

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.

"Deposit" 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 Competition and **"Team"** means a side from a Club especially where a Club provides more than one Team in a division in accordance with the Rules.

"Competition" means The FA Women's National League.

"Competition Match" means any match played or to be played under the jurisdiction of the 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.

"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.

"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.

"Ground" means the ground on which the Club's team(s) plays its Competition Matches.

"International Loan" means any loan of a Contract Player to or from an International Club and which is completed in accordance with Rule 8.(P).

"Long Term Loan" means a loan transfer in excess of 93 days of a Player.

"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.

"Player" means any Contract Player, Non Contract Player or other Player who plays or who is eligible to play for a Club.

"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 Football Association Women's National League Rules Season 2018 – 2019

“Scholarship” means a Scholarship as set out in Rule C 3 (a) (i) of the Rules of The FA.

“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 Sheet” means a form provided by the Competition on which the names of the Players taking part in a Competition match are listed.

“The FA” means The Football Association Limited.

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

- (B) **“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. 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.
- (C) 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 16.
- (D) The Competition will be known as “The FA Women’s National League” (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.
- (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.

NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

2 (A) This Competition shall consist of not more than 72 Clubs plus Reserve Section approved by the Sanctioning Authority.

The Clubs in the 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 FAWNLS Northern Premier Division and Southern Premier Division, Division 1 North, Division 1 Midlands, Division 1 South East & Division 1 South West respectively. Club 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 FAWNLS member Clubs and full member FA Women’s Championship and FA Women’s Super League Clubs. A Reserve team of a club that is relegated from the FA WNL may remain in the FAWNLS 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 Annual General Meeting.

(B) All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date on the Form “D” to The Football Association and must have a constitution approved by the Sanctioning Authority.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to The Football Association and the constituent teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in divisions, each not exceeding 12 in number.

Only one team shall be permitted from any Club to participate in the same division as another team from the same Club unless there is no viable alternative because of logistical issues and/or reasons linked to participation and geographical boundaries

The Competition will obtain the prior approval of the Sanctioning Authority in the event of a division comprising of more than one team from the same Club. 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 via transfers of registration in accordance with these Rules.

(C) 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 appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.

(D) Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the Competition including but not limited to, Charter Standard and RESPECT programmes.

Clubs shall not enter any of their teams playing in the Competition in any other Competitions (with the exception of FA and County FA Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee. Clubs must apply for consent no later than 1st July in each season

(G) At the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting 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 12.

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

3. (A) Applications by Clubs for admission to the Competition or the entry of an additional team(s) must be made in writing to the Secretary and must be accompanied by the Entry Fee set out in the Fees Tariff per team which shall be returned in the event of non-election.

At the discretion of a majority of the accredited voting members present applications, of which due notice has been given, may be received at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting.

When Rule 12(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 £75.00 per First Team and £50.00 per Reserve Team payable before 1st July each year.

(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 by or on behalf of the Club on such terms and for such period as it may in its entire discretion think fit.

(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 annually to the Secretary in writing by 1st July of its Sanctioning Authority affiliation number for the forthcoming Season, Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its Headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the Competition

MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

- 4 (A) The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and three ordinary members who shall all be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

(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 1ST May 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 1st May 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.

If an election is required this will be conducted on the day of the Annual General Meeting in the form of a ballot.

(C) The Management Committee shall meet and when required with no more than three calendar months between each meeting.

On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the 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 nominated Officers.

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

5. (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 Football Association 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 apply to the procedure of any sub-committee).

In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chairman 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 5(I), 6(H), and 19, for all breaches of Rule a formal written charge must be issued to the Club concerned. Club charged shall be given seven days from the date of notification to reply to the charge and given the opportunity to:-

- (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 of mitigation 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 £250 and, when setting any fine, the Competition 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 16.

Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within seven days.

(F) More than fifty percent (50%) of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any sub-committee thereof. Business may be transacted by conference call.

(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.

(I) All fines and charges are payable forthwith and 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 14 days will result in fixtures being

withdrawn until such time as the outstanding payments are paid.

(J) A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or 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 Annual General or Special General Meeting called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Competition season.

(L) The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6. (A) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 30th June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least 75% of Members are present and entitled to vote:-
- (i) To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.
 - (ii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
 - (iii) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.
 - (iv) Constitution of the Competition for ensuing season.
 - (v) Election of Officers and Management Committee.
 - (vi) Appointment of Auditors.
 - (vii) Alteration of Rules, if any.
 - (viii) Fix the date for the commencement of the season and kick off times applicable to the Competitions.
 - (ix) Fix the date for the end of the Playing Season.
 - (x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an Annual General Meeting.
- (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 change of Rules.
- (C) A signed copy of the duly audited/verified Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to Sanctioning Authority within fourteen days of its adoption by the Annual General Meeting.
- (D) Each Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an Annual General Meeting at least one of which should be an Officer of the Club, who shall be named to the League Secretary 14 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Fourteen days' notice shall be given of any Meeting.
- (E) Clubs who have withdrawn their Membership of the Competition during the 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 17.
- (F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of hands/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 Member Club.
- (H) Any continuing Club must be represented at the Annual General Meeting
- (I) Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an Annual General Meeting.

AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

7. The Chairman and the Secretary of each Club which is an unincorporated Association and two directors of each Club which is an incorporated entity shall complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with the Competition together with the Application for Membership for the coming season, or upon indicating that the Club intends to compete.

