

THE CYMRU PREMIER

2026/2027 SEASON

1. DEFINITIONS 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. **'FAW'** means the Football Association of Wales Limited.
- 1.1.6. **'FAW Pyramid Regulations'** means the FAW Regulations for the men's pyramid league system effective for the relevant Playing Season.
- 1.1.7. **'FAW Regulations'** means the regulations, standing orders, byelaws, orders, codes, policies, procedures, directives and instructions for the time being of the FAW.
- 1.1.8. **'FAW Rules'** means the Rules for the time being of the FAW.
- 1.1.9. **'FAW VAR Protocol'** means the FAW VAR protocol governing the implementation and operation of VAR (including a Disaster Recovery Plan) in Matches.
- 1.1.10. **'FIFA'** means the Federation Internationale de Football Association.
- 1.1.11. **'General Meeting'** means any meeting of the Clubs and shall include the Annual General Meeting and any Extraordinary General Meetings called in accordance with Rule 4 below.
- 1.1.12. **'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 **'Away Club'** means the other Club due to play in the relevant Match.
- 1.1.13. **'Home Grown Player'** means a Player who, irrespective of nationality, has previously been registered with the FAW to play for a Club and/or any other club affiliated to the FAW (whether directly or via the FAW's area associations) as a Junior Player and/or a Youth Player for at least two (2) full consecutive Playing Seasons prior to the Playing Season in question.

- 1.1.14. **'IFAB'** means International Football Association Board.
- 1.1.15. **'IFAB VAR Protocol'** means the IFAB VAR protocol governing the implementation of VAR worldwide.
- 1.1.16. **'Junior Player'** is as defined in the FAW Rules.
- 1.1.17. **'League'** means the Cymru Premier League, as such name may be amended from time to time by the FAW with the approval of the FAW directors to include the name of a title sponsor.
- 1.1.18. **'Match'** means any association football match played in the League including (where the context requires) the European Play-Offs.
- 1.1.19. **'Match Delegate'** means an individual appointed by the Home Club to look after the Match Officials before during and after the Match until the Match Officials leave the ground.
- 1.1.20. **'Match Officials'** means the Referee and/or Assistant Referee and/or any Fourth Official and/or a video Assistant Referee and/or an Assistant Video Assistant Referee for a Match.
- 1.1.21. **'Official'** means any director, secretary or other duly authorised representative of a Club.
- 1.1.22. **'Official VAR System'** means a FIFA Basic Certified Solution, either provided or approved by the FAW, that can be used by Match Officials for video replay in Matches.
- 1.1.23. **'PGAC'** means the Professional Game Advisory Committee of the FAW constituted in accordance with the FAW Standing Orders.
- 1.1.24. **'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.
- 1.1.25. **'Phase 1'** and **'Phase 2'** have the meanings given in Rule 16 below.
- 1.1.26. **'Player'** means any male association football player, whether or not registered with the FAW to play for a Club.
- 1.1.27. **'Playing Season'** is as defined in the FAW Rules.
- 1.1.28. **'Play-Offs'** has the meaning given in Rule 17 below.
- 1.1.29. **'RRA'** means Referee Review Area.
- 1.1.30. **'Referee Observer'** means an individual appointed by the FAW Match Officials department who observes the performance of Match Officials in Matches.
- 1.1.31. **'Rules'** means these Rules of the League as amended from time to time.

- 1.1.32. **'Scale of Fines'** means the scale of fines referred to in Rule 33 below.
- 1.1.33. **'Season'** is as defined in the FAW Rules.
- 1.1.34. **'Short Term Loan Player'** is as defined in the FAW Rules.
- 1.1.35. **'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.
- 1.1.36. **'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.
- 1.1.37. **'Squad List'** means the list of Players to be fielded by the relevant Club in the League in the relevant Playing Season.
- 1.1.38. **'Team Sheet'** means the sheet 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.
- 1.1.39. **'Technical Area'** means a designated area at the side of a football pitch where the relevant Club team's Officials, unused substitutes and substituted Players are situated during a Match.
- 1.1.40. **'Tier 1 Licence'** has the meaning given in Rule 5 below.
- 1.1.41. **'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.
- 1.1.42. **'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.
- 1.1.43. **'Transmission Partner(s)'** means any Transmission Rights partner of the FAW from time to time.
- 1.1.44. **'UEFA Licence'** has the meaning given in Rule 17 below.
- 1.1.45. **'VAR'** means Video Assistant Referee.
- 1.1.46. **'VAR Light'** means FIFA certified Video Assistant Referee technology which uses a

minimum of four (4) cameras and a maximum of eight (8) cameras at a Match.

