

RULES OF UNDER 16 GIRLS WELSH CUP COMPETITION

1. Name of the Cup

- 1.1 The Cup shall be called “The FAW Under 16 Girls Welsh Cup” and shall be marketed under the title determined by the Football Association of Wales (“**FAW**”) from time to time.

2. Scope of Application

- 2.1 The present regulations govern the rights, duties and responsibilities of all parties participating and involved in the preparation and organisation of The FAW Under 16 Girls Welsh Cup Competition (hereinafter the competition).

3. Cup Ownership

- 3.1 The Cup is the property of The Football Association of Wales Limited and shall be presented to the winning club following the outcome of the final tie.
- 3.2 The Champions shall then be responsible for its return to the FAW on or before the 1st day in March in the ensuing year in good order and condition.
- 3.3 Should the Cup be lost, destroyed or damaged by fire or any other cause whilst under the care and custody of the Club, the latter shall refund to the FAW the amount of its current insured value or the cost of thorough repair in addition to any other penalty which the FAW may impose.
- 3.4 When the winning Club have been ascertained the Chief Executive Officer of the FAW shall hand the Cup to the representatives on receiving a document to the following effect, and subscribed to by them –

“We, the Secretary and Members of the Club, which has been declared to have won The FAW Under 16s Girls Welsh Cup for the current year, and the same having been delivered to us by or on behalf of the FAW, do hereby, on behalf of the Club, individually and collectively, engage to return the Cup to the FAW on or before the first day in March in the ensuing year in good order and condition, and in accordance with the conditions of the annexed Rules, to which also we have subscribed our respective names.”
- 3.5 The champion Club shall hold the trophy for approximately one year and 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. The date, time, and location of any such presentation shall be decided by the FAW.

4. Medals

- 4.1 The winning team is presented with 25 winner’s medals and the runner-up with 25 runners-up medals. Additional medals may be purchased for additional squad members. When a Player taking part is ordered to leave the field of play for misconduct, the medal to which she may be entitled may be withheld at the discretion of the FAW.

5. Business of the Competition

- 5.1 The entire control and management of the Competition shall be vested in the FAW. The FAW shall have the power to formulate the Rules of the Competition and to alter or add to the Rules as they, from time to time, deem expedient. The FAW shall give decisions on matters arising out of the Competition which, within the FAW Rules and Regulations, shall be deemed

decisions of the Directors. Clubs shall be bound by any Contract entered into by the FAW in relation to the Competition. In any matter not specifically mentioned in these Rules, the FAW shall have the power to take such action and the PGAC Disciplinary Panel can impose such penalties as they/it deems necessary.

- 5.2 The Professional Game Advisory Committee ("PGAC") is an advisory committee of the FAW responsible for overseeing the strategy of the Competition. The Professional Game Advisory Committee Disciplinary Panel ("**PGAC Disciplinary Panel**") is a panel of 3 members of the PGAC constituted by the FAW from time to time to consider disciplinary matters arising from breaches of these Rules.

6. Eligible Clubs

- 6.1 The Competition shall be open to all girls' clubs who play all of their football under the jurisdiction of the FAW, are affiliated to the FAW or their Area Association and whose registered ground meets the Ground Criteria (Rule 13) except for the provision of changing and showering facilities as proscribed in 13.2.1. The FAW may reject the entry of any Club if they deem such a cause desirable.

7. Admittance

- 7.1 Each Club desirous of competing shall give notice to the Chief Executive Officer of the FAW on a form on or before the 30st July immediately prior to that season, in which such club proposes to compete and shall, with such notice, forward an entrance fee of twenty-five pounds sterling including vat. The FAW may reject the entry of any Club in their absolute discretion.

8. Duties of the clubs

- 8.1 On entering the competition, participating clubs agree:
- 8.1.1 to stage and play all matches in the competition in accordance with the present regulations;
 - 8.1.2 to field their best available team for all matches in the Competition;
 - 8.1.3 to comply with all decisions regarding the competition taken by the PGAC Disciplinary Panel, the FAW administration or any other competent body and communicated appropriately (by circular letter or by official letter or email);
 - 8.1.4 The clubs are responsible for the behaviour of their players, officials, members, supporters and any person carrying out a function at a match on their behalf.

