**Adran Under 19s Rules**

**2026/27**

## 1. Definitions and Interpretation

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

1.1.1. **'Adran Premier'** means the Tier 1 League in the FAW Women's Pyramid League System, currently known as 'Genero Adran Premier', as such name may be amended from time to time by the FAW with the approval of the FAW directors (for example) to include the name of a title sponsor.

1.1.2. **'Away Club'** means the Club whose name appears second on the relevant Match details issued by the FAW.

1.1.3. **'Authorised Kit'** means each Match playing kit approved by the FAW in accordance with Rule 16 below;

1.1.4. **'Business Day'** means a day that is not a Saturday or Sunday or a public or bank holiday in Wales.

1.1.5. **'Championship Conference'** means the Conference comprising the five (5) lowest-ranked Clubs at the conclusion of Phase One.

1.1.6. **'Conference'** means the Premier Conference or the Championship Conference, as the context requires.

1.1.7. **'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.

1.1.8. **'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.

1.1.9. **'FAW'** means the Football Association of Wales Ltd.

1.1.10. **'FAW Regulations'** means the regulations, standing orders, byelaws, orders, codes, policies, procedures, directives and instructions for the time being of the FAW.

1.1.11. **'FAW Rules'** means the Rules for the time being of the FAW.

1.1.12. **'General Meeting'** means any meeting of the Clubs, as the context requires and shall include the Annual General Meeting(s) and any Extraordinary General Meetings called in accordance with Rule 6 below.

1.1.13. **'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.

1.1.14. **'League'** means the Adran Under 19s League, as such name may be amended from time to time by the FAW, including to incorporate the name of a title sponsor.

1.1.15. **'Match'** means any association football match played in the League.

1.1.16. **'Match Officials'** means the Referee, Assistant Referees and any Fourth Official for a Match.

1.1.17. **'Official'** means any director, secretary or other duly authorised representative of a Club.

1.1.18. **'PGAC'** means the Professional Game Advisory Committee of the FAW constituted in accordance with the FAW Standing Orders.

1.1.19. **'PGAC Disciplinary Panel'** means a panel of 3 members of the PGAC constituted by the FAW from time to time to consider disciplinary matters pursuant to Rule 3.5 below.

1.1.20. **'Phase One'** means the first phase of the League competition, played before the Clubs are allocated to the Premier Conference and Championship Conference.

1.1.21. **'Phase Two'** means the second phase of the League competition, during which each Club competes in either the Premier Conference or the Championship Conference.

1.1.22. **'Player'** means any female association football player, whether or not registered with the FAW to play for a Club.

1.1.23. **'Playing Season'** is as defined in the FAW Rules.

1.1.24. **'Premier Conference'** means the Conference comprising the six (6) highest-ranked Clubs at the conclusion of Phase One.

1.1.25. **'Rules'** means these Rules of the League as amended from time to time.

1.1.26. **'Scale of Fines'** means the scale of fines document issued to the Clubs.

1.1.27. **'Season'** is as defined in the FAW Rules.

1.1.28. **'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.

1.1.29. **'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.

1.1.30. **'Team Sheet'** means the information as provided by the League 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.

1.1.31. **'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.

1.1.32. **'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.

1.2. A reference to a person includes a body corporate and an unincorporated body of persons.

1.3. Referring to natural persons include all 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. These Rules have been prepared in accordance with FAW Rule 28.

2.2. 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.

2.3. In addition to these Rules, all Clubs shall be bound by and comply with:

2.3.1. The FAW Rules and FAW Regulations; and

2.3.2. The Laws of the Game.

In the event that any of these Rules conflict with the FAW Rules or FAW Regulations the FAW Rules or FAW Regulations shall prevail.

## 3. Business of the League

3.1. The business of the League shall be conducted by the FAW which, subject to the FAW Rules and FAW Regulations, shall have jurisdiction over all matters relating to the administration of the League and the conduct of Clubs.

3.2. The PGAC shall consist of members as decided by the FAW from time to time. It is an advisory committee of the FAW responsible for overseeing the strategy of the League and will normally meet bi-monthly.

3.3. The President of the League shall be the President of the FAW for the time being.

3.4. The FAW shall defray out of the funds of the League all expenses in respect of the administration of the League. A member of the PGAC may be paid out of League funds such expenses incurred through attendance at meetings of, or in connection with, the League, as the FAW may approve.

