION OF CLUBS, TEAMS. MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS, MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/WNL EOC

12. **(A)** *WNL Only*

At the AGM, or SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, notice of motion having been duly circulated on the agenda by direction of the WNL EOC, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude any Club or Team from membership which must be supported by more than two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club which is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

Regional League Only

At the AGM or SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, notice of motion having been duly circulated on the agenda by direction of the Management Committee, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to:

1. remove a member of the Management Committee from office;

2. exclude any Club or Team from membership.

both of which, must be supported by more than two thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A member of the Management Committee or Club which is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

(B) At the AGM, or at an SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, provided this is supported by more than two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

(C) Any Officer or member of a Club found guilty of a breach of Rule, other than field offences, shall be liable to such penalty as a General Meeting or [WNL EOC]/Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of 12(A) and/or 12(B) of this Rule.

TROPHY

13. **(A)** Where the Competition requires the annual return of a cup or trophy, the following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the cup or trophy:-

"We (A) (name) and (B) (name), the Chair and Secretary of [ ] FC (Limited), members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of [ ] cup or trophy, and the cup or trophy having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the cup or trophy to the Secretary on or before [ ]. If the cup or trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair."

Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(B) At the close of each Competition awards may/shall be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.

ALTERATION TO RULES

14. **(A)** Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM or at an SGM specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 9. Any alteration made during the Playing Season to these Rules shall not take effect until the following Playing Season, except in exceptional circumstances and approved by Sanctioning Authority or The FA.

(B) No alteration to the core WFP Rules shall be made until they have been approved by The FA. Proposals for alterations to the core WFP Rules, must be communicated to The FA not later than 1 December each year.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

(C) Notice of proposed alterations to local and league cup rules, together with the name of their proposers and seconders, to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by 31 March in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 15 April and any amendments to these proposals shall be submitted to the Secretary by 1 May. The proposals and proposed amendments to these proposals shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a rule shall be carried if a majority of those present and entitled to vote and voting are in favour.

(D) A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the AGM or SGM shall be submitted to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA (as applicable) at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.

FINANCE

15. (A) The [WNL Board]/Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.

(B) All expenditure in excess of £100 shall be approved by the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed/bank payments shall be authorised by at least two Officers nominated by the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee.

(C) The financial year of the Competition will end on [ ].

(D) The accounting records or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be [audited/verified] annually by a suitably qualified person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.

(E) *WNL Only*

At the close of each Competition awards may/shall be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.

INSURANCE

16. (A) All Clubs must have valid Public Liability Insurance cover for a minimum of ten million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times.

(B) All Clubs must have valid personal accident cover for all Players registered with them from time to time. The players' personal accident insurance cover must be in place prior to the Club taking part in any Competition Match and shall be at least equal to the minimum recommended cover determined from time to time by the Sanctioning Authority. In instances where The FA is the Sanctioning Authority, the minimum recommended cover will be the cover required by the Affiliated Association to which a Club affiliates.

(C) Failure to comply with Rule 16(A) or 16(B) will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

DISSOLUTION

17. (A) Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at an SGM by a majority of three quarters (3/4) of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant SGM.

(B) In the event of the dissolution of the Competition, the members of the [WNL Board]/Management Committee are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.

The [WNL Board]/Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:

1. Any surplus assets (save for a trophy or any other presentation), remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another Competition or Affiliated Association or The Football Association Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by resolution at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the Sanctioning Authority.

2. If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the Sanctioning Authority may decide.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

MATCH RELATED RULES

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

18. **(A)** *WNL Only*

A Player is one who, being in all other aspects eligible, has:

1. Registered through the Player Registration System no later than 16:00 on the last working day before a weekend or a bank holiday Competition Match, or no later than 16:00 on the day of a midweek Competition Match; and

2. Such registration has been (a) approved by the Competition; and (b) in the case of a:

   (i) Contract Player – approved by the league the player is transferring from and The FA.

   (ii) Loan player (if loaned from a club participating in the WSL or the WSL2) – approved by the league the player is transferring from and The FA.

   (iii) Loan player (if loaned from a club participating in the WNL) – approved by The FA.

   (iv) Academy Development Registration (ADR) – approved by the WSL.

Regional League Only

A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:

Their registration submitted by the club to the Competition on the Player Registration System no later than 16.00 two days prior to the Player playing and whose registration has been approved by the Competition prior to that Player playing in a Competition Match.

All Leagues

Any registration that is not fully and correctly completed will be returned to the Club unprocessed and the player classed as unregistered. If a Club attempts to register a player via the Player Registration System but does not fully and correctly complete the necessary information via the Player Registration System the registration will not be processed.

For Clubs registering Players by the Player Registration System, Clubs must access the Player Registration System in order to complete the registration process.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(B) 1. *WNL Only*

Contract players are permitted to play in this Competition.

Regional League Only

Contract players are not permitted in this Competition with the exception of those Players who are registered under Contract with the same Club who have a team operating at Tiers 1-4 of the Women's Football Pyramid.

All Leagues

2. It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any Player registered to the Club has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any Player aged 10 and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

3. Each team must have at least 11 Players registered 14 days before the start of each Playing Season. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

4. In the event of a Non Contract Player changing their status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, or with a Club in another Competition their registration as a Non Contract Player will automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 18(B)(1).

(C) A Player that owes a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations) shall be permitted to register for a Club but will be suspended from football activities if the Player does not comply with the terms of the Football Debt Recovery Regulations in respect of that Football Debt.

(D) A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/Team for each Player registered.

(E) The [WNL Board and/or the WNL EOC]/Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes.

In the event of a player having a registration submitted for more than one Club in the Competition, the valid registration submitted first shall take precedence. The Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

(F) It shall be a breach of Rule for a Player to:-

1. Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred.

2. Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season except for the purpose of a transfer, or where the Competition adopts Rule 18(O).

3. Submit a signed registration form as per Rule 18(A)(2) or submit a registration through the Player Registration System that the Player had willfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(G) 1. The [WNL EOC]/Management Committee shall accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of Rules 18(G)(2) and 18(G)(3) below.

2. The [WNL EOC]/Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any Player or may fine any Player, at their discretion (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 7).

3. The [WNL EOC]/Management Committee shall have power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 7) subject to the right of appeal to the Sanctioning Authority. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the Player is registered or intending to be registered with.

Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a Participant from being involved in this Competition.

4. A Player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with Rule 18(G)(3) but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered to be under a probationary period of 12 months. Whilst under a probationary period, should the Player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition, (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition may consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.

   (Note: Action under Rule 18(G)(3) shall not be taken against a Player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority, and then only in cases of the Player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any event be subject to an appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA. All decisions must include the period of restriction. For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the Competition into disrepute can only be considered where the Player has received in excess of 112 days' suspension, or 10 matches in match based discipline, in any competition (and is not restricted to the Competition) in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.)

(H) Subject to compliance with FA Rule C, when a Club wishes to register a player who is already registered with another club it shall submit a transfer notification to the Competition via the Player Registration System. A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff will be required.

Such transfer shall be referred by the Competition to the club for which the player is registered. Should this club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Competition and to the player concerned within 3 days of receipt of the notification. Upon receipt of the club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within 3 days, the Secretary may, on behalf of the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date.

In the event of an objection to a transfer the matter shall be referred to the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee for a decision.

(I) A Player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 15 March except by special permission of the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee

(J) Registrations are valid for one Season until 31 May, or later if exceptional circumstances occur and the Playing Season is extended with approval of the Sanctioning Authority.

(K) A Player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding Competition Match (as specified in Rule 22(A)) unless the Player has played 3 Competition Matches for that Team in the current Playing Season.

(L) *Regional League Only*

A Team shall not include more than 2 Players who have played in 4 or more senior Competition Matches during the current Playing Season unless a period of 21 clear days has elapsed since they last played. 21 clear days is counted by excluding the day when the relevant Player last played and the day when the Player intends to play again.

For the purpose of this Rule a senior competition(s) for a Tier 5 match is Tier 1-4 of the Women's Football Pyramid.

For the purpose of this Rule a senior competition(s) for a Tier 6 match is Tier 1-5 of the Women's Football Pyramid, including in this competition.

Where a Team fields a Player in a Competition Match or Matches in breach of this Rule, the Management Committee may determine that it has fielded an ineligible player and that the provisions of Rule 18.M shall apply.

(M) 1. Subject to Rule 18(M)(2) any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a Competition Match or Matches where points are awarded shall have the points gained from that Competition Match deducted from its record, up to a maximum of 12 points, and have levied upon it a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

2. The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule 18(M)(1) only in circumstances where the ineligibility is due to the failure to obtain an International Transfer Certificate or where the ineligibility is related to the Player's status.

3. Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible Player in accordance with Rule 18(M)(1) above, the [WNL Board]/Management Committee may also, at its discretion order one or more of the following:

a) Award the points available in the Competition Match in question to the opponents, subject to the Competition Match not being ordered to be replayed; and/or

b) Deduct points from the record of the Club in default up to a maximum of 3 points; and/or

c) Order that such Competition Match or Matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the [WNL Board]/Management Committee).

(N) The following clause applies to Competitions involving Players in full-time secondary education:

1. Priority must be given at all times to activities of schools and school organisations. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

2. The availability of children and young people must be cleared with the Head Teachers or Principals (except for Sunday leagues competitions).

3. To play open age football the player must have achieved the age of 16.

(O) If a Club wishes to cancel a Player's registration within the Competition, it must make a request via The FA's electronic player registration system giving the reasons for the request. The Competition may either approve or decline the request.

(P) *WNL Only*

Temporary Transfers (Loans)

1. Short Term Loans and Long Term Loans of Contract players shall be allowed to or from:

(a) a Club in membership of the Competition;

(b) a club in membership of any other league authorised by The FA from time to time; or

2. Such loans shall be on such terms and conditions as shall be mutually agreed by the two clubs and the Contract Player. For loan transfers between Clubs in membership of the Competition, the transfer must be completed on the WNL Temporary Transfer Form H2. For loan transfers between clubs in different Competitions the transfer must be completed on WNL Form H3. Forms must be returned to the Competition secretary as stated in Rule 18(A).

3. The Contract Player being taken on loan must sign a Competition registration form which shall be valid for the full period of the loan, including any extension to the loan period. The Competition's standard cancellation form must be used to prematurely end the temporary transfer period. The temporary registration for the transferee Club will automatically be cancelled at the end of the temporary transfer period.

4. No more than 4 Players engaged on Short Term Loan or Long Term Loan may join a Club from another Club (or club) in any Playing Season.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

Short Term Loan Transfers

5. A Club can have up to a maximum of 2 Players registered on Short Term Loans during a Playing Season at any given time.

6. The transfer must be completed on either WNL Temporary Transfer Form H2 or The FA Form H3 as appropriate. On completion of the relevant form, the Club must send the original to The FA and email one copy to the Competition Secretary within 3 days.

7. Where a Short Term Loan expires, and is not renewed simultaneously, any subsequent Short Term Loan of that Contract Player to the same Club will be subject to a minimum duration of 28 days.

8. To extend the period of any Short Term Loan transfer a further WNL Temporary Transfer Form H2 or WNL Form H3 must be completed and copies sent to The FA and the Competition Secretary in line with Rule 18(A). If the Short Term Loan transfer is extended, only the transferor Club will be allowed to cancel the agreement within the extension period. In the case of a goalkeeper, Clubs can agree to include a recall clause in the loan agreement enabling the transferor Club to recall the Player at any time during the loan period (i.e. before the minimum period of 28 days has expired). For the avoidance of doubt, Players other than goalkeepers may not be recalled within the first 28 days of any Short Term Loan.

9. Any Short Term Loan transfer which may terminate after the last day for registrations may be extended for a further period provided the maximum period of 93 days is not exceeded.

10. Short Term Loan transfers which become permanent transfers before their expiry date shall not count against a Club's quota of days or Players for the purposes of calculating the number of Short Term Loan Players any Club has registered during a Playing Season.

Long Term Loan Transfers

11. A Club can have up to a maximum of 2 Players registered on Long Term Loans during a Playing Season at any given time.

12. Long Term Loan transfers shall only be approved provided that:

    a) Subject to the proviso that the duration of a Long Term Loan must be the time between two Transfer Windows, a Long Term Loan may last either half a Playing Season or a full Playing Season.

    b) Any recall clause requiring the early termination of a Long Term Loan can only be included in a Long Term Loan entered into for a full Playing Season and this can only be activated during the Second Transfer Window.

    c) Any other early termination of a Long Term Loan must be by way of mutual agreement in writing (including by way of a recall clause within a loan agreement) between the transferor club and the transferee club and the Player, but can only be completed after the expiry of 28 days and only during a Transfer Window.

    d) A Player whose Long Term Loan expires (or terminates) at the end of the Playing Season of the transferee club but prior to the completion of the Competition Matches of the transferor club (where it is Club) will not be eligible to play in Competition Matches for the transferor club in that Playing Season.

    e) A Long Term Loan of a goalkeeper (but not otherwise) may be subject to a recall clause exercisable at any time. Any recall may only be implemented in extenuating circumstances and with the consent of the Competition, such extenuating circumstances to be determined in the Competition absolute discretion. A goalkeeper shall not be permitted to resume any Long Term Loan following the exercise of a recall.

13. To extend the period of any Long Term Loan transfer a further WNL Temporary Transfer Form H2 or WNL Form H3 must be completed and copies sent to The FA and the Competition Secretary.

CLUB COLOURS

19. **(A)** Every team must register the colour of its shirts, shorts and socks with the Secretary by [date] and the Secretary shall decide as to their suitability.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(B) Any team wishing to change the colour(s) and/or design(s) of its shirt(s), short(s) and/or socks during the Playing Season must obtain permission from the Secretary in advance of making that change.

(C) Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from all other Players and the Match Officials.

(D) *Regional League Only*

No Player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts.

WNL Only

Where a Club is permitted to wear black or very dark shirts, the Club must provide alternative shirts for Match Officials as directed by the Competition.

(E) Any Team not able to play in its normal colours (as registered with the Competition) in a Competition Match shall at least 4 clear days before the Competition Match: (a) obtain permission from the Secretary to play in alternative colours, and (b) notify its opponent of the colours in which it will play (including the colours of the goalkeepers jersey). The opponent Team shall then confirm its colours to its opponent at least 3 clear days before the Competition Match. Any clash shall be dealt with in accordance with Rule 19(F).

(F) If, in the opinion of the referee, two Teams have the same or similar colours, the away Team shall make the change. If there is still a clash, the home Team shall also make a change and both Teams shall wear their second choice kits. If there is still a clash, the away Team shall wear their first choice kit.

If there is still a clash, the referee may require the home Team or the away Team (or both) to wear a combination of items from their first or second choice kits to resolve the clash.

Should a Team delay the scheduled time of kick off for a Competition Match by not having a change of colours they will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(G) Shirts must all be numbered and correspond to the numbers appearing on any team sheet, and no two shirts shall have the same number, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

All shirt numbers must be clearly visible and identifiable by the Match Officials and by spectators. Striped, hooped or otherwise patterned shirts must have numbers affixed to contrasting patches or use numbers in a contrasting colour with a bold outline.

WNL Only

All shirts must be numbered with official WNL branded shirt numbers.

(H) The Captain shall wear a distinguishing armband to indicate their status.

WNL Only

This must be the armband supplied by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(I) The Secretary may request shirts to be submitted if any concerns are raised as to lack of distinguishing colours, and the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee may refuse to permit any shirts, shorts or socks as they see fit.

(J) *WNL Only*

The sleeves of the shirts of all Players in all Competition Matches shall carry a Competition logo as supplied by the Competition on the RIGHT sleeve of the shirts as ordered by the WNL EOC. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

PLAYING SEASON, CONDITIONS OF PLAY, TIMES OF KICK-OFF, POSTPONEMENTS, SUBSTITUTES

20. (A) 1. All Competition Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board.

2. Clubs must take all reasonable precautions to keep their Grounds in a playable condition. All Competition Matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the [WNL EOC]/ Management Committee. If through any fault of the home Team a match has to be replayed, the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee shall have power to order the venue to be changed.

The [WNL EOC]/ Management Committee shall have power to decide whether a pitch and/ or facilities are suitable for Competition Matches and to order the Club concerned to play its Competition Match(es) on another ground.

Grounds may be inspected and subject to the approval of the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee or persons designated by the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee. This also applies to any Club moving to another Ground.

3. If a club wishes to use a ground which is not its nominated ground, the Club must have written permission of the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee. If the change occurs within 5 days of the fixture, immediate notification of the change of ground must be given to opposition and match officials following [WNL EOC]/Management Committee approval.

4. The home Club is responsible for advising Participants of footwear requirements when confirming match arrangements in accordance with Rule 20(C).

5. WNL Only

The home Club must allow their opposition to access their ground at least 90 minutes prior to kick-off, and to train on their pitch at least one hour prior to kick-off. Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Regional Leagues Only

The home Club must allow their opposition to access their ground and to train on their pitch at least one hour prior to kick-off. Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

All Competitions Resume Here

6. All Competition Matches shall have a duration of 90 minutes unless a shorter time (not less than sixty (60) minutes) is mutually arranged by the two Clubs in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves. Two matches involving the same two Teams can be played on the same day providing the total playing time is not more than 120 minutes.

7. The times of kick-off shall be agreed at the AGM and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing Clubs and the Competition. Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition.

   Any kick-off delayed after the appointed time shall be reviewed by the [WNL EOC]/ Management Committee, and for the defaulting club(s) may result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. If the game does not go ahead due to a delayed kick-off the defaulting team may be treated as failing to fulfil the fixture by the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee.

8. The home Team must provide goal nets, corner flags and at least two match quality footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if not provided. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

9. The grounds for Tier 3 teams must satisfy the minimum of Grade 4 requirements as stated in the current approved version of the Stadium Accreditation Criteria Document.

   The grounds for Tier 4 teams must satisfy the minimum of Grade 5 requirements as stated in the current approved version of the Stadium Accreditation Criteria Document.

   The grounds for Tier 5 teams must satisfy the minimum of Grade E requirements as stated in the current approved version of the Women's Football Pyramid Ground Grading Document.

   The grounds for Tier 6 teams must satisfy the minimum of Grade F requirements as stated in the current approved version of the Women's Football Pyramid Ground Grading Document.

   No overhead netting is allowed for Women's Football Pyramid matches.

   At Tiers 3 to 5, overhead wires used to support pitch divider netting must be removed for Women's Football Pyramid matches.

   At Tier 6, overhead wires used to support pitch divider netting are ideally removed for Women's Football Pyramid matches but if they cannot be removed then discretion is given to the match official to restart the match in accordance of the Laws of the Game.

10. *WNL Only*

    Where the Competition has provided match balls these must be used at all Competition Matches. Any Club failing to use match balls provided by the Competition without exceptional reason will be fined as set out in the Fines Tariff.

    If any balls supplied to the Referee have substantial defects or if less than 2 match quality balls have been supplied, they will include this in their match report. Any other match ball provided as an alternative must be of match quality and subject to the approval of the referee. Any Club reported may be fined as set out in the Fines Tariff.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

(B) Home and away matches shall be played. Clubs must be available to play on all Sundays from the commencement of the Season until the end of the Season. Clubs may be required to play midweek fixtures.

Except by permission of the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee all Competition Matches must be played on the dates originally agreed, which may include on a day other than Sunday, but priority shall be given to The FA and parent County Association Cup Competitions in accordance with Rule 20(E)(2). All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a Competition match with the consent of the Competition.

Clubs must immediately inform the Competition of the details of any fixtures in external competitions once scheduled (where approval under Rule 2(K) has been given).

In the case of a revised fixture date, the Clubs must be given by the Competition 5 clear days' notice of the match (unless otherwise mutually agreed).

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(C) *Regional Leagues Only*

An Officer of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the Ground, the MEAP (as defined in Rule 24(A)), and time of kick-off and kit colours (including goalkeeper) to the Match Officials and an Officer of the opposing Club at least 4 clear days prior to the playing of the match. The opposing Club must confirm receipt and give notice of its kit colours (including goalkeeper) to the Match Officials and an Officer of the home Club at least 2 clear days prior to the playing of the Competition Match. If either is not provided, the relevant Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

WNL Only

An Officer of the home Club must give notice of full particulars and the location of, and access to, the Ground, the MEAP (as defined in Rule 24(A)), and time of kick-off to the Match Officials and an Officer of the opposing Club at least 5 clear days prior to the playing of the match. If not so provided, the away Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

The visiting Club and Match Officials must acknowledge receipt at least 3 days before the match. Any Club in breach of this Rule shall be subject to a fixed penalty in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

The visiting Club must include in its acknowledgement the team colours, including the colour of the goalkeeper jersey it will be wearing. Any Club in breach of this Rule shall be subject to a fixed penalty in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

All Clubs must have a mobile telephone and an email address operational at all times. Breach of this Rule shall be subject to a fixed penalty in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(D) In accordance with the Laws of the Game, a Competition Match may not start or continue if either Team has fewer than seven players.

(E) 1. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement pursuant to Rule 20(B) the [WNL Board]/Management Committee shall have power to impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff), deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points from the Competition Match in question to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any reasonable expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except by the award of goals. Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the [WNL Board]/Management Committee shall have power to order a Competition Match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent's Ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

2. Fixtures in the Competition shall take precedence over fixtures in all other competitions in which a Team is participating, with the exception of fixtures in:

   a) The FA Women's Challenge Cup; and

      Regional Leagues Only

   b) The Team's County Cup Competition (but only where the fixture is scheduled to take place on the third Sunday of a calendar month).

      WNL Only

      The Team's County Cup Competition after the month of December (but only where the fixture is scheduled to take place on the third Sunday of a calendar month).

3. Any Club with more than one Team in the Competition shall always fulfil its fixture, within the Competition, in the following order of precedence:- First Team, Reserve Team, A Team.

4. Where a Club fails to fulfil a fixture as a result of a breach of Rule 20(E)(3), it may be sanctioned in accordance with Rule 20(E)(1).

5. If a Competition Match is abandoned, both Clubs must give notice to the Competition by the applicable deadline set out in Rule 21(B). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

6. In the event of a Competition Match not being played or being abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it should be played in its entirety on a date fixed by the Competition. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either club, the Competition may also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

7. The [WNL Board]/Management Committee shall review all Competition Matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the [WNL Board]/ Management Committee shall order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee are satisfied that a Match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one Team or its Club member(s) they shall award the points for the Match to the opponent. In cases where a Match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Teams or their Club member(s), the [WNL Board]/Management Committee shall rule that neither Team will be awarded any points for that Match and it shall not be replayed. No fine(s) can be applied by the [WNL Board]/Management Committee for an abandoned Match.

8. The [WNL Board]/Management Committee shall review any match that has taken place where either or both teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by The FA or Affiliated Association. In each case the team that was under suspension would be dealt with in the same manner as if they had participated with ineligible players in accordance with Rule 18(M) above. Where both teams were under suspension the game must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.

(F) *Regional Leagues Only*

A Club may at its discretion use substitute Players in any Competition Match. A Club may name up to 5 substitute Players. The maximum number of substitutions in any Competition Match is unlimited.

A Player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace a Player at any time.

Both Teams will provide a fully completed team sheet, as defined by the Competition, to the referee and opposition not later than 30 minutes before the start of the Competition Match and a Player not so named may not take part in that Competition Match.

A player who is not named and takes part will be deemed to be an ineligible player under Rule 18(M).

A Player who has been named as a substitute before the start of the Competition Match but does not actually play in that game shall not be considered to have been a Player in that Competition Match within the meaning of Rule 18 of this Competition.

Each Team and the Match Officials must retain the team sheet until the date of the next Competition AGM, and must provide a copy of the team sheet to the Competition upon request during that period. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

WNL Only

A Club may at its discretion use up to a maximum of 5 substitute Players in any Competition Match.

A Club may name up to 7 substitute Players.

Both teams must provide a list of players, including substitutes, with their correct shirt numbers, to the Match Officials at least 45 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time and in the presence of both the manager and the team captain from the opposing Club. All shirt numbers worn by all Players must correspond to those shown on the match team sheet. Team sheets will then be exchanged. Failure to do so will incur a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

A player who is not named and takes part will be deemed to be an ineligible player under rule 18(M).

Each Team and the Match Officials must retain the team sheet until the date of the next Competition AGM, and must provide a copy of the team sheet to the Competition upon request during that period. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

A player who has been selected, appointed or named as a substitute before the start of the match but does not actually play in the game shall not be considered to have been a player in that game within the meaning of Rule 18 of this Competition.

(G) The half-time interval will ordinarily be of 15 minutes duration. The half-time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee but it shall not exceed 15 minutes.

(H) The Teams taking part in a Competition Match shall identify a Team captain who shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the onfield discipline of their teammates. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(I) Where a suspension imposed upon a Club (or a Team of that Club) by The FA or Affiliated Association in relation to:

(i) a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations); or

(ii) The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children or Regulations for Safeguarding Adults at Risk

is not lifted, and/or the Club does not provide confirmation from The FA or Affiliated Association that such suspension is lifted to the Secretary by 12 noon two days before a fixture, that fixture will be treated as an unfulfilled fixture and dealt with in accordance to Rule 20(E)(1).

(J) A copy of the Competition Rules must be provided by the home team at all fixtures.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

(K) Clubs shall support The Football Association in relation to International Matches in accordance with the provisions of The Football Association Rules. A Club having 2 players or more selected for international duty for their national association may request a postponement of its League fixture provided that at least 10 days' notice is given to the Secretary in writing. If 1 player is selected and that player is the goalkeeper a Club could make a similar request for the postponement of its League fixture. This will only apply to Senior and Under 19 matches which are played within the FIFA Women's International match calendar. The relevant FIFA regulation regarding the release of players for international duty is included at Appendix E.

(L) 1. In the event of a team being unable to fulfil a fixture because of excessive injury or illness to players, the Club shall supply official medical certification evidence to the Secretary within 48 hours of the scheduled fixture to substantiate any application for postponement.

2. All Clubs shall ensure that any player in a League match having left the field of play with a head injury shall not be allowed to resume playing or training without clearance of a qualified medical practitioner. The same provisions shall apply where a head injury is sustained in training.

(M) *WNL Only*

Provisions are to be made to receive gate receipts. A record of any return made on the gate receipts received should be retained and provided to the Competition upon request. Where gate receipts are received, the away Club shall be issued with 30 passes on a complimentary basis (complimentary passes are for players, managing & coaching staff and club officials only).

(N) 1. In all Competition Matches played in grounds with dugouts and technical areas, the designated technical area may only be occupied by the named substitutes and up to 6 club officials. Where the team bench does not have enough seats, then additional seating must be made available alongside or behind the bench, a minimum of 1m away.

2. All club officials and substitutes seated in the technical area shall be listed on the official team sheet when it is submitted to the Match Officials. Only those persons listed on the official team sheet shall be permitted in the technical area.

3. With the exception of the team manager, the team coach and any substitutes who are warming up or warming down, all other personnel are to remain seated on the team bench.

4. Any breach of the technical area rules set out in Rule 20(N) shall be subject to a fixed penalty in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

REPORTING RESULTS

21. (A) If instructed by the Competition, the Secretary must receive within 3 days of the date played, the team sheet of both Teams for each Competition Match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the Team Players (in block letters) [and also the referee markings required by Rule 23, or any other information required by the Competition]. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(B) Both Clubs shall use FA Full Time as directed by the Competition to notify the result of each Competition Match within two hours of the end of the Competition Match (or by the following day, for a Competition Match with an evening kick-off). This Rule also applies to non-Competition matches such as Women's FA Cup or county cup matches. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(C) Within 2 days of each fixture, Clubs shall enter team details and any other information as prescribed by the Secretary onto the Full Time website. This rule also applies to non-Competition matches such as Women's FA Cup or county cup matches. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

22. **(A)** Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn Competition Match. The Teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective divisions at the end of the Playing Season shall be adjudged the winners. Competition Matches must not be played for double points.

In the event of two or more Teams being equal on points at the end of the Playing Season, rankings shall be determined by goal difference (where the goals scored against each Team shall be deducted from the goals scored by that Team and the Team with the most favourable goal difference shall be placed highest).

In the event of two or more Teams still being equal, the Team which has scored the most goals during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.

In the event of two or more Teams still being equal, the Team that has won the most matches during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.

In the event of two or more Teams still being equal, the Team which has the better playing record against the other Team in their head to head Competition Matches during the Playing Season will be placed highest.

If the records of two or more Teams are still equal and it is necessary for any reason to determine the position of each then the Teams affected shall play a deciding match or matches under conditions as determined by the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee.

(B) 1. Promotion and relegation shall refer in first instance to the Women's Football Pyramid Regulations. The following may then apply, subject to the provisions of Rule 2(L). Should one or more Teams withdraw from any one division after the Playing Season has commenced an equal number of Teams to those withdrawing in that division shall not be automatically relegated.

Regional Leagues Only

2. When a senior Team is relegated from Tier 5 and its reserve Team is a member, or entitled to be a member, of Tier 6, such reserve Team must accept relegation to, or retain its position in Tier 7.

3. Should either or both of the leading Teams in any Tier 6 divisions have a senior Team in the next higher division playing above Tier 6, promotion shall fall to the next highest Team or Teams as allowed by the Women's Football Pyramid Regulations.

WNL Only

4. The first placed teams of the Northern and Southern Premier Divisions shall compete in a Play-Off match to determine the overall WNL Champion. The match will be 90-minutes duration with the addition of extra-time and penalties if required. The Championship Play-Off match date and venue will be decided by the Management Committee.

Should either of the first placed teams decline to compete in the Championship Play-Off match, the title shall be awarded to the non-defaulting Club.

(C) 1. In the event of a team withdrawing from the Competition before completing 75% of its fixtures for the season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting team shall be expunged from the Competition table. For the purposes of this Rule 22(D) a completed fixture shall include any Competition Match(es) which has been awarded by the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee.

2. If a Club ceases to operate between the AGM and commencement of the following Season, no adjustment to the Competition constitution will be made. Withdrawal of a club will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

MATCH OFFICIALS

23. **(A)** Registered referees (and assistant referees where approved by The FA or County FA) for all Competition Matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the [WNL EOC]/Management Committee and by the Sanctioning Authority.

(B) 1. In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed referee the appointed senior assistant referee shall take charge and a substitute assistant referee appointed by the competing Teams.

2. In cases where there are no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance, the Clubs shall agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that Competition Match, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee. Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any Competition Match.

(C) Where assistant referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club assistant referee. Substitutes are not permitted to act as Club assistant referees. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(D) The appointed referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the Ground in all Competition Matches and that decision shall be final, subject to the determination of the Local Authority or the owners of a Ground, which must be accepted.

WNL Only

A copy of the match postponement form detailing reasons for the postponement, whether by the Referee, Local Authority or owners of the ground, must be submitted to the Secretary by the Home Club within 48 hours.

Failure to submit the Certificate of Match Postponement, with a valid reason for the postponement, shall result in the Home Club being charged with failing to keep its engagement and they shall be dealt with in accordance with 20(F).

(E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Authority, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff.

Regional Leagues Only

Match Officials will be paid their fees and/or expenses by the home Club before/immediately after the Competition Match. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

WNL Only

The Home Club shall pay the Officials their fees and expenses immediately after the match in the Match Officials changing room. Payment may be by cash or electronic transfer. Electronic payments must be initiated within 48 hours. Failure to do so can result in sanctions as per the tariff table.

An equalisation fund for Match Official expenses may be operated.

(F) In the event of a Competition Match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to [half fee/half fee plus expenses]. Where a Competition Match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Match Officials, if they attend the Ground, their full fee and expenses. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(G) A referee not keeping their engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Affiliated Association with which they is registered.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

(H) *Regional Leagues Only*

Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The FA, award a mark out of 100 to the referee for each Competition Match and the name of the referee and the mark awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed form provided.

Where a Club awards a referee a mark of 60 or less out of 100, the Club must within 3 days of the Competition Match send an email to the Competition providing a full explanation of the reasons for the low mark as per the referee marking guidance (as issued by the Competition from time to time).

Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.

WNL Only

Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed by The Football Association award marks to the Referee for each match. The name of the referee and marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the MOAS and any other Form provided by the Competition. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined or dealt with as the WNL EOC shall determine. Guidance on referee marking can be found at Appendix G.

(I) The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the form provided by the prescribed date each Season, shall submit a summary to the Sanctioning Authority.

(J) *Regional Leagues Only*

The referee shall submit a report form, supplied by the Competition, giving the result of the Competition Match, the number of Players in each Team and the time of kick-off to the (Registration) Secretary within two days of the Competition Match.

WNL Only

The Referee shall submit a report via the MOAS giving the result of the match, the number of players in each team and the time of kick-off within 2 days of the match.

(K) Match Officials shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.

(L) Match Officials shall comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA and/or Sanctioning Authority adopted by the Competition

(M) *WNL Only*

Any Match Official not contacted to confirm an appointment at least 5 days before a match must contact the Home Club and report the matter to the Competition. Any Club failing to confirm an appointment with an appointed Match Official at least 5 days prior to the date of a match will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(N) *WNL and Regional Leagues*

Each Club shall have a set of assistant referee flags available.

(O) *WNL Only*

An official of the Home Club shall be at the ground to meet the Match Officials. Failure of the Home Club to comply with this rule shall be reported by the Referee. The defaulting Club shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(P) *WNL and Regional Leagues*

The late arrival of any Match Official shall be reported to the Competition Secretary by the Home Club.

MATCH RELATED RULES – MEDICAL

24. **(A)** The following table sets out the medical requirements applicable to a Club participating in the Competition (as applicable):

TIER OF WFP	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5	Tier 6
QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL (MINIMUM) (IN ATTENDANCE AT ALL COMPETITION MATCHES	First Aider with EMFAiF qualification	First Aider with EFAiF qualification	First Aider with IFAiF qualification	
MEAP	Required			
AED	Required		Recommended	
FIRST AID EQUIPMENT	Required		Recommended	
ADDITIONAL MEDICAL EQUIPMENT	Recommended if a Qualified Medical Practitioner is engaged to attend a Competition Match			
MEDICAL RECORDS	Required		Recommended	

In the table above:

"AED" means an Automated External Defibrillator which a Club must have within one minute of the pitch during all home Competition Matches and training sessions. In the absence of a permanent AED at the applicable venue, access to a portable AED is required pitch side.

"EFAiF" means The FA Level 2 Emergency First Aid in Football.

"EMFAiF" means The FA Level 3 Emergency Medical First Aid in Football.

"First Aider" means an individual who holds either a IFAiF, EFAiF or EMFAiF qualification.

"IFAiF" means Introduction to First Aid in Football.

"MEAP" means a Medical Emergency Action Plan to help with a response to a first aid emergency and deal efficiently with a life- or limb-threatening incident, which a Club must provide to the match officials and the opposition Team during all home Competition Matches.

"Medical Records" means an up-to-date record of a Club's players' injuries. Access to the Medical Records should be restricted to a First Aider or a Qualified Medical Practitioner in attendance at a Competition Match.

"Qualified Medical Practitioner" means a graduate health care professional (e.g. a doctor, physiotherapist, paramedic, nurse, sport therapist or sports rehabilitator) who has the appropriate valid medical insurance, and is registered with a recognised professional body, (e.g. the General Medical Council, Health Care Professions Council, Royal College of Nursing, Society of Sports Therapists, Sports Therapy Association, Sports Therapy Organisation, Federation of Holistic Therapists Directory Service or British Association of Sport Rehabilitators).

(B) A Club must have the following first aid equipment available during all Competition Matches and training sessions:

1. Minimum two pairs of hypoallergenic gloves;

2. A resuscitation face shield;
3. A sterile eye pads or another suitable dressing;
4. Plasters of various sizes, waterproof plasters, and conforming bandages which do not restrict movement;
5. Sterile dressings in variety of sizes;
6. Tape and bandages including crepe and triangular bandages;
7. Gauze swabs;
8. Yellow biohazard plastic bags (or similar) for disposal of soiled plasters, dressings and gauze. Clubs are required to have a process for the disposal of the used biohazard plastic bags;
9. Ice/cold packs and appropriate means of application;
10. Sterile saline pods for wound management;
11. Medical blankets used by ambulances or foil/space blankets;
12. Regular and Tuff Cut scissors;
13. Packets of sugar or sachets of full sugar jam;
14. Tweezers;
15. Sterile water pods for cleaning wounds or eye irrigation;
16. Concussion Recognition Tool 6; and
17. Sanitizing hand gel.

(C) Where a Club engages a Qualified Medical Practitioner, it is recommended that the Qualified Medical Practitioner has access to the following additional medical equipment:

1. Pocket mask;
2. Fully stocked oxygen bag with a portable cylinder, non re-breather mask, bag valve mask and viral filter;
3. Pen torch;
4. Selection of oral and nasopharyngeal airways;
5. Portable suction unit;
6. Magill forceps;
7. Stethoscope;
8. Pulse oximeter;
9. Tape for taping or holding on dressings;
10. Selection of upper and lower limb splints and crutches;
11. Sport Concussion Assessment Tool 6 (SCAT6)/Child SCAT6.

This list of additional medical equipment is not exhaustive, but is covered on the EMFAiF course. This additional medical equipment should only be used by those individuals who hold the appropriate qualifications.

First Aiders who are not Qualified Medical Practitioners should not manage or use any of the additional medical equipment without a Qualified Medical Practitioner.