1.1.47. **'VOR'** means Video Operations Room.

1.1.48. **'Welsh Cup'** means the FAW Welsh Cup.

1.1.49. **'Work Experience Player'** is as defined in the FAW Rules.

1.1.50. **'Youth Player'** is as defined in the FAW Rules.

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 (including the FAW VAR Protocol); and

2.2.2 The Laws of the Game and any applicable IFAB protocols, instructions and/or procedures (including the IFA VAR Protocol).

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 not exceeding £15,000 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 Welsh 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. GENERAL MEETINGS AND OTHER LEAGUE MEETINGS

- 4.1 The Annual General Meeting of the League shall be held in each year at a date, time and place to be determined by the FAW.
- 4.2 The FAW may, whenever it thinks fit, convene an Extraordinary General Meeting 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, convene an Extraordinary General Meeting at a date, time and place to be determined by the FAW.
- 4.3 The FAW shall notify all Clubs of the date, time and place of all General Meetings and all other meetings described in this Rule 4 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 such Clubs.
- 4.4 Each Club shall be entitled to have two (2) representatives and one (1) vote at any General Meeting. Each 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 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.
- 4.5 Any resolution at a General Meeting must have the support of two thirds (2/3rds) of the Clubs present at the meeting. The attendees for each Annual General Meeting (a) must include at least one (1) representative of any Club that has been promoted to the League 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 relegated from the League for the following Playing Season, but each such Club shall not be entitled to vote at that meeting.

- 4.6 A representative of the FAW shall be the Chair at all General Meetings.
- 4.7 The directors of the FAW shall have the power to veto any resolution of the Clubs passed at a General Meeting.
- 4.8 Each Club shall ensure that its Chair (or a deputy satisfactory to the FAW) attends the annual Club Chairs' Meeting but the meeting, if validly convened, may proceed in their absence.
- 4.9 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.
- 4.10 The FAW may permit attendance and/or voting at any of the above meetings by electronic means.

5. FAW TIER 1 CLUB LICENSING

Only those Clubs and prospective Clubs which attain a FAW Tier 1 Men's licence ('**Tier 1 Licence**') under the FAW's Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations shall be eligible for membership of the League in the Season which next commences after the grant of such Tier 1 Licence.

6. SUBSCRIPTIONS

The annual subscription of each Club to the League shall be £550 or such other sum as shall be determined by the FAW from time to time. All annual subscriptions shall be paid before the start of the League in each Playing Season, using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time. Any Club whose subscription has not been paid before the start of the League in each Playing Season, shall not be entitled to be represented at any General Meeting until the same shall have been paid.

7. ACCOUNTS

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 shall present those accounts to the Clubs either at a General Meeting or otherwise in writing. The FAW shall be solely responsible for the manner in which the income of the League is expended.

8. NOTICES

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, address, email address and telephone number(s) shall be notified by the Club to the FAW. Any notice or other communication to be served on the League shall be addressed to the Domestic Leagues department of 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.

9. ALTERATIONS TO THESE RULES

- 9.1. No alteration to 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 Meeting or at Extraordinary General Meeting convened under Rule 4 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.
- 9.2. 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 1st March prior to the date fixed for the Annual General Meeting in any year.

10. DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS, DISPUTES, APPEALS, INDEPENDENT ARBITRATION AND SANCTIONS

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.

11. REGISTRATIONS, CONTRACTS AND TRANSFERS AND PLAYER LISTS

- 11.1. Provisions relating to Player registrations, contracts and transfers shall (if and 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.
- 11.2. 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.

12 SQUAD LISTS

- 12.1 Each Club is responsible for submitting its Squad List to the FAW, using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time.
- 12.2 Each Club must submit an initial Squad List for the relevant Playing Season by no later than 5pm on the second Monday in July. A Club shall apply to:
- 12.2.1 include a Player on its Squad List; and/or
- 12.2.2 remove a Player from its Squad List,
- by submitting a request to that effect to the FAW (using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time).

Guidance

When a Player leaves a Club that Player must be removed from the Club's Squad List, including (but not limited to) Players who have left the Club on loan.

- 12.3 The Squad List is based on the following provisions:

- 12.3.1 a Club must include a minimum of eighteen (18) Players;
- 12.3.2 a Club must include a minimum of two (2) Players who are recognised goalkeepers;
- 12.3.3 a Club must include a minimum of eight (8) Home Grown Players;
- 12.3.4 if a Club has fewer than eight (8) Home Grown Players, then the maximum number of Players that the Club may have on its Squad List is reduced by the same number as the shortfall;
- 12.3.5 a Club may include a maximum of twenty-five (25) Players;
- 12.3.6 all Players included on the Squad List must be registered with the Club on a Professional Contract;
- 12.3.7 any Player(s) included on the Squad List that is not registered with the Club on a Professional Contract will be deemed ineligible to participate for the Club in a Match; and
- 12.3.8 each Club is solely responsible for ensuring Players included on the Squad List are registered with the Club on a Professional Contract.

