

Competition Rules

National Futsal Series

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DEFINITIONS

1. (A) In these Rules:

“**Affiliated Association**” means a County Football 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 Rules of the Competition.

“**Club**” means a club for the time being in membership of the Competition.

“**Criteria**” means the criteria the Club should meet to attain entry into the relevant Tier of the Competition, as communicated to the Clubs by the Management Committee from time to time.

“**Competition**” means the National Futsal Series Competition.

“**Competition Match**” means any match played or to be played under the jurisdiction of the Competition.

“**Competition Secretary**” means such person or persons appointed or elected to carry out the administration of the Competition.

“**Deposit**” or “**Deposit Bond**” means a sum of money deposited with the Competition in accordance with the requirements of membership of the Competition.

“**Designated Host Venue**” means the venue in which the Club will host its allocated Round of Games, and which has been approved by the Management Committee.

“**Development Team**” means a second team participating in Tier 2 which has been entered by a Club participating in Tier 1.

“**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.

“**Field of Play**” means the pitch and the run-off around the perimeter of the pitch.

“**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.

“**FUTTR**” means a Futsal Transfer Request form.

“**Home Grown Player**” means a Player who, irrespective of nationality or age, has played for any Club affiliated to The FA for a period, continuous or not, of three Seasons or 36 months prior to his 21st birthday (or the end of the Season during which he turns 21) and, for the purposes of this definition of “Home Grown Player”, a Season will be deemed to commence on the date on 1 September and expire on the date of the final Competition Match of the Season.

“**Host Club**” means the Club which is hosting the Round of Games on a given and allocated date.

“**Local Event Manager**” means the named individual appointed by the Host Club as the point of contact responsible for the Round of Games on behalf of the Host Club.

“**Management Committee**” means the management committee elected to manage the running of the Competition.

“**Match Commissioner**” means the individual appointed by the Competition to administer the Round of Games on behalf of the Competition.

“**Match Officials**” means the referee, the assistant referees, third official and time keeper appointed to a Competition Match.

“**Match Pro-Forma**” means the official team sheet document for a specific Competition Match, which must list 12 Players, of whom a maximum of 8 may not be Home Grown Players.

“**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 player who plays or who is eligible to play for a Club or a Team.

“**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.

“**Round of Games**” means the total of all matches played in a division on the same day at the same venue.

“**Rules**” means these rules under which both Tier 1 and Tier 2 of the Competition is administered.

“**Sanctioning Authority**” means The FA.

“**Season**” means the period of time between an AGM and the subsequent AGM.

“**SGM**” means a special general meeting held in accordance with the Rules of the Competition.

“**Squad List**” means the list of up to a maximum of 30 Players eligible to participate in Competition Matches during a Season of whom a maximum of 20 may not be Home Grown Players.

“**Summer Transfer Window**” means the period from midnight on the last day of the Playing Season and 17:00 on the Thursday before the commencement of the next Playing Season or at such other date and time as the Management Committee shall determine.

“**Super Cup**” means the cup competition in the format set out in Rule 24.

“**Team**” means a team affiliated to a Club, including where a Club provides more than one team in the Competition in accordance with these Rules.

“**Tier 1**” means the highest level of Competition which operates at a national level.

“**Tier 2**” means the second level of Competition which operates at a regional level.

“**The FA**” means The Football Association Limited.

“**Transfer Windows**” means the Summer Transfer Window and the Winter Transfer Window.

“**UEFA Futsal Cup**” means the UEFA cup competition for the winner of the top domestic leagues in Europe.

“**WGS**” means the Whole Game System and the procedures for the operation thereof as determined by The FA from time to time.

“**Winter Transfer Window**” means the period from midnight on 31 December or at such other date and time as the Management Committee shall

determine and shall end at 17:00 on 31 January next (if that is a business day) or the first business day thereafter or at such other date and time as the Management Committee shall determine.

“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 vice-versa.

GOVERNANCE RULES

COMPETITION NAME, CONSTITUTION

2.

- (A) The Competition will be known as the “National Futsal Series” (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) The ownership, organisation, control and management of the Competition and any rights associated with it of any nature shall be vested entirely and exclusively in The FA. All intellectual property rights in the National Futsal Series logo and The FA Crest shall be vested in The FA, and shall not be used by Clubs for any purpose other than the promotion or staging of the Competition unless permission is obtained from the Management Committee.
- (C) This Competition shall consist of a set number of Clubs and/or Teams as determined by the Management Committee from time to time.
- (D) Tier 1 of the Competition will operate at a national level and Tier 2 of the Competition will operate at a regional level. Tier 2 will operate in a set number of regional divisions. Teams will be allocated to Tier 1 or a particular division of Tier 2 (on a geographical basis determined by their base town or city) by the Management Committee acting in its sole discretion.
- (E) 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.
- (F) 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.
- (G) 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.
- (H) This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Sanctioning Authority.
- (I) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination
 - (i) 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).
 - (ii) 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, irrespective of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise.
 - (iii) Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the Sanctioning Authority for investigation.
- (J) Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the Competition including, but not limited to, the Charter Standard and RESPECT programmes. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (K) All Participants shall be bound by The FA Regulations for Safeguarding Children, as determined by The FA from time to time. All Clubs shall have a designated and trained Safeguarding & Welfare Officer who must sit on the management committee of that Club, and must provide a Club Safeguarding & Welfare policy to the Competition Secretary before the commencement of the Playing Season.
- (L) All Clubs which have youth teams shall have a designated and trained Safeguarding & Welfare Officer who must sit on the management committee of that Club, and must provide a Club Safeguarding & Welfare policy to the Competition Secretary before the commencement of the Playing Season.
- (M) Clubs shall not enter any of their Teams playing in the Competition in any other competitions (with the exception of the FA and County FA 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.
- (N) Only one Team from a Club shall be permitted to participate in a particular Tier. This Competition will ensure that where a Club operates multiple Teams in more than one Tier, they are run as separate entities with no interchange of players other than via transfers of registration in accordance with these Rules.
- (O) Except with the prior written consent of the Management Committee, no Officer shall have an interest in more than one Club.