(D) Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

FEES TARIFF

RULE	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE	
		Regional	The FA WNL
4(B)	Club/team annual subscription	£100	£
4(B)	Deposit	£50	£
7(C), 7(H)	Protest	£25/50	£
7(F)	Appeal fees	£50	£
18(D)	Player registration fee	£2	£
18(H)	Transfer fee	£5	£
23(E)	Referee fees	£	£
23(E)	Assistant referee fees	£	£

FINES TARIFF

RULE	DESCRIPTION	Regional	The FA WNL
2(I)	Failure to comply with FA initiatives	£150	£
2(K)	Unauthorised entry of teams into competitions	£150	£
3	Failure to obtain consent for a change of club name	£150	£
4(B)	Failure to pay a deposit	£100	£
5(E)	Communications conducted by persons other than nominated officers	£50	£
6(I)	Failure to comply with an instruction of the management committee	£100	£
6(J)	Failure to pay a fine within required timeframe	£50	£
6(O)	Failure to attend mandatory roadshows or events	£200	£
8(H)	Failure to be represented at AGM	£200	£
9(E)	Failure to be represented at SGM	£200	£
10	Failure to notify changes to Chair, Secretary or Directors of the Club	£50	£
11(A)	Failure to provide notice of withdrawal before deadline	£50	£
11(B)	Failure to commence/complete fixtures	£200	£
13(A)	Failure to submit the required written agreement regarding the cup or trophy	£50	£

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

RULE	DESCRIPTION	Regional	The FA WNL
15(E)	Failure to submit accounting records to the league	N/A	£
16(C)	Failure to have the required insurance	£100	£
18(A)	Failure to correctly register a player	N/A	£
18(B)(3)	Failure to have the required number of registered players prior to the season commencing	N/A	£
18(D)	Failure to pay registration fee invoice	N/A	£
18(F)	Registering or playing for multiple clubs, or inaccurate completion of a registration form	£150	£
18(G)(2)	Registration irregularities	£150	£
18(I)	Fielding more than the permitted number of players who have participated in senior competitions matches	£100	£
18(K)(L)(M)	Playing an ineligible player	£150	£
18(N)	Failure to give priority to school activities	£100	£
19(A)	Failure to register the colour shirts, shorts and socks with the Secretary	N/A	£100
19(F)	Delaying kick off due to no change of colours	£50	£
19(G)	Failure to number shirts in accordance with league rules	£50	£
19(H)	Failure to wear WNL captain's armband	N/A	£
19(J)	Failure to wear WNL sleeve patch correctly	N/A	£
20(A)	Not allowing opposition the opportunity to train on the 3G facility at least one hour prior to the fixture	£50	£
20(A)	Failure to provide required equipment (goal nets/corner flags/match balls)	£50	£
20(A)	Delaying kick off	£50	£
20(A)	Failure to use Competition Match Balls	N/A	£
20(B)	Failure to play matches on the date fixed	£150	£
20(C)	Failure to provide or acknowledge receipt of details of a fixture	£50	£
20(C)	Failure to have an operational mobile telephone and email address	N/A	£

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

RULE	DESCRIPTION	Regional	The FA WNL
20(D)	Playing fixture with less than required number of players	N/A	£
20(E)(1)	Failure to play fixture	£250	£
20(E)(5)	Failure to give notice of failure to fulfil or postponed fixture	£50	£
20(F)	Failure to exchange matchday team sheets	£50	£
20(H)	Failure to identify a team captain	£50	£
20(L)	Failure to provide matchday programme	N/A	£
20(N)	Failure to provide or partake in refreshments	N/A	£
20(S)	Failure to comply with FA WNL Brand Guidelines	N/A	£
21(A)	Late result notification form	£50	£
21(B)	Failure to provide result and/or attendance	£50	£
21(C)	Failure to enter match details on Full Time website	£100	£
23(C)	Failure to provide club assistant referee	£50	£
23(E)	Failure to pay match officials' fees and expenses	£150	£
23(F)	Failure to pay match officials where a match is not played	£150	£
23(H)	Failure to provide referee's mark	£50	£
23(O)	Failure to meet Match Officials at the ground	N/A	£
24(A)	Failure to have required medical personnel in attendance	£100	£
24(B)	Failure to have correct first aid equipment at a match/ training session	£100	£
24(D)	Failure to comply with medical requirements.	£	£

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

29 - STANDARD CODE OF RULES

This document contains the Standard Code of Rules developed by The Football Association for open age football (the "Standard Code").

The Standard Code is mandatory for: (a) all Competitions at Regional NLS Feeder League level and below, (b) all competitions at Tier 7 and below of The FA Women's Pyramid, and (c) all mixed adult football Competitions authorised by The FA.

Competitions seeking sanction must draft their Rules in conformity with the Standard Code, using the same numbering and standard headings.

The mandatory rules are printed in normal text and the optional rules in italics.

It should be noted that in many cases rules are so printed because they are alternatives and the procedure to apply should be retained and the others omitted.

In all cases where a [ ] is shown the necessary name, address, number or wording to complete that rule must be inserted.

Competitions may add to the core of the Standard Code, which is mandatory, providing the additions are approved by the Sanctioning Authority and do not conflict with the mandatory rules or any relevant principles and policies established by The FA.

DEFINITIONS

1. **(A)** In these Rules:

"Affiliated Association" means an Association accorded the status of an Affiliated Association under the rules of The FA.

"AGM" shall mean the annual general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

"Club" means a club for the time being in membership of the Competition.

"Club Portal" means the system used by Clubs to affiliate teams as determined by The FA from time to time.

"Competition" means the [ ] League.

"Competition Match" means any match played or to be played under the jurisdiction of the Competition.

"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.

"Deposit" means a sum of money deposited with the Competition as part of the requirements of membership of the Competition.

"Fees Tariff" means a list of fees approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committee for any matters for which fees are payable under the Rules, as set out at Schedule A.

"Fines Tariff" means a list of fines approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committee for any breach of the Rules, as set out at Schedule A.

"Ground" means the ground on which the Club's Team(s) plays its Competition Matches.

"Management Committee" means in the case of a Competition which is an unincorporated association the management committee elected to manage the running of the Competition and where the Competition is incorporated it means the Board of Directors appointed in accordance with the articles of association of that company.

"Match Officials" means the referee, the assistant referees and any fourth official appointed to a Competition Match.

"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.

"Officer" means an individual who is appointed or elected to a position in a Club or Competition which requires that individual to make day to day decisions.

"Participant" shall have the same meaning as set out in the rules of The FA from time to time.

"Player" means any Contract Player, Non Contract Player or other player who plays or who is eligible to play for a Club.

"Player Registration System" means The FA system to register players as determined by The FA from time to time.

"Playing Season" means the period between the date on which the first competitive fixture in the Competition is played each year until the date on which the last competitive fixture in the Competition is played.

"Rules" means these rules under which the Competition is administered.

"Sanctioning Authority" means [The FA] [the.....County Football Association Limited].

"Scholarship" means a Scholarship as defined in The FA Rules.

"Season" means the period of time between one AGM and the next AGM.

"Secretary" means such person or persons appointed or elected to carry out the administration of the Competition.

"SGM" means a special general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

"Team" means a team affiliated to a Club, including where a Club provides more than one team in the Competition in accordance with the Rules.

"The FA" means The Football Association Limited.

"Virtual Meetings" means meetings held electronically.

"Written" or **"In Writing"** means the representation or reproduction of words or symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise.

(B) Unless stated otherwise, terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and also the other way around.

GOVERNANCE RULES

COMPETITION NAME, CONSTITUTION

2. (A) The Competition will be known as [" "] (or such other name as the Competition may adopt). The Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the Competition. A Club which ceases to exist or which ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever shall automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.

(B) This Competition shall consist of not more than [ ] Clubs [and/or [ ] Teams] approved by the Sanctioning Authority.

(C) The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be [ ].

(D) The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the Management Committee in accordance with the rules, regulations and policies of The FA.

(E) All Clubs shall adhere to the Rules. Every Club shall be deemed, as a member of the Competition to have accepted the Rules and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee in relation to them, subject to the provisions of Rule 7.

(F) The Rules are taken from the Standard Code of Rules (the "Standard Code") determined by The FA from time to time. In the event of any omissions from the Standard Code then the requirements of the Standard Code shall be deemed to apply to the Competition.

(G) 1. All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association.

2. This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Sanctioning Authority and the constituent Teams of Clubs may be grouped in divisions [each not exceeding [ ] in number].

(H) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination

1. The Competition and each Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and should abide and adhere to The FA Equality Policy and any legislative requirements (including those contained in the Equality Act 2010).

2. This Competition and each Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community.

3. Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.

(I) Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the Competition including, but not limited to, England Football Accredited and RESPECT programmes. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(J) All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children and Regulations for Safeguarding Adults at Risk as determined by The FA from time to time.

(K) Clubs shall not enter any of their Teams playing at a particular age group in the Competition in any other competition (with the exception of FA and parent County Association Cup Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. A Club must immediately inform the Competition of the details of any fixture(s) in any other competition in which the Club has entered, for which written consent of the Management Committee has been obtained.

(L) At the AGM or a SGM called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have power to decide or adjust the constitution of the divisions at their discretion. When necessary this Rule shall take precedence over Rule 22.

(M) Only one Team from a Club shall be permitted to participate in a single division unless there is no viable alternative because of logistical issues and/or reasons linked to participation and geographical boundaries in which case the Competition will obtain the prior approval of the Sanctioning Authority. This Competition will ensure that, where permission is given, Teams from a Club operating in the same division are run as separate entities with no interchange of players other than by transfers of registration in accordance with these Rules.

CLUB NAME

3. (A) Any Club wishing to change its name must obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority following consultation with the Competition. In the event that permission is granted, the Club must advise the Competition Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

4. **(A)** Applications by clubs for admission to the Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same club must be made in writing to the Secretary by [ ] and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee for each Team as set out in the Fees Tariff, which shall be returned in the event of non-election but not if the club withdraws its application.

Applications, of which due notice has been given, will be received at the AGM or an SGM if confirmed by a majority of the accredited voting members present.

When Rule 22(B) is applied or a Team seeks a transfer or, is compulsorily transferred to another division, no Entry Fee shall be payable.

(B) The annual subscription shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff for each [Club/Team]. It shall be payable by a date set by the Management Committee.

(C) In the event of any issue concerning the membership of any Club with the Competition the Management Committee may require a Deposit to be paid (in accordance with the Fees Tariff) by or on behalf of the Club on such terms and for such period as it may in its entire discretion think fit. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(D) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the entry fee, annual subscription and deposit (if required) have been paid.

(E) Clubs must ensure that all its teams participating in the Competition are recorded as affiliated on the Club Portal for the forthcoming Playing Season by the following date [ ]. Clubs must advise the Competition Secretary in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority, or on the prescribed form, of details of its headquarters, its Officers and any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

5. **(A)** The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and a minimum of one member (but no more than [ ] members), who shall all be elected at the AGM.

(B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination provided that the Officer notifies the Secretary in writing not later than [ ] in each year.

All other candidates for election as Officers of the Competition or members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the secretaries of two Clubs, not later than [ ] in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM. In the event of there being no nomination by the date stated in the earlier part of this Rule, nominations may be received at the AGM.

(C) The Management Committee shall meet a minimum of twice a season or as and when required.

On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Management Committee.

(D) Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the Competition and keep a record of its proceedings.

(E) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their Officers and sent to the Secretary.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

6. **(A)** The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary. The decisions of all sub-committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification. The Management Committee shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of The FA or Affiliated Association.

(B) Subject to the permission of the Sanctioning Authority having been obtained, the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each Season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call on each Club to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the Season.

(C) Each member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee meetings and have one vote at all such meetings but no member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly relating to that member or to the Club so represented or where there may be a conflict of interest. This shall also apply to the procedure of any sub-committee.

(D) In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chair shall have a second or casting vote.

(E) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce these Rules and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition. Any action by the Competition must be taken within 28 days of the Competition being notified.

With the exception of Rules 6(I), 8(H), and 9, for all alleged breaches of a Rule the Management Committee shall issue a formal written charge to the Club concerned. The Club charged shall be given 7 days from the date of notification of the charge to reply. In such reply a Club may:

1. Accept the charge and/or submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee; or
2. Accept the charge and notify the Competition [ ] that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee; or
3. Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Management Committee; or
4. Deny the charge and notify the Competition [ ] that it wishes to have a hearing before the Management Committee.

Where the Club charged fails to respond within 7 days, the Management Committee shall determine the charge in such manner and upon such evidence as it considers appropriate.

Having considered the reply of the Club (whether in writing or at a hearing), the Management Committee shall make its decision and, in the event that the charge is accepted or proven, decide on the appropriate penalty (with reference to the Fines Tariff where applicable).

Where required, hearings shall take place as soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of the reply of the Club as more fully set out above.

With the exception of Teams playing at Regional NLS Feeder League level, the maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is £250 and, when setting any fine, the Management Committee must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

The maximum fine permitted for a breach of a Rule by a Team playing at Regional NLS Feeder League level is £500.

No Participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

All breaches of the Laws of the Game, or the Rules and Regulations of The FA shall be dealt with in accordance with FA Rules by the appropriate sanctioning Association.

(F) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7.

Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 7 days.

(G) A minimum of [%] of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any of its sub-committee.

(H) The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill any vacancies that may occur in their number.

(I) A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee and must attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(J) Subject to a Club's right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges must be paid within 14 days of the date of notification of the decision. Any Club failing to do so will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine within a further 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.

(K) A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or Competition Match may have any reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.

(L) The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the AGM or SGM called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Playing Season, subject to the provisions of the National League System Regulations or Women's Football Pyramid Regulations (which shall take precedence if applicable).

(M) The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

(N) The Competition shall not cancel, postpone, or withdraw an entire programme of Competition Matches (e.g. all Competition Matches, or all Competition Matches within a single age group or division, taking place over a single day/week) without prior written approval from the Sanctioning Authority, except in exceptional circumstances of a serious nature (in which event, the Competition must provide notification of cancellation, postponement or withdrawal to the Sanctioning Authority at the same time as affected Teams).

PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS

7. **(A)** 1. All questions of eligibility, qualification of Players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee.

2. Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee prior to the commencement of the Match.

(B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged with the Secretary within [ ] days (excluding Sundays) of the Competition Match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of their Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

(C) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum in accordance with the Fees Tariff. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the inquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.

(D) All parties to a protest or complaint must receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days before the protest or complaint being heard.

1. All parties must have received a minimum of 7 days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.

2. Should a Club elect to state its case in person then it should indicate such when forwarding the written response.

(E) The Management Committee shall also have power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the Management Committee shall direct.

(F) An intention to appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority, with a copy sent to the Secretary, within 7 days of the Management Committee providing written notification of its decision.

A notice of appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority, with a copy sent to the Secretary, within 14 days of the Management Committee providing written notification of its decision, accompanied by the relevant fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff) which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority.

Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Management Committee.

(G) No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an AGM or SGM unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.

(H) All protests, claims or complaints relating to these Rules and appeals arising from a Player's contract shall be heard and determined by the Management Committee, or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee. The Clubs or Players protesting, appealing, claiming or complaining must send a copy of such protest, appeal, claim or complaint and deposit a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff) which shall be forfeited in the event of the protest, appeal, claim or complaint not being upheld, and in these circumstances may, in addition, be ordered to pay the costs at the direction of the Management Committee.

All such protests, claims, complaints and appeals must be received in writing by the Secretary within 14 days of the event or decision causing any of these to be submitted.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8. **(A)** The AGM shall be held not later than [ ] in each year. At this meeting the following business (in the following order) shall be transacted provided that at least [] of members are present and entitled to vote:-

1. Confirm the minutes of the last AGM.
2. Adopt the annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts from the previous season or accounting period.
3. Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.
4. Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing Season.
5. Election of Competition Officers and Management Committee members.
6. Appointment of auditors/verifiers.
7. Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14)
8. Agree the date for the beginning of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition.
9. Agree the date for the end of the Playing Season (save for Regional NLS Feeder League level which shall be determined by The FA).
10. Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted by the Chair as being relevant to an AGM.

Clubs currently in membership of the Competition shall be entitled to vote on items 1 to 3 above.

Those clubs set to be accepted as Clubs in accordance with item 3 above shall be entitled to attend the AGM, but cannot vote on items 1 to 3 above.

All Clubs (i.e. those Clubs currently in membership of the Competition and those accepted as Clubs in accordance with item 3) shall be entitled to vote on items 4 to 10 above.

(B) A copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet, statement of accounts and agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least 14 days prior to the meeting, together with any proposed Rule changes.

(C) A signed copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet and statement of accounts shall be sent to the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of its adoption by the AGM.

(D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an AGM. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. 14 days' notice shall be given of any AGM.

(E) Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the Competition during the Playing Season being concluded or who are not continuing membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the Season being concluded. This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 12.

(F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of hands, or count of email or virtual responses (for virtual meetings), unless a ballot be demanded by at least 50% of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chair so decides.

(G) No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Club.

(H) 1. Any continuing Club must be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

2. Any club that has submitted a valid application to join the Competition for the forthcoming season must have the opportunity to be put forward for membership and to have a vote taken on their membership application.

(I) Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM, but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a Club (see Rule 8.G).

(J) Where a Competition is an incorporated entity, the Officers of the Competition shall ensure that the Articles of Association of the Competition are consistent with the requirements of these Rules.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

9. (A) On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call an SGM.

(B) The Management Committee may call an SGM at any time.

(C) At least 7 days' notice shall be given of a meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.

(D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.

(E) Any Club failing to be represented at an SGM shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(F) Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all SGMs, but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a Club (see Rule 9.D).

AGREEMENT TO RULES OF THE COMPETITION

10. (A) Membership of the Competition shall constitute an agreement between the Competition and a Club to be bound by and comply with these Rules (including any decision of the Management Committee made pursuant to these Rules).

(B) Any change of Chair, Secretary or Directors of the Club must be notified to the parent County Football Association to which the Club is sanctioned and to the Secretary of this Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

11. (A) Any Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a Team from the Competition on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the Competition must notify the Secretary in writing of such intention by [date] each season. This does not apply to a Club moving in accordance with Rule 22(B). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(B) The Management Committee shall have the discretion to deal with a Team being unable to start or complete its fixtures for a Playing Season, including, but not limited to, issuing a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(C) Notwithstanding the powers of the Management Committee pursuant to Rule 6(I), in the event of a Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £50, the Management Committee shall be empowered to refer the debt under The FA Football Debt Recovery provisions.

EXCLUSION OF CLUBS, TEAMS. MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS, MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

12. **(A)** At the AGM or SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, notice of motion having been duly circulated on the agenda by direction of the Management Committee, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to: (i) remove a member of the Management Committee from office; (ii) exclude any Club or Team from membership, both of which must be supported by more than two thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A member of the Management Committee or Club which is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

(B) At the AGM, or at an SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, provided this is supported by more than two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

(C) Any Officer or member of a Club found guilty of a breach of Rule, other than field offences, shall be liable to such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of 12.A and/or 12.B of this Rule.

TROPHY

13. **(A)** The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the cup or trophy:-

"We (A) (name) and (B) (name), the Chair and Secretary of FC (Limited), members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of cup or trophy, and the cup or trophy having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the cup or trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before [ ]. If the cup or trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair."

Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(B) At the close of each Competition awards may/shall be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.

ALTERATION TO RULES

14. **(A)** Alterations for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM or at an SGM specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 9. Any alteration made during the Playing Season to these Rules shall not take effect until the following Playing Season, except in exceptional circumstances where approved by Sanctioning Authority and The FA.

(B) Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by [] in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by [ ] and any amendments to these proposals shall be submitted to the Secretary by [ ]. The proposals and proposed amendments to these proposals shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if [ ] [a majority] of those present and entitled to vote and voting are in favour.

(C) A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the AGM or SGM shall be submitted to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA (as applicable) at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.

FINANCE

15. **(A)** The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.

(B) All expenditure in excess of £[] shall be approved by the Management Committee.

(C) The financial year of the Competition will end on [ ].

(D) The accounting records, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be [audited/verified] annually by a suitably qualified person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.

INSURANCE

16. **(A)** All Clubs must have valid Public Liability Insurance cover for a minimum of ten million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times.

(B) All Clubs must have valid personal accident cover for all Players registered with them from time to time. The Players' personal accident insurance cover must be in place prior to the Club taking part in any Competition Match and shall be at least equal to the minimum recommended cover determined from time to time by the Sanctioning Authority. In instances where The FA is the Sanctioning Authority, the minimum recommended cover will be the cover required by the Affiliated Association to which a Club affiliates.

(C) Failure to comply with Rule 16(A) or 16(B) will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

DISSOLUTION

17. **(A)** Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at an SGM by a majority of three quarters (3/4) of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant SGM.

(B) In the event of the dissolution of the Competition, the members of the Management Committee are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.

(C) The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:

1. Any surplus assets (save for a trophy or any other presentation) remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another Competition or Affiliated Association or The Football Association Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by resolution at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the Sanctioning Authority.

2. If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the Sanctioning Authority may decide.

MATCH RELATED RULES

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

18. **(A)** A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:

1. Registered through the Player Registration System and received approval from the Competition. For any players registered on the day of a match, a Club Officer must email the Competition with details of the registration [ ] hours prior to the scheduled kick off time in order for the player to be eligible to play in that match. The Player shall not play again in any subsequent match in the Competition until the Club has registered the player through The FA Player Registration System and is in possession of the approval from the Competition. A maximum of [ ] Players may be registered in this manner. For Clubs registering Players under this Rule 18.A.1, Clubs must access the Player Registration System in order to complete the registration process.

   Or

2. signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink on a match day prior to playing which is countersigned by an Officer of the Club and witnessed by an Officer of the opposing Club, and submitted to the Competition within two days (Sundays excluded) subsequent to the Competition Match. The Player shall not play again in subsequent match in the Competition until the Club has registered the player through The FA Player Registration System and is in possession of the approval from the Competition. A maximum of [ ] Players may be registered in this manner. For Clubs registering Players under this Rule 18.A.2. registration forms will be provided in a format to be determined by the Competition.

   Any registration form that is not fully and correctly completed will be returned to the Club unprocessed and the player classed as unregistered. If a Club attempts to register a player via the Player Registration System but does not fully and correctly complete the necessary information via the Player Registration System, the registration will not be processed.

   Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(B) 1. Contract players are not permitted in this Competition with the exception of those Players who are registered under Contract with the same Club who have a team operating at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System, or Tiers 1 to 4 of the Women Pyramid System.

2. It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any Player registered to the Club has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any Player aged 10 and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

3. Each team must have at least [ ] Players registered [ ] days before the start of each Playing Season. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

4. In the event of a Non Contract Player changing their status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, or with a Club in another Competition their registration as a Non Contract Player will automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 18.B.1.

5. Players aged under 18 are not permitted to play in a mixed adult football Competition.

(C) A Player that owes a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations) shall be permitted to register for a Club but will be suspended from football activities if the Player does not comply with the terms of the Football Debt Recovery Regulations in respect of that Football Debt.

(D) A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/Team for each Player registered.

(E) The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes.

In the event of a player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club in the Competition, the valid registration submitted first shall take precedence. The Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

(F) It shall be a breach of Rule for a Player to:-

1. Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred.
2. Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season except for the purpose of a transfer, or where the Competition adopts Rule 18.P.
3. Submit a signed registration form as per Rule 18 A.2 or submit a registration through the Player Registration System that the Player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(G)

1. The Management Committee shall accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of Rules 18.G.2, 18.G.3 and 18.G.4 below (as applicable).
2. The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any Player or may fine any Player, at their discretion (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 7).
3. The Management Committee shall have power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 7) subject to the right of appeal to the Sanctioning Authority. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the Player is registered or intending to be registered with.

   Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a Participant from being involved in this Competition.
4. In respect of a mixed adult football Competition, the Management Committee shall refuse the registration of any Player that is not aged 18 or above.
5. A Player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with Rule 18.G.3 but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered to be under a probationary period of 12 months. Whilst under a probationary period, should the Player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition, (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition may consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.

   (Note: Action under Rule 18.G.3 shall not be taken against a Player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority, and then only in cases of the Player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any event be subject to an appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA. All decisions must include the period of restriction. For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the Competition into disrepute can only be considered where the Player has received in excess of 112 days' suspension, or 10 matches in match based discipline, in any competition (and is not restricted to the Competition) in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.)

(H) Subject to compliance with FA Rule C, when a Club wishes to register a player who is already registered with another club it shall submit a transfer notification to the Competition via the Player Registration System. A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff *[will/may]* be required.

Such transfer shall be referred by the Competition to the club for which the player is registered. Should this club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Competition and to the player concerned within 3 days of receipt of the notification. Upon receipt of the club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within 3 days, the Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from *such date or [ ] days after receipt of such transfer.*

In the event of an objection to a transfer the matter shall be referred to the Management Committee for a decision.

(I) A Player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after [date] except by special permission of the Management Committee.

(J) Registrations are valid for one Playing Season only.

(K) A Player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding Competition Match (as specified in Rule 22.A) unless the Player has played [ ] Competition Matches for that Team in the current Playing Season.

(L) A Team shall not include more than [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11] Players who has/have played in [ ] or more senior Competition Matches during the current Playing Season unless a period of 21 clear days has elapsed since they last played. 21 clear days is counted by excluding the day when the relevant Player last played and the day when the Player intends to play again.

For the purpose of this Rule a senior competition(s) is/are [ ].

Where a Team fields a Player in a Competition Match or Matches in breach of this Rule, the Management Committee may determine that it has fielded an ineligible player and that the provisions of Rule 18.M shall apply.

(M)

1. Subject to Rule 18.M.2 any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a Competition Match or Matches where points are awarded shall have the points gained from that Competition Match deducted from its record, up to a maximum of 12 points, and have levied upon it a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

2. The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule 18.M.1 only in circumstances where the ineligibility is due to the failure to obtain an International Transfer Certificate or where the ineligibility is related to the Player's status.

3. Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible Player in accordance with Rule 18.M.1 above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion order one or more of the following:

    a) Award the points available in the Competition Match in question to the opponents, subject to the Competition Match not being ordered to be replayed; and/or

    b) Deduct points from the record of the Club in default up to a maximum of 3 points; and/or

    c) Order that such Competition Match or Matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee).

(N) The following clause applies to Competitions involving Players in full-time secondary education:-

1. Priority must be given at all times to activities of schools and school organisations. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
2. The availability of children and young people must be cleared with the Head Teachers or Principals (except for Sunday leagues competitions).
3. To play open age football the player must have achieved the age of 16.

(O) A Player who has played for a Team in the [ ] division [ ] times or more shall not in that Playing Season be eligible to play in a lower division except by permission of the Management Committee.

Where a Team fields a Player in a Competition Match or Matches in breach of this Rule, the Management Committee may determine that it has fielded an ineligible player and that the provisions of Rule 18.M shall apply.

(P) If a Club wishes to cancel a Player's registration within the Competition, it must make a request via The FA's electronic player registration system giving the reasons for the request. The Competition may either approve or decline the request.

If a Player's registration is cancelled they will not be eligible to re-register in the Competition for a period of [x] days from the date of cancellation.

CLUB COLOURS

19. (A) Every team must register the colour and design of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by [date] and the Competition Secretary shall decide as to their suitability.

(B) Any team wishing to change the colour(s) and/or design(s) of its shirt(s) and short(s) during the Playing Season must obtain permission from the Competition Secretary in advance of making that change.

(C) Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from all other Players and the Match Officials.

(D) No Player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts.

(E) Any Team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents of the colours in which they will play (including the colours of the goalkeepers jersey) at least [ ] days before the Competition Match.

(F) If, in the opinion of the referee, two Teams have the same or similar colours, the [away/home] Team shall make the change. Should a Team delay the scheduled time of kick off for a Competition Match by not having a change of colours they will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(G) Shirts must be numbered, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

PLAYING SEASON. CONDITIONS OF PLAY, TIMES OF KICK-OFF. POSTPONEMENTS. SUBSTITUTES

20. (A) All Competition Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board.

Clubs must take all reasonable precautions to keep their Grounds in a playable condition. All Competition Matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Management Committee. If through any fault of the home Team a match has to be replayed, the Management Committee shall have power to order the venue to be changed.

The Management Committee shall have power to decide whether a pitch and/or facilities are suitable for Competition Matches and to order the Club concerned to play its Competition Match(es) on another ground.

Artificial Football Turf Pitches (3G) are allowed in this Competition provided they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA's Register of Football Turf Pitches - https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register. All Football Turf Pitches used must be tested (by a FIFA accredited test institute) every three years and the results passed to The FA. The FA will give a decision on the suitability for use and add the pitch to the Register.

The home Club is also responsible for advising Participants of footwear requirements when confirming match arrangements in accordance with Rule 20(C).

Within the Regional NLS Feeder Leagues all Competition Matches shall have a duration of 90 minutes. All other Competition Matches shall have duration of 90 minutes unless a shorter time (not less than sixty (60) minutes) is mutually arranged by the two Clubs in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves. Two matches involving the same two Teams can be played on the same day providing the total playing time is not more than 120 minutes.

The times of kick-off shall be agreed at the AGM and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing Clubs and the Competition.

Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition.

The home Team must provide goal nets, corner flags and at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if not provided. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

No overhead netting is allowed for 9v9 and 11v11 affiliated matches

Regional NLS Feeder Leagues: Overhead wires used to support pitch divider netting are removed for all affiliated matches at Regional NLS Feeder League level.

For those leagues which are not Regional NLS Feeder Leagues: Overhead wires used to support pitch divider netting are ideally removed for affiliated matches but if they cannot be removed then discretion is given to the match official to restart the match in accordance of the laws of the game.

(B) Except by permission of the Management Committee all Competition Matches must be played on the dates originally agreed but priority shall be given to The FA and parent County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a Competition match with the consent of the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

In the case of a revised fixture date, the Clubs must be given by the Competition 5 clear days' notice of the match (unless otherwise mutually agreed).

(C) An Officer of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the Ground, time of kick-off and kit colours (including goalkeeper) to the Match Officials and an Officer of the opposing Club at least [ ] clear days prior to the playing of the Competition Match. The opposing Club must confirm receipt and give notice of its kit colours (including goalkeeper) at least [ ] days prior to the playing of the Competition Match. If either is not provided, the relevant Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(D) In accordance with the Laws of the Game, the minimum number of Players which will constitute a Team for a Competition Match is 7. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(E) Home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall decide whether it should either:

a. award the points from the Competition Match in question to the Club's opponent (without the awarding of goals)

OR

b. order the Competition Match to be rescheduled. The Management Committee shall also have the power to order the rescheduled Competition Match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent Club's Ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

In addition, the Management Committee may at its discretion order one or more of the following (if appropriate):

a. impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff),

b. deduct points from the defaulting Club,

c. order the defaulting Club to pay any reasonable expenses incurred by the opponents.

Any Club with more than one Team in the Competition shall always fulfil its fixture, within the Competition, in the following order of precedence:- First Team, Reserve Team, A Team.

Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a Competition Match has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the Competition [ ], the secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

If a Competition Match is abandoned, each participating Club must give notice of the abandonment to the Competition by the deadline set out in Rule 21(B). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

In the event of a Competition Match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it should be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Competition. Failing such agreement and notification to the Competition within [ ] days the Competition shall have the power to order the Match to be played on or before a given date. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition, the Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand.

Providing gate money is taken and retained the visiting Club shall receive their actual standard class rail or bus fares or the equivalent for [ ] persons, or car allowance at [ ] p per mile for transporting [ ] persons, or hire charge of a coach (receipt to be submitted). The residue (if any) to be equally divided between the two Clubs after deducting the cost of advertising, printing, posting, police and Match Officials charges. The home Club shall take the whole of the proceeds of the second Competition Match. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

The Management Committee shall review all Competition Matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a Match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one Team or its Club member(s) they shall award the points for the Match to the opponent. In cases where a Match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Teams or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule that neither Team will be awarded any points for that Match and it shall not be replayed. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned Match.

The Management Committee shall review any Match that has taken place where either or both Teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by The FA or Affiliated Association. In each case the Team that was under suspension would be dealt with in the same manner as if they had participated with ineligible players in accordance with Rule 18(N) above. Where both Teams were under suspension the game must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.

(F) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use substitute Players in any Competition Match. A Club may name up to [ ] (3, 4, 5 , 6, 7) substitute Players of whom not more than [ ] ((3, 4, 5, 6, 7) may be used.

A Player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace a Player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of the Game.

Where a Competition does allow return substitutes, a Team may use up to [3 from 3 substitutes Players] [4 from 4 substitute Players] [5 from 5 substitute Players] [6 from 6 substitute Players] [7 from 7 substitute Players] in a Competition Match.

The referee *[and a representative of the opposing Club]* shall be informed of the names of the Players taking part in the Match (including the substitutes) not later than [ ] minutes before the start of the Competition Match and a Player not so named may not take part in that Competition Match. Where a Team fields a Player in a Competition Match or Matches in breach of this Rule, the Management Committee may determine that it has fielded an ineligible player and that the provisions of Rule 18(M) shall apply.

A Player who has been named as a substitute before the start of the Competition Match but does not actually play in that game shall not be considered to have been a Player in that Competition Match within the meaning of Rule 18 of this Competition.

(G) The half time interval shall be of [ ] minutes' duration, but it shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.

(H) The Teams taking part in a Competition Match shall identify a Team captain who [may/shall] wear an armband and shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of their teammates. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(I) Where a suspension imposed upon a Club or Team by The FA or Affiliated Association in relation to:

1. a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations); or
2. The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children or Regulations for Safeguarding Adults at Risk,

is not lifted, and/or the Club does not provide confirmation from The FA or Affiliated Association that such suspension is lifted to the Competition Secretary by [Time] [1 or 2] days before a fixture, that fixture will be treated as an unfulfilled fixture and dealt with in accordance with Rule 20(E).

REPORTING RESULTS

21. **(A)** The Competition [ ] must receive within [ ] days of the date played, the result of each Competition Match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the Team Players (in block letters) [and also the *referee markings required by Rule 23, or any other information required by the Competition.*] Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(B) The Home Club/both Clubs shall use telephone/SMS/email/FA Full Time/FA Matchday as directed by the Competition to notify the result of each Competition Match to the [ ] by [ ]. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by an Officer of the Team, or as prescribed by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

22. (A) Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn Competition Match. The Teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective divisions at the end of the Playing Season shall be adjudged the winners. Competition Matches must not be played for double points.

In the event of two or more Teams being equal on points at the end of the Playing Season, rankings shall be determined by the following criteria, in the order of priority in which they appear:

(NB: for Regional NLS Feeder Leagues criteria 1 & 2 are mandatory; for all other Competitions they are optional):

1. *[Goal difference (where the goals scored against each Team shall be deducted from the goals scored by that Team and the Team with the most favourable goal difference shall be placed highest).*
2. *[In the event of two or more Teams being equal, the Team which has scored the most goals during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.]*
3. In the event of two or more Teams being equal, the Team that has won the most matches during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.
4. In the event of two or more Teams being equal, the Team which has the better playing record against the other Team in their head to head Competition Matches during the Playing Season will be placed highest.
5. One-off fixture or play-off games as determined by the League management committee.

(B) *Automatic promotion shall be applied for the first [ ] Teams and automatic relegation shall be applied for the last [ ] Teams in each division except as provided for below, subject to the provisions of Rule 2(L).*

1. *Should one or more Teams withdraw from any one division after the Playing Season has commenced an equal number of Teams to those withdrawing in that division shall not be automatically relegated.*
2. *Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the Playing Season may be filled in any of the following ways:*
   - *(a) retention of otherwise relegated Team(s); or*
   - *(b) additional promotion of the next ranked Team(s) from the division below; or*
   - *(c) election.*

3. *The last [ ] Teams in the lowest division shall retire, but be eligible for re-election except as below, and be subject to the conditions of Rule22 (B)(i) above.*

4. *Save for where Rule 2(M) applies, when a senior Team is relegated to a lower division of which the reserve (or other less senior) Team of the same Club is a member, or entitled to be a member, such reserve (or other less senior) Team must accept relegation to, or retain its position in, the next lower division. Should the senior Team be relegated to the lowest division, the reserve (or other less senior) Team of the same Club automatically retires from the Competition.*

5. *Should either or both of the leading Teams in any of the divisions have its senior Team in the next higher division, promotion shall fall, at the discretion of the General Meeting, to the next highest Team or Teams in the division concerned.*

(C) *In addition to the Team(s) automatically promoted under Rule 22(B), a maximum of one further Team shall be promoted by virtue of being the winner of a play-off match or series of matches (the "Play-Offs"). The eligibility criteria and format of the Play-Offs are as follows [ ].*

(D) In the event of a Team withdrawing from the Competition before completing 75% of its fixtures for the Playing Season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting Team shall be expunged from the Competition table. For the purposes of this Rule 22(D) a completed fixture shall include any Competition Match(es) which has been awarded by the Management Committee.

(E) *Where a promotion and/or relegation link exists between Competitions [ ] Clubs, providing they meet the appropriate grading criteria, will be eligible to make application to the [ ] Competition at their AGM. Should the champion Club not wish for promotion or, alternatively, not have the necessary grading criteria, then the [] or [ ] placed Club will be eligible under the same conditions.*

At the end of each Season and depending on the geographical location of Clubs gaining promotion to or being relegated from the[ ] Competition, it may be necessary for the Competition either (a) to accept a Club from the [ ]Competition, or (b) have a Club transferred to the same Competition.

The bottom [ ] Clubs in the [ ] Competition will be relegated. Each relegated Club will be allocated either to the [ ] Competition or to the Competition recommended as most appropriate by the Joint Liaison Committee.

REGIONAL NLS FEEDER LEAGUES ONLY: The bottom [ ] Clubs in the [ ] Competition will be relegated; Any Club not maintaining the ground grading set for the Competition may be relegated at the end of the Playing Season. Each relegated Club will be allocated to the highest division in either [ ] Competition or the Competition recommended as most appropriate by the Joint Liaison Committee.

[ ] Clubs will be promoted to the [ ] Competition from the [ ] Competition, and the [ ] Competition providing that each Club is either the Champion Club or Runner-up or [ ] placed Club and has the necessary grading criteria.

In the event of there being no eligible Club wishing promotion or not having the necessary grading criteria from any of the Competitions, this will reduce the number of Clubs to be relegated from the [ ] Competition.

If only [ ] Clubs are eligible or wish for promotion, the bottom [ ] Clubs in the [ ] Competition will be relegated. If only [ ] Club is eligible or wishes promotion, only the bottom Club in the [ ] Competition will be relegated.

If no Clubs are eligible, or wish for promotion, no Clubs will be relegated from the [ ] Competition.

In the event of a [ ] Competition Club not being placed in the bottom [ ] Clubs at the end of the Playing Season, wishing to resign from the Competition at the end of the Playing Season, or having been excluded under Rule [ ] only [ ] Clubs will be relegated at the end of the Playing Season.

In the event of a [ ] Competition Club opting to be relegated or being relegated under Rule [ ] such Club or Clubs will replace the Club or Clubs otherwise due for relegation.

MATCH OFFICIALS

23. **(A)** Registered referees (and assistant referees where approved by The FA or County FA) for all Competition Matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the Sanctioning Authority.

(B) 1. In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed referee the appointed senior assistant referee shall take charge and a substitute assistant referee appointed by the competing Teams.

2. In cases where there are no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance, the Clubs shall agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that Competition Match, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee. Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any Competition Match.

(C) Where assistant referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club assistant referee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(D) **Regional NLS Feeder Leagues:** No Club shall postpone a Competition match on account of the apparent state of the ground. In the event that such circumstances prevail, Clubs should comply with procedures provided for in the document published by The FA "Recommended procedure for the guidance of Clubs and Referees in determining the suitability of grounds in adverse weather conditions". Should the ground be declared unfit it is the responsibility of the home Club to immediately advise the Competition, the Appointing Authority, the visiting Club and the Match Officials.

For those leagues which are not Regional NLS Feeder Leagues: The appointed referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the Ground in all Competition Matches and that decision shall be final, subject to the determination of the Local Authority or the owners of a Ground, which must be accepted.