Guidance

Clubs must continue to comply with the provisions set out within this Rule 12.4 above at all times during Professional Registration Windows. For example, if a club only has two recognised goalkeepers on its Squad List, it must ensure that it adds a third recognised goalkeeper before removing one of the two existing recognised goalkeepers. A Club may not remove/add Players from its Squad List on the premise it will later rectify issues of non-compliance.

- 12.4 Subject to the minimum and maximum numbers stated in Rule 12.4 above, changes to the Squad List may be made by a Club as follows:
 - 12.4.1 at any time within the Professional Registration Periods in the Playing Season; or
 - 12.4.2 between the closure of the first Professional Registration Period and the opening of the second Professional Registration Period in any Season, a Club may add a maximum of one (1) new eligible Player; or
 - 12.4.3 between the closure of the second Professional Registration Period until the end of the Playing Season, a Club may add a maximum of one (1) new eligible Player.
- 12.5 Any such changes to the Squad List must be set out in a revised Squad List and submitted by the Club to the FAW, 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 a relevant Player to participate. This includes the addition of any Player in relation to Rule 12.7 below.

Guidance

A Professional Player can only be added to a Squad List once their registration has been "Confirmed" on COMET, which includes the receipt of an international transfer certificate in

respect of such Player. A Club cannot include a Professional Player on its Squad List if the registration status is "Entered", "Submitted", or "Approved" on COMET.

If the signing of a Professional Player completes following the closure of a Professional Registration Period but the club can demonstrate to the Association that it properly submitted the registration before closure, the Club will retain its ability to make 1 change to its Squad List once the Professional Registration Window has closed.

Clubs are required to declare whether or not a Player is a recognised goalkeeper when submitting a registration application. Inaccurately declaring an outfield Player as a recognised goalkeeper will constitute a breach of these Rules.

- 12.6 A Player shall be deemed to have been included or removed from a Club's Squad List on receipt by the Club of the FAW's confirmation of the same (which may be given electronically).
- 12.7 Players who meet the criteria below do not need to be included in the Squad List to be eligible to play in Matches:
- 12.7.1 any Player who has attained the age of sixteen (16) years but not attained the age of nineteen (19) years before the 1st September in the relevant Playing Season;
- 12.7.2 a maximum of two (2) fifteen (15) year-old Players, subject to Rule 85C of the FAW Rules;
- 12.7.3 a Work Experience Player; and
- 12.7.4 a Short Term Loan Player.
- 12.8 Each Club must publish their Squad List on the Club's official website and ensure that such publication is up to date at all times.

13 SUBSTITUTES

- 13.1 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.
- 13.2 During a Match, each Club:
- shall have a maximum of three (3) substitution opportunities; and
 - may in addition 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.

- 13.3 The name(s) and numbers of the substitute(s) must be nominated to the Referee on the Team Sheet in accordance with Rule 21 below. Both Clubs should take their own substitute boards to all Matches to assist with the substitution procedure.

Both Clubs may nominate up to seven (7) substitutes for a Match. However, if a Club wishes

to nominate more than five (5) substitutes, then the additional one (1) or two (2) substitute(s) must be Youth Substitutes. "Youth Substitute" means a Player who has not reached the age of 19 by 31st August in the relevant Playing Season.

13. INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

- 13.1. No Club may play an ineligible Player in any Match. Any Club which plays an ineligible Player in a Match, or Matches, will have three (3) points deducted from its League record for that Playing Season up to a maximum of 18 points* (or in the case of a Play-Off Match, will forfeit the Match) and will also be liable to a fine. If the Player is a nominated but unused substitute for a Match, he 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.