3.5. The FAW may do all such acts and exercise all such powers as may be required to give effect to the provisions of these Rules. Save for those matters which in the first instance are to be dealt with or determined by other bodies of the FAW in accordance with the FAW Rules or FAW Regulations, the PGAC Disciplinary Panel shall in the first instance determine all breaches of these Rules or other matters of misconduct or dispute by or between Clubs, Players, Officials or other personnel directly or indirectly involved with the League. The PGAC Disciplinary Panel shall have the power to impose fines as defined in the 'Scale of Fines' and any other sanctions (including deduction of points or suspension from the

League) as the PGAC Disciplinary Panel shall consider appropriate, subject always to the rights of appeal and (if applicable) the Scale of Fines hereinafter mentioned.

3.6. The FAW shall cause minutes to be retained:

3.6.1. of the names of the members of the PGAC present at each meeting thereof and of any sub-committees and

3.6.2. of all proceedings and decisions at General Meetings.

3.7. Each member of the PGAC shall be furnished with a pass (which shall not be transferable) and all Clubs shall admit the holder to their grounds and stands to all Matches and to all FAW Women's Welsh Cup and Under 16s' Cup matches.

3.8. 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.

3.9. All decisions made by the FAW shall be subject to the approval of the directors of the FAW.

## 4. League Title and Club Membership

4.1. The competition shall be called the "Adran Under 19 League" and shall be referred to in these Rules as the "League". The name of the League may be amended from time to time by the FAW, including to incorporate the name of a title sponsor.

4.2. Any Club wishing to participate in the League must inform the FAW of their desire to join the League by 1st June preceding the start of the Playing Season, using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time.

4.3. Should there be space available, the FAW may admit Clubs who fulfil the following criteria:

4.3.1. Any Club who participates in the Adran Premier.

4.3.2. Any Club who obtains an FAW Academy Licence (Girls).

4.3.3. Any other Club the FAW deems appropriate in exceptional circumstances (e.g. additional Clubs if there are insufficient numbers).

## 5. League Format & Champion

5.1. The League will comprise eleven (11) Clubs competing in one national competition.

5.2. The FAW shall determine annually the date on which Matches in each Playing Season shall commence and the date on which the normal Playing Season of the League shall be intended to terminate.

5.3. 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 team that would impact its ability to fulfil fixtures in the League.

5.4. All Matches shall be of ninety (90) minutes' duration. Three (3) points will be awarded to a Club for a win in a Match and one (1) point for a drawn Match.

5.5. In each Playing Season, the League shall be played in two phases.

5.6. In Phase One, each Club shall play ten (10) Matches, comprising five (5) Matches at home and five (5) Matches away.

5.7. At the conclusion of Phase One, the Clubs shall be ranked in accordance with the points obtained during Phase One.

5.7.1. The six (6) highest-ranked Clubs shall be allocated to the Premier Conference;

5.7.2. The five (5) remaining Clubs shall be allocated to the Championship Conference;

5.7.3. Where two or more Clubs possess the same number of points at the conclusion of Phase One, their rankings shall be determined in accordance with Rule 5.12; and

5.7.4. Once Clubs have been allocated to their respective Conferences, they shall remain in those Conferences for the remainder of the Playing Season.

5.8. During Phase Two, each Club shall play each other Club within its Conference three (3) times.

5.8.1. Each Club in the Premier Conference shall play fifteen (15) Matches during Phase Two, and each Club in the Championship Conference shall play twelve (12) Matches during Phase Two;

5.8.2. The FAW shall determine the fixture programme for each Conference;

5.8.3. Each pair of Clubs within a Conference shall play one Match at the home ground of each Club. The allocation of the third Match between those Clubs shall be determined by the FAW;

5.8.4. The FAW shall seek to ensure that home and away Matches are allocated as equally as reasonably practicable, having regard to the competition format and the number of Matches to be played;

5.8.5. During Phase Two, each Club in the Premier Conference shall play either eight (8) Matches at home and seven (7) Matches away or seven (7) Matches at home and eight (8) Matches away. Each Club in the Championship Conference shall play six (6) Matches at home and six (6) Matches away; and

5.8.6. Each Club in the Premier Conference shall therefore play twenty-five (25) Matches during the Playing Season, comprising either thirteen (13) Matches at home and twelve (12) Matches away or twelve (12) Matches at home and thirteen (13) Matches away. Each Club in the Championship Conference shall play twenty-two (22) Matches during the Playing Season, comprising eleven (11) Matches at home and eleven (11) Matches away.