(E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Authority, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff *[and travel expenses of [ ] per mile/ or inclusive of travel expenses]*.

Match Officials will be paid their fees and/or expenses by the home Club before/immediately after the Competition Match. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(F) In the event of a Competition Match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to *[full fee only/ full fee plus expenses/half fee only/ half fee plus expenses/expenses only.]* Where a Competition Match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Match Officials, if they attend the Ground, their full fee and expenses. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(G) A referee not keeping their engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Affiliated Association with which they are registered.

(H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The FA, award marks to the referee for each Competition Match and the name of the referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.

(I) The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the form provided by the prescribed date each Season, shall submit a summary to the Sanctioning Authority.

(J) *The referee shall submit a report form, supplied by the Competition, giving the result of the Competition Match, the number of Players in each Team and the time of kick-off to the (Registration) Secretary within two days of the Competition Match.*

(K) *Match Officials shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.*

(L) *Match Officials shall comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA and/or Sanctioning Authority adopted by the Competition*

SCHEDULE A

FEES TARIFF

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE
4 (A)	CLUB ENTRY FEE	£
4 (B)	CLUB/TEAM ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	£
4 (C)	DEPOSIT	£
7 (C)	PROTEST FEES	£
18 (D)	PLAYER REGISTRATION FEE	£
18 (H)	TRANSFER FEE	£
23 (E)	REFEREE FEES	£
23 (E)	ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES	£

FINES TARIFF

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
2 (I)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	£
2 (K)	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITIONS	£
3	FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME	£
4 (C)	FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT	£
4 (E)	FAILURE TO ENSURE TEAMS ARE RECORDED AS AFFILIATED IN THE CLUB PORTAL	£
5 (E)	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS	£
6 (H)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£
6 (I)	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	£
8 (H)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	£
9	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM	£
10	FAILURE TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO SIGNATORIES	£
11 (A)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE DEADLINE	£
11 (B)	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£
13 (A)	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY	£
16 (A)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£
16 (B)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
18 (A)	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER	£
18 (B) (ii)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE SEASON COMMENCING	£
18 (F)	REGISTERING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS, OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION FORM	£
18 (G)(ii)	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	£
18 (N)	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£
18(O)	FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	£
19	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO NO CHANGE OF COLOURS	£
19	FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS	£
20(A)	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT	£
20 (B)	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED	£
20 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£
20 (D)	PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS	£
20 (E)	FAILURE TO NOTIFY OF ABANDONMENT OF MATCH	£
20 (H)	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	£
21 (A)	LATE RESULT NOTIFICATION FORM	£
21 (B)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT	£
21(C)	RESULT NOTIFICATION NOT SIGNED BY APPROPRIATE SIGNATORIES	£
23 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE	£
23 (E)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES AND EXPENSES	£
23 (F)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED	£
23 (H)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK	£

SCHEDULE B - INDEX

Rule 1 Definitions

GOVERNANCE RULES

Rule 2 Competition Name, Constitution

Rule 3 Club Name

Rule 4 Entry Fee, Subscription, Deposit

Rule 5 Management, Nomination, Election

Rule 6 Powers of Management

Rule 7 Protests, Claims, Complaints, Appeals

Rule 8 Annual General Meeting

Rule 9 Special General Meetings

Rule 10 Agreement to Rules of the Competition

Rule 11 Continuation of Membership, Withdrawal of a Club

Rule 12 Exclusion of Clubs, Teams. Misconduct of Clubs, Officers, Players, Management Committee

Rule 13 Trophy

Rule 14 Alteration to Rules

Rule 15 Finance

Rule 16 Insurance

Rule 17 Dissolution

MATCH RELATED RULES

Rule 18 Qualification of Players

Rule 19 Club Colours

Rule 20 Playing Season. Conditions of Play, Times of Kick-Off. Postponements. Substitutes

Rule 21 Reporting Results

Rule 22 Determining Championship

Rule 23 Match Officials

SCHEDULE A

Fees Tariff

Fines Tariff

30 - STANDARD CODE OF RULES FOR MINI SOCCER AND YOUTH FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS

This document contains the Standard Code of Rules developed by The Football Association for Mini Soccer and Youth Football Competitions (the "Standard Code").

The Standard Code is mandatory for all Mini Soccer and Youth Football Competitions.

Competitions seeking sanction must draft their Rules in conformity with the Standard Code, using the same numbering and standard headings.

The mandatory rules are printed in normal text and the optional rules in italics.

It should be noted that in many cases rules are so printed because they are alternatives and the procedure to apply should be retained and the others omitted.

In all cases where a [ ] is shown the necessary name, address, number or wording to complete that rule must be inserted.

Competitions may add to the core of the Standard Code, which is mandatory, providing the additions are approved by the Sanctioning Authority and do not conflict with the mandatory rules or any relevant principles and policies established by The FA. Guidance from the Sanctioning Authority should be sought in advance if there is any doubt as to the acceptability of additional rules.

Please note that from the 2021/22 season all players must be registered through the Player Registration System and it will not be possible to register players using the alternative methods in Rule 18(A).

DEFINITIONS

1. **(A)** In these Rules:

"Affiliated Association" means an Association accorded the status of an Affiliated Association under the rules of The FA.

"AGM" shall mean the annual general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

"Club" means a club for the time being in membership of the Competition.

"Club Portal" means the system used by Clubs to affiliate teams as determined by The FA from time to time.

"Competition" means the [ ] League.

"Competition Match" means any match played or to be played under the jurisdiction of the Competition.

"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.

"Deposit" means a sum of money deposited with the Competition as part of the requirements of membership of the Competition.

"Fees Tariff" means a list of fees approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committee for any matters for which fees are payable under the Rules, as set out at Schedule A.

"Fines Tariff" means a list of fines approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committee for any breach of the Rules, as set out at Schedule A.

"Ground" means the ground on which the Club's Team(s) plays its Competition Matches.

"Management Committee" means in the case of a Competition which is an unincorporated association, the management committee elected to manage the running of the Competition and where the Competition is incorporated it means the Board of Directors appointed in accordance with the articles of association of that company.

"Match Officials" means the referee, the assistant referees and any fourth official appointed to a Competition Match.

"Mini Soccer" means those participating at ages under 7s to under 11s.

"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.

"Officer" means an individual who is appointed or elected to a position in a Club or Competition which requires that individual to make day to day decisions.

"Participant" shall have the same meaning as set out in the rules of The FA from time to time.

"Player" means any Contract Player, Non Contract Player or other player who plays or who is eligible to play for a Club.

"Player Registration System" means The FA system to register players as determined by The FA from time to time.

"Playing Season" means the period between the date on which the first competitive fixture in the Competition is played each year until the date on which the last competitive fixture in the Competition is played.

"Rules" means these rules under which the Competition is administered.

"Sanctioning Authority" means [The FA][the [ ] County Football Association Limited].

"Scholarship" means a Scholarship as defined in The FA Rules.

"Season" means the period of time between an AGM and the subsequent AGM.

"Secretary" means such person or persons appointed or elected to carry out the administration of the Competition.

"SGM" means a special general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

"Team" means a team affiliated to a Club, including where a Club provides more than one team in the Competition in accordance with the Rules.

"The FA" means The Football Association Limited.

"Virtual Meetings" means meetings held electronically.

"Written" or **"In Writing"** means the representation or reproduction of words or symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise.

"Youth Football" means those participating at ages under 12s to under 18s.

(B) Unless stated otherwise, terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

GOVERNANCE RULES

COMPETITION NAME AND CONSTITUTION

2. **(A)** The Competition will be known as [" "] (or such other name as the Competition may adopt). The Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the Competition. A Club which ceases to exist or which ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever shall thereupon automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.

(B) This Competition shall consist of not more than [ ] Clubs and/or [ ] Teams approved by the Sanctioning Authority.

(C) The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be [ ].

(D) The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the Competition acting (save where otherwise specifically mentioned herein) through the Management Committee in accordance with the rules, regulations and policies of The FA.

(E) All Clubs shall adhere to the Rules. Every Club shall be deemed, as a member of the Competition to have accepted the Rules and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee in relation thereto, subject to the provisions of Rule 7.

(F) The Rules are taken from the Standard Code of Rules for Youth Competitions (the "Standard Code") determined by The FA from time to time. In the event of any omissions from the Standard Code then the requirements of the Standard Code shall be deemed to apply to the Competition.

(G) 1. All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association

2. This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Sanctioning Authority and the constituent Teams of Clubs may be grouped in divisions, each not exceeding [ ] in number.

(H) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination

1. The Competition and each Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and should abide and adhere to The FA Equality Policy and any legislative requirements (to include those contained in the Equality Act 2010).

2. This Competition and each Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community.

3. Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.

(I) Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the Competition including, but not limited to, England Football Accredited and RESPECT programmes. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(J) All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by The FA from time to time.

(K) Clubs shall not enter any of their Teams playing at a particular age group in the Competition in any other competition (with the exception of FA and parent County Association Cup Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. A Club must immediately inform the Competition of the details of any fixture(s) in any other competition in which the Club has entered, for which written consent of the Management Committee has been obtained.

(L) At the AGM or a SGM called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have power to decide or adjust the constitution of the divisions at their discretion. When necessary this Rule shall take precedence over Rule 22.

CLUB NAME

3. Any Club wishing to change its name must obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority and from the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

4. **(A)** Applications by clubs for admission to the Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same club must be made in writing to the Secretary by [ ] and must be accompanied by an entry fee per Team as set out in the Fees Tariff, which shall be returned in the event of non-election but not if the club withdraws its application.

At the discretion of the voting members present applications, of which due notice has been given, may be received at the AGM or a SGM or on a date agreed by the Management Committee.

(B) The annual subscription shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff for each Club/Team (where a Club has more than one Team in membership of the Competition). It shall be payable by a date set by the Management Committee.

(C) A Deposit of £[ ] shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per Club/Team (where a Club provides more than one Team in membership of the Competition) and shall be payable on or before [ ] in each year. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(D) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the entry fee, annual subscription and Deposit (if required) have been paid.

(E) Clubs must ensure that all its teams participating in the Competition are recorded as affiliated on the Club Portal for the forthcoming Playing Season by the following date [ ]. Clubs must advise the Competition Secretary in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority, or on the prescribed form, of details of its headquarters, its Officers and any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(F) An all-female team can apply to the Competition to play an age group down in a mixed gender competition, subject to Rule 8A(3)&4 and provided the team has obtained approval from its Sanctioning Authority.

MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

5. **(A)** The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and a minimum of one member (but no more than [ ] members), who shall all be elected at the AGM.

(B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination provided that the Officer notifies the Secretary in writing not later than [ ] in each year.

All other candidates for election as Officers of the Competition or members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the secretaries of two Clubs, not later than [ ] in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the AGM.

(C) The Management Committee shall meet as and when required, save that no more than three calendar months shall pass between each meeting.

On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Management Committee.

(D) Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the Competition and keep a record of its proceedings.

(E) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their Officers and sent to the Secretary.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

6. **(A)** The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary. The decisions of all sub-committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification. The Management Committee shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of The FA or Affiliated Association.

(B) Subject to the permission of the Sanctioning Authority having been obtained the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each Season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call upon each Club (including any club which may have withdrawn during the Season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the Season.

(C) Each member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee meetings and have one vote thereat, but no member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such member or to the Club so represented or where there may be a conflict of interest. (This shall also apply to the procedure of any sub-committee).

In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chairman of the Management Committee shall have a second or casting vote.

(D) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce these Rules and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition. Any action by the Competition must be taken within 28 days of the Competition being notified.

With the exception of Rules 6(I), 8(H) and 9, for all alleged breaches of a Rule the Management Committee shall issue a formal written charge to the Club concerned. The Club charged shall be given 7 days from the date of notification of the charge to reply. In such reply a Club may:-

1. Accept the charge and submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
2. Accept the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee; or
3. Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
4. Deny the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case at a hearing before the Management Committee.

Where the Club charged fails to respond within 7 days, the Management Committee shall determine the charge in such manner and upon such evidence as it considers appropriate.

Where required, hearings shall take place as soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of the reply of the Club as more fully set out above.

Having considered the reply of the Club (whether in writing or at a hearing), the Management Committee shall make its decision and, in the event that the charge is accepted or proven, decide on the appropriate penalty (with reference to the Fines Tariff where applicable).

The maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is £100 and, when setting any fine, the Management Committee must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

No Participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

All breaches of the Laws of the Game or the Rules and Regulations of The FA shall be dealt with in accordance with FA Rules by the appropriate Association.

(E) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7.

Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 7 days.

(F) [%] of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any sub-committee thereof.

(G) The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill, in an acting capacity, any vacancies that may occur amongst their number.

(H) A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee, and must attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(I) Subject to a Club's right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges must be paid within 14 days of the date of notification of the decision.

Any Club failing to do so will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine within a further 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.

(J) A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or Competition Match may have any reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.

(K) The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the AGM or SGM called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Playing Season.

(L) The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

(M) The Competition shall not cancel, postpone, or withdraw an entire programme of Competition Matches (e.g. all Competition Matches, or all Competition Matches within a single age group or division, taking place over a single day/week) without prior written approval from the Sanctioning Authority, except in exceptional circumstances of a serious nature (in which event, the Competition must provide notification of cancellation, postponement or withdrawal to the Sanctioning Authority at the same time as affected Teams).

PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS

7. **(A)** 1. All questions of eligibility, qualification of Players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee.

2. Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee before the commencement of the Competition Match.

(B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged with the Secretary within [ ] days (excluding Sundays) of the Competition Match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of their Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

(C) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum in accordance with the Fees Tariff. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the inquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.

(D) All parties to a protest or complaint must receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days prior to the protest or complaint being heard.

1. All parties must have received a minimum of 7 days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.

2. Should a Club elect to state its case in person then it should indicate such when forwarding the written response.

(E) The Management Committee shall also have power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the Management Committee shall direct.

(F) An intention to appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority, with a copy sent to the Secretary, within 7 days of the Management Committee providing written notification of its decision.

A notice of appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority, with a copy sent to the Secretary, within 14 days of the Management Committee providing written notification of its decision, accompanied by the relevant fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff) which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority.

Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Management Committee.

(G) No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an AGM or SGM unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8. (A) The AGM shall be held not later than [ ] in each year. At this meeting the following business (in the following order) shall be transacted provided that at least [] of members are present and entitled to vote:-

1. To receive and confirm the minutes of the preceding AGM.

2. To receive and adopt the annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts.

3. Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.

4. Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing Season.

5. Election of Officers of the Competition and the Management Committee members.

6. Appointment of auditors.

7. Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14).

8. Fix the date for the commencement of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition.

9. Fix the date for the end of the Playing Season.

10. Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an AGM.

Clubs currently in membership of the Competition shall be entitled to vote on items 1 to 3 above.

Those clubs set to be accepted as Clubs in accordance with item 3 above shall be entitled to attend the AGM, but cannot vote on items 1 to 3 above.

All Clubs (i.e. those Clubs currently in membership of the Competition and those accepted as Clubs in accordance with item 3) shall be entitled to vote on items 4 to 10 above.

(B) A copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet, statement of accounts and agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least 14 days prior to the meeting together with any proposed Rule changes.

(C) A signed copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet and statement of accounts shall be sent to the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of its adoption by the AGM.

(D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an AGM. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. 14 days' notice shall be given of any AGM.

(E) Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the Competition during the Playing Season being concluded or who are not continuing membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the Season being concluded. This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 12.

(F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of hands, or count of email or virtual responses (for Virtual Meetings), unless a ballot be demanded by at least 50% of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chair so decides.

(G) No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Club.

(H) 1. Any continuing Club must be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

2. Any club that has submitted a valid application to join the Competition for the forthcoming season must have the opportunity to be put forward for membership and to have a vote taken on their membership application.

(I) Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM, but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a Club (see Rule 8.G).

(J) Where a Competition is an incorporated entity, the Officers of the Competition shall ensure that the Articles of Association of the Competition are consistent with the requirements of these Rules.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

9. (A) Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call a SGM.

(B) The Management Committee may call a SGM at any time.

(C) At least seven (7) days' notice shall be given of a meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.

(D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.

(E) Any Club failing to be represented at a SGM shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(F) Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all SGMs, but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a Club (see Rule 9.D).

AGREEMENT TO RULES OF THE COMPETITION

10. **(A)** Membership of the Competition shall constitute an agreement between the Competition and a Club to be bound by and comply with these Rules (including any decision of the Management Committee made pursuant to these Rules).

(B) Any change of Chair, Secretary or Directors of the Club must be notified to the parent County Football Association to which the Club is sanctioned and to the Secretary of this Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

11. **(A)** Any Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a Team from the Competition must do so at least [ ] days before the AGM. This does not apply to a Club moving in accordance with Rule 22(B). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(B) The Management Committee shall have the discretion to deal with a Team being unable to start or complete its fixtures for a Playing Season, including but not limited to, issuing a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(C) Notwithstanding the powers of the Management Committee pursuant to Rule 6(I), in the event of a Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £50, the Management Committee shall be empowered to refer the debt under The FA Football Debt Recovery provisions.

EXCLUSION OF CLUBS OR TEAM. MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS, MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

12. **(A)** At the AGM or SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, notice of motion having been duly circulated on the agenda by direction of the Management Committee, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to: (i) remove a member of the Management Committee from office, (ii) exclude any Club or Team from membership, both of which must be supported by more than two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A member of the Management Committee or Club which is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

(B) At the AGM, or at a SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any Club or Team whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, which must be supported by more than two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

(C) Any Officer or member of a Club found guilty of a breach of Rule, other than field offences, shall be liable to such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of clauses (A) and/or (B) of this Rule.

TROPHY

13. **(A)** The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the cup or trophy:-

"We A [name] and B [name], the Chairman and Secretary of [ ] FC (Limited), members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of [ ] cup or trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the cup or trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before [ ]. If the cup or trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair."

Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(B) At the close of each Competition awards may/shall be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.

ALTERATION TO RULES

14. Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM or at a SGM specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 9. Any alteration made during the Playing Season to these Rules shall not take effect until the following Playing Season, except in exceptional circumstances where approved by Sanctioning Authority and The FA.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by [] in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by [ ] and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by [ ]. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if [ ] [a majority] of those present, entitled to vote and voting are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the AGM or SGM shall be submitted to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA (as applicable) at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.

FINANCE

15. **(A)** The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.

(B) All expenditure in excess of £[ ] shall be approved by the Management Committee.

(C) The financial year of the Competition will end on [ ].

(D) The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be audited/verified annually by a suitably qualified person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.

INSURANCE

16. **(A)** All Clubs must have valid public liability insurance cover of at least ten million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times.

(B) All Clubs must have valid personal accident cover for all Players registered with them from time to time. The Players' personal accident insurance cover must be in place prior to the Club taking part in any Competition Match and shall be at least equal to the minimum recommended cover determined from time to time by the Sanctioning Authority. In instances where The FA is the Sanctioning Authority, the minimum recommended cover will be the cover required by the Affiliated Association to which a Club affiliates.

Failure to comply with Rule 16(A) or 16(B) will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

DISSOLUTION

17. **(A)** Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at a SGM by a majority of three quarters (3/4) of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant SGM.

(B) In the event of the dissolution of the Competition, the members of the Management Committee are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

(C) The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:

1. Any surplus assets, save for a trophy or any other presentation, remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another Competition or Affiliated Association or The Football Association Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by resolution at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the Sanctioning Authority.

2. If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the Sanctioning Authority may decide.

MATCH RELATED RULES

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

18. **(A)** A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:-

1. Registered through the Player Registration System and received approval from the Competition. For any players registered on the day of a match, a Club Officer must email the Competition with details of the registration [ ] hours prior to the scheduled kick off time in order for the player to be eligible to play in that match. The Player shall not play again in any subsequent match in the Competition until the Club has registered the player through The FA Player Registration system and is in possession of the approval from the Competition. A maximum of [ ] Players may be registered in this manner. For Clubs registering Players under this Rule 18.A.1, Clubs must access the Player Registration System in order to complete the registration process. The registration document must incorporate a current passport-size photograph of the Player seeking registration together with confirmation that the Player's proof of date of birth has been checked by the Club and is accurate.

2. Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink on a match day prior to playing which is countersigned by their parent or guardian and by an Officer of the Club and witnessed by an Officer of the opposing Club, and submitted to the Competition within two days (Sundays excluded) subsequent to the Competition Match. The Player shall not play again in a subsequent match in the Competition day until the Club has registered the player through The FA Player Registration System and is in possession of the approval from the Competition. A maximum of [ ] Players may be registered in this manner. The registration document must incorporate emergency contact details of the Players' parents or guardians. These details must be available at matches and training events the Player attends within the management of the Club or Competition. For Clubs registering Players under this Rule 18.A.2 registration forms will be provided in a format to be determined by the Competition.

Any registration that is not fully and correctly completed will be returned to the Club unprocessed and the player classed as unregistered. If a Club attempts to register a player via the Player Registration System but does not fully and correctly complete the necessary information via the Player Registration System, the registration will not be processed.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(B) 1. Contract Players are not permitted in this Competition with the exception of those Players who are registered under contract with the same Club who have a Team operating at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System, or Tiers 1-4 of the Women's Pyramid System.

It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any Player registered to the Club has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any Player aged 10 and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

2. A Player registered with a Premier League or EFL Academy under the Elite Player Performance Plan contained within Youth Development Rules will not be permitted to play in this Competition, except for those in the under 11 age-group and below where consent has been given by the relevant Premier League or EFL (such consent can be withdrawn at any time). Trial players are not considered to be registered with a Premier League or EFL Academy for these purposes and therefore the prohibition on playing in the Competition does not apply to them. The relevant Premier League/EFL Academy remains responsible for managing the frequency of the player's playing time. Details of the Youth Development Rules are published on The FA website. A Player registered with an FA Emerging Talent Centre or an FA Professional Game Academy may play in this Competition subject to the FA Girls' Emerging Talent Centre Operating Criteria and Professional Game Academy Youth Development Rules.

3. Each Team must have the following number of Players registered [ ] days before the start of each Playing Season:

FORMAT	MINIMUM NUMBER
3v3	3
5v5	5
7v7	7
9v9	9
11v11	11

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(C) A child who has not attained the age of 6 shall not play, and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play, in a match of any kind.

The relevant age for each Player is determined by their 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.

Notwithstanding the above, a child is permitted to play up in the age group above their or her chronological age group, irrespective of any changes of 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. Girls in all female teams may also be permitted to play an age group down in accordance with Rule 4(F).

The age groups that children are eligible to play in are set out in the table below, subject to Rule 4(F), along with the permitted football formats for each of those age groups. For the purposes of this Rule 18(C), provisions relating to playing in specified age groups shall include participating in training as well as playing in matches. 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:

Age Group	Maximum Permitted Format	Ball Size	Recommended Pitch Size Metres (without run off)	
Under 7 (Year 2)	3v3	Size 3	15 x 10	
Under 8 (Year 3)	5v5	Size 3	37 x 27	
Under 9 (Year 4)	5v5	Size 3	37 x 27	
Under 10 (Year 5)	7v7	Size 3	55 x 37	
Under 11 (Year 6)	7v7	Size 3	55 x 37	
Under 12 (Year 7)	9v9	Size 4	73 x 46	
Under 13 (Year 8)	9v9	Size 4	73 x 46	
Under 14 (Year 9)	11v11	Size 5	82 x 50	
Under 15 (Year 10)	11v11	Size 5	91 x 55	
Under 16 (Year 11)	11v11	Size 5	91 x 55	
Under 17 (Year 12)	11v11	Size 5	100 x 64	
Under 18 (Year 13)	11v11	Size 5	100 x 64	
Open Age	11v11	Size 5	100 x 64	

All pitches should have a minimum 3m run off

	Minimum Pitch Size Metres (without run off)	Maximum Pitch Size Metres (without run off)	Recommended Goal Size Feet
	15 x 10	20 x 15	4 x 2.5
	27 x 18	37 x 27	12 x 6
	27 x 18	37 x 27	12 x 6
	46 x 27	55 x 37	12 x 6
	46 x 27	55 x 37	12 x 6
	64 x 37	73 x 46	16 x 7
	64 x 37	73 x 46	16 x 7
	82 x 46	91 x 55	21 x 7*
	82 x 46	100 x 64	24 x 8**
	82 x 46	100 x 64	24 x 8
	91 x 46	118 x 91	24 x 8
	91 x 46	118 x 91	24 x 8
	91 x 46	118 x 91	24 x 8

*24 x 8 permitted **21 x 7 permitted

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

(D) A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/Team for each Player registered, if applicable.

(E) The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes taking into account the following.

1. A Player shall not be permitted to register for more than one Club subject to the exceptions set out in Rule 18 (E)3. below.
2. In the event of a Player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club, in the Competition the valid registration submitted first shall take precedence. The Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the Player of the fact of the previous registration subject to the exceptions set out in Rule 18 (E)3. below.
3. A Player is only permitted to register for more than one Club provided that:
   a. The Team(s) in which the Player plays in are not in the same age group; or
   b. Except for the purpose of a transfer.

And the Player meets the requirements in Rule 18(C).

(F) It shall be a breach of these Rules for a Player to:-

1. Play for more than one Team in the same age group in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred.
2. Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season, except if the provisions set out in Rule 18 (E)3. apply, or where the Competition adopts Rule 18.P.
3. Submit a signed registration form or submit a registration through the Player Registration System for registration that the Player had willfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(G)

1. The Management Committee shall accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of Rule 18(G)2. and 3. below.
2. The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any Player, the exercise of such power being without prejudice to the Management Committee's ability to fine a Club at its discretion (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) that has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 7).
3. The Management Committee shall have the power to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 7) subject to the right of appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA. Where the Management Committee does not have enough information to enable it to make a decision pursuant to the above power, it may apply, in its absolute discretion, to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA for further information.

   Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a Participant from being involved in this Competition.
4. For a Player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with Rule 18(G)3. but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered to be under a probationary period of 12 months. Whilst under a probationary period, should the Player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition, (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition would be empowered to consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.

(Note: Action under Rule 18(G)(3) shall only be taken against a Player in cases of the Player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any event be subject to an appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA. All decisions must include the period of restriction. For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the Competition into disrepute can only be considered where the Player has received in excess of 112 days' suspension, or 10 matches in match based discipline, in any competition (and is not restricted to the Competition) in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.)

(H) Subject to compliance with FA Rule C, when a Club wishes to register a player who is already registered with another club it shall submit a transfer form (in a format as determined by the Competition) to the Competition accompanied by a fee as set out in the Fees Tariff. Such transfer shall be referred by the Competition to the club for which the player is registered. Should this club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Competition and to the player concerned within 3 days of receipt of the notification. Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within 3 days, the Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from *such date or [ ] days after receipt of such transfer.*

In the event of an objection to a transfer the matter shall be referred to the Management Committee for a decision.

(I) A Player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after [date] except by special permission of the Management Committee.

(J) A Club shall keep a list of the Players it registers and a record of all matches in which those Players have played for the Club, and shall produce such records upon demand by the Management Committee.

In the event a Club has more than one Team in an age group, each Team must be clearly identifiable but not designated 'A' or 'B' or 1st or 2nd. In such cases, Players will be registered for one Team only. A Player so registered will be allowed to play for their Club in a younger or older age group within the provisions of Rule 18(C).

(K) A register containing the names of all Players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the (Registrations) Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of an Officer of the Club at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one Playing Season only.

In the event of a Non Contract Player changing their status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, another Club in the Competition or with a club in another competition their registration as a Non Contract Player will automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 18(B)(1).

(L) A Player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding Competition Match (as specified in Rule 22(A)) unless the Player has played [ ] Competition Matches for that Team in the current Playing Season.

(M) A Team shall not include more than [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11] Players who has/have played in [ ] or more senior Competition Matches during the current Playing Season unless a period of 21 clear days has elapsed since they last played. 21 clear days is counted by excluding the day when the relevant Player last played and the day when the Player intends to play again.

For the purpose of this Rule a senior competition(s) is /are [ ].

Where a Team fields a Player in a Competition Match or Matches in breach of this Rule, the Management Committee may determine that it has fielded an ineligible player and that the provisions of Rule 18.N shall apply.

(N) 1. Subject to Rule 18(N)2., any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a Competition Match or Matches where points are awarded shall have the points gained from that Competition Match deducted from its record, up to a maximum of 12 points, and have levied upon it a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

2. The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule 18(N)1. only in circumstances where the ineligibility is due to the failure to obtain an International Transfer Certificate or where the ineligibility is related to the Player's status.

3. Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible Player in accordance with Rule 18(N)1. above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion, order one or more of the following:

(a) Award the points available in the Competition Match in question to the opponents, subject to the Competition Match not being ordered to be replayed; and/or

(b) Deduct points from the record of the Club in default up to a maximum of 3 points; and/or

(c) Order that such Competition Match or Matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee).

(The following clause applies to Competitions involving Players in full-time secondary education):-

(O) 1. Priority must be given at all times to the activities of schools and school organisations. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

2. The availability of children must be cleared with their head teacher (except for Sunday league competitions).

3. A child under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31 August in the relevant Playing Season, shall not be permitted to play in a Competition Match during that Playing Season where any other Player is older or younger than that child by two years or more.

(P) 1. If a Club wishes to cancel a Player's registration within the Competition, it must make a request via The FA's electronic player registration system giving the reasons for the request. The Competition may either approve or decline the request.

2. If a Player's registration is cancelled they will not be eligible to play in the Competition for a period of [x] days from the date of cancellation.

CLUB COLOURS

19. Every Team must register the colour and design of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by [date] who shall decide as to their suitability.

Any Team wishing to change the colour(s) and/or design(s) of its shirt(s) and short(s) during the Playing Season must obtain permission from the Management Committee in advance of making that change.

Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from all other Players and the Match Officials.

No Player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts.

Any Team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents the colours in which they will play (including the colours of the goalkeeper jersey) at least [ ] days before the Competition Match.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Teams have the same or similar colours, the away/ home Team shall make the change. Should a Team delay the scheduled time of kick-off for a Competition Match by not having a change of colours they will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Shirts must all be numbered differently, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Names of Youth Players shall not appear on the shirts, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

PLAYING SEASON. CONDITIONS OF PLAY, TIMES OF KICK-OFF, POSTPONEMENTS, SUBSTITUTES

20. (A) All Competition Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board or, for Mini-Soccer, The Mini-Soccer and Youth Futsal Handbook, or, for 9v9 football, The FA's Guide to 9v9 Football.

Clubs must take all reasonable precautions to keep their Grounds in a playable condition. All Competition Matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Management Committee. If through any fault of the home Team a Competition Match has to be replayed, the Management Committee shall have power to order the venue to be changed.

The Management Committee shall have power to decide whether a pitch and/or facilities are suitable for Competition Matches and to order the Club concerned to play its Competition Matches on another ground.

Artificial Football Turf Pitches (3G) are allowed in this Competition provided they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA's Register of Football Turf Pitches https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register. All Football Turf Pitches used must be tested (by a FIFA accredited test institute) every three years and the results passed to The FA. The FA will give a decision on the suitability for use and add the pitch to the Register.

The home Club is also responsible for advising Participants of footwear requirements when confirming match arrangements in accordance with Rule 20(C).

Overhead netting is allowed for 3v3, 5v5 and 7v7 mini soccer if the overhead netting height is at a minimum of 6m.

No overhead netting is allowed for 9v9 and 11v11 affiliated matches.

Overhead wires used to support pitch divider netting are ideally removed for affiliated matches but if they cannot be removed then discretion is given to the match official to restart the match in accordance with the laws of the game.

All Competition Matches shall have a duration as set out below unless a shorter time is mutually arranged by the two Clubs in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the Competition Match, and in any event shall be of equal halves.

Competition Matches should be played in accordance with the Laws appropriate to the relevant age group, as laid down by The FA, as detailed below.

30 - STANDARD CODE OF RULES FOR MINI SOCCER AND YOUTH FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS

Age Group	Maximum Permitted Format	Maximum Minutes Per Game	Maximum Minutes Per Day	Referee	
Under 7 (Year 2)	3v3	10 minutes	60 minutes	✗	
Under 8 (Year 3)	5v5	40 minutes	60 minutes	✓	
Under 9 (Year 4)	5v5	40 minutes	60 minutes	✓	
Under 10 (Year 5)	7v7	50 minutes	90 minutes	✓	
Under 11 (Year 6)	7v7	50 minutes	90 minutes	✓	
Under 12 (Year 7)	9v9	60 minutes	120 minutes	✓	
Under 13 (Year 8)	9v9	60 minutes	120 minutes	✓	
Under 14 (Year 9)	11v11	70 minutes	150 minutes	✓	
Under 15 (Year 10)	11v11	70 minutes	150 minutes	✓	
Under 16 (Year 11)	11v11	80 minutes	150 minutes	✓	
Under 17 (Year 12)	11v11	90 minutes	180 minutes	✓	
Under 18 (Year 13)	11v11	90 minutes	180 minutes	✓	
Open Age	11v11	90 minutes	180 minutes	✓	

	Goalkeeper	Substitutions	Competition
	✗	✗	No League Tables No Trophy Events
	✓	Rolling	No League Tables Maximum 3 Trophy Events per season over 2 week periods (6 weeks)
	✓	Rolling	No League Tables Maximum 3 Trophy Events per season over 2 week periods (6 weeks)
	✓	Rolling	No League Tables Maximum 3 Trophy Events per season over 4 week periods (12 weeks)
	✓	Rolling	No League Tables Maximum 3 Trophy Events per season over 4 week periods (12 weeks)
	✓	Rolling	League Tables
	✓	Rolling	League Tables
	✓	Rolling	League Tables
	✓	Rolling	League Tables
	✓	Rolling	League Tables
	✓	Rolling	League Tables
	✓	Rolling	League Tables
	✓	Rolling	League Tables

Age Group	Maximum Permitted Format	Heading	Sideline Restarts	Corners	
Under 7 (Year 2)	3v3	✗	Pass in / Dribble in	Pass in / Dribble in	
Under 8 (Year 3)	5v5	✗	Pass in / Dribble in	✓	
Under 9 (Year 4)	5v5	✗	Pass in / Dribble in	✓	
Under 10 (Year 5)	7v7	✗	Pass in / Dribble in	✓	
Under 11 (Year 6)	7v7	✗	Pass in / Dribble in	✓	
Under 12 (Year 7)	9v9	✓	Throw-ins	✓	
Under 13 (Year 8)	9v9	✓	Throw-ins	✓	
Under 14 (Year 9)	11v11	✓	Throw-ins	✓	
Under 15 (Year 10)	11v11	✓	Throw-ins	✓	
Under 16 (Year 11)	11v11	✓	Throw-ins	✓	
Under 17 (Year 12)	11v11	✓	Throw-ins	✓	
Under 18 (Year 13)	11v11	✓	Throw-ins	✓	
Open Age	11v11	✓	Throw-ins	✓	

	Free Kicks	Back Pass Rule	Retreat Line	Power Play	Offside
	Pass in / Dribble in	✗	✓	✗	✗
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓

Competition Matches for age groups from U8 to U11 can be played in either quarters or halves. This Competition uses quarters/halves (delete as appropriate).

For round robin/trophy events, the maximum duration of play per half cannot be exceeded, but the minimum duration of play per half may be adjusted.

For trophy events, the Competition may award mementos.

The times of kick-off shall be fixed at the AGM and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing Clubs prior to the scheduled date of the Competition Match with written notification given to the Competition at least [ ] days prior.

Referees must order Competition Matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition.

The home Team must provide goal nets, corner flags and at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(B) Except by permission of the Management Committee all Competition Matches must be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The FA and parent County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a Competition Match with the consent of the (Fixtures) Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

In the case of a revised fixture date, the Clubs must be given by the Competition 5 clear days' notice of the Competition Match (unless otherwise mutually agreed).

(C) An Officer of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the Ground, time of kick-off and kit colours (including goalkeeper) to the Match Officials and an Officer of the opposing Club at least [ ] clear days prior to the playing of the Competition Match. The opposing Club must confirm receipt and give notice of its kit colours (including goalkeeper) at least [ ] days prior to the playing of the Competition Match. If either is not provided, the relevant Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(D) The minimum number of Players that will constitute a Team for a Competition Match is as follows:

FORMAT	MINIMUM NUMBER
3v3	2
5v5	4
7v7	5
9v9	6
11v11	7

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(E) 1. In competitions where points are awarded, home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall decide whether it should either:

a. award the points from the Competition Match in question to the Club's opponent (without the awarding of goals)

OR

b. order the Competition Match to be rescheduled. The Management Committee shall also have the power to order the rescheduled Competition Match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent Club's Ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

In addition, the Management Committee may at its discretion order one or more of the following (if appropriate):

a. impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff),

b. deduct points from the defaulting Club,

c. order the defaulting Club to pay any reasonable expenses incurred by the opponents.

2. Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a Competition Match has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the (Fixtures) Secretary, the Competition Referees Appointments Secretary, the secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials.

If a Competition Match is abandoned, each participating Club must give notice of the abandonment to the Competition by the deadline set out in Rule 21(B). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

3. In the event of a Competition Match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it should be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the (Fixtures) Secretary within [ ] days the Management Committee shall have the power to order the Competition Match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and the Clubs involved agree, the Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand.

Providing gate money is taken and retained the visiting Club shall receive their actual standard class rail or bus fares or the equivalent for [ ] persons, or car allowance at [ ] p per mile for transporting [ ] persons, or hire charge of a coach (receipt to be submitted). The residue (if any) to be equally divided between the two Clubs after deducting the cost of advertising, printing, posting, police and Match Officials charges. The home Club shall take the whole of the proceeds of the second Competition Match. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

4. The Management Committee shall review all Competition Matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a Competition Match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one Team or its Club member(s) they shall be empowered to award the points for the Competition Match to the opponent. In cases where a Competition Match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Teams or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule that neither Team will be awarded any points for that Competition Match and it shall not be replayed. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned Competition Match.

5. The Management Committee shall review any Competition Match that has taken place where either or both Teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by The FA or Affiliated Association. In each case the Team that was under suspension would be dealt with in the same manner as if they had participated with ineligible players in accordance with Rule 18(N)1. above. Where both Teams were under suspension the Competition Match must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.

(F) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use substitute Players in any Competition Match.

Where a Competition does not allow return substitutes:

For Under 17s and Under 18s – a Club may name up to [ ] (3, 4, 5, 6, 7) substitute Players of whom not more than [ ] (3, 4, 5, 6, 7) may be used.

Where a Competition does allow return substitutes:

For Under 11s – Under 18s – a Club may use up to [3 from 3 substitute Players] [4 from 4 substitute Players] [5 from 5 substitute Players] [6 from 6 substitute Players] [7 from 7 substitute Players]. A Player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace any Player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of the Game.

