

The Adran North and South - League Rules 2026/2027

1. Definition and Interpretation

1.1. In these Rules, the following words and expressions have the following meanings:

- 1.1.1. **'Authorised Kit'** means each Match playing kit approved by the FAW in accordance with Rule 15 below;
- 1.1.2. **'Business Day'** means a day that is not a Saturday or Sunday or a public or bank holiday in Wales.
- 1.1.3. **'Clear Days'** in relation to the period of notice means that period excluding the day when notice is given or deemed to be given and the day for which it is given or on which it is to take effect.
- 1.1.4. **'Club'** means an association football club which is for the time being a member of the League or (where the context requires) a prospective member or a former member of the League.
- 1.1.5. **'Division'** means each of the two (2) divisions of the League, currently known as 'Genero Adran North' and 'Genero Adran South', as such names may be amended from time to time by the FAW with the approval of the FAW directors (for example) to include the name of a new title sponsor.
- 1.1.6. **'FAW'** means the Football Association of Wales Limited.
- 1.1.7. **'FAW Pyramid Regulations'** means the Regulations for the women's pyramid league system effective for the relevant Playing Season.
- 1.1.8. **'FAW Regulations'** means the regulations, standing orders, byelaws, orders, codes, policies, procedures, directives and instructions for the time being of the FAW.
- 1.1.9. **'FAW Rules'** means the Rules for the time being of the FAW.
- 1.1.10. **'General Meeting'** means any meeting of the Clubs (or the Clubs in one of the Divisions, as the context requires) and shall include the Annual General Meeting(s) and any Extraordinary General Meetings called in accordance with Rule 5 below.
- 1.1.11. **'Home Club'** means the Club on whose ground any Match should be or should have been played and where ground sharing is in operation the Club whose name first appears on the relevant Match details issued by the FAW and **'Visiting Club'** means the other Club due to play in the relevant Match.
- 1.1.12. **'League'** means the Tier 2 League in the FAW Women's Pyramid League System, currently known as 'Genero Adran North' and 'Genero Adran South', as such name may be amended from time to time by the FAW with the approval of the FAW directors (for example) to include the name of a title sponsor.
- 1.1.13. **'Match'** means any association football match played in the League.
- 1.1.14. **'Match Officials'** means the Referee, Assistant Referees and any Fourth Official for a Match.
- 1.1.15. **'Official'** means any director, secretary or other duly authorised representative of a Club.
- 1.1.16. **'PGAC'** means the Professional Game Advisory Committee of the FAW constituted in accordance with the FAW Standing Orders.
- 1.1.17. **'PGAC Disciplinary Panel'** means a panel of three (3) members of the PGAC constituted by the FAW from time to time to consider disciplinary matters pursuant to Rule 3.5 below.
- 1.1.18. **'Player'** means any female association football player, whether or not registered with the FAW to play for a Club.

- 1.1.19. **'Playing Season'** is as defined in the FAW Rules.
- 1.1.20. **'Rules'** means these Rules of the League as amended from time to time.
- 1.1.21. **'Scale of Fines'** means the scale of fines document produced by the FAW.
- 1.1.22. **'Season'** is as defined in the FAW Rules.
- 1.1.23. **'Sponsorship Rights'** means any and all sponsorship rights worldwide in perpetuity relating to the League, including rights to use League designations (such as title sponsor, official sponsor, official partner and/or official supplier of the League), League advertising rights, rights to use League logos, rights to League press and other public relations campaigns, rights to League licensing, merchandising and promotions but excluding Transmission Rights.
- 1.1.24. **'Sponsorship Contracts'** means any and all contracts entered into by the FAW and/or its agents and licensees in or ancillary to the exercise of the Sponsorship Rights.
- 1.1.25. **'Team Sheet'** means the information as provided by the FAW from time to time listing the numbers, surnames and first names of the Players in the relevant Club team's Match day squad, together with the surnames and first names of Officials to be seated on the substitutes' bench for a Match.
- 1.1.26. **'Tier 1 Licence'** and **'Tier 2 Licence'** have the meanings given in Rule 7 below.
- 1.1.27. **'Transmission Rights'** means the sole and exclusive worldwide right in perpetuity to record (a) television or other moving pictures of any Match; (b) sounds of and/or commentary upon any Match and (c) data relating to any Match (and, in each case, have sole and exclusive access to the ground of each Club to do so) and transmit and/or exploit and/or otherwise make available the whole or any part of such recordings in any language and whether live and/or delayed by any and all manner and means in all current and future media including by terrestrial, cable and satellite television, radio, internet and mobile networks and whether to the public or closed groups, and to authorise others to do so.
- 1.1.28. **'Transmission Contracts'** means any and all contracts entered into by the FAW and/or its agents and licensees in or ancillary to the exercise of the Transmission Rights.
- 1.1.29. **'Transmission Partner(s)'** means any Transmission Rights partner of the FAW from time to time.

- 1.2. A reference to a person includes a body corporate and an unincorporated body of persons.
- 1.3. Referring to natural persons include both genders. The singular case applies to the plural and vice versa.
- 1.4. The headings in these Rules are inserted for ease of reference and do not affect the interpretation of these Rules.
- 1.5. The terms 'include', 'including', 'for example', 'such as' and 'in particular' or any similar expression shall be construed as illustrative, without limiting the sense or scope of the words preceding them.

2. General

- 2.1. Acceptance of membership of the League shall constitute an agreement between the Club concerned and the FAW, to be bound by and comply with these Rules, such agreement to be effective from the date of the Club's admission to the League and to terminate from the date a Club ceases to be a member of the League.
- 2.2. In addition to these Rules, all Clubs shall be bound by and comply with:
 - 2.2.1. The FAW Rules and FAW Regulations; and
 - 2.2.2. The Laws of the Game and any applicable IFAB protocols, instructions and/or procedures.
- 2.3. In the event that any of these Rules conflict with the FAW Rules or FAW Regulations the FAW Rules

or FAW Regulations shall prevail.