CLUB NAME

- . Any Club wishing to change its name must obtain permission from the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
 - (i) A Club name shall include the town or city which is most closely aligned to its geographical origin or base;
 - (ii) A Club name may only include the name or trading reference of a commercial partner or entity with the prior written approval of the Competition Secretary who shall act on behalf of the Management Committee; and
 - (iii) If the Club is permitted entry to the UEFA Futsal Cup, the Club will comply with any request by the Management Committee to amend its name so as to remove any reference to the Club's sponsor, in order to comply with the requirements of UEFA at the relevant time, and will structure any sponsorship agreements with third parties accordingly.

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT BOND

- 4. (A) Applications by Clubs for admission to the Competition, or the entry of an additional Team from the same Club, must be made in writing to the Competition Secretary and must be accompanied by an entry fee per Team as set out in the Fees Tariff. The entry fee shall be returned in the event of non-election. Applicant Clubs will only be admitted to the Competition if they have met the Criteria to the satisfaction of the Management Committee.
When a Team is relegated or promoted in accordance with these Rules 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 per Team in accordance with the Fees Tariff payable on or before the AGM of the Competition in each year.
- (C) A Team shall not be permitted to participate in this Competition until the entry fee, annual subscription, outstanding fines from any previous Season and Deposit have been paid in accordance with the provisions below.
 - (i) Each Club shall, within fourteen days of being granted admission to the Competition, pay a deposit of £200 (two-hundred pounds) to the

Competition per Team entered, which shall be returnable to the said Club upon leaving the Competition, provided they have fulfilled all of their obligations and fixtures in the last season and complied with all orders of the Management Committee.

- (ii) Clubs in Tier 1 of the Competition shall pay an additional £300 (three-hundred pounds) to the Competition per Team entered, which shall be returnable to the said Club upon leaving the Competition, provided they have fulfilled all of their obligations and fixtures in the last season and complied with all orders of the Management Committee.

- a) Deposits will only be returned to the registered bank accounts from which the deposit payment has been paid as notified by the Club to the Competition Secretary:

(i) Where a Club closes the bank account referred to in (C)(ii)(a) above, or the Club's funds are transferred, or the bank account ceases to be functional for any other justifiable reason, details of the replacement account including evidence confirming that the Club's funds have been transferred to such account and any new signatories to the new account shall be provided to the Competition Secretary within seven days.

(ii) If the bank account referred to in (C)(ii)(a) above is closed without notification to the Competition, the Deposit shall have been deemed to have been automatically surrendered and the Deposit transferred to the Competition and the Deposit shall not be returned to the Club upon leaving the Competition.

- b) The Competition reserves the right to deduct from any Deposit any sums owed to the Competition in respect of fines and other financial obligations in accordance with these Rules.

(D) Clubs must advise the Competition Secretary annually in writing by 01 August of its Sanctioning Authority affiliation number for the forthcoming Playing Season. Clubs must also advise the Competition Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its headquarters (upon which formal written notices may be served), its Officers and any other information required by the Competition. Where Club Officers change or are newly appointed during the Season, the Club shall notify the Competition Secretary in writing not later than 14 days after the relevant appointment. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(E) Clubs must submit a copy of their most up to date annual statement of accounts, duly verified, to the Competition Secretary no later than 01 September in each year.

(F) Clubs must have a bank account for their sole use through which they transact the business of the Club. This shall be the only account to which monies are paid to or from the Competition and from which the Club pays its financial commitments in respect of the Competition.

MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

5. (A) The Management Committee shall comprise: of

- i. An Independent Chairman appointed by the Competition in collaboration with The FA
- ii. A Competition Secretary
- iii. A Fixtures Secretary
- iv. A Treasurer
- v. A Referees Secretary
- vi. A Governance Officer

(i) Each member of the Management Committee shall serve for a period of not more than 3 years, and for not more than three successive terms in the same position of office.

(ii) Retiring members of the Management Committee shall be eligible for re-election without nomination provided that the member of the Management Committee notifies the Competition Secretary of his or her desire for re-election in writing no later than 01 March in each Season and the re-election is approved by the Management Committee at the AGM.

(iii) All candidates for election as members of the Management Committee (save for the Independent Chairman) shall be nominated to the Competition Secretary in writing, no later than 01 March in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM.

(iv) 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 Competition Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Management Committee.

(v) Except where otherwise specified herein, all communications shall be addressed by the Clubs' Officers to the Competition Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(vi) All Participants are subject to and bound by The FA's Code of Conduct and Social Media Policy Agreement. Failure to comply with these policies may result in a Participant being charged by The FA or Affiliated Association under Rule E(3) of The FA's Rules.

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 an Affiliated Association.

(i) 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.

(ii) 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 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.

(iii) 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(D), 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:

- (i) Accept the charge and submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
- (ii) Accept the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee; or
- (iii) Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
- (iv) 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 £500 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 number of points attained in the Competition which may be deducted consequential to any breach of a Rule around a single fixture, is 3 points save for Rules 21(D)(i) herein.

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 shall be dealt with in accordance with FA Rules by The FA or Affiliated Association as appropriate.

- (i) The FA is responsible for all disciplinary matters in relation to this Competition, but administration of the disciplinary process will be delegated to the Affiliated Association to which the relevant Club is affiliated. Where a disciplinary matter involves more than one Club, the Clubs may agree with the Competition Secretary that one Affiliated Association administers the disciplinary process. All disciplinary matters shall be dealt with in accordance with the FA Rules and Disciplinary Regulations.
- (i) 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.
- (i) More than fifty percent of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any sub-committee thereof.
- (i) 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, including any vacancy between the AGM or SGM called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Playing Season.
- (ii) 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.
- (i) 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.
- (i) The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail, WebEx, Skype or facsimile.

PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS

- 7. (A) (i) 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.
- (ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, markings or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged in writing with the Match Commissioner before the commencement of the Competition Match.
- (B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decides 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 Competition Secretary within 5 days (excluding Sundays) of the Competition Match or occurrence to which they refer.
- (C) The complaining Club must also lodge the accompanying protest fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff. Where a protest is lodged within time but the protest fee is not, the protest shall be considered void. The protest fee may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaint or protest not being upheld. The Management Committee shall have the power to order the defaulting Club or the Club whose complaint or protest is not upheld (or who the Management Committee considers to be frivolous) to pay the expenses of the inquiry or to order that the costs be shared by the parties.
- (D) A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee.
- (E) 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.
 - (i) All parties must have received 7 days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.
 - (ii) Should a Club elect to state its case in person then it should indicate such when forwarding the written response.
- (F) Any appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority in accordance with the FA Appeal Regulations, 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 Competition Secretary. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority in accordance with the FA Appeal Regulations.
- (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 31 July in each year. At this meeting the following business may be transacted provided that more than fifty percent of members of the Management Committee are present and entitled to vote:-
 - (i) To receive and confirm the minutes of the preceding AGM.
 - (i) To receive and adopt the annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts.
 - (i) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.
 - (i) Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing Season.
 - (i) Election of Officers of the Competition and members of the Management Committee.
 - (i) Appointment of auditors (as applicable).
 - (i) Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14).
 - (i) Fix the date for the commencement of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition.
 - (ii) Fix the date for the end of the Playing Season.
 - (j) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an AGM.
- (i) 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, and 14 days' notice shall be given of any AGM.
- (i) 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.

- [1] Each Club shall be permitted to send two delegates to an AGM but each Club shall be entitled to one vote per Team only. Each member of the Management Committee shall also have one vote. Clubs who do not send a member to an AGM (without good reason, to be assessed by the Management Committee) shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- [1] 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 Playing Season being concluded. This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 12.
- [1] All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot is demanded by 50% or more of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairman so decides.
- [1] No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Club.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

9. Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Competition Secretary shall call a SGM. The Management Committee may call a SGM at any time.
- 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.
- Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs but each Club shall be entitled to one vote per Team only. Each member of the Management Committee shall also have one vote.
- Clubs who do not send a member to an SGM (without good reason, to be assessed by the Management Committee) shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

10. Each Club shall complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with the Competition Secretary.
- "We, (A) (name) [] of (address) [] (Chairman)/(Director) and (B) (name) [] of (address) [] (Secretary)/(Director) of [] Futsal Club (Limited) have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Criteria of the National Futsal Series Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club, if admitted to the National Futsal Series Competition, to conform to those Rules and Criteria and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7."
- The agreement shall be signed by:
- [i] Where a Club is an unincorporated association, the Club chairman and secretary; or
 - [ii] Where a Club is an incorporated entity, two directors of the Club.
- Any alteration by the chairman and/or secretary of the Club to the above agreement must be notified to the Affiliated Association and to the Competition Secretary.
- 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.
- [1] 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 Competition Secretary in writing by 31 March each Season. This does not apply to a Club which is relegated or promoted in accordance with these Rules. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
 - [1] In the event of a Team withdrawing from the Competition before completing 75% of its fixtures for the Playing Season, all points obtained for or against that Team shall be erased from the Competition table.
 - [1] In the event of a Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in a combined 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 8 or 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; or
 - ii. exclude any Club or Team from membership whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable or which does not meet the Criteria for the Competition;
- both of which must be supported by more than two thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this issue 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) Any Officer or member of a Club proved guilty of either a breach of Rule, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a Player or Players of another Club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to such penalty as an AGM or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of clause (A) of this Rule.

TROPHY, LEGAL OWNERS, CONDITIONS OF TAKING OVER

13. (A) The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the cup or trophy in Tier 1 and Tier 2 of the Competition:-
- "We (A) (name) and (B) (name), the Chairman and Secretary of [] Futsal Club (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 31 March of the following season at the Club's cost. 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 (£500) (five-hundred pounds)) or the cost of its thorough repair."
- Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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 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.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Competition Secretary by 01 March in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 01 April and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Competition Secretary by 01 May. 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 3/4 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.
- (i) All expenditure in excess of £100 shall be approved by any two members of the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.
 - (ii) The financial year of the Competition will end on 31 August.
 - (iii) 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.
- (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:
- (i) 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.
 - (ii) 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

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

18. (A) 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 crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.
- (B) A player under written contract with a football club may not also contract with a Futsal Club.
- (C) Players may not sign a contract with more than one futsal club in England at any one time.
- (D) Clubs may not register a player who is registered with a professional club academy as defined in the Professional Game Youth Development Rules. Failure to comply with this requirement will be deemed a breach of FA Rules.
- (E) Clubs may register a player who is a registered scholar with a professional football club Academy (as defined in the Professional Game Youth Development Rules) provided that the football Club holding that Player's registration has given written consent, an original of which must be sent to the Competition Secretary with the FUT1 player registration form. A registered scholar may not sign a player contract.
- (F) Failure to comply with these requirements will be deemed a breach of FA Rules.

REGISTRATION

19. (A) A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:
- (i) signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink, countersigned by an Officer of the Club, which has been submitted to the Competition and the Competition Secretary has confirmed the Competition's satisfaction with the registration within one of the Transfer Windows;
and
 - (ii) registered through WGS following the Competition Secretary's approval in writing, within the same Transfer Window.

Any registration form which is sent by either of the means set out at Rules 19(A) (i) and (ii) above that is not fully and correctly completed will be returned to the Club unprocessed. If a Club attempts to register a player via WGS but does not fully and correctly complete the necessary information via WGS, or have the necessary confirmation in writing from the Competition Secretary, the registration will be deemed unprocessed.

Registration forms will be provided in a format to be determined by the Competition for the purposes of Rule 19(A) (i).

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (i) Each Club shall have registered at least 12 Players per Team not later than 01 September of each Playing Season. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff and may preclude the Team from participation in the first fixture of the Playing Season.

- (ii) Each Club shall register no more than 30 Players per Team for each Playing Season. If a Club has registered 30 players for that 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.
- (iii) A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club for each Player and category of Player registered.
- (iv) Each Club shall submit a Squad List per Team to the Competition Secretary by 1 September of each Playing Season. The Squad List will identify the Team's Home Grown Players and the Club will also provide signed confirmation and evidence from each Home Grown Player that he has played for a Club affiliated to The FA for the relevant period as specified in the definition of Home Grown Player, and to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. It shall be a breach of this Rule for incorrect information to be provided to the Competition Secretary regarding the Player's Home Grown Player status and failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine and a 3 points deduction in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (v) A player may not be registered for more than three Clubs in any Playing Season but may only play in official matches for two Clubs during that Playing Season.
- (vi) Registrations are only valid for one Playing Season and Players must be re-registered during the Summer Transfer Window in advance of every Playing Season.
- (vii) A Player that owes a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations) to any Club(s) shall be permitted to register and play for a Club in Competition Matches, save that the Player may be liable to be suspended from playing for that Club should the Player fail to comply with the terms of the Football Debt Recovery Regulations in respect of that Football Debt.
- (viii) 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.
- (ix) A register containing the names of all Players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the Competition Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of an Officer of the Club at a time mutually arranged.
- (x) A Player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, Play-off, promotion or relegation deciding Competition Match (as specified in Rule 27) unless the Player has played no less than 5 Competition Matches for that Team in the current Playing Season.
- (xi) Players registered with a Club in this Competition who are selected for international duty with a recognised FIFA Member Association shall be released for international duty only within the agreed international windows.

