

REGULATIONS FOR THE MEN'S PYRAMID LEAGUE SYSTEM EFFECTIVE FOR PLAYING SEASON 2026/2027

Definitions

In these Regulations, the following words and expressions have the following meaning:

Area Association:	Any regional football association defined pursuant to Rule 11.1.2.
Club Licence	A men's club licence under the Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations, the Tier 2 Club Licensing Regulations, or the Tier 3 Club Licensing Regulations, as the case may be.
Club Licensing Criteria:	The relevant criteria in the Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations, the Tier 2 Club Licensing Regulations, or the Tier 3 Club Licensing Regulations, as the case may be.
Club Licensing Regulations:	The Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations, the Tier 2 Club Licensing Regulations, and the Tier 3 Club Licensing Regulations (as applicable).
Cymru Premier:	The premier league (Tier 1), being the top division in the Pyramid League System, for the playing of association football by men in Wales.
Directors:	Shall have the meaning defined in the Preamble to the Rules.
FAW:	Football Association of Wales Limited.
Football Related Liabilities:	Shall have the meaning defined in the Preamble to the Rules.
National League:	Any men's league defined pursuant to Rule 11.1.3.
National Level:	Tiers 1 and 2 of the Pyramid League System.
Playing Season:	Shall have the meaning defined in the Preamble to the Rules.
Play-Off Matches:	The matches played in accordance with Regulation 3(f)(ii) of these Regulations.
Pyramid League System:	The pyramid league system for the playing of competitive men's league football in Wales at various levels ("Tiers"), as approved by the FAW from time to time.
Pyramid Tiers 1 – 3:	The top Tiers 1 - 3 inclusive of the Pyramid League System, the structure of which for the 2026/2027 Playing Season is attached as Appendix 1 to these Regulations.
Qualifying Club:	Any club, being a full Member of the FAW, defined pursuant to Rule 11.1.1.
Regional Level:	Tier 3 of the Pyramid League System.

Rules:	The rules of the FAW as passed by the Members of the FAW from time to time.
Tier 1:	The Cymru Premier comprising Qualifying Clubs who have obtained the Tier 1 Club Licence pursuant to the Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations and who are playing at National Level, aspiring to play in European football. The Cymru Premier is administered by the FAW.
Tier 2:	The two divisions, currently known as “Cymru North” and “Cymru South”, comprising Qualifying Clubs who have obtained the Tier 2 Club Licence pursuant to the Tier 2 Club Licensing Regulations and who are playing at National Level, aspiring to play at Tier 1 level. The divisions are administered by the FAW.
Tier 3:	The four divisions, currently known as the “Ardal Leagues”, comprising Qualifying Clubs who have obtained the Tier 3 Club Licence pursuant to the Tier 3 Club Licensing Regulations and who are playing at Regional Level, aspiring to play at National Level. The divisions are administered by one or more National League(s) on behalf of the FAW.
Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations:	The men’s club licensing quality standards and procedures set by the FAW from time to time to which all existing members of Tier 1 and those seeking promotion to Tier 1 must adhere.
Tier 2 Club Licensing Regulations:	The men’s club licensing quality standards and procedures set by the FAW from time to time to which all existing members of Tier 2 and those seeking promotion to Tier 2 must adhere.
Tier 3 Club Licensing Regulations:	The men’s club licensing quality standards and procedures set by the FAW from time to time to which all existing members of Tier 3 and those seeking promotion to Tier 3 must adhere.

1. Responsibilities and Objectives

- (a) The Pyramid League System provides football clubs throughout Wales with a framework of competitive men’s football appropriate to their playing standards, ground facilities, geographical location and economic means and permits the seasonal promotion, relegation, or lateral movement of clubs between the Tiers and the divisions of the Tiers in an orderly manner.
- (b) The FAW has responsibility for Pyramid Tiers 1 – 3 which form the National Leagues in the Pyramid League System, and the Area Associations have responsibility for those leagues in the Pyramid League System below the National Leagues (Tier 4 and below).
- (c) Except where otherwise stated, these Regulations apply to Pyramid Tiers 1 – 3.