5.9. At the commencement of Phase Two, the points, wins, draws, losses, goals scored and goals conceded accumulated by each Club during Phase One shall be reset to zero and shall not be carried forward into Phase Two.

5.10. The standings within each Conference shall be determined solely by the results of Matches played during Phase Two.

5.11. At the conclusion of Phase Two, the Club finishing in first position in the Premier Conference shall be declared the League Champion.

5.12. Where two or more Clubs possess the same number of points at the conclusion of the applicable Phase, the following criteria will be applied in the order given to determine their rankings:

5.12.1. Superior goal difference obtained in all League Matches played during the applicable Phase;

5.12.2. Higher or highest number of goals scored in all League Matches played during the applicable Phase;

5.12.3. Higher or highest number of wins in all League Matches played during the applicable Phase;

5.12.4. Lower or lowest disciplinary points total based only on yellow and red cards received in all League Matches during the applicable Phase; and

5.12.5. The Clubs concerned shall play-off, in a format as directed by the FAW.

5.13. 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 twenty-five (25) souvenirs to the League Champion Club, twenty (20) for the Players and five (5) for the Officials of the Club. The date, time, and location of any such presentation shall be decided by the PGAC.

5.14. If a club wishes to resign from the League after being accepted at the League AGM and before completing its fixtures, it may be liable to a sanction.

## 6. General Meetings

6.1. 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.

6.2. The FAW may, whenever it thinks fit, convene an Extraordinary General Meeting of the League at a date, time and place to be determined by the FAW. The FAW shall also, upon a requisition made to the League in writing signed by duly authorised representatives of not less than two thirds (2/3rds) of the Clubs in the League, convene an Extraordinary General Meeting of the League at a date, time and place to be determined by the FAW.

6.3. The FAW shall notify all relevant Clubs and the members of the PGAC of the date, time and place of all General Meetings 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 PGAC and all relevant Clubs.

6.4. Each relevant Club shall be entitled to have two (2) representatives and one (1) vote at any General Meeting. Each relevant Club shall ensure that at least one (1) representative attends each General Meeting but the meeting, if validly convened, may proceed in their absence. Each relevant Club shall prior to the General Meeting in question notify the FAW Women's Competitions Executive of the identity of the Club's representatives and which representative shall be entitled to cast the Club's vote. Votes may only be cast by representatives personally and voting by proxy shall not be permitted. Any resolution at a General Meeting must have the support of two thirds (2/3rds) of the Clubs present and eligible to vote on the resolution at the meeting.

6.5. The Chair of the PGAC shall be the Chair at all General Meetings but in their absence the members of the PGAC present shall choose one of their number to be Chair.

6.6. The directors of the FAW shall have the power to veto any resolution of the relevant Clubs at a General Meeting.

6.7. Clubs failing to attend an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting may be liable to a fine.

6.8. The PGAC may permit attendance and/or voting at any of the above meetings by electronic means.

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

7.1. At an Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 6 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.

7.2. 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.

## 8. FAW Club Staff Requirements

8.1. Each Club shall be required to register staff in the following posts with the FAW via the systems and procedures set out by the FAW from time to time:

8.1.1. Team Manager - As a minimum, the Team Manager must hold a valid 'FAW C Certificate' or FAW/UEFA Grassroots Leaders Award. They must hold the correct safeguarding documentation to work with U18s as defined by the FAW Safeguarding Department. The Team Manager should be in attendance for at least 70% of the Matches; should they not be available then a suitably qualified replacement should be present.

8.1.2. Safeguarding Officer - To have completed the safeguarding courses and be familiar with the required processes as prescribed by the FAW from time to time.

8.1.3. First Aider - A qualified first aider will be required to be nominated for every Match. As a minimum this individual will hold the FAW First Aid Award or FASE 1. Home Club First Aiders will have the responsibility to treat any non-playing injuries in addition to those of their Players (e.g Officials etc).

8.2. Individuals may share more than one post, apart from the roles of Team Manager and First Aider, which cannot be shared.

## 9. Annual Subscriptions

9.1. The Women's Competitions Executive shall inform all member Clubs of Annual Subscription/Entrance Fees by 1st June each year. Each Member Club shall pay the stipulated Annual Subscription and/or Entrance Fee of Fifty Pounds (£50) via COMET by 31st July each year.

9.2. Clubs failing to pay any debt owing to the League by the due date will automatically incur a fine of £20 per month that the money is outstanding.