- 13.2. The PGAC Disciplinary Panel and a Judicial Body may suspend all or part of a points deduction imposed pursuant to Rule 14.1 above only if satisfied the ineligibility was due to a genuine administration error resulting in a breach relating to:

13.2.1. A breach of Rule 12.4 above;

13.2.2. A breach of Rule 13.3 above; or

13.2.3. A breach of Rule 85(C) of the FAW Rules.

14. AUTHORISED KITS

- 14.1. 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.
- 14.2. Notwithstanding Rule 15.1 above, by the second Monday in June, each Club shall submit three (3) goalkeeper kits and at least two (2) and up to three (3) outfield 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 outfield players 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.
- 14.3. The FAW shall notify the Club if any elements of their proposed Match 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.
- 14.4. 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:
- 14.4.1. (a) when the colours of two competing Clubs are alike or similar the Away 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

- 14.4.2. (b) Club may submit a request in writing to the FAW at least fourteen (14) 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*
- 14.5. Each goalkeeper shall play each Match in a kit clearly distinguishable from the colours of the shirts worn by all outfield Players, Match Officials, and the other goalkeeper.
- 14.6. If undershorts or tights or undersocks 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 and any applicable IFAB protocols, instructions, or procedures.
- 14.7. 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.
- 14.8. The Players' shirts for each Match must be clearly named and numbered 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 provided to each Club by the FAW to indicate his status.
- 14.9. Each Club shall allocate two (2) additional squad numbers and shirts at the beginning of the Playing Season so that they can immediately be assigned to new Player signings. An unmarked blood shirt is also required by every team at every Match.
- 14.10. 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 its prior written approval.
- 14.11. The FAW requires all Players participating in Matches to carry the League's and/or a League sponsor's logo on both sleeves of their shirts, as directed by the FAW. 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.
- 14.12. 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 such ball kids and/or other personnel for each Match must not clash with those of either of the competing teams or Match Officials.

- 14.13. All kits for Matches must comply with FAW Kit Regulations.

15. LEAGUE FORMAT, CHAMPIONS, PROMOTION, AND RELEGATION

- 15.1. The League will comprise a maximum of sixteen-(16) member Clubs in each Playing Season. The FAW shall determine annually the date on which Matches in each Playing **Season** shall commence. The FAW shall fix the date in the following year on which the normal Playing Season of the League shall terminate.
- 15.2. A Club may not enter its first team in any other competition except the Welsh 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.
- 15.3. In each Playing Season, the Clubs will initially play Matches against each other on a home and away basis, giving a maximum total of thirty (30) Matches per Club (**'Phase 1'**), following which the League will be split into three (3) groups, the first comprising the six (6) highest placed Clubs (**"Championship Conference"**), the second comprising the Clubs placed in 7th to 10th positions (**"Play-Off Conference"**), and the third comprising the Clubs placed in 11th to 16th positions (**"Relegation Conference"**) (and each is a **"Conference"** and together the **"Conferences"**), with points already gained carried forward.
- 15.4. Each group of Clubs will then play each other once, giving a total of a further maximum five (5) Matches per Club in the Championship and Relegation Conferences, and three (3) Matches per Club in the Play-Off Conference (**'Phase 2'**).
- 15.5. The Clubs placed in the following positions in each Conference will play the majority of their Matches in Phase 2 at home:
- 15.5.1. Championship Conference: 1st, 2nd and 3rd;
- 15.5.2. Play-Off Conference: 7th and 8th; and
- 15.5.3. Relegation Conference: 11th, 12th and 13th.
- 15.6. Following the formation of the Conferences, no Club from any Conference can be moved from one Conference to another, and no Club from a lower Conference can achieve a place higher in the League than any Club in a higher Conference, even if during or at the end of Phase 2 the points total of a Club in a lower Conference is greater than a Club in a higher Conference.
- 15.7. 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. At the end of each Playing Season's League competition (comprising Phase 1 and Phase 2 but excluding the European Play-Offs referred to in Rule 17 below), the Club from the Championship Conference scoring the largest number of total points shall be declared the League champion Club for that Playing Season.
- 15.8. Where two or more Clubs, in either Phase 1 or Phase 2, possess the same number of points,

the following criteria will be applied in the order given to determine their rankings:

- 15.8.1. Superior goal difference obtained in all League matches (Phase 1 and Phase 2);
 - 15.8.2. Higher or highest number of goals scored in all League matches (Phase 1 and Phase 2);
 - 15.8.3. Higher or highest number of points obtained in all League matches (Phase 1 and Phase 2) played among the Clubs in question;
 - 15.8.4. Superior goal difference obtained in all League matches played among the Clubs in question;
 - 15.8.5. Higher or highest number of goals scored in all League matches played among the teams in question;
 - 15.8.6. Higher or highest number of goals scored away from home in all League matches played among the teams in question;
 - 15.8.7. Higher or highest number of wins in all League matches;
 - 15.8.8. Higher or highest number of away wins in all League matches;
 - 15.8.9. Lower or lowest disciplinary points total based only on yellow and red cards received in all League matches; and
 - 15.8.10. The Clubs concerned shall play-off, in a format as directed by the FAW.
- 15.9. The League champion Club shall hold the League 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 League trophy, the FAW shall present thirty (30) souvenirs to the League champion Club, twenty (25) for the Players and five (5) for the Officials of the Club. Any additional medals must be purchased by the League champion Club. The date, time, and location of any such presentation shall be decided by the FAW.
 - 15.10. Clubs shall be promoted to and relegated from the League in accordance with the FAW Pyramid Regulations and the FAW Rules.
 - 15.11. A Club which for any reason ceases to operate at any time during Phase 1 shall have its playing record expunged. If the Club ceases to operate during Phase 2 before it completes its Matches, all of its playing record in Phase 2 shall be expunged but its results in Phase 1 shall stand.
 - 15.12. 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.
 - 15.13. 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. 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.