"We, (A) of (address).....
 (Chairman/Director) and (B) of (address)
 (secretary/Director) of Football Club (Limited)

have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the FA Women's National League and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club to conform to those Rules and Regulations 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 16."

Any alteration of the Chairman and/or Secretary on the above Agreement must be notified to the County Football Associations(s) to which the Club is affiliated and to the Secretary of the Competition. The League Secretary may, in certain circumstances require the completion of a revised form.

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

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

8. (A)

A Player is one who, being in all other aspects eligible, has:

(i) signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink, countersigned by an Officer which is submitted to the Competition to be received no later than 4pm on the Friday before a Sunday Competition match, or no later than 4pm on the day of a midweek Competition match, and whose registration has been confirmed by the Competition prior to that Player playing in a Competition match or

(ii) 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 with the opposing Club, and submitted to the Competition within two days of the match. The Player shall not play again until the Club is in possession of the approval of the Competition. A maximum of 1 player may be registered in accordance with this paragraph 8(B)(iii); or (b). Player Registration Forms may be faxed or a scanned copy sent electronically via email but this will not be accepted as the official document. The original form must be sent in accordance of this rule within 7 days.

Players may complete an interactive electronic version of the form fully and correctly including the electronic signature field. The form must be electronically countersigned by the Chairman or Secretary of the Club. The form must be emailed directly to the

Registration Secretary. Electronically signed completed forms will be accepted as the official document.

Registration forms for players aged 16 or 17 must be accompanied by a signature in ink of a parent/guardian. Electronic signatures will not be accepted.

(iii) registered through WGS

Any registration form which is sent by either of the means set out at Rules 8(B) (i) or (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, the registration will not be processed.

For clubs registering players under Rules 8(B) (i) or (ii) registration forms will be provided in a format to be determined by the Competition. For Clubs registering players via WGS (under Rule 8 (B) (iii)) Clubs must access WGS in order to complete the registration process.

(B)

(i) Contract players are permitted to play in this competition.

It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any Player registered to that 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.

(ii) While serving in any branch of Her Majesty's Regular Forces, a player must first obtain the consent of her Association Secretary before signing a registration form to play for a Club.

(iii) Each Club must have at least 11 players registered 14 days before the start of each Playing Season.

(C) Only 2 players who have signed registration forms for a Club in the FA WSL or FA Women's Championship during the 2018/19 season will be permitted to play for one team in any one match of The FA Women's National League.

An exception to this rule will apply to any FAWSL or FA WC registered player who is de-registered in the June to September or December to January Transfer window and any player whose registration has expired and is not subsequently engaged by another FAWSL or FA WC Club.

This rule does not apply to loan signings.

(D) 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 the Competition, 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.

(E) A fee (£3) as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/team for each player registered.

Clubs will be invoiced by the Competition twice yearly for registration fees owing. All outstanding monies must be paid within 21 days of the date of invoice. Failure to do so will incur a fine as set out in the Fines Tariff.

For clubs registering players under Rules 8(B)(i) and (ii), Registration forms will be provided to Clubs electronically by the League Secretary. For clubs registering players via WGS (under Rule 8(B)(iii)), clubs must access WGS in order to complete the registration process.

(F) 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, priority of registration shall decide for which Club the player shall be registered

The Competition Registration Secretary / General Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

(G) It shall be a breach of Rule for a player to:-

- (i) Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same season without first being transferred or temporary transferred (loaned).
 - (ii) Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that season except for the purpose of a transfer or temporary transfer (loan).
 - (iii) Submit a signed registration form (either in paper or electronically) for registration or submit a registration through WGS that the player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.
- (H)(i) The Management Committee shall have the power to accept the registration of any player subject to the provisions of clauses (ii) and (iii) below.
- (ii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player or may fine any player, at their discretion who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities. (Subject to Rule 16).
- (iii) 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 16) subject to the right of appeal to the FA or the relevant County Football Association. Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, 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 or intending to be registered with.
- (iv) 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.

(Note: Action under Clause (iii) 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.)

(I)

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 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 Registrations Secretary 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 Registrations Secretary and to the Player concerned within three days of receipt of the notification.

Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within three days, the Registrations 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 subject to Rule 8(B).

In the event of an objection to a transfer the matter shall be referred to the Management Committee for a decision. See Appendix A for guidance.

(J) A player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after noon 31st March except by special permission of the Management Committee.

(K) A Club shall keep a list of the players it registers and a record of the games in which they have played for the club, and shall produce such records upon demand by the Management Committee.

(L) 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 any duly appointed Member Club representative at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one Season only.

In the event of a player without a written contract changing her status to that of a contract player with the same Club, another Club in the Competition or with a Club in another Competition her registration as a player without a written contract will automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 8 (A)(i)

(M) A player shall not be eligible to play for a team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding match (as specified in Rule 12(A)) unless the player has played 3 games for that team in this Competition in the current season.

(N) 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, and have levied upon it a fine.

The Management Committee may also order that such match or matches be replayed on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee which may also levy penalty points against the Club in default.

The Management Committee may vary this decision in respect of the points gained only in circumstances where;

- (i) The ineligibility is due to the failure to obtain an International Transfer Certificate or where the ineligibility is related to the Player's status.

In exceptional circumstances the Management Committee may, at its discretion, award the points available in the match in question to the opponents, subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed.

(O) The following Clause applies to Competitions involving players in full-time secondary education):-

- (i) Priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations activities.
- (ii) The availability of children must be cleared with the Head Teachers (except for Sunday Leagues).