## 10. Accounts

10.1. The FAW shall cause proper annual accounts to be kept of all income and expenditure of the League to 30th June in each year and shall lay the said accounts before the Annual General Meeting of the League for the information of the Clubs. The FAW shall be solely responsible for the manner in which the income of the League is expended.

## 11. Notices

11.1. Any notice or other communication to be given in accordance with these Rules shall be delivered in accordance with Rule 144 of the FAW Rules. All notices sent to the Clubs shall be sent to the secretary of the Club whose name and address, email address and telephone number(s) shall be notified by the Club to the FAW Women's Competitions Executive.

11.2. Any notice or other communication to be served on the League shall be addressed to the FAW at FAW, Vale Resort, Pontyclun, CF72 8JY, or by email to such email address issued for such purpose by the League 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.

## 12. Alterations to these Rules

12.1. No alteration in these Rules shall be made until they have been approved by the FAW in accordance with Rule 30 of the FAW Rules. Alterations to these Rules shall only be made at the Annual General Meetings or at an Extraordinary General Meeting convened under Rule 6 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.

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

## 13. Disciplinary Proceedings, Disputes, Appeals, Independent Arbitration and Sanctions

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

## 14. Registrations, Contracts and Transfer of Players

14.1. Provisions relating to Player registrations, contracts and transfers shall (insofar as applicable) be dealt with in accordance with these Rules and the FAW Rules and FAW Regulations including Section H of the FAW Rules.

14.2. 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 5pm on the last Business Day prior to the Match in which the Club wishes the Player to participate.

14.3. All Clubs must register a minimum of 16 Players, by the 1st September, in the relevant Playing Season whose registrations comply with Rule 15. Clubs failing to play scheduled Matches because they have insufficient Players registered, will be subject to sanction by the PGAC.

## 15. Ineligible Players

15.1. To be eligible to play in the League in the relevant Playing Season, a Player must be female and:

15.1.1. Must be aged sixteen (16) or over on the day the Match is played; and

15.1.2. Must not have attained the age of nineteen (19) before 1st September in the relevant Playing Season unless they are a nominated 'over age' Player.

15.2. As the only exceptions to the above:

15.2.1. A Club may name on its Team Sheet and play an unlimited number of female Players aged fifteen (15) who have been approved by the FAW in accordance with FAW Rule 85; and

15.2.2. Clubs may name on its Team Sheet no more than three (3) 'over-age' female Players who have been nominated by the Club using the systems and procedures prescribed by the FAW from time to time. No more than three (3) such Players may be on the field of play at any one time. For the purpose of this Rule, an 'over-age Player' means a Player who had attained the age of nineteen (19) defined as those who are 19 years or over on 1st September in the relevant Playing Season.

15.3. No Club may play an ineligible Player in any Match. Any Club which plays an ineligible player in a Match will have three (3) points deducted from its League record for that Playing Season, up to a maximum of 12 points, and will also be liable to a fine. If the Player is a nominated but unused substitute for a Match, they shall be deemed as not having played for the Club in that Match.

*this maximum applies on each occasion a Club appears before the PGAC Disciplinary Panel or a Judicial Body for playing an ineligible player in any given season.

15.4. The PGAC Disciplinary Panel or Judicial Body may suspend all or part of a points deduction imposed pursuant to Rule 15.3 above only if satisfied the ineligibility was due to a genuine administration error resulting in a breach of FAW Rule 85(A).

15.5. A Club must not nominate a Player as a substitute for a Match unless they are a duly registered Player for the Club with the FAW and eligible to play in the Match.

## 16. Authorised Kits

16.1. By 24th June, each Club shall submit at least two (2) and up to three (3) outfield and at least two (2) and up to three (3) goalkeeper kits to the FAW Women's Competitions Executive, both (i) in writing, in PDF format full details of their proposed Match kit colours (comprising shirts, shorts and socks for both outfield players and goalkeepers in both home and change kit versions, and including any proposed sponsor logos) for the forthcoming Playing Season and (ii) a physical version of these proposed Match kits. The FAW shall notify the Club if any elements of their proposed kits are rejected and the reasons, 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. Once approved by the FAW (each such kit then being an "Authorised Kit"), such details shall 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:

16.1.1. 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

16.1.2. Clubs may submit a request in writing to the FAW at least fourteen (14) clear days before a Match to wear an alternative special kit (for example, a charity kit or a new Playing Season launch kit) and may wear such a kit if it obtains prior written approval from the FAW Women's Competitions Executive.

