THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES LIMITED

OFFICIAL HANDBOOK

JONATHAN FORD  Chief Executive Officer

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Registered Office: 11-12 Neptune Court, Vanguard Way, Cardiff, CF24 5PJ

Telephone: 029 2043 5830  Fax: 029 2049 6953

Email: info@faw.co.uk  Website: www.faw.cymru
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The Football Association of Wales Limited Administrative Staff

CHIEF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
Chief Executive .................................................. Jonathan Ford
Executive Assistant .......................... Kate Shale
Receptionists .............................. Gail Lewis & Carolyn Dennis

NATIONAL TEAM MANAGEMENT
National Team Coach ................................. Ryan Giggs
National Team Assistant .................. Albert Stuivenberg
Head of Performance .......................... Tony Strudwick
Intermediate Teams Coach ................ Robert Page
Assistant Intermediate Teams Coach .... Paul Bodin
Assistant Intermediate Teams Coach ... Robert Edwards
Women’s Team Coach .............................. Jayne Ludlow
Women’s Assistant Team Coach ........ Lauren Smith
Women’s Team Sport Science ............ Bethan Lloyd

PUBLIC AFFAIRS & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT
Head of Department ............................... Ian Gwyn Hughes
Deputy Head of Department ............ Robert Dowling
Media Executive ............................. Sara Pennant Jones
Media Executive ............................. Owain Harries
Corporate Communication Executive .... Melissa Palmer
INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT
Head of Department ................................. Mark Evans
Head of Women's and Girls Football ........ Lowri Roberts
Teams Operations Manager ..................... Dominic Kennedy
Teams Operations Manager ..................... Amanda Smith
Teams Operations Manager ..................... Siobhan Humphrey
Teams Operations Executive .................. Rhys Herbert
Equipment Manager ............................... David Griffiths
Equipment Executive ............................. Michael Murphy
Equipment Executive ............................. Jonathan Smith
Lead Physiotherapist & Medical Services Manager Sean Connelly
Women’s Teams Head Physiotherapist ........ Hilary Gannon

COMMERCIAL & MARKETING
Head of Department ............................... Ian Davis
Business Development Manager ............... Suzanne Twamley
Marketing & Brand Manager ................... Peter Barnes
Ticketing & Membership Manager ............. Lucy Mason
Ticketing & Membership Executive .......... Lynsey Owens
Ticketing & Membership Executive .......... Matthew Evans
Commercial & Ticketing Executive .......... Carys Price
Digital Marketing Executive ................ Ffion Miles
Design Intern ................................. Dylan Wert

COMPETITIONS DEPARTMENT
Head of Department .............................. Andrew Howard
Cymru Premier League General Manager .... Gwyn Derfel
Welsh Premier Women’s League General Manager Ianthe Mumford
Cymru North General Manager ............. Dewi Evans
Cymru South General Manager .............. Nick Davies
Referees Manager .............................. Phil Thomas
Club Licensing & Integrity Manager ........ Steven Jones
Marketing and Commercial Executive ...... Matthew Close
Club Competitions Coordinator ............. Kayne McLaggon
Department Coordinator ..................... Catrin James
FINANCE DEPARTMENT
Head of Department ......................... Leighton Norris
Deputy Head of Finance ................... Gareth Payne
Finance Executive ......................... Julie Morgan
Finance Executive ......................... Sian Gifford
Finance Coordinator ...................... Jaime Molloy
ICT Manager ............................... Evren Karaibrahimgil

COMPLIANCE DEPARTMENT
Head of Department ........................ Paul Evans
Safeguarding Manager .................... Sian Jones
Disciplinary Manager ...................... Ian Fisher
Player Registrations Manager .......... Aron Hughes
Legal Compliance Executive .......... Philip Draper
Safeguarding Executive ................. Nadia Lawrence
Disciplinary Executive .................. Jack Houghton
Registrations Executive ................ Adam Squire
Safeguarding Coordinator .............. Hannah Sainsbury

SPECIAL PROJECTS TEAM
Head of Special Projects .................. Alan Hamer
Special Projects Manager ............... Rebecca Crockett
Special Projects Manager ............... Daniel Jose
# The Football Association of Wales Limited

**PATRON: H. M. THE QUEEN**

## CHIEF OFFICIALS SINCE 1876

### PRESIDENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>President</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1876</td>
<td>Sir Watkins Williams Wynn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>Thomas E. Thomas</td>
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<tr>
<td>1891</td>
<td>James Davies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1892</td>
<td>W. H. Pattison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1893</td>
<td>Major T. H. Clayton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1896</td>
<td>Llewellyn Kenrick</td>
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<tr>
<td>1897-05</td>
<td>Stanley D. Edisbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905-10</td>
<td>John Davies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910-34</td>
<td>R. T. Gough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934-46</td>
<td>Lord Davies of Llandinam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946-60</td>
<td>Lord Kemsley</td>
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<tr>
<td>1960-62</td>
<td>Milwyn Jenkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963-67</td>
<td>Lord Tenby</td>
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<tr>
<td>1967-72</td>
<td>Thomas E. Russell</td>
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<tr>
<td>1972-77</td>
<td>Terry H. Squire</td>
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<tr>
<td>1977-82</td>
<td>R. Gwynfryn Jones</td>
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<tr>
<td>1982-86</td>
<td>Selwyn Jenkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986-89</td>
<td>Ivor C. Pursey</td>
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<tr>
<td>1989-92</td>
<td>Tommy R. Forse</td>
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<td>1992-94</td>
<td>E. Ellis</td>
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<td>1994-97</td>
<td>Brian Fear</td>
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<tr>
<td>1997-2000</td>
<td>John O. Hughes</td>
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<td>2000-2003</td>
<td>Desmond W. Shanklin</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003-2006</td>
<td>Tegwyn M. Evans MBE</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006-2009</td>
<td>Peter Rees</td>
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<td>2009-2012</td>
<td>Philip Pritchard</td>
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<td>2012-2015</td>
<td>Trefor Lloyd Hughes MBE</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015-2018</td>
<td>David Griffiths</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018-</td>
<td>Kieran O’Connor</td>
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### SECRETARIES

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<tr>
<td>1876</td>
<td>Llewellyn Kenrick</td>
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<tr>
<td>1878</td>
<td>J.W.A Cooper, Charles Lloyd</td>
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<td>1879</td>
<td>E. Manners</td>
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<td>1880-86</td>
<td>W.A Thomas, George Bevan, A Hunter</td>
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<td>1886-96</td>
<td>John Taylor</td>
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<tr>
<td>1896-97</td>
<td>J.T. Evans, Edwin Robertshaw</td>
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<td>1897-03</td>
<td>John Davies</td>
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<tr>
<td>1903-05</td>
<td>William Nunnerley</td>
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<td>1905-09</td>
<td>A.E.V Berkeley</td>
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<tr>
<td>1910-46</td>
<td>Ted Robbins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946-71</td>
<td>Herbert Powell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971-82</td>
<td>Trevor Morris</td>
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<tr>
<td>1982-95</td>
<td>Alun E. Evans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995-2010</td>
<td>David G. Collins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-</td>
<td>Jonathan Ford</td>
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01 Council

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES

Patron

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

The Council & Its Members

President

Mr K O’Connor (1998)
16 Llys Llewellyn, Meadow Farm, Llantwit Fardre, Pontypridd CF38 2HQ
Email: k.oconnor@faw.co.uk
Mobile: 07384 831998

Vice-Presidents

Mr S Williams (1997)
7 Cwrt Cwellyn, Little Roodee, Hawarden, Flintshire CH5 3PW
Email: s.williams@faw.co.uk
Tel: 01244 532509 Mobile: 07801 850694

Mr M Jones (2014)
34 Pen y Dre, Rhiwbina, Cardiff CF14 6EG
Email: mike.jones@faw.co.uk
Mobile: 07788 585726

Honorary Treasurer

Mr P Woosnam (2003)
Mafeking, Cwmdauddwr Triangle, Rhayader, Powys LD6 5AR
Email: phil.woosnam@faw.co.uk
Tel: 01597 811286 Mobile: 07887 891762
Past Presidents

Mr B Fear BEM (1977)
28 Mostyn Street, Abercwmboi, Aberdare, Mid Glamorgan CF44 6BA
Tel: 01443 472858

Mr P Rees (1982)
8 Oaklands Terrace, Treharris, Mid Glamorgan CF46 5RG
Email: prees@faw.co.uk
Mobile: 07974 209664

Mr P.C Pritchard (1992)
15 Oldford Close, Welshpool, Powys SY21 7SX
Email: faw.phil@gmail.com
Tel: 01938 553092 Mobile: 07929 593240

Mr T Lloyd Hughes MBE (1989)
8 Bryngwyn Road, Holyhead, Anglesey LL65 1ST
Email: t.lloyd-hughes@faw.co.uk
Tel: 01407 764801 Mobile: 07889 652068

Mr D.R Griffiths (1992)
3 Padley's Close, Maesteg, Mid Glamorgan CF34 0TX
Email: d.r.griffiths@faw.co.uk
Tel: 01656 733000 Mobile: 07970 824243

Life Councillors

Mr I.F Williams (1987)
33 Castle Drive, Cimla, Neath SA11 3UX
Email: idwal.williams2@faw.co.uk
Tel: 01639 770188 Mobile: 07423 068775

Mr R Waygood (1986)
30 Erw Werdd, Birchgrove, Swansea SA7 0HF
Email: bob.waygood@faw.co.uk
Tel: 01792 927585

Mr C Whitley (1986)
Fairways, 8 Morlais, Conwy Marina, Conwy LL32 8GJ
Email: chris.whitley@faw.co.uk
Tel: 01492 596055 Mobile: 07779 624310

Mr K. J Tucker (1989)
16 The Parade, Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan CF47 0ET
Email: ken.tucker@faw.co.uk
Tel: 01685 723884 Mobile: 07880 795221

Mr P. A Jones (1995)
4 Wesley Place, Llandinam, Powys SY17 5DW
Email: p.jones@faw.co.uk
Mobile: 07792 725008
9 Rowan Road, Aston Park, Deeside, Flintshire CH5 1XR
Email: ron.bridges@faw.co.uk
Tel: 01244 812986 Mobile: 07936 187518

Mr D. A Jones (1994)
‘Afallon’, 107 Maesceinion, Waunfawr, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 3QQ
Email: d.a.jones@faw.co.uk
Tel: 01970 624160 Mobile: 07969 143936

Mr R. K Hughes (1998)
Cerlidan, 42 Brynhyfryd, Johnstown, Wrexham LL14 1PR
Email: ken.hughes@faw.co.uk
Tel: 01978 840769 Mobile: 07761 434348

North Wales Representatives

Mr G Evans (2018)
Bryn Hafren, Leighton, Welshpool, Powys SY21 8HG
Email: gpevans@faw.co.uk
Tel: 07970 974881

Mr D James (2019)
5 Tyn Cae, Ffordd Penmynydd, Llanfairpwll, Anglesey LL61 6UX
Email: djames@faw.co.uk
Tel: 07831 104566

Mr S Lawrence (2015)
Meadow Lea, Church Road, Northop, Flintshire CH7 6BS
Email: stuart.lawrence@faw.co.uk
Tel: 01352 840360 Mobile: 07484 108697

Mr S Newport (2017)
Kelston, Rhyl Road, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire LL18 2TN
Email: snewport@faw.co.uk
Mobile: 07980 956211

Mr C Rowland (2013)
26 Gorse Crescent, Marford, Nr. Wrexham LL12 8LZ
Email: chas.rowland@faw.co.uk
Tel: 01978 855354 Mobile: 07969 027350

Mr W.L Williams MBE (2016)
Cwm Dyfi, Poplar Terrace, Machynlleth, Powys SY20 8BY
Email: w.williams@faw.co.uk
Tel: 01654 703280 Mobile: 07836 685548
South Wales Representatives

Mr D. J Cole (2016)
22 Goodwick Close, Lundy Park, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 9EF
Email: d.cole@faw.co.uk
Tel: 01446 412224    Mobile: 07557 665847

Mr N Dymock (2016)
37 Riverside, Maindee, Newport, N19 7AL
Email: ndymock@faw.co.uk
Mobile: 07539 958822

Mr V Edwards (2012)
100 Cardiff Road, Newport NP20 3AB
Email: viv.edwards@faw.co.uk
Tel: 01633 669001    Mobile: 07754 422081

Mr J Harris (2001)
24 Rowan Tree Close, Bryncoch, Neath, West Glamorgan SA10 7SJ
Email: john.harris@faw.co.uk
Tel: 01639 638882    Mobile: 07718 482815

Mr L James (2018)
2 Redwood Close, Bryncoch, Neath SA10 7US
Email: ljames@faw.co.uk
Tel: 07707 077024

Mr M Price (2019)
10 Clarence Street, Abertillery, Blaenau Gwent, NP13 1HE
Email: mprice@faw.co.uk
Tel: 01495 443222    Mobile: 07875 931869

Welsh Premier League

Mr I Williams (2013)
4 Cresswell Court, Bowbrook, Shrewsbury SY3 8SN
Email: i.williams@faw.co.uk
Mobile: 07734 276292

Welsh Premier Women’s League

Ms G Powell
19 Coronation Terrace, Porth, Rhondda Cynon Taff CF39 9YH
Email: gpowell@faw.co.uk
Tel: 07519 910228

Central Wales Football Association

Mr D. H Jones (2012)
Awelfor, Rhydyfelin, Aberystwyth SY23 4PU
Email: dh.jones@faw.co.uk
Tel: 01970 612720    Mobile: 07817 958970
Gwent County Football Association
Mr A Watkins (2009)
1 Ash Tree Cottages, Aberbeeg, Gwent NP13 2AT
Email: alan.watkins@faw.co.uk
Tel: 01495 214388  Mobile: 07812 214388

North East Wales Football Association
Mr D Fawkes
29 Alyn Road, Gwersyllt, Wrexham LL11 4HU
Email: dfawkes@faw.co.uk
Mobile: 07841 435334

North Wales Coast Football Association
Mr R Paton (2016)
15 St Hilary’s Drive, Deganwy, Conwy LL31 9SS
Email: bpaton@faw.co.uk
Tel: 01492 585215  Mobile: 07747 078788

South Wales Football Association
Mr M Adams (2016)
24 Ty Crwyn, Church Village, Pontypridd CF38 2HX
Email: madams@faw.co.uk
Tel: 01443 203177

West Wales Football Association
Mr C Richards (2017)
5 Cardonnel Villas, Skewen, Neath SA10 6BD
Email: crichards@faw.co.uk
Mobile: 07779 780627

Chief Executive Officer
Mr Jonathan Ford
11-12 Neptune Court, Vanguard Way, Cardiff CF24 5PJ
Tel: 02920 435830

Auditors
Deloitte LLP
5 Callaghan Square, Cardiff CF10 5BP
Tel: 02920 460000
National Associations

**FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**
Fatma Samba Diouf Samoura, FIFA-Strasse 20, PO Box 8044, Zurich, Switzerland

**UNION DES ASSOCIATIONS EUROPEENNES DE FOOTBALL**
Theodore Theodoridis, Route de Genève 46, Case Postale CH 1260, Nyon 2, Switzerland

**THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**
Mr M Glenn, Chief Executive
Wembley Stadium, Wembley, HA9 0WS
Tel: 0844 980 8200

**THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**
Mr I Maxwell, Chief Executive
Hampden Park, Glasgow G42 9AY
Tel: 0141 6166000

**IRISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**
Mr P Nelson, Chief Executive
20 Windsor Avenue, Belfast BT9 6EG
Tel: 02890 669458

Area Associations

**CENTRAL WALES FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**
Mr D. H Jones
Awelfor, Rhydyfelin, Aberystwyth SY23 4PU
Email: dhjones@morrisbates.co.uk
Tel: 01970 612720 Mobile: 07817 958970

**GWENTY COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**
Mr A Watkins
1 Ash Tree Cottages, Aberbeeg, Gwent NP13 2AT
Email: alanwatkins@gwentfa.co.uk
Tel: 01495 214388 Mobile: 07812 214388

**NORTH EAST WALES FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**
Mr D Fawkes
29 Alyn Road, Gwersyllt, Wrexham. LL11 4HU
Email: gensecnewfa@gmail.com
Mobile: 07841 435334
NORTH WALES COAST FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
Mr Gareth Jones
2 Swn Yr Engan, Gaerwen, Ynys Môn LL60 6LS
Email: rgarethjones@aol.com
Tel: 01248 421182 Mobile: 07773 992015

SOUTH WALES FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
Mr M Adams
24 Ty Crwyn, Church Village, Pontypridd CF38 2HX
Email: secretary@southwalesfa.co.uk
Tel: 01443 203177

WEST WALES FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
Mr C Richards
5 Cardonnel Villas, Skewen, Neath SA10 6BD
Email: crichards@faw.co.uk
Mobile: 07779 780627

Directly Affiliated Leagues

THE CYMRU PREMIER LEAGUE
Mr G Derfel
FAW, 11-12 Neptune Court, Vanguard Way, Cardiff CF24 5PJ
Email: gderfel@faw.co.uk
Tel: 02920 435830

CYMRU NORTH
Mr D Evans
FAW, Colliers Park, Gresford, Wrexham LL12 8PW
Email: devans@faw.co.uk
Mobile: 07387 416178

CYMRU SOUTH
Mr N Davies
FAW, 11/12 Neptune Court, Vanguard Way, Cardiff CF24 5PJ
Email: ndavies@faw.co.uk
Mobile: 07471 996852

THE WELSH FOOTBALL LEAGUE
Mr M Price
10 Clarence Street, Abertillery, Blaenau Gwent, NP13 1HE
Email: mjp1962@me.com
Tel: 01495 443222 Mobile: 07875 931869
THE WELSH ALLIANCE LEAGUE
Mr R Bridges
9 Rowan Road, Aston Park, Deeside, Flintshire CH5 1XR
Email: ronref@bridgesr.fsnet.co.uk
Tel: 01244 812986 Mobile: 07936 187518

THE MID WALES LEAGUE
Mr P Woosnam
Mafeking, Cwmdauddwr Triangle, Rhayader, Powys LD6 5AR
Email: phil.woosnam@powys.gov.uk
Tel: 01597 811286 Mobile: 07887 891762

THE WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE
Mr S Harris
The Highland, Chester Road, Gresford, Wrexham LL12 8TN
Email: steve.harris42@hotmail.co.uk
Tel: 01978 855269 Mob: 07739 178301

WELSH PREMIER WOMEN’S LEAGUE
Ms I Mumford
11-12 Neptune Court, Vanguard Way, Cardiff CF24 5PJ
Email: imumford@faw.co.uk
Tel: 02920 435830
Company Number: 00213349
The Companies Act 2006
PRIVATE COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION
The Football Association of Wales Limited
Incorporated on 22nd day of April 1926
ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF
THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES LIMITED

(Adopted by special resolution on 19th day of October 2011 and amended by special resolution on 29th day of April 2014 and further amended by special resolution on 19th day of February 2019 to take effect on 1st day of August 2019)

1. PRELIMINARY

1.1. In these Articles, any reference to a provision of the Companies Act 2006 shall be deemed to include a reference to any statutory modification or re-enactment of that provision for the time being in force.

1.2. The headings used in these Articles are included for the sake of convenience only and shall be ignored in construing the language or meaning of these Articles.

1.3. In these Articles, unless the context otherwise requires, references to nouns in the plural form shall be deemed to include the singular and vice versa.

2. DEFINED TERMS

2.1. In these Articles, unless the context requires otherwise—

“Articles” means the Association’s Articles of association;

“Association” means The Football Association of Wales Limited;

“bankruptcy” includes individual insolvency proceedings in a jurisdiction other than England and Wales or Northern Ireland which have an effect similar to that of bankruptcy;

“CEO” means the chief executive officer (or other title given from time to time to the Association’s senior employee) of the Association from time to time;

“Council Meeting Chair” has the meaning given in Article 35;
“Companies Acts” means the Companies Acts (as defined in section 2 of the Companies Act 2006), in so far as they apply to the Association;

“the Council” means the shareholders of the Association and being the council of the Association for the time being as constituted in accordance with the Rules;

“Deputy President” means the deputy president of the Association appointed from time to time under the Rules;

“director” means a director of the Association, and includes any person occupying the position of director, by whatever name called;

“document” includes, unless otherwise specified, any document sent or supplied in electronic form;

“Elected Members” means those Members of the Council, other than the Officers, Past Presidents and Life Councillors, who are elected or appointed to the Council on a regular periodic basis in accordance with the Rules;

“electronic form” has the meaning given in section 1168 of the Companies Act 2006;

“fully paid” in relation to a share, means that the nominal value and any premium to be paid to the Association in respect of that share have been paid to the Association;

“hard copy form” has the meaning given in section 1168 of the Companies Act 2006;

“holder” in relation to a share means the person whose name is entered in the register of members as the holder of the shares;

“Independent Chair” means the person appointed by the Council to chair meetings of the board of directors of the Association, who shall not have any material connection with the Association prior to such appointment;

“instrument” means a document in hard copy form;

“Life Councillor” means any person being a Member of the Council as a life councillor in accordance with the Rules;

“Members of the Council” means those persons elected, nominated or appointed to the Council from time to time in accordance with the Rules;

“Officers” means, until 31st July 2021, the President, two (2) Vice-Presidents and the “Treasurer” of the Association and, from 1st August 2021, means the President, the Deputy President and the two (2) Vice-Presidents;

“ordinary resolution” has the meaning given in section 282 of the Companies Act 2006;

“paid” means paid or credited as paid;

“Past President” means any person being a Member of the Council as a past president in accordance with the Rules;

“President” means the president of the Association appointed from time to time under the Rules;

“proxy notice” has the meaning given in Article 40;
“Rules” means the rules of the Association as exist from time to time made by the Members of the Council and those area associations, leagues and clubs admitted into (non-shareholding) membership of the Association by the Council;

“secretary” means the secretary of the Association, if any, appointed in accordance with Article 22.1 or any other person appointed to perform the duties of the secretary of the Association, including a joint, assistant or deputy secretary;

“shareholder” means a Member of the Council and being a person who is the holder of a share;

“shares” means shares in the Association;

“special resolution” has the meaning given in section 283 of the Companies Act 2006;

“Standing Orders” the rules of procedure enacted by the directors from time to time about how the directors make decisions;

“subsidiary” has the meaning given in section 1159 of the Companies Act 2006;

“Vice-Presidents” mean the two vice-presidents of the Association appointed from time to time under the Rules;

“writing” means the representation or reproduction of words, symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise; and

“working day” means a day that is not a Saturday or Sunday, Christmas Day, Good Friday or any day that is a public holiday in Wales.

Unless the context otherwise requires, other words or expressions contained in these Articles bear the same meaning as in the Companies Act 2006 as in force on the date when these Articles become binding on the Association.

3. LIABILITY OF SHAREHOLDERS

3.1. The liability of the shareholders is limited to the amount, if any, unpaid on the shares held by them.

4. DIRECTORS’ GENERAL AUTHORITY

4.1. The directors are responsible for the management of the Association’s business, for which purpose they may exercise all the powers of the Association.

4.2. The directors shall act upon the Rules so far as the same are consistent with these Articles. If any conflict or ambiguity arises between these Articles and the Rules, these Articles shall prevail.

5. SHAREHOLDERS’ RESERVE POWER

5.1. The shareholders may, by special resolution, direct the directors to take, or refrain from taking, specified action.

5.2. No such special resolution invalidates anything which the directors have done before the passing of the resolution.
6. DIRECTORS MAY DELEGATE
6.1. The directors may delegate any of the powers which are conferred on them under the Articles—
   6.1.1 to such person, committee or other body;
   6.1.2 by such means (including by power of attorney);
   6.1.3 to such an extent;
   6.1.4 in relation to such matters or territories; and
   6.1.5 on such terms and conditions;
as they think fit.
6.2. If the directors so specify, any such delegation may authorise further delegation of the directors’ powers by any person to whom they are delegated.
6.3. The directors may revoke any delegation in whole or part, or alter its terms and conditions.

7. COMMITTEES
7.1. Any person, committee or other body to whom the directors delegate any of their powers must follow procedures which are based as far as they are applicable on those provisions of, or made pursuant to, these Articles which govern the taking of decisions by directors.
7.2. The directors may make Standing Orders or other rules of procedure for themselves and any person, committee or other body to whom they delegate any of their powers. These Articles shall prevail over Standing Orders or other rules of procedure if they are not consistent with these Articles.

8. DIRECTORS TO TAKE DECISIONS COLLECTIVELY
8.1. The general rule about decision-making by directors is that any decision of the directors must be either a majority decision at a meeting or a decision taken in accordance with Article 9.

9. UNANIMOUS DECISIONS
9.1. A decision of the directors is taken in accordance with this Article when all eligible directors indicate to each other by any means that they share a common view on a matter.
9.2. Such a decision may take the form of a resolution in writing, where each eligible director has signed one or more copies of it or has otherwise indicated agreement in writing.
9.3. A decision may not be taken in accordance with this Article if the eligible directors would not have formed a quorum at such a meeting.
9.4. References in this Article to eligible directors are to directors who would have been entitled to vote on the matter had it been proposed as a resolution at a directors’ meeting.
10. CALLING A DIRECTORS’ MEETING

10.1. Any director may call a directors’ meeting by giving notice of the meeting to the directors or by authorising the secretary (if any) to give such notice.

10.2. Notice of any directors’ meeting must indicate—
   10.2.1 its proposed date and time;
   10.2.2 where it is to take place; and
   10.2.3 if it is anticipated that directors participating in the meeting will not be in the same place, how it is proposed that they should communicate with each other during the meeting.

10.3. Notice of a directors’ meeting must be given to each director, but need not be in writing.

10.4. Notice of a directors’ meeting need not be given to directors who waive their entitlement to notice of that meeting, by giving notice to that effect to the Association not more than 7 days after the date on which the meeting is held. Where such notice is given after the meeting has been held, that does not affect the validity of the meeting, or of any business conducted at it.

11. PARTICIPATION IN DIRECTORS’ MEETINGS

11.1. Directors participate in a directors’ meeting, or part of a directors’ meeting, when—
   11.1.1 the meeting has been called and takes place in accordance with the Articles, and
   11.1.2 they can each communicate to the others any information or opinions they have on any particular item of the business of the meeting.

11.2. In determining whether directors are participating in a directors’ meeting, it is irrelevant where any director is or how they communicate with each other.

11.3. If all the directors participating in a meeting are not in the same place, they may decide that the meeting is to be treated as taking place wherever any of them is.

12. QUORUM FOR DIRECTORS’ MEETINGS

12.1. At a directors’ meeting, unless a quorum is participating, no proposal is to be voted on, except a proposal to call another meeting.

12.2. The quorum for directors’ meetings may be fixed from time to time by a decision of the directors, but it must never be less than two, and unless otherwise fixed it is seven.

12.3. If the total number of directors for the time being is less than the quorum required, the directors must not take any decision other than a decision to call a general meeting so as to enable the shareholders to appoint further directors.

13. CHAIRING OF DIRECTORS’ MEETINGS

13.1. The Independent Chair will chair all meetings of the directors at which the Independent Chair is present.

13.2. If the Independent Chair has notified the meeting of directors of their absence in advance of the meeting, or if the Independent Chair is not present within ten minutes
of the time at which the meeting is due to start, the President, or in the absence of the President, the senior Vice-President (up to 31st July 2021) or the Deputy President (from 1st August 2021), shall chair the meeting. In the absence of the President or the senior Vice President or the Deputy President (as the case maybe), the directors may appoint a director to chair their meeting.

14. CASTING VOTE AT MEETINGS OF DIRECTORS

14.1. If the numbers of votes for and against a proposal are equal, the chair of the meeting of the directors has a casting vote.

14.2. But this does not apply if, in accordance with the Articles, the chair of the meeting is not to be counted as participating in the decision-making process for quorum or voting purposes.

15. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

15.1. If a director of the Association is in any way, directly or indirectly, interested in a proposed transaction or arrangement with the Association, that director must declare the nature and extent of that interest to the other directors.

15.2. In respect of the interest declared, the director shall:-

15.2.1 not be counted in the quorum present at the meeting to consider such matter;

15.2.2 have no vote on such matter; and

15.2.3 leave the room and take no further part in the discussion on such matter.

15.3. The provisions of Article 15.2 shall not apply to:-

15.3.1 any arrangement for giving any director security or indemnity in respect of money lent by him to the Association or to obligations undertaken by him for the benefit of the Association;

15.3.2 any arrangement for the giving by the Association of any security to a third party in respect of a debt or obligation of the Association for which the director himself has assumed responsibility in whole or in part under guarantee or indemnity or by the deposit of a security;

15.3.3 any contract by a director to subscribe for or underwrite shares or debentures of the Association;

15.3.4 any contract, proposed contract or other matter involving the Association in which such interest arises solely because the director is the Association’s official representative (whether as an officer, shareholder or otherwise) at, in or on the other party.

15.4. The shareholders may, by special resolution, or the directors may, direct that the provisions of Article 15.2 be suspended or relaxed in respect of a specific matter for any director who has made the necessary declaration in respect of the matter under Article 15.1.
15.5. Subject to the provisions of Articles 15.1 and 15.2, any director may act by himself/herself or by his/her firm in a professional capacity for the Association and he/she or his/her firm shall be entitled to remuneration for professional services as if he/she were not a director provided that nothing in this Article shall authorise a director or his/her firm to act as an auditor to the Association.

16. RECORDS OF DECISIONS TO BE KEPT

16.1. The directors must ensure that the Association keeps a record, in writing, for at least ten years from the date of the decision recorded, of every unanimous or majority decision taken by the directors.

17. APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

17.1. The directors of the Association shall be:-

17.1.1 each of the four (4) Officers;

17.1.2 three (3) Elected Members of the Council, appointed by the Council;

17.1.3 the Independent Chair, appointed by the Council;

17.1.4 two (2) other persons, appointed by the Council, who shall not have any material connection with the Association prior to such appointment; and

17.1.5 the CEO.

17.2. The appointment of each Officer as a director shall be for a term equivalent to their term of office as an Officer under the Rules. The appointment of all other directors shall be for a term of four (4) years (with the first of such quadrennial terms for all directors commencing on 1st August 2019), save for the person who is the CEO whose appointment shall commence on the date they first take up the post of CEO and who shall remain a director for the duration of their appointment as CEO.

17.3. If a person ceases to be a director of the Association for any reason, that person's position as a director shall be filled within three calendar months of the vacancy occurring SAVE THAT, in the case of the CEO, the vacancy shall be filled as soon as reasonably possible by the appointment of a new CEO and if, in the intervening period, any person is appointed as a temporary or acting CEO such person shall not be appointed a director of the Association. If the vacancy is in respect of an Officer, the relevant person shall be selected in accordance with the Rules. Any other vacancy shall be filled by the Council in accordance with the relevant provision of Article 17.1. Save in respect of the CEO, the replacement appointee's term of office as a director of the Association shall be for the period remaining of the original director's four year term.

17.4. Save in respect of an existing Member of Council standing for re-election or re-appointment to the Council or in respect of an existing director of the Association standing for re-election or re-appointment as a director of the Association, from and including 1st August 2019 no person shall be eligible to become a Member of the Council or director of the Association unless they are under 65 years of age on the date they first take up the relevant said office PROVIDED THAT nothing in this provision shall apply to the CEO as a director of the Association.
18. **TERMINATION OF DIRECTOR’S APPOINTMENT**

18.1. A person ceases to be a director as soon as—

18.1.1 that person (if a Member of the Council) ceases to be a Member of the Council;
18.1.2 that person ceases to be a director by virtue of any provision of the Companies Act 2006 or is prohibited from being a director by law;
18.1.3 a bankruptcy order is made against that person;
18.1.4 a composition is made with that person’s creditors generally in satisfaction of that person’s debts;
18.1.5 a registered medical practitioner who is treating that person gives a written opinion to the Association stating that the person has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a director and may remain so for more than three months;
18.1.6 notification is received by the Association from the director that the director is resigning from office, and such resignation shall take effect immediately on the date notification is received by the Association, irrespective of any later date stipulated in the notification;
18.1.7 that person has for more than three consecutive months been absent without the permission of the directors from meetings of directors held during that period and the directors make a decision to vacate that person’s office;
18.1.8 that person is suspended from taking part in football and/or football management;
18.1.9 that person does any act or thing which brings the Association into disrepute; or
18.1.10 that person reaches the age of 80.

19. **DIRECTORS’ REMUNERATION**

19.1. Directors may undertake any services for the Association that the directors decide.

19.2. The shareholders may by special resolution determine any remuneration of the directors. In the absence of any such special resolution, the directors are not entitled to remuneration:-

19.2.1 for their services to the Association as directors; or
19.2.2 for any other service which they undertake for the Association.

20. **DIRECTORS’ EXPENSES**

20.1. The Association may pay any reasonable expenses which the directors properly incur in connection with their attendance at:-

20.1.1 meetings of directors or committees of directors;
20.1.2 general meetings of the shareholders; or
20.1.3 otherwise in connection with the exercise of their powers and the discharge of their responsibilities in relation to the Association.
21. ALTERNATE DIRECTORS
21.1. No director may appoint as an alternate any other director or any other person to:-
   21.1.1 exercise that director’s powers; or
   21.1.2 carry out that director’s responsibilities.

22. SECRETARY
22.1. The directors may appoint a secretary to the Association for such period, for such remuneration and upon such conditions as they think fit; and any secretary so appointed by the directors may be removed by them.

23. ISSUE OF SHARES
23.1. No shareholder shall hold more than one share.
23.2. Each Member of the Council from time to time shall be allotted one share if an already issued share has not been transferred to them pursuant to these Articles.
23.3. No share shall be allotted to any person or entity who is not a Member of the Council.
23.4. All shares issued shall be of a single class with the same nominal value, rights and restrictions.
23.5. In accordance with section 567 of the Companies Act 2006, sections 561 and 562 of the said Act are excluded.

24. ASSOCIATION NOT BOUND BY LESS THAN ABSOLUTE INTERESTS
24.1. Except as required by law, no person is to be recognised by the Association as holding any share upon any trust, and except as otherwise required by law or the Articles, the Association is not in any way to be bound by or recognise any interest in a share other than the holder’s absolute ownership of it and all the rights attaching to it.

25. SURRENDER OF SHARES
25.1. Upon ceasing to be a Member of the Council for any reason, the holder of a share (or any person otherwise entitled to it by virtue of the holder’s death, bankruptcy or otherwise), shall immediately surrender the share to the Association and the directors shall accept such surrender and the effect of surrender on the share shall be the same as the effect of forfeiture on that share under Article 26 and the share which has been surrendered shall be dealt with in the same way as a share which has been forfeited.

26. FORFEITURE OF SHARES
26.1. Where a holder of a share (or person entitled to it by reason of the holder’s death, bankruptcy or otherwise) has failed to surrender that share pursuant to Article 25, a forfeiture notice shall be sent to the holder of that share (or to the person otherwise entitled to it by reason of the holder’s death, bankruptcy or otherwise) stating that the share is forfeited.
26.2. The forfeiture of a share extinguishes:-
   26.2.1 all interests in that share, and all claims and demands against the Association in respect of it and the person ceases to be a shareholder in respect of that share;
26.2.2 all other rights and liabilities incidental to the share as between the person in whose name the share is registered and the Association.

26.3. Any share which is forfeited:-
   26.3.1 is deemed to have been forfeited when the directors decide that it is forfeited;
   26.3.2 is deemed to be the property of the Association;
   26.3.3 may be re-allotted or otherwise disposed of as the directors think fit; and
   26.3.4 at any time before the Association disposes of a forfeited share, the directors may decide to cancel the forfeiture on such terms as they think fit.

27. SHARE CERTIFICATES
   27.1. The Association must issue each shareholder with one certificate in respect of the share which that shareholder holds.
   27.2. Every certificate must specify:-
      27.2.1 the fact it is issued for one share;
      27.2.2 the nominal value of the share;
      27.2.3 the amount paid up on the share; and
      27.2.4 any distinguishing number assigned to the share.
   27.3. Certificates must:-
      27.3.1 have affixed to them the Association’s common seal; or
      27.3.2 be otherwise executed in accordance with the Companies Acts.

28. REPLACEMENT SHARE CERTIFICATES
   28.1. If a certificate issued in respect of a shareholder’s shares is:-
      28.1.1 damaged or defaced; or
      28.1.2 said to be lost, stolen or destroyed,
   that shareholder is entitled to be issued with a replacement certificate in respect of the same share.
   28.2. A shareholder exercising the right to be issued with such a replacement certificate:-
      28.2.1 must return the certificate which is to be replaced to the Association if it is damaged or defaced; and
      28.2.2 must comply with such conditions as to evidence, indemnity and the payment of a reasonable fee as the directors decide.

29. SHARE TRANSFERS
   29.1. No share may be transferred unless by order or direction of the directors in lieu of a surrender or forfeiture of the share pursuant to Articles 25 or 26.
29.2. Any such transfer shall:-
   
29.2.1 only be made when a person ceases to be a Member of the Council and then only
to a person who has become a Member of the Council and not been allotted a
share by the Association; and

29.2.2 be by means of an instrument of transfer in any usual form or any other form
approved by the directors, which is executed by or on behalf of the transferor.

29.3. No fee may be charged for registering any instrument of transfer or other document
relating to or affecting the title to any share.

29.4. The Association may retain any instrument of transfer which is registered.

30. DIVIDENDS

30.1. No dividend, bonus or other distribution of any kind shall be paid (whether as income
or capital or in the form of cash or otherwise) by the Association on any share or to any
shareholder.

31. WRITTEN RESOLUTIONS OF SHAREHOLDERS

31.1. Subject to Article 31.2, a written resolution of shareholders passed in accordance with
Part 13 of the Companies Act 2006 is as valid and effectual as a resolution passed at a
general meeting of the Association.

31.2. The following may not be passed as a written resolution and may only be passed at a
general meeting:-
   
31.2.1 a resolution under section 168 of the Companies Act 2006 for the removal of a
director before the expiration of his period of office; and

31.2.2 a resolution under section 510 of the Companies Act 2006 for the removal of an
auditor before the expiration of his period of office.

31.3. On a written resolution, a shareholder has one vote in respect of the share held by him/her.

32. NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE SHAREHOLDERS

32.1. An annual general meeting of the Association shall be held in each year.

32.2. Every notice convening a general meeting (including the annual general meeting) of the
Association must comply with the provisions of:-
   
32.2.1 section 311 of the Companies Act 2006 as to the provision of information
regarding the time, date and place of the meeting and the general nature of the
business to be dealt with at the meeting;

32.2.2 section 325(1) of the Companies Act 2006 as to the giving of information to
shareholders regarding their right to appoint proxies; and

32.2.3 every notice of, or other communication relating to, any general meeting which
any shareholder is entitled to receive must be sent to each of the directors and
to the auditors (if any) for the time being of the Association.
32.3. Every general meeting (including the annual general meeting) of the Association shall be convened by the Association giving 14 days’ notice.

33. ATTENDANCE AND SPEAKING AT GENERAL MEETINGS

33.1. A person is able to exercise the right to speak at a general meeting when that person is in a position to communicate to all those attending the meeting, during the meeting, any information or opinions which that person has on the business of the meeting.

33.2. A person is able to exercise the right to vote at a general meeting when:-

33.2.1 that person is able to vote, during the meeting, on resolutions put to the vote at the meeting; and

33.2.2 that person’s vote can be taken into account in determining whether or not such resolutions are passed at the same time as the votes of all the other persons attending the meeting.

33.3. The directors may make whatever arrangements they consider appropriate to enable those attending a general meeting to exercise their rights to speak or vote at it.

33.4. In determining attendance at a general meeting, it is immaterial whether any two or more shareholders attending it are in the same place as each other.

33.5. Two or more persons who are not in the same place as each other attend a general meeting if their circumstances are such that if they have (or were to have) rights to speak and vote at that meeting, they are (or would be) able to exercise them.

34. QUORUM AT GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE SHAREHOLDERS

34.1. The quorum of a general meeting may be fixed by the general meeting from time to time, but it must never be less than two, and unless otherwise fixed it is seven.

34.2. No business other than the appointment of the chairman of the meeting is to be transacted at a general meeting if the persons attending it do not constitute a quorum.

35. CHAIRING GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE SHAREHOLDERS

35.1. The President will chair all general meetings at which the President is present.

35.2. If the President has given notification of his absence in advance of the general meeting, or if the President is not present within fifteen minutes of the time at which the general meeting is due to start, the senior Vice-President (up to 31st July 2021) or the Deputy President (from 1st August 2021), or in the absence of the said senior Vice-President or Deputy President (as the case may be), the junior Vice-President (up to 31st July 2021) or (from 1st August 2021) one of the Vice-Presidents (as appointed by the shareholders present), shall chair the general meeting.

35.3. If the President, the Deputy President or one of the Vice-Presidents (as the case may be) is unwilling to chair the general meeting or is not present within fifteen minutes of the time at which a general meeting was due to start, the shareholders present must appoint a shareholder to chair the general meeting, and the appointment of the chairman of the general meeting must be the first business of the general meeting.

35.4. The person chairing a general meeting in accordance with this Article is referred to as the “Council Meeting Chair”.
36. ATTENDANCE AND SPEAKING BY NON-SHAREHOLDERS
36.1. The Council Meeting Chair may permit other persons who are not shareholders to attend and speak (but not vote) at a general meeting.

37. ADJOURNMENT
37.1. If the persons attending a general meeting within half an hour of the time at which the meeting was due to start do not constitute a quorum, or if during a meeting a quorum ceases to be present, the Council Meeting Chair must adjourn it. If, at the adjourned general meeting, a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed therefor or, alternatively, a quorum ceases to be present, the adjourned meeting shall be dissolved.

37.2. The Council Meeting Chair may adjourn a general meeting at which a quorum is present if:-
   37.2.1 the meeting consents to an adjournment; or
   37.2.2 it appears to the Council Meeting Chair that an adjournment is necessary to protect the safety of any person attending the meeting or ensure that the business of the meeting is conducted in an orderly manner.

37.3. The Council Meeting Chair must adjourn a general meeting if directed to do so by the meeting.

37.4. When adjourning a general meeting, the Council Meeting Chair must:-
   37.4.1 either specify the time and place to which it is adjourned or state that it is to continue at a time and place to be fixed by the directors; and
   37.4.2 have regard to any directions as to the time and place of any adjournment which have been given by the meeting.

37.5. If the continuation of an adjourned meeting is to take place more than 14 days after it was adjourned, the Association must give at least 7 clear days’ notice of it (that is, excluding the day of the adjourned meeting and the day on which the notice is given):-
   37.5.1 to the same persons to whom notice of the Association’s general meetings is required to be given; and
   37.5.2 containing the same information which such notice is required to contain.

37.6. No business may be transacted at an adjourned general meeting which could not properly have been transacted at the meeting if the adjournment had not taken place.

38. VOTING AT GENERAL MEETINGS
38.1. A resolution put to the vote of a general meeting must be decided on a show of hands unless a poll is duly demanded in accordance with these Articles.

38.2. On a vote on a resolution at a general meeting on a show of hands:-
   38.2.1 each shareholder who is present in person has one vote; and
   38.2.2 if a shareholder appoints one or more proxies to attend the meeting, all proxies so appointed and in attendance at the meeting have, collectively, one vote and unless they agree to vote the same way, the power to vote shall not be exercised.
38.3. On a resolution at a general meeting on a poll, every shareholder (whether present in person or by proxy) has one vote in respect of the share held by him/her.

38.4. No objection may be raised to the qualification of any person voting at a general meeting except at the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the vote objected to is tendered, and every vote not disallowed at the meeting is valid. Any such objection must be referred to the chairman of the meeting, whose decision is final.

38.5. If the number of votes for and against a resolution at a general meeting are equal, the Council Meeting Chair has a casting vote.

39. DEMAND FOR A POLL

39.1. A poll on a resolution may be demanded:-
   39.1.1 in advance of the general meeting where it is to be put to the vote; or
   39.1.2 at a general meeting, either before a show of hands on that resolution or immediately after the result of a show of hands on that resolution is declared.

39.2. A poll may be demanded by:-
   39.2.1 the Council Meeting Chair;
   39.2.2 the directors;
   39.2.3 five or more shareholders having the right to vote on the resolution;
   39.2.4 shareholders representing not less than one tenth of the total voting rights of all the shareholders having the right to vote on the resolution; or
   39.2.5 shareholders holding shares conferring a right to vote at the meeting being shares on which an aggregate sum has been paid up equal to not less than one-tenth of the total sum paid up on all shares conferring that right.

39.3. A demand for a poll made by a person as proxy for a shareholder is the same as a demand made by the shareholder.

39.4. A demand for a poll may be withdrawn if:-
   39.4.1 the poll has not yet been taken; and
   39.4.2 the Council Meeting Chair consents to the withdrawal.

39.5. Polls must be taken at the general meeting at which they are demanded and in such manner as the Council Meeting Chair directs.

40. CONTENT OF PROXY NOTICES

40.1. Proxies may only validly be appointed by a notice in writing (a “proxy notice”) which:-
   40.1.1 states the name and address of the shareholder appointing the proxy;
   40.1.2 identifies the person appointed to be that shareholder’s proxy and the general meeting in relation to which that person is appointed;
   40.1.3 is signed by or on behalf of the shareholder appointing the proxy, or is authenticated in such manner as the directors may determine; and
   40.1.4 is received at an address specified by the Association in the proxy notice not less
than 48 hours before the time for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the proxy appointed pursuant to the proxy notice proposes to vote and in accordance with any other instructions contained in the notice of the general meeting to which they relate.

40.2. The Association may require proxy notices to be delivered in a particular form, and may specify different forms for different purposes.

40.3. Proxy notices may specify how the proxy appointed under them is to vote (or that the proxy is to abstain from voting) on one or more resolutions.

40.4. Unless a proxy notice indicates otherwise, it must be treated as:-

40.4.1 allowing the person appointed under it as a proxy discretion as to how to vote on any ancillary or procedural resolutions put to the general meeting; and

40.4.2 appointing that person as a proxy in relation to any adjournment of the general meeting to which it relates as well as the general meeting itself.

41. DELIVERY OF PROXY NOTICES

41.1. Any proxy notice received at such address as is referred to in Article 40.1.4 less than 48 hours before the time for holding the general meeting or adjourned general meeting shall be invalid.

41.2. A shareholder who is entitled to attend, speak or vote (either on a show of hands or on a poll) at a general meeting remains so entitled in respect of that meeting or any adjournment of it, even though a valid proxy notice has been delivered to the Association by or on behalf of that shareholder.

41.3. An appointment under a proxy notice may be revoked by delivering to the Association a notice in writing given by or on behalf of the shareholder by whom or on whose behalf the proxy notice was given.

41.4. A notice revoking a proxy appointment only takes effect if it is delivered before the start of the general meeting or adjourned general meeting to which it relates.

41.5. If a proxy notice is not executed by the shareholder appointing the proxy, it must be accompanied by written evidence of the authority of the person who executed it to execute it on the appointor’s behalf.

42. AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTIONS

42.1. An ordinary resolution to be proposed at a general meeting may be amended by ordinary resolution if:-

42.1.1 notice of the proposed amendment is given to the Association in writing by a shareholder entitled to vote at the general meeting at which it is to be proposed not less than 48 hours before the meeting is to take place (or such later time as the chairman of the meeting may determine); and

42.1.2 the proposed amendment does not, in the reasonable opinion of the Council Meeting Chair, materially alter the scope of the resolution.

42.2. A special resolution to be proposed at a general meeting may be amended by ordinary resolution, if:-
42.2.1 the Council Meeting Chair proposes the amendment at the general meeting at which the resolution is to be proposed; and

42.2.2 the amendment does not go beyond what is necessary to correct a grammatical or other non-substantive error in the resolution.

42.3. If the Council Meeting Chair, acting in good faith, wrongly decides that an amendment to a resolution is out of order, the chairman’s error does not invalidate the vote on that resolution.

43. COMMUNICATIONS

43.1. Subject to the provisions of this Article 43, anything sent or supplied by or to the Association under these Articles may be sent or supplied in any way in which the Companies Act 2006 provides for documents or information which are authorised or required by any provision of that Act to be sent or supplied by or to the Association.

43.2. Subject to the provisions of this Article 43, any notice or document to be sent or supplied to a director in connection with the taking of decisions by directors may also be sent or supplied by the means by which that director has asked to be sent or supplied with such notices or documents for the time being.

43.3. A director may agree with the Association that notices or documents sent to that director in a particular way are to be deemed to have been received within a specified time of their being sent, and for the specified time to be less than 24 hours.

43.4. Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, a document or information may be sent or supplied under these Articles by the Association to a person by being made available on a website.

43.5. A shareholder whose address is not within the United Kingdom and who gives to the Association an address within the United Kingdom at which notices under these Articles may be sent to him/her or an address to which notices may be sent by electronic means is entitled to have notices sent to him/her at that address, but otherwise no such shareholder is entitled to receive any notices from the Association.

43.6. If the Association sends or supplies notices or other documents under these Articles by first class post and the Association proves that such notices or other documents were properly addressed, prepaid and posted, the intended recipient is deemed to have received such notices or other documents 24 hours after posting.

43.7. If the Association sends or supplies notices or other documents under these Articles by electronic means and the Association proves that such notices or other documents were properly addressed, the intended recipient is deemed to have received such notices or other documents 24 hours after they were sent or supplied.

43.8. If the Association sends or supplies notices or other documents under these Articles by means of a website, the intended recipient is deemed to have received such notices or other documents when such notices or other documents first appeared on the website or, if later, when the intended recipient first received notice of the fact that such notices or other documents were available on the website.

43.9. For the purposes of this Article 43, no account shall be taken of any part of a day that is not a working day.
44. ASSOCIATION SEALS

44.1. Any common seal may only be used by the authority of the directors or any person, committee or other body to whom the directors have delegated authority under these Articles.