2. League Structure

- (a) The Pyramid Tiers 1 - 3 for National Leagues shall be determined by the FAW. Each National League (and its divisions in Tiers 2 and 3) will be placed at a given Tier in the system, with the Cymru Premier at the head.
- (b) No National League or Area Association shall incorporate any changes in the structure of any part of the Pyramid League System except at the direction, and with the approval, of the FAW.
- (c) The FAW will control these Regulations. No National League in the Pyramid Tiers 1 - 3 shall change the number of its divisions or number of teams playing in a division without the written permission of the FAW.
- (d) Divisions in Pyramid Tiers 1 - 3 shall contain no more than 16 teams, unless with the written permission of the FAW.
- (e) Every National League in the Pyramid Tiers 1 - 3 shall conform with the decisions of the FAW as laid down from time to time.
- (f) All Tier 1 clubs must hold a current annual Tier 1 Club Licence under the Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations to play in Tier 1. Any club playing in the Cymru Premier that fails to obtain a renewal of its Tier 1 Club Licence but obtains a Tier 2 Club Licence for the next Playing Season shall be relegated one Tier from Tier 1 to Tier 2 at the end of the Playing Season in which the unsuccessful application for a Tier 1 Club Licence was made. Any such club that fails to obtain a Tier 2 Club Licence but obtains a Tier 3 Club Licence for the next Playing Season shall be relegated from Tier 1 to Tier 3 at the end of the relevant Playing Season. Any such club that fails to obtain a Tier 3 Club Licence for the next Playing Season shall be relegated to Tier 4 or the next highest Tier for which it meets the criteria set by the relevant Area Association. Failing that, the club shall be removed from the Pyramid League System.
- (g) All Tier 2 clubs must hold a current annual Tier 2 Club Licence under the Tier 2 Club Licensing Regulations to play in Tier 2. Any club playing in Tier 2 that fails to obtain a renewal of its Tier 2 Club Licence but obtains a Tier 3 Club Licence for the next Playing Season shall be relegated one Tier to Tier 3 at the end of the Playing Season in which the unsuccessful application for a Tier 2 Club Licence was made. Any such club that fails to obtain a Tier 3 Club Licence for the next Playing Season shall be relegated to Tier 4 or the next highest tier for which it meets the criteria set by the relevant Area Association. Failing that, the club shall be removed from the Pyramid League System.
- (h) All Tier 3 clubs must hold a current annual Tier 3 Club Licence under the Tier 3 Club Licensing Regulations to play in Tier 3. Any club playing in Tier 3 that fails to obtain a renewal of its Tier 3 Club Licence but meets the Tier 4 criteria set by the relevant Area Association for the next Playing Season shall be relegated one Tier to Tier 4 at the end of the Playing Season in which the unsuccessful application for a Tier 3 Club Licence was made. Any such club that fails to meet the Tier 4 criteria shall be relegated to the next highest tier for which it meets the criteria set by the relevant Area Association. Failing that, the club shall be removed from the Pyramid League System.

3. **Promotion / Relegation**

- (a) Save where the FAW otherwise directs under Regulation 3(g) below, there shall be automatic promotion and relegation between the Tiers of the Pyramid Tiers 1 – 3 (and

promoted/relegated into and out of Tier 3), provided that the promoted club obtains the relevant Club Licence. A Qualifying Club (and a club otherwise promoted into Tier 3 from Tier 4) will not be promoted if it is not successful in its application for the relevant Club Licence.