9. Competition Format

- 9.1 The Competition shall be on a Knockout basis.
- 9.2 Exemptions or byes, as may be considered appropriate, shall be granted or made at the discretion of the FAW.
- 9.3 Matches in all stages of the competition are played in conformity with the IFAB Laws of the Game. The half-time interval lasts 15 minutes.

10. The Draw

- 10.1 From the Qualifying Round up to and including Round 2, clubs will be placed in geographical groups for The Draw. The FAW shall decide the geographical distribution of the Clubs participating in the competition. From the Quarter-Final onwards, the Draw will be open.
- 10.2 The clubs after having been placed by the FAW in their groups shall be drawn in couples. These couples shall compete, and the winners shall be drawn and shall compete in the same manner and this shall be continued until the end of the Competition, when the winning Club shall hold the Cup.
- 10.3 As soon as practicable after each draw; the fixtures, the Conference Date and the provisional time of kick-off shall be published on the systems and platforms of the FAW.
- 10.4 Clubs must ensure that all relevant local authorities and/or the police are made aware as soon as possible of any potential match dates. If there are issues envisaged with any such arrangements, the FAW should be informed as soon as possible following the draw.

11. Match Scheduling

- 11.1 The date upon which a match is played shall be as set out in the Conference Dates, or as otherwise determined by the FAW.
- 11.2 The FAW shall have the authority to determine the kick-off time and the date of the match to suit the Transmission Contract or in the overall interest of the Competition.
- 11.3 Clubs shall not mutually arrange to play a match in lieu of a Cup Tie. If a match is played to a conclusion, it must be a Cup Tie.
- 11.4 Any Club refusing to play the Club against which it has been drawn within the time intimated to it, without sufficient reason for doing so, shall be adjudged to have lost the match.

12. Amendment to the Date, Time or Venue of Matches

- 12.1 The default date and time for playing a match in a round in the Competition is Sunday at 2pm, but the competing Clubs can mutually agree to play the match on any day between the Friday and Sunday of that weekend. The consent of both Clubs and the FAW must be obtained to play the match on a date other than the default date.
- 12.2 In any Round where, paired Clubs desire to play on a date other than the Conference Date, a kick-off time other than the time set by the FAW, or at a venue other than the registered ground of the team first drawn, both Clubs shall notify the FAW of their request within 7 days of the draw.
- 12.3 Clubs shall not play on a neutral ground without the consent of the FAW.
- 12.4 In each tie the game shall be played on the registered ground of the Club first drawn. If the registered ground is unavailable, the fixture must be reversed to the opponent's registered ground. When the fixture has been reversed, the Club which will now host the match is responsible for all of the expenses that the Club first drawn would have been responsible for.
- 12.5 If the competing Clubs are not able to play the match at the ground of the home Club or the away Club on the default date and time, due to a reason which would lead to the match being postponed, the competing Clubs can mutually agree to:
 - 12.5.1 Play at a different date and time; or
 - 12.5.2 Play at an alternative venue that satisfies the rules of the Competition.

- 12.6 If following the application of Rule 12.4, the opponent's registered ground is unavailable and failing any mutual agreement by the application of Rule 12.5, the FAW will take such action as it deems appropriate (at its absolute discretion).
- 12.7 If more than one Club with the same registered ground is drawn to play a home in the same Round and it is deemed, for whatever reason, that their Matches cannot be played on the same day or at the same kick-off time then the FAW shall determine when each such fixture shall be played and the relevant Clubs will be bound by such determination.
- 12.8 The FAW shall have the power to order any match to be played on an alternative ground and/or time if it is deemed necessary.
- 12.9 A Club not having the facilities as required by Rule 13.2.1 and having not obtained the consent of the FAW to the use of an alternative ground shall play on its opponent's ground.
- 12.10 If any request to play on a date other than the Conference Date is granted, then the re-arranged date shall be regarded, for all purposes, as the Conference Date for the Round concerned. The provisions of Rule 13 shall apply to the choice of ground.
- 12.11 Where, at the request of the police and/or a relevant local authority, a match cannot be played on the date scheduled, then that match will be automatically rescheduled to the following day unless otherwise directed by the FAW.