44.2. The directors may decide by what means and in what form any common seal is to be used.

44.3. Unless otherwise decided by the directors, if the Association has a common seal and it is affixed to a document, the document must also be signed by:-

44.3.1 one authorised person in the presence of a witness who attests the signature; or

44.3.2 two authorised persons.

44.4. For the purposes of this Article, an authorised person is:-

44.4.1 any director of the Association;

44.4.2 the secretary of the Association (if any); or

44.4.3 any person authorised by the directors for the purpose of signing documents to which the common seal is applied.

45. NO RIGHT TO INSPECT ACCOUNTS AND OTHER RECORDS

45.1. Except as provided by law or authorised by the directors or an ordinary resolution of the shareholders, no person is entitled to inspect any of the Association’s accounting or other records or documents merely by virtue of being a shareholder.

46. PROVISION FOR EMPLOYEES ON CESSATION OF BUSINESS

46.1. The directors may decide to make provision for the benefit of persons employed or formerly employed by the Association or any of its subsidiaries (other than a director or former director or shadow director) in connection with the cessation or transfer to any person of the whole or part of the undertaking of the Association or that subsidiary.

47. DIRECTORS’ INDEMNITY

47.1. Subject to Article 47.2, a relevant director of the Association or an associated company of the Association may be indemnified out of the Association’s assets against:-

47.1.1 any liability incurred by that director in connection with any negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the Association or an associated company of the Association;

47.1.2 any liability incurred by that director in connection with the activities of the Association or an associated company of the Association in its capacity as a trustee of an occupational pension scheme (as defined in section 235(6) of the Companies Act 2006); and

47.1.3 any other liability incurred by that director as an officer of the Association or an associated company of the Association.
47.2. This Article does not authorise any indemnity which would be prohibited or rendered void by any provision of the Companies Acts or by any other provision of law.

47.3. In this Article 47:-

47.3.1 companies are associated if one is a subsidiary of the other or both are subsidiaries of the same body corporate; and

47.3.2 a “relevant director” means any director or former director of the Association or an associated company of the Association.

48. INSURANCE

48.1. The directors shall purchase and maintain insurance, at the expense of the Association, for the benefit of any relevant director in respect of any relevant loss.

48.2. In this Article:-

48.2.1 a “relevant director” means any director or former director of the Association or an associated company of the Association;

48.2.2 a “relevant loss” means any loss or liability which has been or may be incurred by a relevant director in connection with that director’s duties or powers in relation to the Association, any associated company of the Association or any pension fund or employees’ share scheme of the Association or associated company of the Association; and

48.2.3 companies are associated if one is a subsidiary of the other or both are subsidiaries of the same body corporate.

49. WINDING UP

49.1. In the event of a winding up or other dissolution of the Association, any funds and assets remaining after satisfaction of its debts and liabilities and the costs of any winding up or other dissolution:-

49.1.1 may not be paid or distributed to the shareholders; and

49.1.2 must be transferred to one or more entities (whether incorporated or unincorporated) that:-

49.1.2.1 have the principal purpose of the administration and development of association football in Wales; and

49.1.2.2 have restrictions on the application of their property (including, without limitation, any dividend, bonus or other distribution of any kind whether as income or capital or in the form of cash or otherwise) at least equivalent to the restrictions applicable under these Articles.

49.2. If that is not possible, they shall be transferred to or applied towards some other purpose or purposes that are charitable in the promotion of sport in Wales under the law of England and Wales.
03 Rules

PREAMBLE

1. DEFINITIONS

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

Academic Year: 1st September in one (1) year to 31st August in the following year.

Academy: an establishment for the coaching and education of Players operated by a Club in accordance with the requirements of the Association’s Academy Regulations.

Amateur Registration Period: the annual period, as determined by the Directors pursuant to Rule 138.3, when Amateur Players (other than those to whom the Professional Registration Period applies under Rule 138.2) may be registered with the Association.

Amateur Player: a Player who is not a Professional Player.

Appeal Notice: a written notice stipulating the nature of the appeal and requesting that such matter be referred to the Appeals Panel.

Appeals Panel: the second instance Panel of the Association empowered to hear disciplinary matters and disputes pursuant to Section E of these Rules.

Appeals Panel Fee: the appropriate sum pursuant to Rule 44.1.3.

Appointments Committee: the committee of the Council, established by the Council (and operating in accordance with such rules of procedure set by Council from time to time), to make recommendations to Council on the election or appointment of Officers by the Council and, in accordance with the articles of association of the Association current from time to time, on the appointment of Directors by the Council.”

Arbitration Fee: the appropriate sum pursuant to Rule 45.3.

Arbitration Notice: a written notice stating the nature of the matter complained of and requesting that such matter be referred to the Independent Arbitration Panel.

Area Association: any regional football association defined pursuant to Rule 11.1.2
Associate Member: a person or organisation who is not a Member and has been admitted into associate membership of the Association by the Directors.

Association: The Football Association of Wales Limited (company number 00213349) whose registered office is at 11/12 Neptune Court, Vanguard Way, Cardiff, CF24 5PJ.

Association Football: the game controlled by FIFA and organised in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

Business Day: any day of the week except a Saturday or Sunday or public bank holiday in Wales.

CAS (TAS): Court of Arbitration for Sport (Tribunal Arbitral du Sport) in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Chief Executive Officer: the senior employee of the Association.

Close Family Member: a person's spouse or civil partner, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild or sibling.

Closed Friendly Match: a game of Association Football which is not an Official Match which is played between two (2) teams (whether or not from different Clubs) but is not made open for the public to attend.

Clubs: all clubs whose teams play in Official Matches including, without limitation, Qualifying Clubs.

College Team: a team of a further or higher education establishment (including, but not limited to, university teams) and during any relevant Playing Season only plays Association Football exclusively in matches organised for teams from such further or higher education establishments.

Conference Date: the designated dated in each Playing Season set by the Directors for the completion of each round of cup matches in competitions organised by the Association.

Council: the shareholders of the Association being the supreme body of the Association.

Councillor: each member of the Council.

Deputy President: the deputy president of the Association, appointed from time to time under the Rules.

Directors: the body comprising the board of directors of the Association (including its committees and sub-committees) as constituted under the articles of association of the Association current from time to time.

Disciplinary Notice: a written notice from the Association stipulating the nature of the alleged Disciplinary Offence.
Disciplinary Offence: any breach of a Rule or any Regulation.

Disciplinary Panel: the first instance panel of the Association empowered to hear disciplinary matters and disputes pursuant to Section E of these Rules.

Doping Offence: any act or omission defined as a doping Offence (or any equivalent term or phrase) used to define doping offences or doping breaches defined in the Anti-Doping Regulations.

FAW Championship: means the second Tier of the Pyramid League System.

FIFA: Fédération Internationale de Football Association.

FIFA Rules: the statutes of FIFA as amended from time to time and all rules, regulations, orders and other directives issued by FIFA from time to time.

Football Related Liabilities: all amounts (whether actual or contingent and whether payable now or in the future) due to the Association, and any Qualifying Club or other club, any National League or other league, any Area Association or any Player, manager or coach.

Futsal: a game controlled by FIFA and organised in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game.

Futsal Laws of the Game: the laws and other rules for playing Futsal prescribed by FIFA from time to time.

IFAB: the International Football Association Board.

Independent Arbitration Panel: the independent body empowered to hear disciplinary matters and disputes pursuant to Section E of these Rules.

Intermediary: any person or entity so defined in the Association’s Agent Regulations.

ITC: the International Transfer Certificate issued by one national association to another in accordance with the FIFA Rules.

Judicial Body: the Association’s judicial bodies comprise the Disciplinary Panel, Appeals Panel and Independent Arbitration Panel.

Junior League: a league playing Association Football in Wales which is exclusively for Junior Players.

Junior Player: any Player in Academic Years one (1) to eleven (11).

Laws of the Game: the laws and other rules for playing Association Football as prescribed by IFAB from time to time.

Life Councillor: a person becoming a life member of the Council pursuant to either Rule 12.8 or Rule 19.
Member: a Councillor, Area Association, National League or Qualifying Club that has been admitted into membership of the Association by the Directors.

National League: any league defined pursuant to Rule 11.1.3.

North Wales Area: the area of Wales so designated by the Directors pursuant to Rule 14 and “Area” and “sub-Area” shall be construed accordingly.

North Wales Representatives: the six (6) nominated or elected Councillors for the North Wales Area.

Officers: the senior representatives of the Council, who until 31st July 2021 shall comprise the President, two (2) Vice-Presidents and the “Treasurer” of the Association and from 1st August 2021 shall comprise the President, the Deputy President and two (2) Vice-Presidents.

Official Match: a game of Association Football played within the framework of organised football under the jurisdiction of the Association, in league, cup or other format but not including Open Friendly Matches or Closed Friendly Matches or matches played under the Association’s Mini Football Regulations or Futsal matches or Walking Football.

Open Friendly Match: a game of Association Football which is not an Official Match which is played between two (2) teams (whether or not from different Clubs) and is made open to the public to attend.

Panel: any Judicial Body.

Past President: a person becoming a life member of the Council pursuant to Rule 12.11.

Player: a player of Association Football, whether Amateur or Professional.

Playing Season: the period in each year when Official Matches may be played in Wales as determined by the Directors pursuant to Rule 138.1.

President: the president of the Association appointed from time to time under the Rules.

Professional Player: a player who has a written contract with his/her Club and is paid by his/her Club more for his/her footballing activities for the Club than the expenses he/she effectively incurs in performing his/her obligations to the Club.

Professional Registration Periods: the two (2) annual periods, as determined by the Directors pursuant to Rule 138.2, when Professional Players (and those Amateur Players referred to in Rule 138.2) may be registered with the Association.
Pyramid League System: ........... means the pyramid league system for the playing of competitive league men's football in Wales at various levels ("Tiers"), as approved by the Association from time to time.

Qualifying Club: .................. any club defined pursuant to Rule 11.1.1.

Recognised Signatories: ............ two (2) signatures by the secretary (or equivalent) and the chairman (or equivalent) of a Qualifying Club, National League or Area Association, in each case with the signatories signing personally.

Recreational Level: ............... football played in leagues which are not in membership of and are not directly affiliated to the Association.

Regulations:........................ the regulations, byelaws, orders, codes, policies, procedures and any other directive or instruction issued by the Association from time to time including, without limitation, the following Regulations of the Association:-

• The Standing Orders of the Association
• Agent Regulations;
• Reduced Penalty Regulations;
• Anti-Doping Regulations;
• Categories of Suspension Regulations;
• Disciplinary Procedures Concerning Field Offences Regulations;
• National Domestic Club Licensing Regulations;
• Welfare Policies and Procedures and Regulations;
• Disciplinary Ceding Regulations;
• Mini Football Regulations; and
• Academy Regulations.

Request Fee: ..................... the appropriate sum pursuant to Rule 43.2.3.

Request Notice: ................... a written notice stipulating the nature of the matter complained of and requesting that such matter be referred to the Disciplinary Panel.

Rules: ............................. these rules of the Association as amended by the Members from time to time.

South Wales Area: ................. the area of Wales so designated by the Directors pursuant to Rule 14 and "Area" and "sub-Area" shall be construed accordingly.

South Wales Representatives: ...... the six (6) nominated or elected Councillors for the South Wales Area.

Subordinate: ........................ shall mean:-

• any director, member, representative, official, employee, all coaching and technical staff and any other playing official of a Qualifying Club, Area Association or National League;
• any referee, match observer, match assessor or match delegate;
• any Player;
• every spectator at a game of Association Football in which a team of a Qualifying Club plays, or in which a representative team of an Area Association or National League plays, and any person purporting to be a supporter or follower of such Member PROVIDED THAT the provisions of Rules 7.5, 28, 38.1.3, 38.1.4, 38.1.4 (A), 38.1.5 (A), 38.1.6, 38.1.8, 38.1.10, 38.1.11, 38.1.12, 38.1.16, 91, 98, 99, 125(B) and 137 shall not apply to such spectators, supporters or followers;
• all other organisations, clubs, bodies, entities or persons who are members of, or affiliated to, over whom a Qualifying Club, Area Association or National League exercises, or purports to exercise, control; and
• any Intermediary.

Sunday Club: a Club which is not a Member of the Association and during any relevant Playing Season only plays Association Football on a Sunday.

TMS: the Transfer Matching System in place from time to time under the FIFA Rules.

Training Compensation: payable in accordance with the FIFA Rules or the Association’s Domestic Training Compensation Regulations.

Trialist: a Player who is not registered to play with a Club (with the exception of a Professional Player playing in a trial match pursuant to Rule 70) who is under assessment and evaluation by a Club as to their ability and fitness to play Association Football for that Club.

UEFA: Union des Association Européennes de Football.

UEFA Rules: the statutes of UEFA as amended from time to time and all rules, regulations, orders and other directives issued by UEFA from time to time.

VAT: value added tax at the rate set from time to time.

Veteran Club: a Club which is not a member of the Association and during any relevant Playing Season only plays Association Football in matches organised exclusively for persons over thirty five (35) years of age.

Vice-President: a vice-president of the Association appointed from time to time under the Rules.

Wales Performance Squad: an establishment for the coaching and education of female Players operated by the Association.
Walking Football: a version of the game in which Players of all ages can participate and in which the Players must not run and/or jog and must have one foot on the ground at all times in accordance with the guidelines set by the Association from time to time.

Welsh Premier League: the premier league for the playing of Association Football by male Players in Wales, otherwise known as the “WPL”.

Welsh Premier League Representative: the Councillor nominated or elected to represent the Welsh Premier League.

Welsh Premier Women’s League: the premier league for the playing of Association Football by female Players in Wales.

Welsh Premier Women’s League Representative: the Councillor nominated or elected to represent the Welsh Premier Women’s League.

Youth League: means:
  • a league playing Association Football in Wales which is exclusively for Youth Players; and
  • any development league of the Welsh Premier League which is primarily for Youth Players but which permits older Players to participate in matches to such extent as may be approved by the Directors from time to time.

Youth Player: any Player who is aged sixteen (16), seventeen (17) or eighteen (18) registered to play in a Youth League and includes for the whole of the Playing Season any Player who reaches nineteen (19) years of age during that Playing Season.

2. INTERPRETATION

2.1 Headings do not affect the interpretation of the Rules.

2.2 References to any statute or statutory provision include references to all acts of parliament and all other legislation having legal effect in the United Kingdom and any subsequent statutes directly or indirectly amending, consolidating, extending, replacing or re-enacting that statute and also includes any orders, regulations, instruments or other subordinate legislation made under that statute.

2.3 The singular includes the plural and vice versa and gender includes any other genders and references to persons including an individual, company, corporation, firm or partnership.

2.4 In all Regulations, unless stated to the contrary in the relevant Regulation, references to the Council shall mean the Directors.

SECTION A - COMPOSITION OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. The Rules shall at all times be read and constructed in conjunction with the FIFA Rules and the UEFA Rules and in the case of conflict between these Rules and the FIFA Rules or UEFA Rules, the FIFA Rules or UEFA Rules shall prevail, and in the case of conflict between the FIFA Rules and UEFA Rules, the FIFA Rules shall prevail.
2. The objectives of the Association are:-

2.1 throughout Wales, to improve the game of Association Football constantly and promote, regulate and control it in the light of fair play and its unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian values, particularly through youth and development programmes;

2.2 throughout Wales, to organise competitions, and authorise others to organise competitions, in Association Football in all its forms at all levels, by defining precisely, as required, the areas of authority of the various Area Associations and National Leagues;

2.3 to draw up all necessary Regulations to implement its rights, powers and objectives under these Rules and such measures and procedures as may be necessary to ensure their enforcement;

2.4 to protect the interests of its Members;

2.5 to comply with and prevent any infringement of the FIFA Rules and UEFA Rules and all decisions of FIFA, UEFA and the Association as well as the Laws of the Game and ensure compliance with these by its Members;

2.6 throughout Wales, to prevent all methods or practices which might jeopardise the integrity of football matches or competitions or give rise to abuse of Association Football;

2.7 throughout Wales, to control and supervise all friendly football matches of all forms;

2.8 to manage the international sporting relations of Wales connected with Association Football in all its forms;

2.9 to host in Wales Association Football competitions at international and other levels;

2.10 to be neutral in matters of politics and religion and in discharging its functions, the Association will not discriminate against a country, private person, or group of people, or other entity, on account of ethnic origin, gender, language, religion, politics, age or any other reason and will ensure compliance with these obligations by its Members; and

2.11 to promote friendly relations between its Members, Subordinates and in society for humanitarian objectives.

3. Every Member, Subordinate or other person or organisation involved in the game of Association Football in Wales shall observe these Rules and the Regulations and the principles of fair play as well as the principles of loyalty, integrity and sportsmanship.

4. The Association shall provide the necessary institutional means to resolve any internal dispute that may arise between Members, Subordinates or other person or organisations involved in the game of Association Football in Wales.

5. The status of Players and the provisions for their transfer shall be regulated by the Association in accordance with the FIFA Rules and Players shall be registered in accordance with these Rules.

6. The Association and each of its Members will play Association Football in compliance with the Laws of the Game and only the IFAB shall lay down and alter the Laws of the Game.
7. Qualifying Clubs, National Leagues and Area Associations shall have the following obligations:-

7.1 to comply fully with the FIFA Rules, UEFA Rules and the Rules and Regulations at all times and to ensure that these are also complied with fully by its Subordinates;

7.2 to ensure the election of its decision-making bodies;

7.3 to take part in competitions and other sports activities organised by the Association;

7.4 to pay its membership subscriptions to the Association;

7.5 to respect the Laws of the Game and to ensure that these are also respected by its Subordinates through an appropriate provision in its own membership rules;

7.6 to adopt and enforce an appropriate provision in its own membership rules specifying that any dispute requiring resolution involving itself or one of its Subordinates and relating to the Rules and Regulations and any decisions of the Association, or equivalent of an Area Association or National League, shall, at the appropriate stage in the dispute, come solely under the jurisdiction of the appropriate Judicial Body or the panel under Rule 146, as the case may be;

7.7 not to make any change or any amendment of its own membership rules without the approval of the Directors;

7.8 to communicate to its own members any amendment of its own membership rules;

7.9 not to maintain any relations of a sporting nature with entities that are not recognised by FIFA, UEFA or the Association or with Members that have been suspended or expelled by the Association;

7.10 to observe the principles of loyalty, integrity and good sporting behaviour as an expression of fair play through an appropriate provision in its own membership rules;

7.11 to keep and update regularly a register of its members; and

7.12 to comply fully with all other duties arising from the FIFA Rules, UEFA Rules, the Rules and Regulations,

and violation of the above-mentioned obligations by any Member may lead to penalties provided for in these Rules.

8. Qualifying Clubs, National Leagues and Area Associations shall be subordinate to, and recognised by, the Association. These Rules define the scope of authority and the rights and duties of the Members.

9. Each Member shall take all decisions on any matters regarding its membership of the Association independently of any external body. Where the Member is not an individual, this obligation applies regardless of its corporate structure.

10. No natural or legal person (including, without limitation, holding companies or subsidiaries) shall exercise control over more than one Qualifying Club or other club playing Association Football in Wales whenever the integrity of any match or competition could be jeopardised.

11. Membership:-

11.1 The Members shall comprise the following:-

11.1.1 a Qualifying Club means a club playing Association Football according to these Rules and:-
11.1.1.1 who play in the divisions of the National Leagues as the Directors shall prescribe in its absolute discretion from time to time; or

11.1.1.2 who has enjoyed fifteen (15) years continuous membership of the Association whether or not still playing in the relevant divisions of the National Leagues prescribed by the Directors under Rule 11.1.3; or

11.1.1.3 who is permitted into membership of the Association at the absolute discretion of the Directors,

PROVIDED THAT in all cases and at all times, the Qualifying Club plays its home matches in Wales but nothing in this Rule shall affect the membership of any Qualifying Club that on the date these Rules are effective, plays its home matches in those English counties any part of whose boundaries are contiguous with any part of the boundary of Wales;

11.1.2 an Area Association means any regionally defined football association responsible for fostering and improving the game of Association Football, promoting and organising competitions and matches and general management of Association Football, within its defined area under the authority of the Association, whose headquarters are situate in Wales, which currently comprise the Central Wales Football Association; Gwent County Football Association, North East Wales Football Association; North Wales Coast Football Association; South Wales Football Association and the West Wales Football Association and any other such area association permitted into membership of the Association at the absolute discretion of the Directors from time to time;

11.1.3 a National League means any organisation as the Directors shall prescribe from time to time which arranges and runs a seasonal competition of a league or series of leagues for Qualifying Clubs which currently comprise The Welsh Premier League; The FAW Championship; The Welsh Football League; The Welsh Alliance League; The Mid Wales League; The Welsh National League and The Welsh Premier Women’s League and any other such organisation permitted into membership of the Association at the absolute discretion of the Directors from time to time; and

11.1.4 each Councillor.

11.2 A club, league and any other body or person not being a Member shall be eligible to apply to the Association to become an Associate Member and the Council shall have absolute discretion on whether to grant or refuse the application. An Associate Member shall be subject to these Rules and the Regulations. An Associate Member shall have no right to propose changes to the Rules or otherwise seek to convene a meeting of the Members; receive notice of any meeting of the Members; attend any meeting of the Members or vote at any meeting of the Members.

12. The following shall apply in respect of the Officers:-

12.1 there shall be four (4) posts of Officers who, subject to Rule 12.3, shall be appointed or elected (as the case may be) quadrennially by the members of the Council from the twenty (20) Councillors referred to in Rule 13 or from the sitting Officers;
12.2 the four (4) Officers so appointed or elected must be two (2) who have their principal private residence or clubs they represent in the North Wales Area (in May 2021 the areas governed by the North Wales Coast Football Association, the North East Wales Football Association and the Central Wales Football Association) and two (2) who have their principal private residence or clubs they represent in the South Wales Area (in May 2021 the areas governed by the West Wales Football Association, the South Wales Football Association and the Gwent County Football Association);

12.3 the triennial terms of office of the Officers in office on the coming into effect of these Rules shall continue until 31st July 2021 and each of them shall be eligible to apply to the Appointments Committee for re-appointment by Council as an Officer with effect from 1st August 2021.

12.4 from 1st August 2021, each Officer shall serve in office for a term of four (4) years and for the avoidance of doubt, the quadrennial cycle for Officers runs from 1st August 2021;

12.5 a Past President or Life Councillor shall not be eligible to stand for appointment or election to the post of an Officer;

12.6 the President shall not serve more than two (2) terms of four (4) years in the office of President SAVE THAT the triennial term of the President in office on the coming into effect of these Rules shall not be counted towards either of the four (4) year terms for the purpose of this Rule 12.6;

12.7 the Deputy President shall not serve more than two (2) terms of four (4) years in the office of Deputy President and serving as Deputy President shall not preclude that person from standing for the office of President;

12.8 there shall be no limit on the number of four (4) year terms a person may be appointed or elected to the office of Vice-President and serving as Vice-President shall not preclude that person from standing for the office of President or Deputy President;

12.9 if only one (1) candidate is recommended to Council by the Appointments Committee for a named Officer post, that person shall be automatically appointed to such post without the need for an election amongst the Councillors. If two (2) or more candidates are recommended to Council by the Appointments Committee for a named Officer post, an election shall be held amongst the Councillors. The minimum number of recommendations to Council by the Appointments Committee for any named Officer post shall be one (1) and a Councillor shall be entitled to nominate him/herself to the Appointments Committee to be considered for any named Officer post;

12.10 if a person appointed or elected (as the case may be) as an Officer is one of the twenty (20) Councillors referred to in Rule 13, such Councillor shall vacate such post and shall be a member of the Council as an Officer of the Association. The vacancy created shall be filled in accordance with Rule 18;

12.11 the President shall automatically become a Past President on ceasing to hold the office of President;

12.12 any Officer, other than the President, shall automatically become a Life Councillor on ceasing to hold office as an Officer; and

12.13 each surviving former President of the Association holding the office of “Life Vice-President” shall be known as a Past President from the coming into effect of these Rules.
SECTION B - THE COUNCIL

13. The Councillors are the shareholders and, collectively, are the supreme body of the Association. The Council shall consist of the four (4) Officers and twenty (20) Councillors, together with such Past Presidents and Life Councillors as there may be from time to time. The said twenty (20) Councillors shall be nominated or elected as appropriate for a term of four (4) years with the first of such quadrennial terms commencing on 1st August 2019. The nomination or election process shall be as follows:-

13.1 the six (6) South Wales Representatives shall be nominated and elected by Qualifying Clubs in the South Wales Area;

13.2 the six (6) North Wales Representatives shall be nominated and elected by Qualifying Clubs in the North Wales Area;

13.3 the one (1) Welsh Premier League Representative shall be nominated and elected by the Qualifying Clubs in The Welsh Premier League;

13.4 the one (1) Welsh Premier Women’s League Representative shall be nominated and elected by Qualifying Clubs in The Welsh Premier Women’s League; and

13.5 each of the six (6) Area Associations shall nominate one (1) Councillor and the names of the persons nominated under this Rule 13.5 shall be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer no later than 1st August in the relevant year.

Save that from and including 1st August 2019, none of the said twenty (20) Councillors shall serve more than three (3) quadrennial terms as a Councillor (whether or not consecutive) but this shall not apply to any Councillor standing for re-election or re-appointment at any time who is a member of the Council on or before 31st July 2019.

13(A) Save in respect of an existing Councillor standing for re-election or re-appointment to the Council, from and including the effective date of these Rules until 31st July 2019 (a) no person shall be eligible to become a Councillor unless they are under 70 years of age on the date they take up office and (b) from and including 1st August 2019 no person shall be eligible to become a Councillor unless they are under 65 years of age on the date they take up office.

14. Notwithstanding anything contained in these Rules, the Directors, for the purpose of determining the constituency for the election of the six (6) South Wales Representatives and the six (6) North Wales Representatives and in so doing ensuring good representation of the whole of Wales, shall be empowered to divide the country into suitable Areas and sub-Areas and allocate such representation as far as possible fairly between the Qualifying Clubs. When creating any sub-Area, the Directors shall prescribe the number of Councillors to represent that sub-Area. The prescribed number for any Area not divided into sub-Areas shall be six (6). Such Areas of the country are currently the South Wales Area (six (6) prescribed representatives) and the North Wales Area with the North Wales Area currently divided further into the North East Wales sub-Area (two (2) prescribed representatives), North Wales Coast sub-Area (two (2) prescribed representatives) and Central Wales sub-Area (two (2) prescribed representatives). Qualifying Clubs in any particular Area or sub-Area shall only vote for those candidates nominated for the post of Councillor from the particular Area or sub-Area concerned. The Directors shall have the power to prescribe the maximum number of votes each Qualifying Club must cast in any election. Failure to cast the said maximum number of votes will render the Qualifying Club’s ballot paper void. Voting papers for any particular Area or sub-Area will state clearly the maximum number of votes which must be
cast by Qualifying Clubs in the election. Only those clubs which were Qualifying Clubs on 1st August preceding the appointment or election to a post on the Council (whether triennial up to 31st July 2019 or quadrennially from 1st August 2019 or to fill a vacancy), shall be entitled to nominate a candidate for a post on the Council and vote in any election for that post.

15. Candidates for the post of the six (6) North Wales Representatives and six (6) South Wales Representatives and the single Welsh Premier League Representative and the single Welsh Premier Women’s League Representative shall be chosen by a process of nomination and election as follows:

15.1 candidates shall either be nominated by a Qualifying Club (which in the case of the North Wales Representatives and South Wales Representatives shall mean a Qualifying Club from within the relevant Area or sub-Area and in the case of the Welsh Premier League Representative shall mean a Qualifying Club in The Welsh Premier League and in the case of the Welsh Premier Women’s League Representative shall mean a Qualifying Club in The Welsh Premier Women’s League) or shall be a retiring Councillor who wishes to stand for re-election to the same post from which he/she is retiring. Candidates nominated by a Qualifying Club must express their willingness to stand in writing beforehand. The Qualifying Club shall notify the Chief Executive Officer of their nomination on the official form as prescribed by the Chief Executive Officer from time to time, sent out by the Chief Executive Officer at least fourteen (14) days prior to 14th June. Such form shall be signed by the Recognised Signatories of the Qualifying Club and returned to the Chief Executive Officer on or before 14th June in any year when the triennial elections are taking place. Any retiring Councillor seeking to be re-appointed shall notify the Chief Executive Officer on or before 14th June and his/her name shall be added to the list of candidates. No candidate shall be allowed to withdraw his/her name from the list within three (3) days after the closing date for the receipt of nominations;

15.2 in the event that the prescribed number of candidates for an Area or sub-Area, or less than the prescribed number, are nominated for the posts of North Wales Representatives, they shall be automatically appointed to the Council without the need for an election. If the number of candidates exceeds the prescribed number, an election amongst the relevant Qualifying Clubs shall be held in accordance with Rules 17.1 to 17.10;

15.3 in the event that the prescribed number of candidates for an Area or sub-Area, or less than the prescribed number, are nominated for the posts of South Wales Representatives they shall be automatically appointed to the Council without the need for an election. If the number of candidates exceeds the prescribed number, an election amongst the relevant Qualifying Clubs shall be held in accordance with Rules 17.1 to 17.10;

15.4 in the event that only one candidate is nominated for the post of the Welsh Premier League Representative, that person shall be automatically appointed to the Council without an election. If the number of candidates exceeds one (1) an election amongst the relevant Qualifying Clubs shall be held in accordance with Rules 17.1 to 17.10;

15.5 in the event that only one candidate is nominated for the post of the Welsh Premier Women’s League Representative, that person shall be automatically appointed to the Council without an election. If the number of candidates exceeds one (1) an election amongst the relevant Qualifying Clubs shall be held in accordance with Rules 17.1 to 17.10.
in the event that less than the prescribed number of candidates for an Area or sub-Area are nominated for the posts of North Wales Representatives, the Directors shall have the power to, and shall, appoint the necessary number of person or persons to make the number of North Wales Representatives up to the prescribed number and such person or persons so appointed by the Directors shall be North Wales Representatives as if elected or appointed to the post by the relevant Qualifying Clubs;

in the event that less than the prescribed number of candidates for an Area or sub-Area are nominated for the posts of South Wales Representatives, the Directors shall have the power to, and shall, appoint the necessary number of person or persons to make the number of South Wales Representatives up to the prescribed number and such person or persons so appointed by the Directors shall be South Wales Representatives as if elected or appointed to the post by the relevant Qualifying Clubs;

in the event of no candidate being nominated for the post of Welsh Premier League Representative, the Directors shall have the power to, and shall, appoint a person as the Welsh Premier League Representative and such person so appointed by the Directors shall be the Welsh Premier League Representative as if elected or appointed to the post by the relevant Qualifying Clubs;

in the event of no candidate being nominated for the post of Welsh Premier Women’s League Representative, the Directors shall have the power to, and shall, appoint a person as the Welsh Premier Women’s League Representative and such person so appointed by the Directors shall be the Welsh Premier Women’s League Representative as if elected or appointed to the post by the relevant Qualifying Clubs;

where more than the prescribed number of candidates for an Area or sub-Area nominated for the posts of North Wales Representatives or more than the prescribed number of candidates for an Area or sub-Area nominated for the posts of South Wales Representatives or more than one (1) candidate nominated for the post of Welsh Premier League Representative or more than one (1) candidate nominated for the post of Welsh Premier Women’s League Representative, an election shall be held in any such case amongst the relevant Qualifying Clubs to choose the relevant Representatives;

save as set out in Rule 15.12, no Qualifying Club shall be allowed to nominate or vote for more than one candidate for election to the Council in any one election; and

solely in respect of the nomination or election of Councillors, and for no other purpose under these Rules, a Qualifying Club with teams playing in both (a) the South Wales Area or North Wales Area or The Welsh Premier League (as the case may be) and (b) the Welsh Premier Women’s League shall be entitled to participate in the process to nominate or elect both (a) the South Wales Representatives or the North Wales Representatives or the Welsh Premier League Representative (as the case may be) and (b) the Welsh Premier Women’s League Representative.

No two Councillors shall be directors or committee members or officers or in any other material way associated with the same Qualifying Club.

No person who is a Close Family Member of a current Councillor shall be permitted to stand for election to Council and shall not be nominated or otherwise appointed as a Councillor and any purported election, nomination or appointment of such person shall be void.
17. In the event of an election being held:-

17.1 voting papers containing the names of candidates for election to the Council as South Wales Representatives shall be sent by the Association to all Qualifying Clubs eligible to vote within the South Wales Area or sub-Area;

17.2 voting papers containing the names of candidates for election to the Council as North Wales Representatives shall be sent by the Association to all Qualifying Clubs eligible to vote within the North Wales Area or sub-Area;

17.3 voting papers containing the names of candidates for election to the Council as the Welsh Premier League Representative shall be sent by the Association to all Qualifying Clubs in The Welsh Premier League;

17.4 voting papers containing the names of candidates for election to the Council as the Welsh Premier Women’s League Representative shall be sent by the Association to all Qualifying Clubs in The Welsh Premier Women’s League;

17.5 all completed voting papers, relating to the election of South Wales representatives shall be dispatched to the Association in special envelopes, which envelopes shall have been supplied by the Association and which shall be printed on their face with the name of the relevant Area or sub-Area. All completed voting papers, relating to the election of North Wales Representatives shall be dispatched to the Association in special envelopes, which envelopes shall have been supplied by the Association and which shall have printed on their face with the name of the relevant Area or sub-Area. All completed voting papers relating to the election of the Welsh Premier League Representative shall be dispatched to the Association in special envelopes which envelopes shall have been supplied by the Association and which shall have printed on their face “Ballot Paper Welsh Premier League”. All completed voting papers, relating to the election of Welsh Premier Women’s League Representatives shall be dispatched to the Association in special envelopes which envelopes shall have been supplied by the Association and which shall have printed on their face “Ballot Paper Welsh Premier Women’s League”. All such voting papers, whether relating to the South Wales Area or North Wales Area or The Welsh Premier League or The Welsh Premier Women’s League, must be received by the Association by not later than the 25th of July in the year of quadrennial elections;

17.6 each special envelope, in which any completed voting paper is dispatched to the Association, must be signed on behalf of the Qualifying Club by the Recognised Signatories of that Qualifying Club;

17.7 voting papers shall be opened only in the presence of an Officer;

17.8 in the event of a voting paper being declared void, the identity of the Qualifying Club concerned shall not be disclosed but the total number of void ballot papers shall be announced;

17.9 the prescribed number of candidates in the South Wales Area or sub-Area receiving the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected as South Wales Representatives. The prescribed number of candidates in the North Wales Area or sub-Area receiving the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected as North Wales Representatives. In such elections, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall take the first post, the candidate receiving the second highest number of votes shall take the second post, and so on if applicable. In the event of an equal
number of votes for two or more candidates, such candidates shall all take up a post except where it would mean more than the prescribed number of Councillors being elected, in which case, as soon as reasonably possible the Association will arrange a re-election for such post or posts in accordance with the processes and procedures used for the quadrennial election (with the exception of the reference to 14th June and 25th July). The candidate in the election for the Welsh Premier League Representative receiving the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected as the Welsh Premier League Representative. The candidate in the election for the Welsh Premier Women’s League Representative receiving the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected as the Welsh Premier Women’s League Representative. If the votes for such post are equal, as soon as reasonably possible the Association will arrange a re-election for such post in accordance with the processes and procedures used for the quadrennial election (with the exception of the reference to 14th June and 25th July); and

17.10 the President, or in his/her absence, one of the other Officers, shall be the returning officer for the purpose of supervising the count of voting papers. The candidates shall have the right to be present when the votes are counted and at any recount. The results of the elections shall be declared at a meeting which shall be open to the Members. The Chief Executive Officer shall notify all Members of the result of the elections in writing within fourteen (14) days of the count.

18. Vacancies occurring on the Council (including, for the avoidance of doubt, a vacancy in any post as an Officer) shall be filled within three (3) calendar months of such vacancy occurring. If the vacancy is in respect of a Councillor nominated by the Area Associations, the Area Associations which nominated that person shall nominate a replacement and notify the Association in writing accordingly. If the vacancy is in respect of an elected or appointed South Wales Representative or elected or appointed North Wales Representative or the elected or appointed Welsh Premier League Representative or the elected or appointed Welsh Premier Women’s League Representative, the processes and procedures used in the quadrennial elections (with the exception of the reference to 14th June and 25th July) shall be used to fill such vacancy. If the vacancy is in respect of an Officer, the processes and procedures for the appointment or election of Officers in Rule 12 shall apply.

19. Any person ceasing to be a Councillor after serving as a Councillor for not less than twenty-one (21) years in total, whether consecutive or not, shall automatically be offered the position of Life Councillor.

20. Upon taking office, a Councillor immediately assumes the position of shareholder of The Football Association of Wales Limited and shall remain so until replaced by election, appointment or nomination as the case may be under these Rules or by removal under these Rules or the Articles of Association of The Football Association of Wales Limited. Without limitation to the said provisions of this Rule, a Councillor shall cease to hold office on reaching the age of 80 unless on or before that date they have been made a Past President or Life Councillor.

21. A candidate for election, appointment or nomination to the Council shall not offer any bribe, or consideration, or pay fees, or offer any improper inducement of any kind whatsoever, to any person or entity (including, without limitation, any Qualifying Club) for the purpose of procuring the nomination and/or vote of the said person or entity in the election, appointment or nomination of such candidate to the Council. No Area Association, nor any Qualifying Club,
nor any National League, nor any person or other entity whatsoever, shall offer, on behalf of any candidate or at all, any bribe, or consideration, or pay fees, or offer any improper inducement of any kind whatsoever, to any person or entity (including, without limitation, any Qualifying Club) for the purpose of procuring the nomination or vote of such person or entity (including, without limitation, any Qualifying Club) in the election or appointment of any such candidate to the Council. Any breach of this Rule shall be deemed a Disciplinary Offence. In addition to any penalty imposed under Rule 46.1 for any breach of this Rule, any breach whatsoever of this Rule shall render null and void the election to the Council of any candidate concerned or implicated by any such said breach, if such candidate shall have been elected as a Councillor.

SECTION C - MEMBERS MEETINGS, VOTING AT MEETINGS AND AMENDMENT TO THE RULES

22. A general meeting of the Members shall be held annually in the month of May for the consideration of any changes to these Rules. No proposed change to the Rules shall be permitted, whether for consideration in the May general meeting or at any special general meeting convened under Rule 23, if such proposed Rule change would affect the commercial and/or financial affairs of the Association or the structures and/or composition of the Pyramid League System as prescribed by the Association from time to time in the Regulations for the Pyramid League System or its equivalent. In the event of any conflict between this Rule and any other Rule, the provisions of this Rule shall apply.

23. In addition to the May general meeting, the Chief Executive Officer shall convene a special general meeting of the Members for the consideration of changes to the Rules either:

23.1 when the Directors inform the Chief Executive Officer it has resolved that a special general meeting should be convened and states the wording of the proposed change or changes to the Rules; or

23.2 upon receipt of a written requisition to convene such a Meeting signed by or on behalf of a quorum of at least forty (40) Members being Area Associations, Qualifying Clubs or National Leagues signed by the Recognised Signatories, such requisition shall state the wording of the proposed change or changes to the Rules.

24. The wording of any change to the Rules proposed by the Directors or any Member (including, for the avoidance of doubt, any individual Councillor) for consideration at the May general meeting shall be notified to the Chief Executive Officer:

24.1 in the case of any change to the Rules proposed by any Member, on or before 31st March in any year in the form of a written notification signed, where appropriate, by the Recognised Signatories; or

24.2 in the case of a Rule change proposed by the Directors on or before 30th April in any year.

25. The Chief Executive Officer shall notify all Members (including, for the avoidance of doubt, the members of the Council) of the date, time and place of all meetings of the Members ten (10) clear days in advance, such notice to be in writing and to contain details of the proposed Rule changes to be discussed.

26. At meetings of the Members:

26.1 all Members being a Qualifying Club, Area Association or National League shall be entitled to send one representative to the meeting. Such representative must produce a written authority signed by the Recognised Signatories authorising him/
her to be such representative at the meeting. All Members being members of Council shall be entitled to attend meetings in person. No person shall represent more than one body or person at a meeting, except that any person may in addition to acting in person or as the representative of a Member body also act as proxy for another Member or Members;

26.2 all Members or their representatives shall be entitled to one (1) vote at meetings. A Rule shall be amended, removed or added if two thirds of those voting at the meeting vote in favour of the proposal;

26.3 Members shall be entitled to vote at meetings by proxy. The Member shall complete the proxy form or as prescribed by the Chief Executive Officer from time to time. The form of proxy shall be lodged with the Chief Executive Officer a minimum of three (3) calendar days prior to the meeting; and

26.4 the President if present, or if absent one of the Vice-Presidents, shall preside as chairman at all meetings unless there be no such chairman present within fifteen (15) minutes of the time appointed for the start of the meeting in which case the Members present shall choose any other Councillor to be chairman of that meeting.

27. Amendments to the Rules made at the May general meeting shall come into force at the beginning of the following Playing Season. Amendments to the Rules made at a special general meeting shall also come into force at the beginning of the following Playing Season, except that:-

27.1 where at any time the Directors propose an amendment, the Directors shall have the right to designate that the amendment come into force at an earlier date as stipulated by the Directors in the notice of the special general meeting sent to Members proposing the amendment; or

27.2 where an amendment is not proposed by the Directors and the amendment is made after the May general meeting but before the commencement of the next Playing Season, the amendment shall not come into force until the beginning of the Playing Season after that unless deemed practicable to implement by the Directors, in which case the amendment shall come into force at the beginning of the Playing Season immediately following the amendment.

SECTION D - APPLICATION OF THE RULES AND THE POWERS OF THE COUNCIL

28. All Members being Qualifying Clubs, National Leagues or Area Associations and their Subordinates shall draft their respective own rules or regulations (in whatever form) to be consistent with these Rules and the Regulations. Where a conflict occurs between such rules or regulations and these Rules or the Regulations (as the case may be) these Rules or the Regulations shall prevail.

29. Wherever required to do so by the Association, all Members being Qualifying Clubs, National Leagues or Area Associations shall ensure that their respective own rules or regulations (in whatever form) and the Rules and Regulations, are fully complied with by their respective Subordinates.

30. Any changes to the rules or regulations (in whatever form) of any Members being Qualifying Clubs, National Leagues or Area Associations shall be subject to the approval of the Directors.

31. Every Member and every Subordinate of a Qualifying Club, National League or Area Association is subject to and bound by these Rules and the Regulations.
32. In any case, where the wording of Rules 28, 29, 30 or 31 is in conflict with any wording in any other Rule or Regulation, then the wording of Rules 28, 29, 30 or 31 (as the case may be) shall prevail.

33. The Directors are hereby empowered to make such Regulations which it deems necessary to provide for matters arising from these Rules or to implement these Rules. Any such Regulation must not conflict with any Rule and in the event of any conflict, such Regulation shall be of no effect to the extent to which it conflicts with any Rule. All Members and all Subordinates shall be deemed to have knowledge of and to be bound absolutely by any such Regulation, if such Regulation shall have been published on the website of the Association.

33(A) Neither Council nor the Directors shall decide to enact or otherwise adopt any motion, issue or other matter proposed or otherwise raised by a Councillor or Director at a meeting of Council or a meeting of the Directors (as the case may be) (“Proposal”) unless Council or the Directors (as the case may be) (a) decides to refer the Proposal for consideration, review and/or amendment to the relevant committee of the Council or the Directors and (b) Council or the Directors has subsequently received and considered the said committee’s report on the Proposal. The provisions of this Rule shall not apply to a Proposal relating to a day to day operational matter that is materially consistent with the Association’s then current (a) strategic and business plans, (b) budget and (c) Regulations.

34. The Directors are hereby authorised to make such rules as it deems necessary with reference to and in connection with any competition held within the area of the Association’s jurisdiction and specifically, but without limitation, the Directors may make any such rules to regulate the actions of any officers or representatives involved in such competitions.

35. The Directors shall have power to suspend the playing of Association Football at all or any club or ground within its jurisdiction at such times and for such duration as the Directors shall see fit. Notwithstanding any provision contained in Rule 138.1, the Directors shall have power to extend or diminish the period of the Playing Season in any year or at any time, when such a course shall seem to it to be necessary or desirable. All contracts or agreements between clubs, Players or any other party or between any or all of them shall be modified (if necessary) to take account of the effect of any decision of the Directors which may be made from time to time under the provisions of this Rule.

36. The Directors are hereby empowered to prohibit any Member from playing any match or matches with any league or leagues and any club or clubs not belonging to a football association recognised by FIFA, UEFA or the Association, if the Directors consider such prohibition necessary or desirable.

SECTION E - DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS, DISPUTES, APPEALS AND INDEPENDENT ARBITRATION

SECTION E1 - PANEL STRUCTURE, COMPOSITION AND JURISDICTION

37. 37.1 The functions of any of the Judicial Bodies of the Association shall be as follows:-

37.1.1 except for any matter dealt with under the Reduced Penalty Regulations, the Regulations for Disciplinary Procedures Concerning Field Offences, the Anti-Doping Regulations or the Disciplinary Ceding Regulations, to adjudicate on any charge of an alleged Disciplinary Offence brought by the Association. In such cases the Association will be a “Party” to the proceedings and any appeal;
37.1.2 to act as an independent tribunal to facilitate the resolution of disputes between Members, Subordinates or other third parties as respectively referred to the Association under Rules 39.2.2 to 39.2.7, inclusive. In such cases, the Members, Subordinates or other third parties (as the case may be) will be the “Parties” to the proceedings and any appeal. For the avoidance of doubt, the Association’s function shall be to organise the proceedings (including any hearings) of the Judicial Bodies and the Association shall not be a Party to such proceedings; and

37.1.3 to act as the review body following any request for review of a decision of the Association made under Rule 39.2.8 or 39.2.9. The Association and the party requesting the review will be the relevant “Party” or “Parties” to the proceedings for the purpose of Section E of the Rules.

37.2 The Judicial Bodies shall have no jurisdiction to consider or rule on any objection or other challenge to (i) a decision of the Council or Directors or any of their respective committees or sub-committees or (ii) the validity or enforceability of any Rule or Regulation of the Association.

37.3 In the event of any conflict or issue of interpretation between any provision of this Rule 37 and any other Rule in Section E, this Rule 37 shall prevail.

38. For the purpose of this Section E of the Rules:

38.1 It shall be a breach of the Rules for any Member or any Subordinate to do or permit or assist in the doing or permitting of any of the following whether in connection with the playing of Association Football or Futsal (or, where applicable, in connection with the playing of (a) Open Friendly Matches, (b) Closed Friendly Matches, (c) matches played under the Association’s Mini-Football Regulations, (d) Walking Football matches or (e) matches played by College Teams, Sunday Clubs or Veteran Clubs):

38.1.1 violate the Laws of the Game or the Futsal Laws of the Game or the Rules or any Regulation or violate the FIFA Rules or UEFA Rules;

38.1.2 violate the rules or regulations (in whatever form) of any Member or any competition, sanctioned by a Member or sanctioned by the Association;

38.1.3 play with or against any club suspended by FIFA, UEFA, the Association, any Area Association or National League or any other national football association recognised by FIFA or appoint or allow to remain in office a director or official who has been suspended by any such body;

38.1.4 in respect of matches taking place within the jurisdiction of the Association, bet in any betting activity (authorised and registered football pools excepted) or accept any bets in any way related to any match;

38.1.4(A) in respect of matches involving any Member or Subordinate playing any match in a competition outside Wales, the said Member or Subordinate shall not bet in any betting activity (authorised and registered football pools excepted) or accept any bets in any way related to the said match or any other match in the competition in which the match involving the said Member or Subordinate takes place;

38.1.5 offer or attempt to offer, either directly or indirectly, any bribe or other reward whatsoever to a Member, Subordinate, any other club official,
Player, referee or any other footballing body or individual with a view to influencing the result, progress, conduct or any other aspect of any match, or to accept any such bribe or other reward;

38.1.5(A) whilst participating in a match, whether as a Player or match official, for any person (for reward) to fail to perform their duties or responsibilities to the best of their ability during the match;

38.1.5(B) any act of commission or omission aimed at influencing the course and/or conduct of a match or competition (or any incident or event in a match) in an unlawful or undue manner;

38.1.5(C) fail to report to the Association immediately any approach from any person, organisation or other third party in respect of activities reasonably thought to be aimed at influencing the course and/or result of a match or competition in an unlawful or undue manner;

38.1.5(D) fail to report to the Association immediately any information or behaviour involving any person, organisation or third party in respect of activities reasonably thought to be aimed at influencing the course and/or result of a match or competition in an unlawful or undue manner;

38.1.6 allow a director, official, referee, assistant referee or Player under suspension to act as a referee or to perform any duties from the execution of which that person has been suspended, or fail to take all reasonable precautions to prevent such person from entering the ground of any Qualifying Club or any other club;

38.1.7 sell or offer for sale, either directly or indirectly, a ticket for any football match in excess of the face value of the ticket;

38.1.8 play a match with or against a club whose ground has been closed by the Association on any ground within a radius of twelve (12) miles of the ground closed unless such match is an away fixture for the club whose ground has been so closed and is played at the ground of the home team which is within a radius of twelve (12) miles of the closed ground;

38.1.9 commit any act or make any statement either verbally or in writing (including, without limitation, any racial or other discriminatory behaviour, conduct or language), or be responsible for conduct, continuing misconduct or any other matter likely to bring the game of Association Football or the Association into disrepute including, without limitation, any incident on or around the field of play (including the changing room area) that occurs before, during or after a match;

38.1.10 any act or omission constituting a Doping Offence;

38.1.11 if more than two (2) members of a club are found to have committed a Doping Offence during an “Event Period” (as defined in the Anti-Doping Regulations), the club shall be deemed to have committed a Disciplinary Offence;

38.1.12 receive a caution or conviction for any of the offences listed in Schedule 4 Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000, its revisions and amendments; or received any caution or conviction for any offences listed in the Sexual Offences Act 2003, its revisions and amendments; or received any caution
or conviction for any of the offences listed in Schedule 1 Children and Young Persons Act 1933, its revisions and amendments; or is identified as a person presenting a risk or potential risk to children; or receive any caution or conviction for any offence against a vulnerable adult; or breach the Association’s Welfare Policies and Procedures and Regulations, or any code of conduct and ethics established under any of them;

38.1.13 fail to conduct themselves in an orderly fashion or fail to refrain from violence, threatening, abusive, obscene or provocative behaviour, conduct or language (including, without limitation, whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs) whilst attending or taking part in a match including, without limitation, any racial or other discriminatory behaviour, conduct or language;

38.1.13(A) fail to hold a valid Premises Licence or Temporary Event Notice for the supply of any alcohol at a ground where any home matches are played and comply with all conditions of the Premises Licence or Temporary Event Notice (including, without limitation, any designation or restriction on where alcohol may be sold or consumed in the ground);

38.1.13(B) fail to prevent the consumption of alcohol in any outdoor area of a home ground when any form of football is being played or practised other than within an outdoor area designated as an area where alcohol supplied in accordance with Rule 38.1.13(A) may be consumed PROVIDED THAT such outdoor area must not be within three metres of the touchline of the playing area at any point irrespective of any provision to the contrary in any Premises Licence or Temporary Event Notice and PROVIDED FURTHER THAT nothing in this Rule 38.1.13(B) shall alter or reduce the obligations on a person or organisation arising under the Sporting Events Act 1985;

38.1.13(C) bring alcohol into a ground (or fail to prevent alcohol being brought into a ground where any home matches are played) other than in respect of use to be made pursuant to any Premises Licence or Temporary Event Notice;

38.1.14 encroach on the pitch area, save for authorised persons or for reasons of crowd safety;

38.1.15 whilst attending a match (a) have in their possession at any ground any firework, flare, smoke bomb or other pyrotechnic device or (b) ignite or otherwise set-off any firework, flare, smoke bomb or other pyrotechnic device or (c) throw any firework, flare, smoke bomb, other pyrotechnic device, missile, bottle or other potentially harmful or dangerous object (including, without limitation, at or on to the pitch or at any person on the pitch or elsewhere in the ground);

38.1.16 fail to ensure that a private way is provided for players and officials from the playing ground to the dressing room whenever this is practicable at every ground within the jurisdiction of that Member; or

38.1.17 use or provide others with information which is not publicly available and which is obtained through the Member’s or Subordinate’s position in football and which damages, or could damage, the integrity of a match or competition.
38.2 Every Member (including, without limitation, a Club) will be responsible for the actions of its Subordinates (including, without limitation, its Players) and the Member will also be in breach of any Rule or any Regulation, if that Rule or Regulation is breached by its Subordinate.