TRANSFERS

20.

- (i) All players must be registered during the Transfer Windows to be eligible to play for the Club in the Playing Season. Any Player not registered within the Transfer Windows shall not be permitted to play for the Club except by special permission of the Management Committee.
 - (ii) Subject to compliance with FA Rule C2(a) when a Club wishes to register a player who is already registered with another Club it shall submit a FUTTR to the Competition Secretary accompanied by a fee as set out in the Fees Tariff. The Competition will then contact the Club for which the Player is registered. If that Club objects 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 Competition 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 3 days after receipt of such transfer completion.
- In the event of an objection to a transfer the matter shall be referred to the Management Committee for a decision. Such decision shall be expedited with all reasonable haste.

DISPUTES

21.

- (i) The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes.
- If two registration forms are submitted in respect of the same Player during the same Transfer Window, the Player shall be registered for the Club which submitted the first registration form in full compliance with Rule 19(A) above. The Competition Secretary shall notify the Club which submitted the second registration form accordingly.
- (i) It shall be a breach of the Rules for a Player to:-
 - (i) Play for more than one Team in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred in accordance with Rule 20 above.
 - (ii) 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.
 - (iii) Submit a signed registration form and/or submit a registration through WGS 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.
 - (ii) The Management Committee shall have the power to accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of clauses (i) and (iii) below.
 - (i) 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).
 - (ii) 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.

Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a Participant from being involved in this Competition.
 - (iii) For a Player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with clause (iii) 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.
- Action under clause (iii) shall not be taken against a Player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the Affiliated Association, 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.
- (iv) 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, shall have a maximum of 3 points per Competition Match deducted as a penalty (up to a maximum of 12 points for multiple Competition Matches), and have levied upon it a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff). The Management Committee may also, at its discretion, award the points available in the Competition Match in question to the opponents or order the Competition Match to be replayed.

- (ii) The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule 21(D)(i) only in circumstances where the ineligibility is due to the failure to obtain an International (Futsal) Transfer Certificate or where the ineligibility is related to the Player's status.

TEAM STAFF

22.

- (i) Each Team shall be entitled to name a maximum of four staff members to be pitchside during a match.
- (ii) A Head Coach of a Team in Tier 1 shall hold, as a minimum, a valid and in date UEFA B Futsal Coaching Licence issued by The FA and shall be appropriately pre-accredited by the Competition.
- (iii) A Head Coach of a Team in Tier 2 shall be a registered FA Licenced Coach and shall hold, as a minimum, a valid and in date Level 2 Futsal Coaching Award issued by The FA and shall be appropriately pre-accredited by the Competition.
- (iv) A Head Coach who holds a UEFA B Futsal Coaching Licence or Level 2 Futsal Coaching Award issued by another national association shall also provide evidence that they have attended an FA level 1 introduction to First Aid in football and FA Safeguarding workshop and hold an appropriate and valid DBS check.
- (v) Additionally, any Team shall be entitled to not more than two assistant coaches who shall each be a registered, in date, FA Licenced Coach holding as a minimum an FA Level 2 Futsal Coaching award.
- (vi) An appointed person designated as a physiotherapist/first aider who has attained as a minimum requirement The FA Level 1 Introduction to First Aid in Football (IFAiF) or a FA Level 2 Emergency First Aid in Football (EFAiF) qualification or, a higher recognized treatment of injury competence threshold (such as equivalent courses for FA Level 4 Intermediate Trauma Medical Management in Football and The FA level 5 Advanced Trauma Medical Management in Football awards) including supporting evidence of having completed the online e-learning FA modules for Sudden Cardiac Arrest and Concussion. They shall be equipped with an appropriate treatment of injury/first aid kit. Other accepted qualifications are: a chartered physiotherapist, a graduate sports therapist provided that they have also completed the online e-learning FA modules for Sudden Cardiac Arrest and Concussion and the EFAiF qualification. Any Club failing to comply with this Rule will be fined and may be deducted points in accordance with the Fines Tariff. The appointed person shall be appropriately accredited by the Competition and in exceptional circumstances this may occur on match day by the Match Commissioner only upon presentation of suitable verified evidence in original.
Staff meeting these requirements who attend a Round of Games on behalf of the Club must undertake to provide medical services to all Teams participating in the Round of Games if required.
- (vii) All Club coaching staff (Head Coach and Assistant Coaches if applicable) must be registered with the Competition by 01 September prior to the start of the Playing Season.
- (viii) Team staff shall wear their accreditation pitchside at all times.
- (ix) Team staff shall wear Club tracksuits or other Club attire that shall include long trousers and ensure that such attire does not clash with the playing attire of either Team or the match officials, or smart casual.
- (x) Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

CLUB COLOURS

23. Every Club must register the colour of its shirts, shorts and stockings with the Competition Secretary by 07 August who shall decide as to their suitability.

- (i) Any Club wishing to change its colours during the Playing Season must obtain permission from the Management Committee.
- (ii) Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from all other Players and the Match Officials.
- (iii) No Player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts.
- (iv) Undershorts which are visible shall be of the same colour as the designated shorts colour being worn.
- (v) Any Team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents and the Competition Secretary of the colours in which they will play (including the colours of the goalkeepers jersey) at least 7 days before the Competition Match.
- (vi) If, in the opinion of the referee, two Teams have the same or similar colours, the first named 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 immediately available they will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (vii) Shirts must be numbered in accordance with the Match Pro-Forma, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (viii) Where Teams adopt a powerplay, the shirt worn by the temporary goalkeeper replacement (outfield player) shall be identical to that worn by the nominated goalkeeper and shall have the outfield players (replacement goalkeeper) number affixed to its rear face. Temporary numbering or incorrect shirts shall not be allowed by the match officials and in such an occurrence the Team will not be permitted to adopt the powerplay.
- (ix) Teams must travel with both home and away kits to every fixture in order to resolve colour disputes, howsoever arising, to the satisfaction of the Match Officials. The loaning of Club colours will not be permitted. Bibs may not be used to overcome such an occurrence. Clubs who fail to travel with all appropriate kits to change when required under instruction of the referee will be subject to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

COMPETITION FORMAT

24.