For Mini-Soccer, with the exception of 3v3 – any number of substitutions may be used at any time with the permission of the referee. Entry onto the field of play will only be allowed during a stoppage in play. A Player who has been replaced may return to play as a substitute for another Player. A Team must not have a match day squad greater than double the size of its team in an age group.

For 3v3 - no substitutions are allowed.

In Youth Football only, the referee shall be informed of the names of the substitute Players not later than [ ] minutes before the start of the Competition Match and a Player not so named may not take part in that Competition Match.

A Player who has named as a substitute before the start of that Competition Match but does not actually play in the game shall not be considered to have been a Player in that Competition Match within the meaning of Rule 18 of this Competition.

(G) The half time interval shall be of [ ] minutes' duration, but it shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.

(H) The Teams taking part in Under 7s to Under 11 or Youth Football shall identify a Team captain who may/shall wear an armband and shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of their teammates. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(I) Where a suspension imposed upon a Club or Team by The FA or Affiliated Association in relation to:

1. a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations); or
2. The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children or Regulations for Safeguarding Adults at Risk,

is not lifted, and/or the Club does not provide confirmation from The FA or Affiliated Association that such suspension is lifted to the Competition Secretary by [*Time*] [*1 or 2*] days before a fixture, that fixture will be treated as an unfulfilled fixture and dealt with in accordance with Rule 20(E).

REPORTING RESULTS

21. (A) The (Registration/Fixtures) Secretary must receive within [ ] days of the date played, the result of each Competition Match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the Team Players (in block letters) and also the referee markings required by Rule 23, or any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(B) The Home Club/both Clubs shall use telephone/SMS/email/FA Full Time/FA Matchday as directed by the Competition to notify the result of each Competition Match to the [ ] by [ ]. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by an Officer of the Club, or as prescribed by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(D) The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect but NOT publish results or any grading tables for fixtures involving Under 7s, Under 8s, Under 9s, Under 10s, and Under 11s. Any Competition failing to abide by this Rule will be dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority, and any Club failing to abide by this Rule will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff). The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect and publish results for trophy events.

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

22. **(A)** In Competitions where points are awarded, Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn Competition Match. The Teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective divisions at the end of the Playing Season shall be adjudged the winners. Competition Matches must not be played for double points.

In the event of two or more Teams being equal on points at the end of the Playing Season, rankings may be determined by a deciding match or matches played under conditions determined by the Management Committee, or the position shared.

(B) Automatic promotion shall be applied for the first [ ] Teams and automatic relegation shall be applied for the last [ ] Teams in each division except as provided for hereunder, subject to the provisions of Rule 2(L).

1. Should one or more Teams withdraw from any one division after the Playing Season has commenced an equal number of Teams to those withdrawing in that division shall not be automatically relegated.
2. Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the Playing Season may be filled in any of the following ways:
   (a) retention of otherwise relegated Team(s); or
   (b) additional promotion of the next ranked Team(s) from the division below; or
   (c) election
3. The last [ ] Teams in the lowest division shall retire, but be eligible for re-election except as below, and be subject to the conditions of Rule 22 (B)1. above.
4. Should either or both of the leading Teams in any of the divisions have a Team in the next higher division, promotion shall fall, at the discretion of the General Meeting, to the next highest Team or Teams in the division concerned.
5. Should either or both of the relegated Teams in any of the divisions have a Team in the next lower division, relegation shall fall, at the discretion of the General Meeting, to the next lowest Team or Teams in the division concerned.

(C) In addition to the Team(s) automatically promoted under Rule 22(B), a maximum of one further Team shall be promoted by virtue of being the winner of a play-off match or series of matches (the "Play-Offs"). The eligibility criteria and format of the Play-Offs are as follows [ ].

(D) In the event of a Team withdrawing from the Competition before completing 75% of its fixtures for the Playing Season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting Team shall be expunged from the Competition table. For the purposes of this Rule 22 (D) a completed fixture shall include any Competition Match(es) which has been awarded by the Management Committee.

MATCH OFFICIALS

23. **(A)** Registered referees (and assistant referees where approved by The FA or County FA) for all Competition Matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the Sanctioning Authority.

(B) In cases where there are no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance, the Clubs shall agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that Competition Match, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee. Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any open age competition and individuals under the age of 14 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any Competition Match. Referees between the ages of 14 and 16 are only eligible to officiate in competitions where the Players' age band is at least one year younger than the age of the referee, for example a 15 year old referee may only officiate in competitions where the age banding is 14 or younger.

(C) Where assistant referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club assistant referee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) being imposed on the defaulting Club.

(D) The appointed referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the Ground in all Competition Matches and that decision shall be final, subject to the determination of the Local Authority or the owners of a Ground, which must be accepted.

(E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Authority, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff and travel expenses of [ ] per mile / or inclusive of travel expenses.

Match Officials will be paid their fees and/or expenses by the home Club before/immediately after the Competition Match, unless otherwise ordered by the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(F) In the event of a Competition Match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to [*full fee only/ full fee plus expenses/ half fee only/ half fee plus expenses/expenses only*]. Where a Competition Match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Match Officials, if they attend the Ground, their full fee and expenses. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(G) A referee not keeping their engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Affiliated Association with which they are registered.

(H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The FA, award marks to the referee for each Competition Match and the name of the referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.

(I) The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the form provided by the prescribed date each Season, shall submit a summary to The FA/County FA.

(J) *The referee shall submit a report form, supplied by the Competition, giving the result of the Competition Match, the number of Players in each Team and the time of kick-off to the (Registration) Secretary within two days of the Competition Match.*

(K) *Match Officials shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.*

(L) *Match Officials shall have undertaken a RESPECT briefing offered by The FA/County FA or the Competition.*

SCHEDULE A

FEES TARIFF

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE
4 (A)	CLUB ENTRY FEE	£50.00
4 (B)	CLUB/TEAM ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	£150.00
4 (C)	DEPOSIT	£100.00
7 (C)	PROTEST FEES	£0.00
18 (D)	PLAYER REGISTRATION FEE	£10.00 (per player)
18 (H)	TRANSFER FEE	£10.00
23 (E)	REFEREE FEES	As agreed with Sanctioning Authority
23 (E)	ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES	As agreed with Sanctioning Authority

FINES TARIFF

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
2 (I)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	£100.00
2 (K)	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITIONS	£100.00
3	FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME	£30.00
4 (C)	FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT	£100.00
4 (E)	FAILURE TO ENSURE TEAMS ARE RECORDED AS AFFILIATED IN THE CLUB PORTAL	£100.00
5 (E)	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS	£25.00
6 (H)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£100.00
6 (I)	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	DOUBLE THE ORIGINAL FINE UP TO £100.00
8 (H)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	£100.00
9	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM	£100.00
10	FAILURE TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO SIGNATORIES	£25.00
11 (A)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE DEADLINE	£100.00
11 (B)	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£100.00

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

30 - STANDARD CODE OF RULES FOR MINI SOCCER AND YOUTH FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
13 (A)	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY	£25.00
16(A)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£100.00
16(B)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£100.00
18 (A)	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER	£40.00
18 (B)3.	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE PLAYING SEASON COMMENCING	£25.00
18 (F)	REGISTERING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION FORM	£25.00
18 (G)2.	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	£100.00
18 (N)1.	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£100.00
18 (O)1.	FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	£50.00
19	FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS	£10.00 (per shirt, up to an aggregate maximum of £30)
19	DELAYING KICK OFF TO DUE TO NO CHANGE OF COLOURS	£30.00
19	YOUTH PLAYER NAMES APPEARING ON SHIRTS	£
20(A)	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT	£30.00
20 (B)	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED	£100.00
20 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£50.00
20 (D)	PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS	£100.00
20 (E) 1. & 3.	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE	£100.00
20 (E) 2.	FAILURE TO NOTIFY OF ABANDONMENT OF MATCH	£100.00
20 (H)	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	£10.00
21 (A) & 21 (C)	LATE RESULT NOTIFICATION FORM	£20.00
21 (B)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT	£20.00
21(C)	PUBLISHING RESULTS/GRADING TABLES FOR FIXTURES INVOLVING U7s, U8s, U9s, U10s OR U11s	£50.00
23 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE	£25.00
23 (E)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES AND EXPENSES	£25.00
23 (F)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED	£25.00
23 (H)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK	£25.00

SCHEDULE B – INDEX

Rule 1 Definitions

GOVERNANCE RULES

Rule 2 Competition Name and Constitution
Rule 3 Club Name
Rule 4 Entry Fee, Subscription, Deposit
Rule 5 Management, Nomination, Election
Rule 6 Powers of Management
Rule 7 Protests, Claims, Complaints, Appeals
Rule 8 Annual General Meeting
Rule 9 Special General Meetings
Rule 10 Agreement to Rules of the Competition
Rule 11 Continuation of Membership, Withdrawal of a Club
Rule 12 Exclusion of Clubs, Teams. Misconduct of Clubs, Officers, Players, Management Committee
Rule 13 Trophy
Rule 14 Alteration to Rules
Rule 15 Finance
Rule 16 Insurance
Rule 17 Dissolution

MATCH RELATED RULES

Rule 18 Qualification of Players
Rule 19 Club Colours
Rule 20 Playing Season. Conditions of Play, Times of Kick-Off, Postponements, Substitutes
Rule 21 Reporting Results
Rule 22 Determining Championship
Rule 23 Match Officials

SCHEDULE A

Fees Tariff
Fines Tariff

31 - YOUTH RULES

YOUTH RULES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS

The following Youth Rules are for the guidance of County Associations:-

1. The Association shall be called "The County Youth Football Association."

2. The Officers of the Youth Association shall consist of a President, Vice-Presidents, Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, and Hon. Referees' Secretary.

3. The Youth Association for the purposes of general management shall be governed by a Council consisting of two Members from each Division elected annually in accordance with these Rules, four Members nominated by the County Football Association, the President, Chairman, Hon. Referees' Secretary and the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the County Football Association.

4. All Clubs having their headquarters within the area of the County Association, the whole of whose players are under 18 years of age on 31st August, of the then current season, shall be eligible for Membership, subject to the approval of the Council.

5. All Clubs upon application for affiliation to the Youth Association, and at any time thereafter when so required, shall satisfy the Council that they are properly constituted and also play Football according to the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association.

6. Each affiliated League, Competition and Club shall pay an annual fee.

7. Each affiliated Club shall forward on or before the 1st September in each year, to the Hon. Secretary, a return in accordance with Form "A" in the Schedule which is annexed to and forms part of these Rules.

8. For the purposes of management, the Youth Association shall be divided into Divisions, geographically as defined by the Council, the Division to which a Club belongs being determined by the situation of its ground or, in the event of a Club having no ground, by the situation of its headquarters.

9. The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than the ..... in each year.

A printed balance sheet of the accounts, certified by the Auditor, shall be sent out with the notices convening the meeting 14 days prior to the date of same. Each affiliated League, Competition and Club shall be entitled to send two duly appointed Representatives. All Representatives appointed under this Rule must be Members of the Club they represent.

An individual Member shall only represent one affiliated Club. The County Officers shall be entitled to vote at any Ordinary and/or Special General Meeting. Councillors may attend any General Meeting but may not vote in that capacity.

10. [Each County Association will frame its own Rule, as circumstances may require, to provide the method by which the Council shall be elected.]

11. The duties of the affiliated Leagues or Competitions may be generally defined as follows:-

To investigate and (if so instructed by the Council) to deal with reports of misconduct, protests, complaints, or other matters referred to them by the Council, or by the Secretary in cases when delay would appear detrimental. The League or Competition shall, with as little delay as possible, report the results of their investigations and determinations to the Secretary. The Council shall have power to amend or revoke any decision of a League or Competition when they deem it advisable.

12. Any Appeal against a decision of a League or Competition must be sent to the Secretary, accompanied by a deposit of £0.50 which may be forfeited to the funds of the-County Association if the Appeal is successful. Members of a League or Competition whose decision is appealed against shall not sit on, or be present at, the Council Meeting during the determination of such Appeal. All Appeals under this Rule must be lodged with the Secretary within seven days of the decision being given, which it is desired to appeal against.

13. If an insufficient number of candidates is nominated, the Hon. Secretary shall report the circumstances to the retiring Council, who shall elect Members to fill the vacancies.

14. Five Members of the Council shall form a quorum for the transaction of business. The Council shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur among the elected Members in their body during the year. The Council shall have power to appoint such Committees as they may consider necessary and provide such secretarial assistance as they think fit.

[The Rules of the County Association shall apply to all matters not provided for in these Rules.]

32 - STANDARD CLUB RULES

SUGGESTED RULES:

1. Name

The club shall be called ..... (the "Club").

2. Objects

The objects of the Club shall be to provide facilities, promote the game of Association Football, to arrange matches and social activities for its members and community participation in the same.

3. Status of Rules

These rules (the "Club Rules") form a binding agreement between each member of the Club.

4. Rules and Regulations

a. The members of the Club 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 Club are carried out in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association Limited ("The FA"), County Football Association to which the Club is affiliated ("Parent County Association") and Competitions in which the Club participates, for the time being in force.

b. No alteration to the Club Rules shall be effective without prior written approval by the Parent County Association. The FA and the Parent County Association reserve the right to approve any proposed changes to the Club Rules.

c. The Club will also abide by The FA's Child Protection Policies and Procedures, Codes of Conduct and the Equality Policy as shall be in place from time to time.

5. Club Membership

a. The members of the Club from time to time shall be those persons listed in the register of members (the "Membership Register") which shall be maintained by the Club Secretary.

b. Any person who wishes to be a member must apply on the Membership Application Form and deliver it to the Club. Election to membership shall be at the discretion of the Club Committee and granted in accordance with the anti- discrimination and equality policies which are in place from time to time. An appeal against refusal may be made to the Club Committee in accordance with the Complaints Procedure in force from time to time. Membership shall become effective upon an applicant's name being entered in the Membership Register.

c. In the event of a member's resignation or expulsion, his or her name shall be removed from the Membership Register.

d. The FA and Parent County Association shall be given access to the Membership Register on demand.

6. Annual Membership Fee

An annual fee payable by each member shall be determined from time to time by the Club Committee and set at a level that will not pose a significant obstacle to community participation. Any fee shall be payable on a successful application for membership and annually by each member. Fees shall not be repayable.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

7. Resignation and Expulsion

a. A member shall cease to be a member of the Club if, and from the date on which, he/she gives notice to the Club Committee of his/her resignation. A member whose annual membership fee or further subscription is more than two (2) months in arrears shall be deemed to have resigned.

b. The Club Committee shall have the power to expel a member when, in its opinion, it would not be in the interests of the Club for them to remain a member. An appeal against such a decision may be made to the Club Committee in accordance with the Complaints Procedure in force from time to time.

c. A member who resigns or is expelled shall not be entitled to claim any, or a share of any, of the income and assets of the Club (the "Club Property").

8. Club Committee

a. The Club Committee shall consist of the following Club Officers: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, Welfare Officer (where a Club has youth teams) Secretary and Minutes Secretary and up to 5 other members, elected at an Annual General Meeting.

b. Each Club Officer and Club Committee Member shall hold office from the date of appointment until the next Annual General Meeting ("AGM") unless otherwise resolved at an Extraordinary General Meeting ("EGM"). One person may hold no more than two positions of Club Officer at any time. The Club Committee shall be responsible for the management of all the affairs of the Club. Decisions of the Club Committee shall be made by a simple majority of those attending the Club Committee meeting. The Chairperson of the Club Committee meeting shall have a casting vote in the event of a tie. Meetings of the Club Committee shall be chaired by the..... or in their absence the .... The quorum for the transaction of business of the Club Committee shall be three.

c. Decisions of the Club Committee of meetings shall be entered into the Minute Book of the Club to be maintained by the Club Secretary.

d. Any member of the Club Committee may call a meeting of the Club Committee by giving not less than seven days' notice to all members of the Club Committee. The Club Committee shall hold not less than four meetings a year.

e. An outgoing member of the Club Committee may be re-elected. Any vacancy on the Club Committee which arises between Annual General Meetings shall be filled by a member proposed by one and seconded by another of the remaining Club Committee members and approved by a simple majority of the remaining Club Committee members.

f. Save as provided for in the Rules and Regulations of The FA, the Parent County Association and any applicable Competition, the Club Committee shall have the power to decide all questions and disputes arising in respect of any issue concerning the Club Rules.

g. The position of a Club Officer shall be vacated if such person is subject to a decision of The FA 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.

9. Annual and Extraordinary General Meetings

a. An AGM shall be held in each year to:

(i) receive a report of the activities of the Club over the previous year;

(ii) receive a report of the Club's finances over the previous year;

(iii) elect the members of the Club Committee; and

(iv) consider any other business.

b. Nominations for election of members as Club Officers or as members of the Club Committee shall be made in writing by the proposer and seconder, both of whom must be existing members of the Club, to the Club Secretary not less than 21 days before the AGM. Notice of any resolution to be proposed at the AGM shall be given in writing to the Club Secretary not less than 21 days before the meeting.

c. An EGM maybe called at anytime by the Club Committee and shall be called within 21 days of the receipt by the Club Secretary of a requisition in writing, signed by not less than five members stating the purposes for which the Meeting is required and the resolutions proposed. Business at an EGM may be any business that may be transacted at an AGM.

d. The Secretary shall send to each member at their last known address written notice of the date of a General Meeting (whether an AGM or an EGM) together with the resolutions to be proposed at least 14 days before the meeting.

e. The quorum for a General Meeting shall be ..... .

f. The Chairperson, or in their absence a member selected by the Club Committee, shall take the chair. Save as set out at (g) below, each member present shall have one vote and resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority. In the event of an equality of votes the Chairperson of the Meeting shall have a casting vote.

g. Any member aged under 18 years may not vote in a general meeting save that one of his or her parents/guardians may vote on his or her behalf.

h. The Club Secretary, or in their absence a member of the Club Committee, shall enter Minutes of General Meetings into the Minute Book of the Club.

10. Club Teams

At its first meeting following each AGM the Club Committee shall appoint a Club member to be responsible for each of the Club's football teams. The appointed members shall be responsible for managing the affairs of the team. The appointed members shall present to the Club Committee at its last meeting prior to an AGM a written report of the activities of the team.

11. Club Finances

a. A bank account shall be opened and maintained in the name of the Club (the "Club Account"). Designated account signatories shall be the Club Chairperson, the Club Secretary and the Treasurer. No sum shall be drawn from the Club Account except by cheque signed by two of the three designated signatories. All monies payable to the Club shall be received by the Treasurer and deposited in the Club Account.

b. The Club Property shall be applied only in furtherance of the objects of the Club. The distribution of profits or proceeds arising from the sale of Club Property to members is prohibited.

c. The Club Committee shall have the power to authorise the payment of remuneration and expenses to any member of the Club (although a Club shall not remunerate a member for playing) and to any other person or persons for services rendered to the Club.

d. The Club may provide sporting and related social facilities, sporting equipment, coaching, courses, insurance cover, medical treatment, away-match expenses, post match refreshments and other ordinary benefits of Community Amateur Sports Clubs as provided for in the Finance Act 2002.

e. The Club may also in connection with the sports purposes of the Club:

(i) sell and supply food, drink and related sports clothing and equipment;

(ii) employ members (although not for playing) and remunerate them for providing goods and services, on fair terms set by the Club Committee without the person concerned being present;

(iii) pay for reasonable hospitality for visiting teams and guests; and

(iv) indemnify the Club Committee and members acting properly in the course of the running of the Club against any liability incurred in the proper running of the Club (but only to the extent of its assets).

f. The 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 Club. The Club must retain its accounting records for a minimum of six years.

g. The Club shall prepare an annual "Financial Statement", in such format as shall be available from The FA from time to time. The Financial Statement shall be verified by an independent, appropriately qualified accountant and shall be approved by members at general meeting. A copy of any Financial Statement shall, on demand, be forwarded to The FA.

h. The Club Property, other than the Club Account, shall be vested in not less than two and no more than four custodians, one of whom shall be the Treasurer ("the Custodians"),who shall deal with the Club Property as directed by decisions of the Club Committee and entry in the Minute Book shall be conclusive evidence of such a decision.

i. The Custodians shall be appointed by the Club in a General Meeting and shall hold office until death or resignation unless removed by a resolution passed at a General Meeting.

j. On their removal or resignation a Custodian shall execute a Conveyance in such form as is published by The FA from time to time to a newly elected Custodian or the existing Custodians as directed by the Club Committee. The Club shall, on request, make a copy of any Conveyance available to The FA. On the death of a Custodian, any Club Property vested in them shall vest automatically in the surviving Custodians. If there is only one surviving Custodian, an EGM shall be convened as soon as possible to appoint another Custodian.

k. The Custodians shall be entitled to an indemnity out of the Club Property for all expenses and other liabilities reasonably incurred by them in carrying out their duties.

12. Dissolution

a. A resolution to dissolve the Club shall only be proposed at a General Meeting and shall be carried by a majority of at least three-quarters of the members present.

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

c. The dissolution shall take effect from the date of the resolution and the members of the Club Committee shall be responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Club.

33 - MATCHES AGAINST FOREIGN CLUBS

PRO - APPLICATION TO PLAY AGAINST FOREIGN TEAMS - FORM (DECEMBER 2021)

APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN MATCHES AGAINST NON-ENGLISH OPPOSITION

Application from a Club that is a member of the Premier League/EFL/Women's Super League or Championship wishing to participate in a Match(es) or Tournament against non-English Opposition

To be completed to meet the requirements of FA Rule B and FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches.

To be received at The Association at least 28 days before the date of the intended match or the first of a series of matches.

_____ Football Club ("the Club"), wish to participate in the following match(es) or Tournament(s) against non-English team(s)and/or play a match outside of England:

Name of Opponent(s) or Tournament(s)	- First Team - Other - Age Group	Date of match	Kick-Off Local time	Venue (including country)	National Association of Opponent or host of Tournament

MATCH AGENTS Please indicate whether the match(es)/tournament(s) listed above have been arranged by a match agent.

Name and address of licensed agent (if not applicable then enter N/A)_____

_____

BROADCASTING

Do you have any knowledge of any intention of the Transmission (as defined in UEFA Statute Article 48*) of the match(es) / tournament into the territories of the United Kingdom (including streaming). **YES** ☐ **NO** ☐

If Yes then details must be provided below:

_____

** As such Article may be updated or revised from time to time.*

CONFIRMATION

On behalf of the Club I confirm that in relation to this application:

(i) the information contained in this application is complete and accurate;

(ii) the Club shall advise The Association immediately in writing of any changes to the information provided herein;

(iii) the Club agrees to comply with applicable Rules (and in particular Rule B), Regulations and Policies of The Association, the League of which the Club is a member, UEFA and FIFA (including FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches);

(iv) in the event of a clash of the above match(es) or Tournament with a domestic fixture then the domestic fixture will take precedence; and

(v) the Club acknowledges that The Association may at its complete discretion share details of this application with any relevant football and/or statutory authority.

Signed:		Date:	
Name (Print):		Position:	

Completed Form is to be submitted by email to: sanctioning@thefa.com at least 28 days before the date of the intended match or the first of a series of matches.

Please contact Licensing & Sanctioning Department with any queries in relation to the completion of this Form

December 2021

NON-LEAGUE - APPLICATION TO PLAY AGAINST FOREIGN TEAMS - FORM (DECEMBER 2021)

APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN MATCHES AGAINST NON-ENGLISH OPPOSITION

For use by clubs that are NOT a member of the Premier League/EFL/FA Women's Super League or Championship wishing to participate in a Match(es) or Tournament against non-English Opposition

To be completed to meet the requirements of FA Rule B and FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches.
To be received at The Association at least 28 days before the date of the intended match or the first of a series of matches.

We_____, the applicant Club with Affiliation Number_____, wish to participate in the following match(es) or Tournament(s) against non-English team(s) and/or play a match outside of England:-

Name of Opponent(s) or Tournament	- First Team - Other - Age Group	Date(s) of match(es)	Kick Off Local Time	Venue (including country)	National Association of Opponent or host of Tournament

(If insufficient space, please provide a separate list along with this form)

If hosting a Tournament in England including a non-English team please contact sanctioning@thefa.com

In submitting this application we acknowledge and confirm that in relation to the match(es)/tournament for which consent to participate is requested we shall fully comply with Rules (and in particular Rule B), Regulations and Policies of The Association, the League of which the Club is a member, UEFA and FIFA (including FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches):

In circumstances where the match(es)/tournament involves one or more youth teams, we additionally acknowledge and confirm the following:

- We shall fully comply with The FA's Safeguarding Children Policies and Procedures - http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding;
- We shall at all times be responsible for the safeguarding and welfare of our Club's Officials, Players and Staff;
- We hold written consents from the parents/carers of all young persons aged under 16 that will attend the match(es)/tournament. No young person shall participate in the match(es)/tournament in the absence of such consent;
- Where match(es)/tournaments involving young persons of school age are due to take place during term time, we hold written permissions from the head teachers of all young persons involved;
- We have read and shall adhere to the Safe Sports Events, Activities and Competitions Guidance provided by the NSPCC, Child Protection in Sport Unit - https://thecpsu.org.uk/resource-library/2013/safe-sport-events-activities-and-competitions/ and
- We have satisfied ourselves that there will be an adequate Safeguarding Plan (compliant with the NSPCC's Safe Sports Events, Activities and Competitions Guidance), onsite emergency procedures and first aid provision in place to ensure the safety and welfare of all participants of the Club at all times during the match(es)/tournament.

Note: If the Club requires safeguarding support please contact your County Welfare Officer.

Signed:		Date:	
Name (Print):		Position:	

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION FOR ALL CLUBS BELOW STEP 4 OF THE NLS

_____County Football Association hereby approves the above application.

Signed:		Date:	
Name (Print):		Position:	

Completed Form is to be submitted by email to: sanctioning@thefa.com at least 28 days before the date of the intended match or the first of a series of matches.

Please contact Licensing & Sanctioning Department with any queries in relation to the completion of this Form

34 - SMALL-SIDED FOOTBALL

LAWS OF THE GAME
Revised March 2018

INTRODUCTION

The following laws of the game are The Association's recommended laws for use in Small-Sided Football. This includes 5, 6 and 7-a-side games but not Mini-Soccer or Futsal, which have their own specific laws. (These are also available from The Association). These Laws were revised in 2012 based on the following principles;

- A revision of The Association's Laws so that they better reflect the game that it is being played in many venues
- Applying the general principle of the 'normal laws of Association Football with exceptions' and as consequence simplifying the game for both players and Referees.
- Improving the technical quality of play in the small-sided game
- To encourage participation and enjoyment in a safe and controlled environment.

Small-Sided Football is now the largest form of the recreational game. The laws that people play the game tend to differ from venue to venue and reflect both traditions of play and the constraints of the facility in which the game is taking place. The set of Laws contained in this document are those that The Association will use in its own Small-Sided Football competitions and we would recommend their adoption by all organisers of Small-Sided Football. However, given the diversity of small sided facilities and formats in this country, use of these Laws in all circumstances is not mandatory and these revised Laws also allow The Association and the County Football Associations to sanction other formats of Small-Sided Football. The principles of any approval by The Association shall be based upon;

- The normal laws of Association Football apply with exceptions
- The game should take into full account the health and safety of the players and officials.

This document contains both a full set of laws, suitable for use by competition organisers and Match Officials and an abridged version that can be used to advise participants of the laws that will be of greatest interest to them.

Further advice on laws of the game and the affiliation of competitions can be obtained from your local County Football Association.

SECTION ONE

SMALL-SIDED FOOTBALL - LAWS OF THE GAME

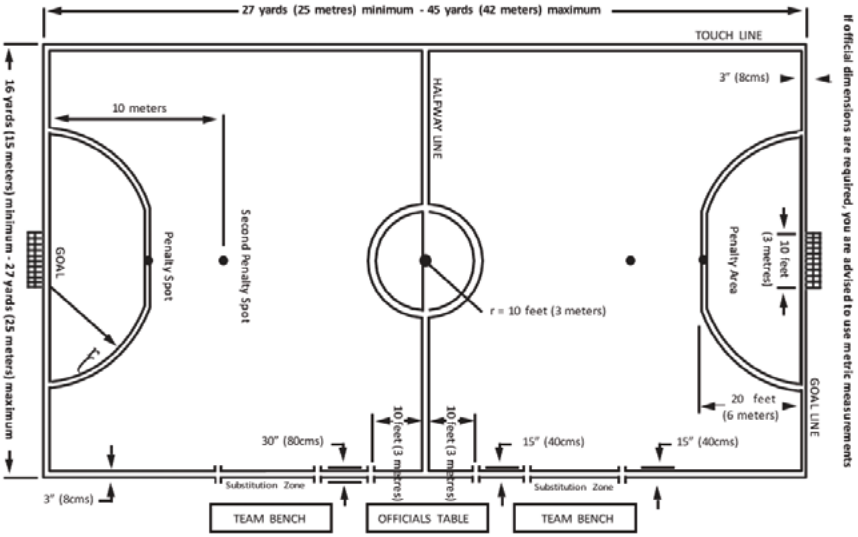
General Principle

Where not stated the normal Laws of Association Football apply with exceptions notably that there is no offside in Small-Sided Football

LAW 1: THE PLAYING AREA

The Pitch

Small Side Football may be played with or without barriers.



The playing area must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

For 5 and 6 – a side football the following dimensions are

Recommended Length:	minimum 25 m maximum 50 m
Width:	minimum 16 m maximum 35 m

For 7 a side football the following dimensions are

Recommended Length:	minimum 50m maximum 60m
Width:	minimum 30m maximum 40m

Area Markings
The playing area is marked with lines. The two longer boundary lines are called touchlines. The two shorter lines are called goal lines.

All lines are 8cm wide.

The playing area is divided into two halves by the halfway line.

The centre mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of 3 m is marked around it.

A penalty area is defined at each end of the pitch as follows:

A semi circle of 6 m radius shall be drawn from the centre of each goal line. The extremities of these semi-circles should reach the goal line, barrier or wall regardless of whether or not the goal posts encroach onto the playing area.

Penalty Mark
A penalty mark is drawn 6 m from the midpoint between the goal posts and equidistant from them.

The Corner Arc
Where barriers do not surround the playing area a quarter circle with a radius of 25cm from each corner is drawn inside the playing area.

Goals
Goals must be placed on the centre of each goal line.

They consist of two upright posts equidistant from each corner and joined at the top by a horizontal crossbar.

The distance (inside measurement) between the posts is maximum 5m, minimum 3m and the distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is maximum 2m minimum 1.20m.

Both goal posts and the crossbar have the same width and depth of 8cm. Nets, made of hemp, jute or nylon, are attached to the posts and crossbars behind the goals. The lower part is supported by curved bars or some other adequate support.

Safety
The goals may be portable but they must be anchored securely to the ground during play as per Health and Safety requirements.

Playing Surface
Where natural turf is not used the surface must be smooth and flat and non-abrasive.

The use of wood or artificial material is recommended.

LAW 2: THE BALL

Qualities and Measurements
The ball is:

- Spherical
- Made of leather or other suitable material
- Size appropriate to the age group playing

Replacement of a Defective Ball
If the ball bursts or becomes defective during the course of a game:

- The game is stopped
- The game is restarted by dropping the replacement ball at the place where the first ball became defective

If the ball bursts or becomes defective while not in play:

- The game is restarted according to the Laws

The ball may not be changed during the match without the permission of the Referee.

LAW 3: THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS

A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than the following number of players and substitutes for each format:

5-a-side = 5 players per team and 3 substitutes (total of 8 players)

6-a-side = 6 players per team and 3 substitutes (total of 9 players)

7-a-side = 7 players per team and 3 substitutes (total of 10 players)

Substitution Procedure
The maximum number of substitutes permitted is three.

The number of substitutions made during a game is unlimited. A player who has been replaced may return to the pitch as a substitute for another player.

Substitutions should take place when there is a break in play or during play if the second official is involved in refereeing the game. This will be determined by the Competition Rules.

A substitution is one that is made when the ball is in or out of play for which the following conditions must be observed:

- The player entering the playing area may not do so until the player leaving the playing area has passed completely over the boundary line
- Where barricades are used the players must use the opening onto the playing area
- A substitution is complete when the substitute enters the playing area from which moment they become a player and the player they are replacing ceases to be a player

A substitute is subject to the authority and jurisdiction of the Referee whether called upon to play or not.

Changing Places with the Goalkeeper
Any of the players or substitutes, may change places with the goalkeeper. The following conditions must be observed:

- The Referee must be informed before the change is made
- The change may only be made during a stoppage in play
- The replacement goalkeeper must wear a jersey which distinguishes them from all other players

Infringements/Sanctions
If, while a substitution is being made, a substitute enters the playing area before the player being replaced has completely left:

- Play is stopped
- The player being replaced is instructed to leave the playing area
- The substitute is 'sin binned' for the agreed period.
- Play is restarted by an indirect free kick to be taken by the opposing team from the place where the ball was situated when the game was stopped. However, if the ball was inside the penalty area, the indirect free kick is taken on the penalty area line, at the place nearest to the position of the ball when play was stopped

Where barricades are used if, while a substitution is being made, a substitute enters the playing area or a player being replaced leaves it from a place other than the recognised opening in the barricades:

- Play is stopped
- The substitute is 'sin binned' for the agreed period.

Play is restarted by an indirect free kick to be taken by the opposing team from the place where the ball was situated when the game was stopped. However, if the ball was inside the penalty area, the indirect free kick is taken on the penalty area line, at the place nearest to the position of the ball when play was stopped

Validity of a Match – Playing Numbers
A match should not be considered valid if the playing strength of either team is permanently reduced by:

- More than two players for 5-a-side,
- More than two players for 6-a-side
- More than three players for 7-a-side.

However this should only apply when players are permanently excluded or lost through injury rather than within the 'Sin Bin' for a two minute suspension.

LAW 4: THE PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT

Safety
A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to themselves or another player, including any kind of jewellery. Jewellery should be removed.

Basic Equipment
- A jersey or shirt
- Shorts or track suit trousers
- Socks
- Shinguards
- Footwear – which is subject and appropriate to local conditions and surface type must be worn.

Shinguards
- Are covered entirely by the socks
- Are made of a suitable material (rubber, plastic or similar substances)
- Provide a reasonable degree of protection

Goalkeepers
- The goalkeeper is permitted to wear long trousers
- Each goalkeeper wears colours which easily distinguish them from the other players and the Referees

Infringements/Sanctions
For any Infringements of this Law:

- The player at fault is instructed by the Referee to leave the playing area to correct their equipment or to obtain any missing item of equipment. The player may not return to the playing area without first reporting to the Referee, who then checks that the player's equipment is now correct. The player is only allowed to re-enter the game when the ball is out of play
- Players can return to play whilst the ball is in play if a second official has checked the equipment. If no second official is present the player must wait for a break in play in order for the Referee to check the faulty equipment

LAW 5: THE REFEREE

The Authority of the Referee
Each game is controlled by a Referee who has full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in connection with the game to which they have been appointed, from the moment they enter the locality where the playing area is situated until they leave.

Powers and Duties The Referee:
Enforces the Laws of the Game

- Allows play to continue when the team against which an offence has been committed will benefit from such an advantage and penalises the original offence if the anticipated advantage does not ensue at that time
- Keeps a record of the match and provides the appropriate authorities with a game report which includes information on any disciplinary action taken against players, and/or team officials and any other incidents which occur before, during or after the game
- Acts as timekeeper
- Stops, suspends or terminates the game for any infringement of the Laws or due to any kind of outside interference
- Takes disciplinary action against players guilty of cautionable and sending-off offences
- Takes action against team officials who fail to conduct themselves in a responsible manner and may, at their discretion, expel them from the playing area and its immediate surrounds
- Ensures that no unauthorised persons enter the playing area
- Stops the game if, in their opinion, upon injury assessment a player is seriously injured and ensures that they iare removed from the playing area
- Ensures any player bleeding from a wound leaves the playing area
- Allows play to continue until there is a stoppage in play if a player is, in their opinion, only slightly injured
- Ensures that any ball used meets the requirements of Law 2
- Make use of timed suspensions to exclude temporarily players guilty of infringements of the laws
- In the absence of a second official, the Referee should make excluded players aware of the end of their period of suspension

Decisions of the Referee
The decisions of the Referee regarding facts connected with play are final.

LAW 6: THE MATCH OFFICIAL

Duties
The duties of the Match Official are to assist the Referee in the control of the game in the following areas: -

- Control of the substitution procedure, ensuring that the player to be replaced has left the playing area before the substitute is allowed to enter the playing area
- Check the equipment of all the substitutes entering the playing area
- Ensure that a player sent from the playing area by the Referee, to replace any missing or defective equipment is checked before being allowed back on to the playing area
- If a player has been removed from the playing area by the Referee to have a 'blood injury' treated the Match Official must ensure that the bleeding has stopped before the player is allowed to re enter the playing area
- Keep a full record of the game details
- Act as the timekeeper for any player who has been given a temporary suspension from the game
- Report to the Referee any misconduct by any of the team players or officials in the technical / bench / substitute area
- Carry out any other duties as requested by the Referee

LAW 7: THE DURATION OF THE GAME

The duration of the game shall be divided into two equal periods of over five and up to 25 minutes each period subject to the following:

a. Allowance shall be made in either period for time lost through stoppages as decided by the Referee.

b. The duration of either half shall be extended to enable a penalty kick to be taken.

c. At half time the interval shall not exceed five minutes except by consent of the Referee.

d. Competition rules may allow for a game to be played in its entirety without a half time interval or requirement to change ends.

For games ending in a draw, competition rules may state provisions involving extra time or other procedures approved by the International FA Board to determine the winner of the game.

LAW 8: START OF PLAY

Preliminaries
The choice of ends is decided by the toss of a coin. The team winning the toss decides which goal it wishes to attack in the first half of the game.

The other team takes the kick-off to start the game.

Kick-off
A kick-off is a way of starting or restarting play:

- At the start of the game
- After a goal has been scored
- At the start of the second half of the game
- At the start of each period of extra time, where applicable

A goal may be scored directly from the kick-off.

Procedure

- All players are in their own half of the playing area
- The opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least 3m from the ball until it is in play
- The ball is stationary on the centre mark
- The Referee gives a signal
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves forward
- The kicker may not touch the ball a second time until it has touched another player

After a team scores a goal, the other team takes the kick-off.

Infringements/Sanctions
If the kicker touches the ball for a second time before it has been touched by another player:

- An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team which has to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred. For any other infringement of the kick-off procedure the kick-off is retaken.

Drop Ball
A drop ball is a way of restarting the game after a temporary stoppage

Procedure
The Referee drops the ball at the place where it was located when play was stopped, unless it was in the goalkeeper's possession, when the goalkeeper shall, at the referee's signal; return the ball into play by throwing the ball from any point within the Penalty Area.

Play restarts when the ball touches the ground.