(iii) To play open age football the player must have achieved the age of 16.

(P) Temporary Transfers (Loans)

- 1.1. Short Term Loans and Long Term Loans of Contract players shall be allowed to or from:
 - 1.1.1. Clubs in membership of the Competition;
 - 1.1.2. any other league authorised by The FA from time to time; or
 - 1.1.3. an International Club.

1.2. Clubs may sign players on Short Term Loan or Long Term Loan from an International Club in accordance with the principles set out in Article 10 of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players subject to the following:

- 1.2.1. The onus is on the transferee club to identify whether the signing of the player from an International Club is a permanent transfer or an International Loan. Players may not be signed from an International Club on any other basis.
- 1.2.2. Players signed on International Loan must accept an employment contract with the transferee club in a form equivalent to the standard form contract.
- 1.2.3. The onus is on the transferee club to comply with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.

1.3. 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 FA WNL Temporary Transfer Form H2. For loan transfers between clubs in different competitions the transfer must be completed on FA WNL Form H3. Forms must be returned to the competition secretary as stated in rule 8.(A).

1.4. 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.

1.5. No more than four (4) Players engaged on Short Term Loan or Long Term Loan may join a Club from another Club (or club) in any Playing Season.

Short Term Loan Transfers

1.6. A Club can register up to a maximum of two (2) Players on Short Term Loans during a Playing Season.

1.7. The transfer must be completed on either The FA WNL Temporary Transfer Form H2 or 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.

1.8. 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.

1.9. To extend the period of any Short Term Loan transfer a further FA WNL Temporary Transfer Form H2 or FA WNL Form H3 must be completed and copies sent to The FA and the Competition Secretary in line with rule 8.(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.

1.10. 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.

1.11. Short Terms 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

1.12. A Club can register up to a maximum of two (2) Players on Long Term Loans during a Playing Season.

1.13. Long Term Loan transfers shall only be approved provided that:

1.13.1. Subject to the proviso that the duration of a Long Term Loan must be the time between two FA WSL Transfer Windows, a Long Term Loan may last either half a Playing Season or a full Playing Season.

1.13.2. 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 FA WSL Transfer Window.

1.13.3. 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 FA WSL Transfer Window.

1.13.4. 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 League Matches of the transferor club (where it is Club) will not be eligible to play in League Matches for the transferor club in that Playing Season.

1.13.5. 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 League, such extenuating circumstances to be determined in the League's absolute discretion. A goalkeeper shall not be permitted to resume any Long Term Loan following the exercise of a recall.

1.14. To extend the period of any Long Term Loan transfer a further FA WNL Temporary Transfer Form H2 or FA WNL Form H3 must be completed and copies sent to The FA and the Competition Secretary.

CLUB COLOURS, CLUB NAME

9. (A) Every Club must register the colour of its shirts, shorts and socks with the Secretary by 1st July who shall decide as to their suitability.

Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from other players and the match officials.

No player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts.

During the Close Season, the Competition Secretary shall obtain from Clubs written details of their first and second choice colours (shirts, shorts and socks) and such details shall be contained in the Directory of Clubs in the League Handbook. Clubs are required to wear their first choice colours both at home and away where possible unless mutually otherwise agreed.

The colours registered by each Club shall be worn during the next season and no changes either in the colours or combination of colours shall be permitted during the course of the season except in the circumstances set out in this Rule or with prior approval of the

Competition.

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 colour of the goalkeeper's jersey) at least five days before the match.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours, the away team shall make the change. A Club must not delay the scheduled time of kick off for a competition match by not having a change of colours. Shirts must be numbered and correspond with the numbers appearing on the match result / team sheet.

In League matches, the players' shirts may carry advertising subject to the Rules relating to the clothing of players as laid down by The Football Association.

The Captain shall wear a distinguishing Respect armband to indicate her status.

(B) Any Club wishing to change its name must obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority and from the Management Committee. Any Club wishing to change its colours during the Playing Season must obtain permission from the Management Committee.

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

10. (A) The Annual General Meeting shall determine the date for the commencement of the season

The dates of all matches shall be arranged by the League Fixture Secretary on a home and away basis in conjunction with the Management Committee and notified to Clubs. Receipt of these fixtures must be acknowledged when instructed to do so. Failure to do so will result in a fine as set out in the Fines Tariff.

- (B) All 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 matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Management Committee and shall satisfy the minimum ground grading requirements as determined by The Football Association. 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 matches in the Competition and to order the Club concerned to play its fixtures on another ground.

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. 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 10(D).

All 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.

Any League match which, for any reason falls short of 90 minutes may be ordered to count as a completed fixture or be replayed in full as the Management Committee may, in its absolute discretion determine.

Clubs will be required to play midweek fixtures. The kick-off time for midweek matches should be mutually agreed by both Clubs. If agreement cannot be reached the kick-off time will be 7.45pm.

In the event of a Club's Home ground not having floodlights that Club will be required to take all reasonable steps to secure a suitable alternative venue for the purpose of fulfilling a midweek fixture where necessary. Any fixture failing to be fulfilled due to the Home Club failing or refusing to secure a floodlit facility will be considered as an unfulfilled fixture for the purpose of League rules

Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time may be fined up to £25.00 or be otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee may determine. 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 and at least two match quality footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. It will be the responsibility of the Referee to ensure safe return of the match balls to the Home Club. The suitability of these balls for play is at the sole discretion of the Referee.