- (A) The Competition shall comprise not more than two Tiers.
 - i. Tier 1 shall comprise of a minimum of 8 Teams and a maximum of 10 Teams
 - ii. Tier 2 shall consist of a set number of regional divisions, each comprising a minimum of 8 Teams and a maximum of 10 Teams.
- (B) A Club may only enter one Team in each Tier of the Competition.
- (C) It may be necessary from time to time to move Clubs laterally between regional leagues at Tier 2 to accommodate the movement of Clubs by normal promotion and relegation. The Management Committee will notify Clubs which may it may be necessary to laterally move and, if the Club does not wish to move laterally, the Club shall be given the opportunity to present a case to the Management Committee. The decision of the Management Committee shall be final and binding subject only to an appeal pursuant to Rule 7.
- (D) Each Club will host two Rounds of Games in the Designated Host Venue throughout the Playing Season. The Competition will have 18 Rounds of Games in total, in addition to the Super Cup referred to at Rule 24 (F). The Competition Secretary will notify the Clubs which Rounds of Games they will be hosting by

1 September and the Clubs will confirm within 14 days that they agree to host the Rounds of Games. Any dispute regarding the hosting of a Round of Games will be resolved by the Management Committee in its sole discretion.

- (E) An Officer of the Host Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the Designated Host Venue and times of kick-offs for all matches of the Round of Games to the Match Officials at least 10 clear days prior to the Round of Games. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (F) A Super Cup shall be held across two Rounds of Games at Rounds 10 and 20 of the Competition in Tier 1 and for each regional division at Tier 2:
 - (i) At Round 10, 8 Teams will participate in the first round of the Super Cup. If there are more than 8 Teams in the relevant Tier/Division, the top 8 Teams at the end of Round 9 will participate in the first round. Teams will play a single match in a knock-out format as follows:
 - a) The Team in first place in the Competition at the completion of Round 9 will play the Team in eighth place at the completion of Round 9.
 - b) The Team in second place in the Competition at the completion of Round 9 will play the Team in seventh place at the completion of Round 9.
 - c) The Team in third place in the Competition at the completion of Round 9 will play the Team in sixth place at the completion of Round 9.
 - d) The Team in fourth place in the Competition at the completion of Round 9 will play the Team in fifth place at the completion of Round 9.
 - (ii) At Round 20, the four winners of the matches in the first round of the Super Cup will participate in two single leg semi-finals in a knock-out format and the four losers of the matches in the first round of the Super Cup will participate in two single leg plate matches in a knock-out format. The winner of the match at (F)(i)(a) will play the winner of the match at (F)(i)(d) and the winner of the match at (F)(i)(b) will play the winner of the match at (F)(i)(c). The winners of the semi-finals will participate in the single leg Super Cup final in a knock-out format and the winners of the plate matches will participate in the single leg plate final in a knock-out format.
- (G) The Host Club named for each Round of Games shall assume overall responsibility of the Round of Games, including the event management, operational and organisational aspects. The Club shall appoint a Local Event Manager for each Round of Games who will act as the sole point of contact for the Competition and the Clubs and shall have authority from the Club to make decisions on its behalf in respect of that Round of Games. The Designated Host Venue must comply with the Venue Specifications in Rule 25 below.
- (H) The Host Club shall be responsible for all costs of hosting its allocated Rounds of Games and appropriate pitch-side medical cover must be provided by the Host Club for every Round of Games, provided that if one or more Teams participating in the Round of Games will be accompanied by pitch-side medical staff meeting the requirements in Rule 22(A)(v) it will not be necessary for the Host Club to provide separate pitch-side medical cover. The Local Event Manager shall confirm in advance whether Teams will be accompanied by pitch-side medical staff in order to determine whether additional coverage is necessary.
- (I) The Host Club shall provide five match balls for each Round of Games.
- (J) The Competition will subsidise the Host Club for up to 90% of the hiring costs of the Designated Host Venue subject to a maximum of £900 (for Tier 1) or £600 (Tier 2) per Round of Games for the 2019/20 Season. The Local Event Manager shall notify the Competition Secretary of the hire costs of the Designated Host Venue not less than 28 days prior to the Round of Games, including a breakdown of all costs. The Competition Secretary will confirm to the Host Club the amount of the reimbursement and pay the venue provider direct no less than 7 days prior to the Round of Games being staged.
- (K) Host Clubs shall retain all gate receipts for each Round of Games.
- (L) The Match Commissioner shall be appointed no later than 14 days before the Round of Games. The Match Commissioner will be granted a suitable workspace at the Designated Host Venue on the day of the Round of Games to enable him/her to carry out his or her duties.
- (M) If a Host Club defaults on its agreement to host a Round of Games, the Competition will make alternative arrangements to host the Round of Games and in doing so shall require the Host Club to pay all associated costs. For the avoidance of doubt, these costs will not be subsidised by the Competition in accordance with Rule 24(J). Failure to comply with this rule will also result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. The defaulting Club shall be deemed in breach of these Rules and sanctioned by the Management Committee, which may include the automatic deduction of three points, the match being awarded to the Team's opponent and/or the Team's removal from the Competition.
- (N) In the event of a Competition Match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club or Competition has control, it should be played on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the Competition Secretary within 7 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. Subject to agreement from the two Clubs, the Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand. In all and any such instances Clubs shall be wholly responsible for their own costs in fulfilling such a re-arranged fixture.
- (O) 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.
- (P) 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 21(D) above. Where both Teams were under suspension the game must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed. No points will be awarded but the game will have been deemed to have been played.
- (Q) All Competition Matches must be played on the designated Round of Games dates originally fixed, which have taken account of The FA and parent County Association Cup Competitions. Postponement of fixtures is not permitted. Only in exceptional circumstances will matches be replayed and then, only at the discretion of the Management Committee. If the Management Committee approves a postponement of a Round of Games, the Competition Secretary must give the Clubs 5 clear days' notice of the revised fixture date (unless otherwise mutually agreed between the Competition and the Clubs). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (R) All matches shall be played on Sundays except at the discretion of the Management Committee and then only moved to a Saturday.
- (S) Within 7 days after each Round of Games, the Local Event Manager shall submit to the Competition Secretary a Round of Games Report in the standard form provided by the Competition.
- (T) No Host Club may hold a club specific presentation or recognition of an event during the Round of Games unless the Host Club has provided at least 21 days' notice to the Competition Secretary and written consent has been received. Exceptions will be at the discretion of the Management Committee. The Match Commissioner shall be made aware of any such agreement by the Competition Secretary in writing.