Where barricades are in use and a drop ball is required the Referee shall drop the ball 2m from the barricade at the appropriate point.

Infringements/Sanctions
The ball is dropped again:

If it is touched by a player before it makes contact with the ground

If the ball leaves the playing area after it makes contact with the ground, without a player touching it

LAW 9: THE BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

Ball Out of Play
The ball is out of play when:

- It has wholly crossed the goal line or touch line, whether on the ground or in the air
- Play has been stopped by the Referee
- When playing indoors, it hits the ceiling

Ball In Play
The ball is in play at all other times including when:

- It rebounds from a goal post, the crossbar, or the barricades onto the playing area
- It rebounds from the Referee when on the playing area

Decisions
When a game is being played on an indoor playing area and the ball hits the ceiling, the game is restarted by an indirect free kick awarded to the opposing team to the one which last touched the ball.

The indirect free kick should be taken from the point at which the ball began to rise. Should this occur in the penalty area, the free kick should be taken from the penalty area line nearest to where the offence was committed. The exception to this rule is when the ball hits the ceiling following a deliberate 'save' (as opposed to a clearance) by the goalkeeper. In this case teams should play on.

Height of ball restrictions – If a height restriction is to be introduced the competition rules should identify the height above which an indirect free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team. If a height infringement occurs within the penalty area and is committed by the defending team an indirect free kick should be awarded on the penalty area line nearest to where the offence took place. The exception to this rule shall be when the ball rises above the designated height restriction resulting from a save or block performed by a goalkeeper. Play should continue in this circumstance. Should another player then play the ball whilst it is at a height above the designated height restriction this will result in an indirect free kick to the opposing team.

LAW 10: THE METHOD OF SCORING

Goal Scored
Except otherwise provided by these Laws, a goal is scored when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, between the goalposts and under the crossbar, unless it has been thrown, carried or intentionally propelled by the hand or arm by a player of the attacking side, the goalkeeper included.

Winning Team
The team scoring the greater number of goals during a game is the winner. If both teams score an equal number of goals or if no goals are scored, the game is drawn.

Competition Rules
For games ending in a draw, competition rules may state provisions involving extra time or other procedures to determine the winner of a game.

LAW 11: FREE KICKS

Types of Free Kicks
Free kicks are either direct or indirect.

For both direct and indirect free kicks, the ball must be stationary when the kick is taken and the kicker may not touch the ball a second time until it has touched another player.

The Direct Free Kick
- If a direct free kick is kicked directly into the opponent's goal, a goal is awarded

The Indirect Free Kick
- A goal can be scored only if the ball subsequently touches another player before it enters the goal

Position of Free Kick
- All opponents must be at least 3m from the ball until it is in play
- The ball is in play after it has been touched or played

Infringements/Sanctions
If, when a free kick is taken, an opponent is closer to the ball than the required distance:

- The kick is retaken

If, after the ball is in play, the kicker touches the ball a second time before it has touched another player:

- An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, taken from the place where the infringement occurred.

Signals
Direct Free Kick: the Referee keeps one arm horizontal pointing in the direction the kick has to be taken

Indirect Free Kick: the Referee indicates an indirect free kick by raising their arm above their head. They maintains their arm in that position until the kick has been taken and the ball has touched another player or goes out of play

LAW 12: FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

Fouls and misconduct are penalised as follows:

Direct Free Kick
- A direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following seven offences in a manner considered by the Referee to be careless, reckless or using excessive force:
- Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
- Trips or attempts to trip an opponent
- Jumps at an opponent
- Charges an opponent, even with the shoulder
- Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent
- Pushes an opponent
- Tackles an opponent

A direct free kick is also awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following offences:

- Holds an opponent
- Spits at an opponent
- Slides in an attempt to play the ball when it is being played or attempted to be played by an opponent (sliding tackle).
- Handles the ball deliberately, with the exception of the goalkeeper, who is able to handle the ball in their own penalty area

A direct free kick is taken from the place where the infringement occurred.

Penalty Kick
A penalty kick is awarded if a player commits any of the aforementioned offences inside their own penalty area, irrespective of the position of the ball but provided that it is in play.

If the Competition Rules dictate that only goalkeepers are permitted inside their own penalty area then this part of the Law does not apply.

Indirect Free Kick
An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a goalkeeper commits one of the following offences:

- Touches or controls the ball with their hands after it has been deliberately kicked to them by a team-mate
- Touches or controls the ball with their hands after they have received it directly from a kick-in taken by a team-mate
- Touches or controls the ball with their hands or feet, in the penalty area, for more than four seconds
- Height of ball restrictions (optional modification) – If a height restriction is introduced the competition rules should identify the height above which an indirect free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team
- If a height infringement occurs within the penalty area and is committed by the defending team an indirect free kick should be awarded on the penalty area line nearest to where the offence took place.

- The exception to this rule shall be when the ball rises above the designated height restriction resulting from a save or block performed by a goalkeeper. Play should continue in this circumstance unless the ball hits the roof, when play should be restarted with a drop ball. However should another player play the ball whilst it is at a height above the designated height restriction this will result in an indirect free kick to the opposing team.

An indirect free kick is also awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred, if, in the opinion of the Referee, a player:

- Plays in a dangerous manner
- Deliberately impedes the progress of an opponent when the ball is not being played
- Prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from their hands
- Commits any other offence, not previously mentioned in Law 12, for which play is stopped to caution or dismiss a player

The indirect free kick is taken from the place where the infringement occurred, unless this was in the penalty area, in which case the indirect free kick is taken from the penalty area line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred.

Disciplinary Sanctions
The use of temporary time suspensions ('sin bins) and the exclusion of a player arising from the issuing of a red card are the recommended disciplinary sanctions for use in small-sided football. Match Officials should employ the use of temporary timed suspensions (blue cards) in all cases traditionally regarded as cautionable offences.

Referees shall also have the discretion to use a second 'blue card' and a further period of suspension for a second minor offence rather than a second blue card automatically resulting in a red card and permanent expulsion.

The options for a match official imposing disciplinary sanctions are therefore;

- Player shown a blue card and temporarily suspended from play
- Player issued with a discretionary second blue card and temporarily excluded from play
- Player issued with a red card and permanently excluded from play

A blue card offence should always be accompanied by a temporary suspension from play.

The period of timed suspension in Small-Sided Football shall be two minutes. The release of players from a temporary suspension should be at the direction of the Referee or a Match Official if one is available.

Temporary Timed Suspensions – Procedures
A player temporarily suspended from play will be shown a blue card by the Match Official and informed that they shall be suspended from play for two minutes.

The player is obliged to leave the playing area and remain in a designated 'Sin Bin' area for the required suspension time. Separate 'sin bin' areas should be identified for each team. If no designated 'sin bin' areas are provided then suspended players should remain in the area where they can be seen by the Referee and adjacent to team officials and substitutes.

A player will be informed as to the end of a period of suspension by the Referee or Match Official and invited to rejoin the game. Where barricades are used the players must use the opening onto the playing area.

Temporary Timed Suspensions
A player is shown the blue card and temporarily excluded from play if they commit any of the following offences:

C1 Is guilty of unsporting behaviour C2 shows dissent by word or action

C3 Persistently infringes the Laws of the Game C4 delays the restart of play

C5 Fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, kick-in, free kick or goal clearance.

C6 Enters or re-enters the playing area without the Referee's permission or infringes the substitution procedure

C7 Deliberately leaves the playing area without the Referee's permission outside of a substitution For any of these offences, an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred. If the offence was committed within the penalty area the indirect free kick is taken from the penalty area line at the place nearest to where the infringement occurred.

Exception to the use of 'Blue Cards' and Temporary Timed Suspensions
The only exception to the use of 'Blue Cards' and Temporary Timed Suspensions is in facilities where if a player is excluded for two minutes they are unable to take up a position which is still in the eye line of the Referee but outside the boundaries of the pitch. This might be the case in an enclosed sports hall or in a complex of caged pitches. In such circumstances safety considerations requires the Referee to employ the use of yellow cards, with all players remaining on the pitch unless excluded permanently. In this situation normal disciplinary sanctions will apply after the game as per the competition rules. If 2 yellow cards are given to an individual the player will be shown a red card and dismissed.

Sending-Off Offences
A player is sent off and shown the red card if they commit any of the following offences:

S1 Is guilty of serious foul play

S2 Is guilty of violent conduct

S3 Spits at an opponent or any other person

S4 Denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within their own penalty area)

S5 Denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick

S6 Uses offensive, insulting or abusive language

S7 Receives a second blue/yellow card in the same match

If play is stopped for a player to be sent from the playing area without having committed any additional infringement of the Laws, the game is restarted by an indirect free kick, awarded to the opposing team, to be taken at the place where the infringement occurred. However, if the offence is committed in the penalty area, the indirect free kick is taken from the penalty area line at the place nearest to where the infringement occurred.

Decisions
A player who has been sent off may not take any further part in the game nor may they sit on the substitutes' bench, where provided.

LAW 13: THE PENALTY KICK

The Penalty Kick
A penalty kick is awarded against a team which commits any of the offences for which a direct free kick is awarded inside its own penalty area and while the ball is in play subject to Competition Rules dictating if other players other than the defending goalkeeper may enter the penalty area.

A goal may be scored directly from a penalty kick.

Additional time is allowed for a penalty kick to be taken at the end of each half or at the end of each period of extra time.

Position of the Ball and the Players
The ball:

- Is placed on the penalty mark

The player taking the penalty kick:

- Is properly identified

The defending goalkeeper:

- Remains on their goal line, facing the kicker, between the goalposts, until the ball has been kicked

The players other than the kicker are located:

- Inside the pitch
- Outside the penalty area
- Behind or to the side of the penalty mark
- At least 3m from the ball

Procedure
- The player taking the penalty kicks the ball forward
- They may not play the ball a second time until it has touched another player
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves forward

When a penalty kick is taken during the normal course of play, or time has been extended at half- time or full time to allow a penalty kick to be taken or retaken, a goal is awarded if, before passing the goalposts and under the crossbar:

- The ball touches either or both of the goalposts, and/or the crossbar and/or the goalkeeper

Infringements/Sanctions
If any of the following situations occur:

A player of the defending team infringes this Law:

- The kick is retaken, only if a goal is not scored
- The kick is not retaken if a goal is scored

A team-mate of the player taking the kick infringes this Law of the Game:

- The kick is retaken if a goal is scored
- The kick is not retaken if a goal is not scored

The player taking the kick infringes this Law of the Game after the ball is in play:

- An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, the kick to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred, unless this was in the penalty area, in which case the indirect free kick is taken from the penalty area line at the place nearest to where the infringement occurred.

LAW 14: THE KICK-IN

A kick-in is a method of restarting play.

A goal cannot be scored directly from a kick-in. A kick-in is awarded:

- When the whole of the ball passes over a touch line, either on the ground or in the air, or hits the ceiling
- From the place where it crossed the touch line or 2m into the playing area adjacent to where the ball left the playing area when barricades are in use
- To the opponents of the player who last touched the ball

Position of the Ball and the Players
The ball:

- Has to be stationary on the touch line; or 2m into the playing area from the barrier where barricades are in use
- Is kicked into play in any direction

The player taking the kick-in:

- Has part of each foot either on the touch line or on the ground outside the touch line at the moment of kicking the ball; or
- Must stand between the ball and the barricade where in use

The players of the defending team:

- Are at least 3m from the place where the kick-in is taken

Procedure

- The player taking the kick-in may not play the ball a second time until it has touched another player
- The ball is in play immediately after it is kicked or touched

Infringements/Sanctions
The kick-in is retaken by a player of the opposing team if:

- The kick-in is taken incorrectly
- The kick-in is taken from a position other than the place where the ball passed over the touch line or where indicated by the Referee where barricades are in use
- An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposition if the player taking the kick-in plays the ball a second time before it has been played by another player

LAW 15: THE GOAL CLEARANCE

The Goal Clearance
A goal clearance is a method of restarting play.

A goal may not be scored directly from a goal clearance. The goal clearance is awarded when:

- The whole of the ball, having last touched a player of the attacking team, passes over the goal line, either on the ground or in the air, and a goal is not scored in accordance with Law 10

Procedure
- Opponents remain outside the penalty area
- The goalkeeper does not play the ball a second time until it has touched another player
- The ball is in play when the ball is thrown or kicked from any point within the penalty area by the goalkeeper of the defending team

Infringements/Sanctions
If the ball is not thrown or kicked directly beyond the penalty area:

- The goal clearance is retaken

If, after the ball is in play, the goalkeeper touches the ball, before it has touched another player:

- An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team from the penalty area line from the place nearest to where the infringement occurred

If, after the ball is in play, the goalkeeper picks the ball up after it has been deliberately kicked to them by a team mate:

- An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, to be from the penalty area line from the place nearest to where the infringement occurred
- Competition rules may allow variations to this ruling allowing goalkeepers to receive the ball straight from a team mate.

LAW 16: THE CORNER KICK

The Corner Kick
A corner kick is a method of restarting play.

A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick, but only against the opposing team. A corner kick is awarded when:

- The whole of the ball, having last touched a player of the defending team, passes over the goal line, either on the ground or in the air, and a goal is not scored in accordance with Law 10

Procedure
- The ball is placed inside the corner arc at the nearest corner
- Opponents remain at least 3m from the ball until it is in play
- The ball is kicked by a player of the attacking team
- The ball is in play when it is kicked or touched
- The kicker does not play the ball a second time until it has been played by or touched another player

Infringements/Sanctions
An indirect free kick is taken by the opposing team if:

- The player taking the corner kick plays the ball a second time before it has been played by or touched another player. The indirect free kick is taken from the place where the infringement occurred

For any other infringement:

- The corner kick is retaken

Where the playing area is surrounded by barricades the corner kick is replaced by a kick-in at a point 2m inside the playing area at the corner nearest the point where the ball left the playing area.

Competition Rules may allow the ball to be returned to the defending goalkeeper once the ball has crossed the goal line.

Kicks From The Penalty Mark Procedure
Taking Kicks from the Penalty Mark is a method of determining the winning team where competition rules require there to be a winning team after a match has been drawn

Procedure

- The Referee chooses the goal at which the kicks will be taken
- The Referee tosses a coin and the team whose captain wins the toss decides whether to take the first or second kick.
- The Referee keeps a record of the kicks being taken
- In principle each team takes five kicks, depending on the circumstances described hereafter
- The kicks are taken alternately
- The names of the players taking the kicks are announced to the Referee by the captains of each team before the kicks from the penalty mark are taken and must be among those included on the list of players submitted before the match. Only those players on the pitch at the completion of the game are eligible to take part in Kicks from the Penalty Mark
- Where a player(s) has been sent off by the Referee the opposing team must reduce the number of players to equalise the participants in each team prior to the Kicks from the Penalty Mark commencing
- If, before both teams have taken five kicks, one has scored more goals than the other could score, even if it were to complete its five kicks, no more kicks are taken
- If, after both teams have taken five kicks, both have scored the same number of goals, kicks continue to be taken in the same order, until one team has scored one goal more than the other from the same number of kicks
- Any player who has been sent off may not take part in the kicks from the penalty mark
- Any eligible player may change places with their goalkeeper
- Only the eligible players and Match Officials are permitted to remain on the pitch when kicks from the penalty mark are taken
- All players, except the player taking the kick and the two goalkeepers, must remain in the opposite half to that where the kicks are being taken
- If a goalkeeper is injured during the kicks from the penalty mark procedure they may be replaced by a substitute

Procedures to Determine the Winner of a Match
To determine the winner of a match, tied after fulltime the following procedures or a combination of these procedures may be used,

- Extra time
- Kicks from the penalty mark

Use of these procedures should be detailed in the competition rules

APPENDIX A:
NOTES ON THE LAWS FOR SMALL-SIDED FOOTBALL - MODIFICATIONS

Provided the principles of these laws are maintained, the Laws may be modified in their application for matches, including for players with disabilities as outlined below.

Any or all of the following modifications are permissible:

- Size of the playing area
- Size, weight and material of the ball
- Width between the goalposts and height of the crossbar from the ground
- The duration of the periods of play
- Substitutions
- Height of ball restrictions – If a height restriction is to be introduced the competition rules should identify the height above which an indirect free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team. If a height infringement occurs within the penalty area and is committed by the defending team an indirect free kick should be awarded on the penalty area line nearest to where the offence took place. The exception to this rule shall be when the ball rises above the designated height restriction resulting from a save or block performed by a goalkeeper. Play should continue in this circumstance. Should another player then play the ball whilst it is at a height above the designated height restriction this will result in an indirect free kick to the opposing team
- Access to penalty areas being restricted only to goalkeepers. Entry into the penalty area by a defender results in a direct free kick from the penalty mark; entry into the penalty area by an attacker results in the goalkeeper being given possession of the ball to re-start the game.
- After the goalkeeper has distributed the ball, they may only receive a pass if the ball has either touched an opponent or if the ball has been touched by at least two of the goalkeeper's team-mates.
- Goalkeepers can only distribute the ball through underarm throws. Goalkeepers are not allowed to kick the ball deliberately unless in the process of making a save.
- Competition Rules may allow the ball to be returned to the defending goalkeeper once the ball has crossed the goal line
- Players are not permitted to hold onto barriers when in place to shield the ball and should be penalised by the Referee for holding and a direct free kick awarded to the opposition.

Other formats of Small-Sided Football

The Football has the ability to sanction other formats of Small-Sided Football. The principles of any approval by The Association shall be based upon,

- The normal Laws of Association Football apply with exceptions
- The game should take into full account the health and safety of the players and officials

APPENDIX B:
ADVICE TO REFEREES AFFILIATED COMPETITIONS

To ensure they are covered by their County FA Public Liability Insurance Referees should ensure that all games they officiate in are sanctioned by the appropriate authority (The Association or County FA). If in doubt contact your County FA for clarification

Disciplinary Process
Referees should ensure that all offences for which they have dismissed players with a single red card are reported to their County FA within 48 hours of the game being played. Likewise any disciplinary issues with team officials should be reported within the same timescales

SECTION TWO

Small-Sided Football Laws of the Game Players' Guide

1. The players equipment

2. The Referee

3. Duration of play

4. Playing the match

5. Making Substitutions and Changes

6. Fouls and free- kicks

7. Discipline Process

8. Returning the ball back into play

9. Modifications to the Laws

The Normal Laws of Association Football apply with exceptions:

1 **The Players' Equipment** - A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to themselves or another player. All Jewellery must be removed. Shinguards, must be covered entirely by the socks, made of a suitable material (rubber, plastic or similar substances) and provide a reasonable degree of protection.

Goalkeepers are permitted to wear long trousers and must wear colours, which easily distinguish them from the other players and the Referees

2 **The Authority of the Referee** - Each match is controlled by a Referee who has full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in connection with the match to which they have been appointed, from the moment they enter the locality where the playing area is situated until they leave.

3 **The Duration of the Game** - the game shall be divided into two equal periods of over 5 and up to 25 minutes each period subject to the following:

- Allowance shall be made in either period for time lost through stoppages as decided by the Referee
- The duration of either period shall be extended to enable a penalty kick to be taken
- The Half Time interval shall not exceed 5 minutes except by consent of the Referee
- Competition rules may allow for a game to be played in its entirety without a half time interval or requirement to change ends

4 **Kick-off** – is a way of starting or restarting play: at the start of the game, after a goal has been scored, at the start of the second half of the game, and at the start of each period of extra time, where applicable. A goal may be scored directly from the kick-off. All players must be in their own half of the playing area; the opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least 3m from the ball until it is in play. The ball must be stationary on the centre mark until the Referee gives a signal. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves forward. The kicker may not touch the ball a second time until it has touched another player.

Drop Ball – is a way of restarting the match after a temporary stoppage. Play restarts when the ball touches the ground.

Ball Out of Play – The ball is out of play when: it has wholly crossed the goal line or touchline, whether on the ground or in the air, when the Referee has stopped play, or when playing indoors, the ball hits the ceiling.

Ball In Play – the ball is in play at all other times including when: it rebounds from a goal post, the crossbar, or the barricades onto the pitch, or if it rebounds from the Referee when on the playing area. When a match is being played on an indoor playing area and the ball accidentally hits the ceiling, the game is restarted by an indirect free kick awarded to the opposing team to the team, which last touched the ball.

Height of ball restrictions – If a height restriction is to be introduced the competition rules should identify the height above which an indirect free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team. If a height infringement occurs within the penalty area and is committed by the defending team an indirect free kick should be awarded on the penalty area line nearest to where the offence took place. The exception to this rule shall be when the ball rises above the designated height restriction resulting from a save or block performed by a goalkeeper. Play should continue in this circumstance. Should another player then play the ball whilst it is at a height above the designated height restriction this will result in an indirect free kick to the opposing team.

Offside – There is no offside.

Areas of Play – All players – both attackers and defenders – are permitted to play within the penalty area. Goals can be scored within the penalty area. Modified rules may determine that access to the penalty area is restricted except for the goalkeeper.

5 **Substitution Procedure** – The maximum number of substitutes permitted is three.

The number of substitutions made during a match is unlimited. A player who has been replaced may return to the pitch as a substitute for another player. Substitutions should take place when there is a break in play or during play if the second official is involved in refereeing the game.

Changing Places with the Goalkeeper – Any of the other players, or substitutes, may change places with the goalkeeper. The following conditions must be observed: the Referee must be informed before the change is made; a change may only be made during a stoppage in play, the replacement goalkeeper must wear a jersey, which distinguishes them from all other players, and the Referee.

Viability of a match (Playing Numbers) – For 5 or 6-a-side if a team loses at any time more than 2 members of their team the match should be abandoned. For 7-a-side this number should be more than 3 members of a team. However for all formats this should only apply when players are permanently excluded or lost through injury rather than within the 'Sin Bin' for a two minute suspension.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

6 **Fouls and Misconduct** – Fouls and misconduct are penalised as follows:

A Direct Free Kick – A direct free kick is taken from the place where the infringement occurred and can be kicked directly into the opponent's goal to score a goal. The referee keeps one arm horizontal pointing in the direction the kick has to be taken. A direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following offences in a manner considered by the Referee to be careless, reckless or using excessive force:

- Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
- Trips or attempts to trip an opponent
- Jumps at, pushes or charges an opponent (even with the shoulder)
- Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent
- Tackles an opponent (the key words are doing it carelessly, recklessly or with excessive force)

In addition direct free kicks will also be awarded if a player:

- Spits at an opponent,
- Slides in an attempt to play the ball when it is being played or attempted to be played by an opponent (sliding tackle).
- Handles the ball deliberately, with the exception of the goalkeeper, who is able to handle the ball in their own penalty area Holds an opponent

A Penalty Kick – is awarded against a team, which commits any of the offences for which a direct free kick is awarded inside its own penalty area and while the ball is in play. Additional time is allowed for a penalty kick to be taken at the end of each half or at the end of each period of extra time.

Position of the Ball and the Players for a Penalty kick – The ball is placed on the penalty mark; the player taking the penalty kick is properly identified. The defending goalkeeper must remain on their goal line, facing the kicker, between the goalposts, until the ball has been kicked. The players other than the kicker are located: inside the pitch, outside the penalty area, behind or to the side of the penalty mark, at least 3m from the ball. The player taking the penalty must kick the ball forward; they may not play the ball a second time until it has touched another player. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves forward.

Indirect Free Kicks – An indirect free kick is taken from the place where the infringement occurred, unless this was in the penalty area, in which case the indirect free kick is taken from the penalty area line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. An indirect free kick is awarded for the following offences;

- A Goalkeeper touches or controls the ball with their hands after it has been deliberately kicked or thrown to them by a team-mate.
- A Goalkeeper touches or controls the ball with their hands or feet, in the penalty area, for more than four seconds.
- The ball exceeds the height of ball restrictions (optional modification).
- If in the opinion of the Referee, a player: plays in a dangerous manner, deliberately impedes the progress of an opponent when the ball is not being played, prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from their hands, commits any other offence, not previously mentioned for which play is stopped to administer a temporary timed suspension or dismiss a player.

From an Indirect Free Kick a goal can be scored only if the ball subsequently touches another player before it enters the goal. For an Indirect Free Kick: the Referee indicates an indirect free kick by raising their arm above their head. They maintains their arm in that position until the kick has been taken and the ball has touched another player or goes out of play.

Position of Free Kick – All opponents must be at least 3m from the ball until it is in play. The ball is in play after it has been touched or played.

7 **Disciplinary Sanctions** – The use of temporary time suspensions ('Sin Bins') and the exclusion of a player arising from the issuing of a red card are the recommended disciplinary sanctions for use in small-sided football. Match Officials should employ the use of temporary timed suspensions (blue cards) in all cases traditionally regarded as cautionable offences. Yellow cards are no longer to be used in small-sided football unless the use of temporary timed suspensions is impractical due to the nature of the venue i.e. Referees cannot supervise players who have been dismissed. In these cases yellow cards may continue to be used.

- The options for a Match Official imposing disciplinary sanctions are therefore;
- Player shown a blue card is temporarily suspended from play
- Player issued with a discretionary second blue card and temporarily suspended from play
- Player issued with a red card and permanently excluded from play

A blue card offence should always be accompanied by a temporary suspension from play of two minutes in duration. The release of players from a temporary suspension should be at the direction of the Referee or a Match Official if one is available.

Temporary Timed Suspensions – A player is shown the blue card and temporarily excluded from play if they commit any of the following offences: is guilty of unsporting behaviour, shows dissent by word or action, persistently infringes the Laws of the Game, delays the restart of play, fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, kick-in, free kick or goal clearance. Enters or re-enters the pitch without the Referee's permission or infringes the substitution procedure, deliberately leaves the pitch without the Referee's permission.

For any of these offences, an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred. If the offence was committed within the penalty area the indirect free kick is taken from the penalty area line at the place nearest to where the infringement occurred. .

Sending-Off Offences – A player is sent off and shown the red card if they commit any of the following offences: is guilty of serious foul play, is guilty of violent conduct, spits at an opponent or any other person, denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within their own penalty area). Denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick. Uses offensive, insulting or abusive language. Or if a player receives a second/third blue card in the same match.

Decisions – A player who has been sent off may not take any further part in the match nor may they sit on the substitutes' bench, where provided.

8 **The Kick-In** – is a method of restarting play. A goal cannot be scored directly from a kick-in. A kick-in is awarded if; the whole of the ball passes over a touch line, either on the ground or in the air, or hits the ceiling. A Kick-in is taken from the place where it crossed the touchline or 2m into the playing area adjacent to where the ball left the playing area when barricades are in use. The kick is awarded to the opponents of the player who last touched the ball.

The player taking the kick-in may not play the ball a second time until it has touched another player. The ball is in play immediately after it is kicked or touched. The players of the defending team must be at least 3m from the place where the kick-in is taken. The feet of the player taking the kick-in must not cross the line.

The Corner Kick – a goal may be scored directly from a corner kick.

9 **Modifications to the Laws** –

Any or all of the following modifications are permissible:

- Size of the field of play
- Size, weight and material of the ball
- Width between the goalposts and height of the crossbar from the ground
- The duration of the periods of play
- Substitutions
- Height of ball restrictions
- Access to penalty areas being restricted only to goalkeepers
- Goalkeeper unable to receive 'pass backs' unless the ball has been touched by an opponent or been touched by at least two of his team-mates
- Goalkeepers can only distribute the ball through underarm throws
- Goalkeeper restarts if the ball crosses goal line
- Players are not permitted to hold onto barriers when in place to shield the ball

Modifications to the laws should be detailed in the competition regulations

35 - FLEXIBLE FOOTBALL

THE FORMAT OF FLEXIBLE FOOTBALL

The Association has introduced "Flexible Football" as a new format to provide players with an additional way to participate in 11 a side football. The objective is to provide a more flexible framework within which 11 a side competition can be organised that is entirely separate to the normal football pyramid.

GENERAL PRINCIPLE

The IFAB Laws of the Game and the Rules and Regulations of The Association shall apply at all times, save for where indicated below.

COMPETITION ORGANISER AND TEAM INFORMATION

1. Competition organisers must affiliate the league and its teams with the relevant County Football Association.

2. Each competition should last no longer than 20 weeks of fixtures in total.

3. Flexible Football is for male only or female only competitions. For a temporary period to be determined by the Sanctions and Registrations Committee of The Association, mixed gender open age football competitions may also be permitted as a pilot project, subject to the prior approval of the Sanctions and Registrations Committee.

4. Competitions can run concurrently throughout the year.

5. There is no link between Flexible Football and the National League System and Women's Pyramid in relation to promotion and relegation.

6. The competition organiser is responsible for devising the competition format, dealing with any issues regarding scheduling and communicating the features of the competition to the teams prior to commencement.

PLAYER INFORMATION

7. All players must be at least 16 years of age and must be registered in order to play.

8. Players register by completing a registration form which shall be provided by the competition organiser. A player may cancel their registration with a team at any time by giving written notice to the competition organiser. Players may register with a new team provided all financial liabilities to the previous team have been discharged.

9. There is no limit on how many players can be registered for each team, but a player may not be registered for more than one team at the same time, in any competition.

10. A squad of no more than 15 players per team is permitted for each game.

11. A team shall require a minimum of seven players to participate in a match.

12. If a team has less than seven players at any time the match will be abandoned.

13. A team sheet setting out the name of each member of the squad must be provided to the competition organiser before each game.

14. Shin pads are mandatory for all players, including goalkeepers.

15. Players must wear appropriate footwear. This is at the discretion of the Referee and as permitted by the venue.

16. A team found to have played an ineligible or suspended Player in a match shall have any points gained from that match deducted. If the opposing team did not win the match, it will be awarded the points for a victory.

17. No refunds of match fees or other charges will be provided to players or teams, as a result of contravention of the competition rules.

MATCH INFORMATION

18. The duration of a match is at the discretion of the competition organiser. Each match in an individual competition must be played for two halves of the same duration. The half time interval shall be a minimum of five and no longer than 10 minutes.

19. Unlimited repeat substitutions are permitted.

DISCIPLINARY

20. Competition organisers and the Referee administer the disciplinary system for the competition, save for where indicated below.

21. In the event a player receives a yellow card during a match that player will be subject to a "Temporary Time Suspension". A Temporary Time Suspension will result in the player being excluded from play for a period six minutes, or until the conclusion of the match (whichever is earlier).

22. The release of players from a Temporary Time Suspension shall be at the direction of the Referee.

23. The options for Referees when imposing disciplinary sanctions are therefore;

- Player shown a yellow card and temporarily suspended from play for six minutes.
- Player issued with a second yellow card, followed by a red card and excluded from play.
- Player issued with a red card and excluded from play.

For the avoidance of doubt, a first yellow card offence should always be accompanied by a Temporary Time Suspension.

24. Temporary Time Suspensions – Procedure

- A player will be shown a yellow card by the Referee and informed that he/she shall be suspended from play for six minutes.
- The player is obliged to leave the playing area and remain in the area where they can be seen by the Referee and adjacent to his or her own team officials and substitutes.
- A player will be informed as to the end of a period of suspension by the Referee and invited to re-join the game.
- A player shall re-join the game from the half-way line.

25. Temporary Time Suspensions - Offences

A player is shown a yellow card and made subject to a Temporary Time Suspension if he commits any of the following offences:

C1 Is guilty of unsporting behaviour.

C2 Shows dissent by word or action.

C3 Persistently infringes the Laws of the Game.

C4 Delays the restart of play.

C5 Fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or goal clearance.

C6 Enters or re-enters the playing area without the Referee's permission or infringes the substitution procedure.

C7 Deliberately leaves the playing area without the Referee's permission outside of a substitution.

For any of these offences, an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred.

26. Where a red card has been issued a copy of the Disciplinary Report should also be sent to the County Football Association within 48 hours of the end of the match. Suspensions arising from "Standard Red Card Offences" imposed by the County Football Association are only applicable within the competition and not to other formats of Association Football. The suspension is to commence 14 days from the date the player was dismissed.

27. Suspensions arising from 'Serious Misconduct Red Card Offences' imposed by the County Football Association are applicable to all formats of Association Football.

Management of Cautions, Standard Dismissals and Serious Misconduct Offences in Flexible Football

The table below summarises the management of the disciplinary process in Flexible Football.

SANCTION	OFFENCES	RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADMINISTERING	TARIFFS
Caution (Yellow card)	As per the normal Laws of Association	Referee	Temporary Time Suspension
Dismissal - Standard Red Card Offences	A second yellow card offence. Denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity. Use of offensive, insulting or abusive language/gesture (including at the referee). Serious Foul Play	County Football Association	As determined by the relevant FA Disciplinary Process
Dismissals - Serious Misconduct Offences to be managed by the County Football Association *	Violent conduct or behaviour causing injury, including any form of assault. Spitting. Any offences where the offender has also acted in a discriminatory manner for reasons of ethnic origin, colour, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability. Any other offence not covered above including offences comitted after the match or after being dismissed.	County Football Association	As determined by the relevant FA Disciplinary Process

*In addition to imposing the relevant standard penalty, the County Football Association retains the discretion to take additional disciplinary action, depending upon the seriousness of the offence.

36 - MEDICAL REGULATIONS

PREAMBLE

The safety of Players (and, where applicable, others) is of paramount importance. These Medical Regulations, made in accordance with Rule J, set out in the medical requirements imposed on Clubs that participate in the following leagues:

(i) the Premier League;

(ii) the EFL;

(iii) leagues at Steps 1-6 of the National League System;

(iv) Women's Super League;

(v) Women's Championship; and

(vi) The FA Women's National League.

These Medical Regulations are binding on all such Clubs.

Nothing in these Medical Regulations:

- replaces, reduces or affects in any way the obligations imposed on Clubs or any other Persons by law in the fields of medicine, occupational health and/or health (or any other area); or
- prevents any Club from arranging for medical provision that exceeds any minimum medical requirements prescribed by these Medical Regulations.

Capitalised terms in these Medical Regulations are defined in Rule A, save that "FA Competition" means (as the context requires) (i) The FA Cup, (ii) The FA Community Shield, (iii) The FA Trophy, (iv) The FA Vase, (v) Women's FA Cup, (vi) The FA Women's League Cup, (vii) The FA Youth Cup, and (viii) such other Competitions organised by The Association as The Association may specify from time to time.

While not forming part of these Medical Regulations, from time to time The Association issues guidance in respect of medical matters, which is published on The Association's website and distributed to Participants as appropriate. This guidance includes The FA Concussion Guidelines, which are available at https://www.englandfootball.com/concussion, and heading guidance available at https://www.englandfootball.com/participate/learn/Brain-Health/Heading-in-Football.

A. COMPETITION RULES AND REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO CLUBS

Clubs and Participants should ensure that they check the relevant Competition rules and/or regulations to ensure compliance. These rules and regulations should be referred to directly in order to establish their full force and effect.

COMPETITION / ORGANISER	APPLICABLE MEDICAL RULES / REGULATIONS
UEFA	See relevant competition rules or regulations.
Premier League	See relevant competition rules or regulations.
EFL	See relevant competition rules or regulations.
Leagues in the National League System (Steps 1-6)	See relevant competition rules or regulations.
Women's Super League	See relevant competition rules or regulations.
Women's Championship	See relevant competition rules or regulations.
The FA Women's National League	See relevant competition rules or regulations.

B. MEDICAL REGULATIONS

1. Clubs must adhere to the medical rules and regulations set out in section A and all other relevant medical rules and regulations where applicable to them.

2. Save where the rules of the FA Competition state expressly to the contrary, when participating in Matches in an FA Competition, Clubs must comply with the minimum medical standards that apply to the Club's league Matches (subject to making any necessary allowances in order to reflect the different context). For the avoidance of doubt, this means that the home Club must comply with any minimum medical standards that apply to its home league Matches, and the away Club must comply with any minimum medical standards that apply to its away league Matches, i.e., where specific provisions apply to the away Club.

Explanatory note: For example, where a Club participating at Step 1 of the National League System ("NLS Club") meets a Premier League Club in the third round (proper) of The FA Cup:

- *If the NLS Club is the home Club, then it must treat the Match as if it were a home league match (adhering to any medical rules or regulations as may be prescribed by its league), and the Premier League Club must treat the Match as if it were an away (Premier League) league match (as prescribed by the Premier League Rules).*
- *If the Premier League Club is the home Club, then it must treat the Match as if it were a home (Premier League) league match (as prescribed by the Premier League Rules), and the NLS Club must treat the Match as if it were an away league match (adhering to any medical rules or regulations as may be prescribed by its league).*

3. The home and away Clubs participating in Matches in FA Competitions must liaise with each other in advance of their Match to ensure that each is clear and satisfied as to the medical provision that will be available at the Match.

4. When participating in any competition that is not (i) specified at section A above, or (ii) an FA Competition, or (iii) sanctioned by The Association and/or an Affiliated Association (e.g., pre-season friendly tournaments held abroad), Clubs must comply with any minimum medical standards (or similar) applicable to that competition as determined by the relevant competition organiser. In absence of any such minimum medical standards (or similar), the Clubs must comply with the minimum medical standards that apply to their relevant league Matches.

5. Any breach of these Medical Regulations will be Misconduct in accordance with Rule E1.2. Any charge for Misconduct will be dealt with in accordance with the Rules and will be determined by a Regulatory Commission of The Association.

37 - RESPECT

Respect is The FA's response to a clear message from throughout the game, that the health of football depends upon high standards of behaviour on and off the pitch.

- Respect is a behavioural code for Football
- Respect is about recognising that the integrity of the game is more important than the result of the match
- Respect is For ALL and plays a key part in uniting the game
- Respect is about creating an understanding of what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in Football
- Respect is about those involved taking responsibility for the consequences of their own actions
- Respect is about supporting match officials to do their job
- Respect is not a slogan. It is a collective responsibility of those involved in football to create a safe, fun and inclusive environment in which the game can take place

The following Respect Codes of Conduct outline the types of behaviour that will support a safe, fun and inclusive game in this country. They also identify a range of sanctions which may be taken if these codes are not abided by.

YOUNG PLAYERS – RESPECT CODE OF CONDUCT

When playing football, I will:

- Always play to the best of my ability and for the benefit of my team
- Play fairly – I won't cheat, dive, complain or waste time
- Respect my team-mates, the other team, the referee or my coach/team manager
- Play by the rules, as directed by the referee
- Be gracious in victory and defeat – I will shake hands with the other team and referee at the end of the game
- Listen and respond to what my coach/team manager tells me
- Understand that a coach/team manager has to do what is best for the team and not one individual player
- Talk to someone I trust or the club welfare officer if I'm unhappy about anything at my club

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or The FA:

I may:

- Be required to apologise to my team-mates, the other team, referee or team manager
- Receive a formal warning from the coach/team manager or the club committee
- Be dropped or substituted
- Be suspended from training

In addition:

- My club, County FA or The FA may make my parent or carer aware of any infringements of the Code of Conduct
- The FA/County FA could impose a fine and suspension against my club

SPECTATORS – RESPECT CODE OF CONDUCT

We all bear a collective responsibility to set a good example and help provide a positive environment in which children can learn and enjoy the game.