16.2. Each goalkeeper shall play each Match in a kit clearly distinguishable from the colours of the shirts worn by all outfield players and Match Officials and the other goalkeeper.

16.3. If undershorts or tights or under socks or undershirts are to be worn by a Player in a Match, they must be of a colour approved by the FAW in relation to the applicable Authorised Kit prior to the relevant Playing Season and they must comply with Laws of the Game.

16.4. No Club shall be permitted to register or play a Match in shirt colours which are likely to cause confusion with the outfits worn by Referees and Assistant Referees.

16.5. The Players' shirts for each Match must be clearly numbered (and if applicable named) in accordance with the Team Sheet handed to the Referee before the Match and there must be no change of numbers during the Match except if there is a change of goalkeeper. The captain of each team shall wear a distinguishing arm band to indicate their status.

16.6. Clubs wishing to make alterations to their Authorised Kits after the date set by the FAW under Rule 16.1 above, must make an application to the FAW for their prior written approval.

16.7. All Players participating in Matches must carry the League's and/or a League sponsor's logo on one or both sleeves of their shirts. The Champion Club may also wear a domestic titles logo and/or stars, subject to the prior written approval of the FAW.

16.8. The colours of the clothing worn by any ball kids and/or other personnel for each Match must not clash with those of either of the competing teams or Match Officials.

16.9. All kits for Matches must comply with FAW Kit Regulations.

## 17. Registration of Grounds and Ground Sharing

17.1. Each Club must register its ground for Home Matches with the FAW by 30th June prior to the start of each League in each Playing Season and the Club may not use any other ground for Home Matches without the FAW's prior written approval.

## 18. Scheduling of Matches and Kick-Off Times

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

18.2. Each Match is to be played on a Friday evening unless specified otherwise by the FAW in its sole discretion, except in the case of a re-scheduled match.

18.3. Any dispute between two or more Clubs as to the agreement 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.*

18.4. All Matches shall initially be scheduled to kick off at 19:30. The Home Club may determine a kick-off time between 7pm and 8pm, unless otherwise agreed by both Clubs and approved by the FAW.

18.5. Midweek fixtures may be scheduled by the League when floodlights are available; the Home Club shall have the initial right to choose if the match shall be played on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, and not less than seventy-two (72) hours after the last match either Club has fulfilled or before the next scheduled fixture by either Club. The kick-off time for a midweek fixture shall initially be scheduled for 7pm, unless otherwise mutually agreed by the Clubs. Kick-off may not be later than 8pm.

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

18.7. In all Matches, the half-time interval shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes.

18.8. Where both Clubs are in agreement, a Match may be brought forward in the preceding week of the original Match and not less than sixty (60) hours after the last match either Club has fulfilled. No kick-off times later than the scheduled time will be permitted, unless under floodlights. At least fourteen (14) Clear Days prior notice is required from Clubs wishing to re-arrange a Match or change a Match date, and each such notice period must exclude the new proposed date of a Match; a request made in less than this period of time will only be considered by the FAW in exceptional circumstances.

18.9. No Club shall be allowed to postpone a Match with another Club except as permitted by these Rules or with the prior approval of the FAW.

18.10. 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 Match provided at least 10 clear days' notice is given to the FAW Women's Competition Executive 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 Match.

18.11. All Matches in Phase One shall be completed before the commencement of Phase Two, unless otherwise determined by the FAW.

18.12. 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 18.11 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.*

18.13. Any Club without just cause failing to fulfil an engagement to play a Match on the appointed date or causing a Match to be abandoned without giving a reason deemed to be satisfactory by the FAW shall have three points deducted, be liable for any reasonable expenses as deemed necessary by the FAW and shall be fined fifty pounds (£50.00). Any subsequent charges will be fined one hundred pounds (£100.00) and shall have three points deducted for each offence.

18.14. Away Clubs shall also confirm in such Match correspondence to Home Clubs if they will be attending post-Match hospitality or not.

## 19. Ground and Dressing Room Criteria

19.1. Dressing Rooms

19.1.1. Player Dressing Rooms

19.1.1.1. The Dressing rooms for both teams must be heated, well ventilated, free of damp, secure and must be situated within the boundaries of the ground.

19.1.1.2. Separate changing rooms must be provided for both teams, capable of accommodating a minimum 18 persons.

19.1.1.3. Clubs must have toilet facilities of at least one W/C and one hand basin with hot and cold running water within the immediate vicinity of the dressing room complex and access to sanitary bins/provisions.