VENUE SPECIFICATIONS

25.

- (I) Designated Host Venues must meet the following requirements:
 - i. Pitch Size:
 - 1. Tier 1: The pitch must be a minimum of 38 x 18 metres and a maximum of 42 x 25 metres, with a run-off of 2 metres at the perimeter.
 - 2. Tier 2: The pitch must be a minimum of 30 x 15 metres and a maximum of 42 x 25 metres, with a run-off of 1 metre at the perimeter.
 - ii. Spectator Seating:
 - 1. Tier 1: There must be seating for a minimum of 250 people outside the Field of Play.
 - 2. Tier 2: There must be seating for a minimum of 150 people outside the Field of Play.
- (I) The playing surface of the Designated Host Venue shall be wooden, rubber or polymeric and must be compliant with the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game.
- (I) Regulation size Futsal Goals will be provided by the Host Club and must be secured to the floor and contain properly connected nets to the satisfaction of the Match Commissioner.
- (I) Pitch markings shall be in accordance with the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (I) In addition to the seating for spectators, the Designated Host Venue shall have a separate area outside the Field of Play for Players to watch Competition Matches. The Designated Host Venue shall also provide non-wooden team benches or chairs (in uniform style) for the substitute players and team staff.
- (I) The Match Officials table (with a minimum length of 2 meters) shall be located as defined by the FIFA Futsal Laws of The Game and shall be afforded a suitable power supply (13amp) to operate the time-keeper console and any other electronic match day equipment that may be provided.
- (I) The Designated Host Venue shall be equipped with at least one electronic scoreboard which shall be capable of displaying at least the score, fouls, which half is being played and time elapsed and shall be controlled by a console on the Match Officials table.
- (I) The Designated Host Venue shall have at least four changing rooms of appropriate size for use simultaneously by Clubs plus a further changing room for referees.
- (I) No other sports or activities shall be hosted at the Designated Host Venue on the same day as the Round of Games. Where this is not possible, the Local Event Manager shall confirm this to the Competition Secretary at least 3 days before the Round of Games.
- (I) The Designated Host Venue shall have separate entrances for spectators and Players. Where this is not possible, the Local Event Manager shall ensure that the entrance shall not be used by spectators and Players simultaneously to ensure player safety when entering the Designated Host Venue.
- (I) The Competition will provide branding to the Local Event Manager to be used at the Designated Host Venue in accordance with the Venue Specification Guidelines for each Round of Games. All non-Competition branding shall be authorised by the Competition prior to application or use, save for permanent venue branding which the Management Committee may determine should be covered during the Round of Games, if considered appropriate, at the cost of the Host Club. Failure to comply shall be considered a breach of these Rules and will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
 - (i) Where a Club fails to provide that its Designated Host Venue meets the requirements set out in (A)-(K) above, the Club shall be relegated from Tier 1 to the appropriate regional division of Tier 2 at the end of the Season or not permitted to compete in Tier 2 (as appropriate), irrespective of its final position in the Competition. The Management Committee will notify Clubs which it intends to relegate on this basis and, if the Club does not wish to be relegated, it will be given the opportunity to present a case to the Management Committee. The decision of the Management Committee shall be final and binding subject only to an appeal pursuant to Rule 7.
- (I) The Match Commissioner shall grade Clubs against the requirements set out in (A)-(K) above and the Venue Specification Guidelines, which grading shall be made available to all Clubs in that Tier of the Competition. Failure to comply with the requirements set out in (A)-(K) above will also result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (I) Glasses, glass bottles or cans containing alcohol are not permitted in the Designated Host Venue during the Round of Games.
- (I) All Participants are bound by The FA Doping Control Regulations and participants may be subject to a request by a Doping Control Officer to provide a sample for testing. The Host Club must make adequate arrangements at the Designated Host Venue for immediate access to a private room for use by a Doping Control Officer.

PLAYING SEASON, CONDITIONS OF PLAY, TIMES OF KICK-OFF AND SUBSTITUTES

- 26. (A) All Competition Matches shall be played in accordance with the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game.
- (B) Matches shall have a duration of forty minutes as defined in the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game, of two equal halves and played to stop-clock principles only. A Half-time period of 10 minutes shall also be applied and the total intermission whistle-to-whistle shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the Match Commissioner.
The times of kick-off shall be fixed to a standard repeatable format round-to-round and shall not be altered save for specific venue accommodations and only as approved by the Management Committee. Clubs (players and staff) must arrive and report to the designated Match Commissioner not later than 90 (ninety) minutes prior to their allocated kick-off time. Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition Secretary. The Match Commissioner shall ensure all participating Teams and officials adhere to the event run-sheet which shall be consistent across every game in every Round of Games.
- (C) In accordance with the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game, the Match Pro-Forma for each Competition Match must contain 12 Players. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (D) Teams must register sufficient players eligible to play on the date of any specific Round of Games and travel to each Round of Games with sufficient players to ensure that 12 Players can play in every Competition Match. The following provisions shall also apply:
 - (i) Where a Team does not satisfy the criteria stated in (ii) and (iii) below, points attained within the Competition will be deducted in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
 - (ii) Players named on the Match Pro-Forma shall be dressed in full match kit.
 - (iii) Players named on the Match Pro-Forma shall demonstrate a suitable level of fitness to participate if called upon to do by the Match Official.
 - (iv) If in the opinion of the referee, whose decision shall be final, any player named on the Match Pro-Forma is unable to play, he shall be deemed ineligible to participate in the Competition Match and must be removed from the Field of Play. In such a case the entirety of this Rule shall apply.
- (E) A Team may at its discretion and in accordance with the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game use substitute Players in any Competition Match. A Team shall name not less than 7 substitute Players in the Match Pro-Forma. All substitute Players may be used in accordance with the FIFA Futsal Laws of The Game. A Player who has been substituted himself becomes a substitute and may replace a Player at any time.
- (F) The Match Pro-Forma in the Competition standard format shall be provided for each match of the given Round of Games by the Host Club, and shall be completed by both Teams not later than thirty minutes prior to the allotted kick off time, signed by both designated Head Coaches and handed to the Match Commissioner for the purposes of record keeping by the Time-Keeper. At the conclusion of the Competition Match the Match Pro-Forma shall be approved by the referee and time-keeper's signature and each team coach shall countersign their agreement of the match record. No amendments thereafter shall be permitted and the Match Pro-Forma shall act as the official record of the Competition Match and be submitted to the Competition Secretary by the