3. Business of the League

- 3.1. The business of the League shall be conducted by the FAW which, subject to the FAW Rules and FAW Regulations, shall have jurisdiction over all matters relating to the administration of the League and the conduct of Clubs.
- 3.2. The PGAC shall consist of members as decided by the FAW from time to time. It is an advisory committee of the FAW responsible for overseeing the strategy of the League and will normally meet bi-monthly.
- 3.3. The President of the League shall be the President of the FAW for the time being.
- 3.4. The FAW shall defray out of the funds of the League all expenses in respect of the administration of the League. A member of the PGAC may be paid out of League funds such expenses incurred through attendance at meetings of, or in connection with, the League, as the FAW may approve.
- 3.5. The FAW may do all such acts and exercise all such powers as may be required to give effect to the provisions of these Rules. Save for those matters which in the first instance are to be dealt with or determined by other bodies of the FAW in accordance with the FAW Rules or FAW Regulations, the PGAC Disciplinary Panel shall in the first instance determine all breaches of these Rules or other matters of misconduct or dispute by or between Clubs, Players, Officials or other personnel directly or indirectly involved with the League. The PGAC Disciplinary Panel shall have the power to impose fines as defined in 'Scale of Fines' and any other sanctions (including deduction of points or suspension from the League) as the PGAC Disciplinary Panel shall consider appropriate, subject always to the rights of appeal and (if applicable) the Scale of Fines hereinafter mentioned.
- 3.6. Each member of the PGAC shall be furnished with a pass (which shall not be transferable) and all Clubs shall admit the holder to their grounds and stands to all Matches and to all FAW Women's and Girl's Cup matches.
- 3.7. In relation to any matter not specifically addressed in these Rules the FAW shall, subject to the FAW Rules and FAW Regulations, have the power to take such action and make such decisions, orders and impose such penalties as it deems necessary and to follow such procedure as it considers appropriate.

4. League Format, Champions, Promotion and Relegation

- 4.1. The League will comprise the two (2) Divisions. Each Division will comprise a maximum of eight (8) member Clubs in each Playing Season, unless expressly directed by the FAW. Each Club will be allocated to the more geographically appropriate Division, as determined by the FAW and approved by the FAW directors prior to the start of the relevant Playing Season.
- 4.2. The FAW shall determine annually the date on which Matches in each Playing Season shall commence and the date on which the normal Playing Season of the League shall be intended to terminate.
- 4.3. A Club may not enter its first team in any other competition except the Adran Trophy, the FAW Women's Cup, UEFA club competitions and any invitational competition approved in writing in advance by the FAW. The FAW must be promptly informed by the relevant Club in advance of all proposed fixtures to be played (and afterwards all results of fixtures played) by its first team in any competition other than the League.

Guidance Note

If any Club is provided a sanction to participate in any other invitational competition approved in writing in advance by the FAW, the Club must prioritise any scheduled or re-arranged league fixtures over the competition, even if such matches are re-arranged after the sanction is provided.

- 4.4. In each Playing Season, the Clubs playing in a Division which comprises eight (8) Clubs will play Matches against each other on a home and away basis once, giving a maximum total of fourteen

(14) Matches per Club.

- 4.5. All Matches shall be of ninety (90) minutes' duration. Three (3) points will be awarded to a Club for a win in a Match at home or away, and one (1) point for a drawn Match at home or away.
- 4.6. Where two or more Clubs in a Division possess the same number of points, the following criteria will be applied in the order given to determine their rankings:
- 4.6.1. Superior goal difference obtained in all League matches;
 - 4.6.2. Higher or highest number of goals scored in all League matches;
 - 4.6.3. Higher or highest number of points obtained in all League matches played among the Clubs in question;
 - 4.6.4. Superior goal difference obtained in all League matches played among the Clubs in question;
 - 4.6.5. Higher or highest number of goals scored in all League matches played among the teams in question;
 - 4.6.6. Higher or highest number of goals scored away from home in all League matches played among the teams in question;
 - 4.6.7. Higher or highest number of wins in all League matches;
 - 4.6.8. Higher or highest number of away wins in all League matches;
 - 4.6.9. Lower or lowest disciplinary points total based only on yellow and red cards received in all League matches; or
 - 4.6.10. The Clubs concerned shall play-off, in a format as directed by the FAW.
- 4.7. The Division Champion Club shall hold the Division trophy for approximately one year. The FAW will be responsible for the engraving of the trophy. The Cup must be returned to the FAW not later than 1st March in the following Playing Season. In addition to the Division trophy, the FAW shall present twenty five (25) souvenirs to the Division champion Club, twenty (20) for the Players and five (5) for the Officials of the Club. The date, time, and location of any such presentation shall be decided by the FAW.

Guidance Note

Clubs may request to purchase more than the aforementioned number of medals. However, the delivery of the additional medals will be dependent upon the quantity of medals in stock by the FAW and the delivery time of additional medals by suppliers.

- 4.8. The Division Champion Clubs will be eligible to be nominated to represent the League, in the Adran North v Adran South Play-Off match and will be arranged by the FAW, between the nominated Clubs from the Division (North) and Division (South) provided that they have applied for and obtained an Adran Premier License in advance of the next playing season. The winning Club of the Adran North v Adran South Play-Off match will be the overall League Champions for that season and will be eligible for promotion into the Adran Premier, subject to the FAW Women's Pyramid Regulations and Adran Premier Licensing Regulations.
- 4.9. Clubs shall be promoted to and relegated from the Divisions (North and South), in accordance with the FAW Women's Pyramid Regulations and the FAW Rules. Only those Clubs and prospective Clubs which attain the FAW Tier 1 Licence or the FAW Tier 2 Licence under the FAW's Club Licensing Regulations, shall be eligible for membership of the League in the playing season which next commences after the grant of such Tier 1 Licence or Tier 2 Licence.
- 4.10. A Club which for any reason ceases to operate at any time during the Playing Season, before it completes its Matches, shall have its playing record expunged. Any monies due to it from the FAW funds shall be withheld and from the date of the withdrawal no further payments shall become due to it.