Where the League has provided match balls these must be used at all Competition matches. Any Club failing to use match balls provided by the League without exceptional reason will be fined as set out in the Fines Tariff.

Any Club not wishing to use League provided match balls must obtain written consent. Any alternative match ball must be of the same brand as League provided match balls or as otherwise instructed by the Management Committee.

If any of the balls supplied to the Referee have substantial defects or if less than 2 match quality balls have been supplied, he/she will include this in the 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.

The sleeves of the shirts of all Players in all Competition matches shall carry on an annual basis a Competition logo as supplied by the Competition on the RIGHT sleeve of the shirts as ordered by the Management Committee.

- (C) Except by permission of the Management Committee all matches must be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The Football Association and all relevant County Association Cup Competitions.

All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a match with the consent of the Fixtures Secretary.

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).

- (D) The Secretary of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground and time of kick-off to the match officials and the Secretary of the opposing Club at least 5 clear days prior to the playing of the match. The away Club shall seek

and acknowledge receipt of such particulars. If not so provided, the away Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition.

(E) A minimum of 7 players will constitute a team for a Competition match.

(F) (i) Home and away matches shall be played. Clubs must be available to play on all Sundays from the commencement of the Season until the closure of their fixture programme. The Annual General Meeting shall fix the time of kick-off between 11am and 3pm for Sunday matches if both clubs are in agreement. If agreement cannot be reached the kick off time will be 2pm.

Clubs will be required to play midweek fixtures. The kick-off time for midweek matches should be mutually agreed by both Clubs. If agreement cannot be reached the kick-off time will be 7.45pm.

In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have power to inflict a fine, deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points from the match in question to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals. The minimum fines shall be as follows:

- First Team Match - £100.00
- Reserve Team Match - £25.00

Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Management Committee shall have power to order a 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.

(ii) Any Club with more than one team in the Competition shall always fulfill its fixture, within the Competition, in the following order of precedence: - First Team, Reserve Team, A/Development Team.

(iii) Any Club unable to fulfill a fixture or where a fixture 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. Within three days of the postponement, the official postponement form must be completed and returned. Any Club failing to comply with this rule will be fined £20.

(iv) In the event of a 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 5 days the Management Committee shall have power to order the 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 the abandonment to stand.

(v) The Management Committee shall review all 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 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 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 all points for the match as void. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned match.

(vi) 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 Association 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 8(O) above. Where both teams were under suspension the game must be declared null and void.

(G) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use 3 substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from 5 players.

In the FA Womens National League Reserve Section a Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use 5 substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from 5 players.

Both teams must provide a list of players, including substitutes, with their correct shirt numbers, to the Referee at least 30 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time and in the presence of a representative from the opposing Club. Team sheets will then be exchanged. Failure to do so will incur a fine as set out in the Fines Tariff.

The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than 30 minutes before the start of the match and a player not so named may not take part in the match.

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 8 of this Competition.

(H) The half time interval shall be of 15 minutes duration, but it shall not exceed fifteen minutes the half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.

(I) The Clubs taking part in the fixture Competition Match shall identify a team captain designated with a Respect captain's armband who has a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of her team mates.

(J) A Club under suspension by the County Football Association or Football Association and whose suspension is not lifted by 4 clear days before the date of the fixture will not be allowed to fulfil that fixture on the scheduled date. The fixture will be considered as unfulfilled and dealt with under the provision of Rule 10(F)

(K) Northern and Southern Premier Division Clubs must provide a programme for spectators on match days. Consisting of a minimum of 4 pages including Home & Away Club information, squad lists and match official information.

Division 1 Clubs must provide at least a team sheet for spectators on match days.

A copy of the programme or team sheet shall be sent or emailed to the League Secretary within 3 days of the match. Failure to comply with this rule will incur a fine of £50.00.

(L) 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 League 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.

(M) Drinks shall be provided for the visiting team and Match Officials on arrival and half-time and buffet style refreshments provided at full-time. Any Club in breach of this rule will be fined a minimum of £50.

Opposing teams shall confirm at the time of receipt of particulars of match arrangements that they will stay following a match to partake of refreshments, or report any changes to this intention in advance of the match as far as possible. Any opposing team not staying to partake of provided refreshments without reasonable notice may be liable to contribution of costs incurred by the home team as the Management Committee deems appropriate up to a maximum of £25.

(N)(i) 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 League Secretary within 48 hours of the scheduled fixture to substantiate any application for postponement.

(ii) 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.

(iii) There must be in attendance for every Club a holder of a Football Association approved Emergency First Aid Certificate.

(iv) There must be a suitable qualified person (minimum F.A. Save a Life) in attendance.

(O)(i) All matches shall be played on grounds deemed suitable by the Management Committee and shall satisfy the minimum requirements of the Women's Pyramid of Football Ground Grading Document for FAWNL Northern & Southern Premier Division Clubs and Division 1 Clubs respectively as outlined at W1 - Appendix H & W2 - Appendix I.

(ii) Grounds may be inspected and subject to the approval of the Management Committee or persons designated by the Management Committee. This also applies to any Club moving to another ground

(iii) Provision to be made for gate receipts to be taken. Where a gate is taken a return must be made to the League Secretary on the required Form. Where a gate is taken, the away Club shall be issued with 25 passes on a complimentary basis (complimentary passes are for players, managing & coaching staff and Club Officials ONLY) Passes are not for use for friends, spectators or family members.