Match Commissioner within twenty-four hours of conclusion of the Round of Games.

- (G) A Player who has been named on the Match Pro-Forma as a substitute before the start of the Competition Match but does not actually enter the field of play in that game shall be considered to have been a Player in that Competition Match within the meaning of these Rules and as defined within the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game.
- (H) Substitutes shall wear the match day bibs provided by the Competition.
- (I) The Teams taking part in a Competition Match shall identify a Team captain who shall wear an armband and shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of his/her teammates. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

27. (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.
- 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.
- (I) The top placed Team in Tier 1 after all Rounds of Games have been completed shall be deemed the Tier 1 Champion. The Tier 1 Champion shall be considered eligible to be granted admission to the UEFA Futsal Cup, subject to satisfying the entry requirements of that competition and approval from The FA.
 - (C) The two lowest placed Teams in Tier 1 after all Rounds of Games have been completed may be relegated to the appropriate regional division of Tier 2, as determined by the Management Committee giving due consideration to geographical base and overall regional league composition. Each relegated Team must satisfy the Criteria for Tier 2 in order to be allocated to Tier 2. If the relegated Team does not satisfy the Tier 2 Criteria, it shall be removed from the Competition.
 - (D) Irrespective of its final position after all Rounds of Games have been completed, any Tier 1 Team which does not satisfy the Tier 1 requirements shall be relegated to Tier 2 or (if it does not satisfy the Criteria for Tier 2) removed from the Competition. If one Team is removed from Tier 1 on that basis, the second lowest Team shall not be relegated provided they can meet the Tier 1 Criteria. If more than one Team is removed from Tier 1 on that basis, the two bottom placed Teams shall not be relegated provided that they can meet the Tier 1 requirements.
 - (B) Tier 2 Clubs wishing to be considered for promotion to Tier 1 for the next Season must submit an expression of interest, in the form provided by the Competition, to the Competition Secretary by no later than 31 December. Clubs must also submit documentation identifying their compliance with the Tier 1 Criteria by no later than 28 February. The Competition Secretary will confirm to each Club whether it has met the Criteria to the satisfaction of the Management Committee by no later than 30 April. If no Team eligible for promotion from Tier 2 can satisfy the Tier 1 criteria, the lowest placed Teams in Tier 1 will not be relegated (provided they satisfy the Tier 1 Criteria).
 - (C) The top placed Team in each regional division of Tier 2 after all Rounds of Games have been completed shall be deemed the Tier 2 Regional Divisional Champion. Subject to each Club satisfying the Criteria for Tier 1, each Tier 2 Regional Divisional Champion and the Team which (after the Tier 2 Regional Divisional Champions) has the highest number of points across the divisions in Tier 2 after all Rounds of Games shall compete in a play-off to determine promotion to Tier 1. The Competition Secretary will draw Teams for two semi-finals. The winner of each semi-final will compete in a final and shall be promoted to Tier 1. The winner of the final shall be deemed the Tier 2 Champion.
 - (D) If any Team which is eligible to participate in the play-off for promotion does not satisfy the Tier 1 Criteria or does not wish to be considered for promotion, the Team which has the next highest number of points across the divisions in Tier 2 may compete in the play-off, subject to the Club satisfying the Tier 1 Criteria.
 - (i) A Tier 2 Regional Divisional Champion not wishing to be considered for promotion via the play-off shall notify the Competition Secretary no later than 24 hours following the final Round of Games.
 - (ii) A Team which attains promotion through the play-off and then rejects the opportunity to be promoted to Tier 1 shall be fined £250 and the Management Committee, acting in sole discretion, shall determine which (if any) Club shall be promoted to Tier 1 in its place.
 - (E) The two lowest placed Teams in each regional division of Tier 2 after all Rounds of Games have been completed may be removed from the Competition in the following circumstances:
 - (i) Where such a Team is unable to satisfy the Criteria for Tier 2, it shall be removed from the Competition;
 - (ii) Where no other Team can satisfy the Tier 2 requirements, but where any of the two lowest placed Teams in each Tier 2 league can, they shall not be removed from the Competition.
 - (iii) Irrespective of its final position after all Rounds of Games have been completed, any Tier 2 Team which does not satisfy the Tier 2 requirements shall be removed from the Competition.
 - (iv) If one Team is removed from Tier 2 on that basis, the second lowest Team shall not be relegated provided they can meet the Tier 2 Criteria. If more than one Team is removed from Tier 2 on that basis, the two bottom placed Teams shall not be relegated provided that they can meet the Tier 2 requirements.
 - (F) The two lowest placed Teams in each regional division of Tier 2 must reapply to participate in Tier 2 and shall be considered, along with any new applicants, by reference to the Tier 2 Criteria only.