39. The jurisdiction of the Reduced Penalty Regulations, the Regulations for Disciplinary Procedures Concerning Field Offences, the Anti-Doping Regulations and, subject to Rule 40, of the Judicial Bodies is as follows:

39.1 any Disciplinary Offence prescribed by the Reduced Penalty Regulations shall be dealt with under such Regulations if the Association elects to use such Regulations and the person charged with the Disciplinary Offence pleads guilty and agrees to the procedures under such Regulations;

39.1(A) any Disciplinary Offence prescribed by the Regulations for Disciplinary Procedures Concerning Field Offences shall be dealt with under such Regulations;

39.1(B) any Disciplinary Offence under Rule 38.1.10 shall be dealt with under the Anti-Doping Regulations;

39.2 the Disciplinary Panel will hear the following matters:

39.2.1 any charge of an alleged Disciplinary Offence brought by the Association against any Member or any Subordinate except (a) any matter dealt with under the Reduced Penalty Regulations; (b) any matter dealt with under the Anti-Doping Regulations; (c) any matter dealt with under the Regulations for Disciplinary Procedures Concerning Field Offences; (d) any charge of an alleged breach of Rule 21 reserved to the Appeals Panel under Rule 39.3.1 or (e) any matter dealt with under the Disciplinary Ceding Regulations in accordance with Rule 41. The Association and the said Member or Subordinate will be the relevant “Party” or “Parties” to the proceedings for the purpose of Section E of the Rules;

39.2.2 any appeal by a Subordinate or other third party against a decision of a Member, where the said decision was a decision by the Member in the first instance. The Member and the Subordinate or other third party will be the “Party” or “Parties” to the proceedings for the purpose of Section E of the Rules;

39.2.3 any appeal by a Subordinate or other third party against a decision of a Member, where the said decision was a decision by the Member acting as an appellant body in hearing an appeal against a decision of a Subordinate. The Subordinate or other third party will be the relevant “Party” or “Parties” to the proceedings for the purpose of Section E of the Rules;

39.2.4 any dispute or difference between two or more Members (not being an appeal covered by Rule 39.2.2) which one or more of the said Members refers to the Association for resolution. The said Members will be the relevant “Party” or “Parties” to the proceedings for the purpose of Section E of the Rules;

39.2.5 any disputes or differences between a Member and any Subordinate or other third party (not being covered by Rules 39.2.2 or 39.2.3) which one or more of the Member or the Subordinate or other third party refers to
the Association for resolution. The Member of the Association and the Subordinate or other third party will be the relevant “Party” or “Parties” to the proceedings for the purpose of Section E of the Rules; and

39.2.6 any dispute or difference between a Player and Intermediary which one or more of them refers to the Association for resolution. The Player and the Intermediary will be the relevant “Party” or “Parties” to the proceedings for the purpose of Section E of the Rules;

39.2.7 any dispute or difference between an Intermediary and any club (not being a Qualifying Club) which one or more of them refers to the Association for resolution. The Intermediary and the club will be the relevant “Party” or “Parties” to the proceedings for the purpose of Section E of the Rules;

39.2.8 any request for a review made under the Agent Regulations by an applicant for Registration (as defined in the Agent Regulations) as an Intermediary following a decision by the Association to decline such application for Registration. The Association and the said applicant will be the relevant “Party” or “Parties” to the proceedings for the purpose of Section E of the Rules; and

39.2.9 the review, in accordance with the Agent Regulations, of any decision of the Association made under the Agent Regulations to suspend the Registration of an Intermediary. The Association and the Intermediary will be the relevant “Party” or “Parties” to the proceedings for the purpose of Section E of the Rules.

39.3 The Appeals Panel will hear the following matters:-

39.3.1 any charge of an alleged Disciplinary Offence brought by the Association against any Member of the Association or any Sub-ordinate for a breach of Rule 21. The Association and the said Member or Subordinate will be the relevant “Party” or “Parties” to the proceedings for the purpose of Section E of these Rules;

39.3.2 an appeal by either of the relevant Parties against a decision of the Disciplinary Panel made under any part of Rule 39.2 except that the Association will only have the right to appeal against the penalty or sanction imposed by the Disciplinary Panel under Rule 39.2.1 and not against a finding of not guilty other than a finding of not guilty in a Disciplinary Offence under Rule 38.1.11, where the Association’s right of appeal shall not be so limited; and

39.3.3 any matters referred to it by the Association under Rule 40 which would otherwise have been heard by the Disciplinary Panel.

39.4 The Independent Arbitration Panel will hear the following matters:-

39.4.1 an appeal by either of the relevant Parties against a decision of the Appeals Panel made under any part of Rule 39 except that the Association will only have the right to appeal against the penalty or sanction imposed by the Appeals Panel under Rule 39.3.1 or 39.3.2 and not against a finding of not guilty under Rule 39.3.1 or 39.3.2; and
39.4.2 any matter referred to it by the Association under Rule 40 which would otherwise have been heard by the Disciplinary Panel or Appeals Panel.

39.5 The proceedings of each Panel will be conducted in a private hearing of all the Parties unless there is an election under the Rules by the relevant Party or Parties (as the case may be) waiving the right to a private hearing.

40. The Chief Executive Officer may in his/her absolute discretion elect to:-

40.1 refer to the Appeals Panel or the Independent Arbitration Panel any matter which in the absence of such an election would otherwise be under the jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Panel; and

40.2 refer to the Independent Arbitration Panel any matter which in the absence of such an election would otherwise be under the jurisdiction of the Appeals Panel,

and the Association shall give notification of such election to the Parties and the matter shall proceed in accordance with the relevant provisions in the Rules relating to the relevant Panel save that there shall be no increase in fees as a result of such referral.

41. In respect of those Members and Subordinates identified in the Disciplinary Ceding Regulations, and only to the extent prescribed by the Disciplinary Ceding Regulations, the provision of the Disciplinary Ceding Regulations shall apply in substitution for the relevant provisions of Section E of these Rules and shall be binding on such Members and Subordinates. Any matter affecting or involving a Member or Subordinate which is outside the scope of the Disciplinary Ceding Regulations (whether a Disciplinary Offence or other breach of these Rules) shall be dealt with in accordance with Section E of these Rules.

42. The composition of the Panels will be as follows:-

42.1 the Disciplinary Panel – only the twenty (20) Councillors referred to in Rule 13 and Life Councillors will sit on the Disciplinary Panel. Each Disciplinary Panel will consist of three (3) members, including one from a list of four (4) chairmen designate nominated by the Council from time to time. On a case by case basis, the Chief Executive Officer will appoint the Disciplinary Panel chairman from the said list of chairmen designate and the other two (2) members of the Disciplinary Panel;

42.2 the Appeals Panel – will consist of three (3) persons, two (2) of whom will be drawn solely from the Officers and Past Presidents and the third person will be an independent chairman (not a Member) who will be a person of high standing and probity and with a sound knowledge of Association Football matters selected from a list of independent chairman designate nominated by the Directors from time to time (and no less than triennially). On a case by case basis, the Chief Executive Officer will appoint the independent chairman from the said list of independent chairman designate and the two (2) other members of the Appeals Panel; and

42.3 Independent Arbitration Panel - in any matter concerning a charge of an alleged Disciplinary Offence under Rule 38.1.11, the appeal tribunal division of the National Anti-Doping Panel of Sports Dispute Resolution Panel Limited (or any other equivalent panel nominated by UK Anti-Doping from time to time) will be the Independent Arbitration Panel. In respect of any other Disciplinary Offence or alleged Disciplinary Offence or dispute under the Rules, on a case by case basis, the Chief Executive Officer will select an independent sports arbitration service to act as the Independent Arbitration Panel. In either case, the composition of the Independent Arbitration Panel
will be in accordance with that organisation’s rules or regulations and, for the avoidance of doubt, the Independent Arbitration Panel may consist of only one person if such appointment is permitted by that organisation’s rules or regulations.

42(A) No Member or Subordinate shall commence disciplinary proceedings under its own rules or regulations against a person, club or other entity which is under the jurisdiction of the Member or Subordinate, if (in respect of the relevant facts, circumstances or event) the Association has commenced, or indicated to the Member or Subordinate its intention to commence, disciplinary proceedings under these Rules against the person, club or other entity.

SECTION E2 - COMMENCEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS BEFORE A PANEL – NOTICES, FEES AND PROCEDURE

43. The following will apply if a Party wishes to refer a matter to the Disciplinary Panel:

43.1 Where the Association brings a charge of an alleged Disciplinary Offence under Rule 39.2.1:

43.1.1 the Association will give a Disciplinary Notice to the other Party;

43.1.2 the Party charged will have seven (7) Business Days after service of the Disciplinary Notice to reply stipulating whether (a) they admit or deny the charge and (b) whether they wish to waive their right to a private hearing before the Disciplinary Panel. If the charge is denied, the reply must state the grounds of denial and the Party charged will not be permitted to raise any other grounds of denial without the leave of the chairman of the Disciplinary Panel;

43.1.3 if the Party charged fails to reply to the Disciplinary Notice within seven (7) Business Days, they will be deemed to have denied the charge and to have waived their right to a private hearing before the Disciplinary Panel. In such circumstances the Association will, without further notice to the Party charged, convene a Disciplinary Panel who will consider the alleged Disciplinary Offence in the absence of the Party charged and the provisions of Rules 43.1.4 to 43.1.11 inclusive shall not apply;

43.1.4 if the Party charged has replied to the Disciplinary Notice and requested a private hearing the Association will give the Party charged no less than seven (7) Business Days written notice of the date, time and place of the hearing and the provisions of Rules 43.1.5 to 43.1.11 inclusive shall apply;

43.1.5 where the Party charged is an individual person, they will be required to attend the hearing in person. Where the Party charged is not an individual person, one or more duly authorized senior representatives of the Party will attend the hearing, whether directors, officers or otherwise;

43.1.6 the Association and the Party charged will disclose to each other such documents as they intend to produce in evidence at the hearing. Whenever reasonably possible, the parties will make such disclosures no less than two (2) Business Days prior to the hearing;

43.1.7 the Association and the Party charged will be entitled to make opening and closing remarks at the hearing and to call witnesses who will be expected to answer questions in cross-examination. Members of the Disciplinary Panel
will be entitled to ask questions of any witness during the hearing. The Party charged will not be obliged to give evidence in person but the Disciplinary Panel will be entitled to draw such inference as may be reasonably appropriate if the Party charged declines to do so. The chairman of the Disciplinary Panel will warn the Party charged of this fact;

43.1.8 the Disciplinary Panel hearing will proceed in the absence of the Party charged, unless the Disciplinary Panel reasonably considers that the Party charged has given an acceptable reason for such non-attendance, in which case the hearing will be adjourned;

43.1.9 the Disciplinary Panel will retire to consider its findings in private. A decision may be announced on the day or reserved to a later date, in which case, the decision will be delivered in writing;

43.1.10 if the Disciplinary Panel finds the Party charged guilty of the Disciplinary Offence at a Disciplinary Panel hearing attended by the Party charged, no penalty or sanction will be imposed until:-

43.1.10.1 the Disciplinary Panel has been informed by the Association of any previous Disciplinary Offences recorded against the guilty Party; and

43.1.10.2 the guilty Party has been given the opportunity to make representations in mitigation of the Disciplinary Offence;

43.1.11 the Association and the Party charged shall be entitled to legal or other representation at the Disciplinary Panel hearing;

43.1.12 where the Party charged has waived the right to a private hearing or is deemed to have waived such right, or where the Party charged does not attend the private hearing, the Disciplinary Panel will consider such information as it considers reasonably necessary to decide the matter including, without limitation, any written representations made for or on behalf of the Party charged and representations (whether written or verbal) made for or on behalf of the Association. The Disciplinary Panel will be entitled to seek such further information or evidence as it deems necessary. If the Disciplinary Panel finds the Party charged guilty of the Disciplinary Offence, the Association will inform the Disciplinary Panel of any other Disciplinary Offences recorded against the guilty Party but the Disciplinary Panel will not be obliged to invite the guilty Party to make further representations in mitigation of the Disciplinary Offence before imposing a penalty;

43.1.13 whether or not the hearing takes place, the Disciplinary Panel will have absolute discretion whether to make a cost order for or against the Party charged; and

43.1.14 whether or not a hearing takes place, the Association will send written confirmation of the Disciplinary Panel's findings to the Party charged.

43.2 In the case of any other proceedings pursuant to Rule 39.2 under the jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Panel:-

43.2.1 the Party wishing to commence the proceedings will give a Request Notice to the Association (marked for the attention of the Chief Executive Officer)
and the other party or parties except that under Rule 39.2.9 the referral to
the Disciplinary Panel shall be made automatically by the Association in
accordance with the Agent Regulations and Rules 43.2.2 to 43.2.5 inclusive
shall accordingly not apply and, in the case only of such a referral under Rule
39.2.9, the provisions of Rule 43.2.6 shall be read and construed accordingly;

43.2.2
in an appeal under Rules 39.2.2 or 39.2.3 against a decision of a Member, the
Request Notice will be served on the Association not more than seven (7)
Business Days (in the case of an appeal arising out of a decision relating to
anything other than a cup or play-off match) or three (3) Business Days (in the
case of an appeal arising out of a decision relating to a cup or play-off match)
after the earlier of (a) the Member announcing its decision at the time of its
hearing (if any) or (b) receipt by the Party appealing of written notification of
the Member’s decision. For the purposes of (b) above, the provisions of Rule
144 (as to service of notices etc) shall apply to the said written notification
issued by the Member and such provisions shall apply in place of any provision
or provisions in the said Member’s rules relating to the service of notices etc.
Any Request Notice lodged after seven (7) Business Days or three (3) Business
Days (as the case may be) will be rejected unless the Party lodging the same
can demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the Association that it was
not reasonably practicable to lodge the Request Notice within the time limit;

43.2.3
the following appropriate Request Fee must accompany the Request
Notice:-

43.2.3.1 £355.00 plus VAT if the Party lodging the Request Notice
is a Member playing in the FA Premiership or the Football
League or any Subordinate of such Member; or

43.2.3.2 £262.00 plus VAT if the Party lodging the Request Notice is a
Member playing in the Welsh Premier League, FA Conference,
Southern League or Northern League or any Subordinate of
such Member; or

43.2.3.3 £183.00 plus VAT if the Party lodging the said Notice is a
Member which is an Area Association or National League
or Qualifying Club playing in a National League or any
Subordinate of such Member; or

43.2.3.4 £100.00 plus VAT in any other case.

43.2.4
any Request Notice which is not accompanied by the appropriate Request
Fee will be rejected by the Association and any incorrect fee will be returned
and, in the case of an appeal under Rules 39.2.2 or 39.2.3, time will continue
to run for the service of the Request Notice within the original seven (7)
Business Days period stipulated in Rule 43.2.2;

43.2.5
the Association will have the right (but not the obligation) to carry out an
investigation before referring the matter to the Disciplinary Panel and the
Association will be entitled to reject the Request Notice if it reasonably
considers that the Request Notice is frivolous or vexatious;

43.2.6
subject to Rule 43.2.5, the Association will within twenty (20) Business Days
of actual receipt of the Request Notice send a written notice to the Parties
confirming the date, time and place of the Disciplinary Panel hearing. In the case of an appeal under Rules 39.2.2 or 39.2.3, the Disciplinary Panel proceedings will be a re-hearing of the case and the Disciplinary Panel will decide the matter on the basis of the evidence produced to them. At any time prior to the Disciplinary Panel hearing, any Party will have the right to waive their right to a private hearing, but a hearing will take place unless all Parties agree in writing to waive their right to a private hearing;

43.2.7 where the Party involved is an individual person, they will be required to attend a hearing in person. Where the Party involved is not an individual person, one or more duly authorised senior representatives of the Party will attend the hearing, whether directors, officers or otherwise;

43.2.8 the Parties involved will disclose to each other and to the Association such documents as they intend to produce in evidence at the hearing. Whenever reasonably possible the Parties will make such disclosures no less than two (2) Business Days prior to the hearing;

43.2.9 the Parties will be entitled to make opening and closing remarks at the hearing and to call witnesses who will be expected to answer questions in cross examination. Members of the Disciplinary Panel will be entitled to ask questions of any witnesses during the hearing. No Party will be obliged to give evidence in person, but the Disciplinary Panel will be entitled to draw such inference as may be reasonably appropriate if the Party declines to do so. The chairman of the Disciplinary Panel will warn the Party concerned of this fact;

43.2.10 the Disciplinary Panel hearing will proceed in the absence of either Party, unless the Disciplinary Panel reasonably considers that the absent Party has given an acceptable reason for such non-attendance, in which case the hearing will be adjourned;

43.2.11 the Disciplinary Panel will retire to consider its findings in private. A decision may be announced on the day or reserved to a later date in which case the decision will be delivered in writing;

43.2.12 the Parties will be entitled to legal or other representation at the Disciplinary Panel hearing;

43.2.13 where the Parties to the appeal have all waived their rights to a private hearing, the Disciplinary Panel will consider such information as it considers reasonably necessary to decide the matter including, without limitation, any written representations made for or on behalf of the Parties. The Disciplinary Panel will be entitled to seek such further information or evidence as it deems necessary;

43.2.14 whether or not a hearing takes place, the Disciplinary Panel will have absolute discretion whether to make a cost order for or against a Party to the proceeding; and

43.2.15 whether or not a hearing takes place, the Association will send written confirmation of the Disciplinary Panel’s findings to the Parties.

44. The following will apply if a Party wishes to refer a matter to the Appeals Panel:-
If a Party wishes to appeal pursuant to Rules 39.3.2 against a decision of the Disciplinary Panel:-

44.1.1 the Party wishing to appeal will give a Disciplinary Appeal Notice to the Association not more than seven (7) Business Days (in the case of an appeal arising out of a decision relating to anything other than a cup or play-off match) or three (3) Business Days (in the case of an appeal arising out of a decision relating to a cup or play-off match) after the earlier of (a) the Disciplinary Panel announcing its decision at the time of any hearing or (b) receipt by the Party appealing of written notification of the Disciplinary Panel’s decision. The Disciplinary Appeal Notice will be marked for the attention of the Chief Executive Officer, except where the Association is the Party appealing, in which case the said Notice will be deposited with the Association’s disciplinary department. The Disciplinary Appeal Notice must state the grounds of appeal and the Party appealing shall not be permitted to raise any other grounds of appeal without the leave of the chairman of the Appeals Panel;

44.1.2 any Disciplinary Appeal Notice lodged after seven (7) Business Days (in the case of an appeal arising out of a decision relating to anything other than a cup or play-off match) or three (3) Business Days (in the case of an appeal arising out of a decision relating to a cup or play-off match) will be rejected unless the Party lodging the same can demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the Association that it was not reasonably practicable to lodge the Disciplinary Appeal Notice within the time limit;

44.1.3 where the Association is the Party appealing, no appeal fee will be payable. Where any other Party is appealing, the appropriate Appeals Panel Fee must accompany the Disciplinary Appeal Notice. The Appeals Panel Fee will be determined by the same categorisation of Members and others as used for determining the Request Fee under Rule 43.2.3 but the Appeals Panel Fee will be two (2) times that of the Request Fee;

44.1.4 any Disciplinary Appeal Notice which is not accompanied by the appropriate Appeals Panel Fee will be rejected by the Association and any incorrect fee will be returned and time will continue to run for the service of the Disciplinary Appeal Notice within the original seven (7) Business Day period stipulated in Rule 44.1.1;

44.1.5 the Association will within ten (10) Business Days of actual receipt of the Disciplinary Appeal Notice send a written notice to the Parties confirming the date, time and place of the Appeals Panel hearing. At any time prior to the Appeals Panel hearing any Party will have the right to waive their right to a private hearing but a hearing will take place unless all Parties agree in writing to waive their right to a private hearing;

44.1.6 subject to Rule 44.1.7, the Appeals Panel hearing will be a re-hearing of the case originally decided by the Disciplinary Panel and the Appeals Panel will decide the matter on the basis of the evidence provided to them. The same rules of attendance, disclosure of documents, presentation of evidence, conduct of the proceedings and rights of representation which applied in the original Disciplinary Panel hearing will apply in the Appeal Panel hearing;
44.1.7 where the appeal is by the Association against the penalty imposed by the Disciplinary Panel, the Appeals Panel hearing will confine itself to matters relevant to the appropriateness of the said penalty or sanction and not Disciplinary Panel’s finding of guilt;

44.1.8 where the Parties to the appeal have all waived their rights to a private hearing or where a Party does not attend the private hearing, the Appeals Panel will consider such information as it considers reasonably necessary to decide the matter including, without limitation, any written representations made for or on behalf of the Parties. The Appeals Panel will be entitled to seek such further information or evidence as it deems necessary;

44.1.9 whether or not a hearing takes place, the Appeals Panel will have absolute discretion whether to make a costs order for or against a Party to the proceedings; and

44.1.10 whether or not a hearing takes place, the Association will send written confirmation of the Appeals Panel’s findings to the Parties.

44.2 Where pursuant to Rule 39.3.1 the Appeals Panel is hearing a charge of an alleged breach of Rule 21, the procedures set out in Rule 43.1 shall apply and shall be read and construed, with the necessary adjustments, as if it referred to the actions and activities of the Appeals Panel.

45. The following will apply if a Party wishes to appeal to the Independent Arbitration Panel against a decision of the Appeals Panel:-

45.1 the Party wishing to appeal will give an Arbitration Notice to the Association not more than seven (7) Business Days (in the case of an appeal arising out of a decision relating to anything other than a cup or play-off match) or three (3) Business Days (in the case of an appeal arising out of a decision relating to a cup or play-off match) after the earlier of (a) the Appeals Panel announcing its decision at the time of any hearing or (b) receipt by the Party appealing of written notification of the Appeal Panel’s decision. The Arbitration Notice will be marked for the attention of the Chief Executive Officer, except where the Association is the Party appealing, in which case the Arbitration Notice will be deposited with the Association’s disciplinary department;

45.2 any Arbitration Notice lodged after seven (7) Business Days (in the case of an appeal arising out of a decision relating to anything other than a cup or play-off match) or three (3) Business Days (in the case of an appeal arising out of a decision relating to a cup or play-off match) will be rejected unless the Party lodging the same can demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the Association that it was not reasonably practicable to lodge the Arbitration Notice within the time limit;

45.3 where the Association is the Party appealing, no appeal fee will be payable. Where any other Party is appealing, the appropriate Arbitration Fee must accompany the Arbitration Notice. The Arbitration Fee will be determined by the same categorisation of Members and others as used for determining the Request Fee under Rule 43.2.3 but the Arbitration Fee will be five (5) times that of the Request Fee;

45.4 any Arbitration Notice which is not accompanied by the appropriate Arbitration Fee will be rejected by the Association and any incorrect fee will be returned and time will
continue to run for the service of the Arbitration Notice within the original seven (7) Business Day period stipulated in Rule 45.1;

45.5 the Association will within ten (10) Business Days of actual receipt of the Arbitration Notice send a written notice to the Parties (and where the Association is a Party, to the President who will accept service on behalf of the Association) confirming the identity and contact particulars of the independent sports arbitration service selected under Rule 42.3 to act as the Independent Arbitration Panel to decide the matter; and

45.6 the procedures to be followed by the Independent Arbitration Panel will be in accordance with the rules or regulations of the independent sports arbitration service selected under Rule 42.3 provided that nothing in such rules or regulations will supersede Rule 39.5 (right to a private hearing) or Rule 50 (application of the laws of England and Wales).

SECTION E3 - PENALTIES AND OTHER POWERS

46. Where:-

46.1 under any provision of Rule 39.2.1, the Disciplinary Panel finds the Party charged guilty of a Disciplinary Offence, the Disciplinary Panel shall apply the following penalties against the Party charged (or two or more concurrently):-

46.1.1 suspension from, or any involvement in Association Football either permanently or for an indefinite period or for a specific and stated period in accordance with the Association's Categories of Suspension Regulations;

46.1.2 a fine;

46.1.3 a censure;

46.1.4 the closure of a football ground either permanently or for an indefinite period or for a specific and stated period;

46.1.5 the guilty Party, if a club, to forfeit points awarded in one or more competitions;

46.1.6 the guilty Party, if a club, to be disqualified from playing in one or more competitions;

46.1.7 such other penalty as the Disciplinary Panel shall reasonably deem fit including, without limitation, (a) the forfeit of any trophy or other award or (b) a written undertaking from the guilty Party as to their future conduct;

46.1.8 the guilty Party, if a club, to make such publication in its match day programme, website or other publication medium as the Disciplinary Panel may direct; or

46.1.9 a transfer embargo preventing the guilty Party, if a club, from signing new Players during such period as the Association shall stipulate;

46.1.10 the guilty party, if a Club, to be relegated to the league and/or division stipulated by the Judicial Body.

46.2 under Rules 39.2.2 or 39.2.3 the Disciplinary Panel hears an appeal by a Subordinate or other third party against a decision of a Member, the Disciplinary Panel will have the power to grant or deny the appeal (in whole or in part) and the power to increase
or decrease the penalty or sanction (if any) imposed by the Member or substitute such other penalty or sanction as the Disciplinary Panel shall deem fit;

46.3 in the case of any proceedings under the jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Panel pursuant to Rules 39.2.4 to 39.2.7 inclusive, the Disciplinary Panel will have the power to make such order or ruling as it deems reasonable to resolve the dispute or difference;

46.4 in the case of proceedings under the jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Panel pursuant to Rule 39.2.8, the Disciplinary Panel will have the power to grant or refuse the application for Registration or to grant the application subject to such conditions as the Disciplinary Panel thinks fit in addition to any condition set out in the Agent Regulations; and

46.5 in the case of proceedings under the jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Panel pursuant to Rule 39.2.9, the Disciplinary Panel will have the power to (a) end the suspension with immediate effect, (b) uphold the terms of the suspension in full or (c) replace the suspension with such suspension as the Disciplinary Panel thinks fit in terms of (without limitation) scope, duration and any conditions to be attached to the replacement suspension.

47. Where the Appeals Panel hears an appeal pursuant to Rules 39.3.2, the Appeals Panel will have the power to order:-

47.1 where pursuant to Rule 39.3.2 the Association has appealed against the penalty imposed by the Disciplinary Panel under Rule 46.1, to increase or decrease the penalty imposed by the Disciplinary Panel or substitute such other penalty or sanction as was available to the original Disciplinary Panel as the Appeals Panel shall deem fit;

47.2 where the Appeals Panel hears an appeal by the Party charged with a Disciplinary Offence against a finding by the Disciplinary Panel under Rule 39.2.1, the Appeals Panel shall have the power to grant or deny the appeal in whole or in part and the power to increase or decrease the penalty imposed by the Disciplinary Panel or substitute such other penalty as was available to the original Disciplinary Panel as the Appeals Panel shall deem fit; and

47.3 where the Appeals Panel hears an appeal by a Party against any decision of the Disciplinary Panel under Rules 39.2.2 to 39.2.9 inclusive the Appeals Panel shall have the power to grant or deny the appeal in whole or in part and where the Party appealing appeals against any penalty or order or ruling imposed by the Disciplinary Panel, the Appeals Panel will have the right to increase or decrease the penalty imposed by the Disciplinary Panel or substitute such other order or ruling as the Appeals Panel shall deem fit;

48. Where a matter is referred to the Independent Arbitration Panel:-

48.1 the Independent Arbitration Panel will have the power to grant or deny any matter or appeal referred to it in whole or in part; and

48.2 the Independent Arbitration Panel will have the power to impose such penalty or other order or ruling as the Independent Arbitration Panel deems reasonable, including the power to increase or decrease any penalty previously imposed or substitute such other order or ruling as the Independent Arbitration Panel shall deem fit.

49. If a Party is in default for thirty-one (31) calendar days in failing to pay or carry out any penalty,
sanction, order or ruling made under the Reduced Penalty Regulations, the Regulations for Disciplinary Procedures Concerning Field Offences or by the Judicial Panels, (a) the Party will automatically be suspended from all Association Football related activity as defined in the Categories of Suspension Regulations, which for the purpose of this Rule 49 shall be read as applying to any person or other legal entity, until the penalty, sanction, order or ruling has been paid or complied with in full and (b) the Association shall have the right to refer the non-compliance back to the Panel which made the relevant decision (or in the case of non-compliance with a penalty imposed under the Reduced Penalty Regulations or the Regulations for Disciplinary Procedures Concerning Field Offences, to the Disciplinary Panel) and that Panel shall have the power to impose further penalties, sanctions, orders or rulings as a result of a non-compliance.

SECTION E4 - MISCELLANEOUS

50. The law governing the Reduced Penalty Regulations, the Regulations for Disciplinary Procedures Concerning Field Offences and any proceedings before the Judicial Bodies shall be the law of England and Wales. The standard of proof applied shall be the balance of probabilities except that under Rules 38.1.5 and 38.1.5(A) to (D) inclusive the standard of proof applied shall be whether the Disciplinary Offence has been established to the comfortable satisfaction of the Judicial Body.

51. The rules of service set out in Rule 144 shall apply to all notices and any other communications whatsoever sent in connection with the Reduced Penalty Regulations or any proceedings of a Judicial Panel.

52. These Rules are sufficient to enable the Association, Members and Subordinates to resolve all Disciplinary Offences and disputes or differences. The Parties must exhaust all procedures and processes of appeal in these Rules before taking legal proceedings in a court of law and then only as a last resort.

53. Notwithstanding any rule or regulation (in whatever form) of any Member or Subordinate to the contrary, it shall be a condition of the Association sanctioning any competition organised by the Member or any Subordinate that any appellant may lodge an appeal with the Disciplinary Panel (under Rules 39.2.2 or 39.2.3) against any decision of the Member or a Subordinate.

54. Any penalty imposed under the Reduced Penalty Regulations or any decision of the Judicial Panel shall be a decision of the Association and all Members will comply with the same and will ensure that all Subordinates comply with the same.

54(A) Without limiting the Association’s powers of publication under Rule 135, the Association shall be permitted (but not obliged) to publish summaries of the decisions of its Judicial Bodies in whatever form and forum it considers appropriate from time to time.

SECTION H - REGISTRATIONS, CONTRACTS AND TRANSFERS

55. All Players must be registered with the Association. Only such registered Players are eligible to participate in Official Matches.

56. Members and Subordinates shall use such systems and procedures set by the Association from time to time to comply with any provision of these Rules or the Regulations.

57. Deliberately left blank.
58. By the act of participating in the registration process, the Player agrees to abide by these Rules. Any Player not registered with the Association who appears for a Club in any Official Match shall be in breach of these Rules. Without prejudice to any measure required to rectify the sporting consequences of such an appearance, the Association may also impose sanctions on the Player and/or the Club.

59. Subject to Rule 62, a Player may only be registered with one (1) Club at a time.

60. Subject to Rule 63, Players may be registered with a maximum of three (3) Clubs during one (1) Playing Season but during this period the Player shall only be eligible to play Official Matches for two (2) Clubs.

61. Subject as set out below, Players may only be registered with the Association during either of the two (2) Professional Registration Periods. The exceptions are:-

61.1 a Professional Player whose contract has expired prior to the end of a Professional Registration Period may, at the discretion of the Association, be registered outside the Professional Registration Period, due consideration being given by the Association to the sporting integrity of the competitions under the jurisdiction of the Association;

61.2 a Professional Player whose contract has been terminated for just cause may, at the discretion of the Association, be registered outside the Professional Registration Periods, due consideration being given by the Association to the sporting integrity of the competitions under the jurisdiction of the Association;

61.3 an Amateur Player shall be entitled to be re-registered as a Professional Player with his/her existing Club outside the Professional Registration Periods if it is the Player’s first registration as a Professional Player in a Playing Season and the registration as an Amateur Player with that Club occurred during the Professional Registration Period; and

61.4 Amateur Players, playing in competitions under which only Amateur Players may participate, may be registered during the Amateur Registration Period.

62. Rule 59 shall not prevent:-

62.1 an Amateur Player being registered with a Sunday Club at the same time as being registered for a Club that is not a Sunday Club;

62.2 an Amateur Player being registered with a Veterans Club at the same time as being registered for a Club that is not a Veterans Club;

62.3 a Youth Player being registered with a Club to play in a Youth League at the same time as being registered with a different Club to play in a league which is not a Youth League PROVIDED THAT the Youth Player has terminated any registration with an Academy and/or any registration as a Junior Player;

62.4 a Junior Player being registered with a Club to play in a Junior League at the same time as being registered with a different Club at an Academy and where this occurs the Club at the Academy will retain the Player’s registration details on the player passport;

62.5 a Player with a disability (as recognised by the Association from time to time) being registered with a Club to play in a league for Players with a disability at the same time as being registered with a different Club to play in a league which is not a league for Players with a disability;
62.6 an Amateur Player being registered to play with a College Team at the same time as being registered with a Club to play for a team that is not a College Team.

and, for the avoidance of doubt, nothing in Rule 59 or any other part of the Rules shall prevent a Junior Player, upon reaching the age of sixteen (16), being registered with the same Club to play in a Junior League at the same time as being registered during the Amateur Registration Period to play in a non-Junior League for the remainder of the Playing Season in which the Junior Player reaches sixteen (16) PROVIDED THAT any registration of that Player with an Academy of a different Club has been cancelled.

63. Rule 60 shall not prevent:-

63.1 an Amateur Player being registered during a Playing Season with any number of Sunday Clubs as well as three (3) other non-Sunday Clubs or playing for any number of Sunday Clubs as well as for two (2) other non-Sunday Clubs during that period;

63.2 an Amateur Player being registered during a Playing Season with any number of Veteran Clubs as well as three (3) other non-Veteran Clubs or playing for any number of Veteran Clubs as well for two (2) other non-Veteran Clubs during that period;

63.3 a Youth Player being registered during a Playing Season with three (3) Clubs who play in a Youth League (and during that period play for any two (2) of them) and being registered during a Playing Season with up to three (3) different Clubs (and play during that period for two (2) of them) to play in any league which is not a Youth League PROVIDED THAT the Youth Player has terminated any registration as a Junior Player;

63.4 a Junior Player being registered during a Playing Season with three (3) Clubs who play in a Junior League (and during that period play for any two (2) of them) and being registered during a Playing Season with up to three (3) different Clubs (and play during that period for two (2) of them) to play at an Academy;

63.5 a Player with a disability (as recognised by the Association from time to time) being registered during a Playing Season with three (3) Clubs who play in a league for Players with a disability (and playing during that period for two (2) of them) and at the same time being registered during a Playing Season with up to three (3) different Clubs (and play during that period for two (2) of them) to play in any league which is not a league for Players with a disability; or

63.6 a Player whose registration has been transferred to the Association from another national football association playing for three (3) clubs in total in a Playing Season where the playing season of the other national football association overlaps with that of the Association;

63.7 an Amateur Player being registered during a Playing Season with any number of College Teams as well as three (3) Clubs who play Official Matches in leagues or competitions not involving College Teams or playing for any number of College Teams as well as for two (2) Clubs who play Official Matches in leagues or competitions not involving College Teams.

64. A Professional Player registered with the Association may not re-register with the Association as an Amateur Player until at least thirty (30) days after the Player's last match as a Professional and no compensation shall be payable to any former Club upon a Professional Player re-registering with the Association as an Amateur Player. However, if within thirty (30) months of having re-registered with the Association as an Amateur Player, the same Player is further
re-registered with the Association as a Professional Player, his/her new Club shall pay Training
Compensation, if applicable.

65. Any Professional Player who ends their playing career upon expiry of their contract, and
any Amateur Player who ceases to play Association Football, shall remain registered at the
Association in the name of the Player’s last Club for a period of thirty (30) months from the day
the Player made their last appearance for the Club in an Official Match.

66. The Association shall use it reasonable endeavours to provide the Club with which the Player
is registered with secure access to details of the Player’s registrations with the Association
since his/her twelfth (12th) birthday and if a birthday falls between Playing Seasons, the
details shall indicate the Club with which the Player was registered during the Playing Season
following his/her birthday.

67. The application for registration of a Player shall be made in accordance with the systems
and procedures prescribed by the Association from time to time. A Professional Player must
have a written contract with his/her Club in a form approved by the Association and the
application process for a Professional Player shall include providing the Association with a
copy of the Player’s contract. In deciding whether to accept the registration of a Professional
Player, the Association shall have discretion to take account of any contractual amendments
or additional agreements that have not been duly submitted to the Association. In any event,
the Professional Player’s written contract must require the Club to pay the Professional Player
no less than the national minimum wage (as set by HM Government from time to time) for
Professional Players twenty-four (24) and under and the national living wage (as set by HM
Government from time to time) for those twenty-five (25) and over.

68. All Players are subject to the FIFA Rule which stipulates that any player who is registered with
a club that is affiliated to one (1) national association shall not be eligible to be registered
with a club affiliated to a different national association unless an ITC has been issued by
the former association and received by the new association. Therefore, a Player formerly of
a club affiliated to a national association other than the Association shall not be eligible to
register with a club affiliated to the Association, and therefore not eligible to participate in
Official Matches for his/her new club, until an ITC has been issued by the former association
and received by the Association and the Association has entered and confirmed the Player
registration date. In accordance with the FIFA Rule, for a Professional the ITC shall be issued
via TMS. An ITC is not required for a Player under the age of ten (10) years.

69. Player Loans:-

69.1 a Professional Player may be loaned to another Club on the basis of a written
agreement between the Player and the Clubs concerned. Any such loan shall be
subject to the same Rules as applied to the transfer of Players, including the provisions
on Training Compensation and the “solidarity mechanism” payable under the FIFA
Rules;

69.2 except in the case of a loan involving two (2) Welsh Premier League Clubs, or two (2)
FAW Championship Clubs or a Welsh Premier League Club and an FAW Championship
Club (in any such case the Association shall have discretion to approve a loan of any
period it thinks fit), and subject to the recall provisions in Rule 69.5, the minimum
period for such a loan shall be the time between two (2) Professional Registration
Periods and, for the avoidance of doubt, any such loan shall count as a registration of
the Professional Player for the purposes of Rule 60;
69.3 except in the case of loans involving two (2) Welsh Premier League Clubs, or two (2) FAW Championship Clubs or a Welsh Premier League Club and an FAW Championship Club (in any such case the Association shall have discretion to approve any number of loans in a Playing Season (and any number at any one time) as it thinks fit), and subject to the recall provisions in Rule 69.5, a Club shall be entitled to have a maximum of eight (8) Professional Players on loan to it during a Playing Season but not more than four (4) at any one time and loans which become permanent transfers in the same Playing Season shall not count in the Club’s said annual quota for the Playing Season;

69.4 the Club that accepts a Professional Player on such a loan basis shall not be entitled to transfer the Player to another Club without the written authorisation of the Club that released the Player on loan and the written authorisation of the Player concerned; and

69.5 the Club making the loan of a Professional Player may recall the Player and cancel the loan in the following circumstances:-

69.5.1 in the case of a goalkeeper, any time seven (7) days after the start of the loan upon giving the other Club and the Association (in each case, using the systems and procedures set by the Association from time to time) a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours written notice; or

69.5.2 in the case of an outfield Player, any time twenty-eight (28) days after the start of the loan upon giving the other Club and the Association (in each case, using the systems and procedures set by the Association from time to time) a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours written notice.

70. A Player shall only play Official Matches for the Club at which he/she is registered at the Association PROVIDED THAT, with the permission of his/her Club or with the permission of the Association, a Professional may play in a benefit, testimonial or charity match for another Club, or up to two (2) trial matches for another Club in a Closed Friendly Match or Open Friendly Match, provided that such trial matches are not for the first team of the other Club in an Official Match and both trial matches are within a period of one (1) month from the date of such permission. Permission to participate in a trial match shall not be given twice in the same Playing Season for the same Professional to trial for the same Club.

71. Contracts of Professionals:-

71.1 the contract shall state the minimum length of the contract from its effective date. The maximum length of a contract shall be five (5) years but Players under the age of eighteen (18) years may not enter into a contract for longer than three (3) years. The Association will not register any Player with a contract referring to a longer period;

71.2 if an Intermediary is involved in the negotiation of a contract, he/she shall be named in that contract;

71.3 a Club approached by a Professional Player under contract with another club, or intending to approach or negotiate with such a Player to conclude a contract, must inform the Player’s current club in writing before entering into negotiations with him/her;

71.4 the validity of a Player’s contract may not be made subject to a successful medical examination and/or the grant of a work permit; and
71.5 Contractual clauses granting the Club additional time to pay to the Professional Player amounts that have fallen due under the terms of the contract (so-called “grace periods”) shall not be recognised save for grace periods contained in collective bargaining agreements. Contracts in existence on 1st June 2018 shall not be affected by this prohibition.

72. All payments made to Players (whether as salary, expenses or otherwise) must be made by his/her Club and recorded fully in the records of the Club and the Club shall pay all appropriate taxes and national insurance contributions in respect of such payments and keep appropriate records of such taxes and national insurance contributions.

72(A) (i) Clubs are required to comply with their financial obligations towards Players and other Clubs as per the terms stipulated in the contract signed with their Professional Players and in the transfer agreements.

(ii) The provisions of Article 12 bis (relating to “Overdue payables”) of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (being part of the FIFA Rules), are incorporated into these Rules with the necessary adjustments.

73. The Association will not accept an application for registration of a Player from a Club where a Judicial Body or a National League has imposed an embargo on the Club registering any new Players including, without limitation, any transfer of a Player to the Club.

74. The Association will cancel a Professional Player’s registration upon receiving evidence (using the systems and procedures set by the Association from time to time), reasonably satisfactory to the Association, that the Player’s contract with his/her Club has expired, terminated or been cancelled by mutual consent.

75. For the protection of Players under the age of eighteen (18), the provisions of Article 19 (relating to the international transfer of minors) and Article 19bis (relating to the registration and reporting of minors at academies) of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (being part of the FIFA Rules), are incorporated into these Rules, with the necessary adjustments.

76. No Club shall enter into a contract which enables any other party to that contract or any third party to acquire the ability to influence in employment and transfer-related matters, the Club’s independence, its policies or the performance of its teams.

77. No Club or Player shall enter into an agreement with a third party whereby a third party is entitled to participate, either in full or in part, in compensation payable in relation to the future transfer of a Player from one club to another, or being assigned any rights in relation to a future transfer or transfer compensation.

78. A Professional Player shall only be free to conclude a contract with another Club if his/her contract with his/her present Club has expired or is due to expire within six (6) months.

79. A Club approached by an Amateur Player, or intending to approach or negotiate with an Amateur Player for him/her to play for the Club:-

79.1 must (using the systems and procedures set out by the Association from time to time) give seven (7) days’ notice to the Club for which the Player was last known to have registered before negotiating with him/her;

79.2 such negotiations must cease after twenty-one (21) days from the date such notice is served;

79.3 the seven (7) days’ notice must expire within a Professional Registration Period or
Amateur Registration Period (as the case may be) applicable to the Club providing the notice;

79.4 no Club shall give such a notice for another Player of the same Club at the same time or within twenty-one (21) days of the notice relating to the first Player;

79.5 such Club shall not give another such notice to the same Club in respect of the same Player during the same Playing Season; and

79.6 except in the case of (a) the first change to a Player’s registration in an Amateur Registration Period or (b) a Player being re-registered with his/her immediately preceding Club, no Player shall be registered with another Club within twenty-eight (28) days of that Player being registered with his/her current Club.

79(A) An Amateur Player’s registration with the Association may be cancelled at any time. In such circumstance, the Amateur Player may only re-register with any Club during an Amateur Registration Period and only after at least twenty-eight (28) days have elapsed since the date of cancellation.

80. The Association will not accept an application for registration of a Player transferring from one Club to another unless both the Club with which the Player is currently registered and the proposed new Club have complied with the Association’s procedures current at that time and in any event the Player’s current Club must give notice of objection (using the systems and procedures set out by the Association from time to time) to the transfer in writing to the Association within the twenty one (21) day period for negotiations referred to in Rule 79.2 and if no such notice of objection is received within such period the Association will register the transfer (if the Association’s other procedural requirements have been complied with).

81. A Player must discharge all his/her due and payable financial and other liabilities to the Club with whom the Player is currently registered (or the Player’s last registered Club, if not currently registered) before registering for another Club and the Association may not accept an application for registration if it has notice of the Player having financial or other liabilities to the Club with whom the Player is currently registered (or the Player’s last registered Club, if not currently registered).

82. Any Club shall, in the case of misconduct by a Professional Player, or breach of the training or disciplinary rules or orders of the Club, have the right to suspend the said Player for a period not exceeding fourteen (14) days or impose a fine not exceeding two (2) weeks wages and any such penalty must commence no later than fourteen (14) days following written notification by the Club to the said Player. The Club must also notify the Association of any such penalty within two (2) Business Days of giving the notice to the said Player.

83. In a dispute arising out of a conflict between a Club and any of its Professional Players (including, without limitation, termination of the contract by either party), the parties shall refer the dispute to the Association, whose Judicial Bodies alone shall adjudicate exclusively on the dispute in accordance with Section E of these Rules.

84. A Player shall not enter into a contract with any Club until the end of the Academic Year in which he/she reaches sixteen (16) years of age.

85. Notwithstanding any other provision in these Rules, only Clubs in the Welsh Premier Women’s League shall be permitted to register no more than two (2) Players at any one time when they reach the age of fifteen (15) during that Playing Season to play in the Welsh Premier Women’s League and in the cup competition exclusive to Clubs in the Welsh Premier Women’s League, subject in all such cases:-
85.1 to compliance by the Club with the safeguarding rules and procedures for such Players as set by the Association from time to time (including, without limitation, the issue of any approval or other consent by the Association under the said rules and procedures); and
85.2 the Player ceasing to be registered as a Junior Player with any other Club; and
85.3 the registration taking place within the relevant Amateur or Professional Registration Period(s) (as the case may be).

In any case where the wording of this Rule 85 is in conflict with the wording of any other Rule, then the wording of this Rule 85 shall prevail.

85(A) Notwithstanding any other provision in these Rules, only Clubs who’s senior team compete in the Welsh Premier League shall be permitted to register no more than two (2) Players at any one time when they reach the age of fifteen (15) during that Playing Season to play in the Welsh Premier League, the Welsh Premier Development League and the Welsh Premier Football League Cup, subject in all such cases:-

85(A).1 to compliance by the Club with the safeguarding rules and procedures for such Players as set by the Association from time to time (including, without limitation, the issue of any approval or other consent by the Association under the said rules and procedures); and
85(A).2 the Player ceasing to be registered as a Junior Player with any other Club; and
85(A).3 the registration taking place within the relevant Amateur or Professional Registration Period(s) (as the case may be).

In any case where the wording of this Rule 85(A) is in conflict with the wording of any other Rule, then the wording of this Rule 85(A) shall prevail.

86. A Player aged under eighteen (18) shall not enter into a contract with any Club without the consent of his/her parent/guardian who must countersign the contract.

87. A Junior Player shall have the right to play in any Junior League within the boundary of the Area Association in which they principally reside but, unless such Area Association grants permission, such a Junior Player shall not play in a Junior League outside the boundary of that Area Association.