- 4.11. A Club that enters into administration at any time during the Playing Season shall have ten (10) points deducted from its League playing record, and any monies due to it from FAW funds shall be withheld.
- 4.12. A Club that enters into administration outside of the Playing Season shall have ten (10) points deducted from its League playing record in the Playing Season following the date on which it entered administration, and any monies due to it from the FAW funds shall be withheld unless and until the Club exits administration on a solvent basis.
- 4.13. If a club wishes to resign from the League after being accepted at the relevant League AGM and before completing its fixtures, it may be liable to a maximum fine of one thousand five hundred pounds (£1,500).
- 4.14. If a club wishes to resign from the League at the end of the season it must do so by 1st April. Giving notice after this date, but before the AGM may result in a fine of seven hundred and fifty pounds (£750).
- 4.15. Each Club shall play its full strength in all League matches. The fine for non-observance of this Rule to be at the discretion of the FAW.

5. General Meetings

- 5.1. The Annual General Meeting of each Division of the League shall be held in each year at a date, time and place to be determined by the FAW.
- 5.2. The FAW may, whenever it thinks fit, convene an Extraordinary General Meeting of any Division (or the entire League) at a date, time and place to be determined by the FAW. The FAW shall also, upon a requisition made to the League in writing signed by duly authorised representatives of not less than two thirds (2/3rds) of the Clubs in a Division (or the entire League), convene an Extraordinary General Meeting of that Division (or the entire League) at a date, time and place to be determined by the FAW.
- 5.3. The FAW shall notify all relevant Clubs of the date, time and place of all General Meetings and all other meetings described in this Rule 5 not less than seven (7) Clear Days in advance, such notice to contain basic details of the matters to be discussed. Short notice can be given with the consent of the FAW and all relevant Clubs.
- 5.4. Each relevant Club shall be entitled to have two (2) representatives and one vote at any General Meeting. Each relevant Club shall ensure that at least one (1) representative attends each General Meeting but the meeting, if validly convened, may proceed in their absence. Each relevant Club shall prior to the General Meeting in question notify the FAW of the identity of the Club's representatives and which representative shall be entitled to cast the Club's vote. Votes may only be cast by representatives personally and voting by proxy shall not be permitted. Any resolution at a General Meeting must have the support of two thirds (2/3rds) of the Clubs present and eligible to vote on the resolution at the meeting. The attendees for each Annual General Meeting of a Division (a) must include at least one (1) representative of any Club that has been promoted to or relegated to that Division for the following Playing Season, and each such Club shall be entitled to vote at that meeting; and (b) may include a representative of any Club that has been promoted from or relegated from that Division for the following Playing Season, but each such Club shall not be entitled to vote at that meeting. A General Meeting of a Division shall consider and vote on resolutions relating to that Division and/or the entire League and shall not consider and vote on resolutions relating to the other Division. A resolution passed at a General Meeting of one Division relating to the entire League shall not be effective unless it is also passed at a General Meeting of the other Division.
- 5.5. An FAW representative shall be the Chair at all General Meetings.
- 5.6. The directors of the FAW shall have the power to veto any resolution of the relevant Clubs at a General Meeting.

- 5.7. Clubs failing to attend an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting may be liable to a fine of fifty pounds (£50) in accordance with the Scale of Fines.
- 5.8. Each Club shall ensure that at least one (1) representative (satisfactory to the FAW) attends any other meeting of the Clubs called by the FAW but the meeting, if validly convened, may proceed in their absence.
- 5.9. The FAW may permit attendance and/or voting at any of the above meetings by electronic means.

6. Exclusion of Clubs – Misconduct by Club, their Officials, Players or Others

- 6.1. At an Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 5 above, a seventy-five per cent (75%) majority of the accredited Club representatives present and eligible to vote shall have power to exclude from further participation in the League any Club whose conduct has in their opinion been objectionable and detrimental to the name of the League.
- 6.2. It is the responsibility of all Clubs to ensure that their Officials, Players or other members of the Club do not, by their written or spoken words or actions, bring the FAW, League, any Match Official, or any other Club into disrepute.

7. FAW Tier 1 and Tier 2 Women's Club Licensing

- 7.1. Only those Clubs and prospective Clubs which attain a FAW Tier 1 or Tier 2 Women's Licence under the FAW's Tier 1 or Tier 2 Women's Club Licensing Regulations shall be eligible for membership of the League in the Season which next commences after the grant of such Tier 1 or Tier 2 Licence.

8. Annual Subscriptions

- 8.1. Each Member Club shall pay an Annual Subscription of Fifty Pounds (£50). The Subscription to be paid via COMET by 31st July each year.
- 8.2. Clubs failing to pay any debt owing to the FAW by the due date will automatically incur a fine of £20 per month that the money is outstanding.

9. Accounts

- 9.1. The FAW shall cause proper annual accounts to be kept of all income and expenditure of the League to 30th June in each year and present those accounts to the Clubs either at a General Meeting or otherwise in writing.
- 9.2. The FAW shall be solely responsible for the manner in which the income of the League is expended.

10. Notices

- 10.1. Any notice or other communication to be given in accordance with these Rules shall be delivered in accordance with Rule 144 of the FAW Rules. All notices sent to the Clubs shall be sent to the secretary of the Club whose name and, address, email address and telephone number(s) shall be notified by the Club to the FAW.
- 10.2. Any notice or other communication to be served on the League shall be addressed to the Domestic Leagues department at the FAW, Vale Resort, Pontyclun, CF72 8JY, or by email to such email address issued for such purpose by the FAW from time to time, or via such online system or procedure prescribed by the FAW from time to time. Proof of service shall be in accordance with Rule 144 of the FAW Rules.