DEVELOPMENT TEAM

- 28.
- (A) A Club with a Team participating in Tier 1 may enter a Development Team in Tier 2.
 - (B) If a Club enters two Teams into the Competition, they shall be administered and treated as two separate Clubs with separately identified and licenced coaching staff. However, the same Club Officers may act for both Teams.
 - (C) Players registered with a Development Team may only play for the Development Team save for that:
 - (i) Each Development Team shall be able to permit a maximum of five Players to play in up to 5 matches for the Tier 1 Team. These Players shall be referred to as "Wild Card Players". If a Player who is registered for a Development Team plays for the Tier 1 Team on five occasions in any one Playing Season, the Player must be compulsorily transferred to the Tier 1 Team and may no longer play for the Development Team. For the avoidance of doubt, this transfer can occur outside the Transfer Windows. Both Teams must comply with the registration requirements in Rule 18.
 - (ii) A Player may only be classified as a Wild-Card Player on a Match Pro-Forma in respect of a particular Competition Match and the Player's status as a

Wild-Card-Player cannot be transferred to any other Player, irrespective of whether the Wild-Card Player played in the relevant Competition Match.

- (iii) A Wild-Card-Player who is transferred to another Club or Team shall automatically lose their status as a Wild-Card-Player.
- (iv) A Player may only be classified as a Wild-Card-Player for two Playing Seasons.
- (v) If a Player is transferred between a Development Team and a Tier 1 Team of the same Club, both Teams shall be treated as independent and the Club shall submit a FUTTR.
- (vi) Where a Player transfers between two Teams at the same Club and then back to the first Team at the Club within the same Season, this shall be treated as a third Team and the Player may not participate for that Team in the Competition in the current Playing Season.

MATCH OFFICIALS

29. (A) Match Officials shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the Sanctioning Authority.

- (i) In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed referee the appointed senior assistant referee shall take charge and a substitute assistant referee shall be appointed by the Match Commissioner. In cases where there are no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance, the Clubs shall agree upon a referee replacement. 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.
- (ii) The Designated Host Club shall be responsible for the appropriate appointment of a suitably knowledgeable time-keeper for all matches of the Round of Games.
- (iii) The appointed referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the Designated Host Venue in all Competition Matches, subject to the final determination of the Local Authority or the owners of the Designated Host Venue, which must be accepted.
- (iv) 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 inclusive of travel expenses.

Match Officials will be paid their fees and/or expenses by the Competition within fourteen days of the Competition Round of Games. Clubs will be charged their proportion of the Match Officials' fees and expenses as defined in the Fees Tariff, which will be pro-rated for the Playing Season and paid by Clubs to the Competition on a monthly basis by Direct Debit. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (v) 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 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 Designated Host Venue, the allocated match fee as defined in the Fees Tariff, which includes expenses. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (vi) A referee not keeping his or her 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.
- (vii) 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.
- (viii) 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 and/or Affiliated Association.
- (ix) 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 Competition Secretary within two days of the Competition Match.
- (x) Match Officials shall be supplied, each season, with an electronic copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.
- (xi) Match Officials shall have undertaken a RESPECT briefing offered by The FA and/or Affiliated Association or the Competition.

SCHEDULE A

FEES TARIFF		
RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE
4 (A)	CLUB ENTRY FEE (all Tiers)	£ 200
4 (B)	CLUB/TEAM ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION T2 / T1	£ 200/300
4 (C)	DEPOSIT T2 / T1	£ 200/500
7 (C), 7 (E)	PROTEST/APPEAL FEES	£ 50
18 (B)(iii)	PLAYER REGISTRATION FEE	£ 25
20 (B)	TRANSFER FEE	£ 50
29 (E) & (F)	REFEREE FEES T2 / T1	£ 80 per Round of Games

FINES TARIFF		
RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
2 (G)	FAILURE TO AFFILIATE	£ 100
2 (J)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	£ 100
2 (L)	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITIONS	£ 100 per team
3	FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME	£ 150
4 (C)	FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT BY THE DEADLINE	£ 50% of deposit
4 (E)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE AFFILIATION NUMBER/DETAILS FORM DEPOSIT BY THE DEADLINE	£ 100
5 (F)	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS	£ 100
6 (H)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£ 150
6 (I)	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	£ 50% of fine imposed
8 (D)	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	£ 100
11 (A)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE DEADLINE	Deposit forfeited
13 (A)	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY	£ 150
16 (C)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£ 150
19 (A)	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER	£ 50 per offence
19 (B) (i)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE SEASON COMMENCING	£ 50 per registration under the prescribed number
19 (B) (iv)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH HOME GROWN PLAYER RULE	£250 + 3 points
21 (B)	REGISTERING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS, OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION FORM	£ 150 per offence
21 (C) (ii)	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	£ 50 per irregularity
21 (D)	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£ 100 + 1 point per individual Player offence
22 (B)	FAILURE TO SATISFY COACHING QUALIFICATIONS OF BENCH STAFF	£100 per offence per game
22 (A) (v)	FAILURE TO SATISFY APPROPRIATE MEDICAL/PHYSIO QUALIFICATIONS OF BENCH STAFF	£100
22 (B)	FAILURE TO REGISTER CLUB STAFF BY PRE-SEASON DEADLINE	£100
22 (B)	FAILURE FOR PITCHSIDE STAFF TO WEAR CLUB ACCREDITATION	£50
22 (B)	FAILURE FOR PITCHSIDE STAFF TO WEAR APPROPRIATE CLUB ATTIRE TRACKSUITS/ATTIRE	£50
123 (vi)	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO NO CHANGE OF COLOURS	£ 100
23 (vii)	FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS	£ 25 per shirt per offence
23 (ix)	FAILURE TO TRAVEL WITH APPROPRIATE PLAYING KITS (HOME & AWAY)	£100
24 (E)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£ 250
24 (M)	CLUB DEFAULTING ON HOSTING ROUND OF GAMES	£500 + 3 points
24 (N)	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED	£ 250 + 3 points
24 (D)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH PITCH MARKING REQUIREMENTS	£100
24 (K)	FAILURE TO USE BRANDING PACK PROVIDED BY THE COMPETITION	£100
25 (L)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH VENUE SPECIFICATION	£ 100
26 (C)	PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS	£ 100 + £50 per player + 1 point per player
26 (D) i	FAILURE TO PROVIDE PLAYERS APPROPRIATELY DRESSED IN MATCH KIT & OF SUITABLE FITNESS TO PLAY	£150
26 (I)	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	£ 50
29 (E)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES AND EXPENSES	£ 50% of sum due
29 (F)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED	£ 50% of sum due plus sum due

29 (H)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK	£ 50
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