88. The following age groupings shall apply for the playing of Association Football by Junior Players:-

88.1 for those Junior Players in Academic Years one (1) to six (6), such age groupings as are set out from time to time by the Association in its Mini Football Regulations; and
88.2 for those Junior Players in Academic Years seven (7) to eleven (11) an age grouping shall be a minimum of one (1) Academic Year and a maximum of two (2) Academic Years, subject to the right of (a) an Area Association to extend in its area the scope and application of the Mini Football Regulations to cover Junior Players in Academic Year seven (7) and (b) the right of a Junior League (following at all times the guidance or instruction on the matter issued by the Association from time to time) to allow a Junior Player to play in a younger age grouping than otherwise applicable to his/her age.

89. The organisation of Association Football for Junior Players in Academic Years one (1) to six (6) (or seven (7) if the Area Association exercises its right under Rule 88) shall be played in
accordance with the Association’s Mini Football Regulations. Matches shall be played as friendly (non-competitive) games only except for matches involving Junior Players in Academic Year seven (7) where the games may be competitive. Clubs may also organise one (1) or two (2) day competitive tournaments which have been sanctioned by the Area Association in which the tournament is to be played and with the written consent of the Junior Player’s parents or guardians.

90. Any person involved in the organisation, operation or delivery of Association Football in Wales for Junior Players shall comply with the Association’s Welfare Policies and Procedures and Regulations.

91. A league playing at Recreational Level shall be entitled (but not obliged) to adopt the following provision into its own rule book in order to regulate first team Players playing in the reserve team of the same Club:-

“Where (i) a Club which plays in a National League and also has a reserve team playing in a league at Recreational Level and (ii) the Club’s first team (which plays in a National League) does not have a playing fixture on a given day, then on that given day no more than three (3) Players from the Club’s first team (which played in the Club’s last fixture in a National League) shall be allowed to play in the reserve team league fixture played on that given day.”

The above shall be the only provision permitted by the Association to appear in the rules of any organisation under the jurisdiction of the Association (whether as a Member or Subordinate) relating to the regulation of first team Players playing in the reserve team of the same Club.

SECTION I - LEAGUES AND COMPETITIONS

92. All Official Matches in all leagues or competitions of any description and at any level (including, without limitation, a charity or benefit league or competition) must be sanctioned by the Association.

93. The sanction for each league or competition must be renewed annually by the Association.

94. Subject to Rule 97, no league or competition will be sanctioned by the Association unless each team taking part in such league or competition fields a side consisting of eleven (11) players, from which number there shall be no deviation, unless it be occasioned through injury or some such other and proper cause during the course of any game in such league or competition.

95. Application for sanction of a league or competition shall be made, and thereafter renewed annually, on or before 20th July immediately preceding the Playing Season during which Playing Season the league or competition is intended to be played. Such application must be made in every case using the systems and procedures set out by the Association from time to time. Every such application must be accompanied by two copies of the rules of the league or competition concerned. Every such application must also be accompanied by a list of the names of all the clubs which have consented to join and take part in the league or competition. All such leagues or competitions shall observe the Rules and Regulations. All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

96. All applications for sanction under Rule 92 shall be made direct to the Association. All applications for annual renewal of the sanction under Rule 93 by National Leagues shall be made direct to the Association. All other applications for annual renewal of the sanction
under Rule 73 shall, in the first instance, be lodged with the Area Association in which the league or competition is situated. In these cases, the Area Association will vet the application for renewal, and the supporting documents referred to in Rule 95, and will forward the application to the Association with its recommendation for acceptance or rejection but the final decision on the application will rest solely with the Association.

97. Notwithstanding anything contained in Rule 95 or in any other Rule, the Association may give permission for small-sided leagues or competitions (including, without limitation, futsal) to be played, provided that:-

97.1 the league or competition has been sanctioned by the Association in accordance with the requirements of Rules 92 or 93. Clubs seeking affiliation to an Area Association in order to participate in a small side league or competition must pay the Area Association an affiliation fee;

97.2 in the case of single matches, and one-day competitions (e.g. garden fetes or work’s sports’ days), they must be sanctioned by the Association in accordance with the requirements of Rule 92;

97.3 the rules governing the eligibility and conduct of the players in the sanctioned match or competition shall be administered by the management committee of the sanctioned game or competition subject always to the authority of the Association and shall be in conformity with the Rules and Regulations;

97.4 the playing of non-sanctioned matches arranged by private individuals for speculative purposes shall not be permitted;

97.5 for small side leagues or competitions played for charitable objectives a statement of accounts of the event shall be supplied to the relevant Area Association (or Area Associations if the league or competition falls within the geographical area of more than one Area Association) within twenty-one days (21) of the last match in the event; and

97.6 the laws applicable to the playing of small-side games shall be as set by the Association from time to time.

98. No Area Association, nor National League, nor Qualifying Club or Subordinate or other club under the jurisdiction of the Association, nor player, nor referee or any other body or individual in any way within the jurisdiction of this Association, shall play in or take part in any league or competition (including, without limitation, charity or benefit league or competition) within the boundaries of Wales unless such league or competition has been sanctioned by the Association.

99. No Area Association, nor National League, nor Qualifying Club or Subordinate or other club under the jurisdiction of the Association, nor player, nor referee or any other body or individual in any way within the jurisdiction of this Association, shall play, or take part in any league or competition (including, without limitation, charity or benefit league or competition) outside the boundaries of Wales unless such participation shall have first been sanctioned by the Association. The application for such sanction shall be made, and renewed annually, on or before 1st April immediately preceding the Playing Season in which the said applicant wishes to participate in the said league or competition. Such application must be made in every case using the systems and procedures set out by the Association from time to time.

100. In all leagues or competitions sanctioned by this Association, the Association shall have the right, as a condition of such sanction, to co-opt one Councillor on to the management committee of such league or competition.
101. Any league or competition of whatever kind within the jurisdiction of this Association shall only be played within a geographical area approved and sanctioned by this Association.

102. Clubs which enter for a cup competition organised by the Association, must play their ties in any round of such competition on or before the Conference Date in respect of such round. Clubs may make arrangements mutually to play their ties in any such round concerned prior to the relevant Conference Date for that round. Any club which fails to play its tie in any such round on or before the said Conference Date shall be automatically struck out of the competition concerned. All Conference Dates shall be notified by this Association to all Area Associations and to all clubs concerned prior to the start of the playing season in question by posting such Conference Dates on the Association’s website.

103. Any club which is within the jurisdiction of the Association and which has received sanction from this Association to compete in a league or competition outside the boundaries of Wales, shall carry out in full its obligations to those Welsh Association Football competitions of which it may be expected reasonably to take part, as defined by the Association from time to time.

104. The name of any sponsor or the donor of a cup or trophy or any other person may form part of the title of a league or competition subject to the prior written approval of the Association.

105. Deliberately left blank.

106. Subject to Rule 107 and subject to any special sanction granted by the Association under this Rule, no league or competition which has been played during the Playing Season shall be allowed extended time outside the Playing Season to play all matches in the league or competition, including, without limitation, any league or competition played for charitable purposes. The Association may specially sanction a match to be played after the end of the Playing Season if the match is arranged between two distinct clubs, or leagues, or Area Associations or between any two of them. In granting any such sanction, the Association shall be entitled to stipulate to whom the whole or any part of the income generated from any such match is to be paid including, without limitation, payment to a registered charity nominated by the Association.

107. Notwithstanding anything contained in these Rules:-

107.1 semi-final or final matches of cup competitions of the Association or Area Associations may be played not later than Saturday or Sunday following the end of the Playing Season in any year;

107.2 small sided leagues or competitions as specified in Rule 97 may be played at any time, including outside the Playing Season; and

107.3 matches may be played for charity, or some other object approved by the Association, not later than the Saturday or Sunday following the end of the Playing Season and application for permission to play any such match must be made in writing and be forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer not later than the 1st April in the year concerned.

SECTION J - PRACTICE MATCHES

108. Subject at all times to the overriding responsibility of all Clubs to fulfil their obligations to participate in Official Matches, Clubs shall be permitted to play Closed Friendly Matches at any time, whether inside or outside the Playing Season.

109. Clubs shall not require permission to play Closed Friendly Matches; there shall be no requirement to play the match in accordance with the Laws of the Game or for the match to be officiated by a qualified and registered referee and the Association's Disciplinary Procedures
Concerning Field Offences Regulations shall not apply to Closed Friendly Matches. The result or outcome of the Closed Friendly Match shall not be published by the Clubs.

110. Subject at all times to the overriding responsibility of all Clubs to fulfil their obligations to participate in Official Matches and subject to the prior permission of the Association or the relevant Area Association (as the case may be), Clubs shall be permitted to play Open Friendly Matches at any time, whether inside or outside the Playing Season. For the avoidance of doubt, the prior permission of the Association or relevant Area Association (as the case may be) must be obtained where a Club wishes to play such an Open Friendly Match as an away game at a club not under the jurisdiction of the Association.

111. Where the proposed Open Friendly Match is to be played at a Club under the jurisdiction of the Association, that Club shall make the application for permission to play the Open Friendly Match. The application must state whether a match-agent or other third party or intermediary has had, or will have, any involvement in the organisation of the match. Qualifying Clubs shall apply to the Association for permission. All other Clubs shall apply to their Area Association. Any such application by a Club to an Area Association which involves playing a team from another national football association shall be vetted by the Area Association and forwarded to the Association and the Association will decide whether to grant permission.

112. An Open Friendly Match must be officiated by a qualified and registered referee and the Association’s Disciplinary Procedures Concerning Field Offences Regulations shall apply to Open Friendly Matches. The result of an Open Friendly Match shall be published by the Clubs.

112(A) A Club playing an Open Friendly Match may play a Trialist in such match.

112(B) Tours outside Wales:

112(B.1) No Member or other person or entity subject to the jurisdiction of the Association shall take Players on tour to England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, or to any country outside the United Kingdom under a designation that expressly or impliedly suggests such Players are representing the Association in any way.

112(B.2) All intended tours of Players outside Wales must first receive the written permission of the Association. All applications for such permission by Qualifying Clubs, National Leagues or Area Associations shall be made direct to the Association. All other applications for permission shall, in the first instance, be lodged with the Area Association in which the organiser is situated and in these cases the Area Association will vet the application and will forward the application to the Association with its recommendation for acceptance or rejection but the final decision on the application will rest solely with the Association.

SECTION K - DELIBERATELY LEFT BLANK

SECTION L - REFEREES

113. The Association shall compile and keep a record of referees for use of its Members and all other bodies within its jurisdiction. The secretary of each Area Association shall, on or before 1st August in each year, give the Association (using the systems and procedures set out by the Association from time to time) the grade, classification or category of each referee affiliated to that Area Association at the commencement of the current Playing Season.

114. On the field of play, any decision by the referee in charge of any match on questions of fact
or the interpretation of the Laws of the Game shall be final and conclusive. The Disciplinary Procedures Concerning Field Offences Regulations shall stipulate the penalties automatically imposed on Players in consequence of any offence committed during a match, as reported by the referee of that match. The said Regulations shall also specify any rights of appeal which may be permitted by the Association from time to time against any such automatically imposed penalty. In addition, the Association shall always have the right to bring a charge of a Disciplinary Offence against a Player where it receives evidence of misconduct during a match where the referee of the match confirms to the Association that he/she did not witness the said event.

115. When a referee is appointed for any match by the Association, an Area Association or the organisers of a competition sanctioned by the Association, the referee shall, using the systems and procedures set out by the Association from time to time, within three (3) days of receipt by him/her of the notice of appointment, inform such appointing body whether he/she accepts or declines the appointment. Unless directed by the Association, having accepted an appointment to referee a match, the referee shall not cancel such engagement in order to officiate in some other match.

116. It shall be a breach of these Rules, if any referee fails to report any instance of misconduct during or relating to a match which comes to his/her notice, and if it is proved to the satisfaction of the Association that such instance of misconduct was of a nature that required reporting.

117. No match official may serve on a committee of any Area Association or any league or other competition of whatever kind if he/she officiates as a match official within the jurisdiction of such Area Association, league or competition.

118. The promotion and demotion of referees and assistant referees to and from the National Leagues, together with the nomination of referees and assistant referees to the annual FIFA International Referee and FIFA International Assistant Referee lists, shall be at the sole discretion of the Association.

SECTION M - SUBSCRIPTIONS

119. The membership subscription for a Member shall be:-

119.1 £53.00 per annum plus VAT for each Qualifying Club;
119.2 £355.00 per annum plus VAT for each Area Association; and
119.3 £355.00 per annum plus VAT for each National League.

120. The annual membership subscription for an Associate Member shall be half that for a Qualifying Club or National League depending on whether the Associate Member is a club or league. If the Associate Member is a person or entity other than a club or league, the annual membership subscription shall be half that for an Area Association.

121. Subscription fees shall be paid on or before 1st August in each year. Failure to do so will result in the automatic suspension of all membership rights of the Member or Associate Member but nothing in this Rule shall affect the ability of the Member or Associate Member to play, organise or administer football unless suspension is ordered by a Judicial Body. Resumption of membership rights shall be at the Director’s discretion following payment.
SECTION N - INFORMATION

122. By 1st August in each year, each Qualifying Club shall supply the Association with the following information using the systems and procedures set by the Association from time to time:

122.1 the name and address of the secretary of the Qualifying Club concerned;
122.2 a full and accurate description of the Qualifying Club’s distinguishing colours or costume;
122.3 the situation and address of the Qualifying Club’s ground;
122.4 whether the said ground is public or private; and
122.5 such further or other information as the Association at any time may require.

123. Using the systems and procedures set by the Association from time to time, the secretary of each Qualifying Club shall inform the Association whenever any change in any of the matters set out in Rule 122 occurs.

124. The secretary of each Area Association shall on or before 1st October in each year give the Association (using the systems and procedures set out by the Association from time to time), a list of all clubs affiliated to, or in membership of, the Area Association together with the names and addresses of the secretaries of such clubs. All clubs affiliated to an Area Association may take part in leagues or competitions sanctioned by the Association.

125. Each Qualifying Club shall (using the systems and procedures set out by the Association from time to time) send annually to the Association a profit and loss account and a balance sheet for the season immediately past. Such profit and loss account and balance sheet shall be sent to the Association not later than 1st August in any year. Such profit and loss account and balance sheet must be signed by the chairman and by the honorary treasurer or treasurer and by the secretary of, and on behalf of, the Qualifying Club. A Qualifying Club in default of any provision of this Rule shall pay the Association a sum equivalent to the fee payable by the Qualifying Club (less VAT) under the relevant provision of Rule 43.2.3 in respect of each such default.

125(A) No later than 1st August, each Qualifying Club shall (using the systems and procedures set out by the Association from time to time) file annually with the Association a copy of the documentation setting out its current legal structure and governance or, if there has been no change in such documentation since it was last filed with the Association, confirmation that the said documentation is current. A Qualifying Club in default of any provision of this Rule shall pay the Association a sum equivalent to the fee payable by the Qualifying Club (less VAT) under the relevant provision Rule 43.2.3 in respect of each such default.

125(B) Each Member and every Subordinate of that Member shall respond promptly to any request for information (including, without limitation, a request for the production of documentation) reasonably made by the Association from time to time.

126. The secretary of every National League shall (using the systems and procedures set out by the Association from time to time) send to the Association not later than 1st August in any year a profit and loss account and a balance sheet, which shall have been duly audited, and a list of all the Qualifying Clubs which have competed in the said National League. A National League in default of any provision of this Rule shall pay the Association a sum equivalent to the fee payable by the National League (less VAT) under relevant provision of Rule 43.2.3 in respect of each such default.
127. Each Area Association shall (using the systems and procedures set out by the Association from time to time) send annually to the Association a profit and loss account and a balance sheet for the season immediately past, which shall have been duly audited. Such profit and loss account and balance sheet shall be sent to the Association not later than 1st August in any year. Such profit and loss account and balance sheet must be signed by the chairman and by the honorary treasurer or treasurer and by the secretary of, and on behalf of, the Area Association. An Area Association in default of any provision of this Rule shall pay the Association a sum equivalent to the fee payable by the Area Association (less VAT) under the relevant provision of Rule 43.2.3 in respect of each such default.

SECTION O - MISCELLANEOUS

128. Deliberately left blank.

129. In all matches in which the Association is represented, the Players representing the Association shall be selected by the appropriate team manager at that time appointed. No Councillor, being a director or official of any particular club, may attempt to influence the selection of a Player to play in any such match.

130. Any Player selected to represent the Association in any match arranged by the Association, shall comply with the arrangements of the Association for the playing of such match and shall attend such match unless the Player can show good and sufficient cause for such non-compliance or non-attendance. What constitutes “good and sufficient cause” in any particular case shall be determined by the Association in its absolute discretion. No club or official shall encourage or instigate or induce or connive at any breach by any Player of any of the provisions of this Rule or any Rule or Regulation.

131. Deliberately left blank.

132. Each Councillor shall be furnished with a special ticket, which shall not be transferable. All clubs shall admit the holder of such special ticket to their grounds and stands upon production by the holder of such special ticket without requiring any other or further authority, except on specified occasions which shall be determined by the Association from time to time.

133. The Association shall have first claim to the use of all Association Football grounds, offices and facilities of clubs within the jurisdiction of the Association. When the Association uses such ground, the Association shall hold sole rights in respect of television and broadcasting and in respect of ground advertising including, without limitation, advertising boards around the pitch and the name or designation applied to the ground for the purpose of the match organised by the Association. From each representative match staged at such a ground the club on whose ground the match is played shall provide the Association, within twenty-one (21) calendar days of the match, with a detailed statement of account of the gross income and expenditure received and incurred in staging the match. If the said statement is not supplied within twenty-one (21) calendar days, the Association shall have the power to impose a fine for each week or part of a week the statement (and/or any payment due to the Association) is late. No provision of this Rule shall apply to the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff.

134. A Qualifying Club’s membership of the Association is personal to such member and shall not be transferrable except on the incorporation, or de-incorporation, of the member. Such a transfer on incorporation or de-incorporation shall require the consent of the Association and in the application for such consent, the proposed transferee must satisfy the Association’s requirements as specified from time to time including, without limitation, evidence that the
The proposed transferee has accepted responsibility for all Football Related Liabilities of the Qualifying Club and has satisfied the Association that such liabilities will be discharged fully and within a reasonable time.

135. The Association shall be entitled to publish in the public press, or in any other manner which to it shall seem fit, the reports of its proceedings, act or resolutions or any part thereof, without having any regard as to whether such publication shall or shall not reflect upon the character or conduct of any Member or any other party involved at the time in question within the jurisdiction of the Association. Every such party shall be deemed hereby to have assented to any such said publication.

136. Any Qualifying Club or any other club within the jurisdiction of the Association shall play and otherwise fulfil all fixtures with other clubs in the leagues or competitions in which it is entered in any Playing Season.

137. No football match in which Players of the opposite sex are involved shall be played on any football ground within the jurisdiction of the Association except matches involving Players of the opposite sex up to and including those in Academic Year 11 and for the avoidance of doubt if a Player reaches the age of sixteen (16) during the Playing Season the Player will remain eligible to play in mixed gender matches until the end of that Playing Season PROVIDED THAT nothing in this Rule shall prevent (a) the playing of football matches between Players with a disability at any age where Players of the opposite sex are involved so long as, in the case of matches for those Players with a disability who have completed Academic Year 11, the matches take place in leagues organised exclusively for Players with a disability, (b) Players of the opposite sex of any age participating in Walking Football or (c) the playing of Closed Friendly Matches between:-

i. a team comprised exclusively of Junior Players from the Wales Performance Squad and a male team comprised exclusively of Junior Players (in each case including Players who have reached the age of sixteen (16) during the Playing Season); and

ii. a team comprised exclusively of non-Junior Players in the Wales Performance Squad and a male team comprised exclusively of non-Junior Players.

138. The Directors shall:-

138.1 Determine the date of each Playing Season and unless otherwise permitted under these Rules, no Official Matches are permitted to be played during the remainder of the year, which period shall be known as the close season.

138.2 Determine the dates of each Professional Registration Period. In the case of Professional Players and Amateur Players registered with a Club playing in competitions in the English pyramid system, the Directors shall adopt as the Professional Registration Periods the same periods as prescribed by the English Football Association for clubs playing in such competitions. In the case of all other Professional and Amateur Players, the first Professional Registration Period shall begin at the completion of the Playing Season and shall not exceed twelve (12) weeks. The second Professional Registration Period shall normally occur in the middle of the Playing Season and shall not exceed four (4) weeks. These dates shall be entered into TMS at least twelve (12) months before they come into force. Unless otherwise permitted under these Rules, no Professional or Amateur Player registrations will be accepted by the Association at any other time during the year.
138.3 Determine the dates (if any) of the Amateur Registration Period. In the case of Amateur Players registered with a Club playing in competitions in the English pyramid system (other than those to whom the Professional Registration Periods apply under Rule 138.2), the Directors shall adopt as the Amateur Registration Period the period (if any) as prescribed by the English Football Association for clubs playing in such competitions. In the case of all other Amateur Players (other than those to whom the above provisions in this Rule 138.3 apply or to whom Rule 138.2 apply), the determination shall be at the discretion of the Directors, giving due consideration to the sporting integrity of the relevant competitions. Unless otherwise permitted under these Rules, no applications to register such an Amateur Player to play in amateur only competitions under the jurisdiction of the Association will be accepted by the Association at any other time during the year.

139. No Player or registered referee registered with or affiliated to or in membership of any Area Association, National League or Qualifying Club shall be allowed to serve as a Director.

140. No Player registered with or affiliated to or in membership of an Area Association, National League or Qualifying Club shall serve on the committee of such Area Association or National League.

141. Deliberately left blank.

142. No person shall be the secretary of two or more clubs at the same time.

143. Throughout these Rules the amount payable by the payee including, without limitation, subscriptions or fees or as otherwise required by law, shall be the amount stated plus the appropriate sum required in respect of VAT as applicable at that time.

144. Notices:-

144.1 Any communication or notice given by or to the Association under these Rules or the Regulations using any online system or procedure prescribed by the Association from time to time shall be validly posted, uploaded, submitted or otherwise given if made or undertaken in the manner stipulated by the said online system or procedure and shall be deemed delivered as stated in the COMET Regulations when so given.

144.2 Any other notice or other communication given by or to the Association under these Rules or the Regulations (i.e. not covered by Rule 144.1) shall be in writing and signed by or on behalf of the party giving it and shall be served by delivering it personally or sending it by pre-paid first-class post or facsimile transmission or by email to the address and for the attention of the relevant party set out in Rule 144.5. In the case of email service, the terms of Rule 144.3 apply. In the case of the other forms of service such notice or communication shall, subject to Rule 144.4, be deemed to have been received:-

144.2.1 if delivered personally, at the time of delivery;

144.2.2 in the case of pre-paid first-class post, twenty-four (24) hours from the date of posting; and

144.2.3 in the case of facsimile transmission, at the time of transmission.

144.3 Any notice or other communication given to the Association pursuant to Rule 144.2 under these Rules or the Regulations by email shall be validly served if the relevant notification or communication is sent as an attachment to an email correctly sent to
For the avoidance of doubt, the said notice or communication to the Association must be sent as an attachment and an email alone (even if containing the relevant information) will not constitute valid service under Rule 144. Any notice or communication given by or to the Association shall, subject to Rule 144.4, be deemed to have been received at the time of transmission.

144.4 In respect of any notice or other communication given by or to the Association pursuant to Rule 144.2, if deemed receipt occurs before 9.00am on a Business Day the notice or communication shall be deemed to have been received at 9.00am on that day and if deemed receipt occurs after 4.30pm on a Business Day, or on a day which is not a Business Day, the notice shall be deemed to have been received at 9.00am on the next Business Day.

144.5 Any notice or other communication to be served on the Association pursuant to Rule 144.2 shall be addressed to the Association at 11/12 Neptune Court, Vanguard Way, Cardiff CF24 5PJ or by facsimile to such number or numbers issued for such purpose by the Association from time to time or by email to such email address issued for such purpose by the Association from time to time. In all such cases, the notice or communication shall be marked for the attention of the Chief Executive Officer. Any such notice or other communication served by the Association on a Member or other party shall be served on the address or facsimile number or email address of that Member or other party last known to the Association. The Association shall notify Members in writing from time to time of any change to its address or facsimile number or email address and each Member shall notify the Association in writing of any change in the Member’s address or facsimile number or email address (using the systems and procedures set by the Association from time to time).

144.6 In proving service pursuant to Rule 144.2 it shall be sufficient to (a) prove that the envelope containing such notice or other communication was addressed to the address of the relevant party set out or referred to in Rule 144.5 and delivered either to that address or into the custody of the postal authorities as a pre-paid first class letter or (b) that the notice or other communication was transmitted by facsimile to the facsimile number of the relevant party set out or referred to in Rule 144.5 or (c) the notice or other communication was sent by email to the email address referred to in Rule 144.5.

144.7 For the purpose of any time limit under these Rules or the Regulations, the date of receipt (or deemed receipt under any part of this Rule 144) of the decision, notice or other relevant correspondence (as the case may be), shall count as the first day of such time limit."

145. The practice of kicking-off matches by persons other than the players competing in the match is prohibited except in charity matches.

146. Any internal disputes between the Association, its Members and Subordinates that do not fall under the jurisdiction of its Judicial Bodies shall be referred by the Association to independent arbitration under the rules and procedures of any independent arbitration services based in England and Wales (and which applies the law of England and Wales) selected by the Chief Executive Officer in his/her absolute discretion PROVIDED THAT the provisions of this Rule shall not apply to the matters outside the jurisdiction of the Judicial Bodies referred to in Rule 37.2.

147. Jurisdiction:-

147.1 These Rules and the Regulations and any dispute or claim arising out of or in
connection with them shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of England and Wales.

147.2 The Association, its Members and Subordinates will not take any dispute to a court of law unless specifically provided for in the Rules or Regulations or FIFA Rules or UEFA Rules. Any dispute shall be submitted to the exclusive jurisdiction of FIFA, UEFA or the Association.

147.3 The Association shall have jurisdiction on internal national disputes, namely disputes between parties under the jurisdiction of the Association. FIFA shall have jurisdiction on international disputes, namely disputes between parties belonging to different associations and/or international confederations.

147.4 If as permitted in these Rules or the Regulations a dispute is taken to a court of law, the parties to the dispute irrevocably agree that the courts of England and Wales shall have exclusive jurisdiction to hear such dispute.

148. CAS:-

148.1 The Association, its Members and Subordinates will recognise the jurisdiction of the CAS as specified in the relevant provisions of the FIFA and UEFA Rules.

148.2 The Association shall ensure its full compliance and that of its Members and Subordinates with any final decision passed by a FIFA body or CAS.

149(A) The licensing of Qualifying Clubs and all other Clubs under the jurisdiction of the Association to play in UEFA leagues or competitions shall be governed, sanctioned and controlled as set out, or referred to, in the Association's UEFA Club Licensing and Financial Fair Play Regulations.

149(B) The licensing of Qualifying Clubs and all other Clubs under the jurisdiction of the Association to play in domestic leagues or competitions shall be governed, sanctioned and controlled as set out, or referred to, in the Association's Regulations for the Pyramid League System including, without limitation, the FAW Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations and the FAW Tier 2 Ground Compliance Regulations.

150. International matches:-

150.1 The authority for organising international matches and competitions between teams of national associations or international matches between leagues or club teams lies solely with FIFA. No such match or competition shall take place without the prior permission of the FIFA Executive Committee. In addition, permission from the relevant international confederation may be required in accordance with the FIFA Rules.

150.2 The Association is bound to comply with the international match calendar compiled by FIFA.

150.3 It is mandatory for Clubs to release Players to the representative teams of the country for which the Player is eligible to play on the basis of his/her nationality (including, without limitation, releasing Players to the representative teams of the Association) if they are called upon by a country's association to do so for matches on dates listed in the coordinated international match calendar of FIFA. Any agreement between a Player and Club to the contrary is prohibited.

150.4 It is mandatory for Futsal clubs to release Futsal players to the representative teams of the country for which the Futsal player is eligible to play on the basis of his/her
nationality (including, without limitation, releasing Futsal players to the representative teams of the Association) if they are called upon by a country’s association to do so for matches on dates listed in the coordinated international match calendar of FIFA. Any agreement between a Futsal player and a Futsal club to the contrary is prohibited.

151. The Association shall not play matches or make sporting contacts with national associations that are not members of FIFA or with provisional members of an international confederation, in either case without the approval of FIFA.

152. Except in cup competitions, no Area Association or league (including, without limitation, any National League) shall have a more stringent rule than any Rule or Regulation.

153. Competitions for Players with a disability who are over the age of eight (8) years on the 1st September in any Playing Season shall be governed, sanctioned and controlled as set out in the Regulations for Disability Football in Wales.

154. The preamble to these Rules, incorporating the definitions and interpretation provisions form part of the Rules and the Rules shall be read and construed in accordance with the same.
Standing Orders & Rules of Procedure
04a Standing Orders & Rules of Procedure

STANDING ORDERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (“Directors”) OF FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES LIMITED (“Association”)

Made pursuant to Article 7.2 of the Association’s articles of association (“Articles”)

FREQUENCY OF DIRECTORS’ MEETINGS

1. Meetings of the Directors shall normally be held at monthly intervals and, unless agreed by the Directors to the contrary, no less frequently than ten (10) times per calendar year from 2020 onwards. Additional meetings may be arranged in accordance with the Articles.

NOTICE

2. (a) Any Director wishing to propose a matter for inclusion on the agenda of a Directors’ meeting shall give notice in writing, signed by the Director, at least fourteen (14) clear days before the next Directors’ meeting, to the chair of the Directors (“Chair”) and the Chief Executive Officer of the Association. Save for such matters, the matters for inclusion on the agenda for each meeting shall be as stipulated by the Chair, in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer.

(b) Seven (7) clear days at least before a Directors’ meeting, a notice of the meeting, specifying the date, time, venue and business proposed to be transacted, shall be given to every Director, using the systems and procedures set by the Association from time to time.

(c) The Chief Executive Officer shall set out in the notice of every Directors’ meeting all matters stipulated by the Chair.

(d) No matter which does not appear on the agenda of the Directors’ meeting shall be considered at the Directors’ meeting unless it is certified as being a matter of urgency by the Chair of the meeting and at least two-thirds of the Directors present at the time of the vote give their consent.
CHAIR

3. The provisions of Article 13 of the Articles shall apply in relation to the chairing of each Directors’ meeting. Any power or duty of the Chair in relation to the conduct of the Directors’ meeting may be exercised by the person chairing the meeting.

PARTICIPATION AND QUORUM

4. The provisions of Articles 11 and 12 of the Articles shall apply in relation to participation in, and the quorum for, any Directors’ Meeting.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

5. The order of business at every Directors’ meeting shall be:

(a) To choose a person to chair if the Independent Chair (as defined in the Articles) and other persons specified in Article 13 of the Articles are all absent.

(b) To approve (as amended, if necessary) as a correct record the minutes of the last Directors’ meeting.

(c) To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the last Directors’ meeting.

(d) To dispose of matters (if any) remaining from the last Directors’ meeting.

(e) To receive the minutes of the meetings of committees of the Directors (“Committees”) (which shall include the minutes of any meeting of a sub-committee, panel, board or working group (“Sub-Committee”) of a Committee referred to in the Committee’s minutes) and to consider, as the Directors think fit, any matter referred to in or arising out of such Committee minutes.

(f) To consider all other matters in the order in which they appear on the agenda of the Directors’ meeting.

(g) The Chair of the Directors’ meeting shall have the power at any time to vary the foregoing order of business.

MINUTES

6. (a) When a vote of the Directors is taken on any matter during a Directors’ meeting, a record shall be kept of the number of abstentions, the votes for or against the motion and any casting vote of the Chair (cast in accordance with Article 14 of the Articles). This information shall be recorded in the minutes.

(b) No discussion shall take place upon the Directors’ meeting minutes, except upon their accuracy, and any question of their accuracy shall be raised by motion (of which at least 24 hours’ notice in writing shall have been given to the Chair and the Chief Executive Officer). If no such question is raised or, if it is raised, then as soon as it has been disposed of, the minutes shall stand as a correct record.

(c) The minutes of all Directors’ and Committee meetings shall be sent to each Director, together with the notice calling the next Directors’ meeting, using the systems and procedures set by the Association from time to time.
DISORDERLY CONDUCT

7. (a) It shall be the duty of the Chair to preserve order at Directors’ meetings. Directors shall show respect for the Chair at all times.

(b) If any Director in the opinion of the Chair, notified to the Directors’ meeting, misconducts him or herself by disregarding the ruling of the Chair or by behaving irregularly, improperly, offensively or by obstructing the business of the Directors, the Chair or any other Director may move a motion that “The Director named be not further heard for the remainder of the meeting” and, if seconded, shall be put and determined without discussion.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

8. Any motion for the suspension of Standing Orders collectively (or any specific Standing Order or Standing Orders) at a Directors’ meeting shall not be carried unless supported by at least two-thirds of the Directors present, and eligible to vote, at the time of the vote.

COMMITTEES OF THE DIRECTORS

9. The Committees of the Directors at the date of the adoption of these Standing Orders shall be:-
   1. Officers Committee;
   2. International Game Board;
   3. National League Board;
   4. National Cup Board;
   5. Community Game Board;
   6. Referees Committee;
   7. Scrutiny Committee; and
   8. Disciplinary Panel Chairmen’s Committee.

10. The Directors may from time to time create other Committees.

11. Each Committee may from time to time create Sub-Committees to assist in its work, subject in each case to the prior approval of the Directors. The Directors’ approval will include, without limitation, any requirement for a maximum or minimum number of members of a Sub-Committee; any requirement for a quorum for meetings of the Sub-Committee and the appointment of any chair or deputy chair of the Sub-Committee. Persons who are not Members of the Council (as defined in the Articles) may be appointed to a Sub-Committee. A Sub-Committee will report and/or make recommendations to its appointing Committee but shall not have plenary powers.

12. Each Committee shall be composed of those Members of the Council appointed by the Council in accordance with the Rules and otherwise as set out below in these Standing Orders SAVE THAT the members of the Referees Committee shall be appointed in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Organisation of Refereeing (“FIFA Refereeing Regulations”).
13. The Directors shall have the right to co-opt additional members (who need not be Members of the Council) onto any Committee or Sub-Committee. Such co-opted members shall not have the right to vote but shall otherwise be entitled to participate fully in the proceedings of the Committee or Sub-Committee. Co-opted members shall not count for the purpose of calculating a quorum of a meeting and their number shall be disregarded for the purpose of calculating any maximum or minimum number of members of a Committee or Sub-Committee.

14. Each Committee shall have full powers to make decisions within their own remit and budget, as set by the Directors from time to time but nothing in this provision shall limit or restrict the right of the Directors lawfully to change or alter (in whole or in part) a decision of a Committee.

15. The chair of the Officers Committee shall be the President of the Association. The chair of each of the International Game Board, the National League Board, the National Cup Board and the Community Game Board shall be appointed by the Council from the Officers (as defined in the Articles) and each Officer may only hold one such post. All Committees shall appoint their own deputy chair. The appointment of the chair of each Committee shall be for the term of the Officers, as set out in the Rules. The appointment of the deputy chair of each Committee shall be for four (4) years. The chair of a meeting of a Committee shall be entitled to a second or casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.

16. Three (3) members of a Committee (including the chair of the meeting) shall form a quorum.

17. Each Committee shall normally meet monthly and, unless agreed by the voting members of the Committee to the contrary, no less frequently than ten (10) times per calendar year from 2020 onwards. The chair of the Committee may arrange additional meetings or cancel a meeting, in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer.

18. No Member of the Council shall be a member of more than one of the International Game Board, National League Board, National Cup Board and Community Game Board and no Elected Member (as defined in the Articles) who is a Director shall be a member of any of the said four (4) Committees.

19. Save where stated to the contrary or otherwise where the context so requires, the provisions of these Standing Orders which are stated as applying to the proceedings of the Directors’ meetings shall also apply to the proceedings of the Committees and Sub-Committees, with the necessary adjustments.

COMPOSITION, POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

20. Officers Committee
   i. Comprised of:-
      • President;
      • Deputy President (from 1st August 2021);
      • Two Vice-Presidents; and
      • Treasurer (until 31st July 2021).
   ii. Responsibility for:-
• FIFA;
• UEFA;
• IFAB;
• Council & staff;
• Code of Ethics; and
• Code of Conduct.

21. **International Game Board**
   i. Chaired by an Officer, appointed by the Council, together with a minimum of six (6) and a maximum of eight (8) other members of the Council, also (subject to Standing Order 18) appointed by the Council.
   
   ii. Responsibility for:-
   • Chair and deputy chair involved in the recruitment of National Team Management;
   • Men’s A, Men’s Under 21s, Men’s Under 19s, Men’s Under 17s;
   • Women’s A, Women’s U19s, Women’s U17s;
   • Wales B and C Internationals;
   • Development squads;
   • Futsal (representative squad);
   • The Welsh Academies Representative Squad (Semi-professional);
   • Coaching and player development;
   • Medical; and
   • Regions Cup (post-qualification).

22. **National League Board**
   i. Chaired by an Officer, appointed by the Council, together with a minimum of six (6) and a maximum of eight (8) other members of the Council, also (subject to Standing Order 18) appointed by the Council.
   
   ii. Responsibility for:-
   • National Leagues and Qualifying Clubs in men’s Tiers 1-4 of the FAW Pyramid until the end of playing season 2019/20 and then Tiers 1-3 from playing season 2020/21 onwards;
   • Promotion from men’s Tier 5 to 4 until the end of playing season 2019/20 and then promotion from Tier 4 to Tier 3 from playing season 2020/21 onwards;
   • The business of the Leagues (WPL, FAW Championship and WPWL);
   • Administration of Leagues (WPL, FAW Championship and WPWL);
   • Management and enforcement of Leagues’ Rules and Regulations (WPL, FAW Championship, WPWL);
   • Academies; and
   • Player registrations.
23. **National Cup Board**
   
i. Chaired by an Officer, appointed by the Council, together with a minimum of six (6) and a maximum of eight (8) other members of the Council, also (subject to Standing Order 18) appointed by the Council.
   
ii. Responsibility for:-
   
   • FAW Cup Competitions (Welsh Cup, FAW Trophy, Welsh Premier League Cup, Academy Cup, Youth Cup, FAW Women’s Cup, FAW Girls’ Cup, Futsal Cup);
   
   • Event management of finals and semi-finals for each of the above;
   
   • The business of the FAW Cup Competitions;
   
   • Administration on the FAW Cup Competitions; and
   
   • Management and enforcement of FAW Cup Competitions Rules and Regulations.

24. **Community Game Board**

   i. Chaired by an Officer, appointed by the Council, together with a minimum of six (6) and a maximum of eight (8) other members of the Council, also (subject to Standing order 18) appointed by the Council.

   ii. Responsibility for:-

   • All adult and junior leagues / cups / clubs under the jurisdiction of the Area Associations (including men’s Tier 5 and below until the end of playing season 2019/20 and then Tier 4 and below from playing season 2020/21 onwards plus women’s Tier 2 and below);

   • Minority representation (e.g. BME/disability);

   • Club accreditation;

   • Area Associations (as defined in the Rules of the Association);

   • Schools/Full-time Education;

   • Futsal (domestic leagues/clubs); and

   • Regions Cup (pre-qualification).

25. **Referees Committee**

   i. The membership of the Committee will be comprised in accordance with the FIFA Refereeing Regulations.

   ii. Responsibility for:-

   • All matters relating to refereeing, as set out in the FIFA Refereeing Regulations, including:

   • The Association’s refereeing structure and organisation; and

   • Strategies and programmes for all levels of the game.

26. **Scrutiny Committee**

   i. Comprised of:-

   • Two Officers (appointed by Council);

   • Two Past Presidents (as defined in the Articles) (appointed by Council); and

   • Two Life Councillors (as defined in the Articles) (appointed by Council).
ii. Responsibility for:-
   • Scrutinising the decision-making processes of the Directors, all Committees and Sub-
     Committees by examining and reflecting upon decisions that have been made to 
     ensure that the correct processes and procedures have been followed and that due 
     consideration was given to all the available options; and 
   • making recommendations to the Directors based on its findings.

27. Disciplinary Panel Chairmen’s Committee
   i. Comprised of the four (4) Members of the Council appointed by Council in accordance 
      with the Association’s Rule 42.1.
   ii. Responsibility for:-
      • reviewing the policies, procedures, operations and decisions of the Disciplinary Panels 
         made under Section E of the Association’s Rules;
      • reviewing or considering any non-case specific aspect of the Association’s disciplinary 
         offences and procedures referred to it by the Association from time to time; and
      • reporting to the Directors (with any appropriate recommendations) on each such 
         review.

Representation on Associated Entities

28. FAW Football in the Community Limited (aka FAW Trust (“Trust”))
   In respect of the Trust:-
   i. The Association shall be represented by up to seven (7) persons on the board of the Trust 
      and these shall comprise of:-
      • One (1) Officer selected by Council; and
      • Six (6) other members of the Council selected by Council.
   ii. The said representatives shall report to the Directors regularly on matters undertaken or 
       discussed by the Trust which affect the business of the Association.

29. FAW Grounds Improvements Limited (“WGI”)
   In respect of WGI:-
   i. The Association’s representatives on the board of WGI shall be selected by Council (using, 
      where appropriate, a person’s principal residence to determine “north” or “south” and 
      shall comprise:-
      • Two (2) Officers;
      • One (1) member of Council representing an Area Association in north Wales;
      • One (1) member of Council representing an Area Association in south Wales;
      • One (1) member of Council representing the Qualifying Clubs (as defined in the 
         Association’s Rules) in north Wales;
      • One (1) member of Council representing the Qualifying Clubs (as defined in the 
         Association’s Rules) in south Wales;
      • One (1) Past President from north Wales;
• One (1) Past President from south Wales;
• One (1) Life Councillor from north Wales;
• One (1) Life Councillor from south Wales; and
• Two (2) independent members.

ii. The said representatives shall report to the Directors regularly on matters undertaken or discussed at WGI which affect the business of the Association.
RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE SHAREHOLDERS (“Council” OR “Councillors”) OF FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES LIMITED (“Association”)

FREQUENCY OF COUNCIL MEETINGS
1. Meetings of the Council shall normally be held at bi-monthly intervals and always in Wales. They shall rotate in turn between South and North Wales. Additional meetings may be arranged in accordance with the Association’s articles of Association (“Articles”).

NOTICE
2. (a) Notice of each meeting of the Council shall be given in accordance with Article 32 of the Articles. Any Councillor wishing to propose a matter for inclusion on the agenda of a meeting of the Council shall give notice in writing, signed by the Councillor and at least one (1) other Councillor, at least twenty one (21) clear days before the next meeting of the Council, to the Council Meeting Chair and the Chief Executive Officer of the Association. Save for such matters, the matters for inclusion on the agenda for each Council meeting shall be as stipulated by the Council Meeting Chair (as defined in the Articles), in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer.

(b) Fourteen (14) clear days at least before a meeting of the Council, a notice of the meeting, specifying the date, time, venue and business proposed to be transacted, shall be given to every Councillor, using the systems and procedures set by the Association from time to time.

(c) The Chief Executive Officer shall set out in the notice of every meeting of the Council all matters stipulated by the Council Meeting Chair and any of which notice has been duly received from Councillors, and in the latter case, in the order in which they have been received (unless the Councillor giving such notice has since withdrawn it in writing).

(d) No matter which does not appear on the agenda of the meeting of Council shall be considered at the meeting unless it is certified as being a matter of urgency by the Council Meeting Chair and two-thirds of the Councillors present at the time of the vote give their consent.

COUNCIL MEETING CHAIR
3. The provisions of Article 35 of the Articles shall apply in relation to the chairing of each meeting of the Council. Any power or duty of the Council Meeting Chair in relation to the conduct of the Council meeting may be exercised by the person chairing the meeting.

PARTICIPATION AND QUORUM
4. The provisions of Articles 33 and 34 shall apply in relation to participation in, and the quorum for, any meeting of the Council.
ORDER OF BUSINESS

5. The order of business at every meeting of the Council shall be:-

(a) To choose a person to be the Council Meeting Chair if the circumstances set out in Articles 35.2 or 35.3 of the Articles apply.

(b) To approve (as amended, if necessary) as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting of the Council.

(c) To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

(d) To dispose of matters (if any) remaining from the last meeting.

(e) To receive the minutes of the meetings of the Directors of the Association and the minutes of the meetings of committees of the Directors and to consider any matter referred to in or arising out of such minutes provided that such matter shall be raised by motion (of which at least 48 hours’ notice in writing has been given to the Council Meeting Chair and the Chief Executive Officer).

(f) To consider all other matters in the order in which they appear on the agenda of the meeting.

(g) The Council Meeting Chair shall have the power at any time to vary the foregoing order of business.

MINUTES

6. (a) When a vote of the Councillors is taken on any matter during a meeting, a record shall be kept of the number of abstentions and the votes for or against the resolution or motion and any casting vote of the Council Meeting Chair (in accordance with Article 38.5 of the Articles and section 8 below). This information shall be recorded in the minutes.

(b) No discussion shall take place upon the Council meeting minutes, except upon their accuracy, and any question of their accuracy shall be raised by motion (of which at least 48 hours’ notice in writing has been given to the Council Meeting Chair and the Chief Executive Officer). If no such question is raised or, if it is raised, then as soon as it has been disposed of, the minutes shall stand as a correct record.

(c) The minutes of all Council meetings shall be sent to each Councillor together with the notice calling the next meeting of the Council, using the systems and procedures set by the Association from time to time.

RULES OF DEBATE

7. (a) Agenda items and amendments

An agenda item shall not be discussed at a meeting of the Council unless notice has already been given in accordance with the Articles and section 2 above. Agenda items which are resolutions may only be amended in accordance with Article 42 of the Articles.

(b) Only one Councillor to stand at a time

A Councillor when speaking shall stand and address the Council Meeting Chair. If two or more Councillors rise, the Council Meeting Chair shall call on one to speak and the other or others shall sit. While a Councillor is speaking the other Councillors shall remain seated, unless rising to a point of order or in personal explanation.
(c) **Content and length of speeches**

A Councillor shall direct his or her speech to the question under discussion, to a personal explanation or to a point of order. No speech shall exceed five minutes except by consent of the Council.

(d) **When a Councillor may speak again**

A Councillor who has spoken on any agenda item shall not speak again whilst it is the subject of debate, except:-

(i) on a point of order; or

(ii) by way of personal explanation.

(e) **Matters which may be moved during debate**

When an agenda item is under debate no other matter shall be moved except the following:-

(i) that the agenda item be now put to a vote. If the Council Meeting Chair, in his or her opinion, considers that the matter before the meeting has been sufficiently discussed the Council Meeting Chair shall put the agenda item to the vote; or

(ii) that a Councillor be not further heard in accordance with section 9(b) below.

(f) **Points of Order**

(i) A Councillor may rise on a point of order in personal explanation and shall be entitled to be heard forthwith. A point of order shall relate only to an alleged breach of these Rules of Procedure, the Articles, the Rules of the Association, the Regulations of the Association, or any statutory provision, and the way in which the Councillor considers it has been breached. A personal explanation shall be confined to some material part of a former speech by the Councillor which may appear to have been misunderstood in the present debate.

(ii) The ruling of the Council Meeting Chair on a point of order or on the admissibility of a personal explanation shall not be open to discussion.

**VOTING, POLLS AND PROXIES**

8. The provisions of Articles 38 to 41 (inclusive) of the Articles shall apply in relation to voting on any resolution or motion at Council meetings, demand for a poll and the appointment of a proxy.

**DISORDERLY CONDUCT**

9. (a) It shall be the duty of the Council Meeting Chair to preserve order at meetings of the Council. Councillors shall show respect for the Council Meeting Chair at all times. Councillors will resume their seat and will be silent when the Council Meeting Chair stands at any time during the meeting.

(b) If any Councillor in the opinion of the Council Meeting Chair, notified to the meeting of Council, misconducts him or herself by disregarding the ruling of the Council Meeting Chair or by behaving irregularly, improperly, offensively or by obstructing the business of the Council, the Council Meeting Chair or any other Councillor may move a motion that “The Councillor named be not further heard for the remainder of the meeting” and, if seconded, shall be put and voted on without discussion.
SUSPENSION OF THESE RULES OF PROCEDURE

10. Any motion for the suspension of these Rules of Procedure collectively (or any specific Rule or Rules of Procedure) at a meeting of the Council shall not be carried unless supported by at least two-thirds of the Councillors present, and eligible to vote, at the time of the vote.

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

11.(a) The only committee of the Council shall be the Appointments Committee.

(b) The Appointments Committee has responsibility for making recommendations to the Council on elections and appointments in accordance with the Rules of the Association.

(c) The Appointments Committee shall be composed of those Councillors appointed from time to time by the Council in accordance with the Rules of the Association and these Rules of Procedure.

(d) Three (3) members of the Appointments Committee shall form a quorum.

(e) When a new appointment is to be made or a vacancy arises, the Appointments Committee shall meet as often as is necessary for the proper conduct of its business, as decided by the chair of the Appointments Committee, in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer. Any notice convening a meeting shall state the particular business to be transacted and no other business shall be transacted at that meeting.

(f) Save where stated to the contrary or otherwise where the context so requires, the provisions of these Rules of Procedure which are stated as applying to the proceedings of the Council shall also apply to the proceedings of the Appointments Committee.
04b Code of Ethics

PREAMBLE
The purpose of this Code is to safeguard the integrity and reputation of Association Football in Wales and of the Football of Association of Wales (“FAW”) and of all those who play, officiate, administer or in any other way organise Association Football in Wales. Where the context so requires, capitalised or defined words or phrases used in this Code have the same definition and meaning set out in the FAW’s Rules. The “persons bound by this Code” referred to below are all Members of the FAW and all Subordinates save that for the purpose of this Code only the definition and meaning of the term “Subordinate” shall not include the words “together with every spectator and any person purporting to be its supporter or follower”.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING ETHICAL CONDUCT

1. GENERAL RULES OF CONDUCT
   1.1 Persons bound by this Code are expected to be aware of the importance of their duties, obligations and responsibilities.
   1.2 Persons bound by this Code are obliged to respect all applicable laws and regulations as well as the FAW’s regulatory framework including, without limitation, the FAW’s Rules and Regulations to the extent applicable to them.
   1.3 Persons bound by this Code shall show commitment to an ethical attitude. They shall behave in a dignified manner and act with complete credibility and integrity.
   1.4 Persons bound by this Code may not abuse their position in any way, especially to take advantage of their position for private aims or gains.