- (b) No National League or Area Association will be allowed to operate a Club Licensing Criteria for promotion which is more stringent than the level of the Pyramid Tiers 1 - 3 they feed into.
- (c) The Club Licensing Criteria application process shall be as follows:
 - (i) Clubs must apply to the FAW using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time as per the Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations, if they wish to be assessed against the criteria in the FAW Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations for playing in Tier 1;
 - (ii) clubs must apply to the FAW using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time as per the Tier 2 Club Licensing Regulations, if they wish to be assessed against the criteria in the FAW Tier 2 Club Licensing Regulations for playing in Tier 2; and
 - (iii) clubs must apply to the FAW using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time as per the Tier 3 Club Licensing Regulations. if they wish to be assessed against the Tier 3 Club Licensing Regulations for playing in Tier 3.
- (d) A Qualifying Club playing in any division of Pyramid Tier 2 that applies for and obtains a Tier 1 Club Licence for the next Playing Season, and achieves a promotional place in its division of Tier 2, must take up the promotion to Tier 1 in the next Playing Season. A Qualifying Club playing in any division of Pyramid Tier 3 that applies for and obtains a Tier 2 Club Licence for the next Playing Season, and achieves a promotional place in its division of Tier 3 must take up the promotion to Tier 2 in the next Playing Season. A club playing in Tier 4 that obtains a Tier 3 Club Licence for the next Playing Season, and achieves a promotional place in its division of Tier 4, must take up the promotion to Tier 3 in the next Playing Season.
- (e) No reserve team shall be permitted to play in the Pyramid Tiers 1 - 3, except in a dedicated reserves division which operates outside of the Pyramid League System.
- (f) Subject to the overriding provisions of Regulations 2(d), 2(f), 2(g) and 2(h) above and the FAW's right to prescribe the number of clubs to be promoted and relegated within the Pyramid Tiers 1 – 3 under Regulation 3(g) below, promotion and relegation at the end of the 2026/2027 Playing Season shall be as follows:
 - i. between Tiers 1 and 2:
 - a the clubs finishing in the bottom two places of Tier 1 shall be relegated to Tier 2 and placed by the FAW (using its power under Regulation 3(g) below) in the most geographically appropriate division of Tier 2 provided that they obtain a Tier 2 Club Licence for the next Playing Season;

- b. the clubs finishing in first position in each of the divisions of Tier 2 shall be promoted to Tier 1 provided that they obtain a Tier 1 Club Licence for the next Playing Season and, where a club finishing in first position does not obtain a Tier 1 Club Licence, then the club finishing in second position in that division of Tier 2 (but no lower than second position) shall be promoted to Tier 1 provided that it obtains a Tier 1 Club Licence;
- c. the clubs finishing in second position in each of the two divisions of Tier 2 shall take part in a semi-final Play-Off Match provided that they obtain a Tier 1 Club Licence for the next Playing Season. Where a club finishing in second position does not obtain a Tier 1 Club Licence, or if the club finishing second has already been promoted pursuant to Regulation 3(f)(i)(b) above, the club finishing in third position in that division shall take part in the relevant semi-final Play-Off Match provided that it obtains a Tier 1 Club Licence, but no club below third position in a division shall take part in a semi-final Play-Off Match;
- e. the semi-final Play-Off Match will be played over two legs, the first leg to be staged at the home ground of the lower ranked club and the second leg to be staged at the home ground of the higher ranked club, with ranking to be determined by examining each club's performance in their respective divisions, as follows (in descending order of priority):
 1. final position (in case a third placed club has gained more points than a second placed club);
 2. Superior points gained;
 3. Superior points gained per match (in case of less than 15 teams in a division);
 4. Superior goal difference obtained;
 5. Higher number of goals scored;
 6. Higher number of wins;
 7. Higher or highest number of away wins; and
 8. Lower or lowest disciplinary points total based only on yellow and red cards received.
- f. in the event of the scores being level in the semi-final Play-Off Match at the end of 90 minutes play in the second leg, the winner will be determined by the taking of Kicks from the Penalty Mark in accordance with the International Football Association Board Decision in the Laws of the Game;
- g. the club which wins the semi-final Play-Off Match (or awarded a bye by the FAW) will qualify to play the club finishing fourteenth in Tier 1