19.1.1.4. A separate shower area must be provided for each team with a minimum of four shower heads.

19.1.2. Match Official Dressing Rooms

19.1.2.1. A separate area must be provided for the exclusive use of Match Officials, which must be capable of accommodating at least four persons.

19.1.2.2. There must be a separate shower for Match Officials and a W/C and wash basin with hot and cold running water in the immediate vicinity.

19.1.2.3. It is advisory that a second Match Officials Dressing Room is made available, to provide for all genders, where possible.

19.2. Medical

19.2.1. All Clubs must have first aid equipment, which must include a stretcher. The location of this equipment must be clearly marked in dressing rooms and ideally a separate first aid room should be available.

19.2.2. Clubs should arrange for suitably trained first aid personnel to be provided for players and spectators at all matches. It cannot be the Team Manager, Assistant Team Manager or a selected Team Player.

19.2.3. Emergency vehicles must be able to drive into the stadium. The access and egress points must not be blocked and a parking space must be identified for an emergency vehicle to park, which must not be occupied by any other vehicle or used for any other purpose.

19.2.4. Unobstructed access leading from a spectator area in the stadium to the playing area must be provided to allow access and egress for a stretcher. It is recommended that this access is located as close as possible to area designated for the access/egress of the emergency vehicle(s).

19.3. Technical Areas

19.3.1. Clubs must provide two covered dugouts adjacent to and on the same side of the playing area. They must be capable of accommodating a minimum of six seated persons, and the floor must be of solid foundation. A technical area must be marked in accordance with the Laws of the Game in front of both dugouts.

19.4. The FAW will have plenary powers to remove any Club from League Membership should it fail to meet the accepted ground criteria of the League.

19.5. Clubs must rectify any failures from the published ground criteria within thirty (30) days of being advised in writing by the Women's Competitions Executive.

19.6. Any Club failing to meet the ground criteria can have its membership of the League removed the following season.

## 20. Condition of Grounds and Postponements

20.1. 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.

20.2. A Match may only be postponed:

20.2.1. With the approval of the Match Referee or the available referee and the FAW on Match Day -1;

20.2.2. With the approval of the Match Referee or the available referee on Match day.

20.2.3. By order of the police.

20.2.4. By order of any other authority exercising its statutory powers; or

20.2.5. With the approval of the FAW.

20.3. Each participating Club shall take all reasonable steps to avoid the postponement of a Match.

20.4. 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.

20.5. Details of the compensation claim by either/both Clubs shall be placed before the FAW, with all the details clearly itemised.

20.6. 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.

20.7. Details of the compensation claim by either/both Clubs shall be placed before the FAW, with all the details clearly itemised.

20.8. No Club shall postpone the playing of a Match on account of apparent unfitness of its ground, the Referee being the sole person to decide as to the fitness after inspection. In bad weather, or where it seems apparent that there is not a possibility of the Match being played, it shall be obligatory for the Home Club to call in the most senior FAW qualified referee available (or designated person as deemed competent by the FAW Match Officials Manager), to give a ruling as to the fitness after consultation with the FAW Women's Competitions Executive. The time of any inspection shall be by mutual agreement between the two Clubs taking into account the travelling time of the Away Club, but shall not be considered more than forty-eight (48) hours before the scheduled time of kick-off. In case of dispute, the FAW shall decide the time of any inspection. 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.

20.9. 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 and the FAW Women's Competitions Executive. 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 Women's Competitions Executive.

20.10. 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).

20.11. 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.

20.12. 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.

20.13. The FAW may require a Home Club to identify a suitable alternative ground for a Match if they have any concerns about the condition of the Home Club's ground in the build up to a Match. Any such proposed alternative ground shall be subject to the approval of the FAW.

20.14. Any Club failing to fulfil its fixture obligations in respect of any Match on the appointed date or dates or causing the FAW to cancel, postpone, abandon or suspend any Match shall be deemed guilty of misconduct unless the Club is successfully able to demonstrate that Rule 20.15 below applies. The burden of proof will rest with the Club.

20.15. The Club will not be deemed to be guilty of misconduct in accordance with Rule 20.14 above where it is able to demonstrate that:

20.15.1. the dominant and effective cause of the non-fulfilment was the occurrence of an event which was outside the control of the Club ("**Event**"); and

20.15.2. the Club could not have reasonably foreseen or reasonably anticipated and remedied the consequences of the Event prior to the Match despite using its best endeavours to do so.