16. QUALIFICATION FOR UEFA CLUB COMPETITIONS

- 16.1. The League champion Club will be eligible to be nominated by the FAW for the UEFA Champions' League for the following Playing Season, subject to the Club having attained a UEFA Club competition licence ('UEFA Licence') in accordance with the relevant FAW club licensing regulations for the following Playing Season. If the Club does not attain the necessary UEFA Licence, then the next highest placed Club in the League that attains a UEFA Licence will be eligible to be nominated by the FAW. In those circumstances, that Club will not participate in the League's qualification play-offs for the UEFA Conference League ('European Play-Offs') as described below.
- 16.2. If the FAW is entitled to nominate three (3) clubs in total for UEFA competitions for the following Playing Season, then the following shall apply:
- 16.2.1. The winner of the Welsh Cup will be eligible to be nominated by the FAW for the UEFA Conference League for the following Playing Season, subject to the Club having attained the necessary UEFA Licence.
- 16.2.2. If the League champion Club wins the Welsh Cup or if the winner of the Welsh Cup does not attain the necessary UEFA Licence, then the next highest placed Club in the League in the League that attains a UEFA Licence will be eligible to be nominated by the FAW. In those circumstances, that Club will not participate in the European Play-Offs.
- 16.2.3. The second (2nd) to seventh (7th) placed Clubs in the League after Phase 1 and Phase 2 in each Playing Season will be eligible to participate in the European Play-Offs for the second UEFA Conference League place, subject in each case to the Club having attained both a Tier 1 Licence and a UEFA Licence for the following Playing Season.
- 16.2.4. The format of the quarter finals and semi finals of the European Play-Offs shall be as follows:

Welsh Cup Winner's League Position	Quarter Final 1	Quarter Final 2	Semi Final 1	Semi Final 2
1 st	6 th v 7 th	N/A	3 rd v 6 th /7 th	4 th v 5 th
2 nd	6 th v 7 th	N/A	3 rd v 6 th /7 th	4 th v 5 th
3 rd	6 th v 7 th	N/A	2 nd v 6 th /7 th	4 th v 5 th
4 th	6 th v 7 th	N/A	2 nd v 6 th /7 th	3 rd v 5 th
5 th	6 th v 7 th	N/A	2 nd v 6 th /7 th	3 rd v 4 th
6 th	5 th v 7 th	N/A	2 nd v 5 th /7 th	3 rd v 4 th
7 th	5 th v 6 th	N/A	2 nd v 5 th /6 th	3 rd v 4 th

8 th or below	4 th v 7 th	5 th v 6 th	2 nd v lowest ranked QF winner	3 rd v other QF winner
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16.2.5. The winners of each semi final will play the European Play-Offs final.

16.3. If the FAW is entitled to nominate four (4) clubs in total for UEFA competitions for the following Playing Season, then the following shall apply:

16.3.1. The winner of the Welsh Cup and the second (2nd) placed Club in the League will each be eligible to be nominated by the FAW for the UEFA Conference League for the following Playing Season, subject to the Club having attained the necessary UEFA Licence.

16.3.2. If the League champion Club or the second (2nd) placed Club in the League wins the Welsh Cup or if the winner of the Welsh Cup or the second (2nd) placed Club in the League does not attain the necessary Tier 1 Licence and UEFA Licence, then the next highest placed Club in the League that attains a UEFA Licence will be eligible to be nominated by the FAW. In those circumstances, that Club will not participate in the European Play-Offs as described below.

16.3.3. The third (3rd) to seventh (7th) placed Clubs in the League after Phase 1 and Phase 2 in each Playing Season will be eligible to participate in the European Play-Offs for the third UEFA Conference League place, subject in each case to the Club having attained both a Tier 1 Licence and a UEFA Licence for the following Playing Season.