2. DUTY OF NEUTRALITY
   2.1 In dealings with government institutions, national and international organisations, associations and groupings, persons bound by this Code shall remain politically neutral, in accordance with the principles and objectives of the FAW and any Member or Subordinate they represent and generally act in a manner compatible with their function and integrity.
3. **LOYALTY**

3.1 Persons bound by this Code shall have a duty of loyalty to the FAW and shall act in the best interests of the FAW at all times.

4. **CONFIDENTIALITY**

4.1 Depending on their function, information of a confidential nature divulged to person bound by this Code while performing their duties shall be treated as confidential or secret by them as an expression of loyalty, if the information is given with the understanding or communication of confidentiality and is consistent with the principles of the FAW and any Member or Subordinate they represent.

4.2 The obligation to respect confidentiality survives the termination of any relationship which makes a person subject to this Code.

5. **FORGERY AND FALSIFICATION**

5.1 Persons bound by this Code are forbidden from forging a document, falsifying an authentic document or using a forged or falsified document.

6. **DUTY OF DISCLOSURE, COOPERATION AND REPORTING**

6.1 Persons bound by this Code, including, without limitation, compliance with the FAW’s Rules and Regulations, shall immediately report any potential breach of this Code by themselves or any other person to the FAW.

6.2 At the request of the FAW, persons bound by this Code are obliged to contribute to the clarification of the facts of the case and possible breaches by themselves and by any other person and, in particular, to declare details of their income and provide the evidence requested for inspection.

7. **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

7.1 When performing an activity for the FAW, Member or Subordinate or before being elected or appointed, persons bound by this Code shall disclose any personal interests that could be linked with their prospective activities.

7.2 Persons bound by this Code shall avoid any situation that could lead to conflicts of interest. Conflicts of interest arise if persons bound by this Code have, or appear to have, private or personal interests that detract from their ability to perform their duties with integrity in an independent and purposeful manner. Private and personal interests include gaining any possible advantage for the persons bound by this Code themselves, their family, relatives, friends and acquaintances.

7.3 Persons bound by this Code may not perform their duties in cases with an existing or potential conflict of interest. Any such conflict shall be immediately disclosed and notified to the organisation for which the person bound by this Code performs their duties.

7.4 If an objection is made concerning an existing or potential conflict of interest of a person bound by this Code, it shall be reported immediately to the organisation for which the person bound by this Code performs his duties for appropriate measures.
8. OFFERING AND ACCEPTING GIFTS AND OTHER BENEFITS

8.1 Persons bound by this Code may only offer or accept gifts or other benefits to and from persons in connection with the affairs of the FAW, Members or Subordinates which:

8.1.1 have symbolic or trivial value;

8.1.2 exclude any influence for the execution or omission of an act that is related to their official activities or falls within their discretion;

8.1.3 are not contrary to their duties;

8.1.4 do not create any undue pecuniary or other advantage; and

8.1.5 do not create a conflict of interest.

Any gifts or other benefits not meeting all of these criteria are prohibited.

8.2 If in doubt, gifts shall not be offered or accepted. In all cases, persons bound by this Code shall not offer or accept from anyone in connection with the affairs of the FAW, Members or Subordinates, gifts of cash in any amount or form.

8.3 Persons bound by this Code may not be reimbursed by the FAW or any Member or Subordinate they represent for the costs associated with family members or associates accompanying them to official events, unless expressly permitted to do so by the appropriate organisation. Any such permission will be documented.

8.4 Persons bound by this Code must refrain from any such activity or behaviour that might give rise to the appearance or suspicion of improper conduct as described in the foregoing sections, or any attempt thereof.

9. BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION

9.1 Persons bound by this Code must not offer, promise, give or accept any personal or undue pecuniary or other advantage in order to obtain or retain business or any other improper advantage to or from anyone in connection with the affairs of the FAW or any Member or Subordinate. Such acts are prohibited, regardless of whether carried out directly or indirectly, through, or in conjunction with, intermediaries or related parties as defined in this Code. In particular, persons bound by this Code must not offer, promise, give or accept any undue pecuniary or other advantage for the execution or omission of an act this is related to their official activities and is contrary to their duties or falls within their discretion. Any such offer must be reported to the FAW and any failure to do so shall be a Disciplinary Offence under the FAW Rules.

9.2 Persons bound by this Code are prohibited from misappropriating the assets of the FAW or any member or Subordinate they represent, regardless of whether carried out directly or indirectly through, or in conjunction with, intermediaries or related parties.

9.3 Persons bound by this Code must refrain from any activity or behaviour that might give rise to the appearance or suspicion of improper conduct as described in the foregoing sections, or any attempt thereof.
10. **COMMISSION**

10.1 Persons bound by this Code are forbidden from accepting commission or promises of such commission for themselves or intermediaries and related parties for negotiating deals of any kind while performing their duties, unless expressly permitted to do so by the appropriate organisation. Any such permission will be documented.

11. **NON-DISCRIMINATION**

11.1 Persons bound by this Code shall not directly discriminate, indirectly discriminate, victimise or harass any other person or group of people through the use of any contemptuous, discriminatory or denigratory words or actions on the grounds of:

   11.1.1 age;
   11.1.2 disability;
   11.1.3 gender reassignment;
   11.1.4 marriage and civil partnership;
   11.1.5 pregnancy and maternity;
   11.1.6 race;
   11.1.7 religion or belief;
   11.1.8 sex;
   11.1.9 sexual orientation
   11.1.10 language; and
   11.1.11 origin.

11.2 Persons bound by this code shall not offend the dignity or integrity of any person or group of people including, for the avoidance of doubt, any country through the use of contemptuous, discriminatory or denigratory words or actions on the grounds of:

   11.2.1 any political or any other opinion;
   11.2.2 national or social origin;
   11.2.3 wealth;
   11.2.4 birth; and
   11.2.5 any other status or reason.

12. **PROTECTION OF PHYSICAL AND MENTAL INTEGRITY**

12.1 Persons bound by this Code shall respect the integrity of others involved. They shall ensure that the personal rights of every individual whom they contact and who is affected by their actions is protected, respected and safeguarded.

12.2 Harassment is forbidden. Harassment is defined as systematic, hostile and repeated acts for a considerable duration, intended to isolate or ostracise a person and affect the dignity of the person.

12.3 Sexual harassment is forbidden. Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances that are not solicited or invited. The assessment is based on whether a reasonable person would regard the conduct as undesirable or offensive. Threats, the promise of advantages and coercion are particularly prohibited.
BREACH OF THIS CODE

Any breach of this Code will be a Disciplinary Offence under the FAW Rules and any charge or sanction against the person bound by this Code will be in accordance with the procedures set out in Section E of the Rules. Nothing in this Code will restrict or limit the scope of any Disciplinary Offence under Rule 38.1.
Welsh Cup
04c (i)
Rules of the Welsh Cup Competition

1. NAME OF THE CUP
The Cup shall be called “The JD Welsh Cup”.

2. CUP OWNERSHIP
The Cup is the property of The Football Association of Wales Limited.

3. MEDALS
In addition to the Cup, the Association shall present 25 medals to the players, substitutes and technical staff in the Final Tie. Any additional medals must be purchased by the club concerned. When a player taking part is ordered to leave the field of play for misconduct, the medal to which he may be entitled may be withheld at the discretion of the Council.

4. CONTROL OF COMPETITION
The entire control and management of the Competition shall be vested in the Council. The Council shall have the power to formulate Rules of the Competition and to alter or add to the Rules as they, from time to time, deem expedient. The Council shall appoint a Committee to control and manage the Competition on their behalf and to give decisions on matters arising out of the Competition which, within the Rules laid down by the Council, shall be deemed decisions of the Council. Clubs shall be bound by any Contract entered into by the Council in relation to the Competition. In any matter not specifically mentioned in these Rules, the Committee shall have the power to take such action and impose such penalties as it deems necessary.

5. ELIGIBLE CLUBS
The Competition shall be open to all men’s clubs who play all of their football under the jurisdiction of the Football Association of Wales and whose registered ground meets the Ground Criteria (Rule 9). Entry shall be mandatory for all clubs currently playing in level one and two of the Pyramid system.

6. ADMITTANCE
(a) Each Club desirous of competing shall give notice to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association on a form on or before the 19th July immediately prior to that season, in
which such club proposes to compete and shall, with such notice, forward an entrance fee of fifty pounds sterling including vat. The Council may reject the entry of any Club if they deem such a course desirable.

(b) Clubs seeking to play ties on artificial pitches shall return with the entry form such information as they wish to place before the Council when it considers authorisation of an artificial pitch, or pitches under Rule 9(e) of these Rules. The consideration of such information may be delegated by the Council.

7. **BYES**

The Welsh Premier League Clubs shall be awarded a bye until Round 3 of the Competition. The Welsh Football League (division 1) and The Cymru Alliance League Clubs shall be awarded a bye until Round 1 of the Competition. The Council may divide the remainder of the Clubs who have entered into groups as nearly equal in number and as conveniently situated geographically as may be possible.

8. **THE DRAW**

(a) The clubs after having been placed by the Council 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.

(b) Immediately after each draw; the fixtures, the Conference Date and the time of kick-off shall be published on the website of the Association. The Council 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. 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.

(c) In any Round where, paired Clubs desire to play on a date other than the Conference Date, or at a venue other than the registered ground of the team first drawn, both Clubs shall notify the Chief Executive Officer of the Association of their request within 7 days of the draw. Matches are not allowed to be played after the Conference Date, with the exception of the immediate Sunday afterwards (the following day) and shall only be permitted if the two participating Clubs agree. If any request 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 9a shall apply to the choice of ground.

9. **STADIUM / GROUND INFORMATION AND FACILITIES**

(a) **Choice of Ground**

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 opponents registered ground. When the fixture has been reversed, the Club which will now host the match is responsible for all of the expenses as described in Rule 24.

A Club not having the facilities as required by Rule 9(b) and having not obtained the consent of the Council to the use of an alternative ground shall play on its opponent’s ground. Clubs shall not play on a neutral ground without the consent of the Council. The Council shall have the power to order any match to be played on an alternative ground if it is deemed necessary.
(b) Ground Facilities

Qualifying Round

The registered ground must be able to accommodate a charge for admission, so a gate can be taken in all Cup Ties. Goal nets 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 must be separate for each team and Match Officials and they should be situated within a reasonable walking distance to the pitch, as accepted by the FAW.

From Round 1 Onwards

The registered ground must be able to accommodate a charge for admission, so a gate can be taken in all Cup Ties. Goal nets must be used in all ties. The playing area must be railed or walled off, except those areas and spaces excluded from spectator viewing. Dressing and showering accommodation must be separate for each team and Match Officials, and they should be situated within a reasonable walking distance to the pitch, as accepted by the FAW. Toilets which are not available for spectator use must be provided in the dressing room area, used by Players and Match Officials.

(c) Appeal – Unsuitability of Ground

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 Council may order 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 Council.

(d) Playing Condition of the Ground

Each Club must take every precaution to keep its ground in playing condition and, if necessary, either Club may appeal to the Association and the Secretary shall require the Referee or some other Referee to examine the ground and decide as to its fitness for play in sufficient time to save expenses of unnecessary journeys being incurred by the Clubs. Subject to this Rule, the Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and must report to the ground where the match is to be played at least one and a half hours before the time of kick-off.

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.

(e) Artificial Pitches

Football turf must be in accordance with the ‘FAW Regulations for the use of Synthetic Turf in all Competitions’ and the pitch must be listed on the FAW’s Register of Artificial Grass Pitches.
10. **CLUB KITS**

(a) *Numbers and Names*

(i) The competing teams shall number sixteen players each.

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

(b) *Colours*

(i) For all matches, the home club has the first choice as to which of its official kits announced on the entry form 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.

(ii) In any case, if the referee notices on the spot that the colours of the two teams could lead to confusion, he decides on the colours. As a rule, in such cases it is the home team that has to change colours, for practical reasons.

(iii) 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 Association proposes suitably contrasting colours in advance of the match.

(iv) Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from the other players and the Match Officials.

(c) *FAW Kit Regulations*

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

11. **DURATION OF MATCHES**

(a) A match lasts for two equal halves of 45 minutes.

(b) 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.

(c) The half-time interval lasts 15 minutes.

12. **PROVISION FOR MATCHES**

For all matches the following provisions shall apply:

(a) Matches in all stages of the competition are played in conformity with the IFAB Laws of the Game.

(b) Matches in The JD Welsh Cup take priority over any other Official Match, Open Friendly Match or Closed Friendly Match.

(c) Any late kick-off or late arrival of a Match Official must be reported by the Referee to the Association and the Council shall have the power to impose a fine.

(d) 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;
- information and data transmitted from the devices/systems is not permitted to be received or used in the technical area during the match.
13. EXTRA TIME AND PENALTIES

(a) Extra Time

If the result stands as a draw at the end of normal playing time, two 15-minute periods of extra time are played. If one of the teams scores more goals than the other during extra time, that team is declared the winner. If the two teams are still equal after extra time, the winner is determined by kicks from the penalty mark (see 13b).

(b) Penalties

(i) Kicks from the penalty mark are taken in accordance with the procedure laid down in the IFAB Laws of the Game.

(ii) The referee decides which goal will be used for the kicks:

a. If either goal could be used for the kicks, then, in the presence of the two captains, the referee tosses a coin to decide which goal will be used.

b. For reasons of safety/security, state of the field of play, lighting 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.

(iii) 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.

14. POSTPONEMENTS AND ABANDONMENTS

(a) Postponement or Abandonment for the first time

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 Wednesday for ties where the clubs are geographically located within 100 miles and with floodlights. For all other ties, 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.

(b) Postponement or Abandonment on two occasions

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 as described in Rule 24.
15. **PROVISION FOR SEMI-FINALS AND FINAL**

(a) *Stadium and Match Arrangements*

The Council shall determine the stadium for all semi-final and final ties and shall have direct control of the arrangements. At the Association’s request, the stadium must be clean of advertising for centralised branding.

(b) *Tickets*

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.

16. **FLOODLIGHTING**

(a) Matches may be played in daylight or under floodlight conditions provided that the installation meets with the approval of the Association or by mutual agreement of the two Clubs.

(b) Clubs may appeal to the Council 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 £25.00, which may be forfeited if the appeal is not sustained.

(c) 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.

(d) The cost of floodlighting not exceeding (i) in Rounds 1 and 2 £50.00 and (ii) from Round 3 onwards £100.00, may be charged to match expenses at Welsh Premier League grounds and £50.00 at any other ground.

17. **REPORTING RESULTS**

(a) The Secretaries of each Club shall send notice of the result, on the Match Report Form supplied, with the names of the Players competing, to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association so that it is received within two days of the match (Sundays not included).

(b) Clubs failing to comply with this Rule or submitting an incorrect Match Report Form shall be subject to a fine as determined by the Council and in default of payment shall be struck out of the Competition.

(c) The Secretaries of the Clubs drawn at Home must telephone or email the result to the Association as soon as possible after the end of the match. Failure to report the result on the day of the match will result in a fine of £25.

18. **PROVISIONS FOR WITHDRAWING FROM THE COMPETITION**

(a) Any Club intending to withdraw must give information of their intention to do so to the FAW and to the Secretary of the opposing Club, and will be reported to the Council, who shall have power to compel such offending Club to pay the expenses incurred and take such action as they may deem suitable and expedient.

(b) 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 Council to have been guilty of serious misconduct, and liable to be dealt with under the Rules of the Association.

(c) 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.

19. PROVISIONS CONCERNING QUALIFICATIONS OF PLAYERS, SUBSTITUTES AND TEAM SHEETS

(a) The Cup shall be competed for annually in accordance with these Rules and matches shall be placed under the Laws of the Game as approved by the International Football Association Board. Unless a satisfactory reason is given, each team shall represent the full available strength of each competing Club.

(b) A club may at its discretion use three 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. A 4th substitution is permitted if a match goes to extra time. The 4th substitute can be used whether or not the team has already used the maximum number of substitutes permitted (three substitutes). For the 4th substitute, the same procedure applies as for the “normal” three substitutions, as described in Law 3.3. All Substitute Players must be nominated to the referee on the official Teamsheet.

(c) The players shall also be duly qualified according to the Rules of the Association.

(d) A player can play for more than one competing Club in the Season, provided that they are duly qualified according to the Rules of the Association.

(e) A player who has been suspended may play in postponed, drawn or abandoned ties after the term of his suspension has expired.

(f) A substitute player who has not been fielded is entitled to play for another competing club in the course of the same season, provided that he is registered in accordance with Rule 19c.

(g) Clubs must hand the Team Sheet of players taking part in the game (including the names of the nominated substitutes) to the Referee and a representative of their opponents in the presence of the Referee at least 30 minutes before the advertised time of kick off up to and including Round 2 and at least 60 minutes before the advertised time of kick off from Round 3 onwards. Any Club failing to carry out these provisions will be fined a sum not exceeding £100.00.

(h) 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:

(i) If any of the 11 players indicated on the teamsheet 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 teamsheet, 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 teamsheet, so that the quota of substitutes is not reduced. During the match, three players may still be substituted.

(ii) If any of the five substitutes listed on the teamsheet 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 teamsheet.
(i) In all rounds of the Competition a player must have been a registered member of his Club by 5:00pm on the last working day before the Conference Date of the Competition. In the case of postponed, drawn or abandoned matches only those players shall be allowed to play who were eligible at the Conference Date.

(j) A registered member is one who has either, in the case of a player under written contract, registered with the Association or, in the case of a player without a written contract, registered with a League in which his Club competes in the current season.

(k) A player on temporary (loan) transfer is ineligible to compete unless permission is given by the loaning Club in writing and a copy is submitted to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association prior to the tie.

20. VALIDITY OF PLAYERS’ QUALIFICATION

(a) If the Council have 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 he played, to prove that he is qualified according to the Rules, and failing satisfactory proof the Council shall remove the Club from the Competition, and may impose such other penalty on the Club or player as they may think fit.

(b) If the Council removes a Club in accordance with the provisions set out in 20a), their opponents are deemed to have won the tie.

21. DISQUALIFICATION

The Council shall have the power to disqualify any competing Club, or Official, or player or players for any competing Club, who may be proved to be guilty of any breaching of the Association Rules.

22. PROVISIONS CONCERNING MATCH OFFICIALS

(a) Appointments

Referees, Assistant referees and 4th officials shall be appointed by the Association. Neither past nor present members of either competing Clubs shall be eligible. In the event of any match officials failing to arrive or being incapacitated, the two Clubs must agree to a substitute.

(b) Payment of Fees and Expenses

The fees and expenses of all officials appointed by the Association to officiate in any match prior to the Semi-final Tie shall be paid by the Club upon whose ground the match takes place unless otherwise instructed by the Council.

(c) Scale of Expenses to be Paid to Officials

(i) Standard class railway fare operating on the day of the match will be allowed.

(ii) An allowance of £0.35 per mile will be allowed to all officials officiating who travel by private car.

(iii) 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.
(d) **Scale of Fees to be paid to Officials**

Qualifying Round:
Referee £35 Assistant Referees (if appointed) £25 each

Round 1 - Round 2:
Referee £65 Assistant Referees £50 each

Round 3 to Quarter-Final for matches involving one or more Clubs outside of Tier 1:
Referee £100 Assistant Referees and 4th Officials £50 each

Round 3 to Quarter-Final for matches involving two Tier 1 Clubs:
Tier 1 League Match Fees apply for all Match Officials

Semi-finals:
Tier 1 League Match Fees apply for all Match Officials

Final:
Referee £220 and a souvenir medal.
Assistant Referees and 4th Officials £110 each and a souvenir medal

(e) Officials are entitled to their travelling expenses if incurred and half their fees if the match to which they were appointed is not played.

(f) The home Club shall send details of the match to the Referee and Assistant referees who shall acknowledge receipt.

(g) Referees and Assistant referees shall acknowledge acceptance of appointments for all matches in the Competitions to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association, within three days

(h) The duties of the Referee and Assistant referees shall be defined in Laws of the Game 5 and 6.

**23. PROVISIONS RELATING TO PROTESTS**

(a) All questions relating to the qualification of competitors or interpretation of the Rules, or any dispute whatever shall be referred to the Council, whose decision shall be final and binding on both Clubs.

(b) 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 Association, 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 Association in the event of the protest not being sustained.

(c) The Council may order any Club engaged in a dispute or protest to pay such sum as may be considered necessary towards defraying the expenses incurred.

(d) Any protest relating to the ground, goal posts or bars or other appurtenances of the game shall not be entertained by the Council 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.

(e) When an objection has been lodged with the Referee, a protest must be made to the Association and neither objection nor protest shall be withdrawn, except by leave of the Council.
(f) The Chief Executive Officer of the Association shall send a copy of the protest and particulars to the Club protested against.

(g) If a member of the Council is connected with the Club concerned in a dispute of protest, he shall not sit on the Council while the dispute or protest is being considered.

(h) A Club summoned to attend a Hearing of a dispute of protest may be represented by one (1) or more of its Members. A Barrister or Solicitor may represent the Club of which he is Chairman or Secretary at the time of the alleged offence, but otherwise only with the prior consent of the Council. Any person summoned to attend a Hearing of a dispute or protest must attend personally and shall not be legally represented except with the prior written consent of the Council.

24. MATCH PROCEEDS

(a) The proceeds of matches shall be divided equally between the competing Clubs, after paying there out the Legitimate Expenses as described below;

Legitimate Expenses:
- Fees and expenses of the match officials
- Gate attendants
- Turnstile operators
- Stewards
- Advertising
- Printing (other than match programmes)
- Postage
- Police charges
- Floodlighting (in accordance with Rule 16)
- Contribution to First Aid Helpers
- Clearing the ground of snow and water (provided the visiting Club is consulted beforehand on the approximate cost)

(b) The gate receipts shall be approximately divided immediately after the match and a full statement and settlement shall be made to opponents and the Association within 14 days of the match, on the Statement of Receipts and Payments Form supplied. Failure to comply with this clause will incur a fine and any further punishment as determined by the Council.

(c) Any Club failing to comply with these provisions may be ordered by the Council to pay interest on monies due calculated at 5 per cent above HSBC Bank base rate for the period during which they are outstanding.

(d) When a match is postponed through causes over which neither Club has and control, the expenses shall be paid out of the receipts of the match when played.

(e) In any match ordered to the replayed in consequence of a breach of rule, the Club in default shall not receive any share of the proceeds of such replayed match (except standard class railway fares for the thirteen players) without the consent of the Council, and such consent shall only be given under special circumstances. If consent be not given the share shall be taken by the Association.

(f) In cases where the receipts are not sufficient to cover the entire expenses of the match,
25. SAFEKEEPING OF THE CUP

When the winning Club have been ascertained the Chief Executive Officer of the Association shall hand the Cup to the representatives on receiving a document to the following effect, and subscribed to by them –

“We, Secretary of the Club, and Members and representing the said Club, which has been declared to have won The Football Association of Wales Challenge Cup for the current year, and the same having been delivered to us by or on behalf of the said Association, do hereby, on behalf of the said club, individually and collectively, engage to return the same to the said Association 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.”

The Club winning the Cup shall insure the same through The Football Association of Wales at its current value. Should the Cup be lost, destroyed or damaged by fire or any other cause whilst under the care or custody of the Club, the latter shall refund the Association the amount of its current value or the cost of thorough repair in addition to any other penalty which the Association may impose.

26. MATCH PROGRAMME

A Programme or Team Sheet must be produced with details of both teams, one copy of which must be sent to this office.

27. TRANSMISSION OF MATCHES

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.

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 under Rule 24 above.

“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.

“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.

28. SPONSORSHIP

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.

“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.

“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.

29. NOTICES

All notices required to be given to the Association by any of these rules shall be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, at the offices of The Football Association of Wales, 11-12 Neptune Court, Vanguard Way, Cardiff CF24 5PJ.
04c(ii)
FAW Trophy
04c (ii) Rules of the Football Association of Wales Trophy

1. SCOPe OF APPLICATIoN
   The present regulations govern the rights, duties and responsibilities of all parties participating and involved in the preparation and organisation of “The Football Association of Wales Trophy” Competition (hereinafter the Competition).

2. CUP OWNERSHIP
   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. The Champions shall then be responsible for its return to the Association on or before the 1st day in March in the ensuing year in good order and condition. 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 Association the amount of its current insured value or the cost of thorough repair in addition to any other penalty which The Football Association of Wales may impose.

3. MEDALS
   In addition to the Cup, the Association shall present 25 medals to the Players, substitutes and technical staff in the Final Tie. Any additional medals must be purchased by the Club concerned. When a Player taking part is ordered to leave the field of play for misconduct, the medal to which he may be entitled may be withheld at the discretion of the Council.

4. CONTROL OF COMPETITION
   The entire control and management of the Competition shall be vested in the Council. The Council 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 Council shall appoint a Committee to control and manage the Competition on their behalf and to give decisions on matters arising out of the Competition which, within the Rules laid down by the Council, shall be deemed decisions of the Council. Clubs shall be bound by any Contract entered into by the Council in relation to the Competition. In any matter not specifically mentioned in these Rules, the Committee shall have the power to take such action and impose such penalties as it deems necessary.
5. **ELIGIBLE CLUBS**

The Competition shall be open to all Clubs in level three of the Pyramid system and below, including those Clubs who do not play in Directly Affiliated Leagues. The Council may reject the entry of any Club if they deem such a cause desirable.

6. **ADMITTANCE**

(a) Each Club desirous of competing shall give notice to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association on a form on or before the 19th 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 Council may reject the entry of any Club if they deem such a course desirable. Clubs entering for this Competition must play their best team, or be dealt with for misconduct by the Council.

(b) Clubs seeking to play ties on artificial pitches shall return with the entry form such information as they wish to place before the Council when it considers authorisation of an artificial pitch, or pitches under Rule 9(e) of these Rules. The consideration of such information may be delegated by the Council.

7. **BYES**

The four Clubs which competed in the Semi-Final Ties in the previous season, and other Clubs to be selected by the Council, shall be exempted from taking part in the Competition until the later stages. The Council may divide the remainder of the Clubs who have entered into groups as nearly equal in number and as conveniently situated geographically as may be possible.

8. **THE DRAW**

(a) The Clubs after having been placed by the Council 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.

(b) Immediately after each draw; the fixtures, the Conference Date and the time of kick-off shall be published on the website of the Association. The Council 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. 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.

(c) In any Round where paired Clubs desire to play on a date other than the Conference Date, or at a venue other than the registered ground of the team first drawn, both Clubs shall notify the Chief Executive Officer of the Association of their request within 7 days of the draw. Matches shall not be played after the Conference Date, with the exception of the immediate Sunday afterwards (the following day), and shall only be permitted if the two participating Clubs agreed. If any request 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 9a shall apply to the choice of ground.
9. STADIUM / GROUND INFORMATION AND FACILITIES

(a) Registered Ground

(i) 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 opponents registered ground. When the fixture has been reversed, the Club which will now host the match is responsible for all of the expenses as described in Rule 24.

(ii) A Club not having the facilities as required by Rule 9(b) and having not obtained the consent of the Council to the use of an alternative ground shall play on its opponent’s ground.

(iii) Clubs shall not play on a neutral ground without the consent of the Council.

(iv) The Council shall have the power to order any match to be played on an alternative ground if it is deemed necessary.

(b) Ground Facilities

Goal nets 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 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 Association.

(c) Appeal – Unsuitability of Ground

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 Association 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 in the appeal is not sustained. The Council may order 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 Council.

(d) Playing Condition of the Ground

Each Club must take every precaution to keep its ground in playing condition and, if necessary, either Club may appeal to the Association and the Secretary shall require the Referee or some other Referee to examine the ground and decide as to its fitness for play in sufficient time to save expenses of unnecessary journeys being incurred by the Clubs. Subject to this Rule, the Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and must report to the ground where the match is to be played at least one and a half hours before the time of kick-off. 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.

(e) Artificial Pitches

Football turf must be in accordance with the FAW’s Regulations for the use of Synthetic Turf in all Competitions’ and the pitch must be listed on the FAW’s Register of Artificial Grass Pitches.
10. **CLUB KITS**

(a) *Numbers and Names*

   (i) The competing teams shall number sixteen Players each.

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

(b) *Colours*

   (i) For all matches, the home Club has the first choice as to which of its official kits announced on the entry form it wears for its home matches. If the Clubs are unable to agree on the colours to be worn by their teams, they shall inform the Association, who shall have the final decision.

   (ii) In any case, if the Referee decides on the day of the game that the colours of the two teams could lead to confusion, he shall decide on the colours. As a rule, in such cases it shall be the home team that must change colours, for practical reasons.

   (iii) 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 Association shall propose suitably contrasting colours in advance of the match.

   (iv) Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from the other Players and the Match Officials.

(c) *FAW Kit Regulations*

   The FAW Kit Regulations shall apply to all matches in the Competition, unless specified otherwise in these regulations.

11. **DURATION OF MATCHES**

(a) A match lasts for two equal halves of 45 minutes.

(b) 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.

(c) The half-time interval lasts 15 minutes.

12. **PROVISION FOR MATCHES**

For all matches the following provisions shall apply:

(a) Matches in all stages of the Competition are played in conformity with the IFAB Laws of the Game.

(b) Matches in The JD Welsh Cup take priority over the FAW Trophy. Then, matches in the FAW Trophy take priority over any other Official Match, Open Friendly Match or Closed Friendly Match,

(c) Any late kick-off or late arrival of a Match Official must be reported by the Referee to the Association and the Council shall have the power to impose a fine.
(d) 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;
- information and data transmitted from the devices/systems is not permitted to be received or used in the technical area during the match.

(e) 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 agreed by the Association.

(f) 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 – Team Officials.’

13. EXTRA TIME AND PENALTIES

(a) Extra Time

If the result stands as a draw at the end of normal playing time, two 15-minute periods of extra time are played. If one of the teams scores more goals than the other during extra time, that team is declared the winner. If the two teams are still equal after extra time, the winner is determined by kicks from the penalty mark (see 13b).

(b) Penalties

(i) Kicks from the penalty mark are taken in accordance with the procedure laid down in the IFAB Laws of the Game.

(ii) The Referee decides which goal will be used for the kicks:

- If either goal can be used for the kicks, then, in the presence of the two captains, the Referee shall toss a coin to decide which goal will be used.

- For reasons of safety/security, state of the field of play, lighting 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.

(iii) 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.

14. POSTPONEMENTS AND ABANDONMENTS

(a) Postponement or Abandonment for the first time

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 Wednesday for ties where the Clubs are geographically located within 50 miles and with floodlights. For all other ties, it must be played on or before the following weekend. If the Clubs concerned fail to agree on a mutually agreeable date, the Association will fix the date.

(b) Postponement or Abandonment on two occasions

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 Association 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 as described in Rule 24.

15. PROVISION FOR SEMI-FINALS AND FINAL

(a) Stadium and Match Arrangements

The Council shall determine the stadium for all semi-final and final ties and shall have direct control of the arrangements. At the Association’s request, the stadium must be clean of advertising for centralised branding.

(b) Tickets

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.

16. FLOODLIGHTING

(a) Matches may be played in daylight or under floodlight conditions provided that the installation meets with the approval of the Association or by mutual agreement of the two Clubs.

(b) Clubs may appeal to the Council 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 £25.00, which may be forfeited if the appeal is not sustained.

(c) 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.

(d) The cost of floodlighting not exceeding (i) in Rounds 1 and 2 £50.00 and (ii) from Round 3 onwards £100.00, may be charged to match expenses at Welsh Premier League grounds and £50.00 at any other ground.

17. REPORTING RESULTS

(a) The Secretaries of each Club shall send notice of the result, on the Match Report Form supplied, with the names of the Players competing, to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association so that it is received within two days of the match (Sundays not included).

(b) Clubs failing to comply with this Rule or submitting an incorrect Match Report Form shall be subject to a fine as determined by the Council and in default of payment shall be struck out of the Competition.

(c) The Secretaries of the Clubs drawn at Home must telephone or email the result to the Association as soon as possible after the end of the match. Failure to report the result on the day of the match will result in a fine of £25.

18. PROVISIONS FOR WITHDRAWING FROM THE COMPETITION

(a) Any Club intending to withdraw must give information of their intention to do so to the Association and to the Secretary of the opposing Club, and will be reported to the Council,
who shall have power to compel such offending Club to pay the expenses incurred and take such action as they may deem suitable and expedient.

(b) 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.

(c) 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.

(d) 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 Council to have been guilty of serious misconduct, and liable to be dealt with under the Rules of the Association.

19. PROVISIONS CONCERNING QUALIFICATIONS OF PLAYERS, SUBSTITUTES AND TEAM SHEETS

(a) The Cup shall be competed for annually in accordance with these Rules and matches shall be placed under the Laws of the Game as approved by the International Football Association Board. Unless a satisfactory reason is given, each team shall represent the full available strength of each competing Club.

(b) Substitutes

(i) A Club may at its discretion use three 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.

(ii) A 4th substitution is permitted if a match goes to extra time. The 4th substitute can be used whether or not the team has already used the maximum number of substitutes permitted (three substitutes).

(iii) For the 4th substitute, the same procedure applies as for the “normal” three substitutions, as described in Law 3.3.

(c) The Players shall also be duly qualified according to the Rules of the Association.

(d) A player can play for more than one competing Club in the Season, provided that they are duly qualified according to the Rules of the Association.

(e) A Player who has been suspended may play in postponed, drawn or replayed ties after the term of his suspension has expired.

(f) A substitute Player who has not been fielded is entitled to play for another competing Club in the course of the same season, provided that he is registered in accordance with Rule 19c.

(g) Clubs must hand the team sheet of Players taking part in the game (including the names of the nominated substitutes) to the Referee and a representative of their opponents in the presence of the Referee at least 30 minutes before the advertised time of kick off up to the semi-finals and at least 60 minutes before the advertised time of kick off in the semi-final and final. Any Club failing to carry out these provisions will be fined a sum not exceeding £100.00.

(h) 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:
(i) 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, three Players may still be substituted.

(ii) 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.

(i) In all rounds of the Competition a Player must have been a registered member of his Club by 5:00pm on the last working day before the Conference date of the Competition. In the case of postponed, drawn or abandoned matches only those Players shall be allowed to play who were eligible at the Conference Date.

(j) A registered Player is one who has either, in the case of a Player under written contract, registered with the Association or, in the case of a Player without a written contract, registered with a League in which his Club competes in the current season.

(k) A Player on temporary (loan) transfer is ineligible to compete unless permission is given by the loaning Club in writing and a copy is submitted to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association prior to the tie.

20. VALIDITY OF PLAYERS’ QUALIFICATION

(a) If the Council have 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 he played, to prove that he is qualified according to the Rules and failing satisfactory proof the Council shall remove the Club from the Competition, and may impose such other penalty on the Club or Player as they may think fit.

(b) If the Council removes a Club in accordance with the provisions set out in 20a), their opponents are deemed to have won the tie.

21. DISQUALIFICATION

The Council shall have the power to disqualify any competing Club, or Official, or Player or Players for any competing Club, who may be proved to be guilty of any breaching of the Association Rules.

22. PROVISIONS CONCERNING MATCH OFFICIALS

(a) Appointments

(i) In all matches, the Referee team shall be appointed by The Football Association of Wales. Neither past nor present members of either contending Clubs shall be eligible.

(ii) The Referee team are appointed as follows:

a. For matches up to and including Round 4, in principle, the Association appoints one Referee only.
b. For Round 5 matches up to Quarter Final, in principle, the Association appoints one Referee and two assistant Referees.

c. For Semi-Final and Final matches, in principle, the Association appoints one Referee, two assistant Referees and one fourth official (substitute Referee).

d. The Association reserves its right to provide additional Referees where it deems necessary in any tie.

(b) Payment of Fees and Expenses

The fees and expenses of all officials appointed by the Association to officiate in any match prior to the Semi-final Tie shall be paid by the Club upon whose ground the match takes place unless otherwise instructed by the Council.

(c) Scale of Expenses to be Paid to Officials

(i) Standard class railway fare operating on the day of the match will be allowed.

(ii) An allowance of £0.35 per mile will be allowed to all officials officiating who travel by private car.

(iii) 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.

(d) Scale of Fees to be paid to Officials

Qualifying Round - Round 3:
Referee £35, Assistant Referees £23 each

Round 4 to Round 5:
Referee £40, Assistant Referees and 4th Officials (if appointed) £30 each

Quarter Finals:
Referee £50, Assistant Referees and 4th Officials (if appointed) £35 each

Semi-finals:
Referee £60 Assistant Referees and 4th Officials £40 each

Final:
Referee £100 and a souvenir medal.
Assistant Referees and 4th Officials £60 each and a souvenir medal

(e) Officials are entitled to their travelling expenses if incurred and half their fees if the match to which they were appointed is not played.

(f) The home Club shall send details of the match to the Referee and Assistant Referees who shall acknowledge receipt.

(g) Referees and Assistant Referees shall acknowledge acceptance of appointments for all matches in the Competition to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association within three days.

(h) The duties of the Referee and Assistant Referees shall be defined in Laws of the Game 5 and 6.

23. PROVISIONS RELATING TO PROTESTS

(a) All questions relating to the qualification of competitors or interpretation of the Rules, or
any dispute whatever shall be referred to the Council, whose decision shall be final and binding on both Clubs.

(b) 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 Association, 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 Association in the event of the protest not being sustained.

(c) The Council may order any Club engaged in a dispute or protest to pay such sum as may be considered necessary towards defraying the expenses incurred.

(d) Any protest relating to the ground, goal posts or bars or other appurtenances of the game shall not be entertained by the Council 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.

(e) When an objection has been lodged with the Referee, a protest must be made to the Association and neither objection nor protest shall be withdrawn, except by leave of the Council.

(f) The Chief Executive Officer of the Association shall send a copy of the protest and particulars to the Club protested against.

(g) If a member of the Council is connected with the Club concerned in a dispute or protest, he shall not sit on the Council while the dispute or protest is being considered.

(h) A Club summoned to attend a hearing of a dispute or protest may be represented by one (1) or more of its Members. A Barrister or Solicitor may represent the Club of which he is Chairman or Secretary at the time of the alleged offence, but otherwise only with the prior consent of the Council. Any person summoned to attend a hearing of a dispute or protest must attend personally and shall not be legally represented except with the prior written consent of the Council.

24. MATCH PROCEEDS

(a) The proceeds of matches shall be divided equally between the competing Clubs, after paying out the Legitimate Expenses as described below:

Legitimate Expenses:
- Fees and expenses of the match officials
- Gate attendants
- Turnstile operators
- Stewards
- Advertising
- Printing (other than match programmes)
- Postage
- Police charges
- Floodlighting (in accordance with Rule 16)
- Contribution to First Aid Helpers
- Clearing the ground of snow and water (provided the visiting Club is consulted beforehand on the approximate cost)
(b) The gate receipts shall be approximately divided immediately after the match and a full statement and settlement shall be made to opponents and the Association within 14 days of the match, on the Statement of Receipts and Payments Form supplied. Failure to comply with this clause will incur a fine and any further punishment as determined by the Council.

(c) Any Club failing to comply with these provisions may be ordered by the Council to pay interest on monies due calculated at 5 per cent above HSBC Bank base rate for the period during which they are outstanding.

(d) When a match is postponed through causes over which neither Club has any control, the expenses shall be paid out of the receipts of the match when played.

(e) In any match ordered to be replayed in consequence of a breach of rule, the Club in default shall not receive any share of the proceeds of such replayed match (except standard class railway fares for the thirteen Players) without the consent of the Council, and such consent shall only be given under special circumstances. If consent is not given the share shall be taken by the Association.

(f) In cases where the receipts are not sufficient to cover the entire expenses of the match, the deficit shall be shared by the two competing Clubs.

25. SAFEKEEPING OF THE CUP

When the winning Club have been ascertained the Chief Executive Officer of the Association shall hand the Cup to the representatives on receiving a document to the following effect, and subscribed to by them –

“We, Secretary of the Club, and Members and representing the said Club, which has been declared to have won The Football Association of Wales Trophy for the current year, and the same having been delivered to us by or on behalf of the said Association, do hereby, on behalf of the said Club, individually and collectively, engage to return the same to the said Association 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.”

The Club winning the Cup shall insure the same through The Football Association of Wales at its current value. Should the Cup be lost, destroyed or damaged by fire or any other cause whilst under the care or custody of the Club, the latter shall refund the Association the amount of its current value or the cost of thorough repair in addition to any other penalty which the Association may impose.

26. MATCH PROGRAMME

A Programme or team sheet must be produced with details of both teams, one copy of which must be sent to this office.

27. NOTICES

All notices required to be given to the Association by any of these rules shall be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, at the offices of The Football Association of Wales, 11-12 Neptune Court, Vanguard Way, Cardiff CF24 5PJ.
04c(iii)
Youth Cup
1. **SCOPE OF APPLICATION**
   
   The present regulations govern the rights, duties and responsibilities of all parties participating and involved in the preparation and organisation of “The Football Association of Wales Youth Cup” Competition (hereinafter the Competition).

2. **CUP OWNERSHIP**
   
   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. The Champions shall then be responsible for its return to the Association on or before the 1st day in March in the ensuing year in good order and condition. 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 Association the amount of its current insured value or the cost of thorough repair in addition to any other penalty which The Football Association of Wales may impose.

3. **MEDALS**
   
   In addition to the Cup, the Association shall present 25 medals to the Players, substitutes and technical staff in the Final Tie. Any additional medals must be purchased by the Club concerned. When a Player taking part is ordered to leave the field of play for misconduct, the medal to which he may be entitled may be withheld at the discretion of the Council.

4. **CONTROL OF COMPETITION**
   
   The entire control and management of the Competition shall be vested in the Council. The Council 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 Council shall appoint a Committee to control and manage the Competition on their behalf and to give decisions on matters arising out of the Competition which, within the Rules laid down by the Council, shall be deemed decisions of the Council. Clubs shall be bound by any Contract entered into by the Council in relation to the Competition. In any matter not specifically mentioned in these Rules, the Committee shall have the power to take such action and impose such penalties as it deems necessary.
5. **ELIGIBLE CLUBS**

The Competition shall be open to registered Clubs of the Association and Area Associations. The Council may reject the entry of any Club if they deem such a cause desirable.

6. **ADMITTANCE**

(a) Each Club desirous of competing shall give notice to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association on a form on or before the 19th July immediately prior to that season, in which such Club proposes to compete and shall, with such notice, forward an entrance fee of fifteen pounds sterling including VAT. The Council may reject the entry of any Club if they deem such a course desirable. Clubs entering for this Competition must play their best team or be dealt with for misconduct by the Council.

(b) Clubs seeking to play ties on artificial pitches shall return with the entry form such information as they wish to place before the Council when it considers authorisation of an artificial pitch, or pitches under Rule 9(e) of these Rules. The consideration of such information may be delegated by the Council.

7. **BYES**

The four Clubs which competed in the Semi-Final Ties in the previous season, and other Clubs to be selected by the Council, shall be exempted from taking part in the Competition until the later stages. The Council may divide the remainder of the Clubs who have entered into groups as nearly equal in number and as conveniently situated geographically as may be possible.

8. **THE DRAW**

(a) The Clubs after having been placed by the Council 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.

(b) Immediately after each draw; the fixtures, the Conference Date and the time of kick-off shall be published on the website of the Association. The Council 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. 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.

(c) In any Round where paired Clubs desire to play on a date other than the Conference Date, or at a venue other than the registered ground of the team first drawn, both Clubs shall notify the Chief Executive Officer of the Association of their request within 7 days of the draw. Matches shall not be played after the Conference Date, with the exception of the immediate Sunday afterwards (the following day) and shall only be permitted if the two participating Clubs agreed. If any request 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 9a shall apply to the choice of ground.

9. **STADIUM / GROUND INFORMATION AND FACILITIES**

(a) *Registered Ground*

i. 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 opponents registered ground. When the fixture has been reversed, the Club which will now host the match is responsible for all of the expenses as described in Rule 24.

ii. A Club not having the facilities as required by Rule 9(b) and having not obtained the consent of the Council to the use of an alternative ground shall play on its opponent’s ground.

iii. Clubs shall not play on a neutral ground without the consent of the Council.

iv. The Council shall have the power to order any match to be played on an alternative ground if it is deemed necessary.

(b) Ground Facilities

i. The dimensions of the field of play for all Cup Ties shall be as follows:
   - Length: Between 91m and 105m (100-115 yards)
   - Width: Between 45m and 68m (50 – 74.36 yards)

ii. Goal nets must be used in all ties.

iii. Dressing and showering accommodation 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 Association.

(c) Appeal – Unsuitability of Ground

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 Association 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 in the appeal is not sustained. The Council may order 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 Council.

(d) Playing Condition of the Ground

Each Club must take every precaution to keep its ground in playing condition and, if necessary, either Club may appeal to the Association and the Secretary shall require the Referee or some other Referee to examine the ground and decide as to its fitness for play in sufficient time to save expenses of unnecessary journeys being incurred by the Clubs. Subject to this Rule, the Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and must report to the ground where the match is to be played at least one and a half hours before the time of kick-off. 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.

(e) Artificial Pitches

Football turf must be in accordance with the FAW’s Regulations for the use of Synthetic Turf in all Competitions’ and the pitch must be listed on the FAW’s Register of Artificial Grass Pitches.
10. **CLUB KITS**

(a) **Numbers and Names**
   i. The competing teams shall number sixteen Players each.
   ii. Player names are permitted on the back of the shirts in accordance with the FAW Kit Regulations.

(b) **Colours**
   i. For all matches, the home Club has the first choice as to which of its official kits announced on the entry form it wears for its home matches. If the Clubs are unable to agree on the colours to be worn by their teams, they shall inform the Association, who shall have the final decision.
   ii. In any case, if the Referee decides on the day of the game that the colours of the two teams could lead to confusion, he shall decide on the colours. As a rule, in such cases it shall be the home team that must change colours, for practical reasons.
   iii. 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 Association shall propose suitably contrasting colours in advance of the match.
   iv. Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from the other Players and the Match Officials.

(c) **FAW Kit Regulations**
   The FAW Kit Regulations shall apply to all matches in the Competition, unless specified otherwise in these regulations.

11. **DURATION OF MATCHES**

(a) A match lasts for two equal halves of 45 minutes.

(b) 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.

(c) The half-time interval lasts 15 minutes.

12. **PROVISION FOR MATCHES**

For all matches the following provisions shall apply:

(a) Matches in all stages of the Competition are played in conformity with the IFAB Laws of the Game.

(b) Matches in The FAW Youth Cup take priority over any other Official Match, Open Friendly Match or Closed Friendly Match.

(c) Any late kick-off or late arrival of a Match Official must be reported by the Referee to the Association and the Council shall have the power to impose a fine.

(d) 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;
   - information and data transmitted from the devices/systems is not permitted to be received or used in the technical area during the match.
(e) 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 agreed by the Association.

13. EXTRA TIME AND PENALTIES

(a) Extra Time
If the result stands as a draw at the end of normal playing time, two 15-minute periods of extra time are played. If one of the teams scores more goals than the other during extra time, that team is declared the winner. If the two teams are still equal after extra time, the winner is determined by kicks from the penalty mark (see 13b).

(b) Penalties
i. Kicks from the penalty mark are taken in accordance with the procedure laid down in the IFAB Laws of the Game.

ii. The Referee decides which goal will be used for the kicks:
   a) If either goal can be used for the kicks, then, in the presence of the two captains, the Referee shall toss a coin to decide which goal will be used.
   b) For reasons of safety/security, state of the field of play, lighting 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.
   c) 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.

14. POSTPONEMENTS AND ABANDONMENTS

(a) Postponement or Abandonment for the first time
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 Wednesday for ties where the Clubs are geographically located within 50 miles and with floodlights. For all other ties, it must be played on or before the following weekend. If the Clubs concerned fail to agree on a mutually agreeable date, the Association will fix the date.

(b) Postponement or Abandonment on two occasions
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 Association 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 as described in Rule 24.

15. PROVISION FOR SEMI-FINALS AND FINAL

(a) Stadium and Match Arrangements
The Council shall determine the stadium for all semi-final and final ties and shall have
direct control of the arrangements. At the Association’s request, the stadium must be clean of advertising for centralised branding.

(b) **Tickets**

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.

16. **FLOODLIGHTING**

(a) Matches may be played in daylight or under floodlight conditions provided that the installation meets with the approval of the Association or by mutual agreement of the two Clubs.

(b) Clubs may appeal to the Council 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 £25.00, which may be forfeited if the appeal is not sustained.

(c) 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.

(d) The cost of floodlighting not exceeding (i) in Rounds 1 and 2 £50.00 and (ii) from Round 3 onwards £100.00, may be charged to match expenses at Welsh Premier League and Football League grounds and £50.00 at any other ground.

17. **REPORTING RESULTS**

(a) The Secretaries of each Club shall send notice of the result, using the system laid down by the Association from time to time, with the names of the Players competing, to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association so that it is received within two days of the match (Sundays not included).

(b) Clubs failing to comply with this Rule or submitting an incorrect Match Report Form shall be subject to a fine as determined by the Council and in default of payment shall be struck out of the Competition.

(c) The Secretaries of the Clubs drawn at Home must report the result to the Association as soon as possible after the end of the match using the system laid down by the Association from time to time. Failure to report the result on the day of the match will result in a fine of £25.

18. **PROVISIONS FOR WITHDRAWING FROM THE COMPETITION**

(a) Any Club intending to withdraw must give information of their intention to do so to the Association and to the Secretary of the opposing Club, and will be reported to the Council, who shall have power to compel such offending Club to pay the expenses incurred and take such action as they may deem suitable and expedient.

(b) 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.

(c) 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 Council to have been
guilty of serious misconduct, and liable to be dealt with under the Rules of the Association.