- in a final Play-Off Match, provided that each obtains a Tier 1 Club Licence;
 - h. the final Play-Off Match will be played over a single leg and staged at the home ground of the Tier 2 club;
 - i. in the event of the scores being level in the final Play-Off Match at the end of 90 minutes play, the winner will be determined by the taking of Kicks from the Penalty Mark in accordance with the International Football Association Board Decision in the Laws of the Game;
 - j. the club which wins the final Play-Off Match (or awarded a bye by the FAW) will play in Tier 1 in the following Playing Season and the losing club will play in Tier 2, provided that it obtains a Tier 2 Club Licence; and
 - k. the regulations for Tier 2 shall apply to the Play-Offs, amended as necessary to give effect to these Regulations and as otherwise deemed desirable by the FAW and notified to the relevant clubs; and
- ii. between Tiers 2 and 3:
- a. the clubs finishing in the bottom three places of each of the two divisions in Tier 2 will be relegated to a division of Tier 3 and placed in the most geographically appropriate division of Tier 3 by the FAW using its power under Regulation 3(g) below provided that they obtain a Tier 3 Club Licence for the next Playing Season;
 - b. the clubs finishing in first position in each of the four divisions of Tier 3 shall be promoted to Tier 2 provided that they obtain a Tier 2 Club Licence for the next Playing Season and, where a club finishing in first position does not obtain a Tier 2 Club Licence, then the club finishing in second position in that division (but no lower than second position) shall be promoted provided that it obtains a Tier 2 Club Licence;
 - c. the clubs finishing in second position in each of the four divisions of Tier 3 shall take part in Play-Off Matches provided that they obtain a Tier 2 Club Licence for the next Playing Season. Where a club finishing in second position does not obtain a Tier 2 Club Licence, or if the club finishing second has already been promoted pursuant to Regulation 3(f)(ii)(b) above, the club finishing in third position in that division shall take part in the relevant Play-Off Match provided that it obtains a Tier 2 Club Licence, but no club below third position in a division shall take part in a Play-Off Match;
 - d. there will be two Play-Off Matches featuring those four clubs (unless there are less than four eligible clubs, in which case one or more byes may be awarded by the FAW), arranged on a regional basis at the absolute discretion of the FAW. Each such match will be played over a single leg

and staged at a neutral ground selected and organised by the FAW (or its nominee);

- e. in the event of the scores being level in a Play-Off Match at the end of 90 minutes play, the winner will be determined by the taking of Kicks from the Penalty Mark in accordance with the International Football Association Board Decision in the Laws of the Game; and
 - f. the regulations for Tier 3 shall apply to the Play-Off Matches, amended as necessary to give effect to these Regulations and as otherwise deemed desirable by the FAW and notified to the relevant clubs; and
 - g. the clubs which win the two Play-Off Matches (or are awarded a bye by the FAW) shall be promoted to Tier 2 and the losing clubs will remain in Tier 3, provided that they obtain a Tier 3 Club Licence; and
- iii. between Tiers 3 and 4:
- a. the clubs finishing in the bottom three places in each of the four divisions of Tier 3 will be relegated to Tier 4 and (after considering the representations made at the joint liaison committee meeting held under Regulation 6(b) below) placed in a division of Tier 4 by the FAW in the most geographically appropriate division of Tier 4; and
 - b. twelve clubs will be promoted from Tier 4, comprising two from each of the six Area Associations, provided that they obtain a Tier 3 Club Licence for the next Playing Season. The promoted clubs will be determined by the Area Association as follows:
 - if an Area Association operates a single division at Tier 4, the clubs finishing in the top two places will be promoted to Tier 3. Should either of the clubs finishing in the top two places fail to obtain a Tier 3 licence, the Area Association may promote the club finishing in third place (but no lower) provided that it obtains a Tier 3 licence; or
 - if an Area Association operates two divisions at Tier 4, the clubs finishing in first place in each division will be promoted to Tier 3. Should any club finishing in first place fail to obtain a Tier 3 licence, the Area Association may promote the club finishing in second place (but no lower) in the respective division provided that it obtains a Tier 3 licence.

The FAW will place the clubs promoted from Tier 4 in the most geographically appropriate division of Tier 3 as stipulated by the FAW (after considering the representations made at the joint liaison committee meeting held under Regulation 6(b) below).