REPORTING RESULTS

11. (A) The Fixtures Secretary must receive within 3 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 13, or any other information required by the Competition.

Original Forms can be scanned and submitted electronically provided they are clearly legible.

The Football Association Women's National League Rules Season 2018 – 2019

(B) Both Clubs shall send the correct result of the match and the attendance by electronic text message to the League's nominated number within 60 minutes of the end of the match.

This shall include the results of non-League matches (i.e. County Cup and FA Women's Cup).

(C) Within 2 days of each fixture, Clubs shall enter team details and any other information as prescribed by the League Secretary onto the Full Time website. Failure to comply except in circumstances acknowledged by the Management Committee will incur a fine not exceeding £20.00.

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

12. (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 match. The teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective Divisions at the conclusion shall be adjudged the winners. Matches must not be played for double points. In circumstances where two or more teams are equal on points team rankings shall be determined by goal difference where the goals scored against by each team shall be deducted from the goals scored by that team and the largest positive difference shall be placed the highest. In the event of the goal difference being equal the highest placed team shall be the team which has scored the most goals. In the event that two or more teams have the same goal difference and have scored the same number of goals then the highest placed team shall be the team which has won the most matches.

In the event of the two 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 Season will be the highest placed team.

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 as determined by the Management Committee. Including the format, timing, venue of, and all other rules relating to a determining match or matches.

(B) The following promotion and relegation processes shall be applied for the 2018-19 season:

FAWNL Northern and Southern Premier Division:

The last two placed teams shall be relegated from each division and replaced by the teams nominated by Division 1 North & Midlands and Division 1 South East & South West respectively.

FAWNL Divisions One North, One Midlands, One South East, One South West:

Automatic promotion and relegation shall be applied for the first one and last two teams in each Division except as provided for hereunder, subject to the provisions of Rule 2(B).

(i) Should one or more teams withdraw from any one Division after the fixtures have commenced an equal number of teams to those withdrawing in that Division shall not be automatically relegated.

(ii) Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the season may be filled on any of the following ways:

- (a) retention of otherwise relegated team(s)
- (b) additional promotion of the next ranked team(s) from the Division below
- (c) election

(iii) The last two teams in the lowest Division shall retire, but be eligible for re-election except as below, and be subject to the conditions outlined above.

Divisions will operate with a maximum of 12 teams. Teams promoted from Division One will be duly placed in the Northern and Southern Premier Division at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(C) In addition to the team(s) automatically promoted under Rule 12(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-Off as follows:

the first placed teams of the Northern and Southern Premier Division shall compete in a play-off final match to determine the overall FA Women's National League Champion. The match will be 90 minutes duration with the addition of extra-time and penalties if required. The Championship Play-Off Final 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 Final match, the title shall be awarded to the non-defaulting Club.

For Season 2018/19 the Champion Club as determined by the Championship Play-Off Final match outlined at paragraph (iv) will be promoted to FA Women's Championship subject to eligibility and ability to meet FA Women's Championship Licensing Criteria.

(D) 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. The Club shall be fined £50. For the purposes of this Rule 12(D) a completed fixture shall include any Competition Match(es) which has been awarded by the Management Committee

If a Club ceases to operate after the completion of the season's fixture programme, but before the Annual General Meeting, one or more fewer teams will be relegated.

If a Club ceases to operate between the Annual General Meeting and commencement of the following season, no adjustment to the League will be made.

REFEREES

13. (A) Registered Referees (and Assistant Referees where approved by the FA or County FA) for all matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the Sanctioning Authority.

(B) 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.

In cases where there are no officially appointed Assistant Referees, the Clubs shall agree upon a Referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that game, 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.

(C) Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee. Players and substitutes are not permitted to perform the role of Club Assistant Referee.

(D) The appointed Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and the decision shall be final subject to either in the case of a ground of a Local Authority or the owners of a ground, the Representative of that body is the sole arbiter and

whose decision must be accepted.

A copy of the Certificate of Match Postponement detailing the reasons for the postponement, whether by the Referee, Local Authority or the owners of the ground, must be submitted to the League 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 10 (F)

(E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the sanctioning Association Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee of:

Northern & Southern Premier Division - £35 Referee, £25 Assistant Referee and travel expenses of 28p per mile up to a maximum of £35.

Divisions One - £30 Referee, £22 Assistant Referee and travel expenses of 28p per mile up to a maximum of £20.

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 cheque.

An Equalisation Fund for Match Official expenses will be operated.

(F) In the event of a 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 plus expenses.

Where a match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Officials, if they attend the ground, their full fee and expenses.

(G) 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 Association with which he or she is registered.

(H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The Football Association, award marks to the Referee for each match and the name of the Referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the Match Official Appointment System (MOAS) or on any other Form so provided by the Competition. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined or dealt with as the Management Committee 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 Football Association/County Association.

(J) The Referee shall submit a report via the Match Official Appointment System (MOAS) giving the result of the match, the number of players in each team and the time of kick-off within two days of the match.

(K) Referees and Assistant Referees shall be supplied with access to a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.

(L) Not applicable to this competition

(M) 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 League Secretary. 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 £20.00

Each Club shall have a set of Assistant Referee flags available.

(N) All match officials must report to the ground at least 60 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time. 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 £25.00.

The late arrival of any Match Official shall be reported to the League Secretary by the Home Club.