11. Alterations to these Rules

- 11.1. No alteration in these Rules shall be made until they have been approved by the FAW in accordance with Rule 30 of the FAW Rules. Alterations to these Rules shall only be made at the Annual General Meetings or at Extraordinary General Meeting convened under Rule 5 above for that purpose. Any alteration to these Rules must be supported by at least two thirds (2/3rds) of those present and eligible to vote at such meeting.

- 11.2. Club proposals for alterations to these Rules together with the name of their Club proposers and seconders shall be received by the FAW no later than the 31st March prior to the date fixed for an Annual General Meeting in any year. The FAW may also propose alterations to these Rules to be considered at an appropriate Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting.

12. Disciplinary Proceedings, Disputes, Appeals, Independent Arbitration and Sanctions

- 12.1. Save for those matters considered by the PGAC Disciplinary Panel pursuant to Rule 3.5 above, the provisions relating to disciplinary procedures, disputes, appeals, independent arbitration, penalties, sanctions and other powers shall be dealt with in accordance with the FAW Rules and FAW Regulations including Section E and Rule 146 of the FAW Rules.

13. Registration, Contracts and Transfer of Players

- 13.1. Provisions relating to Player registrations, contracts and transfers shall (if as so far as applicable) be dealt with in accordance with these Rules and the FAW Rules and FAW Regulations including Section H of the FAW Rules.
- 13.2. All Player registration and transfer forms and any other applicable documents must be received by the FAW (in each case, using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time) by no later than 5pm on the last Business Day prior to the Match in which the Club wishes the Player to participate.

Guidance Note

Clubs must request to the FAW to add any Player to the Club's COMET roster by the same deadline outlined in Rule 13.2. E.g If a Club signs a player by the deadline outlined in Rule 13.2, but requests for the player to be added to its roster after this deadline, the FAW will not permit the player to be added to the roster until the next business day after the forthcoming match.

14. Ineligible Players

- 14.1. No Club may play an ineligible Player in any Match. Any Club which plays an ineligible player in a Match will have three (3) points deducted from its League record for that Playing Season, up to a maximum of 12 points*, and will also be liable to a fine. If the Player is a nominated but unused substitute for a Match, they shall be deemed as not having played for the Club in that Match.
- *this maximum applies on each occasion a Club appears before the PGAC Disciplinary Panel or a Judicial Body for playing an ineligible Player in any given Playing Season.
- 14.2. The PGAC Disciplinary Panel or a Judicial Body may suspend all or part of a points deduction imposed pursuant to Rule 14.1 only if satisfied the ineligibility was due to a genuine administration error resulting in a breach relating to a breach of Rule 85(A) of the FAW Rules.

15. Authorised Kits

- 15.1. Clubs must notify the FAW of their chosen colours for all new 'home', 'away' and 'third' sets of kit at the planning stage to enable the FAW to provide approval, not to be unreasonably withheld, before Clubs place any orders for kit with their respective manufacturers.
- 15.2. Notwithstanding Rule 15.1 above, by the second Monday in July, each Club shall submit at least two (2) and up to three (3) outfield and at least two (2) and up to three (3) goalkeeper kits to the FAW, both (i) in writing, in PDF format full details of their proposed Match kit colours (comprising shirts, shorts and socks for both outfield players and goalkeepers in both home and change kit versions, and including any proposed sponsor logos) for the forthcoming Playing Season and (ii) if requested by the FAW, a physical version of these proposed Match kits.
- 15.3. The FAW shall notify the Club if any elements of their proposed kits are rejected and the reasons for the rejection, and the Club shall address the issues raised and re-submit its proposed Match kits. The Club shall ensure that suitable revised Match kits are submitted in a form which can be approved by the FAW prior to the start of the Playing Season.
- 15.4. Once approved by the FAW (each such kit then being an "**Authorised Kit**"), the Authorised Kits will

be published in the League Handbook for that Playing Season. The Authorised Kits shall be worn during the relevant Playing Season and no changes of either colours or combination of colours shall be permitted during the course of the Playing Season except:

- 15.4.1. When the colours of two competing Clubs are alike or similar the Visiting Club shall change to another kit approved in writing by the FAW (or, in an emergency, approved by the Referee) that does not include any of the basic colour of the Authorised Kits of the Home Club; and
- 15.4.2. Clubs may submit a request in writing to the FAW at least fourteen (14) clear days before a Match to wear an alternative special kit (for example, a charity kit or a new Playing Season launch kit) and may wear such a kit if it obtains prior written approval from the FAW.

Guidance

The order or precedence when determining kit colours for any fixture is as follows:

1. *Home Club – Outfield;*
2. *Away Club – Outfield;*
3. *Home – Goalkeeper;*
4. *Away – Goalkeeper; and*
5. *Match Officials*

- 15.5. Each goalkeeper shall play each Match in a kit clearly distinguishable from the colours of the shirts worn by all outfield players and Match Officials and the other goalkeeper.
- 15.6. If undershorts or tights or under socks or undershirts are to be worn by a Player in a Match, they must be of a colour approved by the FAW in relation to the applicable Authorised Kit prior to the relevant Playing Season and they must comply with Laws of the Game.
- 15.7. No Club shall be permitted to register or play a Match in kit colours (comprising shirts, shorts and socks) which are likely to cause confusion with the outfits worn by Referees and Assistant Referees.
- 15.8. The Players' shirts for each Match must be clearly numbered (and if applicable named) in accordance with the Team Sheet handed to the Referee before the Match and there must be no change of numbers during the Match except if there is a change of goalkeeper. During each Match, the captain of each team shall wear the distinguishing arm band to indicate their status.
- 15.9. Clubs wishing to make alterations to their Authorised Kits after the date set by the FAW under Rule 15.2 above, must make an application to the FAW for their prior written approval.
- 15.10. All Players participating in Matches must carry the League's and/or a League sponsor's logo on one or both sleeves of their shirts. The Champion Club may also wear a domestic titles logo and/or stars, subject to the prior written approval of the FAW. There shall be no form of words, advertising, badge or other logo above or below the sleeve badge(s) except as permitted by the FAW.