13. Stadium / Ground Information, Facilities and Equipment

- 13.1 The Ground for the Final tie shall be decided by the FAW.

13.2 *Ground Facilities*

- 13.2.1 Goal nets and corner flags must be used in all ties. The playing area must be roped, railed or walled off, except those areas and spaces excluded from spectator viewing. Dressing and showering accommodation (including appropriate sanitary facilities) must be separate for each team and Match Officials and should be situated within a reasonable walking distance to the pitch, as accepted by the FAW.
- 13.2.2 The dimensions of the field of play for all Cup Ties shall comply with the IFAB Laws of the Game.

13.3 *Appeal – Unsuitability of Ground*

- 13.3.1 If the ground of the Club entitled by the draw to have the Cup Tie played on its ground is considered unsuitable for the Cup Tie, having regard to all the circumstances, the opposing Club may appeal to the FAW within seven days of the receipt of the official intimation of the draw. Such appeal must be accompanied by a fee of £50.00 which may be forfeited if the appeal is not sustained. The FAW may direct the match to be played on the ground of the appealing Club, or on a neutral ground. The payment of the expenses incidental to the Appeal shall be at the discretion of the FAW.

13.4 *Playing Condition of the Ground*

- 13.4.1 The postponement of a Match due to ground conditions must be carried out in accordance with this Rule. No Club shall postpone the playing of a Match on account of apparent unfitness of its ground, the Referee or designated person as deemed competent

by the FAW Match Officials Manager 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 visiting Club. In case of dispute, the FAW shall decide the time of any inspection.

13.4.2 In the event of the available referee declaring the ground unfit, the Home Club shall notify the Visiting Club and the Match Officials forthwith by email and telephone call to avoid all unnecessary expense in travelling. The Visiting Club shall forthwith acknowledge receipt of such notice. If the Home Club does not receive an acknowledgement promptly, the Home Club shall forthwith notify the FAW.

13.4.3 If the available referee or designated person as deemed competent by the FAW Match Officials Manager does not declare the ground unfit, a final decision shall be made by the Match Referee upon their arrival at the ground (each such Referee taking into account that Referees should not hastily postpone or abandon Matches). A Match Official conducting a ground inspection 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 FAW.

13.4.4 During the months of November, December, January and February, the Referee shall visit the ground two hours before the time of kick-off. If necessary, the home Club may require the Referee to visit the ground two hours or more before the time of kick-off any time during the season.

13.5 *Artificial Pitches*

13.5.1 Football turf must be in accordance with the 'FAW Regulations for the use of Synthetic Turf in all Competitions' and the IFAB Laws of the Game and the pitch must be listed on the FAW's Register of Artificial Grass Pitches.

13.6 *Equipment*

13.6.1 The Home Club shall ensure that;

13.6.1.1 Match Balls comply with the IFAB Laws of the Game;

13.6.1.2 A First Aid Kit is available. Each team must have a person who holds, at a minimum, the FAW First Aid qualification in attendance at each match; this individual should be named as such on the team sheet and may not be a player (including named substitutes).

14. Club Kits

14.1 *Shirt Numbers and Names*

14.1.1 Numbers, corresponding to the list of names submitted on the Team Sheet, must be worn on all shirts.

14.1.2 Player names are permitted on the back of the shirts in accordance with the FAW Kit Regulations.

14.2 *Colours*

- 14.2.1 For all matches, the home club has the first choice as to which of its official kits it wears for its home matches. If the clubs are unable to agree on the colours to be worn by their teams, they inform the Association, who takes a final decision.
- 14.2.2 In any case, if the referee notices on the spot that the colours of the two teams could lead to confusion, they decide on the colours. As a rule, in such cases it is the home team that has to change colours, for practical reasons.
- 14.2.3 For the final, both teams may wear their first choice of colours. However, if there is a clash, the team designated as the away team must wear alternative colours. The FAW proposes suitably contrasting colours in advance of the match.
- 14.2.4 Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from the other players and the Match Officials.
- 14.2.5 Each Home Club shall confirm full kit colours (including goalkeeper) on via the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time at least three (3) days prior to the Match. The Visiting Club and Referee must also confirm full details (including goalkeeper) 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 kits with both Clubs and the FAW via email at least forty eight (48) hours prior to kick off.