- (g) The number of clubs promoted to a Tier must equate to the number of clubs relegated from the Tier, unless this would result in Tier 1 or a division of Tiers 2 – 3 (as the case may be) having more or less than 16 teams in the next Playing Season or, in the case of Tiers 2 and 3, any club playing in a division inappropriate to its geographical location, or a failure by an existing club outside the relegation places in a Tier to retain the licence relevant to that Tier. In such circumstances, the FAW will reduce the number of clubs relegated from the higher Tier. If it is not possible to reduce the number of clubs relegated from the higher Tier (for example, because of a failure by any relevant club to obtain the licence relevant to that Tier), the FAW may consider:
- i. increasing the number of clubs relegated from the lower Tier;
 - ii. increasing or decreasing the number of clubs promoted into or out of any Tier; or
 - iii. placing a club promoted or relegated to or from a Tier, or a club in a Tier that has not been promoted or relegated, in a different division of the relevant Tier to that which it would otherwise be promoted or relegated, or would have remained.
- (h) Save in the case of Play-Off Matches as specified above, no National League shall promote a club which does not finish as champions, or runners up.
- (i) All clubs who wish to make an application to be assessed against the relevant Club Licensing Criteria for a Club Licence and therefore who, if successful, will be eligible to be play in the Pyramid Tiers 1 – 3 (as applicable) in the following Playing Season must do so using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time and in accordance with the relevant Club Licensing Regulations.
- (j) Any club proposing ground sharing arrangements for matches in the next Playing Season in the Pyramid Tiers 1 – 3 must ensure written confirmation is provided to the FAW by 1st March. This arrangement must satisfy the FAW and must be for a minimum of one Playing Season. Any club entering into a ground sharing arrangement for one Playing Season and being promoted on this basis, will automatically be relegated after one Playing Season if they are unable to continue the arrangement and are unable to confirm their facilities for the following Playing Season by 1st March. Time shall be of the essence in respect of all deadlines in this sub-clause of the Regulations.
- (k) Any club proposing to change its registered home ground after approval of their Club Licence for the next Playing Season in the Pyramid Tiers 1 – 3 must apply in writing to the FAW for its approval. As a minimum, the proposed new registered home ground must meet the relevant Club Licensing Criteria.
- (l) The inspection of clubs' facilities for matches in Tier 1 shall be the responsibility of the FAW as per the Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations. The inspection of clubs' facilities for matches in Tiers 2 and 3 shall be the responsibility of the FAW as per the Tier 2 Club Licensing Regulations and Tier 3 Club Licensing Regulations respectively. The inspection of clubs' facilities for matches in Tier 4 of the Pyramid League System, in respect of those clubs in Tier 4 who have made application to be assessed against the Tier 3 Club Licensing Regulations, shall be the responsibility of the FAW. The FAW shall

be solely responsible for determining whether the applicant complies with the Club Licensing Criteria of the relevant National League.

Applicant clubs must pay one Club Licence application fee and the highest Tier of the pyramid to which the Club applies, is the applicable fee.

Application for Tier 1 Club Licence = £400

Application for Tier 2 Club Licence = £200

Application for Tier 3 Club Licence = £150.

All Club Licence application fees will be returned to clubs that are successful at the First Instance Body. Furthermore, any Club which pays for and subsequently successfully appeals against the decision of the First Instance Body, shall have their appeal fee returned, but would forfeit their Club Licence application fee.

- (m) In respect of the Pyramid Tiers 1 – 3, National Leagues and Area Associations must advise the FAW and each other within seven (7) days of end of the Playing Season of the clubs who, subject to these Regulations, will be relegated or, having satisfied the Club Licensing Criteria, will be eligible for promotion.