Guidance Note

Where one sleeve patch is provided, Clubs must wear the League's and or a League sponsor's logo on the right sleeve. In addition, patches may not be sublimated into any kits.

- 15.11. Each Home Club must ensure that sufficient ball retrievers and/or other personnel are on duty at each Match to ensure a speedy and safe return of the football to the field of play. The colours of the clothing worn by any ball retrievers and/or other personnel for each Match must not clash with those of either of the competing teams or Match Officials.
- 15.12. All kits for Matches must comply with FAW Kit Regulations.

16. Scheduling of Matches and Kick-Off Times

- 16.1. The FAW shall determine how the Matches shall be arranged and rearranged over the Playing Season. The draft schedule of the Matches shall be issued by the FAW for consultation with the Clubs, which may then be amended by the FAW. The FAW may also change the schedule of Matches during the Playing Season to suit the overall interests of the League. The final schedule of Matches approved by the FAW shall not be subject to any appeals or protests by Clubs. The Matches shall take precedence over all competitions in which a Club may engage, with the exception of the FAW Women's Cup and the Adran Trophy, and any invitational competition as agreed by the FAW.

- 16.2. Each weekend Match is to be played on Sunday at 2pm, unless specified otherwise by the FAW in its sole discretion.

Guidance

Fixtures may be moved from a Sunday afternoon by the FAW for the following reasons (this is not an exhaustive list):

- *Broadcast selection*
- *Strategic scheduling (for example, to avoid other sporting events)*
- *International fixture*

- 16.3. Any dispute between two or more Clubs as to the arrangement of a Match shall be referred to and decided by the FAW, and the FAW shall have absolute discretion in that respect.

Guidance

In cases here moves cannot be mutually agreed, Clubs can refer to the matter to the FAW for determination.

On these occasions, the following non-exhaustive list of points all form part of the FAW's consideration:

- *Home Clubs must provide compelling motives and clear rationale for the alteration, together with any supporting evidence. These can include both operational arguments as well as those relating to commercial gain.*
- *Away Clubs must provide their reasons for objecting to the move and provide any substantiating evidence.*
- *What are both Clubs' fixtures either side of the Match in question.*
- *Is there an inequitable run of away fixtures over a short period of time.*
- *Any effect on the ability to schedule undated fixtures.*
- *Timing of the request being made.*

Whilst it is important to stress that each case will be treated in isolation and be judged on its merits, it should be noted that in the absence of any specific and compelling footballing reasons being given by the Away Club that would prevent a move, permission for such requests will in normal circumstances not be unreasonably withheld.

- 16.4. Clubs shall not be required to play a Match within sixty (60) hours prior to, or within sixty (60) hours after, kick off of a UEFA club competition Match.

- 16.5. The time of kick-off for all Matches shall be determined by the FAW.

- 16.6. All changes to time of kick-off of a Match which may be agreed between the two (2) participating Clubs shall be promptly notified to the FAW by the Home Club at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the Match, for approval by the FAW, who shall consider such relevant factors such as whether the new time might adversely affect any Transmission Contract requirements.

- 16.7. All Clubs must adhere to the kick-off time as set by the FAW. Clubs and Match Officials must report any delays to the FAW. It is the responsibility of both Clubs to make arrangements to ensure there

are no unnecessary delays to the kick-off time, to include appropriate travel arrangements, Player warm-up periods, and pre-match timings.

- 16.8. In all Matches, the half-time interval shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes.
- 16.9. Each Home Club shall confirm its proposed full Authorised Kit colours (including goalkeeper) for a Match, via the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time at least three (3) days prior to the Match. The Away Club and Referee must also confirm their proposed full Authorised Kit colours (including goalkeeper) for the Match, via the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time at least three (3) days prior to Match. The Match Referee must confirm approval of both Clubs' proposed kit colours with both Clubs and the FAW via email at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to kick off, unless it is impracticable to do so. If the Match Referee believes that there will be a clash of kit colours for a Match, then they may (after consultation with the FAW, except where it is impracticable to do so on a Match day) require the Away Club or the Home Club to change their kit colours for the Match. Each Club shall arrive for a Match with the kit which has been approved by the Match Referee as set out above.
- 16.10. Away Clubs shall also confirm in such match correspondence to Home Clubs if they will be attending post-Match hospitality or not.
- 16.11. Where a Match is re-arranged or cancelled after the Match Officials have been appointed, it is the duty of the Home Club to notify the Match Officials of the cancellation of their appointments immediately.
- 16.12. No Club shall be allowed to postpone a Match with another Club unless it is to play in the FAW Women's Cup or the Adran Trophy.
- 16.13. Clubs affected by the selection of two or more players for International Matches may be permitted by the FAW to postpone their League Match on the days of such Matches. Any requests to postpone Matches for this reason shall be made in writing to the FAW within forty eight (48) hours of the relevant International squad announcement. Consideration shall be given regarding late call ups to the above-mentioned International Matches. The League reserves the right to arrange Matches for those Clubs who do not have a scheduled Match. If one player is selected and that player is the goalkeeper, a Club could make a similar request for the postponement of its Match.
- 16.14. The FAW reserves the right to arrange Matches for those Clubs who do not have a scheduled Match on a Sunday. Clubs shall be given a minimum of fourteen (14) clear days' notice to any new Match dates, unless in extreme circumstances or when mutually agreed by all parties.
- 16.15. Clubs must give priority to Matches whether home or away. This means that a Club must not allow any non-Match related activities to interfere with or take precedence over a Match.

Guidance

This Rule 16.15 will apply throughout the Playing Season, including in cases where the Association rearranges Matches following confirmation of the initial fixture schedule. Clubs are expected to cancel or postpone any pre-existing events at their venues to prioritise Matches as required.

- 16.16. The FAW retains the right to be the final arbiter of the date and kick off time in the best interests of the League, including for televised Matches.