14.3 *FAW Kit Regulations*

- 14.3.1 The FAW Kit Regulations apply to all matches in the competition, unless specified otherwise in these regulations.

15. Duration of Matches

- 15.1 A match lasts for two equal halves of 40 minutes.
- 15.2 Allowance is made by the referee in each half for all time lost in that half in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game.
- 15.3 The half-time interval lasts 15 minutes.

16. Provisions for all Matches

- 16.1 For all matches the following provisions shall apply:
 - 16.1.1 Matches in all stages of the competition are played in conformity with the IFAB Laws of the Game.
 - 16.1.2 The duration of each match shall be 40 minutes each way. The Referee shall allow for time wasted or lost through accident or other cause. The Referee is the sole judge of allowance of time whether lost through accident or other cause and their decision on this matter is not subject to appeal.
 - 16.1.3 If the match, which is designated as a knockout match, ends in a draw after 80 minutes played, it must be decided on penalties in accordance with the International Football Association Board procedures. There is no extra time in this competition.

- 16.1.4 Matches in The Under 16s Girls Welsh Cup take priority over any other Official Match, Open Friendly Match or Closed Friendly Match, except for matches in the FAW Welsh Cup, FAW Women's Welsh Cup and any relevant National League competition.
- 16.1.5 Any late kick-off or late arrival of a Match Official must be reported by the Referee to the FAW and the PGAC Disciplinary Panel shall have the power to impose a fine.
- 16.1.6 Electronic performance and tracking systems (EPTS) are permitted. In accordance with the Laws of the Game, if used they must not pose any danger to the players and/or match officials;
- 16.1.7 Post-match hospitality for players and club officials shall not be mandatory, but if it is agreed in advance by the two clubs in writing, and one team fails to honour the agreement, the offending Club will be subject to reimbursement of reasonable costs, as directed by the FAW.
- 16.1.8 The use of red cards and yellow cards for team officials are applicable and in accordance with the 'FAW Disciplinary Procedures Concerning Field Offences in Cup Matches Only – Players and Team Officials.'

16.2 *Pitch watering - For matches prior to the Final*

- 16.2.1 If pitch watering is available, the home club can determine whether it is implemented. The pitch must be watered evenly and not only in certain areas. As a general rule, pitch watering must finish 60 minutes before kick-off. However, upon decision of the home club, pitch watering may also take place after that time, provided it takes place;
 - 16.2.1.1 between 10 and 5 minutes before kick-off, (i.e. after the warm-up is complete) and/or
 - 16.2.1.2 during half-time (for a maximum of 5 minutes).
 - 16.2.1.3 The referee is entitled to request changes to the pitch-watering schedule.

16.3 *Pitch watering - For the Final*

- 16.3.1 If pitch watering is available, the FAW, following consultation with both Clubs and in cooperation with the Referees, can determine whether it is implemented. The pitch must be watered evenly and not only in certain areas. As a general rule, pitch watering must finish 60 minutes before kick-off. However, pitch watering may also take place after that time, provided it takes place;
 - 16.3.1.1 between 10 and 5 minutes before kick-off, and/or
 - 16.3.1.2 during half-time (for a maximum of 5 minutes).The referee is entitled to request changes to the pitch-watering schedule.

16.4 *Match Delegates – For the Final*

- 16.4.1 Match Delegates may be appointed by the FAW for all Final matches as it deems appropriate.

16.5 *On-field medical treatment*

- 16.5.1 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 60 seconds before returning on the referee's signal.

17. Extra Time and Penalties

17.1 *Extra Time*

- 17.1.1 Extra Time is not played in this Competition.