4. The Movement of Clubs within the Pyramid Tiers 1 - 4 other than by Promotion or Relegation

- (a) Whenever a club applies pursuant to Rule 11.1.1.3 for admission to Membership of the FAW as a Qualifying Club playing in a National League, the following will apply:
 - i. The application by the club should be submitted as soon as possible and in any event must be received by the Chief Executive of the FAW by 1st June.
 - ii. The application should include details of:
 - a. the reason for the application;
 - b. the proposed playing name;
 - c. the evidence that the club meets the relevant Club Licensing Criteria; and
 - d. the management structure of the club.
 - iii. The application will be determined by the Directors in their absolute discretion. Without limiting such discretion, the Directors shall have the power to:
 - a. grant consent as applied for; or
 - b. grant consent in principle but order the applicant club play at a different Tier in Pyramid Tiers 1 - 3 to that applied for; or
 - c. refuse consent for the applicant club to play in Pyramid Tiers 1 – 3 but order the applicant club play in a league at a Tier in the Pyramid League System below Tier 3; or
 - d. in any of the above cases where consent is granted or an order made, impose such conditions as the Directors think necessary including,

without limitation, the playing name of the applicant club or, where there is a strong connection between the applicant club and the club that has, for example, (1) been wound up or (2) is being taken over as a going concern by the applicant club, the Directors will have the power to impose a condition requiring the applicant club to make a contribution (in whole or in part in the Directors' absolute discretion) to the Football Related Liabilities of the club that has been wound up or is being taken over; or

- e. refuse the application.

Solely as guidance to any potential applicant under this Regulation 4 (a) that has a strong connection to a club that has been wound up, and without limiting the absolute discretion of the Directors, the FAW will ordinarily expect the applicant club to apply to join the Pyramid League System either at Tier 3 or two Tiers below the level at which the other (connected) club competed prior to being wound up, whichever is the lower.

- (b) If a Qualifying Club ceases to compete in a National League during a Playing Season but that Qualifying Club wishes to apply to continue playing in the Pyramid Tiers 1 - 3 in the following Playing Season, the following will apply:

- i. An application by the Qualifying Club should be submitted as soon as possible and in any event must be received by the Chief Executive of the FAW by 1st June.
- ii. The application should include details of:
 - a. the reason for the application, including the reason the Qualifying Club ceased to compete in the National League;
 - b. the evidence that the club meets the relevant Club Licensing Criteria; and
 - c. the management structure of the applicant.
- iii. The application will be determined by the Directors in their absolute discretion. Without limiting such discretion, the Directors shall have the power to:
 - a. grant consent as applied for; or
 - b. grant consent in principle but order the Qualifying Club play at a different Tier in Pyramid Tiers 1 -3 to that applied for; or
 - c. refuse consent for the Qualifying Club to play in Pyramid Tiers 1 – 3 but order the Qualifying Club play in a league at a Tier in the Pyramid League System below Tier 3; or
 - d. in any of the above cases where consent is granted or an order made, impose such conditions as the Directors think necessary including, without limitation, a condition requiring the applicant club to discharge (in whole or in part in the Directors' absolute discretion)

the Football Related Liabilities of the club before the commencement of the next Playing Season; or

- e. refuse the application.

Solely as guidance to Qualifying Clubs making an application under this Regulation 4(b) and without limiting the absolute discretion of Directors, the FAW will ordinarily expect a Qualifying Club to play in Tier 3 of the Pyramid League System or two levels below the level at which it competed prior to ceasing to compete, whichever is the lower.

- (c) If two or more Qualifying Clubs or one Qualifying Club and another club propose a transaction or series of transactions which result in the merging or consolidation of those two clubs into one club (“the Proposed Merged Club”) and wish to apply for consent to play in Pyramid Tiers 1 – 3 in the following Playing Season, the following will apply:

- i. A joint application by the two clubs must be received by the Chief Executive of the FAW by no later than 1st June.
- ii. The application should include details of:
 - a. the reason for the application;
 - b. the proposed playing name;
 - c. the evidence that the club meets the relevant Club Licensing Criteria;
 - d. the proposed management structure;
 - e. identification of all Football Related Liabilities;
 - f. a declaration that the Proposed Merged Club will accept responsibility for (and evidence that it can discharge within a reasonable period of time) all the Football Related Liabilities of the two clubs; and
 - g. a declaration that each applicant club is compliant with the Rules and rules of membership of its relevant National League or Area Association.
- iii. The application will be determined by the Directors in their absolute discretion. Without limiting such discretion, the Directors shall have the power to:
 - a. grant consent as applied for; or
 - b. grant consent in principle but order the Proposed Merged Club play at a different Tier in Pyramid Tiers 1 - 3 to that applied for; or
 - c. refuse consent for the Proposed Merged Club to play in Pyramid Tiers 1 – 3 but order the Proposed Merged Club play in a league at a Tier in the Pyramid League System below Tier 3; or