19. PROVISIONS CONCERNING QUALIFICATIONS OF PLAYERS, SUBSTITUTES AND
TEAM SHEETS

(a) The Cup shall be competed for annually in accordance with these Rules and matches
shall be placed under the Laws of the Game as approved by the International Football
Association Board. Unless a satisfactory reason is given, each team shall represent the full
available strength of each competing Club.

(b) Substitutes

i. A Club may at its discretion use three 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.

ii. A 4th substitution is permitted if a match goes to extra time. The 4th substitute
can be used whether or not the team has already used the maximum number of
substitutes permitted (three substitutes).

iii. For the 4th substitute, the same procedure applies as for the “normal” three
substitutions, as described in Law 3.3.

(c) The Players shall also be duly qualified according to the Rules of the Association.

(d) A Player shall not in the same season play for more than one competing Club, but the
members of each respective team may be changed during the series of matches.

(e) A Player who has been suspended may play in postponed, drawn or replayed ties after
the term of his suspension has expired.

(f) A substitute Player who has not been fielded is entitled to play for another competing
Club in the course of the same season, provided that he is registered in accordance with
Rule 19c.

(g) Clubs must hand the team sheet of Players taking part in the game (including the names
of the nominated substitutes) to the Referee and a representative of their opponents in
the presence of the Referee at least 30 minutes before the advertised time of kick off up
to the semi-finals and at least 60 minutes before the advertised time of kick off in the
semi-final and final. Any Club failing to carry out these provisions will be fined a sum not
exceeding £100.00.

(h) 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:

i. 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, three Players may still be substituted.

ii. 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.

(i) In all rounds of the Competition a Player must have been a registered member of his Club by 5:00pm on the last working day before the Conference date of the Competition. In the case of postponed, drawn or abandoned matches only those Players shall be allowed to play who were eligible at the Conference Date.

(j) A registered Player is one who has either, in the case of a Player under written contract, registered with the Association or, in the case of a Player without a written contract, registered with a League in which his Club competes in the current season 24 hours prior to the aforesaid Conference date.

(k) A Player on temporary (loan) transfer is ineligible to compete unless permission is given by the loaning Club in writing and a copy is submitted to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association prior to the tie.

(l) A player who has been suspended may play in postponed or replayed tie after the term of his suspension has expired.

(m) A player must not have attained the age of 19 years before the 1st September of each season.

(n) A player must have reached the age of sixteen on the day that the match is played.

20. VALIDITY OF PLAYERS’ QUALIFICATION

(a) If the Council have 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 he played, to prove that he is qualified according to the Rules and failing satisfactory proof the Council shall remove the Club from the Competition, and may impose such other penalty on the Club or Player as they may think fit.

(b) If the Council removes a Club in accordance with the provisions set out in 20a), their opponents are deemed to have won the tie.

21. DISQUALIFICATION

The Council shall have the power to disqualify any competing Club, or Official, or Player or Players for any competing Club, who may be proved to be guilty of any breaching of the Association Rules.

22. PROVISIONS CONCERNING MATCH OFFICIALS

(a) Appointments

i. In all matches, the Referee team shall be appointed by The Football Association of Wales. Neither past nor present members of either contending Clubs shall be eligible.

ii. The Referee team are appointed as follows:

a) For matches up to and including Round 2, in principle, the Association appoints one Referee only.

b) For Round 3 and 4 matches, in principle, the Association appoints one Referee and two assistant Referees.
c) For Semi-Final and Final matches, in principle, the Association appoints one Referee, two assistant Referees and one fourth official (substitute Referee).

d) The Association reserves its right to provide additional Referees where it deems necessary in any tie.

(b) Payment of Fees and Expenses

The fees and expenses of all officials appointed by the Association to officiate in any match prior to the Semi-final Tie shall be paid by the Club upon whose ground the match takes place unless otherwise instructed by the Council.

(c) Scale of Expenses to be Paid to Officials

i. Standard class railway fare operating on the day of the match will be allowed.

ii. An allowance of £0.35 per mile will be allowed to all officials officiating who travel by private car.

iii. 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.

(d) Scale of Fees to be paid to Officials

i. Qualifying Round to Round 2: Referee £35 Assistant Referees £23 each

ii. Round 3 to Round 4: Referee £40 Assistant Referees and 4th Officials £30 each

iii. Semi-finals: Referee £60 Assistant Referees and 4th Officials £40 each

iv. Final: Referee £100 and a souvenir medal. Assistant Referees and 4th Officials £60 each and a souvenir medal.

(e) Officials are entitled to their travelling expenses if incurred and half their fees if the match to which they were appointed is not played.

(f) The home Club shall send details of the match to the Referee and Assistant Referees who shall acknowledge receipt.

(g) Referees and Assistant Referees shall acknowledge acceptance of appointments for all matches using the systems and processes laid down by the Association from time to time within three days.

(h) The duties of the Referee and Assistant Referees shall be defined in Laws of the Game 5 and 6.

23. PROVISIONS RELATING TO PROTESTS

(a) All questions relating to the qualification of competitors or interpretation of the Rules, or any dispute whatever shall be referred to the Council, whose decision shall be final and binding on both Clubs.

(b) 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 Association, 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 Association in the event of the protest not being sustained.
(c) The Council may order any Club engaged in a dispute or protest to pay such sum as may be considered necessary towards defraying the expenses incurred.

(d) Any protest relating to the ground, goal posts or bars or other appurtenances of the game shall not be entertained by the Council 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.

(e) When an objection has been lodged with the Referee, a protest must be made to the Association and neither objection nor protest shall be withdrawn, except by leave of the Council.

(f) The Chief Executive Officer of the Association shall send a copy of the protest and particulars to the Club protested against.

(g) If a member of the Council is connected with the Club concerned in a dispute or protest, he shall not sit on the Council while the dispute or protest is being considered.

(h) A Club summoned to attend a hearing of a dispute or protest may be represented by one (1) or more of its Members. A Barrister or Solicitor may represent the Club of which he is Chairman or Secretary at the time of the alleged offence, but otherwise only with the prior consent of the Council. Any person summoned to attend a hearing of a dispute or protest must attend personally and shall not be legally represented except with the prior written consent of the Council.

24. MATCH PROCEEDS

(a) The proceeds of matches shall be divided equally between the competing Clubs, after paying out the Legitimate Expenses as described below:

- Fees and expenses of the match officials
- Gate attendants
- Turnstile operators
- Stewards
- Advertising
- Printing (other than match programmes)
- Postage
- Police charges
- Floodlighting (in accordance with Rule 16)
- Contribution to First Aid Helpers
- Clearing the ground of snow and water (provided the visiting Club is consulted beforehand on the approximate cost)

(b) The gate receipts shall be approximately divided immediately after the match and a full statement and settlement shall be made to opponents and the Association within 14 days of the match, on the Statement of Receipts and Payments Form supplied. Failure to comply with this clause will incur a fine and any further punishment as determined by the Council.

(c) Any Club failing to comply with these provisions may be ordered by the Council to pay interest on monies due calculated at 5 per cent above HSBC Bank base rate for the period during which they are outstanding.
(d) When a match is postponed through causes over which neither Club has any control, the expenses shall be paid out of the receipts of the match when played.

(e) In any match ordered to be replayed in consequence of a breach of rule, the Club in default shall not receive any share of the proceeds of such replayed match (except standard class railway fares for the thirteen Players) without the consent of the Council, and such consent shall only be given under special circumstances. If consent is not given the share shall be taken by the Association.

(f) In cases where the receipts are not sufficient to cover the entire expenses of the match, the deficit shall be shared by the two competing Clubs.

25. NOTICES

All notices required to be given to the Association by any of these rules shall be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, at the offices of The Football Association of Wales, 11-12 Neptune Court, Vanguard Way, Cardiff CF24 5PJ.
04c(iv) FAW Women’s & Girls Cup
04c (iv) Regulations of Women’s Challenge Cup Competition

1. SCOPE OF APPLICATION

1.1 The present regulations govern the rights, duties and responsibilities of all parties participating and involved in the preparation and organisation of The Football Association of Wales Women’s Challenge Cup Competition (hereinafter the competition).

2. CUP OWNERSHIP

2.1 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. The Champions shall then be responsible for its return to the Association on or before the 1st day in March in the ensuing year in good order and condition. 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 Association the amount of its current insured value or the cost of thorough repair in addition to any other penalty which The Football Association of Wales may impose.

3. MEDALS

3.1 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 Council.

4. CONTROL OF COMPETITION

4.1 The entire control and management of the Competition shall be vested in the Council. The Council shall have the power to formulate the Competition Regulations and to alter or add to the Regulations as they, from time to time, deem expedient. The Council shall appoint a Committee to control and manage the Competition on their behalf and to give decisions on matters arising out of the Competition which, within the Rules laid down by the Council, shall be deemed decisions of the Council. Clubs shall be bound by any Contract entered into by the Council in relation to the Competition. In any matter not specifically mentioned in these Rules, the Committee shall have the power to take such action and impose such penalties as it deems necessary.
5. **ADMISSION CRITERIA AND PROCEDURE**

To be eligible to participate in the Competition, clubs must:

5.1 Play all of their Women’s football under the jurisdiction of the Football Association of Wales;

5.2 Meet the Ground Criteria as described in Rule 10;

5.3 Affiliate to their Area Association or the Football Association of Wales.

5.4 Complete the official entry documents, which must reach the FAW administration by 19th July;

5.5 Pay an entrance fee of £25.00 including VAT by 19th July.

6. **DUTIES OF THE CLUBS**

6.1 On entering the competition, participating clubs agree:

(a) to play in the competition until their elimination and to field their strongest team throughout the competition;

(b) to stage and play all matches in the competition in accordance with the present regulations;

(c) to comply with all decisions regarding the competition taken by the Council, the FAW administration or any other competent body and communicated appropriately (by circular letter or by official letter, fax or email);

(d) if appropriate, to confirm that the artificial turf meets the FIFA Quality standards as required by the FAW Regulations for 3G synthetic pitches;

(e) to cooperate with the FAW at any time – and in particular at the end of matches – in the collection of match data;

6.2 The club may use its name and/or logo provided all the following requirements are satisfied:

(a) the name is mentioned in the statutes of the club;

(b) it is registered with the FAW or the Area Association to which it affiliates.

6.3 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.

7. **COMPETITION FORMAT**

7.1 The Competition shall be on a Knockout basis.

7.2 Exemptions or byes, as may be considered appropriate, shall be granted or made at the discretion of the Council.

7.3 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.

8. **GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION**

8.1 The Competition shall be played on a geographical basis until the quarter-final stage. The Council shall decide the geographical distribution of the Clubs participating in the competition.
9. THE DRAW

9.1 Immediately after each draw; the fixtures, the Conference Date and the time of kick-off shall be published on the website of the Association. The Council 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. 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.

9.2 Immediately after each draw, the Secretaries of Clubs drawn at home must communicate with their opponents, agree upon a date, venue and the time of kick off and notify the Chief Executive Officer of The Football Association of Wales within seven days of the draw.

9.3 Where Clubs fail to agree as to the date fixed for the Tie, or any other particulars of the match The Football Association of Wales shall decide the issue upon such terms and conditions as it shall deem expedient.

9.4 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.

9.5 The Home Club shall, 7 days at least prior to the date of time, notify the Secretary of the opposing Club and the referee all particulars necessary for the players of the tie. Clubs failing to do this may be subject to a fine.

10. STADIUM / GROUND INFORMATION, FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

10.1 Choice of Ground
In each tie, up to the Semi-final Tie, the club first drawn in the ballot shall have home advantage. The Ground for the Semi-Final and Final ties shall be decided by the FAW.

10.2 Dimensions of Field of Play
The dimensions of the field of play for all Cup Ties shall be as follows:
- Length: Between 91m to 105m (100 - 115 yards)
- Width: Between 45m to  68m (50 – 74.36 yards)

10.3 Ground Facilities
The Home Club shall ensure that:
- Goal nets are used in all Ties.
- Corner Flags are in place.

10.4 Appeal – Unsuitability of Ground
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 Council within three days of confirmed venue by the home club. Such appeal must be accompanied by a fee of £25.00 which may be forfeited if the appeal is not sustained. The Council may order 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 Council.

10.5 Playing Condition of the Ground
Each Club must take every precaution to keep its ground in playing condition and, if necessary,
either Club may appeal to the Association and the Secretary shall require the Referee or some other Referee to examine the ground and decide as to its fitness for play in sufficient time to save expenses of unnecessary journeys being incurred by the Clubs. Subject to this Rule, the Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and must report to the ground where the match is to be played at least one hour before the time of kick-off.

10.6 Equipment

The Home Club shall ensure that;

• Match Balls must comply with the IFAB Laws of the Game
• A First Aid Kit is available

11. CLUB KITS

11.1 Every player must wear the distinctive colours of the club for which she is a playing member, and should two Clubs have similar colours, the away Club shall change its colours.

11.2 Should both Clubs concerned in a Semi Final or Final Tie have similar colours, then it will be decided by the toss of a coin.

11.3 In the event of Clubs not agreeing upon the colours to be worn the Association will decide.

11.4 Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from the other Players and the Match Officials.

11.5 Players must wear numbers on shirts between 1 and 99. If the number 1 is used, it must be worn by a goalkeeper. No number may be used by more than one player in a team during a match. The numbers on the back of the shirts must correspond with the numbers indicated on the official team sheet submitted to the referee. Player names are permitted on the shirt.

11.6 For all other kit matters, the FAW Kit Regulations shall apply.

12. PROVISIONS FOR ALL MATCHES

12.1 The match lasts two equal periods of 45 minutes. 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.

12.2 If the match ends in a draw after 90 minutes played, or if in the opinion of the Referee prevailing circumstances would not permit the match being finished, 15 minutes each way may be played. In this case, the Referee shall decide at the end of full time and prior to the commencement of extra time and notify both Teams.

12.3 If the result stands as a draw at the end of normal playing time, two 15-minute periods of extra time are played. If one of the teams scores more goals than the other during extra time, that team is declared the winner. If the two teams are still equal after extra time, the winner is determined by kicks from the penalty mark (see Regulation 12.5 to 12.7).

12.4 If extra time is required, there is a five-minute break between the end of normal time and the start of extra time. As a rule, the players remain on the field of play during this five-minute break, at the discretion of the referee.

12.5 Kicks from the penalty mark are taken in accordance with the procedure laid down in the IFAB Laws of the Game.
12.6 The referee decides which goal will be used for the kicks:

(a) If either goal could be used for the kicks, then, in the presence of the two captains, the referee tosses a coin to decide which goal will be used.

(b) For reasons of safety/security, state of the field of play, lighting 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.

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

12.8 Any late kick-off must be reported by the Referee to The Football Association of Wales and the Council shall have power to impose a fine.

12.9 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 – Team Officials.’

13. POSTPONED OR ABANDONED MATCHES

13.1 When a first match has been postponed or abandoned before the completion of 90 minutes and neither club being at fault, it must be played on the same ground, the following week.

13.2 If extra time has not commenced or a match has been abandoned during extra time and neither club being at fault, it must be played on the same ground, the following week.

13.3 Matches abandoned through the fault of one or both Clubs, shall be dealt with by the Council.

13.4 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 match expenses.

13.5 If there are fewer than seven players on either of the teams, the match is abandoned. In this case, the Council (see Regulation 4) decides on the consequences.

14. REPORTING RESULTS

14.1 The Secretaries of each Club shall send notice of the result, on the Match Report Form supplied, with the names of the players competing, to the FAW administration so that it is received within two days of the match (Sundays not included).

14.2 Clubs failing to comply with this Rule or submitting an incorrect Match Report Form shall be subject to a fine as determined by the Council.

15. PROVISIONS FOR WITHDRAWING FROM THE COMPETITION

15.1 Any Club intending to withdraw from the competition, must give written notice of their intention to do so to the Secretary of the opposing Club and to the FAW immediately.

15.2 A Club failing to comply with this rule shall be reported to the Council, who shall have power to compel such offending Club to pay the expenses incurred and take such action as they may deem expedient.
15.3 Clubs who withdraw from the Competition shall be liable to a fine determined by Council.

15.4 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.

15.5 In the Semi-Finals and Final, any Club failing to play without showing a good and sufficient cause for such failure to play, may be adjudged by the Council to have been guilty of serious misconduct and will also be liable to a fine determined by Council.

16. PROVISIONS CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

16.1 In order to be eligible to participate in the competition, players must be registered with the League, no later than 5pm on the last working day before the Conference Date and fulfil all the conditions set out in FAW Regulations for the Registration of Players (See FAW Regulations, Section P).

16.2 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.

16.3 A player can play for more than one competing Club in the Season, provided that they are duly qualified according to the Rules of the Association.

16.4 A Player who has been suspended may play in postponed ties after the term of her suspension has expired.

16.5 Clubs must hand the official team sheet (including the names of the nominated substitutes) to the Referee and a representative of their opponents in the presence of the Referee at least 30 minutes before the advertised time of kick off for all rounds up to the semi-final. For the semi-final and final ties, the same procedure is required at least one hour before the advertised time of kick off. Any Club failing to carry out these provisions may be fined by Council.

16.6 A club may at its discretion use 3 Substitute Players at any time, except to replace a player who has been sent-off by the Referee after play has commenced.

16.7 A 4th substitution is permitted if a match goes to extra time. The 4th substitute can be used whether or not the team has already used the maximum number of substitutes permitted (three substitutes).

16.8 For the 4th substitute, the same procedure applies as for the “normal” three substitutions, as described in Law 3.3.

16.9 A player must have reached the age of sixteen on the day that the match is played.

16.10 Should any nominated player or substitute sustain an injury after the submission of the team sheet to the Referee and before the kickoff, she may be replaced provided the Referee and the opponents are informed before the match kicks-off.

17. VALIDITY OF PLAYERS’ ELIGIBILITY

17.1 If the Council have any doubt as to the eligibility of any Player taking part in the competition, they shall have power to call upon such Player, and/or the Club to which she belongs, or for which she played, to prove that she is eligible according to the Rules and Regulations.

17.2 Failing satisfactory proof of eligibility, the Council shall remove the Club from the competition, and may impose such other penalty as they may think fit.
17.3 The club bears the legal consequences for fielding a player who is not named on the player list, or who is otherwise not eligible to play.

18. DISQUALIFICATION

18.1 The Council 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 Association’s Rules.

19. PROVISIONS CONCERNING REFEREES

19.1 In all matches, the Referee team shall be appointed by The Football Association of Wales. Neither past nor present members of either contending Clubs shall be eligible.

19.2 The referee team are appointed as follows:

(a) For matches before the Quarter Final, in principle, the FAW appoints one referee only.

(b) For Quarter Final matches, in principle, the FAW appoints one referee and two assistant referees.

(c) For Semi-Final and Final matches, in principle, the FAW appoints one referee, two assistant referees and one fourth official (substitute referee).

(d) The FAW reserves its right to provide additional referees where it deems necessary in any tie.

19.3 The fees and expenses of all match officials appointed by the Association for all matches prior to the semi-final ties shall be paid by the Home Club on the day of the match.

19.4 The fees and expenses of all match officials appointed by the Association for the semi-final ties and the Final shall be paid by the FAW on the day of the match.

19.5 Scale of Expenses to be paid to Referees

An allowance of £0.35 per mile will be allowed to all officials officiating who travel by private car.

19.6 Scale of Fees to be paid to Referees

Qualifying – Round 2 for matches involving one or more Clubs outside of Tier 1:
Referee £35; Assistant Referees and 4th Official (if appointed) £23 each

Qualifying – Round 2 for matches involving two Tier 1 Clubs:
Tier 1 League Match Fees apply for all Match Officials.

Quarter-Final for matches involving one or more Clubs outside of Tier 1:
Referee £50; Assistant Referees and 4th Official £35 each

Quarter-Final for matches involving two Tier 1 Clubs:
Tier 1 League Match Fees apply for all Match Officials.

Semi-final: Tier 1 League Match Fees apply for all Match Officials.
Final: Referee £100 and a souvenir medal
Assistant Referees and 4th Official £60 each and a souvenir medal.

19.7 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.
19.8 The Referee team shall individually acknowledge acceptance of appointments for all matches in the Competition to the FAW Administration.

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

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

20. **PROVISIONS RELATING TO PROTESTS**

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

20.2 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 Association, 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 Association in the event of the protest not being sustained.

20.3 The Council may order any Club engaged in a dispute or protest to pay such sum as may be considered necessary towards defraying the expenses incurred.

20.4 Any protest relating to the ground, goal posts or bars or other appurtenances of the game shall not be entertained by the Council 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.

20.5 When an objection has been lodged with the Referee, a protest must be made to the Association and neither objection nor protest shall be withdrawn, except by leave of the Council.

20.6 The Chief Executive Officer of the Association shall send a copy of the protest and particulars to the Club protested against.

20.7 Each Club may support its case by witnesses.

20.8 If a member of the Council is connected with the Club concerned in a dispute of protest, they shall not sit on the Council while the dispute or protest is being considered.

20.9 A Club summoned to attend a Hearing of a dispute of protest may be represented by one (1) or more of its Members. A Barrister or Solicitor may represent the Club of which he is Chairman or Secretary at the time of the alleged offence, but otherwise only with the prior consent of the Council. Any person summoned to attend a Hearing of a dispute or protest must attend personally and shall not be legally represented except with the prior written consent of the Council.

21. **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

21.1 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.
21.2 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.

22. NOTICES

All notices required to be given to the Association by any of these rules shall be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, at the offices of The Football Association of Wales, 11-12 Neptune Court, Vanguard Way, Cardiff CF24 5PJ.
U-16’s Girls Challenge Cup

Rules apply as the FAW Women’s Cup except for the following variations:

1. **NAME OF THE CUP**
   The Competition shall be called “The Football Association of Wales Under 16 Girls Cup Competition”.

5. **ADMISSION CRITERIA AND PROCEDURE**
   To be eligible to participate in the Competition, clubs must:
   5.1 Play all of their Girls football under the jurisdiction of the Football Association of Wales;
   5.2 Meet the Ground Criteria as described in Rule 10;
   5.3 Affiliate to their Area Association or the Football Association of Wales.
   5.4 Complete the official entry documents, which must reach the FAW administration by 31st August annually.
   5.5 Pay an entrance fee of £15.00 including VAT by 31st August annually.

7. **COMPETITION FORMAT**
   7.1 The format of the competition should be determined based upon the number of entries submitted. A straight knockout should be used for the latter stages, but group stages may be used in the earlier rounds to increase participation.

12. **PROVISIONS FOR ALL MATCHES**
   12.1 The duration of each match shall be 35 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 his decision on this matter is not subject to appeal.
   12.2 If the match ends in a draw after 70 minutes played, it must be decided on penalties in accordance with the International Football Association Board procedures. (See Regulation 12.3 to 12.5). There is no extra time in this competition.
   12.3 Kicks from the penalty mark are taken in accordance with the procedure laid down in the IFAB Laws of the Game.
   12.4 The referee decides which goal will be used for the kicks:
       (a) If either goal could be used for the kicks, then, in the presence of the two captains, the referee tosses a coin to decide which goal will be used.
(b) For reasons of safety/security, state of the field of play, lighting 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.

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

12.6 Any late kick-off must be reported by the Referee to The Football Association of Wales and the Council shall have power to impose a fine.

13. POSTPONED OR ABANDONED MATCHES

13.1 When a first match has been postponed or abandoned before the completion of 70 minutes and neither club being at fault, it must be played on the same ground, the following week.

13.2 If extra time has not been commenced or a match has been abandoned during extra time and neither club being at fault, it must be played on the same ground, the following week.

13.3 Matches abandoned through the fault of one or both Clubs, shall be dealt with by the Council.

13.4 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 match expenses.

13.5 If there are fewer than seven players on either of the teams, the match is abandoned. In this case, the Council (see Regulation 4) decides on the consequences.

16. PROVISIONS CONCERNING QUALIFICATIONS OF PLAYERS

16.1 In order to be eligible to participate in the competition, only female players are permitted. The players must be registered with the League, no later than 5pm on the last working day before the Conference Date and fulfil all the conditions set out in FAW Regulations for the Registration of Players (See FAW Regulations, Section P.)

16.6 A Club may at its discretion use up to 5 Substitute Players in a Cup Tie, except to replace a Player who has been sent-off by the Referee after the play has commenced.

16.9 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.

19. PROVISIONS CONCERNING REFEREES

19.6 Scale of Fees to be paid to Referees

Group Matches:
Referee £25; Assistant Referees £18 each

Knockout Round Matches up to Semi-Final:
Referee £30; Assistant Referees £20 each

Semi-final:
Referee £40; Assistant Referees and 4th Official £30 each

Final: Referee £60 and a souvenir medal
Assistant Referees and 4th Official £40 each and a souvenir medal.
04c(v)
Futsal Cup
04c(v) Rules of the FAW Futsal Cup

1. SCOPE
1.1 The present regulations govern the rights, duties and responsibilities of all parties participating and involved in the preparation and organisation of the FAW Futsal Cup (hereinafter the competition).

2. ENTRIES – ADMISSION - DUTIES
2.1 The FAW will stage the competition every year.

2.2 Clubs affiliated to their Area Association as a small-sided team, as well as Member club of the Welsh Premier League, may enter the competition.

To be eligible to participate in the competition, a club must fulfil the following criteria:

(a) it must confirm in writing that the club itself, as well as its players and officials, agree to respect the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of the FAW;

(b) it must confirm in writing that the club itself, as well as its players and officials, agree to recognise the jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne as defined in the relevant provisions of the UEFA Statutes and agree that any proceedings before the CAS concerning admission to or exclusion from the competition will be held in an expedited manner in accordance with the Code of Sports-related Arbitration of the CAS and with the directions issued by the CAS;

(c) it must fill in the official entry documents, which must reach the FAW administration by the deadline communicated in the circular letter accompanying the entry documents. These entry documents contain all the information deemed necessary by the FAW administration for ascertaining compliance with the admission criteria.

(d) it must submit the official application form and make full payment of £25.00 by the deadline set.

2.3 The FAW Chief Executive will communicate the decision on admission to the competition to the clubs in writing. Such decisions are final.

2.4 If a club does not fulfil the admission criteria, the FAW administration will not admit it to the competition. Such decisions are final.

2.5 On entering the competition, participating clubs agree:
(a) to comply with the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game;
(b) to respect the principles of fair play as defined in the UEFA Statutes;
(c) to play in the competition until their elimination and to field their strongest team throughout the competition;
(d) to comply with all decisions regarding the competition taken by the FAW Council or the FAW administration and communicated appropriately (by circular letter or by official letter, fax or email);
(e) not to represent the FAW or the competition without FAW's prior written approval;
(f) to grant the FAW the right to use and authorise others to use photographic, audio-visual and visual material of their team, players and officials (including their names, relevant statistics, data and images), as well as the club name, logo, emblem and team-shirt (including references to the shirt sponsors and kit manufacturers) free of charge worldwide for the full duration of any rights (i) for non-commercial, promotional and/or editorial purposes and/or (ii) as reasonably designated by the FAW. On request, the clubs must supply the FAW, free of charge, with all appropriate material, fully cleared for use, as well as the necessary documentation required to allow the FAW to use and exploit such rights in accordance with this paragraph.

2.6 The club may use its name and/or logo provided all of the following requirements are satisfied:
   (a) the name is mentioned in the statutes of the club;
   (b) it is registered at the Area Association;
   (c) it is not regarded by the FAW as derogatory, offensive or irrelevant.
   (d) the name and logo do not refer to the name of a commercial partner. Exceptions to this rule may be granted by the FAW administration in any case of particular hardship (e.g. long-term existing name, etc.) on reasoned request of the club concerned. Clubs not concerned by such exceptions and clubs participating in the competition for the first time must propose a name free of commercial advertising to the FAW for approval. If so requested, the club must provide the FAW with the necessary evidence.

3 TROPHY AND MEDALS
3.1 The original trophy, which is used for the official presentation ceremony at the final and other official events approved by the FAW, remains in the FAW's keeping at all times.
3.2 Individual medals will be presented to the winning club and the runners-up.

4 RESPONSIBILITIES
4.1 The clubs are responsible for the behaviour of their players, officials, members, supporters and any person

5 INSURANCE
5.1 Each club shall, irrespective of the FAW's insurance coverage, cover any and all risks with reputable insurers at their own expense.
6 COMPETITION SYSTEM

6.1 The competition consists of the following stages:

(a) Qualifying stage:
   Preliminary round(s)
   Regional Finals (1 North, 1 South)

(b) FAW Futsal Cup finals:
   Two semi-finals
   Final

6.2 Depending on how many clubs enter the competition; the FAW administration may form
groups for the qualifying stage draw, taking geographical location, of the participating clubs
into consideration as far as possible.

6.3 The FAW administration has the decision to seed clubs for the qualifying stage.

6.4 The draw procedures will be prepared by the FAW administration and sent to the participating
clubs in due time.

6.5 Matches in the qualifying stage are played in the form of mini-tournaments or straight knock-
out.

6.6 The FAW Futsal Cup Finals will be played in the format of a straight knockout with Semi-Final
and Final matches.

6.7 Mini-tournament venues will be selected by the FAW.

6.8 Each team will play other teams in the group once, with three points awarded for a win, one
for a draw and none for a defeat.

6.9 If two or more teams are equal on points on completion of a mini-tournament, their position
within the group will be established according to the following criteria, in the order given:

(a) Higher number of points obtained in the matches among the teams in question.

(b) Superior goal difference resulting from the matches among the teams in question.

(c) Higher number of goals scored in the matches involving the teams in question.

(d) If, after having applied criteria a) to c) to several teams, two teams still have an equal
ranking, the criteria a) to c) are reapplied to determine the rankings of the two teams. If
this procedure does not lead to a decision, criteria e) to g) apply.

(e) Results of all group matches:
   1. Better goal difference
   2. Higher number of goals scored

(f) Drawing of lots.

6.10 If two teams which have the same number of points and the same number of goals scored
and conceded play their last group match against each other and are still equal on points at
the end of this match, the rankings of the two teams in question is determined by kicks from
the penalty mark and not by the criteria listed under 6.9 (a) to (f), provided no other teams
within the group have the same number of points on completion of all group matches. Should
more than two teams have the same number of points, the criteria listed under paragraph 6.9
apply. This procedure is only necessary if a ranking of the teams is required to determine the
group winner or the team which qualifies for the next round, as the case may be.

6.11 If on completion of a mini-tournament a draw is required, the drawing of lots will take place by the FAW at a time and date communicated to the Clubs concerned. Team representatives must sign a document stating that they accept the result of this draw.

6.12 To determine the best runners-up, the following criteria will be applied in the order given:
   (a) Number of points obtained by each runner-up in all its matches;
   (b) Goal difference obtained by each runner-up in all its matches;
   (c) Number of goals scored by each runner-up in all its matches;
   (d) Drawing of lots.

6.13 If groups in the qualifying stage contain three and four teams, the results of the last team in the group(s) of four will not be taken into account when determining the best runner(s)-up.

6.14 If the two teams involved in a knockout match have scored the same number of goals at the end of normal playing time, two five-minute periods of extra time will be played. If, during extra time, both teams score the same number of goals, or if no goals are scored, kicks from the penalty mark (rule 15) determine which club is the winner.

7. MATCH ADMINISTRATION

Qualifying Stage and Finals Round

7.1 The FAW Administration will determine the match dates, which can only be changed in extreme circumstances.

7.2 Match venues and halls will be fixed by the FAW.

7.3 Kick-off times are fixed by the FAW. In venues without any proper warm-up area, and in the case of two consecutive matches, the organisers must leave at least 15 minutes for the warm-up.

8. REFUSAL TO PLAY, CANCELLATION OF A MATCH, MATCH ABANDONED AND SIMILAR CASES

8.1 If a club refuses to play or is responsible for a match not taking place or not being played in full, the Control and Disciplinary Body will take a decision in the matter.

8.2 Exceptionally, the Control and Disciplinary Body can validate the result as it stood at the moment when the match was abandoned if the match result was to the detriment of the club responsible for the match being abandoned.

8.3 A club which refuses to play or is responsible for a match not taking place or not being played in full loses all entitlement to payments from UEFA.

8.4 Upon receipt of a reasoned and well-documented request from the club or clubs concerned, the FAW Council may set an amount of compensation due for financial loss.

9. MINI-TOURNAMENT OR MATCH CANCELLATION, ABANDONMENT

9.1 If the FAW finds that a mini-tournament cannot take place, it must notify the visiting club(s), before their departure from home. The FAW must forward such notification to the referees and the match delegates before their departure from home. In this case, the match(es) must be played on another date as agreed by the FAW and the visiting club(s).

9.2 If any doubt arises as to the condition of the field of play after the visiting club's departure
from home, the referee decides on the field of play itself whether or not it is fit for play.

9.3 If the referee declares that the match cannot commence because the field is not fit for play or for any other reason, it must in principle be played 7 days later, subject to the approval of the FAW administration. The match can still be replayed on another date set by the FAW administration, in consultation with the clubs and the associations concerned. In case of dispute, the FAW administration fixes the date and kick-off time of the match. Its decision is final.

9.4 If a match is abandoned before the end of normal time or during any extra time, because the field is not fit for play, or for any other reason, it must in principle be replayed in full seven days later, subject to the approval of the FAW administration. The match can still be replayed on another date set by the FAW administration, in consultation with the clubs and the associations concerned. In case of dispute, the FAW administration fixes the date and the kick-off time of the match. Its decision is final.

9.5 In the event of Rules 9.1–9.4 occurring, expense claims from clubs to cover travel and accommodation costs must be submitted in writing to the FAW Administration for consideration of the FAW Council. Its decision is final.

10. VENUES AND MATCH ORGANISATION

10.1 Halls must be in good condition in terms of both their playing surface and facilities, fully comply with the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game. The FAW will determine the venues.

10.2 Balls used must conform to the requirements laid down in the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game and will be provided by the FAW.

10.3 For matches and training sessions in the qualifying stage, FIFA-approved balls must be provided by the host club.

11. MATCH ORGANISATION

11.1 All teams must be at the match hall at least 45 minutes prior to their first kick-off to confirm their Registration.

11.2 The players are invited to shake hands with their opponents and the referees after the line-up procedure, as well as after the final whistle, as a gesture of fair play.

11.3 Only three team officials, one of whom must be the first aid officer and seven substitute players are allowed to sit on the substitutes’ bench, i.e. a total of ten persons. The names of all these persons and their functions must be listed on the match sheet. Suspended players are not allowed to warm up or sit on the bench on match days.

11.4 Smoking is not allowed during matches.

11.5 No spectators will be allowed alongside the touch-line or goal-line, unless behind a fence, net or barrier.

12. FUTSAL LAWS OF THE GAME

12.1 Matches will be played in conformity with the current FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game.

13. SUBSTITUTION OF PLAYERS AND MATCH SHEET

13.1 The maximum number of substitutes permitted per team is nine. The number of substitutions during the match is unlimited.
13.2 No substitutions will be allowed during time-outs. Substitutions are allowed as soon as a time-out finishes.

13.3 Before the match, each team will receive a match sheet on which the numbers, surnames, first names and dates of birth of the 14 players in the squad must be indicated, together with the surnames and first names of the officials seated on the substitutes’ bench. The match sheet must be properly completed in block capitals and signed by the captain and the competent club official. The numbers on the players’ shirts must correspond with the numbers indicated on the match sheet. The goalkeepers and team captain must be identified.

13.4 Both clubs must hand their match sheets to the referee at least 30 minutes before kick-off.

13.5 If the match sheet is not completed and returned in time, the matter will be submitted to the Control and Disciplinary Body.

13.6 All nine substitutes listed on the match sheet may take part in the match.

13.7 If there are fewer than three players on either of the teams, the match will be abandoned. In this case, the Control and Disciplinary Body decides on the consequences.

13.8 After the match sheets have been completed and signed by both teams and returned to the referee, and if the match has not yet kicked off, no replacement is allowed except in the following cases:

   (a) If any of the first five players listed on the match sheet are not able to start the match due to unexpected physical incapacity, they may only be replaced by any of the nine substitutes listed on the initial match sheet. The substitute(s) in question may then only be replaced by a registered player (players) not listed on the initial match sheet, so that the quota of substitutes is not reduced.

   (b) If any of the nine substitutes listed on the match sheet are not able to be fielded due to unexpected physical incapacity, they may only be replaced by any player not listed on the initial match sheet.

   (c) If a goalkeeper listed on the match sheet is not able to be fielded for any reason, he may be replaced by another goalkeeper not previously listed on the match sheet.

   (d) The club concerned must, upon request, provide the FAW administration with the necessary medical certificates.

14. **HALF-TIME INTERVAL, BREAK BEFORE EXTRA TIME**

14.1 The half-time interval will last five minutes. If extra time is required, there will be another five-minute break between the end of normal time and the start of extra time. As a rule, the players will remain on the pitch during these five-minute breaks, at the discretion of the referee.

15. **KICKS FROM THE PENALTY MARK**

15.1 For matches where the winner needs to be decided by kicks from the penalty mark, the procedure laid down in the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game promulgated by the IFAB applies.

15.2 The referee decides which goal will be used for the kicks.

15.3 If the taking of kicks from the penalty mark cannot be completed because of reasons beyond control, the results will be decided by drawing of lots by the referee in the presence of the
FAW Administration and the two team captains.

15.4 If through the fault of a club, the taking of kicks from the penalty mark cannot be completed, the provisions of paragraphs 9.4 to 9.5 of these rules apply.

16. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

16.1 A player is eligible to play in the competition provided he fulfils all of the following conditions:

(a) he is duly registered with the Football Association of Wales according to FAW Rules and those of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players.

(b) he is only eligible to play for one ‘small-sided’ club in the National Association concerned.

(c) he is duly registered with the FAW administration according to paragraph 16.07.

16.2 Each player taking part in the competition must be in possession of a valid passport or identity card, containing a photograph and giving full particulars of his date of birth (day, month, year). Otherwise, he is not allowed to take part in the competition.

16.3 All futsal registration forms must be sent to the Football Association of Wales by 5:00pm on the last working day prior to the fixture.

16.4 The season deadline for registering players is by 5:00pm on the last Thursday in March.

16.5 At any point in the competition, a list of players may comprise a maximum of 20 players, including those registered at a later stage, provided they meet the eligibility requirements defined in this rule 16.

16.6 Only 14 of the 20 players will be eligible to play in the qualifying stage or the final stage. The list of these 14 players must be submitted to the FAW administration on the Match day at the time of Registration.

16.7 If a club cannot count on the services of at least two goalkeepers registered on the list of players because of long-term injury or illness, the club concerned may temporarily replace the goalkeeper concerned and register a new goalkeeper at any time during the Competition and complete the official form with a goalkeeper fit to be fielded. The club must provide the FAW with the necessary medical evidence. The FAW may require further medical examination of the goalkeeper(s) by an expert appointed by the FAW administration at the cost of the club. Once the injured or ill goalkeeper is fit to be fielded again he can resume his position in place of his nominated substitute. The change must be announced to the FAW administration 24 hours before the next match in which the goalkeeper is due to play, by means of the official form.

16.8 In the course of a season, a player is eligible to play only for one single Futsal club in this competition. Exceptionally, if a player fulfils the two following conditions, he may play for another club which is also taking part in this season’s competition:

(a) The player has not been fielded for any FAW Futsal Cup matches by the first club in question. (The fact that his name may have appeared on a match sheet is taken to mean that he was fielded in the match).

(b) The player concerned is eligible to play for the other club by the deadlines set by the FAW in rule 16.5 and he is registered with the FAW administration in accordance with the aforementioned procedure.

16.9 When submitting player registration lists, the Area Association and club concerned must
vouch for the content and are responsible for ensuring that the aforementioned provisions are respected.

16.10 The FAW Council decides on questions of player eligibility. Challenged decisions are dealt with by the Control and Disciplinary Body.

17. **KIT REGULATIONS**

17.1 For the entire competition, all registered players, including those registered at a later stage, must wear on the back of the shirt numbers between 1 and 99. The numbers on the back of their shirts must correspond with the numbers indicated on the official player list. The number 1 must be worn by a goalkeeper.

17.2 At all matches in this competition, team captains must wear a captain’s armband.

17.3 Clubs may use up to three different sponsors on the match shirt provided that the overall surface covered does not exceed 200cm².

18. **REFEREES**

18.1 The FAW administration will appoint Referees for each match. Only referees who have completed the Futsal Referee Course are eligible. For each match, an official timekeeper is also appointed.

18.2 The referees and timekeeper must arrive at the venue 75 minutes before their first match.

18.3 Directly after the match, the referee shall complete the official report, sign it and hand it to the on-site FAW administration, with both match sheets.

18.4 After the match, the referee shall liaise with the on-site FAW administration, stating the reasons for each yellow and red card issued. In case of red cards or any other major incidents, the referee shall write an additional, detailed report for the FAW administration.

18.5 The referee fees for matches up to the Finals Day will be £25 per match. For the Finals Day, the fee will be £40 per match.

18.6 The timekeeper fees for matches up to the Finals Day will be £20 per match. For the Finals Day, the fee will be £30 per match.

18.7 An allowance of £0.35 per mile will be allowed to all officials officiating who travel by private car.

19. **YELLOW AND RED CARDS**

19.1 For all yellow and red card offences, refer to the FAW National Futsal Cup Disciplinary Procedures Concerning Pitch Offences.

20. **DECLARATION OF PROTESTS**

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

20.2 Protests cannot be lodged against factual decisions taken by the referee.

20.3 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 Association,
accompanied by a fee of £25.00 within two days of the match to which it relates (Sundays not included). The fee shall be forfeited to the Association in the event of the protest not being sustained.

20.4 The Council may order any Club engaged in a dispute or protest to pay such sum as may be considered necessary towards defraying the expenses incurred.

20.5 Any protest relating to the ground, goal posts or bars or other appurtenances of the game shall not be entertained by the Council 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 venue to correct the cause of the objection, if this is possible without unduly delaying the progress of the match.

20.6 When an objection has been lodged with the Referee, a protest must be made to the Association and neither objection nor protest shall be withdrawn, except by leave of the Council.

20.7 The Secretary of the Association shall send a copy of the protest and particulars to the Club protested against. If a member of the Council is connected with the Club concerned in a dispute of protest, he shall not sit on the Council while the dispute or protest is being considered.

20.8 A Club summoned to attend a hearing of a dispute or protest may be represented by one (1) or more of its Members. A barrister or solicitor may represent the Club of which he is Chairman or Secretary at the time of the alleged offence, but otherwise only with the prior consent of the Council. Any person summoned to attend a hearing of a dispute or protest must attend personally and shall not be legally represented except with the prior written consent of the Council.

21. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

21.1 For all matches in the competition, the FAW will pay for the facilities, referees, timekeepers, and, if applicable, tournament administrator.

22. COMMERCIAL RIGHTS

22.1 The FAW is the exclusive, absolute legal and beneficial owner of the commercial rights to the FAW Futsal Cup. The FAW expressly reserves all such commercial rights and shall be exclusively entitled to exploit, retain and distribute all revenues derived from the exploitation of such commercial rights.

22.2 The FAW has the exclusive right to appoint partners. Any such partners appointed by the FAW (and any other third party designated by FAW), as well as their products and/or services, may benefit from the exclusive right to exploit certain commercial rights in and to the FAW Futsal Cup and its matches. The clubs must take the necessary measures to ensure implementation and enforcement of the rights granted by the FAW to partners.

23. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

23.1 The FAW is the exclusive owner of all intellectual property rights of the competition, including any current or future rights of the FAW's names, logos, brands, medals and trophies. Any use of the aforementioned rights requires the prior written approval of the FAW and must comply with any conditions imposed by the FAW.
23.2 All rights to the fixture list, as well as any data and statistics in relation to the matches in the competition, are the sole and exclusive property of the FAW.

24. COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT (CAS)

24.1 In case of litigation resulting from or in relation to these regulations, the provisions regarding the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) laid down in the UEFA Statutes apply.

25. INFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

25.1 Any matters not provided for in these regulations, such as cases of force majeure, will be settled by the FAW Council, whose decisions are final.

26. CLOSING PROVISIONS

26.1 The FAW administration is entrusted with the operational management of the competition and is therefore entitled to take the decisions and adopt the detailed provisions necessary for implementing these rules.

26.2 All annexes form an integral part of these rules.

26.3 Any breach of these rules may be penalised by the FAW in accordance with the FAW’s disciplinary procedures.

26.4 These rules were adopted by the FAW Council at its meeting on 18th April 2011 and came into force on the same day.
04c (vi)
Regions
Cup
04c(vi) Regions Cup

NAME OF THE CUP
1. The Cup shall be called “The Football Association of Wales Regions Cup.”

CUP OWNERSHIP
2. The Cup is the property of the Football Association of Wales Limited.

CONTROL OF THE COMPETITION
3. The entire control and management of the Competition shall be vested in the Council. The Council shall have the power to formulate Rules of the Competition and to alter or add to the Rules as they, from time to time, deem expedient. The Council shall appoint a Committee to control and manage the Competition on their behalf and to give decisions on matters arising out of the Competition which, within the Rules laid down by the Council, shall be deemed decisions of the Council. Teams shall be bound by any Contract entered into by the Council in relation to the Competition. In any matter not specifically mentioned in these Rules, the Committee shall have the power to take such action and impose such penalties as it deems necessary.

COMPETITION FORMAT
4. The competition will be split into two Groups, one North and one South, with the three Area Associations in the North playing each other home and away over the two seasons and the two Area Associations in the South playing each other home and away during each season. Each Area Association shall play a total of four Group matches in the Competition, over the two seasons. The FAW will arrange the Final, between the winners of each Group, in April/May 2020.

5. Three points will be awarded for a win, one for a draw and zero for a defeat.

EQUALITY OF POINTS
6. If the teams are equal on points after all matches have been played in the Group, the following criteria are applied to determine the rankings;
(a) Superior goal difference, firstly in matches involving the top two teams, then, if they cannot be separated, in all group matches.
(b) Higher number of goals scored.
7. However, if the two teams have the same number of points and the same number of goals scored and the same number of goals conceded, at the end of the last Group match, extra time (15 minutes each way) shall be played and, if there is no winner at the end of extra time, their final rankings are determined by kicks from the penalty mark (in accordance with Rule 29).

8. In the Final match if the scores are equal after 90 minutes, extra time (15 minutes each way) shall be played. If there is no winner at the end of extra time, the winner will be determined by kicks from the penalty mark (in accordance with Rule 29).

**LAWS OF THE GAME**

9. Matches are played in conformity with the Laws of the Game promulgated by the International Football Association Board (IFAB).

10. Each match lasts 2 x 45 minutes.

**DATES OF MATCHES**

11. The 2018-2020 Regions Cup will be held over the period of two Seasons with two matches played by each Area Association, per Season.

12. Teams must mutually decide on the midweek fixture dates and times, as per the FAW Conference Dates and notify the Football Association of Wales. Teams shall not be compelled to play on a Sunday. If agreement cannot be reached the fixture must be played on the Conference Date for the match.

13. In the event of any postponed Match or replayed Match as the case may be, The Football Association of Wales shall declare a revised Date by which the fixture must be played.

14. Should either Team refuse to play it shall be adjudged to have lost the match. When Teams drawn together have arranged to play on a certain date, if either Team fails to comply it shall be adjudged to have lost the match. In the event of any Teams drawn together in any tie, failing to play by the Conference Date, they shall be adjudged to have lost the match, unless sufficient reason be given to the Committee, which Council has appointed to control and manage the competition, for an extension of time. In any of the preceding situations, the not guilty Team shall be awarded a 3-0 win.

**GROUND FACILITIES**

15. The Home Team is responsible for selecting the ground(s) where the Group matches are to be played. Goal nets must be used in all ties. The playing area must be railed or walled off, except those areas and spaces excluded from spectator viewing. Dressing and washing accommodation must be separate for each team and Match Officials. Toilets which are not available for spectator use must be provided for dressing rooms used by Players and Match Officials. There must be covered benches for the Substitutes and Technical Staff. These must accommodate at a minimum 8 people, but preferably accommodate 13 people.

16. Matches should be played within the territory of the Home Area Association.

17. Artificial turf must be approved by the FAW. It must have been granted the required FIFA licence, meeting the FIFA quality standards for football turf. It must meet all the requirements of the National Legislation in force. The surface must also be green and marked in white.
MATCH OFFICIALS

18. The Match Officials for the competition will be appointed by the Football Association of Wales, where possible 21 days prior to the match. The match officials must not reside within, or be registered to the same Area of any competing Area Association. The match fees and travel expenses are to be determined by the Referees Panel of the Football Association of Wales.

SUBSTITUTION OF PLAYERS

19. The substitution of three players, from a maximum of seven per team, is permitted in the course of the match.

20. During the match, substitutes are allowed to leave the technical area to warm up. The referee determines where exactly they may warm up (behind the first assistant referee or behind the goal) and how many substitutes are allowed to warm up simultaneously. Normally, three substitutes per team are allowed to warm up at the same time, but if space so permits, the referee can allow all the substitutes of each team to warm up simultaneously in the determined area.

MATCH TEAM SHEET

21. Before the match, each team receives a Match Team Sheet on which the numbers, full names, club and dates of birth of the 18 players in the squad must be entered, together with the full names of the team officials (maximum of six) seated on the substitutes' bench. The match sheet must be properly completed in block capitals and signed by the authorised team official.

22. The 11 first-named players must commence the match. The other seven players are designated as substitutes. The numbers on the players’ shirts must correspond with the numbers indicated on the match sheet. The goalkeepers and team captain must be identified.

23. Both teams must hand their match sheets to the referee at least 30 minutes before kick-off.

24. If the match sheet is not completed and returned on time, the matter will be submitted to the Compliance Department.

25. Only three of the substitutes listed on the match sheet may take part in the match. A player who has been substituted may take no further part in the match.

26. If there are fewer than seven players on either of the teams, the match is abandoned. In this case, the relevant Committee decides on the consequences.