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

14. (A) A 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 by 31st March each season. This does not apply to a Club moving in accordance with Rule 12.

(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.

(C) In the event of a Member Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £50, the Management Committee are empowered to refer the debt under the FA Football Debt Recover provisions.

PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS

15. (A)(i) All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee.

(ii) 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 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 in duplicate with the Secretary within 7 days (excluding Sundays) of the 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 enquiry 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.

(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 the Club should indicate such when forwarding the written response.

PROTESTS, APPEALS

16. (A) 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 which shall be forfeited in the event of the protest, appeal, claim or complaint not being upheld, and the party not succeeding may, in addition, be ordered to pay the costs at the direction of the Management Committee.
- (B) All such protests, claims, complaints and appeals must be received in writing by the Secretary within fourteen days of the event or decision causing any of these to be submitted.
- (C) The Management Committee shall also have power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the Management Committee shall direct.
- (D) 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, in such respect the Sanctioning Authority may (but is not obliged to):
- (i) invite submissions by the parties involved;
 - (ii) convene a hearing to hear the appeal;
 - (iii) permit new evidence; or
 - (iv) impose deadlines as are appropriate

Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Management Committee.

(E) If so requested the Management Committee may arbitrate on any disputes, protests, appeals, claims or complaints between two Clubs in which event both Clubs shall send a non-returnable fee. Such arbitration shall be final and binding upon the parties to the arbitration.

(F) No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an Annual General Meeting or Special General meeting unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.

EXCLUSION OF CLUBS OR TEAMS MISCONDUCT, CLUBS, OFFICIALS, PLAYERS, MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

17. (A) At the Annual General Meeting, or Special General Meeting called for the purpose, Notice of Motion having been duly circulated on the Agenda, the accredited delegates present shall have the (i) remove a member of the Management Committee from office; (ii) exclude any Club or Team from membership, both 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.
- (B) At the Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, 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, 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 official 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 expulsion or 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.

(D) In all matters the transactions relating to the League each Club shall behave towards any other Club and League in utmost good faith.

(E) No Club either by itself, or its servants or agents shall by any means whatsoever unfairly criticise, disparage, belittle or discredit any other Club or the League itself or in either case any of its Officers or Players.

**TROPHY: - LEGAL OWNERS, CONDITIONS OF TAKING OVER,
AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED & AWARDS.**

18. (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 **1st February**. 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.”

(B)

The League shall present to the Champion Clubs 21 souvenirs. Additional souvenirs may be presented by the consent of the Management Committee.

Clubs who finish as runners-up in each Division shall be presented with a commemorative souvenir.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

19. Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting.

The Management Committee may call a Special General Meeting at any time.

At least seven days' notice shall be given of either meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.

Each Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates, one of whom should be a designated Club Official to all Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only, as will members of the Management Committee.

Any continuing Member Club must be represented at a Special General Meeting.

Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all Special General Meetings.

ALTERATION TO RULES

20. Alterations for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority shall be made to these Rules only at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 19. 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 Secretary by 1st May in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 10th May and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 20th 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 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 Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the FA at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.

FINANCE

21. (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 £100.00 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheese/Bank Payments shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.
- (C) The financial year of the Competition will end on 31st May.
- (D) The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be audited annually by some suitable person(s) who shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.
- (E) Financial Records: Every Club must keep proper books of accounts in which all receipts and payments are recorded. Each Club will send notice to the FAWN of the date of its Annual General Meeting 14 days prior to the date of the meeting, together with an annual balance sheet and where necessary accompanying accounts. Clubs failing to comply with this rule shall be fined £20.00 subject to the right of appeal in accordance of Rule 16.

INSURANCE

22. All Clubs must have public liability insurance cover of at least 10 million pounds (£10,000,000).

All Clubs must have valid personal accident cover for all Players registered with them from time to time. The Player's personal accident 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 Association. In instances where The Football Association is the sanctioning Association, the minimum recommended cover will be the cover required by the Affiliated Association to which the Club affiliates.

DISSOLUTION

23. (A) Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at a Special General Meeting by a majority of three quarters (3/4) of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant Special General Meeting.

(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 Association.

(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 Association may decide.

CODE OF CONDUCT

24. All Clubs will be required to sign the Code of Conduct as outlined at Appendix D. This Code must be conveyed to all Players and Officials.

FEES TARIFF 2017/18

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE
3 (A)	ENTRY FEE	£ 0
3 (B)	ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	£75.00 (1 st) £50.00 (Res)
3 (C)	DEPOSIT	£ 0
8 (E)	REGISTRATION FORM	£ 3 per Player
8 (I)	TRANSFER FORM	£ 10 per Player
13 (E)	REFEREE FEES	£ 35 (N & S) £ 30 (Div 1) Plus, 28p per mile N & S – max £35 Div 1 – max £20
13 (E)	ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES	£ 25 (N & S) £22 (Div 1) Plus, 28p per mile N & S – max £35 Div 1 – max £20
15 (C),16(A),16(D)	PROTEST/APPEAL FEES	£ 25.00