17.2 *Penalties*

- 17.2.1 If the result stands as a draw at the end of normal playing time, kicks from the penalty mark are taken in accordance with the procedure laid down in the *IFAB Laws of the Game*.

- 17.2.2 The referee decides which goal will be used for the kicks:

- 17.2.2.1 For reasons of safety/security, state of the field of play, lighting, broadcast visibility or other similar reasons, the referee may decide which goal will be used without tossing a coin. Such decisions are final and require no justification.
- 17.2.2.2 If either goal could be used for the kicks as determined by the Referee, then, in the presence of the two captains, the referee tosses a coin to decide which goal will be used.

- 17.2.3 To ensure that the procedure is strictly observed, the referee is assisted by his team, who also note down the numbers of the players on each team who have taken kicks from the penalty mark.

18. Postponed or Abandoned Matches

18.1 *Postponement or Abandonment for the first time*

- 18.1.1 When a match has been postponed or abandoned before its completion and neither club being at fault, it must be played on or before the following weekend. If the clubs concerned fail to agree on a mutually agreeable date, the FAW will fix the date.

18.2 *Postponement or Abandonment on two occasions*

- 18.2.1 When a match has been postponed or abandoned before its completion on two occasions, the fixture shall be reversed, with home advantage being awarded to the visiting team. When a fixture has been postponed by the FAW for whatever reason, this will not count as one of the 'two occasions' as described above. When the fixture has been reversed, the Club which will now host the match is responsible for all of the expenses relating to the fixture.

- 18.3 Matches abandoned through the fault of one or both Clubs, shall be dealt with by the FAW.

- 18.4 If there are fewer than seven (7) players on either of the teams, the match is abandoned. In this case, the PGAC Disciplinary Panel decides on the consequences.

- 18.5 Clubs affected by the selection of two or more players for International Duty by their National Association for Senior, Under 19 and Under 17 UEFA and FIFA competitive matches or International friendlies / trials / camps during scheduled international dates may request a postponement by the FAW of its Cup fixture provided at least 10 clear days' notice is given to the FAW in writing. If one player is selected and that player is the goalkeeper, a Club could make a similar request for the postponement of its Cup fixture. Matches postponed on this basis will have a new date set by the FAW.

19. Floodlighting

- 19.1 Matches may be played in daylight or under floodlight conditions provided that the installation meets with the approval of the FAW or by mutual agreement of the two Clubs.
- 19.2 Clubs may appeal to the FAW within three days of the receipt of the official intimation of the draw if they consider the floodlights of the Club on whose ground the tie is to be played to be below the required standard. Such appeal must be accompanied by a fee of £50.00, which may be forfeited if the appeal is not sustained.
- 19.3 The Referee will decide at what point in the game the lights shall be switched on. This will necessitate a discussion with responsible officials of the competing Clubs before the game when an agreed signal must be arranged.

20. Provision for Semi-Finals and Final

20.1 *Stadium and Match Arrangements*

- 20.1.1 Semi-final ties will be played at the venue of the club drawn as the home Club. The FAW shall determine the stadium for the final and shall have direct control of the arrangements. At the FAW's request, the stadium must be clean of advertising for centralised branding.

20.2 *Tickets*

- 20.2.1 Competing clubs will be provided with 15 complimentary tickets each. Competing clubs must settle all ticket accounts with the staging Club / Association within 14 days of the match.

21. Reporting Results

- 21.1 Each Club competing in a Match shall send the completed standard electronic Result Form to the FAW within sixty (60) minutes of the final whistle in the Qualifying Rounds and within thirty (30) minutes of the final whistle from Round 1 onwards, using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time. The Referee shall confirm the details of the completed standard Referee's Report Form to the FAW within ninety (90) minutes of the completion of the Match, 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), match attendance and details of any yellow cards and red cards issued (including the Match time when the card was issued).
- 21.2 From Round 1, onwards each Club competing in a Match shall update live match information, using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time. The details required include, but are not limited to, goals scored, penalties scored and missed, details of any

substitutions made (including the Match time when the substitution was made), match attendance and details of any yellow cards and red cards issued (including the Match time when the card was issued). The Home Club has responsibility for managing the 'match timer' function. The Referee has the authority to amend any such details, before the Report is submitted in accordance with Rule 21.1.