Play your part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct for spectators at all times I will:

- Remember that children play for FUN
- Applaud effort and good play as well as success
- Respect the Referee's decisions even when you don't agree with them
- Appreciate good play from whatever team it comes from
- Remain behind the touchline and within the Designated Spectators' Area (where provided)
- Let the coach do their job and not confuse the players by telling them what to do
- Encourage the players to respect the opposition, referee and match officials
- Support positively. When players make a mistake offer them encouragement not criticism
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting, or abusive language or behaviour

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or The FA:

I may be:

- Issued with a verbal warning from a club or league official
- Required to meet with the club, league or CFA Welfare Officer
- Required to meet with the club committee
- Obliged to undertake an FA education course
- Obliged to leave the match venue by the club
- Requested by the club not to attend future games
- Suspended or have my club membership removed

In addition:

- The FA/County FA could impose a fine and/or suspension on the club
- The FA believes that Referees and Assistant Referees should be able to officiate free from the threat of violence or intimidation Any physical assault on a Match Official will result in a lengthy or permanent exclusion from football and possibly a criminal prosecution

COACHES, TEAM MANAGERS AND CLUB OFFICIALS – RESPECT CODE OF CONDUCT

We all bear a collective responsibility to set a good example and help provide a positive environment in which children can learn and enjoy the game. Play your part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct at all times.

On and off the field, I will:

- Use my position to set a positive example for the young people I am responsible for
- Receive a Ground ban
- Show respect to others involved in the game including match officials, opposition players, coaches, managers, officials and spectators
- Adhere to the laws and spirit of the game
- Promote Fair Play and high standards of behaviour
- Respect the match official's decision
- Never enter the field of play without the referee's permission
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour
- Be gracious in victory and defeat

When working with players, I will:

- Place the well-being, safety and enjoyment of each player above everything, including winning
- Never engage in or tolerate any form of bullying
- Encourage each player to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance
- Ensure all activities I organise are appropriate for the players' ability level, age and maturity
- Co-operate fully with others in football (e.g. officials, doctors, physiotherapists, welfare officers) for each player's best interests

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or The FA:

I may be:

- Required to meet with the club, league or County Welfare Officer
- Suspended by the club from attending matches
- Suspended or fined by the County FA
- Required to leave or be sacked by the club

MATCH OFFICIALS – RESPECT CODE OF CONDUCT

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game.

The behaviour of the match officials has an impact, directly and indirectly, on the conduct of everyone involved in the game – both on the pitch and on the sidelines.

Play your part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct of match officials at all time.

I will:

- Be honest and completely impartial at all times
- Apply the Laws of the Game and competition rules fairly and consistently
- Manage the game in a positive, calm and confident manner
- Deal with all instances of violence, aggression, unsporting behaviour, foul play and other misconduct
- Never tolerate offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour from players and officials
- Support my match official colleagues at all times
- Set a positive personal example by promoting good behaviour and showing respect to everyone involved in the game
- Communicate with the players and encourage fair play
- Respond in a clear, calm and confident manner to any appropriate request for clarification by the team captains
- Prepare physically and mentally for every match
- Complete and submit, accurate and concise reports within the time limit required for games in which I officiate

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my County FA or The FA:

I may be:

- Required to meet with The FA/County FA Refereeing Official
- Required to meet with The FA/County FA Referees Committee

ADULT PLAYERS – RESPECT CODE OF CONDUCT

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game Play your part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct for players at all times. On and off the field, I will:

- Adhere to the Laws of The Game
- Display and promote high standards of behaviour
- Promote Fair Play
- Always respect the match official's decisions
- Never engage in public criticism of the match officials
- Never engage in offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour
- Never engage in bullying, intimidation or harassment
- Speak to my team-mates, the opposition and my coach/manager with respect
- Remember we all make mistakes
- Win or lose with dignity. Shake hands with the opposing team and the referee at the end of every game

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or The FA:

I may:

- Be required to apologise to team-mates, the other team, referee or team manager
- Receive a warning from the coach
- Receive a written warning from the club committee
- Be required to attend an FA education course
- Be dropped or substituted
- Be suspended from training
- Not be selected for the team
- Be required to serve a suspension
- Be fined
- Be required to leave the club

In addition:

- The FA/County FA could impose a fine and/or suspension on the club
- The FA believes that Referees and Assistant Referees should be able to officiate free from the threat of violence or intimidation Any physical assault on a Match Official will result in a lengthy or permanent exclusion from football and possibly a criminal prosecution

38 - DIRECTORY OF ASSOCIATIONS

ASSOCIATION	CONTACT INFORMATION
AMATEUR FOOTBALL ALLIANCE	Dermot Collins, Unit 3, 7 Wenlock Road, London N1 7SL. Dermot.Collins@amateur-fa.com
ARMY	Graham Brookland, Ministry of Defence (ASCB), MacKenzie Building, Fox Lines, Queens Avenue, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2LB. Graham.Brookland@armyfa.com
BEDFORDSHIRE	Alan Young, Peter Newton Pavilion, Skimpot Road, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU5 4JU. Alan.Young@bedfordshirefa.com
BERKS & BUCKS	Liz Verrall, First Floor, Stratton Court, Kimber Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 1BZ. Liz.Verrall@berks-bucksfa.com
BIRMINGHAM	Kevin Shoemake, Ray Hall Lane, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 6JF. Kevin.Shoemake@birminghamfa.com
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	Joanne Knox, Bridge Road, Impington, Cambridge, CB24 9PH. Joanne.Knox@cambridgeshirefa.com
CHESHIRE	Steve Smithies, Hartford House, Hartford Moss Rec. Centre, Moss Lane, Northwich, Cheshire CW8 4BG. Steve.Smithies@cheshirefa.com
CORNWALL	Vicky Fisher (Interim), Kernow House, 15 Callywith Gate, Launceston Road, Bodmin, Cornwall PL31 2RQ. Vicky.Fisher@cornwallfa.com
CUMBERLAND	Ben Snowdon, UNITS 3&4, Tithe House, Station Street, Cockermouth CA13 9QW. Ben.Snowdon@cumberlandfa.com
DERBYSHIRE	Liam Rooney, Unit 8&9, Stadium Business Court, Millennium Way, Pride Park, Derby DE24 8HP. Liam.Rooney@DerbyshireFA.com
DEVON	Chris French, Coach Road, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 1EJ. Chris.French@devonfa.com
DORSET	Roger Vaughan, County Ground, Blandford Close, Hamworthy, Poole BH15 4BF. Roger.Vaughan@dorsetfa.com

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

ASSOCIATION	CONTACT INFORMATION
DURHAM	John Topping, Codeslaw, Riverside South, Chester-Le-Street, Co. Durham DH3 3SJ. John.Topping@durhamfa.com
EAST RIDING	Adam Lowthorpe, The Roy West Centre, 220 Inglemire Lane, Hull HU6 7TS. Adam.Lowthorpe@eastridingfa.com
ENGLISH SCHOOLS	Andrea Chilton, 4 Parker Court, Staffordshire Technology Park, Stafford ST18 0WP. Andrea.Chilton@schoolsfa.com
ESSEX	Brendan Walshe, County Office, Springfield Lyons Approach, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 5LB. Brendan.Walshe@essexfa.com
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	David Neale, Oaklands Park, Almondsbury, Bristol BS32 4AG. David.Neale@gloucestershirefa.com
GUERNSEY	Gary Roberts, Victoria Park, Victoria Avenue, St Sampson, Guernsey, GY2 4BB. Gary.Roberts@guernseyfa.com
HAMPSHIRE	Neil Cassar, William Pickford House, Winklebury Football Complex, Winklebury Way, Basingstoke RG23 8BF. Neil.Cassar@hampshirefa.com
HEREFORDSHIRE	Craig Oakley, Ted Powell Buildings, Widemarsh Common, Hereford HR4 9NA. Craig.Oakley@herefordshirefa.com
HERTFORDSHIRE	Rob Smith (Interim), County Ground, Baldock Road, Letchworth, Hertfordshire SG6 2EN. Rob.Smith@hertfordshirefa.com
HUNTINGDONSHIRE	Mark Ives, Armstrong House, Sovereign Court, Lancaster Way, Ermine Business Park, Huntingdon PE29 6XU. Mark.Ives@huntingdonshirefa.com
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS	Greg McLean, 5 Butlers Court, Queen Elizabeth Crescent, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire HP9 1BX.
ISLE OF MAN	Lewis Qualtrough, The Bowl, Douglas, Isle of Man IM2 1AD. Lewis.Qualtrough@isleofmanfa.com
JERSEY	Tim Pryor, Springfield Stadium, St Helier, Jersey JE2 4LF. Tim.Pryor@jerseyfa.com

ASSOCIATION	CONTACT INFORMATION
KENT	Darryl Haden, Invicta House, Cobdown Park, London Road, Ditton, Aylesford, Kent ME20 6DQ. Darryl.Haden@kentfa.com
LANCASHIRE	Simon Gerrard, County Ground, Thurston Road, Leyland, Lancashire PR25 2LF. Simon.Gerrard@lancashirefa.com
LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND	Jamie Clarke (Interim), Holmes Park, Dog & Gun Lane, Whetstone, Leicestershire LE8 6FA. Jamie.Clarke@leicestershirefa.com
LINCOLNSHIRE	Nick Hanson, Deepdale Enterprise Park, Deepdale Lane, Nettleham, Lincoln LN2 2LL. Nick.Hanson@licolnshirefa.com
LIVERPOOL	Anthony Smith, Drummond Road, Thornton, Merseyside L23 9YP. Anthony.Smith@liverpoolfa.com
LONDON	Paul Bickerton, Wembley Stadium, PO Box 1966, SW1P 9EQ. Paul.Bickerton@londonfa.com
MANCHESTER	Colin Bridgford, The National Squash Centre, Gate 13, Rowsley St, The Etihad Campus, Manchester M11 3FF. Colin.Bridgford@manchesterfa.com
MIDDLESEX	Kayleigh Saunders, Rectory Park, Ruislip Road, Northolt UB5 5FA. Kayleigh.Saunders@middlesexfa.com
NORFOLK	Matt Carpenter, the FDC, Bowthorpe Park, Clover Hill Road, Norwich NR5 9ED. Matt.Carpenter@norfolkfa.com
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	Kirsty Clarke, 9 Duncan Close, Red House Square, Moulton Park, Northampton NN3 6WL. Kirsty.Clarke@northamptonshirefa.com
NORTH RIDING	Steven Wade, Broughton Road, Stokesley, Middlesbrough TS9 5NY. Steven.Wade@northridingfa.com
NORTHUMBERLAND	Andrew Cook, Whitley Park, Whitley Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE12 9FA. Andrew.Cook@northumberlandfa.com

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

ASSOCIATION	CONTACT INFORMATION
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	Leanne Woodhead Groves, Unit 6b, Chetwynd Business Park, Chilwell, Nottingham NG9 6RZ. Leanne.Woodhead-Groves@nottinghamshirefa.com
OXFORDSHIRE	Jonathan Duckworth, Bicester Leisure Centre, Queens Avenue, Bicester, Oxfordshire OX26 2NR. Jonathan.Duckworth@oxfordshirefa.com
ROYAL AIR FORCE	John Hetherington, RAF Brize Norton, Carterton, Oxon OX18 3LX. John.Hetherington286@mod.gov.uk
ROYAL NAVY	Steve Johnson, HMS Temeraire, Burnaby Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO1 2HB. Steve.Johnson@navyfa.com
SHEFFIELD & HALLAMSHIRE	Simon Frost, Steel City Stadium, Olympic Legacy Park, Worksop Road, Sheffield, S9 3LT Simon.Frost@sheffieldfa.com
SHROPSHIRE	Andy Weston, 2 High Street, Dawley, Telford, Shropshire, TF4 2ET. Andy.Weston@shropshirefa.com
SOMERSET	Jon Pike, Charles Lewin House, Unit 10, Landmark House, Wirral Business Park, Glastonbury BA6 9FR. Jonathan.Pike@somersetfa.com
STAFFORDSHIRE	Adam Evans, Dyson Court, Staffordshire Technology Park, Beaconside, Stafford ST18 0LQ. Adam.Evans@staffordshirefa.com
SUFFOLK	Kirsty Clarke (Interim), Bill Steward House, The Buntings, Cedars Park, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 5GZ. CEO@suffolkfa.com
SURREY	Nick West-Oram, Meadowbank Football Ground, Mill Lane, Dorking RH4 1DX. Nick.West-Oram@surreyfa.com
SUSSEX	Thomas Lyons, Culver Road, Lancing, W Sussex BN15 9AX. Thomas.Lyons@sussexfa.com
WESTMORLAND	James Pattison, 35/37 Appleby Road, Kendal, LA9 6ET. James.Pattison@westmorlandfa.com

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

ASSOCIATION	CONTACT INFORMATION
WEST RIDING	Hannah Simpson, Fleet Lane, Woodlesford, Oulton, Leeds LS26 8NX. Hannah.Simpson@wrcfa.com
WILTSHIRE	Simon Russell, Wiltshire FA Green Lane Playing Fields, Green Ln, Devizes SN10 5EP. Simon.Russell@wiltshirefa.com
WOMEN'S FOOTBALL CONFERENCE	Nick Frith, The FA, Wembley Stadium, PO Box 1966, London SW1P 9EQ. Nick.Frith@thefa.com
WORCESTERSHIRE	Nichola Trigg, County Sports Ground, Claines Lane, Worcester WR3 7SS. Nichola.Trigg@worcestershirefa.com

Note: County Associations' website addresses are in the www.LondonFA.com format.
Email addresses are in the Info@LondonFA.com format.

39 - MEMBER CLUBS

PLAYING NAME	ENTITY NAME	COMPANY NO.
Accrington Stanley FC	Accrington Stanley Football Club Limited	1287721
AFC Bournemouth	AFC Bournemouth Limited	6632170
AFC Fylde	A. F. C. Fylde Limited	5916248
AFC Sudbury	AFC Sudbury Limited	500191
AFC Telford United	AFC Telford United Limited	5138735
AFC Totton	AFC Totton 1886 Limited	11293572
AFC Whyteleafe	AFC Whyteleafe Limited	13541346
AFC Wimbledon	AFC Wimbledon Limited	4458490
Aldershot Town FC	Aldershot Town Football Club Limited	8362929
Alfreton Town FC	Alfreton Town Football Club Limited	2011224
Altrincham FC	Altrincham Association Football Club Limited	176333
Alvechurch FC	Alvechurch Football Club Limited	3031058
Anstey Nomads FC	Anstey Nomads Football Club	Unincorporated
Arsenal FC	Arsenal Football Club Public Limited Company	109244
Ashington FC	Ashington Association Football Club Limited	11893510
Ashton United FC	Ashton United Football Club Limited	2471345
Aston Villa FC	Aston Villa FC Limited	2502822
Aveley FC	Aveley Football Club Limited	8943550
Avro FC	Avro FC First Team Limited	14931069
Bamber Bridge FC	Bamber Bridge Football Club	Unincorporated
Banbury United FC	Banbury United Community Football Club Limited	RS007135
Barnet FC	Barnet Football Club Limited	1239681
Barnsley FC	Barnsley Football Club Limited	4573250
Barrow AFC	Barrow Bluebirds Limited	9021088
Basford United FC	Basford United Football Club Limited	1583574
Basingstoke Town FC	Basingstoke Town Community Football Club Limited	RS7598
Bath City FC	Bath City Football Club Limited	176565
Bedford Town FC	Bedford Town Football Club Limited	4098641
Berkhamsted FC	Berkhamsted Football Club Limited	6836819

PLAYING NAME	ENTITY NAME	COMPANY NO.
Bideford AFC	Bideford AFC (1987) Limited	2113750
Billericay Town FC	Billericay Town Football Club Limited	4172587
Birmingham City FC	Birmingham City Football Club Plc	27318
Bishop Auckland FC	Bishop Auckland Football Club Limited	3373384
Bishop's Stortford FC	Bishops Stortford Football Club Limited	2489097
Blackburn Rovers FC	The Blackburn Rovers Football & Athletic Limited	53482
Blackpool FC	The Blackpool Football Club Limited	48409
Blyth Spartans AFC	Blyth Spartans Association Football Club Limited	409564
Bognor Regis Town FC	Bognor Regis Town Football Club	Unincorporated
Boldmere St Michaels Women FC	Boldmere St. Michael's Football and Athletic Club Limited	473418
Bolton Wanderers FC	FVWL Football Limited	12090433
Boreham Wood FC	Boreham Wood Football Club Limited	2533129
Boston United FC	Boston United Football Club Limited	303529
Brackley Town FC	Pleasure Media Limited	3693143
Bracknell Town FC	Bracknell Town Football Club Limited	6582828
Bradford City FC	Bradford City Football Club Limited	5102915
Braintree Town FC	Braintree Town Football Club Limited	2050949
Brentford FC	Brentford FC Limited	3642327
Brentwood Town FC	Brentwood Town FC Limited	12484696
Brighton & Hove Albion FC	Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club Limited	81077
Bristol City FC	Bristol City Football Club Limited	3230871
Bristol Rovers FC	Bristol Rovers Football Club Limited	51828
Bromley FC	Bromley F. C. (95) Limited	3060560
Bromsgrove Sporting FC	Bromsgrove Sporting Limited	6997103
Burgess Hill Town FC	Burgess Hill Town Football Club Limited	3969979
Burnley FC	Burnley Football and Athletic Company Limited	54222
Burton Albion FC	The Albion Football Club (Burton on Trent) Limited	488096
Bury FC	Bury Football Club (2019) Ltd	12282928
Bury Town FC	Bury Town Football Club (1995) Limited	3072392

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

PLAYING NAME	ENTITY NAME	COMPANY NO.
Buxton FC	Buxton Football Club Limited	2823127
Cambridge City FC	Cambridge City Football Club Limited	1128850
Cambridge United FC	Cambridge United Football Club Limited	482197
Carlisle United AFC	Carlisle United Association Football Club (1921) Limited	175280
Carlton Town FC	Carlton Town Football Club	Unincorporated
Carshalton Athletic FC	Carshalton Athletic F.C. Limited	5316320
Charlton Athletic FC	Charlton Athletic Football Company Limited	1788466
Chatham Town FC	Chatham Town Football Club (2000) Limited	3782627
Chelmsford City FC	Chelmsford City Football Club Limited	10818922
Chelsea FC	Chelsea Football Club Limited	1965149
Cheltenham Town FC	Cheltenham Town Association Football Club Limited	324807
Chertsey Town FC	Chertsey Town Football Club Limited	15757749
Chesham United FC	Chesham United Association Football Club Limited	1017530
Cheshunt FC	Cheshunt Sports & Leisure Limited	7532736
Chester FC	Chester Football Club Ltd	7210441
Chesterfield FC	CFC 2001 Limited	4273743
Chichester City FC	Chichester City Football Club Limited	1685903
Chippenham Town FC	Chippenham Town Football Club Limited	4599480
Chorley FC	Chorley Football Club Limited	2959001
Civil Service	Civil Service Football Club	Unincorporated
Cleethorpes Town FC	Cleethorpes Town Leisure Limited	10258691
Colchester United FC	Colchester United Football Club Limited	2705301
Corby Town FC	Corby Town Football Club (1993) Limited	2779837
Corinthian Casuals FC	Corinthian Casuals Football Club Limited	11976450
Coventry City FC	Otium Entertainment Group Limited	7612487
Crawley Town FC	Crawley Town Football & Social Club Limited	3858150
Cray Wanderers FC	Cray Wanderers Football Club Limited	5228510
Crewe Alexandra FC	Crewe Alexandra Football Club Company Limited	62367
Croydon FC	Croydon Football Club Limited	7739066

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

PLAYING NAME	ENTITY NAME	COMPANY NO.
Crystal Palace FC	CPFC Limited	7270793
Curzon Ashton FC	Curzon Ashton Football Club Limited	IP 29461R
Dagenham & Redbridge FC	Dagenham & Redbridge FC 2017 Limited	10755779
Darlington FC	Darlington 1883 Limited	7914690
Dartford FC	Dartford F. C. (1992) Limited	2768338
Derby County FC	Derby County (The Rams) Limited	14190771
Doncaster Rovers FC	Doncaster Rovers Limited	3739676
Dorchester Town FC	Dorchester Town Community Football Club Limited	RS007128
Dorking Wanderers FC	Dorking Wanderers FC Ltd	8964370
Dover Athletic FC	Dover Athletic Football Club Limited	1747066
Dulwich Hamlet FC	Dulwich Hamlet Football Club Limited	2840930
Durham Women FC	Durham Women's Football Club Ltd	8729505
Eastbourne Borough FC	Eastbourne Borough Football Club 2023 Limited	14552923
Eastleigh FC	Eastleigh Football Club Limited	5488155
Ebbsfleet United FC	Ebbsfleet United Football Club Limited	412018
Emley AFC		Unincorporated
Enfield Town FC	Enfield Town Football Club Limited	4430160
Erith & Belvedere FC	Erith and Belvedere Football Club Limited	509305
Everton FC	The Everton Football Club Company Limited	36624
Evesham United FC		Unincorporated
Exeter City FC	Exeter City A.F.C. Limited	97808
Fareham Town FC	Fareham Football Club Limited	2692347
Farnborough FC	Boro FC. Ltd	8644606
Farnham Town FC	Farnham Town Football Club CIC	13207792
FC Halifax Town	FC Halifax Town Limited	6557378
FC United of Manchester	FC United of Manchester Limited	7458024
Fleetwood Town FC	Fleetwood Wanderers Limited	3359117
Folkestone Invicta FC	Folkestone Invicta F.C. Limited	4243803
Forest Green Rovers FC	Forest Green Rovers Football Club Limited	6748691

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

PLAYING NAME	ENTITY NAME	COMPANY NO.
Frickley Athletic FC	Frickley Athletic Football Club Limited	4932518
Frome Town FC	Frome Town AFC Limited	7830601
Fulham FC	Fulham Football Club Limited	2114486
Gainsborough Trinity FC	Gainsborough Trinity Football Club Limited	1004070
Gateshead FC	Gateshead Football Club Limited	1329847
Gillingham FC	Gillingham Football Club Limited	39175
Glossop North End FC	Glossop North End Association Football Club Limited	2667422
Gloucester City FC	Gloucester City Association Football Club (1980) Limited	1479143
Gorleston FC	Gorleston Football & Social Club	Unincorporated
Gosport Borough FC	Gosport Borough Football Club Limited	9548843
Grantham Town FC	Grantham Town Football Club Limited	294783
Grays Athletic FC	Grays Athletic Community Football Club Limited	30744R
Great Yarmouth Town FC	Great Yarmouth Town Football Club	Unincorporated
Grimsby Town FC	Grimsby Town Football Club plc	34760
Guiseley AFC	Guiseley Association Football Club Limited	2629783
Halesowen Town FC	Halesowen Town Football Club 1873 Limited	7012137
Hampton & Richmond Borough FC	Hampton and Richmond Borough Football Club Limited	3399857
Hanwell Town FC	Hanwell Town Football Club C.I.C.	14976665
Hanworth Villa FC	H.V.F.C. Limited	6190931
Harborough Town FC	Harborough Town FC	9608591
Harrow Borough FC	Harrow Borough Football Club Limited	334042
Harrogate Town FC	Harrogate Town AFC Limited	2523873
Hartlepool United FC	Hartlepool United Football Club Limited	98191
Harwich & Parkeston FC	Harwich and Parkeston Football Club	Unincorporated
Hashtag United Women FC	Hashtag United Football Club Limited	11469723
Havant & Waterlooville FC	Havant and Waterlooville Football Club Limited	1967707
Hayes & Yeading United FC	Hayes & Yeading United F.C. Limited	539373
Hebburn Town FC	Hebburn Town FC Ltd	16461358
Hednesford Town FC	UTP 1880 Limited	15381803

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

PLAYING NAME	ENTITY NAME	COMPANY NO.
Hemel Hempstead Town FC	HHFC Management Services Limited	3419065
Hendon FC	Hendon Football Club (2008) Limited	6732554
Hereford FC	Hereford FC Limited	8970067
Hitchin Town FC	Hitchin Town Football Club Limited	3210431
Hornchurch FC	Hornchurch Football Club (2005) Limited	5438297
Horsham FC	Horsham Football Club Limited	13918045
Huddersfield Town FC	The Huddersfield Town Association Football Club Limited	1771361
Hull City	Hull City Tigers Limited	4032392
Hyde United FC	Hyde United Association Football Club Limited	414978
Ilkeston Town FC	Ilkeston Town FC Limited	10845327
Ipswich Town FC	Ipswich Town Football Club Company Limited	315421
Kettering Town FC	Kettering Town F. C. Management Limited	2267071
Kidderminster Harriers FC	Kidderminster Harriers Football Club Limited	484523
King's Lynn Town FC	King's Lynn Town Football Club Ltd	7121774
Kingstonian FC	Kingstonian F C Limited	4480694
Lancaster City FC	Lancaster City F.C. Limited	6010739
Leamington FC	Leamington Football Club Limited	1756713
Leatherhead FC	Leatherhead Football Club Limited	3067144
Leeds United AFC	Leeds United Football Club Limited	6233875
Leek Town FC	Leek Town Football Club Limited	1297305
Leicester City FC	Leicester City Football Club Limited	4593477
Leighton Town FC	Leighton Buzzard Sports Association Limited	221321
Leiston FC	Leiston FC	Unincorporated
Lewes FC	Lewes 2000 F.C. Ltd	3790979
Lewes Women FC	Lewes FC Women Limited	11169355
Leyton Orient FC	Leyton Orient Football Club Limited	88982
Lincoln City FC	Lincoln City Football Club Company Limited	45611
Liverpool FC	The Liverpool Football Club & Athletic Grounds Limited	35668
Liverpool Feds FC	Liverpool Feds CIO	1206991

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

PLAYING NAME	ENTITY NAME	COMPANY NO.
London City Lionesses FC	LCL Sports Group Limited	11932480
Loughborough Lightning Women FC	Loughborough Sport Limited	3018893
Lowestoft Town FC	Lowestoft Town Football Club Limited	08896217
Luton Town FC	Luton Town Football Club 2020 Limited	6133975
Macclesfield FC	Macc Football Club Limited	12931817
Maidenhead United FC	Maidenhead United FC Limited	5691046
Maidstone United FC	Maidstone United Football Club Limited	03720814
Maldon & Tiptree FC	Maldon & Tiptree Football Club Limited	7479835
Malvern Town FC	Malvern Town Football Club CIC	8755456
Manchester City FC	Manchester City Football Club Limited	40946
Manchester United FC	Manchester United Football Club Limited	95489
Mansfield Town FC	Mansfield Town Football Club Limited	181839
March Town United FC	March Town United Football Club Limited	475040
Margate FC	Margate Football Club Limited	1359836
Marine FC	Marine Association Football Club Limited	16221014
Marlow FC	Marlow Football Club Limited	3525157
Matlock Town FC	Matlock Town FC Limited	11843644
Metropolitan Police FC	Metropolitan Police Football Club	Unincorporated
Middlesbrough FC	Middlesbrough Football & Athletic Company (1986) Limited	1947851
Middlesex Wanderers A.F.C.	Middlesex Wanderers Association Football Club	Unincorporated
Millwall FC	Millwall Football & Athletic Company (1985) PLC	1924222
Milton Keynes Dons FC	Milton Keynes Dons Limited	4787003
Morecambe FC	Morecambe Football Club Limited	224792
Mossley AFC	Mossley AFC Limited	2975261
Nantwich Town FC	Nantwich Town Football Club Limited	07328670
Needham Market FC	Needham Market FC Limited	9946659
Newcastle United FC	The Newcastle United Football Company Limited	31014
Northampton Town FC	The Northampton Town Football Club Limited	183917
Norwich City FC	Norwich City Football Club Plc	154044

PLAYING NAME	ENTITY NAME	COMPANY NO.
Nottingham Forest FC	Nottingham Forest Football Club Limited	1630402
Notts County FC	Notts County Football Club Limited	4789632
Oldham Athletic AFC	Oldham Athletic (2004) Association Football Club Limited	4989487
Oxford City FC	Oxford City Football Club (Trading) Limited	3127905
Oxford United FC	Oxford United Football Club Limited	470509
Peterborough Sports FC	Peterborough Sports Limited	8544721
Peterborough United FC	Peterborough United Football Club Limited	290803
Plymouth Argyle FC	Plymouth Argyle Football Club Limited	07796376
Plymouth Parkway FC	Plymouth Parkway Football Club Ltd	12039047
Polytechnic	Polytechnic FC	Unincorporated
Poole Town FC	Poole Town Football Club (1991) Limited	2609998
Portsmouth FC	Portsmouth Community Football Club Limited	07940335
Port Vale FC	Port Vale Football Club Limited	8876768
Preston North End FC	Preston North End Football Club Limited	39494
Queens Park Rangers FC	The Queens Park Rangers Football & Athletic Club Limited	60094
Quorn FC	Quorn FC Leisure Limited	10800338
Racing Club Warwick FC		Unincorporated
Radcliffe FC	RBFC Limited (Radcliffe FC)	2856934
Ramsgate FC	Ramsgate Football Club (85) Limited	2077612
Reading FC	The Reading Football Club Limited	53703
Real Bedford FC	Real Bedford FC Limited	13774571
Real Bedford Women FC	Real Bedford FC Limited	13774571
Redcar Athletic FC	Redcar Athletic FC Ltd	12520162
Redditch United FC	Redditch United Football Club Limited	1082116
Redhill FC	Redhill Football Club	Unincorporated
Rochdale AFC	The Rochdale Association Football Club Limited	111019
Rotherham United FC	Rotherham United Football Club (RUFC) Limited	6550400
Rugby Borough Women FC	Rugby Borough FC Women Ltd	11169558
Rushall Olympic FC	Rushall OFC Limited	12799333

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

PLAYING NAME	ENTITY NAME	COMPANY NO.
Salford City FC	Salford City Football Club Limited	8912116
Salisbury FC	Salisbury FC Limited	9342954
Scarborough Athletic FC	Scarborough Athletic FC Society Limited	IP30123R
Scunthorpe United FC	Scunthorpe United Football Club Limited	123622
Sheffield FC	Sheffield F.C. The Oldest Football Club in the World Est. 1857 Limited	3088676
Sheffield United FC	The Sheffield United Football Club Limited	61564
Sheffield Wednesday FC	Sheffield Wednesday Football Club Limited	2509978
Shildon AFC	Shildon Association Football Club Limited	103858
Sholing FC	Sholing FC Limited	16392461
Shrewsbury Town FC	Shrewsbury Town Football Club Limited	315587
Slough Town FC	Slough Town Football Club	14588720
Solihull Moors FC	Solihull Moors Football Club CIC	9196428
Southampton FC	Southampton Football Club Limited	53301
Southend United FC	Southend United Football Club Limited	89767
Southport FC	Southport Football Club Limited	1486711
South Shields FC	South Shields Football Club 1888 Limited	9651123
Spalding United FC	Spalding United Football Club (2017) Limited	10866357
Spennymoor Town FC	Spennymoor Town FC Limited	5002706
St Albans City FC	St Albans City Football and Athletic Club Limited	1922742
Stafford Rangers FC	Stafford Rangers Football Club Limited	168812
Stalybridge Celtic FC	The Stalybridge Celtic Football Club Limited	292254
Stamford AFC	Stamford Association Football Club Limited	453270
Stanway Rovers FC		Unincorporated
Stevenage	Stevenage Football Club Limited	2901467
Stockport County FC	Stockport County 2010 Limited	7254012
Stockton Town FC	Stockton Town Football Club	10781665
Stoke City FC	Stoke City Football Club Limited	99885
Stourbridge FC	Stourbridge Football Club Limited	07650054
Stratford Town FC	Stratford Town FC Ltd	13248437

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

PLAYING NAME	ENTITY NAME	COMPANY NO.
Sunderland AFC	The Sunderland Association Football Club Limited	49116
Sutton United FC	Sutton United Football Club Limited	519334
Swindon Town FC	Swindon Town Football Company Limited	53100
Tamworth FC	Tamworth Football Club Limited	3566611
Taunton Town FC	Taunton Town Football Club Limited	1582031
Three Bridges FC	Three Bridges Football Club Limited	13837058
Tilbury FC	Tilbury Football Club Limited	3966133
Tonbridge Angels FC	Tonbridge Angels Football Club	IP032445
Tooting & Mitcham United FC	Tooting and Mitcham Sports and Leisure Limited	4114467
Torquay United FC	Torquay United Association Football Club Limited	175954
Tottenham Hotspur FC	Tottenham Hotspur Football & Athletic Co. Ltd	57186
Tranmere Rovers FC	Tranmere Rovers Football Club Limited	118587
Truro City FC	Truro City Football Club Limited	5269610
Uxbridge FC	Uxbridge Football Club	Unincorporated
Walsall FC	The Walsall Football Club Limited	171970
Walton & Hersham FC	Walton and Hersham 2019 Limited	12031468
Warrington Rylands FC	Warrington Rylands 1906 FC Ltd	13480900
Warrington Town FC	Warrington Town Football Club Limited	6412371
Watford FC	The Watford Association Football Club Limited	104194
Wealdstone FC	Wealdstone Football Club (2000) Limited	3953962
Welling United FC	Welling United Football Club Limited	8055420
West Bromwich Albion FC	West Bromwich Albion Football Club Limited	3295063
West Ham United FC	West Ham United Football Club Limited	66516
Weston super Mare FC	Weston-Super-Mare Association Football Club Limited	1657163
Weymouth FC	Weymouth Football Club Limited	199734
Whitby Town FC	Whitby Town Football Club	Unincorporated
Whitehawk FC	Whitehawk Football Club Limited	14984206
Whitley Bay FC	Whitley Bay Football Club Limited	610374

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

PLAYING NAME	ENTITY NAME	COMPANY NO.
Whitstable Town FC	Whitstable Town Football Club Limited	11754078
Wigan Athletic FC	Phoenix 2021 Limited	13161421
Wimborne Town FC	Wimborne Town Football Club Limited	3640938
Winchester City FC	Winchester City Football Club	Unincorporated
Wingate & Finchley FC	Wingate & Finchley Football Development Limited	6014465
Winsford United FC	Winsford United Football Club Limited	435726
Wisbech Town FC	Wisbech Town Football Club Limited	304339
Witton Albion FC	Witton Albion Football Club Limited	881890
Woking FC	Woking Football Club Limited	3329172
Wolverhampton Wanderers FC	Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club (1986) Limited	1989823
Worcester City FC	Worcester City Football Club Limited	232010
Workington AFC	Workington Association Football Club Limited	176420
Worksop Town FC	Worksop Town FC Limited	6188484
Worthing FC	Worthing Football Club Limited	2729719
Wycombe Wanderers FC	Wycombe Wanderers Football Club Limited	5132509
Yate Town FC	Yate Town FC Ltd	7306689
Yeovil Town FC	The Yeovil Football & Athletic Club Limited	189754
York City FC	York City Football Club Limited	4689338
Yorkshire Amateur FC	Yorkshire Amateur AFC	Unincorporated

40 - FUTSAL REGULATIONS

Contents:

SECTION	TITLE	PAGE(S)
I	**OBJECTIVES OF THE FUTSAL REGULATIONS**	**721**
II	**REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS**	**721**
III	**STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE FUTSAL PATHWAY**	**722**
	STRUCTURE OF THE FUTSAL PATHWAY	722
	MEMBERSHIP OF THE FUTSAL PATHWAY (COMPETITIONS)	722
	ADMINISTRATION OF APPLICATIONS TO JOIN THE FUTSAL PATHWAY	723
	SUSPENSION AND REMOVAL FROM THE FUTSAL PATHWAY	723
IV	**THE MOVEMENT OF CLUBS WITHIN THE FUTSAL PATHWAY**	**724**
	PROMOTION AND RELEGATION	724
	CLUB MERGERS	724
V	**CLUBS WITH MORE THAN ONE TEAM IN THE FUTSAL PATHWAY**	**725**
	DESIGNATION OF TEAMS	725
	PLAYER ELIGIBILITY	725
	COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY COMPETITIONS	726
	FULFILMENT OF FIXTURES	726
VI	**COMPETITIONS OUTSIDE THE FUTSAL PATHWAY**	**726**
VII	**THE STATUS OF FUTSAL PLAYERS**	**727**
	REGISTRATION OF FUTSAL PLAYERS	727
	PAYMENTS TO FUTSAL PLAYERS	727
	INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER OF MINORS	727
	INTERNATIONAL CLEARANCE	728
	OTHER PROVISIONS	728

SECTION	TITLE	PAGE(S)
VIII	MATCH OFFICIALS	728
IX	DISCIPLINE	729
X	THE FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	729
XI	THE UEFA FUTSAL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE	729
XII	DISPUTE RESOLUTION	729
AP1	THE FA FUTSAL PATHWAY (MALE)	730
AP2	THE FA FUTSAL PATHWAY (FEMALE)	731
AP3	DEFINITIONS	731

SECTION I: OBJECTIVES OF THE FUTSAL REGULATIONS

1. The aims and objectives of the Futsal Regulations are to:

1.1 promote and govern the game of futsal in England;

1.2 define the structure for competitive futsal competitions in England;

1.3 provide Clubs and Players with opportunities to take part in competitive futsal in accordance with the appropriate playing standards and geographical location;

1.4 regulate the appointment of Match Officials to futsal matches;

1.5 support the growth and development of futsal;

1.6 provide for the seasonal movement of Clubs;

1.7 coordinate the scheduling of futsal fixtures throughout the season; and

1.8 provide a framework for discussion on matters of policy and common interest to Participants.

2. Participants taking part in futsal Competitions shall at all times be bound by and comply with:

2.1 The Association's Rules and regulations;

2.2 these Futsal Regulations; and

2.3 the decisions of the Football Development Committee,

subject to any right of appeal prescribed in these Futsal Regulations.

3. The Futsal Pathway shall be operated in accordance with these Futsal Regulations. Participants in membership of the Futsal Pathway shall at all times respect the hierarchy of the competition structure established under the Tiers.

SECTION II: REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS

4. Unless otherwise stated in these Futsal Regulations, all Competitions must:

4.1 be administered under Futsal SCOR;

4.2 arrange their matches in accordance with the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game;

4.3 be authorised by the Board or a County Association, as applicable pursuant to these Futsal Regulations; and.

4.4 to the extent that there is no conflict with these Futsal Regulations, comply with The Association's Sanction and Control of Competitions Regulations.

5. A Competition's application for authorisation must be submitted to a County Association or The Association (as applicable) at least 28 days prior to the date set for the Competition's AGM or SGM.

6. Any modifications to the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game by an Affiliated Association, including those made pursuant to Regulation 9 of the Sanction and Control of Competitions Regulations, shall be subject to the prior approval of the Football Development Committee in its absolute discretion.