20.16. The Club failing to fulfil its fixture or causing the FAW to suspend a Match shall be liable to pay compensation for any expenses actually incurred by the opposing Club as a direct result of the failure or suspension. The amount of compensation will be at the discretion of the FAW who will consider every such case on its merits.

20.17. Each Club shall ensure, or shall procure, that its home ground is insured against damage or destruction by such insured risks as are required by the FAW from time to time with a reputable insurer (regulated under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000) for the full cost of repairing, rebuilding and reinstating the ground (including all stands) and for these purposes this includes VAT, professional fees (for example architects, surveyors, engineers and solicitors) and any fees payable on any applications for planning permission or other permits or consents which may be required in relation to site preparation, repairing, rebuilding or reinstating the stadium. A Club shall provide the FAW with full copies of such documentation as the FAW may reasonably require regarding such insurance policy(ies). Any Club in default of this obligation may have such amounts owed to it by the FAW withheld until such time as the insurance is in place.

## 21. Match Officials

21.1. Match Official Appointments

21.1.1. The FAW shall decide on the appointments of Match Officials.

21.1.2. Match Officials should be present at the appointment at least sixty (60) minutes prior to the advertised time of kick-off. The appointed Referee may be required to visit the ground earlier if requested to do so by the Home Club. If any Match Official becomes aware that they are likely to arrive late, they must immediately notify the participating Clubs, other Match Officials and the FAW via telephone calls.

21.1.3. In cases where it is considered necessary to stop playing a Match owing to adverse weather or another cause, the Referee must wait a reasonable length of time before deciding on abandonment.

21.1.4. Where Assistant Referees are not appointed, each Club must supply one person to the Referee to act as an assistant during the match.

21.1.5. 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. In the event that there are also no appointed Assistant Referees, the two clubs must agree prior to the start of the match to appoint an official at the ground. Such Referee shall be considered to be the Match Official. Priority must be given to anyone who holds a referee qualification and is prepared to undertake the appointment.

21.1.6. Referees must ensure that Clubs play Matches in the correct Authorised Kit as defined in Rule 16 above. Any breach of this Rule must be reported to the FAW Women's Competitions Executive.

21.1.7. The kit worn by Match Officials at Matches shall be approved by the FAW Referees Committee.

21.1.8. Each Home Club shall confirm full kit colours (including goalkeeper) using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time at least five (5) days prior to the Match. The Away 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. Failure to adhere to these deadlines may result in a fine as per Rule 30 below. The Match Referee must check the proposed kit at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to kick off and inform the FAW should there be any concerns.

21.1.9. 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 Women's Competitions Executive from time to time.

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

21.1.11. Match Officials fees (as set by the FAW) shall be paid by the Home Club and the Home Club shall also be liable for their travel expenses, unless otherwise approved by the FAW Women's Competitions Executive.

21.1.12. If a Match Official prefers being paid their fees and 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 fees and expenses either (a) in cash on the day of the Match or (b) by bank transfer within three (3) Business Days after the Match.

21.1.13. All Match Officials shall be entitled to claim the cheapest form of rail travel available on the day of the Match or motoring expenses determined from time to time by the FAW when travelling by car, subject to the applicable cap. Match Officials must travel together when instructed to do so by the FAW.

21.1.14. Match Officials shall also be entitled to receive a meal allowance from the Home Club, determined from time to time by the FAW when travelling a total of one hundred and fifty (150) miles or more.

21.1.15. In the case of postponed Matches where they have travelled but where the game has not kicked off the Match Officials shall be paid their travelling expenses by the Home Club. They shall also receive half their Match Fee from the Home Club. If a match is abandoned once the match has commenced, all match officials are entitled to claim their full match fee plus travelling expenses.

21.1.16. 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 1 minute before returning on the referees' signal, save for any exceptions referred to within the Laws of the Game.

21.1.17. The Referee shall send the completed standard Referee's Report Form to the FAW Women's Competitions Executive 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).

21.1.18. Referees must report to the FAW Women's Competitions Executive all cases where Clubs commence a Match late, or without eleven (11) Players on the field, where the Team Sheet was amended after submission and also in case of their own or any Assistant Referee's (including the Fourth Official's) late arrival for any Match as soon as possible after the Match. Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials must also send an explanation of their late arrival to the FAW as soon as possible after the Match.