- 21.3 Clubs and referees failing to comply with Rule 21.1 and/or 21.2, or submitting an incorrect Match Report Form, may be subject to disciplinary action by the FAW.

22. Provisions for withdrawing from the Competition

- 22.1 Any Club intending to withdraw from the Competition must give information of their intention to do so to the FAW and to the Secretary of the opposing Club. The FAW shall have power to compel such offending Club to pay the expenses incurred by the FAW and/or the opposing club and take such action as they may deem suitable and expedient.
- 22.2 Clubs failing to give a satisfactory reason for withdrawing shall not be allowed to enter the Competition the following season and shall be liable to a fine. In the Semi-Final and Final Ties any Club failing to play without showing a good and sufficient cause for such failure to play, may be adjudged by the FAW to have been guilty of serious misconduct, and liable to disciplinary proceedings under the FAW Rules and Regulations.
- 22.3 Any Club that withdraws from the Competition, after earning prize money, will be fined at least the equivalent amount of prize money received, as well as the standard fine.
- 22.4 In the Semi-Final and Final Ties any Club failing to play without showing a good and sufficient cause for such failure to play, may be adjudged by the PGAC Disciplinary Panel to have been guilty of serious misconduct, and liable to be dealt with under the Rules of the Association.
- 22.5 Where a Club withdraws from the Competition, the Club it was scheduled to play in the next round of the Competition will automatically advance to the next round of the Competition.

23. Provisions Concerning Eligibility of Players

- 23.1 The Cup shall be competed for annually in accordance with these Rules and matches shall be placed under the Laws of the Game.

23.2 *Substitutes*

- 23.2.1 A Club may at its discretion nominate seven and use five substitute Players at any time in a Cup Tie, except to replace a Player who has been sent-off from the game by the Referee after play has commenced. Substitute Players must be nominated to the Referee on the official team sheet.

- 23.2.2 During the match, each team:

- 23.2.2.1 may use a maximum of five substitutes;
- 23.2.2.2 has a maximum of three substitution opportunities;
- 23.2.2.3 may additionally make substitutions at half-time;
- 23.2.2.4 where both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as a

substitution opportunity for each team.

- 23.3 The players shall also be duly qualified according to the FAW Rules.
- 23.4 A Player who has been suspended may play in postponed or abandoned ties after the term of her suspension has expired.
- 23.5 When a match has been postponed or abandoned, only those players eligible on the Conference Date will be eligible to play in the rearranged match.
- 23.6 Clubs must confirm their official team sheet including 11 starting players, the names of the nominated substitutes (maximum seven) and club officials seated in the technical area on COMET (or any such system as authorised by the FAW):
- 23.6.1 At least thirty (30) minutes before the advertised time of kick off for all rounds up to the semi-final.
- 23.6.2 For the semi-final and final ties, team sheets must be submitted no later than sixty (60) minutes before the advertised time of kick off.
- 23.6.3 If the match is to be transmitted “live” on terrestrial or television or to be streamed by the FAW or one of our partners, team sheets must be submitted no later than seventy-five (75) minutes before the advertised time of kick off. Any Club failing to carry out these provisions will be fined a sum not exceeding £100.00.
- 23.7 After the team sheets have been provided to the referee by both teams, and if the match has not yet kicked off, no replacement is allowed except in the following cases:
- 23.7.1 If any of the 11 players indicated on the team sheet as forming the starting 11 are not able to start the match due to unexpected physical incapacity, they may only be replaced by any of the five substitutes listed on the initial team sheet, with the exception of the Goalkeeper, who may be replaced by a non-listed substitute. The substitute(s) in question may then only be replaced by a registered player (players) not listed on the initial team sheet, so that the quota of substitutes is not reduced. During the match, five players may still be substituted.
- 23.7.2 If any of the five substitutes listed on the team sheet are not able to be fielded due to unexpected physical incapacity, they may only be replaced by a registered player not listed on the initial team sheet.