16.3.4. The format of the quarter finals and semi finals of the European Play-Offs shall be as follows:

Welsh Cup Winner's League Position	Quarter Final 1	Quarter Final 2	Semi Final 1	Semi Final 2
1 st	N/A	N/A	4 th v 7 th	5 th v 6 th
2 nd	N/A	N/A	4 th v 7 th	5 th v 6 th
3 rd	N/A	N/A	4 th v 7 th	5 th v 6 th
4 th	N/A	N/A	3 rd v 7 th	5 th v 6 th
5 th	N/A	N/A	3 rd v 7 th	4 th v 6 th
6 th	N/A	N/A	3 rd v 7 th	4 th v 5 th
7 th	N/A	N/A	3 rd v 6 th	4 th v 5 th

8 th or below	6 th v 7 th	N/A	3 rd v 6 th /7 th	4 th v 5 th
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16.3.5. The winners of each semi final will play the European Play-Offs final.

- 16.4. In all European Play-Offs scenarios, the European Play-Offs shall be organised by the FAW and shall be considered as separate from Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the League in each Playing Season and the Play-Offs shall not count towards any Club's final position in the League. These Rules shall apply to the European Play-Offs, subject to any amendments deemed necessary by the FAW.
- 16.5. A Club's participation in the European Play-Offs shall be subject to the Club having attained both a Tier 1 Licence and a UEFA Licence for the following Playing Season. If a Club is ineligible to participate in a Match in the European Play-Offs, then the opposing Club shall receive a bye.
- 16.6. The Matches in the European Play-Offs shall be played over one leg with the higher placed Club designated as the Home Team (i.e. the Club which finished higher in the League after Phase 1 and Phase 2).
- 16.7. The Matches in the European Play-Offs shall all be played over ninety (90) minutes. If the result is a draw at the end of ninety (90) minutes play, the winners shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the Laws of the Game and any applicable IFAB protocols, instructions and/or procedures.

17. SCHEDULING OF MATCHES AND KICK-OFF TIMES

- 17.1. The FAW shall determine how the Matches shall be arranged and rearranged over the Playing Season. The draft schedule of 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 determined 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 Welsh Cup, UEFA club competitions and any invitational competition as agreed by the FAW.
- 17.2. Each weekend Match is to be played on a Friday evening unless specified otherwise by the FAW in its sole discretion.

Guidance

Fixtures may be moved from a Friday evening by the FAW for the following reason (this is not an exhaustive list):

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

Where possible, the FAW will not schedule midweek (Monday to Thursday) Matches which involve a distance of over 125 miles between the Home Club and the Away Club in the initial fixture schedule.

- 17.3. 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 where moves cannot be mutually agreed, Clubs can refer 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 also 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.

Clubs are also reminded that moves to a Friday evening would not prevent either Club from participating in Matches during the previous midweek where required to do so. Similarly, moves to a Sunday would not prevent utilising the following midweek for a Match.

- 17.4. 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.
- 17.5. The time of kick-off for all Matches shall be determined by the FAW.
- 17.6. 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 relevant factors such as whether the new time might adversely affect any Transmission Contract requirements.
- 17.7. 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.

- 17.8. In all Matches, the half-time interval shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes.
- 17.9. 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 the 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.
- 17.10. Away Clubs shall also confirm in such match correspondence to Home Clubs if they will be attending post-Match hospitality or not.
- 17.11. 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.
- 17.12. Clubs affected by the selection of two (2) 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.
- 17.13. 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 18.13 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.

18. GATE RECEIPTS

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

19. CONDITION OF GROUNDS AND POSTPONEMENTS

- 19.1. 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 shall be divided on Welsh Cup tie terms, except that season ticket holders of the Home Club shall be admitted on producing their cards of membership.
- 19.2. A Match may only be postponed:
 - 19.2.1. with the approval of the Match Referee or the available referee and the FAW on Match day -1;
 - 19.2.2. with the approval of the Match Referee or the available referee on Match day;
 - 19.2.3. by order of the police;
 - 19.2.4. by order of any other authority exercising its statutory powers; or
 - 19.2.5. with the approval of the FAW.
- 19.3. Each participating Club shall take all reasonable steps to avoid the postponement of a Match.
- 19.4. 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.
- 19.5. Details of the compensation claim by either/both Clubs shall be placed before the FAW, with all the details clearly itemised.
- 19.6. 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 for period for which will be at the discretion of the FAW) with both Clubs but without right of appeal by either Club.
- 19.7. The postponement by a referee of a Match due to ground conditions must be carried out in accordance with this Rule 20. 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, 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 Away Club. In case of dispute, the FAW shall decide the time of any inspection.
- 19.8. In the event of the available referee declaring the ground unfit, the Home Club shall notify the Away Club and the Match Officials forthwith by email and telephone call to avoid all unnecessary expense in travelling. The Away 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.
- 19.9. If the available referee 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.