21.1.19. The Association may appoint a Referee Observer, whose identity will be confirmed using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time. The Referee Observer must be allocated a car parking space, complimentary entry into the Ground and a seat in the VIP section with a full and unobstructed view of the Ground. The Referee Observer will also act as the Match delegate and is responsible for ensuring the orderly organisation of the match and that the Competition and FAW Rules and Regulations are complied with. The Referee Observer may submit a report to the FAW if they deem it necessary following any alleged breaches of the Rules and Regulations.

21.1.20. Any comments, questions or complaints regarding the decisions of a given Match Official shall be directed to the FAW Match Officials 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.

21.1.21. Clubs must complete and submit the Club marking details about Match Officials in accordance with the FAW's instructions.

## 22. Team Sheets and Strength of Teams

22.1. Both Match Team Sheets must be completed at least thirty (30) minutes before kick-off of each Match (except at least seventy-five (75) minutes before kick-off of any Match to be transmitted "live" on terrestrial or digital television or to be streamed by the FAW or one of the FAW's partners) using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time.

22.2. 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:

22.2.1. 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.

22.2.2. Should the named goalkeeper indicated on the Team Sheet as forming the starting eleven (11) is not able to start the match due to physical incapacity, they may be replaced by another nominated goalkeeper, regardless if they have previously been listed as a substitute on the Team Sheet.

22.2.3. If any of the substitutes listed on the Team Sheet are not able to be fielded due to physical incapacity, they may only be replaced by a registered Player not listed on the initial Team Sheet.

22.2.4. The Club concerned must, upon request, provide the FAW with the necessary medical certificates.

22.3. 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.

## 23. Substitutes

23.1. Clubs may nominate up to seven (7) substitutes on the Team Sheet.

23.2. A Club at its discretion may use up to five (5) substitutes during a Match except to replace a Player or Players who have been sent off or suspended 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.

23.3. During the Match, each Club:

23.3.1. may use a maximum of five (5) substitutes.

23.3.2. has a maximum of three (3) substitution opportunities; and

23.3.3. may additionally make substitutions at half-time.

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

23.4. The name(s) and numbers of the substitute(s) must be nominated to the Referee on the Team Sheet in accordance with Rule 22 above.

## 24. Substitutes Benches and Technical Areas

24.1. At each Match up to fifteen (15) Players and Officials in total (of which no more than seven (7) may be the substitutes or the Players they have replaced on the field of play) may sit on the substitutes' bench of the relevant Club in the designated technical area. The full name of each person and their function must be listed on the Team Sheet.

24.2. Only one (1) person at a time from the relevant Club may stand in the designated technical area. Only one (1) person at a time from the relevant Club may convey tactic instructions from the designated technical area.

24.3. A first aid officer from the Home Club must be pitch side for each Match.

24.4. During the Match, substitutes are allowed to leave the designated 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.

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

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

24.7. Seven home and seven 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).

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

## 25. Players Insurance

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

## 26. Sponsorship

26.1. 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.

26.2. Clubs must abide by the request of the FAW, as made from time to time, to display the League and/or sponsor logo on Authorised Kit (as per Rule 16 above) for Matches, and League and/or sponsor boards at their home Matches.

26.2.1. Should the Home Club have electronic advertising boards in use at any Match, the League and/or sponsor logo must be displayed for a minimum of 120 seconds during each half.

## 27. Transmission of League Matches

27.1. 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.

27.2. In line with the current contractual agreement with the FAW's broadcast partner, Clubs may use video footage from their own Matches 24 hours after the final whistle of a Match; subject to the Club complying with any relevant FAW Regulations or directions, including in relation to Safeguarding.

## 28. Gate Receipts

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

## 29. Custody of the League Trophy

29.1. The Adran Under 19s trophy will be presented to the League Champion Club.

29.2. Upon receiving the said trophy, the following agreement will be signed in connection with the safe keeping and eventual return of the trophy to the FAW.

*We the undersigned Officials of the Club do on their behalf receive The Adran Under 19s League trophy and acknowledge that same has been delivered into our keeping in good and sound condition.*

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

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

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

*Date:*

*Signed:*

*Chair:*

Secretary:

## 30. Matters Not Provided for by the Rules

30.1. Any infringement of the Rules and any other matter not provided for by the Rules shall be dealt with by the FAW at its discretion.

## Appendix A

Match Officials Fees:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Referee** | **£40** |
| Assistant Referee (if appointed) | £30 |

An allowance of £0.55 per mile will be allowed to all officials officiating who travel by private car. This is to be paid by the home team