Guidance

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

- 23.8 In all rounds of the Competition a player must be registered member of her Club by 5:00pm on the last working day before the Conference Date of the Competition. In the case of postponed or abandoned matches, only those players shall be allowed to play who were eligible at the Conference Date.
- 23.9 A registered member is one who is registered with the FAW in accordance with Section H of the FAW Rules.
- 23.10 The player must be in Academic Year ten (10) or eleven (11), as defined by the FAW Rules or

not have attained the age of 16 years before the 1st September of each season.

24. Validity of Players' Qualification

- 24.1 If the FAW has any doubt as to the qualifications of any player taking part in this Competition, they shall have power to call upon such player, or the Club to which he belongs, or for which she played, to prove that she is qualified according to the Rules, and failing satisfactory proof the PGAC Disciplinary Panel shall remove the Club from the Competition, and may impose such other penalty on the Club or player as they may think fit.
- 24.2 If the PGAC Disciplinary Panel removes a Club in accordance with the provisions set out in 24.1, their opponents are deemed to have won the tie.

25. Disqualification

- 25.1 The PGAC Disciplinary Panel shall have the power to disqualify any competing Club, or Official, or Players for any competing Club, who may be proved to be guilty of any breaching of the FAW Rules and/or Regulations.

26. Removal

- 26.1 Where a Club has been admitted to participate in the Competition but is then removed from the League in which it competes (or its League fixtures are suspended), the FAW may remove the Club from the competition.
- 26.2 Where a Club is removed from the competition, the Club's opponent in the round immediately preceding the Club's removal from the Competition will be reinstated to the Competition (unless the FAW determines otherwise, at its absolute discretion).

27. Provisions Concerning Match Officials

- 27.1 In all matches, the Referee team shall be appointed by the FAW, or with the express permission of the FAW. Neither past nor present members of either contending Clubs shall be eligible.
- 27.2 The referee team are appointed as follows:
 - 27.2.1 For matches before the Semi Final, in principle, the FAW appoints one referee only.
 - 27.2.2 For Semi-Final and Final matches, in principle, the FAW appoints one referee, two assistant referees and one fourth official (substitute referee).
 - 27.2.3 The FAW reserves its right to provide additional referees where it deems necessary in any tie.
- 27.3 The fees and expenses of all officials appointed by the FAW to officiate in any match prior to the Final Tie shall be paid by the Club upon whose ground the match takes place unless otherwise instructed by the FAW.
- 27.4 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 fee and/or expenses either:

27.4.1 in cash on the date of the Match, in their dressing room, within a reasonable time after the conclusion of the Match or;

27.4.2 by bank transfer within three (3) Business Days after the Match.

27.5 *Scale of Expenses to be paid to Match Officials*

27.5.1 An allowance of £0.55 per mile will be allowed to all officials officiating who travel by private car. There is an expectation that where reasonable, match officials shall travel together.

27.5.2 An allowance of £0.24 per mile will be allowed to all officials officiating who travel by private motorcycle.

27.5.3 An allowance of £0.20 per mile will be allowed to all officials officiating who travel by bicycle.

27.5.4 Officials shall be entitled to claim a meal allowance of up to £10, upon production of receipts, for all matches where travel exceeds 150 miles. In the event of doubt, a route finder must be used to prove distance travelled.

27.5.5 The Scale of Fees to be paid to Match Officials will be communicated by the FAW from time to time.

27.6 Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials must travel together when instructed to do so by the FAW.

27.7 Officials are entitled to their travelling expenses if incurred and half their fees if the match to which they have started their travel, is not played.

27.8 A Match Official conducting a ground inspection 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 FAW.

27.9 The Home Club shall send details of the match to the Referee team, who shall acknowledge receipt.

27.10 The Referee team shall individually acknowledge acceptance of appointments for all matches in the Competition to the FAW.