- 19.10. 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.
- 19.11. 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.
- 19.12. 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.
- 19.13. 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 20.14 below applies. The burden of proof will rest with the Club.
- 19.14. The Club will not be deemed to be guilty of misconduct in accordance with Rule 20.13 above where it is able to demonstrate that:
 - 19.14.1. 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
 - 19.14.2. 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.
- 19.15. 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.
- 19.16. 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.
- 19.17. Except with the prior written consent of the FAW, LED screens or the like at a Club's ground shall not be used to relay to spectators closed circuit pictures of the match at which they are present.

20. TEAM SHEETS AND STRENGTH OF TEAMS

- 20.1. Both Match Team Sheets must be completed at least ninety (90) minutes before kick-off of each Match using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time.
- 20.2. 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:
- 20.2.1. 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.
- 20.2.2. 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.
- 20.2.3. If none of the goalkeepers listed on the Team Sheet are able to be fielded due to physical incapacity, they may be replaced by registered goalkeeper Player not listed on the initial Team Sheet.
- 20.2.4. 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.

- 20.3. 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.
- 20.4. 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.

21. MATCH-DAY PASSES

- 21.1. Each Home Club will issue to the Away Club:
- 21.1.1. A Match Accreditation to cover eighteen (18) Players plus up to eight (8) Officials (including team manager, assistant coach and physiotherapist) with access to the relevant changing room, pitch, substitutes bench and technical area and other relevant areas within the ground on Match day;
- 21.1.2. Passes to give access to the ground and directors' boardroom for ten (10) directors on Match day; and
- 21.1.3. Match accreditation to cover up to an additional (5) five Players from the Squad List

with access to the relevant changing room, pitch and seats and other relevant areas within the ground on Match day.

- 21.2. Additional passes or tickets to give access to the ground for the Match must be issued upon request from the Away Club, up to a maximum of six (6), provided it is understood that such requests must be restricted to bona-fide Club directors.
- 21.3. Ten (10) League passes will be issued to each Club. The passes are for ground admission and stand for all Matches (subject to availability) but will not guarantee admittance into the Club boardroom or directors' box. The passes are transferable.

22. SUBSTITUTES BENCHES AND TECHNICAL AREAS

22.1. At each Match:

- 22.1.1. up to thirteen (13) Players and Officials in total (of which no more than seven (7) may be the substitutes nominated in accordance with Rule 13.3 above, 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.
- 22.1.2. 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 tactical instructions from the designated technical area.
- 22.1.3. The Emergency Aid Officer role is as defined in the FAW's Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations. The person on duty as Emergency Aid Officer shall be either the Club's incumbent Emergency Aid Officer in accordance with the Club's Tier 1 Licence or, in exceptional circumstances, a replacement who is appropriately qualified in accordance with the FAW's Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations.
- 22.1.4. 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. Each Club participating in a Match must have two (2) sets of warm up bibs available to present to the Referee before the Match. The Referee will decide which bibs the substitutes must wear during their warm-ups.
- 22.1.5. Smoking (including the use of e-cigarettes) is not allowed in the technical area during Matches.
- 22.1.6. Four home and four 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).
- 22.1.7. The use of any electronic communication equipment and/or systems is regulated by the Laws of the Game and any applicable IFAB protocols, instructions and/or procedures. Under no circumstances may any such systems be used by teams in connection with any kind of refereeing decision or matter.

23. RESULT/REPORT FORMS

Each Club competing in a Match shall send the completed standard electronic Result Form to the FAW within thirty (30) minutes of the final whistle, using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time. 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).

24. LEAGUE MEDIA EVENTS

- 24.1. 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).

25. MATCH OFFICIALS

- 25.1. The FAW shall decide on the appointments of Match Officials.
- 25.2. In the event of the Match Officials not being in attendance at the Match in accordance with Rule 26.3 below, the two (2) Clubs must agree to a substitute on the ground and such substitute shall be considered a Match Official for the time being.
- 25.3. Match Officials should be present at the ground at least seventy five (75) 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.
- 25.4. 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.
- 25.5. 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.
- 25.6. Referees must report to the FAW all cases where Clubs commence a Match late, or without eleven (11) Players on the field and also in case of their own or any Assistant Referee's or 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.
- 25.7. 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 (a) in cash on the day of the Match or (b) by bank transfer within three (3) Business Days after the Match.