17. Condition of Grounds and Postponements

- 17.1. Any Match not completed may be ordered to stand as a completed Match or replayed for the full period of ninety (90) minutes, as the FAW may direct. In the event of a Match not being played to a finish owing to fog or other causes over which neither Club has control, the Home Club shall take its own gate receipts of such uncompleted Match and the gate receipts of the replayed Match.
- 17.2. A Match may only be postponed:
 - 17.2.1. With the approval of the Match Referee or the available referee and the FAW on Match day-1;

- 17.2.2. With the approval of the Match Referee or the available referee on Match day;
 - 17.2.3. By order of the police;
 - 17.2.4. By order of any other authority exercising its statutory powers; or
 - 17.2.5. With the approval of the FAW.
- 17.3. Each participating Club shall take all reasonable steps to avoid the postponement of a Match.
 - 17.4. In the case of the Away Club, should it have undertaken all or part of the journey, travelling expenses and meal allowance may be claimed based on the total mileage on the whole journey. The allowance will be as assessed by the FAW up to a maximum of £500.
 - 17.5. Details of the compensation claim by either/both Clubs shall be placed before the FAW, with all the details clearly itemised.
 - 17.6. When a Match is postponed for any reason, the FAW will decide the new date on which the Match is to be played following consultation (the time period for which will be at the discretion of the FAW) with both Clubs but without the right of appeal by either Club.
 - 17.7. No Club shall postpone the playing of a Match on account of apparent unfitness of its ground, the Referee being the sole person to decide as to the fitness after inspection. In bad weather, or where it seems apparent that there is not a possibility of the Match being played, it shall be obligatory for the Home Club to call in the most senior FAW qualified referee available (or designated person as deemed competent by the FAW Match Officials Manager), to give a ruling as to the fitness after consultation with the FAW. The time of any inspection shall be by mutual agreement between the two Clubs taking into account the travelling time of the Visiting Club, but shall not be considered more than forty-eight (48) hours before the scheduled time of kick-off. In case of dispute, the FAW shall decide the time of any inspection.
 - 17.8. In the event of the available referee declaring the ground unfit, the Home Club shall notify the Visiting Club and the Match Officials forthwith by email and telephone call to avoid all unnecessary expense in travelling and the FAW. The Visiting Club shall forthwith acknowledge receipt of such notice. If the Home Club does not receive an acknowledgement promptly, the Home Club shall forthwith notify the FAW.
 - 17.9. If the available referee (or designated person as deemed competent by the FAW Match Officials Manager) does not declare the ground unfit, a final decision shall be made by the Match Referee upon their arrival at the ground (each such Referee taking into account that Referees should not hastily postpone or abandon Matches). A Match Official conducting ground inspections shall be entitled to an inspection fee, as set by the FAW Referees Committee from time to time, and travelling expenses to be met by the League.
 - 17.10. When a Club obtains the approval of the FAW to postpone a Match because of an epidemic or similar affecting the availability of its Players, that Club shall be liable to pay any direct expenses (if any) incurred by the opposing Club as a result of the postponement.
 - 17.11. Medical Certificates for those Players affected sent signed by the Player's own doctor must be forwarded to the FAW within fourteen (14) days of the postponement, along with the full list of Professional Players and Amateur Players currently engaged by the Club during the Season, giving full reasons against each name for that Player's unavailability. Failure to provide such evidence may see the club sanctioned as per an unfulfilled fixture.
 - 17.12. Requests for the postponement of a Match on medical grounds will not be considered more than forty eight (48) hours before the scheduled time of kick-off.
 - 17.13. The FAW may require a Home Club to identify a suitable alternative ground for a Match if they have any concerns about the condition of the Home Club's ground in the build up to a Match. Any such proposed alternative ground shall be subject to the approval of the FAW.
 - 17.14. Any Club failing to fulfil its fixture obligations in respect of any Match on the appointed date or

dates or causing the FAW to cancel, postpone, abandon or suspend any Match shall be deemed guilty of misconduct unless the Club is successfully able to demonstrate that Rule 17.15 below applies. The burden of proof will rest with the Club.

- 17.15. The Club will be deemed to be guilty of misconduct in accordance with Rule 17.14 above where it is able to demonstrate that:
 - 17.15.1. The dominant and effective cause of the non-fulfilment was the occurrence of an event which was outside the control of the Club ("Event"); and
 - 17.15.2. The Club could not have reasonably foreseen or reasonably anticipated and remedied the consequences of the Event prior to the Match despite using its best endeavours to do so.
- 17.16. The Club failing to fulfil its fixture or causing the FAW to suspend a Match shall be liable to pay compensation for any expenses actually incurred by the opposing Club as a direct result of the failure or suspension. The amount of compensation will be at the discretion of the FAW who will consider every such case on its merits.
- 17.17. Each Club shall ensure, or shall procure, that its home ground is insured against damage or destruction by such insured risks as are required by the FAW from time to time with a reputable insurer (regulated under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000) for the full cost of repairing, rebuilding and reinstating the ground (including all stands) and for these purposes this includes VAT, professional fees (for example architects, surveyors, engineers and solicitors) and any fees payable on any applications for planning permission or other permits or consents which may be required in relation to site preparation, repairing, rebuilding or reinstating the stadium. A Club shall provide the FAW with full copies of such documentation as the FAW may reasonably require regarding such insurance policy(ies). Any Club in default of this obligation may have such amounts owed to it by the FAW withheld until such time as the insurance is in place.