27.11 The duties of the Referee team shall be as defined in Laws of the Game 5 and 6.

28. Provisions relating to Protests

28.1 All questions relating to the qualification of competitors or interpretation of the Rules, or any dispute whatever shall be referred to the PGAC Disciplinary Panel, whose decision shall be final and binding on both Clubs.

28.2 Every protest must be made in writing and must contain the particulars of the ground upon which it is founded. Two copies of the protest must be lodged with the FAW, accompanied by a fee of £100.00 within two days of the match to which it relates (Sundays not included). The fee shall be forfeited to the FAW in the event of the protest not being sustained.

- 28.3 The PGAC Disciplinary Panel may order any Club engaged in a dispute or protest to pay such Sum as may be considered necessary towards defraying the expenses incurred.
- 28.4 Any protest relating to the ground, goal posts or bars or other appurtenances of the game shall not be entertained by the PGAC Disciplinary Panel unless an objection has been lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the match, and not later than one hour before the official time of the kick-off. The Referee shall require the responsible Club to correct the cause of the objection, if this is possible without unduly delaying the progress of the match.
- 28.5 When an objection has been lodged with the Referee, a protest must be made to the FAW and neither objection nor protest shall be withdrawn, except by leave of the PGAC Disciplinary Panel.
- 28.6 The FAW shall send a copy of the protest and particulars to the Club protested against.
- 28.7 Each Club may support its case by witnesses.
- 28.8 If a member of the PGAC is connected with the Club concerned in a dispute of protest, they shall not sit on the PGAC Disciplinary Panel while the dispute or protest is being considered.
- 28.9 A Club summoned to attend a Hearing of a dispute of protest may be represented by one (1) or more of its Members and a legal representative. Any person summoned to attend a Hearing of a dispute or protest must attend personally and shall not be represented (save for legally) except with the prior written consent of the PGAC Disciplinary Panel.

29. Intellectual property rights

- 29.1 FAW is the exclusive owner of all intellectual property rights of the competition, including any current or future rights in all audio and visual (with or without audio) material of the competition, names, logos, brands, music, mascots, medals, plaques, commemorative items and trophies. Any use of the aforementioned rights requires the prior written approval of FAW and must comply with any conditions imposed by FAW.
- 29.2 All rights to the fixture list and match schedule, as well as any data and statistics (including databases in which such data is stored) in relation to the matches of and players' participation in the competition are the sole and exclusive property of FAW. No tickets or accreditation may be used by anyone in order to gain access to a venue for the purposes of collecting or gathering such data, and such activities are expressly prohibited. The foregoing prohibition does not apply to the participating clubs, subject to any and all such data collected being used solely for the purposes of instructing their team, players and officials and expressly excluding any other exploitation or use whatsoever.

30. Transmission of 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 without limitation the provision of access, facilities and services and the right to use Club, Official and Player names, logos, images and biographies.
- 30.2 The FAW may in its sole discretion stipulate and pay a live TV facility fee in respect of any match in

the Competition which is transmitted live on television. Any such live TV facility fee shall be shared between the two competing Clubs.

30.3 **“Transmission Rights”** means the sole and exclusive worldwide right in perpetuity to record (a) television or other moving pictures of any Competition match; (b) sounds of and/or commentary upon any Competition match and (c) data relating to any Competition 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 without limitation 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.

30.4 **“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.

30.5 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.

30.6 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 without limitation the provision of access, facilities and services and the right to use Club, Official and Player names, logos, images and biographies.

31.2 **“Sponsorship Rights”** means any and all sponsorship rights worldwide in perpetuity relating to the Competition, including without limitation, rights to use Competition designations (such as title sponsor, official sponsor, official partner and/or official supplier of the Competition), Competition advertising rights, rights to use Competition logos, rights to Competition press and other public relations campaigns, rights to Competition licensing, merchandising and promotions but excluding Transmission Rights.

31.3 **“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.

32. Notices

32.1 All notices required to be given to the FAW by any of these rules shall be addressed to the Domestic Leagues department, at the offices of The Football Association of Wales, The Pavilion, Vale Resort, Hensol, Pontyclun, CF72 8JY.