- 25.8. 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 and without any writing or extra marking on them. 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 by the Home Club on cones around the perimeter of the pitch.
- 25.9. The scale of payments for Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials shall be determined by the FAW and notified to the Clubs by the FAW prior to the commencement of the League in each Playing Season.
- 25.10. 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.
- 25.11. Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials must travel together when instructed to do so by the FAW.
- 25.12. Match Officials shall be entitled to a meal allowance determined from time to time by the FAW when travelling a total of one hundred and fifty (150) miles or more. In addition, Home Clubs must provide adequate refreshments to the Match Officials in their dressing room at least sixty (60) minutes prior to kick-off and food within thirty (30) minutes of the final whistle.
- 25.13. In the case of postponed Matches where gate money is not taken, the Match Officials shall be paid their travelling expenses and half their ordinary fee by bank transfer within three (3) Business Days of the Match.
- 25.14. Referees must report any late presentation or non-presentation of Team Sheets or alteration of teams after presentation of Team Sheets in accordance with Rule 21 above.
- 25.15. 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.
- 25.16. Referees must ensure that Clubs play Matches in the correct Authorised Kit as defined in Rule 15 above. Any breach of this Rule must be reported to the FAW.
- 25.17. The kit worn by Match Officials at Matches shall be approved by the FAW Referees Committee.
- 25.18. Any comments, questions or complaints regarding the decisions of a given Match Official shall be directed to the FAW Referees manager (initially via email), 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.
- 25.19. The FAW will appoint a Referee Observer for every match, 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 League 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.

- 25.20. VAR shall apply in all Matches and all Clubs must comply with the FAW VAR Protocol.
- 25.21. The Official VAR System will be installed at each Club by the FAW and at the FAW's cost and will provide the technical set up (hardware and software) to execute VAR Light.
- 25.22. No sources or systems other than the Official VAR System may be used by any Match Official to review replays during a Match.
- 25.23. A failure of the Official VAR System shall in no way prejudice the Match Official's decision. If necessary, in case of system failure, Matches at which VAR would otherwise be used in accordance with Rule 26.20 above will take place or continue without the use of VAR.
- 25.24. In the event of an injury to a Match Official, the Home Club will be responsible for the medical treatment of that Match Official.

26. WITHDRAWAL OF CLUBS

- 26.1. A Club shall not resign from the League after being accepted at the Annual General Meeting and before completing all of its Matches in the relevant Playing Season.
- 26.2. If a Club wishes to resign from the League at the end of the Playing Season, it must do so by giving notice by 1st April.

27. EXCLUSION OF CLUBS – MISCONDUCT BY CLUB, THEIR OFFICIALS, PLAYERS OR OTHERS

- 27.1. At the Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 4 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 good conduct of the name of the League.
- 27.2. 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 League, any Match Official, or any other Club into disrepute.

28. MATCH PROGRAMME AND PUBLICITY DETAILS

- 28.1. Using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time, each Club must upload to a shared folder a brief history of the Club, details of its Club first team squad list together with Players' pen pictures and its Authorised Kits by a date set by the FAW before the start of the League in each Playing Season and each Club shall keep the information fully updated during the Playing Season. Each Club must produce and publish at least one (1) piece of Match-related content on their official website and social accounts before each of their Matches. In addition, each Club may publish a programme for each of their Matches, in hard copy and/or digital format.
- 28.2. If requested by the FAW, the Home Club shall forward to the FAW a copy of the Match

programme within three (3) days of their request.

29. PUBLIC LIABILITY AND PLAYERS INSURANCE

All Clubs must have and maintain Player v Player and Public Liability Insurance in the minimum sum determined from time to time by the FAW, evidence of such cover having to be provided to the FAW at least fourteen (14) days before the start of the League in each Playing Season and as otherwise requested by the FAW. In the event of the FAW arranging block cover for Public Liability Insurance, all Clubs will be required to participate on such terms as the FAW shall decide.

30. TRANSMISSION OF LEAGUE MATCHES

- 30.1. 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.
- 30.2. 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 may take part in any Match at which any Transmission Rights are to be exploited without first obtaining the written consent of the FAW.
- 30.3. 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.
- 30.4. Each Club will behave towards the FAW's Transmission Partner(s) with the utmost good faith.

31. SPONSORSHIP

- 31.1. 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.

32. SCALE OF FINES AND PAYMENT OF FINES

- 32.1. The Scale of Fines to be imposed by the PGAC Disciplinary Panel and/or the FAW for a failure to comply with specified Rules (assuming the relevant failure is a first offence) shall be determined by the FAW from time to time and notified to the Clubs by the FAW at least two (2) weeks prior to the commencement of the League in each Playing Season.

- 32.2. All fines imposed by the PGAC Disciplinary Panel and/or the FAW under these Rules must be paid to the FAW within thirty-one (31) days of notice being given by the FAW.

33. END OF SEASON AWARDS

Each Club must purchase at least four (4) tickets for the League's end of season awards event.