18. Match Officials

- 18.1. The FAW shall decide on the appointments of Match Officials.
- 18.2. Match Officials should be present at the appointment at least sixty (60) minutes prior to the advertised time of kick-off. The appointed Referee may be required to visit the ground earlier if requested to do so by the Home Club. If any Match Official becomes aware that they are likely to arrive late, they must immediately notify the participating Clubs, other Match Officials and the FAW via telephone calls.
- 18.3. In cases where it is considered necessary to stop playing a Match owing to adverse weather or another cause, the Referee must wait a reasonable length of time before deciding on abandonment.
- 18.4. Should the appointed Referee fail to appear, the senior Assistant Referee shall take charge. The senior Assistant Referee is the Assistant Referee with the longer service on the League.
- 18.5. Referees must report to the FAW all cases where Clubs commence a Match late, or without eleven (11) Players on the field, where the Team Sheet was amended after submission and also in case of their own or any Assistant Referee's (including the Fourth Official's) late arrival for any Match as soon as possible after the Match. Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials must also send an explanation of their late arrival to the FAW as soon as possible after the Match.
- 18.6. If a Match Official prefers being paid their expenses either in cash or by bank transfer, they must notify the Home Club of their preference at least forty eight (48) hours before the Match. Otherwise, the Home Club shall decide on the payment method. The Home Club must pay the Match Officials their expenses either:
 - 18.6.1. in cash on the day of the Match; or
 - 18.6.2. by bank transfer within three (3) Business Days after the Match.
- 18.7. The kit worn by Match Officials at Matches shall be approved by the FAW Referees Committee.
- 18.8. The football(s) proposed to be used in a Match must be the applicable official Match ball type as

determined by the FAW and notified to the Clubs by the FAW from time to time. The Home Club must ensure that the proposed Match balls are in good condition. The proposed Match ball(s) (comprising a minimum number of eight (8)) shall be submitted by the Home Club to the Referee for their approval before commencement of the Match. The multi-ball system must be used with the required number of balls strategically placed on cones around the perimeter of the pitch.

- 18.9. The Match Officials fees (as set by the FAW) shall be paid by the Home Club and the Home Club shall also be liable for their travel expenses, unless otherwise approved by the FAW.
- 18.10. All Match Officials shall be entitled to claim the cheapest form of rail travel available on the day of the Match or motoring expenses determined from time to time by the FAW when travelling by car, subject to the applicable cap. Match Official must travel together when instructed to do so by the FAW.
- 18.11. Match Officials shall also be entitled to receive a meal allowance from the Home Club, determined from time to time by the FAW when travelling a total of one hundred and fifty (150) miles or more.
- 18.12. In the case of postponed Matches where they have travelled but where the game has not kicked off the Match Officials shall be paid their travelling expenses by the Home Club. They shall also receive half their Match Fee from the Home Club. If a match is abandoned once the match has commenced, all match officials are entitled to claim their full match fee plus travelling expenses.
- 18.13. All players who receive treatment, or where the physio/doctor enters the field of play will be required to remain off the field of play for a minimum of 30 seconds before returning on the referees' signal.
- 18.14. Any comments, questions or complaints regarding the decisions of a given Match Official shall be directed to the FAW Referees Manager (initially via e-mail), not to any individual Match Official. Under no circumstances are conversations between club personnel and Match Officials to be recorded with any device without the knowledge and permission of all parties.
- 18.15. The Referee shall send the completed standard Referee's Report Form to the FAW within sixty (60) minutes of the final whistle, using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time. The Referee's Report Form must be complete in all details, including the result of the Match, the full names of the Players taking part in the Match, the names of the substitutes and details of any substitutions made (including the Match time when the substitution was made), and details of any yellow cards and red cards issued (including the Match time when the card was issued).
- 18.16. The FAW may appoint a Referee Observer, whose identity will be confirmed using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time. The Referee Observer must be allocated a car parking space, complimentary entry into the Ground and a seat in the VIP section with a full and unobstructed view of the Ground. The Referee Observer will also act as the Match delegate and is responsible for ensuring the orderly organisation of the match and that the Competition and FAW Rules and Regulations are complied with. The Referee Observer may submit a report to the FAW if they deem it necessary following any alleged breaches of the Rules and Regulations.
- 18.17. Clubs must complete and submit the Club marking details about Match Officials in accordance with the League's instructions.
- 18.18. In the event of an injury to a Match Official, the Home Club will be responsible for the medical treatment of that Match Official.

19. Team Sheets and Strength of Teams

- 19.1. Both Match Team Sheets must be completed at least thirty (30) minutes before kick-off of each Match (except at least seventy-five (75) minutes before kick-off of any Match to be transmitted "live" on terrestrial or digital television or to be streamed by the FAW or one of the FAW's partners) using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time.
- 19.2. Any Club altering its team selection or numbering after Team Sheets have been exchanged will be subject to any action decided upon by the FAW. After the validated Team Sheets have been

submitted by both Clubs, and if the Match has not yet kicked off, no replacement is allowed except in the following cases:

- 19.2.1. If any of the eleven (11) Players indicated on the Team Sheet as forming the starting eleven (11) Players are not able to start the Match due to physical incapacity, they may only be replaced by any of the substitutes listed on the initial Team Sheet. The substitute(s) in question may then only be replaced by a registered Player (or Players) not listed on the initial Team Sheet, so that the quota of substitutes is not reduced. During the Match, five (5) Players may still be substituted.
- 19.2.2. Should the named goalkeeper indicated on the Team Sheet as forming the starting eleven (11) is not able to start the match due to physical incapacity, they may be replaced by another nominated goalkeeper, regardless if they have previously been listed as a substitute on the Team Sheet.
- 19.2.3. If any of the substitutes listed on the Team Sheet are not able to be fielded due to physical incapacity, they may only be replaced by a registered Player not listed on the initial Team Sheet.
- 19.2.4. The Club concerned must, upon request, provide the FAW with the necessary medical certificates.

Guidance

Once a Club has "CONFIRMED" its team sheet on COMET, it cannot be changed at any point.

- 19.3. The League's standard form Team Sheet shall be used by each Club, using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time.
- 19.4. Each Club shall play its full-strength team in all Matches and shall be prepared to kick off at the advertised time unless an explanation is offered which is deemed satisfactory by the FAW.