7. Unless otherwise stated in these Futsal Regulations, in the event of a conflict between the Rules, the regulations of The Association and the applicable Competition Rules, it shall be resolved in the following order: (i) the Rules; (ii) these Futsal Regulations; (iii) any other regulations of The Association; (iv) the applicable Competition Rules.

8. For the avoidance of doubt, references to "Club" or "Player" in these Futsal Regulations shall be interpreted as including any club or player that plays the game of futsal in England and is recognised as such by The Association.

9. Notwithstanding FA Rule C158, the maximum permitted format for futsal matches in the Under 7 age group shall be 5v5.

SECTION III: STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE FUTSAL PATHWAY

STRUCTURE OF THE FUTSAL PATHWAY

10. The structure of the Futsal Pathway is set out in Appendix I (Male Pathway) and Appendix II (Female Pathway). The composition of the Tiers of the Futsal Pathway may change in accordance with these Futsal Regulations.

11. A Competition may only participate in a given Tier if it takes the form permitted for that Tier in accordance with the below criteria (the "Eligibility Criteria"):

TIER	ELIGIBLE FORMS OF COMPETITION
Male pathway and female pathway	
Tier 1	• National Competitions
Tier 2	• Regional Competitions with National Coverage
Tier 3	• Regional Competitions with National Coverage • College and University Competitions
Tier 4	• Regional Competitions (competitive) • School Competitions
Tier 5	• Regional Competitions (recreational)

12. Competitions and their member Clubs must not hold themselves out as being in membership of the Futsal Pathway or a particular Tier in a way that is contrary to their status within the Futsal Pathway as approved by the Football Development Committee.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE FUTSAL PATHWAY (COMPETITIONS)

TIER 1 - TIER 2

13. A Competition seeking to become a Tier 1 or Tier 2 Competition, must obtain prior written permission from the Football Development Committee to operate a Competition at that level. The Football Development Committee may approve or reject applications to become a Tier 1 or Tier 2 Competition in its absolute discretion which may be pursuant to any criteria issued by it from time to time.

14. Competitions approved pursuant to paragraph 13 shall not be administered under Futsal SCOR, or be authorised by the Board. Instead, such Competitions shall be administered under their own Competition Rules, which shall be subject to prior approval by the Football Development Committee before the start of each season.

TIER 3

15. A Competition seeking to participate in Tier 3 of the Futsal Pathway must make an application to the Football Development Committee, which shall be approved or rejected in the Football Development Committee's absolute discretion pursuant to any criteria issued by it from time to time (including, but not limited to, the Eligibility Criteria and the Tier Requirements).

16. College and University Competitions may be administered under their own Competition Rules, which shall be subject to prior approval by the Football Development Committee before the start of each season.

17. To participate in Tier 3, a Competition approved by the Football Development Committee pursuant to paragraph 15 shall be subject to prior authorisation by the Board (via an application to The Association) before the start of each season.

TIER 4 - TIER 5

18. A Competition shall be deemed as being in membership of the Futsal Pathway in Tier 4 or below provided that it complies with the requirements set out in these Futsal Regulations and obtains authorisation as follows:

18.1 all School Competitions shall be subject to prior authorisation by the Board (via an application to The Association) before the start of each season; and

18.2 all other Competitions shall be subject to prior authorisation by the applicable County Association before the start of each season.

19. Competitions in Tier 4 or below consisting of Clubs within the area of, or affiliated to, two or more County Associations, shall make an application for authorisation to, and may be affiliated with, the County Association which has most of that Competition's Clubs in membership.

ADMINISTRATION OF APPLICATIONS TO JOIN THE FUTSAL PATHWAY

20. A Competition that applies to join Tier 1 to Tier 3 of the Futsal Pathway may be required by the Football Development Committee to demonstrate its compliance with the Eligibility Criteria, to include, where applicable, by providing evidence that it has, or will have by the time it becomes a member of the Futsal Pathway in the relevant Tier, National Coverage.

21. Before approving or rejecting a Competition's application to join Tier 1 to Tier 3 of the Futsal Pathway, the Football Development Committee shall be entitled to consult with other futsal stakeholders, including, but not limited to, those stakeholders that may be impacted by the Football Development Committee's decision. In making its determination, the Football Development Committee may consider the outcomes of such consultation, together with the best interests of the Futsal Pathway and the game of futsal as a whole.

SUSPENSION AND REMOVAL FROM THE FUTSAL PATHWAY

22. The Football Development Committee may suspend a Competition from the Futsal Pathway if the Football Development Committee determines, in its absolute discretion, that the Competition has breached the Futsal Regulations.

23. The Football Development Committee may remove a Competition from the Futsal Pathway where:

23.1 the Football Development Committee determines, in its absolute discretion, that the Competition has failed to comply with the Eligibility Criteria or enforce the Tier Requirements; or

23.2 the Competition is found, by a competent body of The Association or an Affiliated Association, to have breached the Rules and/or regulations of The Association.

24. Any Competition whose membership of the Futsal Pathway is suspended or removed by the Football Development Committee will not be eligible to:

24.1 participate in any business of the Futsal Pathway; and

24.2 hold itself out as being in membership of the Futsal Pathway,

during the period of suspension or after the date of such removal of membership.

25. The Football Development Committee shall be entitled to make representations and recommendations to other bodies of The Association, Affiliated Associations or other futsal stakeholders in relation to a Competition's suitability for authorisation and/or membership of the Futsal Pathway.

SECTION IV: THE MOVEMENT OF CLUBS WITHIN THE FUTSAL PATHWAY

PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

26. Unless otherwise stated in these Futsal Regulations, the movement of Clubs between Competitions and/or the Tiers of the Futsal Pathway shall be determined in accordance with the applicable Competition Rules.

27. All Competitions must comply with, and ensure that their member Clubs comply with, the Tier Requirements as issued by the Football Development Committee from time to time.

28. Where Competitions in Tier 2 and Tier 3 agree to the seasonal promotion and relegation of Clubs between them, the following provisions shall apply to the Tier 2 and Tier 3 Participants concerned:

28.1 Clubs must comply with the Competition Rules of the relevant Competition in respect of promotion and/or relegation.

28.2 A Club is not entitled to be promoted to Tier 2 unless it is compliant with the Tier Requirements that apply in respect of Tier 2.

28.3 No more than two Clubs:

28.3.1 may be promoted from any one Competition in Tier 3 to Tier 2; and

28.3.2 may be relegated from any one Competition in Tier 2 to Tier 3.

28.4 No more than four Clubs:

28.4.1 from all Competitions in Tier 3 may be promoted to Tier 2; and

28.4.2 from all Competitions in Tier 2 may be relegated to Tier 3.

28.5 Any Club finishing in the bottom half of its Division in Tier 3 shall not be eligible for promotion to Tier 2.

29. There shall be no promotion or relegation between College and University Competitions in Tier 3 and other Competitions (including Competitions that are not in Tier 3 or are not College and University Competitions).

CLUB MERGERS

Unless otherwise stated, paragraphs 30 to 33 apply to Participants in Tier 1 to Tier 3 (excluding College and University Competitions).

30. If two or more Clubs (the "**Merging Clubs**") are proposing a transaction or series of transactions that result in the merging or consolidation of the Merging Clubs into one Club (the "**Merged Club**"), provided that at least one of the Merging Clubs is a member of a Competition in Tier 1 to Tier 3, the Merging Clubs must make a joint application for approval to the Football Development Committee.

31. Where the Football Development Committee approves such application, the Football Development Committee shall determine, in its absolute discretion, the Tier(s) in which the Merged Club may be readmitted to the Futsal Pathway following consultation with other futsal stakeholders, including the Competition(s) concerned.

32. In the event of a merger of Clubs pursuant to paragraphs 30 and 31, out of the Merging Clubs, only the Merged Club shall be entitled to continue participating in the Futsal Pathway.

33. Before a Merged Club participates in a Competition:

33.1 the Merged Club must notify its status as a Merged Club to:

33.1.1 the County Association to which it shall affiliate; and

33.1.2 the Competition in which it wishes to participate;

33.2 the affiliation of the Merged Club with the County Association shall be subject to the County Association receiving confirmation from the Football Development Committee that it approves the application made pursuant to paragraph 30; and

33.3 the Competition in which the Merged Club wishes to participate must comply with the decision of the Football Development Committee made pursuant to paragraph 31.

SECTION V: CLUBS WITH MORE THAN ONE TEAM IN THE FUTSAL PATHWAY

Unless otherwise stated, paragraphs 34 to 47 apply to Participants in Tier 1 to Tier 3 (excluding College and University Competitions).

DESIGNATION OF TEAMS

34. No more than one Team from the same Club may participate in each of Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 of the Futsal Pathway.

35. Before the start of each season a Club with more than one Team in Tier 1 to Tier 3 must designate which of its Teams shall be its First Team and which shall be its Second Team or Third Team. A Club may not have more than one First Team.

36. Where more than one Team from the same Club participates in Tier 1 to Tier 3:

36.1 the Second Team may not play in a Tier above the First Team;

36.2 the Third Team may not play in a Tier above the Second Team; and

36.3 the names of all Second Teams and Third Teams must be so described in accordance with any guidance that may be issued by the Football Development Committee from time to time.

37. In the event that a Club fails to designate its Teams pursuant to paragraph 35, the Football Development Committee may, in its absolute discretion, make such a designation on that Club's behalf.

38. A Club may not change the designation of its Teams during the season without the approval of the Football Development Committee.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

39. Before the start of each season, a Club that has more than one Team in Tier 1 to Tier 3 must designate its Players to one of its Teams and report such designation to the Competitions in which the Club participates.

40. A Player shall only play for the Team to which they have been designated by the Club, save that they may be selected (whether in the starting line-up or as a substitute) for a different Team of the same Club on up to four occasions per season, of which the Club must maintain a record and notify the Competitions in which its Teams compete. Clubs and Competitions must provide such records to the Football Development Committee upon request.

41. A Club may not change the Team to which a Player is designated during the season without first:

41.1 completing a Futsal Transfer Request Form in respect of the Player; and

41.2 obtaining the approval of the relevant Competition(s) for the change in the Player's eligibility.

42. A Player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, play off, promotion or relegation deciding Competition match unless that Player:

42.1 has been designated to that Team in accordance with paragraphs 39, 41 or 45; and

42.2 has played no fewer than five matches for that Team in the Competition to which the match relates in the current season.

43. Each Club shall register no more than 30 Players across all Competitions per Team per season. If a Club has registered 30 players for a Team, new players may only be registered if a registered Player's registration is cancelled (by mutual consent between the Club and the registered Player) or transferred to another Club.

44. All Clubs must maintain accurate records of Player designation and participation for each of its Teams which must be lodged with the secretary of the relevant Competition on a monthly basis throughout the season. Clubs and Competitions must provide such records to the Football Development Committee upon request.

45. In the event that a Club fails to designate its Players pursuant to paragraph 39, the Football Development Committee may, in its absolute discretion, make such designations on that Club's behalf.

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY COMPETITIONS

46. A Player registered with a Club that enters a Team in College and University Competitions may at the same time:

46.1 be registered with and play for that Team, but no other Teams affiliated to that Club; and

46.2 be registered with and play for a different Club, albeit not in College and University Competitions.

47. Where a Player is registered for a Club and represents that Club's Team in College and University Competitions and another of that Club's Teams, the Player may not register or play for another Club at the same time.

FULFILMENT OF FIXTURES

48. A Club with more than one Team shall fulfil its fixtures (including in respect of team selection) in the following order of precedence: (i) The FA Futsal Cup fixtures; (ii) other First Team fixtures; (iii) Second Team fixtures; (iv) Third Team fixtures; (v) College and University Competition fixtures; and (vi) County FA Competition fixtures.

SECTION VI: COMPETITIONS OUTSIDE THE FUTSAL PATHWAY

49. Subject to paragraph 50, before the start of each season all Competitions not in membership of the Futsal Pathway (to include open age and youth cup Competitions) consisting of Clubs within the area of, or affiliated to, two or more County Associations, shall:

49.1 be subject to prior authorisation by the County Association which has most of that Competition's Clubs in membership; or

49.2 where such Competition intends to provide National Coverage or will be a preliminary/qualifying stage for a Competition that shall provide National Coverage:

49.2.1 be subject to prior approval by the Football Development Committee in its absolute discretion pursuant to any criteria that may be issued by it from time to time; and

49.2.2 if so approved by the Football Development Committee, be subject to prior authorisation by the Board.

50. For the avoidance of doubt, these Futsal Regulations shall not apply in respect of futsal Competitions organised pursuant to the Professional Game Youth Development Rules.

SECTION VII: THE STATUS OF FUTSAL PLAYERS

In the event of a conflict between the Rules and the provisions of this Section VII, the provisions of this Section VII shall apply in respect of futsal Participants.

Unless otherwise stated, paragraphs 51 to 56 apply to Participants in Tier 1 to Tier 3.

REGISTRATION OF FUTSAL PLAYERS

51. Subject to paragraph 46, a Player may only be registered for one Club at a time.

52. Clubs are not permitted to enter into Playing Contracts with Players.

53. The registration of a Player who is registered with another Club shall be subject to the prior completion by both Clubs of a Futsal Transfer Request Form, a copy of which each Club must submit to the Competition of which it is a member prior to the Player's registration with the new Club.

54. A futsal player who was last registered under a playing contract with a futsal club affiliated with another national association is not permitted to register with a Club until at least 30 days after their most recent match played pursuant to the playing contract.

55. All Competitions, Clubs and Players must ensure that Players are registered with the relevant Competition and Affiliated Association (as prescribed, and in accordance with, the rules of the relevant league and The Association's Rules and regulations).

56. Players may not change either the Club to which they are registered or, where paragraphs 40, 41 or 45 apply, the Team to which they are designated more than once in total per season.

PAYMENTS TO FUTSAL PLAYERS

57. All payments made to Players, must:

57.1 only be made by the Club and be fully recorded in the Club's accounting records;

57.2 be made to Players gross, before deductions for all applicable taxes; and

57.3 comply with any relevant tax legislation.

INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER OF MINORS

58. In respect of the international transfer of minors and the first registration of a non-national minor, Participants are required to adhere to the provisions of the RSTP.

INTERNATIONAL CLEARANCE

59. Any player aged 10 or above who was last registered with a club affiliated with another national association may only be registered with a Club once an IFTC has been delivered by the former association and The Association has confirmed receipt of the IFTC.

60. The transferee Club must apply to The Association (via the County Association to which that Club is affiliated) and provide such documents as are required by The Association in order to register a player that falls within the scope of paragraph 59.

OTHER PROVISIONS

61. Players may only be registered with a Club for the purposes of playing futsal matches sanctioned by The Association and/or an Affiliated Association.

62. No Club or Player may enter into an agreement with a party (to include an agreement entered into between a Club and a Player) which contravenes The Association's Rules and regulations.

SECTION VIII: MATCH OFFICIALS

63. All Competitions shall comply with any policy that The Association may have from time to time regarding the appointment of Match Officials to futsal Competitions which shall be a matter for The Association to determine as it sees fit.

64. Subject to the discretion of The Association, the appointment of Match Officials to futsal Competitions shall be prioritised according to the level of Competition in the following order of priority:

TIER	ELIGIBLE FORMS OF COMPETITION
1	The FA Futsal Cup
2	Tier 1
3	Tier 2
4	The FA Futsal Youth Cup (round of last 16 onwards)
5	Tier 3
6	The FA Futsal Youth Cup (prior to the round of last 16)
7	Tier 4
8	Tier 5
9	Other

65. All Participants must comply with and enforce any policies that may be set by The Association from time to time in relation to fees and expenses to be paid to Match Officials.

66. Where a Match Official officiates in a Competition that fails to comply with paragraph 65, the Match Official shall not be assessed or graded for the purposes of promotion within the Match Official pathway in respect of the matches concerned.

SECTION IX: DISCIPLINE

67. A suspension imposed in terms of matches on a Player for an infringement committed when playing futsal or in relation to a futsal match shall only affect the Player's participation for his futsal club.

68. A suspension imposed in terms of matches on a Player participating in eleven-a-side football shall only affect the Player's participation for his eleven-a-side club in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations.

69. A suspension imposed in terms of days and months shall affect a Player's participation for both his futsal as well as his eleven-a-side club, regardless of whether the infringement was committed in eleven-a-side football or futsal.

SECTION X: THE FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

70. The powers, duties and responsibilities of the Football Development Committee are set out in its terms of reference.

71. The structure, composition and all other requirements in respect of the Futsal Pathway shall be matters for the Football Development Committee to determine in its absolute discretion.

72. The Football Development Committee shall be entitled to publish a national futsal calendar which may set out dates which are to be reserved for international or cup fixtures (the "National Futsal Calendar"). All Participants must observe the National Futsal Calendar and shall refrain from organising or participating in fixtures on such dates.

SECTION XI: THE UEFA FUTSAL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

73. The Football Development Committee may, in its absolute discretion, nominate a Club in membership of Tier 1 to enter the UEFA Futsal Champions League (in accordance with any policy it may have in place from time to time).

74. Where the Football Development Committee permits a Tier 1 Competition to nominate a Club for participation in the UEFA Futsal Champions League:

74.1 the Football Development Committee shall be entitled to approve or reject such nomination in accordance with any criteria which may be issued by the Football Development Committee from time to time; and

74.2 that Competition's permission to nominate a Club may be revoked by the Football Development Committee at any time.

75. In order for a Club to be eligible for nomination for participation in the UEFA Futsal Champions League, it must have no outstanding fines or overdue payables to Participants.

SECTION XII: DISPUTE RESOLUTION

76. The Football Development Committee may adopt such procedures for the determination of any matter, dispute or difference as it considers appropriate and expedient, having regard to the aims and objectives set out at paragraph 1.

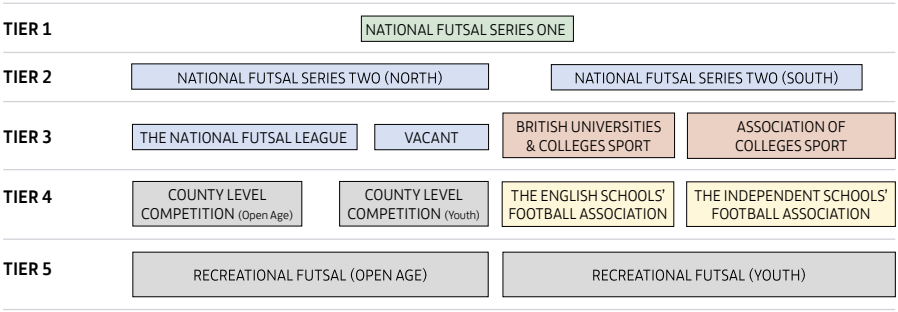
77. Any matter, dispute or difference between a Competition and a Club in connection with Tier 1 to Tier 3 relating to questions of promotion, relegation, lateral movement within a Tier and/or any other eligibility criteria or requirements (including, but not limited to, the application of the Eligibility Criteria and the Tier Requirements) must be referred for determination, in its absolute discretion, to the Football Development Committee, which shall be final and binding on the parties subject only to arbitration in accordance with Rule K.

78. Subject to paragraph 77, any other decision of the Football Development Committee shall be subject to a right of appeal to an Appeal Board. The decision of that Appeal Board shall be final and binding on all parties. All referrals of appeals shall be conducted in accordance with Part C of the Disciplinary Regulations of The Association (Appeals – Non-Fast Track).

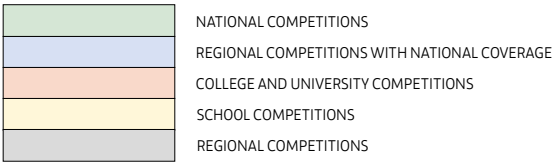
79. The Football Development Committee may require the attendance at a meeting or the written observations of any Competition or Club, as it considers appropriate to assist any determination it makes.

80. The Football Development Committee may, in its absolute discretion, delegate the resolution of any matter, dispute or difference arising under these Futsal Regulations to any body it considers to be appropriate (including a body constituted by an Affiliated Association or a sub-committee which may be comprised of members of Council not appointed to the Football Development Committee).

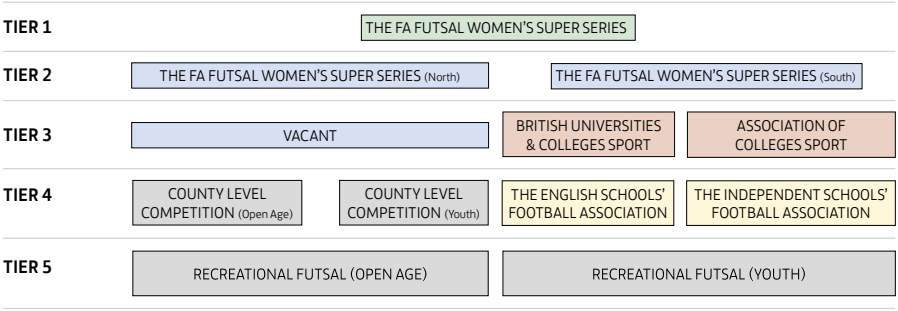
APPENDIX I: THE FA FUTSAL PATHWAY (MALE)



KEY



APPENDIX II: THE FA FUTSAL PATHWAY (FEMALE)



KEY

	NATIONAL COMPETITIONS
	REGIONAL COMPETITIONS WITH NATIONAL COVERAGE
	COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY COMPETITIONS
	SCHOOL COMPETITIONS
	REGIONAL COMPETITIONS

APPENDIX III: DEFINITIONS

Unless otherwise stated, the defined terms used in these Futsal Regulations shall have the meanings given to them in this Appendix III, the Rules of The Football Association Limited and the Articles. In the event of a conflict, it shall be resolved in the following order: (i) this Appendix III; (ii) the Rules of The Football Association Limited; (iii) the Articles.

"College and University Competition" means the rules under which a Competition is administered.

"Competition Rules" means the rules under which a Competition is administered.

"Division" means a division of a Competition.

"Eligibility Criteria" shall have the meaning given to it at paragraph 11.

"Female Pathway" means the Futsal Pathway for female competition.

"FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game" means the laws of the game of futsal as issued by FIFA from time to time.

"First Team" means a Club's first Team participating in the Futsal Pathway.

"Football Development Committee" means the Football Development Committee of The FA.

"Futsal Pathway" means The FA Futsal Pathway as described in paragraph 10.

"Futsal Regulations" means these regulations.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

"Futsal SCOR" means The Association's Standard Code of Rules for futsal or any version of the same produced by The Association for youth futsal, as applicable.

"Futsal Transfer Request Form" means the form that must be completed to complete the transfer of a Player's registration in accordance with any guidance that may be issued by the Football Development Committee from time to time.

"IFTC" means the International Futsal Transfer Certificate, as issued by FIFA in respect of international transfers.

"Male Pathway" means the Futsal Pathway for male competition.

"Merged Clubs" shall have the meaning given to it at paragraph 30.

"Merging Clubs" shall have the meaning given to it at paragraph 30.

"National Competition" means a Competition that is comprised of Clubs from more than one region of England in a single Division.

"National Coverage" means, in respect of a Competition, being comprised of Clubs from more than one region of England when all the Divisions or preliminary/qualifying stages of that Competition are taken into account.

"National Futsal Calendar" shall have the meaning given to it at paragraph 72.

"Regional Competition" means a Competition that is comprised of Clubs from one region of England only.

"School Competition" means a private members Competition made up of Players under the age of 18 who are full-time registered school students and where the participating Clubs represent their schools.

"Second Team" means a Club's second Team (which may include a Club's 'Development Team') participating in the Futsal Pathway.

"Team" means a team affiliated to a Club.

"Third Team" means a Club's third Team (which may include a Club's 'Development Team') participating in the Futsal Pathway.

"Tier" means the level at which a Competition and Club participates in the Futsal Pathway as set out in paragraph 11 of these Futsal Regulations.

"Tier Requirements" means the criteria issued by the Football Development Committee from time to time that Participants shall comply with, and which vary according to the applicable Tier, in respect of the standards relating to the following areas: (i) futsal pitch standards; (ii) venue and spectator seating requirements; and (iii) Player roster requirements.

41 - FUTSAL STANDARD CODE OF RULES

This document contains the Standard Code of Rules developed by The Football Association for open age Futsal and Youth Futsal Competitions (the "Futsal Standard Code").

The Futsal Standard Code is mandatory for all Futsal Competitions (with the exception of Competitions in Tier 1 and Tier 2 of The FA Futsal Pathway and College and University Competitions) and incorporates rules for both open age Futsal and Youth Futsal age categories into one document, with open age and youth variations clearly marked in order that one option can be deleted as applicable. Where there is no open age or youth equivalent to a rule, it has been marked as intentionally blank.

Competitions seeking sanction must draft their Rules in conformity with the Futsal Standard Code, using the same numbering and standard headings.

The mandatory rules are printed in normal text and the optional rules in italics.

It should be noted that in many cases rules are so printed because they are alternatives and the procedure to apply should be retained and the others omitted.

In all cases where a [ ] is shown the necessary name, address, number or wording to complete that rule must be inserted.

Competitions may add to the core of the Futsal Standard Code, which is mandatory, providing the additions are approved by the Sanctioning Authority and do not conflict with the mandatory rules or any relevant principles and policies established by The FA and the Football Development Committee. Guidance from the Sanctioning Authority should be sought in advance if there is any doubt as to the acceptability of additional rules.

1. DEFINITIONS

(A) In these Rules:

"Affiliated Association" means an Association accorded the status of an Affiliated Association under the rules of The FA.

"AGM" shall mean the annual general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

"Club" means a club for the time being in membership of the Competition.

"Competition" means the [ ] League.

"Competition Match" means any match played or to be played under the jurisdiction of the Competition.

"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.

"Deposit" means a sum of money deposited with the Competition as part of the requirements of membership of the Competition.

"Fees Tariff" means a list of fees approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committee for any matters for which fees are payable under the Rules, as set out at Schedule B.

"Fines Tariff" means a list of fines approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committee for any breach of the Rules, as set out at Schedule B.

"Football Development Committee" means the Football Development Committee of The FA.

"Futsal" means the game played in accordance with the FIFA Futsal Laws of The Game (including with the use of the correct pitch markings, a futsal ball, futsal goals and played on a hard and stable surface).

"Futsal Regulations" means the Futsal Regulations of The FA.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

"Management Committee" means in the case of a Competition which is an unincorporated association the management committee elected to manage the running of the Competition and where the Competition is incorporated it means the Board of Directors appointed in accordance with the articles of association of that company.

"Match Officials" means the referee, the assistant referees and any fourth official appointed to a Competition Match.

"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.

"Officer" means an individual who is appointed or elected to a position in a Club or Competition which requires that individual to make day to day decisions.

"Participant" shall have the same meaning as set out in the rules of The FA from time to time.

"Player" means any Contract Player, Non Contract Player or other player who plays or who is eligible to play for a Club.

"Player Registration System"means The FA system to register players as determined by The FA from time to time.

"Playing Season" means the period between the date on which the first competitive fixture in the Competition is played each year until the date on which the last competitive fixture in the Competition is played.

"Rules" means these rules under which the Competition is administered.

"Sanctioning Authority" means [The FA] [the.....County Football Association Limited].

"Scholarship"means a Scholarship as defined in The FA rules.

"Season" means the period of time between one AGM and the next AGM.

"Secretary" means such person or persons appointed or elected to carry out the administration of the Competition.

"SGM" means a special general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

"Team"means a team affiliated to a Club, including where a Club provides more than one team in the Competition in accordance with the Rules.

"The FA" means The Football Association Limited.

"The FA Futsal Pathway" means the Futsal Pathway as defined in the Futsal Regulations.

"Venue" means the venue at which a Club's Team(s) play(s) its Competition Matches (to include central venues where applicable).

"Virtual Meetings" means meetings held electronically.

"Written or **In Writing"**means the representation or reproduction of words or symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise.

"Youth Futsal" means those participating at ages under 7s to under 18s.

"The FA Futsal Pathway" means the Futsal Pathway as defined in the Futsal Regulations.

(B) Unless stated otherwise, terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and also the other way around.

GOVERNANCE RULES

2. COMPETITION NAME, CONSTITUTION

(A) The Competition will be known as [" "] (or such other name as the Competition may adopt). The Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the Competition. A Club which ceases to exist or which ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever shall automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.

(B) This Competition shall consist of not more than [ ] Clubs [and/or [ ] Teams] approved by the Sanctioning Authority.

(C) The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be [ ].

(D) The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the Management Committee in accordance with the rules, regulations and policies of The FA.

(E) All Clubs shall adhere to the Rules. Every Club shall be deemed, as a member of the Competition to have accepted the Rules and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee in relation to them, subject to the provisions of Rule 7.

(F) The Rules are taken from the Futsal Standard Code of Rules (the "Futsal Standard Code") determined by The FA from time to time. In the event of any omissions from the Futsal Standard Code then the requirements of the Futsal Standard Code shall be deemed to apply to the Competition.

(G)

1. All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority and must have a constitution approved by the Sanctioning Authority. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
2. This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Sanctioning Authority and the constituent Teams of Clubs may be grouped in divisions [each not exceeding [ ] in number].

(H) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination

1. The Competition and each Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and should abide and adhere to The FA Equality Policy and any legislative requirements (including those contained in the Equality Act 2010).
2. This Competition and each Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community.
3. Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.

(I) Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the Competition including, but not limited to, England Football Accredited and RESPECT programmes. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(J) All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children and Regulations for Safeguarding Adults at Risk as determined by The FA from time to time.

(K) [OPEN AGE] Clubs shall not enter any of their Teams playing in the Competition in any other competitions (with the exception of FA and parent County Association Cup Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

[YOUTH] Clubs shall not enter any of their Teams playing at a particular age group in the Competition in any other competition (with the exception of FA and parent County Association Cup Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(L) At the AGM or a SGM called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have power to decide or adjust the constitution of the divisions at their discretion. When necessary this Rule shall take precedence over Rule 22.

(M) [OPEN AGE] Only one Team from a Club shall be permitted to participate in a single division unless there is no viable alternative because of logistical issues and/or reasons linked to participation and geographical boundaries in which case the Competition will obtain the prior approval of the Sanctioning Authority. This Competition will ensure that, where permission is given, Teams from a Club operating in the same division are run as separate entities with no interchange of players other than by transfers of registration in accordance with these Rules.

[YOUTH] INTENTIONALLY BLANK

3. CLUB NAME

(A) [OPEN AGE] Any Club wishing to change its name must obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority following consultation with the Competition. In the event that permission is granted, the Club must advise the Competition Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

[YOUTH] Any Club wishing to change its name must obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority and from the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

4. ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

(A) [OPEN AGE] Applications by clubs for admission to the Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same club must be made in writing to the Secretary by [ ] and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee for each Team as set out in the Fees Tariff, which shall be returned in the event of non-election but not if the club withdraws its application.

Applications, of which due notice has been given, will be received at the AGM or an SGM if confirmed by a majority of the accredited voting members present.

When Rule 22(B) is applied or a Team seeks a transfer or, is compulsorily transferred to another division, no Entry Fee shall be payable.

[YOUTH] Applications by clubs for admission to the Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same club must be made in writing to the Secretary by [ ] and must be accompanied by an entry fee per Team as set out in the Fees Tariff, which shall be returned in the event of non-election but not if the club withdraws its application.

At the discretion of the voting members present applications, of which due notice has been given, may be received at the AGM or a SGM or on a date agreed by the Management Committee

(B) [OPEN AGE] The annual subscription shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff for each [Club/Team]. It shall be payable by a date set by the Management Committee.

[YOUTH] The annual subscription shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per Club/Team (where a Club has more than one Team in membership of the Competition) and shall be payable by a date set by the Management Committee.

(C) [OPEN AGE] In the event of any issue concerning the membership of any Club with the Competition the Management Committee may require a Deposit to be paid (in accordance with the Fees Tariff) by or on behalf of the Club on such terms and for such period as it may in its entire discretion think fit. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

[YOUTH] A Deposit of £[ ] shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per Club/Team (where a Club provides more than one Team in membership of the Competition) and shall be payable on or before [ ] in each year. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(D) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the entry fee, annual subscription and deposit (if required) have been paid.

(E) Clubs must advise the Secretary annually in writing by [ ] of its Sanctioning Authority affiliation number for the forthcoming Playing Season. Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its headquarters, its Officers and any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

5. MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

(A) The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and [ ] members who shall all be elected at the AGM.

(B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination provided that the Officer notifies the Secretary in writing not later than [ ] in each year.

All other candidates for election as Officers of the Competition or members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the secretaries of two Clubs, not later than [ ] in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM. In the event of there being no nomination by the date stated in the earlier part of this Rule, nominations may be received at the AGM.

(C) [OPEN AGE] The Management Committee shall meet a minimum of twice a season or as and when required.

On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Management Committee.

[YOUTH] The Management Committee shall meet as and when required, save that no more than three calendar months shall pass between each meeting.

On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Management Committee.

(D) Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the Competition and keep a record of its proceedings.

(E) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their Officers and sent to the Secretary.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

6. POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

(A) The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary. The decisions of all sub-committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification. The Management Committee shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of The FA or Affiliated Association.

(B) [OPEN AGE] Subject to the permission of the Sanctioning Authority having been obtained, the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each Season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call on each Club to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the Season.

[YOUTH] Subject to the permission of the Sanctioning Authority having been obtained, the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each Season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call upon each Club (including any club which may have withdrawn during the Season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the Season.

(C) Each member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee meetings and have one vote at all such meetings but no member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly relating to that member or to the Club so represented or where there may be a conflict of interest. This shall also apply to the procedure of any sub-committee.

(D) In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chair shall have a second or casting vote.

(E) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce these Rules and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition. Any action by the Competition must be taken within 28 days of the Competition being notified.

With the exception of Rules 6(I), 8(H), and 9, for all alleged breaches of a Rule the Management Committee shall issue a formal written charge to the Club concerned. The Club charged shall be given 7 days from the date of notification of the charge to reply. In such reply a Club may:

1. Accept the charge and/or submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee; or
2. Accept the charge and notify the Competition [ ] that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee; or
3. Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Management Committee; or
4. Deny the charge and notify the Competition [ ] that it wishes to have a hearing before the Management Committee.

Where the Club charged fails to respond within 7 days, the Management Committee shall determine the charge in such manner and upon such evidence as it considers appropriate.

Having considered the reply of the Club (whether in writing or at a hearing), the Management Committee shall make its decision and, in the event that the charge is accepted or proven, decide on the appropriate penalty (with reference to the Fines Tariff where applicable).

Where required, hearings shall take place as soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of the reply of the Club as more fully set out above.

With the exception of Teams playing in Tier 3 of The FA Futsal Pathway, the maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is £250 (or £100 in respect of Youth Futsal Competitions only) and, when setting any fine, the Management Committee must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

The maximum fine permitted for a breach of a Rule by a Team playing in Tier 3 of The FA Futsal Pathway is £500.

No Participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

All breaches of the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game, or the Rules and Regulations of The FA (including the Futsal Regulations) shall be dealt with in accordance with FA Rules by the appropriate sanctioning Association.

(F) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7.

Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 7 days.

(G) A minimum of [%] of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any of its sub-committee.

(H) The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill any vacancies that may occur in their number.

(I) A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee and must attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(J) Subject to a Club's right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges must be paid within 14 days of the date of notification of the decision. Any Club failing to do so will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine within a further 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.

(K) A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or Competition Match may have any reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.

(L) The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the AGM or SGM called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Playing Season, subject to the provisions of the Futsal Regulations (which shall take precedence if applicable).

(M) The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

(N) The Competition shall not cancel, postpone, or withdraw an entire programme of Competition Matches (e.g. all Competition Matches, or all Competition Matches within a single age group or division, taking place over a single day/week) without prior written approval from the Sanctioning Authority, except in exceptional circumstances of a serious nature (in which event, the Competition must provide notification of cancellation, postponement or withdrawal to the Sanctioning Authority at the same time as affected Teams).

7. PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS

(A) 1. All questions of eligibility, qualification of Players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee.

2. Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee prior to the commencement of the Match.

(B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged with the Secretary within [ ] days (excluding Sundays) of the Competition Match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

(C) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum in accordance with the Fees Tariff. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the inquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.

(D) All parties to a protest or complaint must receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days before the protest or complaint being heard.

1. All parties must have received a minimum of 7 days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.

2. Should a Club elect to state its case in person then it should indicate such when forwarding the written response.

(E) The Management Committee shall also have power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the Management Committee shall direct.

(F) Any appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of the posting of the written notification of the decision causing the appeal, accompanied by a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff), which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. A copy of the appeal must also be sent to the Secretary. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority, and the Sanctioning Authority may (but is not obliged to):

1. invite submissions by the parties involved;

2. convene a hearing to hear the appeal;

3. permit new evidence; or

4. impose appropriate deadlines.

Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Management Committee.

(G) No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an AGM or SGM unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.

(H) [OPEN AGE] All protests, claims or complaints relating to these Rules and appeals arising from a Player's contract shall be heard and determined by the Management Committee, or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee. The Clubs or Players protesting, appealing, claiming or complaining must send a copy of such protest, appeal, claim or complaint and deposit a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff) which shall be forfeited in the event of the protest, appeal, claim or complaint not being upheld, and in these circumstances may, in addition, be ordered to pay the costs at the direction of the Management Committee.

All such protests, claims, complaints and appeals must be received in writing by the Secretary within 14 days of the event or decision causing any of these to be submitted.

[YOUTH] INTENTIONALLY BLANK

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(A) The AGM shall be held not later than [ ] in each year. At this meeting the following business (in the following order) shall be transacted provided that at least [ ] members are present and entitled to vote:

1. Confirm the minutes of the last AGM.
2. Adopt the annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts from the previous season or accounting period.
3. Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.
4. Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing Season.
5. Election of Competition Officers and Management Committee members.
6. Appointment of auditors/verifiers.
7. Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14)
8. Agree the date for the beginning of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition.
9. Agree the date for the end of the Playing Season
10. Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted by the Chair as being relevant to an AGM.

Clubs currently in membership of the Competition shall be entitled to vote on items 1 to 3 above.

Those clubs set to be accepted as Clubs in accordance with item 3 above shall be entitled to attend the AGM, but cannot vote on items 1 to 3 above.

All Clubs (i.e. those Clubs currently in membership of the Competition and those accepted as Clubs in accordance with item 3) shall be entitled to vote on items 4 to 10 above.

(B) A copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet, statement of accounts and agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least 14 days prior to the meeting, together with any proposed Rule changes.

(C) A signed copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet and statement of accounts shall be sent to the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of its adoption by the AGM

(D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an AGM. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. 14 days' notice shall be given of any AGM.

(E) Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the Competition during the Playing Season being concluded or who are not continuing membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the Season being concluded. This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 12.