- d. in any of the above cases where consent is granted or an order made, impose such conditions as the Directors think necessary including, without limitation, a condition requiring the Proposed Merged Club to discharge (in whole or in part in the Directors' absolute discretion) the Football Related Liabilities of both applicant clubs before the commencement of the next Playing Season; or
 - e. refuse the application.
- (d) Subject to the Regulation 5 below, any application to fill a vacancy or otherwise compete in the Pyramid Tiers 1 – 3 in any other circumstances shall be determined by the Directors in their absolute discretion. The Directors shall only consider an application from a club playing at the immediate Tier below the Tier to which it applies to join and who has obtained the Club Licence for the higher Tier for the next Playing Season. Each club who meets those criteria shall be deemed automatically to have applied and each such club shall be considered by the Directors unless any club has notified the FAW by 1st June that it does not wish to be considered.

5. Incorporation and De-incorporation of a Club

- (a) Any application to continue competing in the Pyramid Tiers 1 -3 following incorporation or de-incorporation of a Qualifying Club under Rule 134 shall be determined by the Directors in their absolute discretion. The following will apply:
 - i. An application by the Qualifying Club should be submitted as soon as possible.
 - ii. The application should include details of:
 - a. the reason(s) for the application;
 - b. the evidence that the proposed transferee meets the relevant Club Licensing Criteria; and
 - c. the management structure of the proposed transferee;
 - d. identification of all Football Related Liabilities;
 - e. a declaration by the proposed transferee that it will accept responsibility for (and evidence that it can discharge within a reasonable period of time), all the Football Related Liabilities of the Qualifying Club; and
 - f. a declaration that the Qualifying Club and the proposed transferee (as applicable) are compliant with the Rules and rules of membership of the relevant National League or Area Association.
- (b) The application will be determined by the Directors in their absolute discretion. Without limiting such discretion, the Directors shall have the power to:
 - a. grant consent as applied for; or
 - b. where consent is granted, impose such conditions as the Directors think necessary including, without limitation, a condition requiring the proposed transferee to discharge (in whole or in part in the

Directors' absolute discretion) the Football Related Liabilities of the Qualifying Club before the end of the current Playing Season; or

- e. refuse the application.

6. Joint Liaison Committee

- (a) A joint liaison committee ("JLC") shall discuss matters of policy relating to Club Licensing Criteria and promotion and relegation issues which are common to the leagues in the Pyramid League System.
- (b) The JLC shall meet annually no sooner than 1st February and no later than 31st May each year and will be arranged by the FAW who will provide fourteen (14) days' notice of the date and venue of the meeting along with a copy of the agenda specifying the business to be considered. Representatives of all National Leagues must attend. Area Associations should also be invited to attend to discuss relevant matters concerning promotion and relegation between Tiers 3 and 4 but the final decision will be made by the FAW using its power under Regulation 3(f)(iii) above.
- (c) Any other meetings of the JLC that are deemed necessary can be called at any time by the FAW upon giving the notice referred to in Regulation 6(b) above.
- (d) Meetings of the JLC shall be chaired by a FAW representative.
- (e) The expense of holding meetings of the JLC shall be borne by the FAW. The expenses of the relevant representatives attending JLC meetings shall be met by the National League or the Area Association the delegate is representing.
- (f) JLCs shall have no jurisdiction over, or responsibility for, boundary adjustments for clubs playing in any National League or Area Association. Such jurisdiction and responsibility shall rest solely with the FAW.

APPENDIX 1

2026/2027 Playing Season

Tier 1

Cymru Premier
16

16 clubs

Tier 2

Cymru South
16Cymru North
16

32 clubs

Tier 3

Ardal SW
16Ardal SE
16Ardal NW
16Ardal NE
16

64 clubs

Tier 4 and below – responsibility of the Area Associations.