20. Substitutes

- 20.1. Clubs may nominate up to five (5) substitutes on the Team Sheet.
- 20.2. A Club at its discretion may use up to five (5) substitutes during a Match except to replace a Player or Players who have been sent off from the Match by the Referee. Substitutions can only be made when the play has been stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission.
- 20.3. During the Match, each Club:
 - 20.3.1. may use a maximum of five (5) substitutes
 - 20.3.2. has a maximum of three (3) substitution opportunities; and
 - 20.3.3. may additionally make substitutions at half- time.

Where both Clubs make a substitution at the same time, this will count as a substitution opportunity used by each Club.

- 20.4. The name(s) and numbers of the substitute(s) must be nominated to the Referee on the Team Sheet in accordance with Rule 19 above.

21. Substitutes Benches and Technical Areas

- 21.1. At each Match:
 - 21.1.1. Up to thirteen (13) Players and Officials in total (of which no more than five (5) may be the substitutes or the Players they have replaced on the field of play) may sit on the substitutes' bench of the relevant Club in the designated technical area. The full name of each person and their function must be listed on the Team Sheet.
 - 21.1.2. Only one (1) person at a time from the relevant Club may stand in the designated technical area. Only one (1) person at a time from the relevant Club may convey tactic instructions from

the designated technical area.

21.1.3. A qualified medic as defined in the FAW's Tier 2 Women's Club Licensing Regulations should be pitch side. The person on duty shall be either the Club's incumbent named medic in accordance with the Club's Licence or, in exceptional circumstances, a suitable replacement who is appropriately qualified in accordance with the FAW's Tier 1 Women's Club Licensing Regulations.

21.2. During the Match, substitutes are allowed to leave the designed technical area to warm up. The Referee may determine exactly where they may warm up and how many substitutes are allowed to warm up simultaneously but in any event, no more than three (3) in total from each Club. A Club Official (as indicated on the Team Sheet) may join the substitutes warming up and, if so, is responsible for compliance with the Referee's instructions.

21.3. Each Club participating in a Match must have two (2) sets of warm up bibs available to present to the Referee before the Match. Should there be a colour clash the Referee will decide which bibs the substitutes must wear during their warm-ups.

21.4. Smoking (including the use of e-cigarettes) is not allowed in the technical area during Matches.

21.5. Five home and five away bibs to be placed opposite the technical areas in preparation for substitutions (as Players are now expected to leave the field at the nearest point after being substituted).

21.6. The use of any electronic communication equipment and/or systems is regulated by the IFAB Laws of the Game and the relevant instructions issued. Under no circumstances may any such systems be used by teams in connection with any kind of refereeing decision or matter.

22. Players Insurance

22.1. It is the responsibility of the Club that all insurance matters relating to the activities of the Club are covered. This should include players, staff, facilities, matches, travel and any other areas for which the Club may be liable. Insurance offered by the FAW in respect of COMET registration may form part of this provision. It is advised that Clubs seek professional guidance regarding all insurance matters.

23. League Media Events

23.1. Each Club shall, when requested to do so by the FAW, ensure that at least one first team squad Player and/or the manager are available to attend media events as organised by the FAW from time to time. Such attendance shall mean the Player and/or manager being available for a continuous two-hour period at a location of the FAW's choice and include their being interviewed by the FAW, Transmission Partners, and other invited media. No Club will be required to procure attendance more than twice in any Season with at least one attendance designated to the FAW's central annual community activity (as designated from time to time).

24. Sponsorship

24.1. The FAW shall have the sole and exclusive right to exercise the Sponsorship Rights and to enter into Sponsorship Contracts and/or authorise others to do so. The Clubs shall do nothing to infringe such rights and shall at their own cost do all such things and sign all such documents as are necessary to facilitate the exercise of the Sponsorship Rights and enable the FAW, its agents and licensees to comply with the terms of Sponsorship Contracts, including the provision of access, facilities and services and the right to use Club, Official and Player names, logos, images and biographies.

25. Transmission of League Matches

25.1. The FAW shall have the sole and exclusive right to exercise the Transmission Rights and enter into Transmission Contracts and/or authorise others to do so. The Clubs shall do nothing to infringe such rights and shall at their own cost do all such things and sign all such documents as are

necessary to facilitate the exercise of the Transmission Rights and enable the FAW, its agents and licensees to comply with the terms of Transmission Contracts, including the provision of access, facilities and services and the right to use Club, Official and Player names, logos, images and biographies.

- 25.2. No Transmission Rights shall be exploited by any Club or any person authorised by any Club except with the written consent of the FAW. No Club shall take part in any Match at which any Transmission Rights are to be exploited without first obtaining the written consent of the FAW.
- 25.3. The FAW and its Transmission Partner(s) (and their respective employees, contractors and agents) shall be allowed access to the grounds, structures, facilities and spaces of all Clubs (including without limitation to the television gantries, camera, commentary, presentation, reporter and interview positions, cabling, utilities (including provision of uninterrupted, resilient and adequate power and connectivity supply) and parking facilities) as the FAW may require and/or direct from time to time for the benefit and use for the purpose of the Transmission Rights.
- 25.4. Each Club will behave towards the FAW's Transmission Partner(s) with the utmost good faith.

26. Gate Receipts

- 26.1. Save as expressly stated in these Rules, the Home Club shall retain all gate receipts generated from each Match.

27. Custody of Division Trophies

- 27.1. The Adran North/South trophy will be presented to the winning Club of the relevant Division.
- 27.2. Upon receiving the said trophy, the following agreement will be signed in connection with the safe keeping and eventual return of the trophy to the FAW.

'We the undersigned Officials of the Club do on their behalf receive The Adran North/South trophy and acknowledge that same has been delivered into our keeping in good and sound condition.

We agree that the Club will return the said trophy to the FAW by 1st March of the following Playing Season or upon request by the FAW (including if it should be required for promotional purposes).

We further agree to indemnify the FAW against Loss of or Damage to the trophy while in our possession or otherwise to provide an exact replica of the trophy concerned.

We acknowledge that no inscription is allowed to be placed on the Cup by any Club.

Date:

Signed:

Chair:

Secretary:'