(F) [OPEN AGE] All voting shall be conducted by a show of hands, or count of email or virtual responses (for virtual meetings), unless a ballot be demanded by at least 50% of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chair so decides.

[YOUTH] All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at least 50% of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairman so decides.

(G) No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Club.

(H) Any continuing Club must be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

(I) Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM, but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a Club (See Rule 8(G)).

(J) Where a Competition is an incorporated entity, the Officers of the Competition shall ensure that the Articles of Association of the Competition are consistent with the requirements of these Rules.

9. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

(A) On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call an SGM.

(B) The Management Committee may call an SGM at any time.

(C) At least 7 days' notice shall be given of a meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.

(D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.

(E) Any Club failing to be represented at an SGM shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(F) Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all SGMs, but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a Club (See Rule 9(D)).

10. AGREEMENT TO RULES OF THE COMPETITION

(A) Membership of the Competition shall constitute an agreement between the Competition and a Club to be bound by and comply with these Rules (including any decision of the Management Committee made pursuant to these Rules).

(B) Any change of Chair, Secretary or Directors of the Club must be notified to the parent County Football Association to which the Club is sanctioned and to the Secretary of this Competition.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

11. CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

(A) [OPEN AGE] Any Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a Team from the Competition on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the Competition must notify the Secretary in writing of such intention by [date] each season. This does not apply to a Club moving in accordance with Rule 22(B). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

[YOUTH] Any Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a Team from the Competition must do so at least [ ] days before the AGM. This does not apply to a Club moving in accordance with Rule 22(B). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(B) The Management Committee shall have the discretion to deal with a Team being unable to start or complete its fixtures for a Playing Season, including, but not limited to, issuing a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(C) Notwithstanding the powers of the Management Committee pursuant to Rule 6(I), in the event of a Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £50, the Management Committee shall be empowered to refer the debt under The FA Football Debt Recovery provisions.

12. EXCLUSION OF CLUBS, TEAMS. MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS, MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

(A) At the AGM or SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, notice of motion having been duly circulated on the agenda by direction of the Management Committee, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to: (i) remove a member of the Management Committee from office; (ii) exclude any Club or Team from membership, both of which must be supported by more than two thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A member of the Management Committee or Club which is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

(B) At the AGM, or at an SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, provided this is supported by more than two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

(C) Any Officer or member of a Club found guilty of a breach of Rule, other than field offences, shall be liable to such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of 12(A) and/or 12(B) of this Rule.

13. TROPHY

(A) The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the cup or trophy:-

"*We (A) (name) and (B) (name), the Chair and Secretary of FC (Limited), members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of cup or trophy, and the cup or trophy having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the cup or trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before [ ]. If the cup or trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair.*"

Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(B) At the close of each Competition awards may/shall be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.

14. ALTERATION TO RULES

(A) Alterations for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM or at an SGM specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 9. Any alteration made during the Playing Season to these Rules shall not take effect until the following Playing Season, except in exceptional circumstances where approved by Sanctioning Authority and The FA.

(B) Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by [] in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by [ ] and any amendments to these proposals shall be submitted to the Secretary by [ ]. The proposals and proposed amendments to these proposals shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if [ ] [a majority] of those present and entitled to vote and voting are in favour.

(C) A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the AGM or SGM shall be submitted to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA (as applicable) at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

15. FINANCE

(A) The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.

(B) All expenditure in excess of £[] shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.

(C) The financial year of the Competition will end on [ ].

(D) The accounting records, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be [audited/verified] annually by a suitably qualified person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.

16. INSURANCE

(A) All Clubs must have valid Public Liability Insurance cover for a minimum of ten million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times.

(B) All Clubs must have valid personal accident cover for all Players registered with them from time to time. The Players' personal accident insurance cover must be in place prior to the Club taking part in any Competition Match and shall be at least equal to the minimum recommended cover determined from time to time by the Sanctioning Authority. In instances where The FA is the Sanctioning Authority, the minimum recommended cover will be the cover required by the Affiliated Association to which a Club affiliates.

(C) Failure to comply with Rule 16(A) or 16(B) will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

17. DISSOLUTION

(A) Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at an SGM by a majority of three quarters (3/4) of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant SGM.

(B) In the event of the dissolution of the Competition, the members of the Management Committee are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.

(C) The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:

1. Any surplus assets (save for a trophy or any other presentation) remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another Competition or Affiliated Association or The Football Association Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by resolution at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the Sanctioning Authority.

2. If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the Sanctioning Authority may decide.

MATCH RELATED RULES

18. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

(A) [OPEN AGE]

A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:

1. Registered through the Player Registration System and received approval from the Competition. For any players registered on the day of a match, a Club Officer must email the Competition with details of the registration [ ] hours prior to the scheduled kick off time in order for the player to be eligible to play in that match. The Player shall not play again in any subsequent match in the Competition until the Club has registered the player through The FA Player Registration System and is in possession of the approval from the Competition. A maximum of [ ] Players may be registered in this manner. For Clubs registering Players under this Rule 18(A) 1, Clubs must access the Player Registration System in order to complete the registration process.

   Or

2. Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink on a match day prior to playing which is countersigned by an Officer of the Club and witnessed by an Officer of the opposing Club, and submitted to the Competition within two days (Sundays excluded) subsequent to the Competition Match. The Player shall not play again in a subsequent match in the Competition until the Club has registered the player through The FA Player Registration System and is in possession of the approval from the Competition. A maximum of [ ] Players may be registered in this manner. For Clubs registering Players under this Rule 18(A) 2. registration forms will be provided in a format to be determined by the Competition.

   Any registration form that is not fully and correctly completed will be returned to the Club unprocessed and the player classed as unregistered. If a Club attempts to register a player via the Player Registration System but does not fully and correctly complete the necessary information via the Player Registration System, the registration will not be processed.

   Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

[YOUTH]

A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:-

1. Registered through the FA Player Registration System and received approval from the Competition. For any players registered on the day of a match, a Club Officer must email the Competition with details of the registration [ ] hours prior to the scheduled kick off time in order for the player to be eligible to play in that match. The Player shall not play again in any subsequent match in the Competition until the Club has registered the player through The FA Player Registration system and is in possession of the approval from the Competition. A maximum of [ ] Players may be registered in this manner. For Clubs registering Players under this Rule 18(A) 1, Clubs must access the Player Registration System in order to complete the registration process. The registration document must incorporate a current passport-size photograph of the Player seeking registration together with confirmation that the Player's proof of date of birth has been checked by the Club and is accurate.

   Or

2. Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink on a match day prior to playing which is countersigned by his/her parent or guardian and by an Officer of the Club and witnessed by an Officer of the opposing Club, and submitted to the Competition within two days (Sundays excluded) subsequent to the Competition Match. The Player shall not play again in a subsequent match in the Competition day until the Club has registered the player through The FA Player Registration System and is in possession of the approval from the Competition. A maximum of [ ] Players may be registered in) this manner. The registration document must incorporate emergency contact details of the Players' parents or guardians. These details must be available at matches and training events the Player attends within the management of the Club or Competition. For Clubs registering Players under Rule 18(A) 2 registration forms will be provided in a format to be determined by the Competition.

   Any registration that is not fully and correctly completed will be returned to the Club unprocessed and the player classed as unregistered. If a Club attempts to register a player via the Player Registration System but does not fully and correctly complete the necessary information via the Player Registration System, the registration will not be processed.

   Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(B)

1. Contract Players are not permitted in this Competition with the exception of those Players who are registered under Contract with the same Club who have a team operating at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System, or Tiers 1 to 4 of the Women Pyramid System.
2. It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any Player registered to the Club has, where necessary, the required International Futsal Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any Player aged 10 and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.
3. Each team must have at least [ ] Players registered [ ] days before the start of each Playing Season. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
4. In the event of a Non Contract Player without a written contract changing his status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, another Club in the Competition or with a club in another competition their registration as a Non Contract Player will automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 18(B) 1.
5. [OPEN AGE ONLY] Players aged under 18 are not permitted to play in a mixed adult futsal Competition.
6. [YOUTH ONLY] A Player registered with a Premier League or English Football League Academy under the Elite Player Performance Plan contained within Youth Development Rules will not be permitted to play in this Competition. Details of the Youth Development Rules are published on The FA website. A Player registered with a FA Girls' Regional Talent Club may play in this Competition subject to the FA Programme for Excellence (Female) Regulations.

(C) [OPEN AGE] A Player that owes a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations) shall be permitted to register for a Club but will be suspended from football activities if the Player does not comply with the terms of the Football Debt Recovery Regulations in respect of that Football Debt.

[YOUTH]

A child who has not attained the age of 6 shall not play, and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play, in a match of any kind.

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.

Notwithstanding the above, a child is permitted to play up in the age group above his or her chronological age group, irrespective of any changes of 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 on the following page:

AGE ON 31 AUGUST OF THE RELEVANT PLAYING SEASON	ELIGIBLE AGE GROUPS
6	Under 7
	Under 8
7	Under 8
	Under 9
8	Under 9
	Under 10
9	Under 10
	Under 11
10	Under 11
	Under 12
11	Under 12
	Under 13
12	Under 13
	Under 14
13	Under 14
	Under 15
14	Under 15
	Under 16
15	Under 16
	Under 17
	Under 18
16	Under 17
	Under 18
	Open Age*

*save that an individual must have achieved the age of 18 to play in an mixed adult futsal Competition

(D) A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/Team for each Player registered.

(E) [OPEN AGE]

The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes in accordance with the following:

1. All Participants shall comply with the provisions of the Futsal Regulations.
2. In the event of a player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club, priority of registration shall decide for which Club the Player shall be registered. The Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

[YOUTH]

The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes taking into account the following.

1. A Player shall not be permitted to register for more than one Club subject to the exceptions set out in Rule 18(E) 3 below.

2. In the event of a Player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club priority of registration shall decide for which Club the Player shall be registered. The Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the Player of the fact of the previous registration subject to the exceptions set out in Rule 18(E) 3 below.

3. A Player is only permitted to register for more than one Club provided that:

   a. The Team(s) in which the Player plays in are not in the same age group; or

   b. It is for the purpose of a transfer.

   And the Player meets the requirements in Rule 18(C).

4. All Participants shall comply with the provisions of the Futsal Regulations.

(F) [OPEN AGE]

It shall be a breach of Rule for a Player to:-

1. Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred (in accordance with the Futsal Regulations where applicable).

2. Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season except for the purpose of a transfer, or where the Competition adopts Rule 18(P)

3. Submit a signed registration form as per Rule 18(A) 2 or submit a registration through the Player Registration System that the Player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

4. Fail to comply with the provisions of the Futsal Regulations.

[YOUTH]

It shall be a breach of these Rules for a Player to:-

1. Play for more than one Team in the same age group in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred (in accordance with the Futsal Regulations where applicable).

2. Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season, except if the provisions set out in Rule 18(E) 3 apply, or where the Competition adopts Rule 18(P).

3. Submit a signed registration form or submit a registration through the Player Registration System for registration that the Player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

4. Fail to comply with the provisions of the Futsal Regulations.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(G)

1. The Management Committee shall have the power to accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of Rules 18(G) 2 and 18(G) 3 below.

2. The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any Player or may fine any Player, at their discretion (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 7).

3. [OPEN AGE]

   The Management Committee shall have power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 7) subject to the right of appeal to the Sanctioning Authority. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the Player is registered or intending to be registered with.

   Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a Participant from being involved in this Competition.

   [YOUTH]

   The Management Committee shall have the power to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 7) subject to the right of appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA. Where the Management Committee does not have enough information to enable it to make a decision pursuant to the above power, it may apply, in its absolute discretion, to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA for further information.

   Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a Participant from being involved in this Competition.

4. A Player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with Rule 18(G) 3 but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered to be under a probationary period of 12 months. Whilst under a probationary period, should the Player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition, (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition may consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.

   (Note: Action under Rule 18(G) 3 shall not be taken against a Player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority, and then only in cases of the Player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any event be subject to an appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA. All decisions must include the period of restriction. For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the Competition into disrepute can only be considered where the Player has received in excess of 112 days' suspension, or 10 matches in match based discipline, in any competition (and is not restricted to the Competition) in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.)

(H) Subject to compliance with FA Rule C when a Club wishes to register a player who is already registered with another club it shall submit a transfer notification to the Competition via the Player Registration System. A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff *[will/may]* be required.

Such transfer shall be referred by the Competition to the club for which the player is registered. Should this club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Competition and to the player concerned within 3 days of receipt of the notification. Upon receipt of the club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within 3 days, the Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from *such date or [ ] days after receipt of such transfer.*

In the event of an objection to a transfer the matter shall be referred to the Management Committee for a decision.

(I) A Player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after [date] except by special permission of the Management Committee.

(J) Registrations are valid for one Playing Season only.

(K) A Player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding Competition Match (as specified in Rule 22(A)) unless the Player has played [ ] Competition Matches for that Team in the current Playing Season.

(L) A Team shall not include more than [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11] Players who has/have taken part in [ ] or more senior Competition Matches during the current Playing Season unless a period of 21 days has elapsed since they last played.

For the purpose of this Rule a senior competition(s) is/are [ ] and Competitions in a higher Tier of The FA Futsal Pathway.

Where a Team fields a Player in a Competition Match or Matches in breach of this Rule, the Management Committee may determine that it has fielded an ineligible player and that the provisions of Rule 18(M) shall apply.

(M)

1. Subject to Rule 18(M) 2 any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a Competition Match or Matches where points are awarded shall have the points gained from that Competition Match deducted from its record, up to a maximum of 12 points, and have levied upon it a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).
2. The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule 18(M) 2 only in circumstances where the ineligibility is due to the failure to obtain an International Transfer Certificate or where the ineligibility is related to the Player's status.
3. Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible Player in accordance with Rule 18(M) 2 above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion, order one or more of the following:
    a) Award the points available in the Competition Match in question to the opponents, subject to the Competition Match not being ordered to be replayed; and/or
    b) Deduct points from the record of the Club in default up to a maximum of 3 points; and/or
    c) Order that such Competition Match or Matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee).

(N) The following clause applies to Competitions involving Players in full-time secondary education:-

1. Priority must be given at all times to activities of schools and school organisations. Failure tocomply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
2. The availability of children and young people must be cleared with the Head Teachers or Principals (except for Sunday leagues competitions).
3. To play open age futsal the player must have achieved the age of 16 (save that the player must have achieved the age of 18 to play in a mixed adult futsal Competition).

(O) [OPEN AGE] A Player who has played for a Team in the [ ] division [ ] times or more shall not in that Playing Season be eligible to play in a lower division except by permission of the Management Committee. Where a Team fields a Player in a Competition Match or Matches in breach of this Rule, the Management Committee may determine that it has fielded an ineligible player and that the provisions of Rule 18(M) shall apply.

[YOUTH]

1. A Club shall keep a list of the Players it registers and a record of all matches in which those Players have played for the Club, and shall produce such records upon demand by the Management Committee.

   In the event a Club has more than one Team in an age group, each Team must be clearly identifiable but not designated 'A' or 'B' or 1st or 2nd. In such cases, Players will be registered for one Team only. A Player so registered will be allowed to play for his Club in a younger or older age group within the provisions of Rule 18(C).

2. A register containing the names of all Players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the (Registrations) Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of an Officer of the Club at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one Playing Season only.

3. A child under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31 August in the relevant Playing Season, shall not be permitted to play in a Competition Match during that Playing Season where any other Player is older or younger than that child by two years or more.

(P) *If a Club wishes to cancel a Player's registration within the Competition, it must make a request via The FA's electronic player registration system giving the reasons for the request. The Competition may either approve or decline the request.*

If a Player's registration is cancelled he/she will not be eligible to re-register in the Competition for a period of [x] days from the date of cancellation.

Clubs must at all times comply with the Futsal Regulations in respect of the registration of Players.

19. CLUB COLOURS

(A) Every team must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by [date] and the Competition Secretary shall decide as to their suitability.

(B) Any team changing its colours during the Playing Season must notify the Competition Secretary immediately.

(C) Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from all other Players and the Match Officials. Where a "Flying Goalkeeper" is used and a second goalkeeping jersey is unavailable, Teams may use a different coloured bib. In respect of Competitions in Tier 3 of The FA Futsal Pathway, the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game shall apply and such Teams shall have an additional numbered goalkeeping jersey.

(D) No Player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts.

(E) Any Team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents of the colours in which they will play (including the colours of the goalkeepers jersey) at least [ ] days before the Competition Match.

(F) If, in the opinion of the referee, two Teams have the same or similar colours, the [away/home] Team shall make the change. Should a Team delay the scheduled time of kick off for a Competition Match by not having a change of colours they will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(G) [OPEN AGE] Shirts must be numbered, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

[YOUTH] Shirts must be numbered, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Names of Youth Futsal Players shall not appear on the shirts, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

20. PLAYING SEASON. CONDITIONS OF PLAY, TIMES OF KICK-OFF. POSTPONEMENTS. SUBSTITUTES

(A) [OPEN AGE AND YOUTH]

All Competition Matches shall be played in accordance with the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game.

Clubs must take all reasonable precautions to keep their Venues in a playable condition. All Competition Matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Management Committee. If through any fault of the home Team a match has to be replayed, the Management Committee shall have power to order the venue to be changed.

The Management Committee shall have power to decide whether a pitch and/or facilities are suitable for Competition Matches and to order the Club concerned to play its Competition Match(es) at another Venue.

Clubs should follow The FA Futsal pitch guidance where possible, unless required to comply with the Futsal pitch standards pursuant to the Futsal Regulations.

The home Club is also responsible for advising Participants of footwear requirements when confirming match arrangements in accordance with Rule 20(C).

All Competition Matches shall have the duration as set out in the table below unless a shorter time is mutually arranged by the two Clubs in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves.

The duration and method of timekeeping used in respect of Competition Matches shall be determined by the applicable age group, as detailed below:

AGE GROUP / LEVEL	DURATION PER HALF	TIMEKEEPING
U7 - U10	10 minutes	Rolling clock
U11 - U14	10 minutes	Rolling clock
U15 - U18	20 minutes	Rolling clock
Adult	20 minutes	Stop clock (where possible)
Tier 3 of The FA Futsal Pathway	20 minutes	Stop clock

Rolling Clock: The time does not stop when the ball is out of play.

Stop Clock: The time is stopped when the ball is out of play.

It is noted that it may not always be possible to use the stop clock method, but where possible this option should be used for U15s upwards. The stop clock method is mandatory in Tier 3 of The FA Futsal Pathway.

The times of kick-off shall be agreed at the AGM and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing Clubs and the Competition.

Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition.

The home Team must provide Futsal goals and nets and at least two Futsal balls fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if not provided or if the Futsal balls are unsuitable. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

[YOUTH ONLY]

Competition Matches should be played in accordance with the Laws appropriate to the relevant age group, as required by The FA, as detailed on the next page:

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

AGE GROUP	MIN DURATION OF PLAY PER HALF (MINUTES)	MAX DURATION OF PLAY PER HALF (MINUTES)	MAX PLAYING TIME IN ONE DAY IN ALL ORGANISED DEVELOPMENT FIXTURES (MINUTES)	MAX PLAYING TIME IN ONE DAY IN ALL TOURNAMENTS AND TROPHY EVENTS / FESTIVALS (MINUTES)	COMPETITION STRUCTURE
U7 and U8	5	10	40	60	Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 2 week periods (6 weeks)
U9 and U10	5	10	60	90	Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 4 week periods (12 weeks)
U11	5	10	80	120	Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 6 week periods (18 weeks)
U12	5	10	80	120	Any varieties including one season-long league table.
U13	10	10	80	120	Any varieties including one season-long league table.
U14	10	20	80	120	Any varieties including one season-long league table.

AGE GROUP	MIN DURATION OF PLAY PER HALF (MINUTES)	MAX DURATION OF PLAY PER HALF (MINUTES)	MAX PLAYING TIME IN ONE DAY IN ALL ORGANISED DEVELOPMENT FIXTURES (MINUTES)	MAX PLAYING TIME IN ONE DAY IN ALL TOURNAMENTS AND TROPHY EVENTS / FESTIVALS (MINUTES)	COMPETITION STRUCTURE
U15 and U16	15	20	80	120	Any varieties including one season long league table.
U17 and U18	15	20	120	120	Any varieties including one season long league table.

For round robin/trophy events, the maximum duration of play cannot be exceeded, but the minimum duration of play may be adjusted.

For trophy events, the Competition may award mementos.

(B) Except by permission of the Management Committee all Competition Matches must be played on the dates originally agreed but priority shall be given to The FA and parent County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a Competition match with the consent of the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

In the case of a revised fixture date, the Clubs must be given by the Competition 5 clear days' notice of the match (unless otherwise mutually agreed). 2. In the event of a player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club, priority of registration shall decide for which Club the Player shall be registered. The Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

(C) An Officer of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the Venue and time of kick-off to the Match Officials and an Officer of the opposing Club at least [ ] clear days prior to the playing of the match. If not so provided, the away Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(D) In accordance with the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game, the minimum number of Players which will constitute a Team for a Competition Match is [ ] (5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14).

(E) Home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have power to impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff), deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points from the Competition Match in question to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any reasonable expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except by the award of goals. Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Management Committee shall have power to order a Competition Match to be played at a neutral venue or at the opponent's Venue if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

Where a Club is not prohibited from having more than one Team in the Competition under the Futsal Regulations, any such Club shall always fulfil its fixture, within the Competition, in the following order of precedence:- First Team, Reserve Team, A Team.

Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a Competition Match has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the Competition [ ], the secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

In the event of a Competition Match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it should be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Competition. Failing such agreement and notification to the Competition within [ ] days the Competition shall have the power to order the Match to be played on or before a given date. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition, the Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand. Providing gate money is taken and retained the visiting Club shall receive their actual standard class rail or bus fares or the equivalent for [ ] persons, or car allowance at [ ] p per mile for transporting [ ] persons, or hire charge of a coach (receipt to be submitted). The residue (if any) to be equally divided between the two Clubs after deducting the cost of advertising, printing, posting, police and Match Officials charges. The home Club shall take the whole of the proceeds of the second Competition Match.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

The Management Committee shall review all Competition Matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a Match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one Team or its Club member(s) they shall award the points for the Match to the opponent. In cases where a Match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Teams or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule that neither Team will be awarded any points for that Match and it shall not be replayed. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned Match.

The Management Committee shall review any Match that has taken place where either or both Teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by The FA or Affiliated Association. In each case the Team that was under suspension would be dealt with in the same manner as if they had participated with ineligible players in accordance with Rule 18(N) above. Where both Teams were under suspension the game must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.

Where a Competition Match is abandoned, each participating Club must give notice of the abandonment to the Competition by the deadline set out in Rule 21(B). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(F) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game use substitute Players in any Competition Match. A Club may name up to 9 substitute Players of whom all may be used. The minimum number of substitutes that a Club can name shall be [ ].

A Player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace a Player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game.

The referee [and a representative of the opposing Club] shall be informed of the names of the Players taking part in the Match (including the substitutes) not later than [ ] minutes before the start of the Competition Match and a Player not so named may not take part in that Competition Match. Where a Team fields a Player in a Competition Match or Matches in breach of this Rule, the Management Committee may determine that it has fielded an ineligible player and that the provisions of Rule 18(M) shall apply.

A Player who has been named as a substitute before the start of the Competition Match shall be considered to have been a Player in that Competition Match within the meaning of Rule 18 of this Competition, even if they do not record any playing time.

(G) The half time interval shall be of [ ] minutes' duration, but it shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.

(H) The Teams taking part in a Competition Match shall identify a Team captain who [may/shall] wear an armband and shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of their teammates. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(I) [OPEN AGE] The Management Committee shall review all Competition Matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a Match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one Team or its Club member(s) they shall award the points for the Match to the opponent. In cases where a Match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Teams or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule that neither Team will be awarded any points for that Match and it shall not be replayed. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned Match.

(J) Where a suspension imposed upon a Club or Team by The FA or Affiliated Association in relation to

(i) a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations); or

(ii) The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children or Regulations for Safeguarding Adults at Risk,

is not lifted, and/or the Club does not provide confirmation from The FA or Affiliated Association that such suspension is lifted to the Competition Secretary by [Time] [1 or 2] days before a fixture, that fixture will be treated as an unfulfilled fixture and dealt with in accordance with Rule 20(E).

[YOUTH] INTENTIONALLY BLANK

21. REPORTING RESULTS

(A) The Competition [ ] must receive within [ ] days of the date played, the result of each Competition Match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the Team Players (in block letters) [and also the referee markings required by Rule 23, or any other information required by the Competition.] Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(B) The Home Club/both Clubs shall use telephone/SMS/email/FA Full Time/FA Matchday as directed by the Competition to notify the result of each Competition Match to the [ ] by [ ]. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by an Officer of the Team, or as prescribed by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(D) [YOUTH ONLY] The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect but NOT publish results or any grading tables for fixtures involving Under 7s, Under 8s, Under 9s, Under 10s, and Under 11s. Any Competition failing to abide by this Rule will be dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority, and any Club failing to abide by this Rule will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff). The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect and publish results for trophy events.

22. DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

(A) [OPEN AGE]

Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn Competition Match. The Teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective divisions at the end of the Playing Season shall be adjudged the winners. Competition Matches must not be played for double points.

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

In the event of two or more Teams being equal on points at the end of the Playing Season, rankings shall be determined by goal difference (where the goals scored against each Team shall be deducted from the goals scored by that Team and the Team with the most favourable goal difference shall be placed highest).

In the event of two or more Teams still being equal, the Team which has scored the most goals during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.

In the event of two or more Teams still being equal, the Team that has won the most matches during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.

In the event of two or more Teams still being equal, the Team which has the better playing record against the other Team in their head to head Competition Matches during the Playing Season will be placed highest.

If the records of two or more Teams are still equal and it is necessary for any reason to determine the position of each then the Teams affected shall play a deciding match or matches under conditions as determined by the Management Committee.

[YOUTH]

In Competitions where points are awarded, Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn Competition Match. The Teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective divisions at the end of the Playing Season shall be adjudged the winners. Competition Matches must not be played for double points.

In the event of two or more Teams being equal on points at the end of the Playing Season, rankings may be determined by a deciding match or matches played under conditions determined by the Management Committee, or the position shared.

(B) [OPEN AGE]

Automatic promotion shall be applied for the first [ ] Teams and automatic relegation shall be applied for the last [ ] Teams in each division except as provided for below, subject to the provisions of Rule 2(L).

1. *Should one or more Teams withdraw from any one division after the Playing Season hascommenced an equal number of Teams to those withdrawing in that division shall not be automatically relegated.*

2. *Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the Playing Season may be filled in any of the following ways:*

    a) *retention of otherwise relegated Team(s);or*

    b) *additional promotion of the next ranked Team(s) from the division below; or*

    c) *election.*

3. *The last [ ] Teams in the lowest division shall retire, but be eligible for re-election except as below, and be subject to the conditions of Rule 22(B) 1 above.*

4. *When a senior Team is relegated to a lower division of which its reserve Team is a member, or entitled to be a member, such reserve Team must accept relegation to, or retain its position in, the next lower division; and should the senior Team be relegated to the lowest division its reserve Team automatically retires from the Competition.*

5. *Should either or both of the leading Teams in any of the divisions have its senior Team in the next higher division, promotion shall fall, at the discretion of the General Meeting, to the next highest Team or Teams in the division concerned.*

[YOUTH]

Automatic promotion shall be applied for the first [ ] Teams and automatic relegation shall be applied for the last [ ] Teams in each division except as provided for hereunder, subject to the provisions of Rule 2(L).

1. Should one or more Teams withdraw from any one division after the Playing Season has commenced an equal number of Teams to those withdrawing in that division shall not be automatically relegated.

2. Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the Playing Season may be filled in any of the following ways:

   a) retention of otherwise relegated Team(s); or

   b) additional promotion of the next ranked Team(s) from the division below; or

   c) election

3. The last [ ] Teams in the lowest division shall retire, but be eligible for re-election except as below, and be subject to the conditions of Rule 22(B) 1 above.

4. Should either or both of the leading Teams in any of the divisions have a Team in the next higher division, promotion shall fall, at the discretion of the General Meeting, to the next highest Team or Teams in the division concerned.

5. Should either or both of the relegated Teams in any of the divisions have a Team in the next lower division, relegation shall fall, at the discretion of the General Meeting, to the next lowest Team or Teams in the division concerned.

(C) [OPEN AGE] *In addition to the Team(s) automatically promoted under Rule 22(B), a maximum of one further Team shall be promoted by virtue of being the winner of a play-off match or series of matches (the "Play-Offs). The eligibility criteria and format of the Play-Offs are as follows [ ].*

[YOUTH] In addition to the Team(s) automatically promoted under Rule 22(B), a maximum of one further Team shall be promoted by virtue of being the winner of a play-off match or series of matches (the "Play-Offs). The eligibility criteria and format of the Play-Offs are as follows [ ].

(D) In the event of a Team withdrawing from the Competition before completing 75% of its fixtures for the Playing Season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting Team shall be expunged from the Competition table. For the purposes of this Rule 22(D) a completed fixture shall include any Competition Match(es) which has been awarded by the Management Committee.

(E) [OPEN AGE]

Where a promotion and/or relegation link exists between Competitions [ ] Clubs, providing they meet the appropriate grading criteria, will be eligible to make application to the [ ] Competition at their AGM. Should the champion Club not wish for promotion or, alternatively, not have the necessary grading criteria, then the [] or [ ] placed Club will be eligible under the same conditions.

At the end of each Season and depending on the geographical location of Clubs gaining promotion to or being relegated from the[ ] Competition, it may be necessary for the Competition either (a) to accept a Club from the [ ]Competition, or (b) have a Club transferred to the same Competition.

The bottom [ ] Clubs in the [ ] Competition will be relegated. Each relegated Club will be allocated either to the [ ] Competition or to the Competition recommended as most appropriate by the Football Development Committee.

[ ] Clubs will be promoted to the [ ] Competition from the [ ] Competition, and the [ ] Competition providing that each Club is either the Champion Club or Runner-up or [ ] placed Club and has the necessary grading criteria.

In the event of there being no eligible Club wishing promotion or not having the necessary grading criteria from any of the Competitions, this will reduce the number of Clubs to be relegated from the [ ] Competition.

If only [ ] Clubs are eligible or wish for promotion, the bottom [ ] Clubs in the [ ] Competition will be relegated. If only [ ] Club is eligible or wishes promotion, only the bottom Club in the [ ] Competition will be relegated.

If no Clubs are eligible, or wish for promotion, no Clubs will be relegated from the [ ] Competition.

In the event of a [ ] Competition Club not being placed in the bottom [ ] Clubs at the end of the Playing Season, wishing to resign from the Competition at the end of the Playing Season, or having been excluded under Rule [ ] only [ ] Clubs will be relegated at the end of the Playing Season.

In the event of a [ ] Competition Club opting to be relegated or being relegated under Rule [ ] such Club or Clubs will replace the Club or Clubs otherwise due for relegation.

[YOUTH]

INTENTIONALLY BLANK

23. MATCH OFFICIALS

(A) Registered futsal referees (and assistant referees where approved by The FA or County FA) for all Competition Matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the Sanctioning Authority.

(B) [OPEN AGE]

1. In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed referee the appointed senior assistant referee shall take charge and a substitute assistant referee appointed by the competing Teams.

2. In cases where there are no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance, the Clubs shall agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that Competition Match, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee. Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any Competition Match.

[YOUTH]

In cases where there are no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance, the Clubs shall agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that Competition Match, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee. Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any open age competition and individuals under the age of 14 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any Competition Match. Referees between the ages of 14 and 16 are only eligible to officiate in competitions where the Players' age band is at least one year younger than the age of the referee, for example a 15 year old referee may only officiate in competitions where the age banding is 14 or younger

(C) Where assistant referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club assistant referee. In the event that the stop clock timekeeping method is required under these Rules, the home Team shall be required to provide a timekeeper, whose sole responsibility it shall be to keep time in accordance with the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game. In circumstances where there is no home Team, the Management Committee shall determine who is responsible for providing the timekeeper. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(D) The appointed referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the Venue in all Competition Matches and that decision shall be final, subject to the determination of the Local Authority or the owners of the Venue, which must be accepted.

(E) [OPEN AGE] Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Authority, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff *[and travel expenses of [ ] per mile/ or inclusive of travel expenses].*

Match Officials will be paid their fees and/or expenses by the home Club before/immediately after the Competition Match. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

[YOUTH] Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Authority, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff and travel expenses of [ ] per mile / or inclusive of travel expenses.

Match Officials will be paid their fees and/or expenses by the home Club before/immediately after the Competition Match, unless otherwise ordered by the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(F) In the event of a Competition Match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to *[full fee only/full fee plus expenses/ half fee only/half fee plus expenses/expenses only]*. Where a Competition Match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Match Officials, if they attend the Venue, their full fee and expenses. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(G) A referee not keeping their engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Affiliated Association with which he or she is registered.

(H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The FA, award marks to the referee for each Competition Match and the name of the referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.

(I) The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the form provided by the prescribed date each Season, shall submit a summary to the Sanctioning Authority.

(J) *The referee shall submit a report form, supplied by the Competition, giving the result of the Competition Match, the number of Players in each Team and the time of kick-off to the (Registration) Secretary within two days of the Competition Match.*

(K) *Match Officials shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.*

(L) *Match Officials shall comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA and/or Sanctioning Authority adopted by the Competition.*

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

SCHEDULE A

INDEX

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
RULE 1	DEFINITIONS
	GOVERNANCE RULES
RULE 2	COMPETITION NAME AND CONSTITUTION
RULE 3	CLUB NAME
RULE 4	ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT
RULE 5	MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION
RULE 6	POWERS OF MANAGEMENT
RULE 7	PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS
RULE 8	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
RULE 9	SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS
RULE 10	AGREEMENT TO RULES OF THE COMPETITION
RULE 11	CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB
RULE 12	EXCLUSION OF CLUBS, TEAMS. MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS, MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
RULE 13	TROPHY
RULE 14	ALTERATION TO RULES
RULE 15	FINANCE
RULE 16	INSURANCE
RULE 17	DISSOLUTION
	MATCH RELATED RULES
RULE 18	QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS
RULE 19	CLUB COLOURS
RULE 20	PLAYING SEASON. CONDITIONS OF PLAY, TIMES OF KICK-OFF. POSTPONEMENTS. SUBSTITUTES
RULE 21	REPORTING RESULTS
RULE 22	DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP
RULE 23	MATCH OFFICIALS
	SCHEDULE A
	INDEX
	SCHEDULE B
	OPEN AGE COMPETITIONS
	FEES TARIFF
	FINES TARIFF

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

SCHEDULE B (OPEN AGE COMPETITIONS)

FEES TARIFF

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE
4 (A)	CLUB ENTRY FEE	£
4 (B)	CLUB/TEAM ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	£
4 (C)	DEPOSIT	£
7 (C), 7 (F), 7(H)	PROTEST/APPEAL FEES	£
18 (D)	PLAYER REGISTRATION FEE	£
18 (H)	TRANSFER FEE	£
23 (E)	REFEREE FEES	£
23 (E)	ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES	£

FINES TARIFF

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
2 (G)	FAILURE TO AFFILIATE	£
2 (I)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	£
2 (K)	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITIONS	£
3	FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME	£
4 (C)	FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT	£
4 (E)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE AFFILIATION NUMBER/DETAILS FORM	£
5 (E)	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS	£
6 (I)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£
6 (J)	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	£
8 (H)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	£
9	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM	£
10	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT OR TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO SIGNATORIES	£
11 (A)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE DEADLINE	£
11 (B)	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£
13 (A)	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY	£
16 (A)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
16 (B)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£
18 (A)	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER	£
18 (B)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE SEASON COMMENCING	£
18 (F)	REGISTERING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS, OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION FORM	£
18 (G)	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	£
18 (M)	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£
18 (N)	FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	£
19 (F)	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO NO CHANGE OF COLOURS	£
19 (G)	FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS	£
20 (A)	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT	£
20 (B)	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED	£
20 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£
20 (D)	PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS	£
20 (E)	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE	£
20 (H)	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	£
21 (A)	LATE RESULT NOTIFICATION FORM	£
21 (B)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT	£
21 (C)	RESULT NOTIFICATION NOT SIGNED BY APPROPRIATE SIGNATORIES	£
23 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE	£
23 (E)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES AND EXPENSES	£
23 (F)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED	£
23 (H)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK	£

SCHEDULE B (YOUTH FUTSAL COMPETITIONS)

FEES TARIFF

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE
4 (A)	CLUB ENTRY FEE	£50
4 (B)	CLUB/TEAM ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	£150
4 (C)	DEPOSIT	£100
7 (C), 7 (F)	PROTEST/APPEAL FEES	£25
18 (D)	PLAYER REGISTRATION FEE	£10 (per player)
18 (H)	TRANSFER FEE	£10
23 (E)	REFEREE FEES	As agreed with Sanctioning Authority
23 (E)	ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES	As agreed with Sanctioning Authority

FINES TARIFF

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
2 (G)	FAILURE TO AFFILIATE	£100
2 (I)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	£100
2 (K)	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITIONS	£100
3	FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME	£30
4 (C)	FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT	£100
4 (E)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE AFFILIATION NUMBER/DETAILS FORM	£100
5 (E)	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS	£25
6 (I)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£100
6 (J)	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	DOUBLE THE ORIGINAL FINE UP TO £100.00
8 (H)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	£100
9	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM	£100
10	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT OR TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO SIGNATORIES	£25
11 (A)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE DEADLINE	£100
11 (B)	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£100

RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
13 (A)	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY	£25
16 (A)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£100
16 (B)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£100
18 (A)	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER	£40
18 (B)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE SEASON COMMENCING	£25
18 (F)	REGISTERING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS, OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION FORM	£25
18 (G)	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	£100
18 (M)	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£100
18(N)	FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	£50
19 (F)	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO NO CHANGE OF COLOURS	£30
19 (G)	FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS	£10.00 (per shirt, up to an aggregate maximum of £30)
19 (G)	YOUTH PLAYER NAMES APPEARING ON SHIRTS	£
20(A)	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT	£30
20 (B)	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED	£100
20 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£50
20 (D)	PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS	£100
20 (E)	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE	£100
20 (H)	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	£10
21 (A)	LATE RESULT NOTIFICATION FORM	£20
21 (B)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT	£20
21(C)	RESULT NOTIFICATION NOT SIGNED BY APPROPRIATE SIGNATORIES	£20
21 (D)	PUBLISHING RESULTS/GRADING TABLES FOR FIXTURES INVOLVING U7S, U8S, U9S, U10S OR U11S	£50
23 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE	£25
23 (E)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES AND EXPENSES	£25
23 (F)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED	£25
23 (H)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK	£25

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