FINES TARIFF 2017/18

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
2 (B)	FAILURE TO AFFILIATE	£ 100
2 (E)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	£ 250
2 (F)	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITIONS	£ 250
3 (C)	FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT	£ 0
3 (E)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE AFFILIATION NUMBER/DETAILS FORM	£ 20
4 (E)	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS	£ 50
5 (H)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£ 150
5 (I)	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN 21 DAYS OF NOTICE	£ 50
6 (H)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	£ 100
7	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT OR TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO SIGNATORIES	£ 25
8 (A) (iii)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE SEASON COMMENCING	£ 20
8 (B)	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER	£ 20
8 (C)	FIELDING MORE THAN THE PERMITTED NUMBER OF PLAYERS WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN SENIOR COMPETITIONS MATCHES	£ 250
8 (G)	SIGNING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS, OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION FORM	£ 100
8 (H) (ii)	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	£ 100
8 (N)	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£ 250
8 (P)	FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	£ 50
9 (A), 10 (B)	DELAYING KICK OFF/NO NETS/ NO CORNER FLAGS	£ 50
9 (B)	FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME	£ 75
10 (A)	FAILURE TO ACKNOWLEDGE FIXTURES	£ 20
10 (B)	FAILURE TO USE COMPETITION MATCH BALLS	£ 100
10 (C)	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED	£ 175
10 (D)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£ 100
10 (E)	PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS	£10
10 (F) (i) & (iii)	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE	£ 250
10 (G)	FAILURE TO EXCHANGE MATCHDAY TEAM SHEETS	£50
10 (I)	NO RESPECT CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	£ 50
10 (K)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE PROGRAMME	£50
11 (A) & 11 (C)	LATE TEAM SHEET	£ 20
11 (B)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT	£ 20
13 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE	£ 10
13 (E)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES AND EXPENSES	£ 100
13 (F)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED	£ 100
13 (H)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK	£ 50
14 (A)	WITHDRAWAL FROM LEAGUE AFTER 31ST MARCH	£ 100
14 (B)	FAILURE TO START/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£ 100
18 (A)	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY	£ 50
22	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£ 100
CUP RULE 4	WITHDRAWAL FROM LEAGUE CUP OR FAILURE TO FULFIL CUP MATCH	£500

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE RULES OF THE LEAGUE CUP COMPETITION

1. The Cup shall be called 'The Football Association Women's National League Cup'.
2. The Cup is the property of The Football Association Women's National League.

When the winning Club is ascertained, the League shall deliver the Cup to the Club. The Club shall be responsible for its return to the League on or before 1st February in the ensuing year in good order and condition.

Should the Cup be lost, destroyed by fire or any other cause whilst under the care or custody of the Club, the Club shall refund to the League the amount of the current like-for-like replacement value or the cost of thorough repair in addition to any other penalty which the Management Committee may impose.

3. In addition to the Cup, the League shall present medals to the players and substitutes in the Final tie. If a player taking part in the Final tie is ordered to leave the field for misconduct, the medal to which she may be entitled may be withheld at the discretion of the Management Committee.
4. The League Cup will be competed for by all Full Member Clubs. Any Club withdrawing or failing to fulfil a League Cup Competition match shall be fined a sum not exceeding £500 and removed from the Cup Competition for that Season with the tie awarded to its Opposition.
5. Only players registered for a FAWNLC Club in accordance with League Rule 8 shall be eligible to play for that Club in any one season. A player shall not play for more than one FAWNLC Club in the League Cup Competition during any one season. A Club playing an ineligible player shall be removed from the Competition and be subject to a fine as decided by the Management Committee.
6. (i) A player shall not be eligible to play in the League Cup Semi Final tie unless they have played three games for that club's 1st team during that current season.

A player shall not be eligible to play in the League Cup Final tie unless they were eligible to play in the League Cup Semi Final tie

In exceptional circumstances Clubs can apply to the Management Committee for dispensation for exemption from this Rule.

(ii) A player participating in more than 2 Rounds (including the Determining Round) of The FA WNL Cup will not be permitted to participate in the FA WNL Reserve Cup.

Any club found to have played an ineligible player in a match or matches will be removed from the Competition and tie awarded to the opposition. A fine will be awarded as decided by the Management Committee.

7. The Competition may be played on a knock-out basis. The ties shall be drawn as soon as possible after each round. If possible the draw will be made at a Management Committee meeting. In each tie the game shall be played on the ground of the Club first drawn, unless otherwise mutually arranged, and the consent of the Management Committee is obtained.

In all rounds, including the Final (if only one tie is played on a neutral ground), 90 minutes must be played in all matches. If the Teams are level after 90 minutes, an extra 15 minutes each way will be played. If the scores are level after extra time has been played the tie shall

The Football Association Women's National League Rules Season 2018 – 2019

be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark, in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

8. All FA WNL rules apply to the FA WNL Cup Competition unless a specific rule is listed elsewhere.

The format of the Competition for the coming season will be decided at the Annual General Meeting. In the event that the format for the coming season is decided to be a Cup and Plate Competition following any deciding preliminary or determining round, the Competition will be considered as one Competition for the interpretation of Cup and League Rules especially pertaining to matters of eligibility of players. Except where specified otherwise League Rules shall apply.

9. In Semi-Final ties the home club shall pay the Match Officials their fees and expenses immediately after the match in the Match Officials changing room. Payments may be made in cash or by cheque. The Home Club will be reimbursed any payments made under this rule upon application to the League Secretary.
10. All matches in this Competition shall be played in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association Women's National League, The Football Association and the Laws of the Game
11. In the event that extra time is played in any match a Club may at its discretion use one additional substitute player, (a fourth in total) from the nominated five substitutes, during such period of extra time.