REPLACEMENT OF PLAYERS ON THE MATCH SHEET

27. After the match sheets have been completed and signed by both teams and returned to the referee, and if the match has not yet kicked off, the following instructions apply:

- If any of the first 11 players listed on the match sheet are not able to start the match for any reason, they may be replaced by any of the seven substitutes listed on the match sheet. Such replacements will reduce the quota of substitute players accordingly. During the match, three players may still be replaced.

- If any of the seven substitutes listed on the match sheet are not able to be fielded for any reason, they may not be replaced, which means that the quota of substitute players will be reduced accordingly.
• If a goalkeeper listed on the match sheet is not able to be fielded for any reason, he may be replaced by another goalkeeper not previously listed on the match sheet.

**HALF-TIME INTERVAL**

28. The half-time interval lasts 15 minutes.

**KICKS FROM THE PENALTY MARK**

29. If, at any stage, kicks from the penalty mark are required the procedure laid down in the Laws of the Game applies.

30. If the taking of kicks from the penalty mark cannot be completed because of weather conditions or for other reasons beyond control, the result will be decided by the drawing of lots by the referee in the presence of the Match Delegate (if appointed) and the two team captains.

31. If through the fault of a team, the taking of kicks from the penalty mark cannot be completed, the relevant Committee will decide the outcome of the Match.

**PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

32. Players are eligible to play in the competition if they meet all of the following criteria throughout the competition.

(a) Players must respect the criteria regarding amateur status and must be non-contract players.

(b) Players must never have signed a contract as Professionals (see Chapter II of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players).

(c) Players must never have played in a non-amateur championship (professional league).

(d) Players must never have played in the Welsh Premier League/League of Wales.

(e) Players must be registered with a club that plays at Level 4 of the FAW pyramid or below. If a player is registered with a club that plays at Level 4 of the FAW pyramid or below on 1st September 2018, but is then transferred, or promoted with his Club to a higher league/division, (not Welsh Premier League), he remains eligible for the remainder of the FAW Regions Cup. If a player is registered with a club that plays above Level 4 on 1st September 2018 he is ineligible for the entirety of the FAW Regions Cup.

(f) Players must respect the age requirements:

i. Players must be at least 19 on the date of their first appearance in the competition.

ii. Players must be under 40 on the date of their first appearance in the competition.

(g) Players - including an unlimited number of foreign players - must have been duly registered on the FAW Player Registration Database for at least two years without interruption on the date of their first appearance in the competition.

(h) Players must never have played in UEFA competition matches (excluding the youth competitions, i.e. the European Under-17, Under-19 and Under-21 Championships, as well as previous UEFA Regions’ Cups and Futsal Competitions).
33. If the Committee, which Council has appointed to control and manage the competition, has any doubt as to the qualification of any player competing in this Competition, it shall have power to call upon such player or the Team to which he belongs, or for which he has played, to prove to its satisfaction that he is properly qualified according to the Rules, and, failing such satisfactory proof, the Committee shall have power to disqualify such player. Any matches in which the disqualified player has played and which his Team won points shall be adjudged to have been lost and the not guilty Team shall be awarded a 3-0 win.

**YELLOW AND RED CARDS**

34. A player who is sent off the field of play is suspended for the next match of the FAW Regions Cup competition, unless there is evidence of an obvious mistake of identity by the referee.

35. In the case of repeated cautions in different matches, the offending player is suspended for one match in the same competition after the second and fourth caution.

36. Single yellow cards that have not resulted in a suspension expire on completion of each FAW Regions Cup and are not carried forward to future competitions.

**DECLARATION OF PROTESTS**

37. Area Associations are entitled to protest as per FAW Rules and Regulations.

38. Protests must reach the Compliance Department in writing, stating the reasons, within 2 Business Days of the completion of the match. This time limit cannot be extended.

39. The protest fee will be confirmed by the FAW Compliance Department. It must be paid at the same time as the protest is filed.

**REASONS FOR PROTEST**

40. A protest is directed against the validity of a match result. It is based on a player’s eligibility to play, a decisive breach of the Regulations by the referee, or other incidents influencing the match.

41. Protests concerning the state of the field of play must be submitted to the referee in writing by the relevant official before the match. If the state of the field of play becomes questionable in the course of the match, the team captain must inform the referee, in the presence of the captain of the opposing team, orally without delay.

42. Protests cannot be lodged against factual decisions taken by the referee.

43. A protest against a caution or expulsion from the field of play after two cautions is admissible only if the referee’s error was to mistake the identity of the player.

**APPEALS**

44. The standard FAW Competition Appeals Procedure will apply.

**UEFA REGIONS CUP**

45. The Winner of the FAW Regions Cup will be nominated to represent Wales in the following UEFA Regions Cup.

46. The Rules of the UEFA Regions Cup are a different set of Rules to the FAW Regions Cup. The FAW Council controls the Rules to the FAW Competition as confirmed in Rule 3. UEFA controls the Rules to the UEFA Regions Cup.
04c(vii)
Welsh Premier League
1. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

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

1.1.1. ‘Authorised Kit’ means each Match playing kit approved by the Panel in accordance with Rule 16 below;

1.1.2. ‘Business Day’ means a day that is not a Saturday or Sunday or a public or bank holiday in Wales.

1.1.3. ‘Clear Days’ in relation to the period of notice means that period excluding the day when notice is given or deemed to be given and the day for which it is given or on which it is to take effect.

1.1.4. ‘Club’ means an association football club which is for the time being a member of the League or (where the context requires) a prospective member or a former member of the League.

1.1.5. ‘Chairman’ means the Chairman of the Panel who shall be appointed by the FAW Council.

1.1.6. ‘Domestic Loan’ means any short term loan of a Professional Player either between two (2) Clubs or between a Club and an FAW Championship member club in accordance with these Rules.

1.1.7. ‘FAW’ means the Football Association of Wales Ltd.

1.1.8. ‘FAW Regulations’ means the regulations, standing orders, byelaws, orders, codes, policies, procedures, directives and instructions for the time being of the FAW.

1.1.9. ‘FAW Rules’ means the Rules for the time being of the FAW.

1.1.10. ‘General Manager’ means the general manager of the League or any other person appointed by the FAW to perform the duties of the general manager from time to time.

1.1.11. ‘General Meeting’ means any meeting of the Clubs and shall include the Annual General Meeting and any Extraordinary General Meetings called in accordance with Rule 4 below.

1.1.12. ‘Home Club’ means the Club on whose ground any Match should be or should
have been played and where ground sharing is in operation the Club whose name first appears on the relevant Match details issued by the Panel and ‘Visiting Club’ means the other Club due to play in the relevant Match.

1.1.13. ‘Irn-Bru Cup’ has the meaning given in Rule 18 below.

1.1.14. ‘League’ means the Welsh Premier League, as such name may be amended from time to time by the Panel with the approval of the FAW directors to include the name of a title sponsor.

1.1.15. ‘Match’ means any association football match played in the League including (where the context requires) the Play-Offs.

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. ‘Panel’ means the committee of the FAW constituted in accordance with the FAW Rules and FAW Regulations in order to administer the League from time to time.

1.1.19. ‘Phase 1’ and ‘Phase 2’ have the meanings given in Rule 17 below.

1.1.20. ‘Player’ means any male association football player, whether or not registered with the FAW to play for a Club.

1.1.21. ‘Play-Offs’ has the meaning given in Rule 18 below.

1.1.22. ‘Rules’ means these Rules of the League as amended from time to time.

1.1.23. ‘Scale of Fines’ means the scale of fines referred to in Rule 35 below.

1.1.24. ‘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.

1.1.25. ‘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.

1.1.26. ‘Team Sheet’ means the sheet 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.

1.1.27. ‘Tier 1 Licence’ has the meaning given in Rule 5 below.

1.1.28. ‘Transmission Rights’ means the sole and exclusive worldwide right in perpetuity to record (a) television or other moving pictures of any League 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
1.1.29. ‘Transmission Contracts’ means any and all contracts entered into by the FAW and/or its agents and licensees in or ancillary to the exercise of the Transmission Rights.

1.1.30. ‘UEFA Licence’ has the meaning given in Rule 18 below.

1.1.31. ‘Welsh Cup’ means the FAW Challenge Cup.

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

1.3. Referring to natural persons includes both genders. The singular case applies to the plural and vice versa.

1.4. The headings in these Rules are inserted for ease of reference and do not affect the interpretation of these Rules.

1.5. The terms ‘include’, ‘including’, ‘for example’, ‘such as’ and ‘in particular’ or any similar expression shall be construed as illustrative, without limiting the sense or scope of the words preceding them.

2. GENERAL

2.1. 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:

- The FAW Rules and FAW Regulations; and
- 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. THE PANEL

3.1. The business of the League shall be conducted by the Panel 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 Panel shall consist of members as decided by the FAW Council from time to time.

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

3.4. The Panel may from its own number, appoint and elect such sub-committees as it deems necessary for the efficient management of the business of the League and may delegate to such sub-committees such of its powers as the Panel deems appropriate.

3.5. In the event of the voting at any meeting of the Panel being equal, the Chairman of such meeting shall have a second casting vote.
3.6. The Panel shall defray out of the funds of the League all expenses in respect of the administration of the League. A member of the Panel may be paid out of League funds such expenses incurred through attendance at meetings of, or in connection with, the League, as the Panel may approve.

3.7. The Panel 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 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 Panel shall have the power to impose fines not exceeding £15,000 and any other sanctions (including deduction of points or suspension from the League) as the Panel shall consider appropriate, subject always to the rights of appeal and (if applicable) the Scale of Fines hereinafter mentioned.

3.8. The Panel shall normally meet in each month except July, but the General Manager shall either of his own volition, or otherwise on the requisition of any three (3) members of the Panel, summon a meeting of the Panel at any other time.

3.9. The Panel shall cause minutes to be retained:

3.9.1. of the names of the members of the Panel present at each meeting thereof and of any sub-committees; and

3.9.2. of all proceedings and decisions at General Meetings and at all meetings of the Panel.

The General Manager shall cause such minutes to be circulated to members of the Panel, the FAW Council and to the Clubs following ratification by the directors of the FAW.

3.10. The Panel may act notwithstanding any temporary vacancy of any member.

3.11. All acts done by any meeting of the Panel or by any person acting as representative of the Panel shall, notwithstanding that it is afterwards discovered that there was some defect in the appointment of any person so acting or that any person so acting was disqualified, be as valid as if such a person had been duly appointed and qualified.

3.12. Each member of the Panel 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 under the jurisdiction of the League and to all Welsh Cup matches.

3.13. In relation to any matter not specifically addressed in these Rules the Panel 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.

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

4. GENERAL MEETINGS

4.1. The Annual General Meeting of the League shall be held in each year at a time and place to be determined by the Panel.

4.2. The Panel may, whenever it thinks fit and shall upon a requisition made to the League in writing signed by duly authorised representatives of not less than two thirds (2/3rds) of the Clubs convene an Extraordinary General Meeting.

4.3. The General Manager shall notify all Clubs and the members of the Panel 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 all the Clubs.

4.4. Each Club shall be entitled to have two (2) representatives and one (1) vote at any General Meeting and Clubs shall prior to the General Meeting in question notify the General Manager of the identity of the Club representatives and which representative shall be entitled to cast the Club's vote. Votes may only be given 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 at the meeting.

4.5. The Chairman of the Panel shall be the Chairman at all General Meetings but in his absence the members of the Panel present shall choose one of their number to be Chairman.

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

4.7. Each Club must be represented by its Chairman (or a deputy satisfactory to the Panel) at the annual Club Chairmen's Meeting.

5. FAW TIER 1 CLUB LICENSING

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

6. SUBSCRIPTIONS

6.1. The annual subscription of each Club to the League shall be £500 or such other sum as shall be determined by the Panel from time to time. All annual subscriptions shall be paid in advance on or before 31st July in each year to the General Manager. Any Club whose subscription has not been paid by 31st July shall not be entitled to be represented at any General Meeting until the same shall have been paid.

7. ACCOUNTS

7.1. 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.

8. NOTICES

8.1. 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 shall be notified by the Club to the General Manager. Any notice or other communication to be served on the League shall be addressed to the General Manager at 11/12 Neptune Court, Vanguard Way, Cardiff, CF24 5PJ or by facsimile on 02920 496 953. Proof of service shall be in accordance with Rule 144 of the FAW Rules.

9. INDEMNITY
9.1. Any member of the Panel who is not a director of the FAW shall be indemnified out of the assets of the FAW in identical form to the indemnity contained in article 47 of the Articles of Association of the FAW.

10. ALTERATIONS TO THESE RULES

10.1. 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 Meeting or at Extraordinary General Meeting convened under Rule 4 above for that purpose. Any alteration to these Rules must be supported by at least two thirds (2/3rds) of those present and eligible to vote at such meeting.

10.2. Club proposals for alterations to these Rules together with the name of their Club proposers and seconders shall be received by the General Manager no later than the 1st March prior to the date fixed for the Annual General Meeting in any year. The Panel may also propose alterations to these Rules to be considered at an appropriate Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting.

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

11.1. Provisions relating to disciplinary procedures, disputes, appeals, independent arbitration, penalties, sanctions and other powers shall be dealt with in accordance with the FAW Rules and FAW Regulations including Rules 37-54(A) and 146 of the FAW Rules.

12. REGISTRATIONS, CONTRACTS AND TRANSFERS

12.1. Provisions relating to Player registrations, contracts and transfers shall (if so far as applicable) be dealt with in accordance with these Rules and the FAW Rules and FAW Regulations including Rules 55-91 of the FAW Rules.

12.2. 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.

13. DOMESTIC LOANS

13.1. Each Club may undertake a maximum of four (4) Domestic Loans per season. Only a Professional Player (as defined in the FAW Rules) will be eligible to be registered with the FAW (using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time) on a Domestic Loan. Each Club may only have two (2) Professional Players on a Domestic Loan at any one time.

13.2. Each Domestic Loan must be for a minimum period of twenty eight (28) days subject to Rule 13.3 below and must expire prior to the start of the next registration period set by the FAW.

13.3. An outfield player may only be subject to a recall from a Domestic Loan (in each case, using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time) after twenty eight (28) days have elapsed from the initial Domestic Loan date. A goalkeeper may only be subject to a recall (in each case, using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time) after seven (7) days have elapsed from the initial Domestic Loan date.
13.4. Professional Players may only be registered with the FAW by a Club on a Domestic Loan during the following periods:

13.4.1. 9th September to the last Thursday in November inclusive; and
13.4.2. 7th February to the last Thursday in March inclusive.

Domestic Loans must be submitted to the FAW (in each case, using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time) by no later than 5pm on the last Business Day before the Match in which the Club wishes the Player to participate. Domestic Loans shall not count against a Club’s quota of Player Loans under FAW Rule 69.

14. SUBSTITUTES

14.1. A Club at its discretion may use up to three (3) substitutes at any time 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. The name(s) and numbers of the substitute(s) must be nominated to the Referee on the Team Sheet in accordance with Rule 24 below. When making substitutions, Clubs and Match Officials must ensure that the appropriate substitution boards supplied by the League are used. Clubs may nominate up to five (5) substitutes and up to two (2) additional substitutes (who are aged not more than 19 on 31st August of the applicable season, known as ‘Youth Substitutes’) provided each Youth Substitute is registered for the Club with the FAW and is eligible to participate in Matches in accordance with the FAW Rules and FAW Regulations.

15. INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

15.1. 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 record for that season (or in the case of a Play-Off Match, will forfeit the Match) and will also be liable to a fine. If the Player is a nominated but unused substitute for a Match, he shall be deemed as not having played for the Club in that Match.

15.2. A Club must not nominate a Player as a substitute for a Match unless he is a duly registered Player for the Club with the FAW who is eligible to play in the Match.

16. AUTHORISED KITS

16.1. By 24th June, each Club shall submit to the General Manager, in writing, in PDF format full details of their proposed Match kit colours (comprising shirts, shorts and socks for outfield players in both home and change kit versions, and including any proposed sponsor logos) for the forthcoming season and, once approved by the Panel (each such kit then being an “Authorised Kit”), such details shall be published in the League Handbook for that season. The Authorised Kits shall be worn during the relevant season and no changes of either colours or combination of colours shall be permitted during the course of the season except: (a) when the colours of two competing Clubs are alike or similar the Visiting Club shall change to another kit approved in writing by the Panel (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 (b) Club may submit a request in writing to the General Manager at least fourteen (14) days before a Match to wear an alternative special kit (for example, a charity kit or a new season launch kit) and may wear such a kit if it obtains prior written approval.
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 undersocks or undershirts are to be worn by a Player in a Match, they must be of a colour approved by the Panel in relation to the applicable Authorised Kit prior to the relevant season.

16.4. No Club shall be permitted to register or play a Match in shirts the colour of which is likely to cause confusion with the outfits worn by Referees and Assistant Referees.

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

16.6. Each Club shall allocate two (2) additional squad numbers and shirts at the beginning of the season so that they can immediately be assigned to new Player signings. An unmarked blood shirt is also required by every team at every Match.

16.7. Clubs wishing to make alterations to their Authorised Kits after the date set by the Panel under Rule 16.1 above, must make an application to the Panel. The Panel may require all Players participating in Matches to carry the League’s and/or a League sponsor’s logo on both sleeves of their shirts.

16.8. Each Home Club must ensure that sufficient ball kids and/or other personnel are on duty at each Match to ensure a speedy and safe return of the football to the field of play. The colours of the clothing worn by any such ball kids and/or other personnel for each Match must not clash with those of either of the competing teams or Match Officials.

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

17. LEAGUE FORMAT, CHAMPIONS, PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

17.1. The League will comprise a maximum of twelve-(12) member Clubs in each season. The Panel shall determine annually the date on which Matches shall commence. The Panel shall fix the date in the following year on which the normal playing season of the League shall terminate.

17.2. A Club may not enter its first team in any other competition except the League Cup, the Welsh Cup, the Irn-Bru Cup, UEFA club competitions and any invitational competition approved in writing in advance by the Panel. The General Manager must be promptly informed by the relevant Club in advance of all proposed fixtures to be played (and afterwards all results of fixtures played) by its first team in any competition other than the League.

17.3. In each season, the Clubs will initially play Matches against each other on a home and away basis, giving a maximum total of twenty two (22) Matches per Club (‘Phase 1’), following which the League will be split into two (2) groups, the first comprising the six (6) highest placed Clubs and the second comprising the remaining lowest placed Clubs, with points already gained carried forward. Each group of Clubs will then play each other on a home and away basis, giving a total of a further maximum ten (10) Matches per Club (‘Phase 2’). The first group consisting of the six (6) highest placed clubs will be known as the ‘Championship Conference’. The second group consisting of the remaining lowest placed clubs will be known as the ‘Play-Off Conference’ (and each is a ‘Conference’ and together the
'Conferences'). Following the formation of the Conferences, no Club from either Conference can be moved from one Conference to another and no Club from the Play-Off Conference can achieve a place higher in the League than any Club in the Championship Conference, even if during or at the end of Phase 2 the points total of a Club in the Play-Off Conference is greater than a Club Championship Conference.

17.4. All Matches shall be of ninety (90) minutes’ duration. Three (3) points will be awarded to a Club for a win in a Match at home or away, and one (1) point for a drawn Match at home or away. At the end of each season’s League competition (comprising Phase 1 and Phase 2 but excluding the Play-Offs referred to in Rule 18 below), the Club from the Championship Conference scoring the largest number of total points shall be declared the League champion Club for that season.

17.5. Where two or more Clubs, in either Phase 1 or Phase 2, possess the same number of points, the following criteria will be applied in the order given to determine their rankings:

17.5.1. Superior goal difference obtained in all League matches (Phase 1 and Phase 2);
17.5.2. Higher or highest number of goals scored in all League matches (Phase 1 and Phase 2);
17.5.3. Higher or highest number of points obtained in all League matches (Phase 1 and Phase 2) played among the Clubs in question;
17.5.4. Superior goal difference obtained in all League matches played among the Clubs in question;
17.5.5. higher or highest number of goals scored in all League matches played among the teams in question;
17.5.6. higher or highest number of goals scored away from home in all League matches played among the teams in question;
17.5.7. higher or highest number of wins in all League matches;
17.5.8. higher or highest number of away wins in all League matches;
17.5.9. lower or lowest disciplinary points total based only on yellow and red cards received in all League matches; and
17.5.10. the Clubs concerned shall play-off, in a format as directed by the Panel.

17.6. The League champion Club shall hold the League trophy for approximately one year and will be responsible for the engraving of the trophy prior to its return to the FAW. The Cup must be returned not later than 1st March in the following 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.

17.7. Clubs shall be promoted to and relegated from the League in accordance with the FAW Regulations for the Pyramid League System and the FAW Rules.

17.8. If any Club ceases to operate between the Annual General Meeting and the commencement of the following season, no adjustments to the number of Clubs in membership of the League will be made. The remaining Clubs shall constitute the members of the League for that season.

17.9. A Club which for any reason ceases to operate at any time during Phase 1 shall have its
playing record expunged. If the Club ceases to operate during Phase 2 before it completes its Matches, all of its playing record in Phase 2 shall be expunged but its results in Phase 1 shall stand. Any monies due to it from the FAW funds shall be withheld and from the date of the withdrawal no further payments shall become due to it.

17.10. A Club that enters into administration at any time during the playing season shall have ten (10) points deducted from its record, and any monies due to it from FAW funds shall be withheld. A Club that enters into administration outside of the playing season shall have ten (10) points deducted from its record in the season following the date on which it entered administration, and any monies due to it from the FAW funds shall be withheld unless and until the Club exits administration on a solvent basis.

18. QUALIFICATION FOR OTHER COMPETITIONS AND PLAY-OFFS

18.1. The League champion Club will be eligible to be nominated by the FAW for the UEFA Champions’ League for the following season and the runner-up Club will be eligible to be nominated by the FAW for the UEFA Europa League, subject in each case to the Club having attained a UEFA Club competition licence (‘UEFA Licence’) in accordance with the relevant FAW club licensing regulations for the following season. If either Club does not attain the necessary UEFA Licence, the next highest placed Club will be eligible to be nominated by the FAW, subject to the Club having attained a UEFA Licence.

18.2. The third (3rd) to seventh (7th) placed Clubs in the League after Phase 1 and Phase 2 in each season will be eligible to participate in the League’s play-offs (‘Play-Offs’) for the remaining UEFA Europa League place, subject in each case to the Club having attained both a Tier1 Licence and a UEFA Licence for the following season. The Play-Offs shall be organised by the Panel and shall be considered as separate from Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the League in each season and the Play-Offs shall not count towards any Club’s final position in the League. These Rules shall apply to the Play-Offs, subject to any amendments deemed necessary by the Panel.

18.3. The Matches in Play-offs shall be played over one leg with the higher placed Club designated as the Home Team. If five (5) Clubs qualify to participate in the Play-Offs, the 6th placed Club shall play the 7th placed Club first in a quarter-final. The winner of that Match shall qualify for the semi-finals, for which the draw shall be: 3rd v 6th or 7th and 4th v 5th. If fewer than five (5) Clubs participate in the Play-Offs then the Play-Offs shall comprise only semi-final(s) and then a final. The Home Club for each Match in the Play-Offs shall be the participating Club which finished the higher in the League after Phase 1 and Phase 2.

18.4. The Matches in the Play-offs shall all be played over ninety (90) minutes. If the result is a draw at the end of ninety (90) minutes play, an extra thirty (30) minutes shall be played. If the Match is still level at the end of extra time, the winners shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the Laws of the Game and any applicable IFAB procedures. A fourth (4th) substitute shall be allowed to participate for each Club if a Play-Off Match requires extra time.

18.5. The League champion Club will be eligible to be nominated by the FAW for the Scottish Premier Football League Challenge Cup (currently known as the ‘Irn-Bru Cup’) for the following season, subject to the Club having met any eligibility criteria set by the FAW from time to time. If the League champion Club does not meet any eligibility criteria set by the FAW from time to time, the next highest placed Club which does will be eligible to be nominated by the FAW for the Irn-Bru Cup.
19. SCHEDULING OF MATCHES AND KICK-OFF TIMES

19.1. The Panel shall determine how the Matches shall be arranged and rearranged over the playing season. The Panel may change the schedule of Matches during the season to suit the overall interests of the League. The Matches shall take precedence over all competitions in which a Club may engage, with the exception of the Welsh Cup, UEFA club competitions and any invitational competition as agreed by the Panel.

19.2. The schedule of Matches shall be issued by the General Manager after consultation with the Clubs. The Home Club for each Match shall have the right to determine whether a weekend Match is to be played on a Friday evening or a Saturday or Sunday save that all weekday (Monday to Friday) evening fixtures when the distance between the Home Club and the Visiting Club is more than one hundred (100) miles shall only take place with the consent of both Clubs, unless chosen as a live televised Match as determined by the Panel.

19.3. At least two (2) weeks’ prior notice is required from Clubs wishing to re-arrange a Saturday Match to Friday evening. A request made in less than this period of time will only be considered by the Panel in exceptional circumstances.

19.4. Clubs shall not be required to play a Match (or an Irn-Bru Cup match) within seventy (72) hours prior to, or within seventy (72) hours after playing a UEFA club competition match.

19.5. Unless mutually agreed by the Clubs concerned, the time of kick-off shall be: Saturday and Sunday matches: 2.30pm or as directed by the Panel. Evening matches: 7.45pm or as mutually agreed between the two Clubs.

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

19.7. All agreed changes to time of kick-off shall be notified to the General Manager by the Home Club immediately for confirmation at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the Match.

19.8. Clubs shall adhere to any additional requirements agreed by the Panel and contained in the League broadcasters’ protocol to be provided to the Clubs by the General Manager at least two (2) weeks prior to the commencement of the playing season.

19.9. Each Home Club shall re-confirm to the Visiting Club, and Match Officials via email, the date and time of kick off, to be received at least five (5) days prior to the Match. The Visiting Club, Referee and Assistant Referees must acknowledge receipt via email at least three (3) days before the Match. Visual images of full kits for the Match (including goalkeeper) must be sent to the Match Referee with such Match re-confirmation. The Match Referee must confirm approval of both Clubs’ proposed kits with both Clubs and the General Manager via email at least forty eight (48) hours prior to kick off.

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

19.11. Where a Match is re-arranged or cancelled after the Match Officials have been appointed, it is the duty of the Home Club to notify the Match Officials of the cancellation of their appointments immediately.

20. GATE RECEIPTS

20.1. Save as expressly stated in these Rules, the Home Club shall retain all gate receipts generated from each Match, including in the Play-Offs.
21. CONDITION OF GROUNDS AND POSTPONEMENTS

21.1. 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 Panel may direct. In the event of a Match not being played to a finish owing to fog or other causes over which neither Club has control, the Home Club shall take its own gate receipts of such uncompleted Match and the gate receipts of the replayed Match shall be divided on Welsh Cup tie terms, except that season ticket holders of the Home Club shall be admitted on producing their cards of membership.

21.2. In the event of a Match having to be postponed for any reason due to problems arising from one of the Clubs involved, their prospective opponents shall be compensated by them/or the League at the discretion of the Panel.

21.3. In the case of the Visiting 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 Panel up to a maximum of £300.

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

21.5. When a Match is postponed, both Clubs are to agree an alternative date and notify the General Manager within fourteen (14) days of the revised date. If the Clubs fail to agree, the General Manager is to impose a date without right of appeal by either Club.

21.6. 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 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 General Manager. 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 General Manager shall decide the time of any inspection.

21.7. 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 General Manager.

21.8. If the available referee does not declare the ground unfit, a final decision shall be made by the Match Referee upon his arrival at the ground (each such Referee taking into account that Referees should not hastily postpone or abandon Matches). Officials conducting ground inspections shall be entitled to a £30 fee and travelling expenses to be met by the League.

21.9. When a Club obtains the approval of the Panel 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.

21.10. Requests for the postponement of a Match for any reason will not be considered more than forty-eight (48) hours before the scheduled time of kick-off.

21.11. Medical Certificates for those Players affected sent signed by the Player’s own doctor must be forwarded to the General Manager 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.

22. TEAM SHEETS AND STRENGTH OF TEAMS

22.1. Both Match Team Sheets must be completed and handed in to the Home Club match day secretary, who shall be readily available, at least seventy five (75) minutes before kick-off of each Match (except at least ninety (90) minutes before kick-off of any Match to be transmitted “live” on terrestrial television). The Home Club shall ensure that both Team Sheets are handed to the Match Officials at least sixty (60) minutes before kick-off.

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 Panel. 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 11 Players indicated on the Team Sheet as forming the starting 11 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 (players) not listed on the initial Team Sheet, so that the quota of substitutes is not reduced. During the match, three (3) Players may still be substituted.

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

22.2.3. If none of the goalkeepers listed on the Team Sheet are able to be fielded due to physical incapacity, they may be replaced by registered goalkeeper Player not listed on the initial Team Sheet.

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

22.3. The League’s standard form Team Sheet shall be used by each Club, using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time.

22.4. Each Club shall play its full strength team in all Matches and shall be prepared to kick off at the advertised time unless an explanation is offered which is deemed satisfactory by the Panel.

23. MATCH-DAY PASSES

23.1. Each Home Club will issue to the Visiting Club:

23.1.1. A pass to cover eighteen (18) Players plus up to eight (8) Officials (including team manager, assistant coach and physiotherapist) with access to the relevant changing room, pitch, substitutes bench and technical area and other relevant areas within the ground on Match day, and

23.1.2. Passes to give access to the ground and directors’ boardroom for six (6) directors on Match day.

23.2. Additional passes or tickets to give access to the ground for the Match must be issued upon request from the Visiting Club, up to a maximum of six (6), provided it is understood that
such requests must be restricted to bona-fide Club directors.

23.3. Ten (10) League passes will be issued to each Club. The passes are for ground admission and stand for all Matches (subject to availability) but will not guarantee admittance in to the Club boardroom or directors box. The passes are transferable.

24. **SUBSTITUTES BENCHES AND TECHNICAL AREAS**

24.1. At each Match:

24.1.1. up to thirteen (13) Players and Officials in total (of which no more than five (5) may be the substitutes and not more than two (2) may be the Youth Substitutes nominated in accordance with Rule 14.1 above, or the Players they have replaced on the field of play) may sit on the substitutes' bench of the relevant Club in the designated technical area. The full name of each person and their function must be listed on the Team Sheet.

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

24.1.3. The Emergency Aid Officer role is as defined in the FAW’s Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations. The person on duty as Emergency Aid Officer shall be either the Club's incumbent Emergency Aid Officer in accordance with the Club’s Tier 1 Licence or, in exceptional circumstances, a replacement who is appropriately qualified in accordance with the FAW’s Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations.

24.1.4. 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 (behind the first Assistant Referee or behind the goal) and how many substitutes are allowed to warm up simultaneously but in any event, no more than three (3) in total from each Club. A Club Official (as indicated on the Team Sheet) may join the substitutes warming up and, if so, is responsible for compliance with the Referee's instructions. Each Club participating in a Match must have two (2) sets of warm up bibs available to present to the Referee before the Match. The Referee will decide which bibs the substitutes must wear during their warm ups.

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

25. **RESULT/REPORT FORMS**

25.1. Each Club competing in a Match shall send the completed standard electronic Result Form to the General Manager within thirty (30) minutes of the final whistle, using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time. The Referee shall send the completed standard Referee’s Report Form to the General Manager 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).
26. MATCH OFFICIALS

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

26.2. In the event of the Match Officials not being in attendance at the Match in accordance with Rule 26.3 below, the two (2) Clubs must agree to a substitute on the ground and such substitute shall be considered a Match Official for the time being.

26.3. Match Officials should be present at the appointment at least (seventy five (75) minutes prior to the advertised time of kick-off. The appointed Referee may be required to visit the ground earlier if requested to do so by the Home Club. If any Match Official becomes aware that they are likely to arrive late, they must immediately notify the participating Clubs, other Match Officials and the General Manager via telephone calls.

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

26.5. 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.

26.6. Referees must report to the General Manager all cases where Clubs commence a Match late, or without eleven (11) Players on the field and also in case of their own or any Assistant Referee’s or the Fourth Official’s late arrival for any Match as soon as possible after the Match. Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials must also send an explanation of their late arrival to the General Manager as soon as possible after the Match.

26.7. The Home Club must pay the Match Officials their expenses on the date of the Match, in their dressing room, within a reasonable time after the conclusion of the Match.

26.8. The football(s) proposed to be used in a Match must be the applicable official Match ball type as determined by the Panel and notified to the Clubs by the General Manager from time to time. The Home Club must ensure that the proposed Match balls are in good condition and without any writing or extra marking on them. The proposed Match ball(s) (comprising a minimum number of eight (8)) shall be submitted by the Home Club to the Referee for his approval before commencement of the Match.

26.9. The scale of payments for Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials shall be determined by the FAW and notified to the Clubs by the General Manager prior to the commencement of the playing season.

26.10. All Match Officials shall be entitled to claim the cheapest form of rail travel available on the day of the Match or motoring expenses determined from time to time by the FAW when travelling by car.

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

26.12. Match Officials shall be entitled to a meal allowance determined from time to time by the Panel when travelling a total of one hundred and fifty (150) miles or more. In addition, Home Clubs must provide adequate refreshments to the Match Officials in their dressing room at least sixty (60) minutes prior to kick-off.

26.13. In the case of postponed Matches where gate money is not taken, the Match Officials shall be paid their travelling expenses and half their ordinary fee.
26.14. Referees must report any late presentation or non-presentation of Team Sheets or alteration of teams after presentation of Team Sheets in accordance with Rule 24 above.

26.15. 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 General Manager.

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

26.17. Any comments, questions or complaints regarding the decisions of a given Match Official shall be directed to the FAW Referees manager (initially via email), not to any individual Match Official.

27. WITHDRAWAL OF CLUBS

27.1. A Club shall not resign from the League after being accepted at the Annual General Meeting and before completing all of its Matches in the relevant season.

27.2. If a Club wishes to resign from the League at the end of the season, it must do so by giving notice by 1st April.

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

28.1. At the Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 4 above, a seventy five per cent (75%) majority of the accredited Club representatives present and eligible to vote shall have power to exclude from further participation in the League any Club whose conduct has in their opinion been objectionable and detrimental to the good conduct of the name of the League.

28.2. 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 or any other Club into disrepute.

29. MATCH PROGRAMME DETAILS

29.1. The Visiting Club must send the Home Club a brief history of the Club, details of its Club first team squad list together with Players’ pen pictures and which Authorised Kit it intends to wear in time to be received by the Home Club at least five (5) days prior to the scheduled date of the Match. If as a result of exceptional circumstances, a Match is re-arranged with less than five (5) days’ notice, the details must be forwarded to the Home Club as soon as reasonably practicable after notification of the re-arrangement. All Clubs must publish a minimum sixteen (16)-page programme for all Matches, which may be in hard copy and/or digital format.

29.2. If requested by the General Manager, the Home Club shall forward to the General Manager a copy of the Match programme within three (3) days of his request.

30. PUBLIC LIABILITY AND PLAYERS INSURANCE

30.1. All Clubs must have and maintain Player v Player and Public Liability Insurance in the minimum sum determined from time to time by the Panel, evidence of such cover having to be provided to the General Manager at least fourteen (14) days before the start of the season and as otherwise requested by the Panel. In the event of the FAW arranging block cover for Public Liability Insurance, all Clubs will be required to participate on such terms as the Panel shall decide.
31. **REGISTRATION OF GROUNDS AND GROUND SHARING**

31.1. Each Club must register its ground for Home Matches with the General Manager by 30th June prior to the start of each season and the Club may not use any other ground for Home Matches without the Panel’s prior written approval.

31.2. Any Club which intends entering a ground sharing agreement either by sharing its own ground with another club, irrespective of whether the other club is from within or outside the League must initially submit in writing to the General Manager full details of the agreement which must then be approved by the Panel before it can be accepted. Details of ground sharing agreements must be submitted to the General Manager by 1st March to be effective for the following season. In all cases where grounds are shared, the Club is to have priority of use at all times unless there are exceptional circumstances approved in writing in advance by the Panel. Failure to maintain priority use will render the ground unacceptable under these Rules and in addition not capable of obtaining a Tier 1 Licence.

32. **TRANSMISSION OF LEAGUE MATCHES**

32.1. 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.

33. **SPONSORSHIP**

33.1. 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.

34. **MEDICAL COVER**

34.1. At all Matches, appropriate medical cover must be provided by the Home Club for Players, Officials, Match Officials and spectators. This must be at least St. Johns Ambulance personnel or their equivalent together with associated equipment, and as otherwise specified by the Panel from time to time.

35. **SCALE OF FINES AND PAYMENT OF FINES**

35.1. The Scale of Fines to be imposed by the Panel for a failure to comply with specified Rules (assuming the relevant failure is a first offence) shall be determined by the Panel from time to time and notified to the Clubs by the General Manager at least two (2) weeks prior to the commencement of the League playing season.

35.2. All fines imposed by the Panel under these Rules must be paid to the FAW within fourteen (14) days of notice being given by the Panel.
The Welsh Premier League Cup Rules

1. The competition shall be called The Welsh Premier League Cup (the “Competition” or the “League Cup”), as such name may be amended from time to time by the Panel with the approval of the FAW directors to include the name of a title sponsor.

2. The Competition trophy (the “Cup”) is the property of the FAW and any insurance premium for the Cup to be paid by the FAW.

3. The FAW shall have entire control of the Competition and shall have power to deal with any matter for which no provision is made.

4. The Competition shall be organised each season by the Panel. The “Panel” means the committee of the FAW constituted in accordance with the FAW Rules and FAW Regulations in order to administer the League Cup from time to time.

5. The Welsh Premier League Rules shall apply to this Competition, save as amended (where necessary) to refer to the Competition instead of the League and save as otherwise amended by these rules (the “League Cup Rules”).

6. The Competition shall observe the FAW Rules and FAW Regulations and all Matches shall be played under the Laws of the Game. In the event that any of the League Cup Rules conflicts with the FAW Rules or the FAW Regulations, the FAW Rules or FAW Regulations shall prevail.

7. In all Matches leading up to the final, the gate receipts shall be allocated to the Home Club.

8. The appointment of Match Officials shall be made by the FAW. Match Fees and expenses shall be paid as for League Matches.

9. When a Match has been postponed through causes over which neither Club has any control, the expenses shall be paid out of receipts for the Match when it is played, or by the League at the discretion of the Panel.

10. All Clubs which are currently members of the League must compete in the Competition. All FAW Tier 2 clubs will also be invited to compete. In addition, up to two (2) wildcard entries will also be permitted at the discretion of the Panel.

11. The draw for all rounds prior to the semi-finals will be regionalised and all Matches will be played on a knock out basis over one leg, with the Club drawn first for each Match being the Home Club.

12. The final will take place at a neutral ground, to be decided by the Panel.
13. In each Match, if the result is a draw at the end of ninety (90) minutes play, the winners shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the Laws of the Game and any applicable IFAB procedures.

14. The dates of all Matches and the conference date for each round ("Conference Date") of the Competition shall be decided by the Panel.

15. A Player shall be considered bona-fide if he is registered by his Club with the FAW, in accordance with the provisions of the Welsh Premier League Rules. Each Club shall play its full available strength team in all League Cup ties unless some satisfactory reason is given. In the event of the explanation not being deemed satisfactory, the FAW shall have the power to impose such penalties as they think fit. No player may play in the Competition for more than one competing Club each season. Any Club being found in default of this Rule may be disqualified from the Competition and subject to other penalties as the FAW may deem necessary.

16. In all rounds of the Competition a Player must have been a registered for the Club with the FAW by 5:00pm on the last Business Day before the applicable Conference Date. In the case of postponed or abandoned Matches, only those Players shall be allowed to play who were eligible at the applicable Conference Date.

17. Each Club must hand copies of a Team Sheet to the Referee and representative of their opponents in the presence of the Referee at least forty five (45) minutes before the advertised time of kick-off (except ninety (90) minutes for any Match which is to be televised live). The Players' numbers and the colours of the playing strip must be clearly stated. Any Club failing to comply with this Rule or altering its team selection or numbering after Team Sheets have been exchanged will be subject to any action decided upon by the FAW. The standard League forms shall be used.

18. For any Match ordered to be replayed in consequence of a breach of these League Cup Rules, the Club in default shall not receive any share of the proceeds of the replayed Match without the consent of the FAW and such consent shall only be given in special circumstances. If consent is not given the share shall be retained by the FAW.

19. The winning Club shall hold the Cup for approximately one year and will be responsible for the engraving of the Cup prior to its return to the FAW. The Cup must be returned by not later than 1st March in the following season.

20. In addition to the Cup, the FAW shall present twenty five (25) souvenirs to the Competition winners and twenty five (25) to the runners-up; twenty (20) for the Players and five (5) for the Officials of each Club. The Match Officials for the final shall receive a memento in addition to their normal fee and expenses. Additional souvenirs may be presented only by consent of the FAW.

21. The League Cup winning Club will be nominated by the FAW for the Irn-Bru Cup for the following season, subject to the Club having met any eligibility criteria set by the FAW from time to time. If the Club also wins the League or does not meet such criteria, the next highest placed Club in the League which does so shall be nominated by the FAW.
1. **TITLE**

This combination of participating Association Football Clubs (each a “Club”) shall be called “The Welsh Premier League Development League” and being affiliated in its own right to The Football Association of Wales Limited (“FAW”) is for all purposes of interpretation hereinafter referred to as the “League”.

2. **CONSTITUTION AND STRUCTURE**

The FAW will own and control the League. The Clubs will observe these rules (“Rules”). In addition, the Clubs will observe the FAW Rules and Regulations and the Laws of the Game, as amended from time to time. In the event of a conflict between these Rules and the then current FAW Rules and Regulations, the FAW Rules and Regulations will apply.

The League shall comprise a maximum of 24 Clubs, split into a League (North) division and a League (South) division, each comprising a maximum of 12 Clubs for each season, the precise geographical split being decided by the League Management Committee. Participation in the League is mandatory for all Welsh Premier League (“WPL”) member clubs. If any additional vacancies become available, participation will be decided by the League Management Committee and priority shall be given as follows:-

- first, FAW Tier 1 License Holders;
- second, FAW Accredited Academies; and
- third, sporting merit in the Welsh Premier Development League.

The Club with the highest number of points at the end of the season in League (South) will be the League (South) Champions. The Club with the highest number of points at the end of the season in League (North) will be the League (North) Champions. In the event of two or more Clubs in the same division having the same number of points, the League (South) or League (North) Champions (as applicable) will be decided by which Club has the highest difference between goals scored and goals against. In the event of more than one Club in the same division having the same goal difference, the Club that has scored the highest number of goals will be the Champions.

A Play-Off match will be arranged between the winners of the League (North) and League (South) in each season. The winning Club will be the overall League Champions for that season.
The League Champions will be nominated by the FAW to represent Wales in the next UEFA Youth League if (a) Wales receives a nomination for participation in the competition (b) that Club plays its domestic league football at senior men's level in the FAW Pyramid League System and (c) that Club meets any other criteria set by UEFA (an “Eligible Club”). If the Play-off winner is not an Eligible Club, the FAW will nominate the Play-Off loser if that Club is an Eligible Club. If neither of the Play-Off finalists is an Eligible Club, the League Management Committee will decide which (if any) Eligible Club the FAW will nominate.

Clubs shall not withdraw from membership of the League for the forthcoming season without due notice of such an intention being given in writing before March 31st. Clubs ignoring this requirement will be liable to a fine of £100. Clubs withdrawing without completing their fixtures will be subject to a fine of £500.

Each Club shall play its full strength in all League matches. The fine for non-observance of this Rule to be at the discretion of the Management Committee.

3. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Each Member Club shall pay an Annual Subscription of One Hundred Pounds (£100). The Subscription to be received by the League Secretary by 1st August each year.

The League Secretary shall by 1st July, send a statement to all Members Clubs detailing Annual Subscriptions / Entrance Fees due. All Entrance Fees to be received by the League Secretary by 1st August.

Clubs failing to pay any debt owing to The League by the due date will automatically incur a fine of £10.

4. LEAGUE FUNDS

The League Funds shall be banked in the name of The Football Association of Wales.

5. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

A player must be male and must not have attained the age of 19 years before 1st September in the relevant year in order to play in the League for that season, unless he is a designated ‘over age’ player.

A player must have reached the age of 16 years on the day a match is played.

6. EXEMPTION

In any match day squad of 16 members - up to 5 over age players shall be permitted with 3 over age players allowed on the field of play at the same time.

7. FORMAT

All matches to be played on a home and away principle.

8. DATE/TIME OF FIXTURES

The WPL Secretary shall arrange the fixture list annually with matches to be played on Saturdays, Sundays or under floodlights midweek. The season will commence in August each season following consultation with participating clubs.
Where both teams are in agreement, a Sunday fixture may be brought forward to a midweek evening to be played under floodlights, but only during the preceding week of the original fixture.

Clubs failing to keep their engagements without rendering an explanation which is deemed to be satisfactory to the Management Committee shall be liable to a fine and points may also be deducted. The disappointed Club to be awarded such compensation as the Management Committee may deem reasonable. Clubs engaged in Cup Ties, if affecting League engagements, must give the Secretary of the League and the Clubs affected at least seven- days clear notice, and the Home Club must notify the Referee and Linesmen of the postponement.

Any club failing to fulfil a scheduled fixture shall have three points deducted and shall be liable to a fine of £100.

Any non-Welsh Premier League clubs failing to fulfill their fixtures shall be fined £500 and shall have its playing record expunged.

No Club shall be allowed to postpone a fixture with another Club unless it is to play in The Welsh Cup or FAW Youth Cup. Clubs affected by the selection of two or more players for International Trials or Matches may be permitted by the Management Committee to postpone their League fixture on the days of such matches. Any requests to postpone matches for this reason shall be made to the League Secretary within 48 hours of the squad announcement. Consideration shall be given regarding late call ups to the above mentioned International Trials or Matches. The League reserves the right to arrange matches for those clubs who do not have a scheduled fixture.

No League Match shall be postponed unless the Management Committee shall consent to a mutual arrangement under exceptional circumstances. All postponed matches must be re-arranged within fourteen days and notified to the League Secretary in writing. The Club(s) failing to reach an agreement within 14 days will be fined £25.

The kick-off times for matches shall be 2.00pm.

No kick off times later than the scheduled time will be permitted, unless the Home Club has floodlights.

Applications for an alternative kick off time for a match must be made in writing to the League Secretary no later than 14 days before the date of the match. Midweek and Holiday fixtures may kick off at mutually agreed times subject to League approval.

9. MATCH RESULTS

Each Club must send to the League Secretary the result of League Matches, together with the names of the players competing therein (on forms provided for same), to reach The League Secretary within five days of each match, failing which, each defaulting Club will be subject to a fine. Where Clubs have players of the same name, the forename / chosen name or initials must always be given on the result sheets.

The result and details of matches must be e-mailed to the Secretary within one hour of the completion of the game. Clubs failing to observe this rule will be subject to a fine of £10.
10. **FINES**

Scale of fines to be decided by WPL Panel.

11. **SUSPENSIONS**

As per WPL Rules.

12. **PROTESTS, CLAIMS AND COMPLAINTS**

All protests, appeals, claims or complaints must be sent to the League Secretary in duplicate and accompanied with a fee of £25, which shall be forfeited in the event of a protest, appeal, claim or complaint not being upheld. All matters relating to a particular match must be lodged with the League Secretary within TWO DAYS of the match in question (excluding Sundays & Bank Holidays).

All questions regarding eligibility, qualification of players or interpretation of the rules of the League shall be decided by the Management Committee, but no objection relative to the dimensions of the ground, goalposts, crossbars or other appurtenances of the game shall be entertained unless a written protest is lodged with the referee prior to the game.

Where there is evidence of a breach of the League’s rule by a club or player, the League will investigate the matter and when considered appropriate, prefer a charge of an alleged breach of rule against the club or player(s) concerned.

The League will appoint a Panel consisting of THREE persons, one of which will be appointed as Chairman of the Panel, elected from members of the Management Committee (excluding the League Secretary) to consider all protests, appeals, claims or complaints lodged by a club or player(s) as well as charges preferred by the League of an alleged breach of rule.

Where a club or player(s) elect to have a personal hearing as provided for in League Rule 14, the appointed panel will conduct its business in accordance with the provisions as set out in the Football Association of Wales memorandum on Procedure at Personal Hearings.

(i) In the case of a protest, appeal, claim or complaint, the Panel shall have the power to grant or deny the protest, appeal, claim or complaint (in whole or in part) as well as the power to order any such penalty or sanction as the Panel shall reasonably deem fit.

(ii) In the case of a charge for an alleged breach of a League rule being found proven, the Panel shall have the power to order any such penalty or sanction as the Panel shall reasonably deem fit.

(iii) In all matters, the Panel shall have the discretion to impose a costs order against any of the parties involved.

If dissatisfied with any decision given by the Management Committee or a Sub Committee or Panel appointed by the Management Committee, a club or player shall have the right of appeal to the Football Association of Wales.

Any such appeal must be lodged within SEVEN Business Days as of the earlier of (a) the decision being announced at the time of the hearing/meeting or (b) the date of the correspondence containing the decision.

All appeals must be accompanied with the appropriate fee as set out under FAW Rule 43.2.3.2 (plus vat) and be made payable to The Football Association of Wales. Please address...
the notice of appeal for the attention of the Chief Executive, The Football Association of Wales, 11-12, Neptune Court, Vanguard Way, Cardiff, CF24 SPJ.

13. **CLUB COLOURS AND GROUND**

Each Club in The League shall register its ground (alternative ground if required) and colours with the Secretary. In the event of any two Clubs having similar playing colours, the visiting team shall make a change, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon. The colours of the opposing Club must be distinctive. Goalkeepers shall play in colours distinct from other members of the teams. The players of each team must wear individually numbered shirts. Numbers worn by players must correspond with the team sheet submitted to the referee. The forename / chosen name of each player to be included on the same.

A minimum of 50% home matches to be played on designated first team pitch. The standard of second pitch and venue must be acceptable to WPL administration.

