

**FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES
CLUB LICENSING QUALITY STANDARD V.2.0**

Policy Statement

Edition 10

REQUIREMENT 2



The Football Association of Wales has operated a Club Licensing system since season 2003/04 and it has been applied each season thereafter and will continue to be operated annually.

This enabled those clubs who received a licence to enter UEFA club competitions having qualified on sporting merit. In Football Season 2007/08, the Association introduced a Second Version of the Manual, which was accredited by UEFA in October 2006, which further enhanced the system and the criteria. In 2009/10 season the FAW's UEFA Regulations were approved by UEFA which superseded the Version 2 Manual. Also, in the 2009/10 season, the FAW ran a domestic club licensing system for the first time, which became mandatory for all clubs wishing to participate in the restructured Welsh Premier League in 2010/11. This ensures that all clubs in the top division must ensure that they meet a minimum set of standards, whether they have ambitions to play in UEFA Club Competitions or not. The FAW is proud that every club who has qualified on sporting merit for UEFA Club Competitions has attained the required UEFA Licence to compete. The FAW has also introduced minimum standards across Tier 2 and Tier 3 of the Welsh Football Pyramid which are based on the UEFA and FAW Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations thus increasing the standard further throughout the Pyramid.

The objectives of the FAW Licensing system are:

To promote and improve sporting standards in National and European football. Paramount to this, will be the development of Cymru Premier Coaches and Managers and consequently, the Licensor will encourage and ensure that these individuals are accessing the best possible Coaching Courses to meet the Licensing Criteria. For the UEFA criteria, they require the highest qualification, the Pro Licence and for the League, they must be on the 'A' Licence. This is setting a high benchmark for the League but will certainly assist with the promotion and improvement of sporting standards. This has been extended to Tier 2 & 3 of the Welsh Football Pyramid where additional criteria states that all clubs must have in place an individual that has at least started the 'B' Licence & C Licence course respectively. This criterion is in addition to a number of other Personnel criteria contained within the Tier 2 criteria which aims to strengthen clubs as a whole.

To ensure that youth players receive the best possible training and care. The FAW has received a significant financial investment from UEFA in relation to its Cymru Premier academies. As a result, each Cymru Premier club is now required to appoint a full-time Head of Coaching at their club to oversee the development of academy players and coaches. Each academy will also have to meet strict criteria, aimed at improving standards, to access these funds annually. If managed correctly by the association and the clubs, it is felt that this significant financial investment will

have a positive effect on the league as a whole going-forward and will result in more quality, home-grown players being developed by clubs.

To strengthen the financial and economic performance of clubs. This becomes ever-more pertinent in the footballing world and the FAW must ensure that the financial transparency and fair play are of the highest priority in the National Game. The FAW has recently undergone a financial benchmarking study involved all 12 JD Cymru Premier clubs.

To ensure clubs home stadiums reflect the needs of spectators, players and officials and provide a safe environment; The stadiums in the Cymru Premier continue to improve and all meet the FAW Tier 1 Licence. The FAW must continue to encourage and assist the clubs in reaching UEFA standard. Furthermore, with the FAW Tier 2 & 3 Ground Criteria is now mandatory, it is hoped that the gap between stadiums at Tier 1 and Tier 2 can be bridged with the tangible benefits of these regulations already being seen at Tier 2 & 3 clubs throughout Wales.

To enhance the administration at the clubs, by acquiring skilled personnel and offering specific Workshops for the relevant Job-Holders; With the increased criteria it is vital that the FAW ensures that the relevant individuals at clubs have access to the relevant educational courses. Therefore, the FAW Club Licensing Administration will continue to ensure that educational courses, designed to 'up-skill' volunteers at clubs, are readily available. This includes a new UEFA / FAW led medical course for Sports Therapists / Physiotherapists at Tier 1 clubs.

The clubs have received a document outlining the criteria that they have to fulfil to take part in the UEFA club competitions and the Association in meeting those requirements will continue to support them with all Club Licensing and Club Monitoring matters. This will be amended as required, subject to UEFA approval. Clubs have also received the FAW Tier 1 Licensing Regulations to achieve the same.

It is our objective to ensure that all clubs are dealt with efficiently, timely and that all the relevant information they need is available in good time for them to make the necessary application.

Based on the UEFA initiative all 55 UEFA members introduced similar schemes. The FAW Licensing system meets the minimum mandatory criteria, established by UEFA in their Regulations to ensure that common standards are consistently applied to all clubs taking part in European competitions and domestically, in the JD Cymru Premier. The categories of criteria that clubs will have to meet are:

- Sporting criteria
- Football Social Responsibility
- Infrastructure criteria
- Personnel criteria
- Legal criteria
- Financial criteria

Furthermore, the Football Association of Wales commits to comply with the requirements set out in the Club Licensing Quality Standard and will be assessed annually, against this standard, by an independent certification body. We will keep all stakeholders including staff fully informed of our programme through briefings and staff notices, as it develops, and will ensure that all stakeholders directly involved in the scheme are fully trained and aware of the tasks that they

need to complete in order to ensure its success.

We believe that this Licensing system forms a firm foundation for continually improving football for all the parties involved.

The Football Association of Wales is committed to continually improve the effectiveness of the Club Licensing and Club Monitoring Process. I look forward to receiving your continued support for this activity and I will welcome any suggestions that you may wish to make.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Steven Jones
FAW Club Licensing Manager
1st September 2022