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: RESERVE SECTION RULES

The Rules of The Football Association Women's National League will apply to the Reserve Section with the following changes:

FA WNL Rule 8 (C)

Only two players who have signed registration forms for a Club in the FA WSL or FA WC in the 2018/19 season will be permitted to play for each team in any one match of the FA Women's National League Reserve Section.

An exception to this rule will apply to any FAWSL or FA WC registered player who is de-registered in the June to September or December to January Transfer window and any player whose registration has expired and is not subsequently engaged by another FAWSL or FA WC Club. This rule does not apply to loan signings.

An additional exception to this rule is for a reserve team of an FA Women's Championship Club that is playing in the FA WNL Reserve Section for Season 2018/19. There is no restriction to the number of players registered with their own 1st team in the FA Women's Championship that are permitted to play in the Reserve Section for that team. Restrictions shall apply to The FA WNL Reserve Cup as stated.

FA WNL Rule 10 (C)

Except by permission of the Management Committee all matches must be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The FA Women's Cup, for the Semi-Final and Final fixture only and all relevant County Association Cup Competitions.

FA WNL Rule 10 (G)

In the FA Womens National League Reserve section a Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use 5 substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from 5 players.

FA WNL Rule 10 (N)

The Ground Grading criteria does not apply to the FA Women's National League Reserve Section. However the following does apply:

- (i) Provision shall be made for the ground to be properly roped off.
- (ii) Grounds must be a minimum of 100 yards (90 metres) x 60 yards (55 metres).
- (iii) Gate receipts should be taken wherever possible.
- (iv)

FA WNL Rule 13 (A)

Referees shall be appointed by the appropriate County Football Association as instructed by The Football Association. Clubs will be expected to provide a Club Assistant Referee. Substitutes will not be permitted to act as Assistant Referees. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a £25 fine.

FA WNL Rule 13 (B)

In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed referee the Clubs shall mutually agree upon an official. Substitutes will not be permitted to act as Referees or Assistant Referees.

FA WNL Rule 13 (E)

Referees appointed under this rule shall be paid a Fee of £25 (travel expenses or private car expenses of 28p per mile up to a maximum of £10) and any other permitted expenses actually incurred subject to any limits laid down by the sanctioning Association(s).

FA WNL Rule 14 (B)

Any Club withdrawing from the League during the Season shall be fined a sum not exceeding £500.00.

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: RESERVE CUP RULES

Competition will apply to the Reserve Section Cup with the following changes:

1. This Competition shall be called The Football Association Women's National League Reserve Cup and shall be open to RESERVE teams ONLY competing in The Football Association Women's National League Reserve Section.
2. The Cup is the property of The Football Association Women's National League.

When the winning Club is ascertained, the League shall deliver the Cup to the Club. The Club shall be responsible for its return to the League on or before 1st February in the ensuing year in good order and condition.

Should the Cup be lost, destroyed by fire or any other cause whilst under the care or custody of the Club, the Club shall refund to the League the amount of the current like-for-like replacement value or the cost of thorough repair in addition to any other penalty which the Management Committee may impose.

3. In addition to the Cup, the League shall present medals to the players and substitutes in the Final tie. If a player taking part in the Final tie is ordered to leave the field for misconduct, the medal to which she may be entitled may be withheld at the discretion of the Management Committee.
4. Only players registered for an FA WNL Club in accordance with League Rule 8 shall be eligible to play for that Club in any one season. A player shall not play for more than one FA WNL Club in the League Cup Competition during any one season. Any club found to have played an ineligible player in a match or matches will be removed from the Competition and tie awarded to the opposition. A fine will be awarded as decided by the Management Committee.
5. i.) A player participating in more than 2 Rounds (including the Determining Round) of The FA WNL Cup will not be permitted to participate in the FA WNL Reserve Cup.
 ii.) A player registered for a FA Women's Championship/Super League Reserve team will be ineligible to participate in The FA WNL Reserve Cup if they have played five 1st team games in the current season.
 ii.) A player registered for a FA Women's Championship/Super League Reserve team will be ineligible to participate in The FA WNL Reserve Cup if they have represented their 1st team in any round of The FA WSL Cup after the start of the FA WNL Reserve Section season.
6. A player shall not be eligible to play in the Reserve Cup Semi Final tie unless they have played three games for that club's reserve team during that current season.

A player shall not be eligible to play in the Reserve Cup Final tie unless they were eligible to play in the League Cup Semi Final tie.

In exceptional circumstances Clubs can apply to the Management Committee for dispensation for exemption from this Rule.

7. Any Club withdrawing from the League Cup during the season shall be fined a sum not exceeding £500.00 and removed from the Cup Competition for that Season with the tie awarded to its Opposition.
8. In Semi-Final ties the home club shall pay the Match Officials their fees and expenses immediately after the match in the Match Officials changing room. Payments may be made

in cash or by cheque. The Home Club will be reimbursed any payments made under this rule upon application to the League Secretary.

9. All FA WNL rules apply to the FA WNL Reserve Cup Competition unless a specific rule is listed elsewhere. All matches in this Competition shall be played in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association Women's National League, The Football Association and the Laws of the Game.
10. Before the semi-finals and finals if teams are level after 90 minutes has been played the tie shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark, in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

In the semi-finals and finals if teams are level after 90 minutes then an additional 30 minutes of extra time will be played, with 15 minutes in each half. If teams are level at the end of this extra time, the tie shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark, in accordance with the Laws of the Game.