14. **RULES - INFRINGEMENT/REVIZIONS**

(a) Any infringement of The League Rules shall be dealt with in such a manner as the Management Committee may think fit. Any appeal against the decision of the Management Committee shall be to The Football Association of Wales in accordance with its Rules.

(b) No alteration of or addition to existing Rules shall be made, except at the WPL Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting convened on a requisition signed by not less than two thirds of the Clubs comprising the League, and then only upon such resolution being carried by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting thereon. Notice of alteration or addition must be sent to the Secretary not less than fourteen days before the date of such Meeting, the same to be printed and forwarded to the Clubs at least seven days before the Meeting.

Note: Notice of alteration of Rules for the WPL Annual General Meeting must reach the League Secretary by the 31st of March each year.

Any rule changes submitted by a club must be signed by the Club Secretary (as listed in the League Handbook) and also by the chairman or a committee member.

15. **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The WPL Management Committee shall be the WPDL Panel which shall comprise of members decided by the FAW Council from time to time.

16. **APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY**

The Secretary shall be appointed by the WPL League Management Committee. Such Official shall be an Officer of the League, and not directly or indirectly, connected with any Club in membership with the League nor shall he/she be allowed to exercise voting power at any meeting held under its jurisdiction. Subscriptions and all other monies accruing to the League shall be properly accounted for to the Management Committee by the Secretary.
17. JURISDICTION

The WPL Management Committee shall have jurisdiction over all matters whether specially provided for in these rules or not. They shall have power to form any Sub-Committee they may consider necessary and may delegate all or any of their powers to any such Sub-Committee.

In the event of the voting at any meeting being equal, the Chairman of such meeting shall have the casting vote, save as before mentioned. The Management Committee shall meet every month, if necessary. No resolution shall be rescinded at the meeting at which it is passed. The expenses of each member of the Management Committee attending shall be paid from The League Funds.

Officials and Members of the Management Committee shall have free access to any part of the Football Grounds during the progress of all League matches.

A member club, or player, ordered by the League to provide a written response to a charge preferred by the League or a protest, appeal, claim or complaint lodged with the League by a club or player must do so within ten days of the date of the letter from the League requesting the written response.

Such written response must stipulate whether or not the club requires a personal hearing. Should a club or player fail to provide a written response within the stipulated ten days, they will be deemed to have denied the charge of misconduct or allegation contained in the protest, appeal, claim or complaint lodged and the League will take the required steps to convene a hearing at which the club or player will be required to attend.

18. OBJECTIONABLE CONDUCT

At the WPL Annual General Meeting, or any Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose, it shall be competent for a majority of the Delegates present and voting thereat to exclude from membership any Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been objectionable.

19. REGULATIONS RE: MATCHES

All matches shall be played under the rules of The Football Association of Wales and shall be of 90 minutes duration. Clubs shall not mutually agree to play a match in lieu of a League match.

If a match is played to a conclusion it must be a League match. Any match not completed may be ordered to stand as a completed match or be replayed for the full period of 90 minutes as the Management Committee may direct.

A Club may at its discretion use three substitute players from five nominated substitute players at any time in a match for any reason (injury or otherwise), except to replace a player who has been suspended from the game by the Referee.

The substitutions can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission.

The substitute players shall be nominated prior to the commencement of the game.

Clubs responsible for a late start, shall be liable to a fine in accordance with Rule 27.
20. **CUSTODY OF LEAGUE TROPHIES**

The Championship Cup will be presented to the Club of the said competition.

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 League.

We the undersigned Officials of the.............................................................Club do on their behalf receive The Welsh Premier League’s Development League Cup 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 League within 28 days of the end of the following season or upon request by the League Secretary.

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

Date: ....................................................................................
Signed:  .................................................................................
Chairman:  ..............................................................................
Secretary: ...............................................................................

*Note: No inscription is allowed to be placed on the Cups by any Club.*

21. **GROUND AND DRESSING ROOM CRITERIA**

All clubs in membership, and those applying for membership, must have grounds that are acceptable to the WPL Panel.

All matches are to be played on private grounds or grounds deemed suitable by the Management Committee.

The Pitch size must comply with the Laws of the Game.

(a) **Dressing Rooms**

(i) *Players Dressing Rooms*

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.

Separate changing rooms must be provided for both teams, capable of accommodating a minimum of 16 persons.

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

(ii) *Match Officials Dressing Room*

A separate area must be provided for the exclusive of match officials, which must be capable of accommodating at least four persons.

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.
(b) Medical

All clubs must have first aid equipment which must include a stretcher. The location of this equipment must be clearly marked in all dressing rooms and ideally a separate First Aid Room should be available.

Clubs should arrange for suitably trained first aid personnel to be provided for players and spectators at all matches.

Emergency vehicles must be able to drive in to the stadium. The access and egress point(s) must not be blocked. 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.

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 the area designated for the access/egress of the emergency vehicle(s).

(c) Hospitality

All clubs must provide a room for club officials and guests as near to the playing area as possible.

Hot tea or if appropriate cold drinks must be provided for players and match officials at half time and full time, and at half time for visiting club officials and guests.

Ideally post-match food for Players and Match Officials should be provided at an appropriate location near the ground.

(d) Covered Areas

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 dug outs.

The Management Committee will have plenary powers to remove any club from League membership should it fail to meet the accepted ground criteria of the League as published. Clubs must rectify any failures from the published ground criteria within thirty days of being advised in writing by the League. Any club failing to meet the ground criteria and having been advised that its membership is removed will be relegated at the end of that season to the appropriate feeder league.

22. REGISTRATION AND TRANSFER OF PLAYERS

In accordance with Section H of FAW Rules.

23. INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

Any Club playing an ineligible player will have up to three points deducted from its record and be liable to a fine.
24. REGULATIONS AFFECTING REFEREES AND ASSISTANT REFEREES

No Referee shall take part in the Management of any League Club.

(a) Referees’ List, Fees and Expenses -
Match Officials Fees will be paid directly by the home club.

Referees fees ................. £40
Assistant Referees fees ...... £30

No fourth officials.

The Home club shall pay the Referee and Assistant Referees fees and traveling expenses of 35p per mile in the Match Officials Dressing Room immediately after the game.

Any Club paying a Referee more than his just fee and travelling allowance shall be deemed guilty of misconduct and shall be dealt with by the Management Committee.

(b) Fitness of Ground

The Referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of grounds in all matches, and each Club must take every precaution to keep its ground in a playing condition, and, if necessary, the Home Club may request the referee to visit the ground two hours before the advertised time of kick-off. No club shall postpone the playing of a league match on account of apparent unfitness of its ground, a League Match Official being the sole person to decide as to the fitness after inspection.

Decisions in respect of ground fitness must be taken as late as possible, however due consideration must be given in respect of the distance being traveled by the visiting team and match officials.

An official asked to carry out a pitch inspection by a home club prior to any match will be reimbursed his/her travelling expenses at the League rate by the club involved. An official asked to carry out a pitch inspection by a League official prior to any match will be reimbursed his/her travelling expenses by the League at the League's current rate.

In the event of a match being called off by the appointed match referee at the normal time, all match officials will be entitled to claim half their match fee plus travelling expenses, to be paid by 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.

(c) Late Starts and Reports

Match officials shall be present at their appointed match at least one hour prior to kick off time. If officials are aware of difficulties in adhering to this requirement, they must contact the League Secretary prior to the match. Official team sheets shall be presented to the Referee 45 minutes prior to kick-off. Late presentation of the team sheet shall be liable to a fine of £1 for each minute.

Referees must report all cases where teams commence a game late, or without eleven players on the field, and also in cases of their own or assistant’s late arrival in any
match and notify those concerned at the time of their intention.

In the event of any misconduct, the officiating Referee, and Assistant Referees, must render his/her report to the appropriate Area Association.

(d) **Postponed Matches**

In the event of a match being unavoidably postponed, the officials – if they have attended the ground – shall receive Half Fee and Travelling Expenses. The home club must receive acknowledgement of any given postponements from the away team as soon as the match in question has been called off. If no response is forthcoming, the home club must contact the League Secretary. Failure to comply will result in a fine of up to £100.

(e) **Match Report Forms**

Referees must post Match Report Forms on day of match. Each club must hand copies of a list of names and players taking part in the game (including name(s) and number(s) of the nominated substitute(s)) to the referee, and a representative of their opponents in the presence of the referee, at least thirty minutes before the advertised time of kick off. The players numbers and the colours of the playing strip must be clearly stated. The standard League forms must be used for this purpose.

(f) **Appointments**

Referees and Assistant Referees must take advantage of travelling together when so requested or whenever possible.

Referees and Assistant Referees are requested to send their replies of acceptance or otherwise within four days following receipt of the Appointments List.

25. **EMERGENCY OFFICIALS**

Should the appointed referee fail to appear, the most senior appointed referee shall take control.

The senior assistant is the one with the highest grade or if both have similar grades, the one with the longest service as a referee on the League.

In the event of the Referee or Assistant Referees appointed not attending a Match, and the Two Clubs agreeing to one on the ground, such Referee shall be considered to be a League Official for the time being. Referees or Assistant Referees failing to give a satisfactory reason for absence to the Management Committee shall not be appointed to any other Match during the season. No member of the Management Committee shall officiate in the League.

26. **PLAYERS INSURANCE**

Each Club shall be responsible for maintaining or procuring that there is maintained in full force and effect at all times proper and adequate insurance cover with policy limits and provisions for each of its players from time to time in respect of their death, or bodily injury, by accident howsoever caused on the field of play including (but without limitation) loss of earnings and other consequential losses (together with ‘Insured Risks’) and shall ensure that all players from time to time shall be entitled to the benefit of such insurance and shall
submit sufficient evidence of the existence of such insurance to the Secretary of the League no later than 1st August in each year, and each Club shall indemnify and keep the League fully indemnified against all liability of the League in respect of the insured risks.

27. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR BY THE RULES

Any infringement of the Rules and any other matter not provided for by the Rules shall be dealt with by the League Management Committee.
04c(ix)
Championship League
04c (ix)
The FAW Championship Rules

1. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

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

1.1.1. ‘Authorised Kit’ means each Match playing kit approved by the Panel in accordance with Rule 16 below;

1.1.2. ‘Business Day’ means a day that is not a Saturday or Sunday or a public or bank holiday in Wales.

1.1.3. ‘Clear Days’ in relation to the period of notice means that period excluding the day when notice is given or deemed to be given and the day for which it is given or on which it is to take effect.

1.1.4. ‘Club’ means an association football club which is for the time being a member of the League or (where the context requires) a prospective member or a former member of the League.

1.1.5. ‘Chairman’ means the Chairman of the Panel who shall be appointed by the FAW Council.

1.1.6. ‘Division’ means each of the two (2) divisions of the League, currently known as ‘FAW Championship North & Mid’ and ‘FAW Championship South & Mid’, as such names may be amended from time to time by the Panel with the approval of the FAW directors (for example) to include the name of a title sponsor.

1.1.7. ‘Domestic Loan’ means any short term loan of a Professional Player either between two (2) Clubs or between a Club and a Welsh Premier League member club in accordance with these Rules.

1.1.8. ‘FAW’ means the Football Association of Wales Ltd.

1.1.9. ‘FAW Regulations’ means the regulations, standing orders, byelaws, orders, codes, policies, procedures, directives and instructions for the time being of the FAW.

1.1.10. ‘FAW Rules’ means the Rules for the time being of the FAW.

1.1.11. ‘General Manager’ means the general manager of the League or any other person appointed by the FAW to perform the duties of the general manager from time to time.
1.1.12. ‘General Meeting’ means any meeting of the Clubs and shall include the Annual General Meeting and any Extraordinary General Meetings called in accordance with Rule 4 below.

1.1.13. ‘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 Panel and ‘Visiting Club’ means the other Club due to play in the relevant Match.

1.1.14. ‘Irn-Bru Cup’ means the Scottish Premier Football League Challenge Cup (currently known as the Irn-Bru Cup).

1.1.15. ‘League’ means the Tier 2 league in the FAW’s Pyramid League System currently known as the ‘FAW Championship’, as such name may be amended from time to time by the Panel with the approval of the FAW directors (for example) to include the name of a title sponsor.

1.1.16. ‘Match’ means any association football match played in the League.

1.1.17. ‘Match Officials’ means the Referee, Assistant Referees and any Fourth Official for a Match.

1.1.18. ‘Official’ means any director, secretary or other duly authorised representative of a Club.

1.1.19. ‘Panel’ means the committee of the FAW constituted in accordance with the FAW Rules and FAW Regulations in order to administer the League from time to time.

1.1.20. ‘Player’ means any male association football player, whether or not registered with the FAW to play for a Club.

1.1.21. ‘Rules’ means these Rules of the League as amended from time to time.

1.1.22. ‘Scale of Fines’ means the scale of fines referred to in Rule 35 below.

1.1.23. ‘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.

1.1.24. ‘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.

1.1.25. ‘Team Sheet’ means the sheet 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.

1.1.26. ‘Tier 2 Compliance Certification’ has the meaning given in Rule 5 below.

1.1.27. ‘Transmission Rights’ means the sole and exclusive worldwide right in perpetuity to record (a) television or other moving pictures of any League 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.

1.1.28. ‘Transmission Contracts’ means any and all contracts entered into by the FAW and/or its agents and licensees in or ancillary to the exercise of the Transmission Rights.

1.1.29. ‘Welsh Cup’ means the FAW Challenge Cup.

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

1.3. Referring to natural persons include both genders. The singular case applies to the plural and vice versa.

1.4. The headings in these Rules are inserted for ease of reference and do not affect the interpretation of these Rules.

1.5. The terms ‘include’, ‘including’, ‘for example’, ‘such as’ and ‘in particular’ or any similar expression shall be construed as illustrative, without limiting the sense or scope of the words preceding them.

2. GENERAL

2.1. 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. THE PANEL

3.1. The business of the League shall be conducted by the Panel 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 Panel shall consist of members as decided by the FAW Council from time to time.

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

3.4. The Panel may from its own number, appoint and elect such sub-committees as it deems necessary for the efficient management of the business of the League and may delegate to such sub-committees such of its powers as the Panel deems appropriate.

3.5. In the event of the voting at any meeting of the Panel being equal, the Chairman of such meeting shall have a second casting vote.
3.6. The Panel shall defray out of the funds of the League all expenses in respect of the administration of the League. A member of the Panel may be paid out of League funds such expenses incurred through attendance at meetings of, or in connection with, the League, as the Panel may approve.

3.7. The Panel 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 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 Panel shall have the power to impose fines not exceeding £10,000 and any other sanctions (including deduction of points or suspension from the League) as the Panel shall consider appropriate, subject always to the rights of appeal and (if applicable) the Scale of Fines hereinafter mentioned.

3.8. The Panel shall normally meet in each month except July, but the General Manager shall either of his own volition, or otherwise on the requisition of any three (3) members of the Panel, summon a meeting of the Panel at any other time.

3.9. The Panel shall cause minutes to be retained:

3.9.1. of the names of the members of the Panel present at each meeting thereof and of any sub-committees; and

3.9.2. of all proceedings and decisions at General Meetings and at all meetings of the Panel.

The General Manager shall cause such minutes to be circulated to members of the Panel, the FAW Council and to the Clubs following ratification by the directors of the FAW.

3.10. The Panel may act notwithstanding any temporary vacancy of any member.

3.11. All acts done by any meeting of the Panel or by any person acting as representative of the Panel shall, notwithstanding that it is afterwards discovered that there was some defect in the appointment of any person so acting or that any person so acting was disqualified, be as valid as if such a person had been duly appointed and qualified.

3.12. Each member of the Panel 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 under the jurisdiction of the League and to all Welsh Cup matches.

3.13. In relation to any matter not specifically addressed in these Rules the Panel 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.

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

4. GENERAL MEETINGS

4.1. The Annual General Meeting of the League shall be held in each year at a time and place to be determined by the Panel.

4.2. The Panel may, whenever it thinks fit and shall upon a requisition made to the League in writing signed by duly authorised representatives of not less than two thirds (2/3rds) of the Clubs convene an Extraordinary General Meeting.
4.3. The General Manager shall notify all Clubs and the members of the Panel of the date 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 all the Clubs.

4.4. Each Club shall be entitled to have two (2) representatives and one (1) vote at any General Meeting and Clubs shall prior to the General Meeting in question notify the General Manager of the identity of the Club representatives and which representative shall be entitled to cast the Club’s vote. Votes may only be given 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 at the meeting.

4.5. The Chairman of the Panel shall be the Chairman at all General Meetings but in his absence the members of the Panel present shall choose one of their number to be Chairman.

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

4.7. Each Club must be represented by its Chairman (or a deputy satisfactory to the Panel) at the annual Club Chairmen’s Meeting.

5. **FAW TIER 2 COMPLIANCE REGULATIONS**

5.1. Only those Clubs and prospective Clubs which attain FAW Tier 2 Compliance Certification (‘Tier 2 Compliance Certification’) under the FAW’s Tier 2 Compliance Regulations shall be eligible for membership of the League in the season which next commences after the grant of such Tier 2 Compliance Certification.

6. **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

6.1. The League joining fee for each Club shall be £500 or such other sum as shall be determined by the Panel from time to time. The League joining fee shall be paid to the General Manager and in advance on or before 31st July immediately before the start of the Club’s first season in membership. Any Club whose subscription has not been paid by 31st July shall not be entitled to be represented at any General Meeting until the same shall have been paid.

6.2. The annual subscription of each Club to the League shall be £250 or such other sum as shall be determined by the Panel from time to time. All annual subscriptions shall be paid in advance on or before 31st July in each year to the General Manager. Any Club whose subscription has not been paid by 31st July shall not be entitled to be represented at any General Meeting until the same shall have been paid.

7. **ACCOUNTS**

7.1. 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.

8. **NOTICES**

8.1. 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 shall be notified by the Club to the General Manager. Any notice or other communication to be served on the League shall be addressed to the General Manager at 11/12 Neptune Court, Vanguard Way, Cardiff, CF24 5PJ or by facsimile on 02920 496 953. Proof of service shall be in accordance with Rule 144 of the FAW Rules.

9. **INDEMNITY**

9.1. Any member of the Panel who is not a director of the FAW shall be indemnified out of the assets of the FAW in identical form to the indemnity contained in article 47 of the Articles of Association of the FAW.

10. **ALTERATIONS TO THESE RULES**

10.1. 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 Meeting or at Extraordinary General Meeting convened under Rule 4 above for that purpose. Any alteration to these Rules must be supported by at least two thirds (2/3rds) of those present and eligible to vote at such meeting.

10.2. Club proposals for alterations to these Rules together with the name of their Club proposers and seconders shall be received by the General Manager no later than the 1st March prior to the date fixed for the Annual General Meeting in any year. The Panel may also propose alterations to these Rules to be considered at an appropriate Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting.

11. **DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS, DISPUTES, APPEALS, INDEPENDENT ARBITRATION AND SANCTIONS**

11.1. Provisions relating to disciplinary procedures, disputes, appeals, independent arbitration, penalties, sanctions and other powers shall be dealt with in accordance with the FAW Rules and FAW Regulations including Rules 37-54(A) and 146 of the FAW Rules.

12. **REGISTRATIONS, CONTRACTS AND TRANSFERS**

12.1. Provisions relating to Player registrations, contracts and transfers shall (if as so far as applicable) be dealt with in accordance with these Rules and the FAW Rules and FAW Regulations including Rules 55-91 of the FAW Rules.

12.2. 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.

13. **DOMESTIC LOANS**

13.1. Each Club may undertake a maximum of four (4) Domestic Loans per season. Only a Professional Player (as defined in the FAW Rules) will be eligible to be registered with the FAW (using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time) on a Domestic Loan. Each Club may only have two (2) Professional Players on a Domestic Loan at any one time.

13.2. Each Domestic Loan must be for a minimum period of twenty eight (28) days subject to Rule
13.3 below and must expire prior to the start of the next registration period set by the FAW.

13.3. An outfield player may only be subject to a recall from a Domestic Loan (in each case, using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time) after twenty eight (28) days have elapsed from the initial Domestic Loan date. A goalkeeper may only be subject to a recall (in each case, using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time) after seven (7) days have elapsed from the initial Domestic Loan date.

13.4. Professional Players may only be registered with the FAW by a Club on a Domestic Loan during the following periods:

13.4.1. 9th September to the last Thursday in November inclusive; and
13.4.2. 7th February to the last Thursday in March inclusive.

Domestic Loans must be submitted to the FAW (in each case, using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time) by no later than 5pm on the last Business Day before the Match in which the Club wishes the Player to participate. Domestic Loans shall not count against a Club’s quota of Player Loans under FAW Rule 69.

14. **SUBSTITUTES**

14.1. A Club at its discretion may use up to three (3) substitutes at any time 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. The name(s) and numbers of the substitute(s) must be nominated to the Referee on the Team Sheet in accordance with Rule 24 below. When making substitutions, Clubs and Match Officials must ensure that the appropriate substitution boards supplied by the League are used. Clubs may nominate up to five (5) substitutes for each Match.

15. **INELIGIBLE PLAYERS**

15.1. 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 record for that season and will also be liable to a fine. If the Player is a nominated but unused substitute for a Match, he shall be deemed as not having played for the Club in that Match.

15.2. A Club must not nominate a Player as a substitute for a Match unless he is a duly registered Player for the Club with the FAW who is eligible to play in the Match.

16. **AUTHORISED KITS**

16.1. By 24th June, each Club shall submit to the General Manager, in writing, in PDF format full details of their proposed Match kit colours (comprising shirts, shorts and socks for outfield players in both home and change kit versions, and including any proposed sponsor logos) for the forthcoming season and, once approved by the Panel (each such kit then being an “Authorised Kit”), such details shall be published in the League Handbook for that season. The Authorised Kits shall be worn during the relevant season and no changes of either colours or combination of colours shall be permitted during the course of the season except:

(a) when the colours of two competing Clubs are alike or similar the Visiting Club shall change to another kit approved in writing by the Panel (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 (b) Club may submit a request in writing to the General Manager at least fourteen (14) days before a Match to wear an alternative special kit (for example, a charity kit or a new season launch kit) and may wear such a kit if it obtains prior written approval from the General Manager.

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 undersocks or undershirts are to be worn by a Player in a Match, they must be of a colour approved by the Panel in relation to the applicable Authorised Kit prior to the relevant season.

16.4. No Club shall be permitted to register or play a Match in shirts the colour of which is 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 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 his status.

16.6. An unmarked blood shirt is also required by every team at every Match.

16.7. Clubs wishing to make alterations to their Authorised Kits after the date set by the Panel under Rule 16.1 above, must make an application to the Panel. The Panel may require all Players participating in Matches to carry the League’s and/or a League sponsor’s logo on both sleeves of their shirts.

16.8. Each Home Club must ensure that sufficient ball kids and/or other personnel are on duty at each Match to ensure a speedy and safe return of the football to the field of play. The colours of the clothing worn by any such ball kids and/or other personnel for each Match must not clash with those of either of the competing teams or Match Officials.

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

17. LEAGUE FORMAT

17.1. The League will comprise the two (2) Divisions. Each Division will compromise a maximum of sixteen-(16) member Clubs in each season, unless expressly directed by the FAW. Each Club will be allocated to the more geographically appropriate Division, as determined by the Panel and approved by the FAW directors prior to the start of the relevant season. The Panel shall determine annually the date on which Matches shall commence. The Panel shall fix the date in the following year on which the normal playing season of the League shall terminate.

17.2. A Club may not enter its first team in any other competition except the Welsh Premier League Cup, the Welsh Cup, the Irn-Bru Cup, UEFA club competitions and any invitational competition approved in writing in advance by the Panel. The General Manager must be promptly informed by the relevant Club in advance of all proposed fixtures to be played (and afterwards all results of fixtures played) by its first team in any competition other than the League.

17.3. In each season, the Clubs in each Division will play Matches against each other on a home and away basis, giving a maximum total of thirty two (32) Matches per Club.

17.4. All Matches shall be of ninety (90) minutes’ duration. Three (3) points will be awarded to a Club for a win in a Match at home or away, and one (1) point for a drawn Match at home or
away. At the end of each season’s League competition, the Club scoring the largest number of total points in a Division shall be declared the Division champion Club for that season.

17.5. Where two or more Clubs in a Division possess the same number of points, the following criteria will be applied in the order given to determine their rankings:

17.5.1. Superior goal difference obtained in all League matches;
17.5.2. Higher or highest number of goals scored in all League matches;
17.5.3. Higher or highest number of points obtained in all League matches played among the Clubs in question;
17.5.4. Superior goal difference obtained in all League matches played among the Clubs in question;
17.5.5. Higher or highest number of goals scored in all League matches played among the teams in question;
17.5.6. Higher or highest number of goals scored away from home in all League matches played among the teams in question;
17.5.7. Higher or highest number of wins in all League matches;
17.5.8. Higher or highest number of away wins in all League matches;
17.5.9. Lower or lowest disciplinary points total based only on yellow and red cards received in all League matches; and

17.5.10. the Clubs concerned shall play-off, in a format as directed by the Panel.

17.6. The Division champion Club shall hold the Division trophy for approximately one year and will be responsible for the engraving of the trophy prior to its return to the FAW. The Cup must be returned not later than 1st March in the following season. In addition to the Division trophy, the FAW shall present twenty-five (25) souvenirs to the Division champion Club, twenty (20) for the Players and five (5) for the Officials of the Club.

18. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

18.1. Clubs shall be promoted to and relegated from the League in accordance with the FAW Regulations for the Pyramid League System and the FAW Rules.

18.2. If any Club ceases to operate between the Annual General Meeting and the commencement of the following season, no adjustments to the number of Clubs in membership of the League will be made. The remaining Clubs shall constitute the members of the League for that season.

18.3. A Club which for any reason ceases to operate at any time during the season shall have its playing record expunged. Any monies due to it from the FAW funds shall be withheld and from the date of the withdrawal no further payments shall become due to it.

18.4. A Club that enters into administration at any time during the playing season shall have ten (10) points deducted from its record, and any monies due to it from FAW funds shall be withheld. A Club that enters into administration outside of the playing season shall have ten (10) points deducted from its record in the season following the date on which it entered administration, and any monies due to it from the FAW funds shall be withheld unless and until the Club exits administration on a solvent basis.
19. **SCHEDULING OF MATCHES AND KICK-OFF TIMES**

19.1. The Panel shall determine how the Matches shall be arranged and rearranged over the playing season. The Panel may change the schedule of Matches during the season to suit the overall interests of the League. The Matches shall take precedence over all competitions in which a Club may engage, with the exception of the Welsh Cup, the Welsh Premier League Cup, UEFA club competitions and any invitational competition as agreed by the Panel.

19.2. The schedule of Matches shall be issued by the General Manager after consultation with the Clubs. The Home Club for each Match shall have the right to determine whether a weekend Match is to be played on a Friday evening or a Saturday or Sunday save that all weekday (Monday to Friday) evening fixtures when the distance between the Home Club and the Visiting Club is more than seventy-five (75) miles shall only take place with the consent of both Clubs, unless chosen as a live televised Match as determined by the Panel.

19.3. At least two (2) weeks’ prior notice is required from Clubs wishing to re-arrange a Saturday Match to Friday evening. A request made in less than this period of time will only be considered by the Panel in exceptional circumstances.

19.4. Clubs shall not be required to play a Match within seventy (72) hours prior to, or within seventy (72) hours after playing a UEFA club competition match.

19.5. Unless mutually agreed by the Clubs concerned, the time of kick-off shall be: Saturday and Sunday matches: 2.30pm or as directed by the Panel. Evening matches: 7.30pm for Clubs with floodlights or as mutually agreed between the two Clubs; and for Clubs without floodlights as mutually agreed between the two Clubs. If Clubs are unable to mutually agree, the General Manager shall have the discretion to fix the kick-off time.

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

19.7. All agreed changes to time of kick-off shall be notified to the General Manager by the Home Club immediately for confirmation at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the Match.

19.8. Clubs shall adhere to any additional requirements agreed by the Panel and contained in the League broadcasters’ protocol to be provided to the Clubs by the General Manager at least two (2) weeks prior to the commencement of the playing season.

19.9. Each Home Club shall re-confirm to the Visiting Club, and Match Officials via email, the date and time of kick off, to be received at least five (5) days prior to the Match. The Visiting Club, Referee and Assistant Referees must acknowledge receipt via email at least three (3) days before the Match. Visual images of full kits for the Match (including goalkeeper) must be sent to the Match Referee with such Match re-confirmation. The Match Referee must confirm approval of both Clubs’ proposed kits with both Clubs and the General Manager via email at least forty eight (48) hours prior to kick off.

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

19.11. Where a Match is re-arranged or cancelled after the Match Officials have been appointed, it is the duty of the Home Club to notify the Match Officials of the cancellation of their appointments immediately.

20. **GATE RECEIPTS**

20.1. Save as expressly stated in these Rules, the Home Club shall retain all gate receipts generated from each Match.
21. **CONDITION OF GROUNDS AND POSTPONEMENTS**

21.1. 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 Panel may direct. In the event of a Match not being played to a finish owing to fog or other causes over which neither Club has control, the Home Club shall take its own gate receipts of such uncompleted Match and the gate receipts of the replayed Match shall be divided on Welsh Cup tie terms, except that season ticket holders of the Home Club shall be admitted on producing their cards of membership.

21.2. In the event of a Match having to be postponed for any reason due to problems arising from one of the Clubs involved, their prospective opponents shall be compensated by them/or the League at the discretion of the Panel.

21.3. In the case of the Visiting 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 Panel up to a maximum of £300.

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

21.5. When a Match is postponed, both Clubs are to agree an alternative date and notify the General Manager within fourteen (14) days of the revised date. If the Clubs fail to agree, the General Manager is to impose a date without right of appeal by either Club.

21.6. 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 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 General Manager. 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 General Manager shall decide the time of any inspection.

21.7. 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 General Manager.

21.8. If the available referee does not declare the ground unfit, a final decision shall be made by the Match Referee upon his arrival at the ground (each such Referee taking into account that Referees should not hastily postpone or abandon Matches).

21.9. When a Club obtains the approval of the Panel 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.

21.10. Requests for the postponement of a Match for any reason will not be considered more than forty-eight (48) hours before the scheduled time of kick-off.

21.11. Medical Certificates for those Players affected sent signed by the Player’s own doctor must be forwarded to the General Manager 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.
22. TEAM SHEETS AND STRENGTH OF TEAMS

22.1. Both Match Team Sheets must be completed and handed in to the Home Club match day secretary, who shall be readily available, at least seventy five (75) minutes before kick-off of each Match (except at least ninety (90) minutes before kick-off of any Match to be transmitted “live” on terrestrial television). The Home Club shall ensure that both Team Sheets are handed to the Match Officials at least sixty (60) minutes before kick-off.

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 Panel. 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 11 Players indicated on the Team Sheet as forming the starting 11 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 (players) not listed on the initial Team Sheet, so that the quota of substitutes is not reduced. During the match, three (3) Players may still be substituted.

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

22.2.3. If none of the goalkeepers listed on the Team Sheet are able to be fielded due to physical incapacity, they may be replaced by registered goalkeeper Player not listed on the initial Team Sheet.

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

22.3. The League’s standard form Team Sheet shall be used by each Club, using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time.

22.4. Each Club shall play its full strength team in all Matches and shall be prepared to kick off at the advertised time unless an explanation is offered which is deemed satisfactory by the Panel.

23. MATCH-DAY PASSES

23.1. Each Home Club will issue to the Visiting Club:

23.1.1. A pass to cover eighteen (18) Players plus up to eight (8) Officials (including team manager, assistant coach and Emergency Aid Officer) with access to the relevant changing room, pitch, substitutes bench and technical area and other relevant areas within the ground on Match day, and

23.1.2. Passes to give access to the ground and directors’ boardroom for six (6) directors on Match day.

23.2. Additional passes or tickets to give access to the ground for the Match must be issued upon request from the Visiting Club, up to a maximum of six (6), provided it is understood that such requests must be restricted to bona-fide Club directors.

23.3. Ten (10) League passes will be issued to each Club. The passes are for ground admission and stand for all Matches (subject to availability) but will not guarantee admittance in to the Club boardroom or directors box. The passes are transferable.
24. **SUBSTITUTES BENCHES AND TECHNICAL AREAS**

24.1. At each Match:

24.1.1. up to eleven (11) Players and Officials in total (of which no more than five (5) may be the substitutes nominated in accordance with Rule 14.1 above, or the Players they have replaced on the field of play) may sit on the substitutes’ bench of the relevant Club in the designated technical area. The full name of each person and their function must be listed on the Team Sheet. If the designated technical area has less than eleven seats, the Home Club must provide additional technical seats, which must be located at least 5 metres to the outside of the marked technical area.

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

24.1.3. The Emergency Aid Officer role is as defined in the FAW’s Tier 2 Compliance Regulations. The person on duty as Emergency Aid Officer shall be either the Club’s incumbent Emergency Aid Officer in accordance with the Club’s Tier 2 Compliance Certification or, in exceptional circumstances, a replacement who is appropriately qualified in accordance with the FAW’s Tier 2 Compliance Regulations.

24.1.4. During the Match, substitutes are allowed to leave the designed technical area to warm up. The Referee may determine exactly where they may warm up (behind the first Assistant Referee or behind the goal) and how many substitutes are allowed to warm up simultaneously but in any event, no more than three (3) in total from each Club. A Club Official (as indicated on the Team Sheet) may join the substitutes warming up and, if so, is responsible for compliance with the Referee’s instructions. Each Club participating in a Match must have two (2) sets of warm up bibs available to present to the Referee before the Match. The Referee will decide which bibs the substitutes must wear during their warm-ups.

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

25. **RESULT/REPORT FORMS**

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

26. **MATCH OFFICIALS**

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

26.2. In the event of the Match Officials not being in attendance at the Match in accordance with Rule 26.3 below, the two (2) Clubs must agree to a substitute on the ground and such substitute shall be considered a Match Official for the time being.
26.3. Match Officials should be present at the appointment at least seventy five (75) minutes prior to the advertised time of kick-off. The appointed Referee may be required to visit the ground earlier if requested to do so by the Home Club. If any Match Official becomes aware that they are likely to arrive late, they must immediately notify the participating Clubs, other Match Officials and the General Manager via telephone calls.

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

26.5. 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.

26.6. Referees must report to the General Manager all cases where Clubs commence a Match late, or without eleven (11) Players on the field and also in case of their own or any Assistant Referee’s or the Fourth Official’s late arrival for any Match as soon as possible after the Match. Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials must also send an explanation of their late arrival to the General Manager as soon as possible after the Match.

26.7. The Home Club must pay the Match Officials their fee and/or expenses on the date of the Match, in their dressing room, within a reasonable time after the conclusion of the Match.

26.8. The football(s) proposed to be used in a Match must be the applicable official Match ball type as determined by the Panel and notified to the Clubs by the General Manager from time to time. The Home Club must ensure that the proposed Match balls are in good condition and without any writing or extra marking on them. The proposed Match ball(s) (comprising a minimum number of eight (8)) shall be submitted by the Home Club to the Referee for his approval before commencement of the Match.

26.9. The scale of payments for Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials shall be determined by the FAW and notified to the Clubs by the General Manager prior to the commencement of the playing season.

26.10. All Match Officials shall be entitled to claim the cheapest form of rail travel available on the day of the Match or motoring expenses determined from time to time by the FAW when travelling by car.

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

26.12. Home Clubs must provide adequate refreshments to the Match Officials in their dressing room at least sixty (60) minutes prior to kick-off.

26.13. In the case of postponed Matches where gate money is not taken, the Match Officials shall be paid their travelling expenses and half their ordinary fee.

26.14. Referees must report any late presentation or non-presentation of Team Sheets or alteration of teams after presentation of Team Sheets in accordance with Rule 24 above.

26.15. 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 General Manager.

26.16. The kit worn by Match Officials at Matches shall be approved by the FAW Referees Committee.
27. WITHDRAWAL OF CLUBS
27.1. A Club shall not resign from the League after being accepted at the Annual General Meeting and before completing all of its Matches in the relevant season.
27.2. If a Club wishes to resign from the League at the end of the season, it must do so by giving notice by 1st April.

28. EXCLUSION OF CLUBS – MISCONDUCT BY CLUB, THEIR OFFICIALS, PLAYERS OR OTHERS
28.1. At the Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 4 above, a seventy five per cent (75%) majority of the accredited Club representatives present and eligible to vote shall have power to exclude from further participation in the League any Club whose conduct has in their opinion been objectionable and detrimental to the good conduct of the name of the League.
28.2. 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 or any other Club into disrepute.

29. MATCH PROGRAMME DETAILS
29.1. The Visiting Club must send the Home Club a brief history of the Club, details of its Club first team squad list together with Players’ pen pictures and which Authorised Kit it intends to wear in time to be received by the Home Club at least five (5) days prior to the scheduled date of the Match. If as a result of exceptional circumstances, a Match is re-arranged with less than five (5) days’ notice, the details must be forwarded to the Home Club as soon as reasonably practicable after notification of the re-arrangement. All Clubs must publish a minimum eight (8)-page programme for all Matches, which may be in hard copy and/or digital format.
29.2. If requested by the General Manager, the Home Club shall forward to the General Manager a copy of the Match programme within three (3) days of his request.

30. PUBLIC LIABILITY AND PLAYERS INSURANCE
30.1. All Clubs must have and maintain Public Liability Insurance in the minimum sum determined from time to time by the Panel, evidence of such cover having to be provided to the General Manager at least fourteen (14) days before the start of the season and as otherwise requested by the Panel. In the event of the FAW arranging block cover for Public Liability Insurance, all Clubs will be required to participate on such terms as the Panel shall decide.

31. REGISTRATION OF GROUNDS AND GROUND SHARING
31.1. Each Club must register its ground for Home Matches with the General Manager by 30th June prior to the start of each season and the Club may not use any other ground for Home Matches without the Panel’s prior written approval.
31.2. Any Club which intends entering a ground sharing agreement either by sharing its own ground with another club, irrespective of whether the other club is from within or outside the League must initially submit in writing to the General Manager full details of the agreement which must then be approved by the Panel before it can be accepted. Details of
ground sharing agreements must be submitted to the General Manager by 1st March to be effective for the following season. In all cases where grounds are shared, the Club is to have priority of use at all times unless there are exceptional circumstances approved in writing in advance by the Panel. Failure to maintain priority use will render the ground unacceptable under these Rules and in addition not capable of obtaining Tier 2 Compliance Certification.

32. TRANSMISSION OF LEAGUE MATCHES

32.1. 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.

33. SPONSORSHIP

33.1. 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.

34. MEDICAL COVER

34.1. At all Matches, medical cover to at least FAW FASE 1 level must be provided by the Home Club for Players, Officials, Match Officials and spectators.

35. SCALE OF FINES AND PAYMENT OF FINES

35.1. The Scale of Fines to be imposed by the Panel for a failure to comply with specified Rules (assuming the relevant failure is a first offence) shall be determined by the Panel from time to time and notified to the Clubs by the General Manager at least two (2) weeks prior to the commencement of the League playing season.

35.2. All fines imposed by the Panel under these Rules must be paid to the FAW within fourteen (14) days of notice being given by the Panel.
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Women’s
League
04c (x) The Welsh Premier Women’s Football League

CONSTITUTION AND RULES

1. TITLE
   This combination of Association Football Clubs shall be called “The Welsh Premier Women’s Football League” and being affiliated in its own right to The Football Association of Wales is for all purposes of interpretation hereinafter referred to as the “League”

2. CONSTITUTION
   The League shall comprise of 10 clubs in a single division.
   The club with the highest number of points at the end of the season will be the League Champions. In the event of two or more clubs having the same number of points the League winners will be decided by the difference between goals scored and goals against. In the event of more than one club having the same goal difference, the club that has scored the highest number of goals will be the Champions.

   If a club wishes to resign from the League after being accepted at the League AGM and before completing its fixtures, it will be fined £500.

   If a club wishes to resign from the League at the end of the season, it must do so by 1st April each year and will be fined £500.

   Each Club shall play its full strength in all League matches. The fine for non-observance of this Rule to be at the discretion of the Management Committee.

3. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS
   Each Member Club shall pay an Annual Subscription of One Hundred Pounds (£100). The Subscription to be received by the League Secretary by 1st August each year.

   The League Secretary shall by 1st July, send a statement to all Members Clubs detailing Annual Subscriptions / Entrance Fees due. All Entrance Fees to be received by the League Secretary by 1st August.

   Clubs failing to pay any debt owing to The League by the due date will automatically incur a fine of £10.

4. LEAGUE FUNDS
   The League Funds shall be banked in the name of The FAW.
5. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

(a) For Season 2020/21 the clubs promoted shall be determined by the following process:

(i) Each club shall be the Champion club of its league, or runners-up in the league if the champion club declines or is unable to be promoted.

(ii) Two clubs may be promoted to the League and the equivalent number relegated from the League. One from the South Wales Tier Two and one from either the North Wales or Central Wales League. To determine the club to be promoted from North and Central Wales - the qualified clubs from the two leagues concerned will play off as determined by the management committee.

6. PROTESTS, CLAIMS AND COMPLAINTS

All protests, appeals, claims or complaints must be sent to the League Secretary in duplicate and accompanied with a fee of £25, which shall be forfeited in the event of a protest, appeal, claim or complaint not being upheld. All matters relating to a particular match must be lodged with the League Secretary within TWO DAYS of the match in question (excluding Sundays & Bank Holidays).

All questions regarding eligibility, qualification of players or interpretation of the rules of the League shall be decided by the Management Committee, but no objection relative to the dimensions of the ground, goalposts, crossbars or other appurtenances of the game shall be entertained unless a written protest is lodged with the referee prior to the game.

Where there is evidence of a breach of the League's rule by a club or player, the League will investigate the matter and when considered appropriate, prefer a charge of an alleged breach of rule against the club or player(s) concerned. Alternatively, the League, in its absolute discretion, may elect to refer any such matter to the Compliance Department of the Football Association of Wales for investigation. Any proceedings resulting from such an investigation will be in accordance with Section E of the Association's Rules.

Where the League has elected not to refer a matter to the Compliance Department, the League will appoint a Panel consisting of THREE persons, one of which will be appointed as Chair of the Panel, elected from members of the Management Committee (excluding the League Secretary) to consider all protests, appeals, claims or complaints lodged by a club or player(s) as well as charges preferred by the League of an alleged breach of rule.

Where a club or player(s) elect to have a personal hearing as provided for in League Rule 14, the appointed panel will conduct its business in accordance with the provisions as set out in the Football Association of Wales memorandum on Procedure at Personal Hearings.

(a) In the case of a protest, appeal, claim or complaint, the Panel shall have the power to grant or deny the protest, appeal, claim or complaint (in whole or in part) as well as the power to order any such penalty or sanction as the Panel shall reasonably deem fit.

(b) In the case of a charge for an alleged breach of a League rule being found proven, the Panel shall have the power to order any such penalty or sanction as the Panel shall reasonably deem fit.

(c) In all matters, the Panel shall have the discretion to impose a costs order against any of the parties involved.
If dissatisfied with any decision given by the Management Committee or a Sub Committee or Panel appointed by the Management Committee, a club or player shall have the right of appeal to the Football Association of Wales.

Any such appeal must be lodged within SEVEN (7) Business Days as of the earlier of (a) the decision being announced at the time of the hearing/meeting or (b) the date of the correspondence containing the decision.

All appeals must be accompanied with the appropriate fee as set out under FAW Rule 43.2.3.3 (plus vat) and be made payable to The Football Association of Wales. Please address the notice of appeal for the attention of the Chief Executive, The Football Association of Wales, 11-12, Neptune Court, Vanguard Way, Cardiff, CF24 5PJ.

7. MATCH RESULTS

(a) Each Club competing in a Match shall send the completed standard electronic Result Form to the General Manager within thirty (30) minutes of the final whistle, using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time. The Referee shall send the completed standard Referee’s Report Form to the General Manager 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). Clubs failing to observe this rule will be subject to a fine of £10 as defined in Rule 27.

(b) Every club must have a functional and up to date website (provided by Club Website).

8. CLUB COLOURS AND GROUND

Each Club in The League shall register its ground and colours with the Secretary. In the event of any two Clubs having similar playing colours, the visiting team shall make a change, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon. The colours of the opposing Club must be distinctive. Goalkeepers shall play in colours distinct from other members of the teams. The players of each team must wear shirts numbered 1 to 17 excluding 13, the numbers 12 to 17 to be worn by the substitutes. Numbers worn by players must correspond with the team sheet submitted to the referee. The Christian name of each player to be included on the same.

9. RULES - INFRINGEMENT/REVISIONS

(a) Any infringement of The League Rules shall be dealt with in such a manner as the Management Committee may think fit. Any appeal against the decision of the Management Committee shall be to The Football Association of Wales in accordance with its Rules.

(b) No alteration of or addition to existing Rules shall be made, except at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting convened on a requisition signed by not less than two thirds of the Clubs comprising the League, and then only upon such resolution being carried by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting thereon. Notice of alteration or addition must be sent to the Secretary not less than
fourteen days before the date of such Meeting, the same to be printed and forwarded to the Clubs at least seven days before the Meeting.

Note: Notice of alteration of Rules for the Annual General Meeting must reach the League Secretary by the 31st of March each year.

Any rule changes submitted by a club must be signed by the Club Secretary (as listed in the League Handbook) and also by the chairman or a committee member.

10. **ANNUAL GENERAL, EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL AND SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS, AWARDS DINNER**

The Annual General Meeting of the league shall be held each year at a time and place to be determined by the Panel. Each Club in membership must be represented at all Annual General, Extraordinary General and Special General Meetings and shall be entitled to one vote. Each Club shall notify to the Secretary its probable voting representative by name at least 48 hours before a meeting of Clubs. Clubs failing to attend, may be liable to a fine of £25 in accordance with Rule 27.

Each Member Club will be required to purchase a minimum of 4 tickets for the League’s Annual Awards Dinner.

11. **REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET**

The Annual Report and Balance Sheet, duly audited shall be forwarded to each Club at least seven days before the date of the Annual Meeting. The League Balance Sheet, after approval by the League, shall be forwarded within seven days to the Secretary of The Football Association of Wales.

12. **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The Management Committee shall comprise of members as decided by the FAW Council from time to time.

13. **APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY**

The Secretary shall be appointed by the League Management Committee. Such Official shall be an Officer of the League, and not directly or indirectly, connected with any Club in membership with the League nor shall he/she be allowed to exercise voting power at any meeting held under its jurisdiction. Subscriptions and all other monies accruing to the League shall be properly accounted for to the Management Committee by the Secretary.

14. **JURISDICTION**

The Management Committee shall have jurisdiction over all matters whether specially provided for in these rules or not. They shall have power to form any Sub-Committee they may consider necessary and may delegate all or any of their powers to any such Sub-Committee.

In the event of the voting at any meeting being equal, the Chair of such meeting shall have the casting vote, save as before mentioned. The Management Committee shall meet every month, if necessary. No resolution shall be rescinded at the meeting at which it is passed. The expenses of each member of the Management Committee attending shall be paid from The League Funds.
Officials and Members of the Management Committee shall have free access to any part of the Football Grounds during the progress of all League and Cup matches.

A member club, or player, ordered by the League to provide a written response to a charge preferred by the League or a protest, appeal, claim or complaint lodged with the League by a club or player must do so within seven Business Days of the date of the letter from the League requesting the written response.

Such written response must stipulate whether or not the club requires a personal hearing. Should a club or player fail to provide a written response within the stipulated seven Business Days, they will be deemed to have denied the charge of misconduct or allegation contained in the protest, appeal, claim or complaint lodged and the League will take the required steps to convene a hearing at which the club or player will be required to attend.

15. OBJECTIONABLE CONDUCT

At the Annual General Meeting, or any Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose, it shall be competent for a majority of the Delegates present and voting thereby to exclude from membership any Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been objectionable.

16. REGULATIONS RE: MATCHES

All matches shall be played under the rules of The Football Association of Wales and shall be of 90 minutes duration. Clubs shall not mutually agree to play a match in lieu of a League match.

If a match is played to a conclusion it must be a League match. Any match not completed may be ordered to stand as a completed match or be replayed for the full period of 90 minutes as the Management Committee may direct.

A Club may at its discretion use three substitute players from five nominated substitute players at any time in a match for any reason (injury or otherwise), except to replace a player who has been suspended from the game by the Referee.

The substitutions can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission.

The substitute players shall be nominated prior to the commencement of the game.

Clubs responsible for a late start, shall be liable to a fine in accordance with Rule 27.

17. FIXTURES

The Fixtures will be played on Sundays commencing in the first week of September each season.

Where both teams are in agreement, a Sunday fixture may be brought forward to a midweek evening to be played under floodlights, but only during the preceding week of the original fixture.

Any Club without just cause failing to fulfil an engagement to play its League matches on the appointed date or causing a game to be abandoned without giving a reason deemed to be satisfactory by the Management Committee, shall have three points deducted, be liable for any reasonable expenses as deemed necessary by the Management Committee and shall be fined £100. Any subsequent charges will be doubled.

No Club shall be allowed to postpone a fixture with another Club unless it is to play in The
Welsh Cup or Welsh Premier Women’s League Cup. 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 Management Committee of its League fixture provided at least 10 days’ notice is given to the League Secretary 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 League fixture. The League reserves the right to arrange matches for those clubs who do not have a scheduled fixture.

No League Match shall be postponed unless the Management Committee shall consent to a mutual arrangement under exceptional circumstances. All postponed matches will be re-arranged by the League Secretary.

18. TIMES FOR KICK-OFF

The kick-off times for matches shall be 2.00pm.

No kick off times later than the scheduled time will be permitted, unless under floodlights.

Applications for an earlier kick off for a match must be made in writing to the League Secretary no later than 14 days before the date of the match. Midweek and Holiday fixtures may kick off at mutually agreed times subject to League approval.

The Home Club must e-mail the result and details of the match to the League Secretary within one hour of the completion of the game. Clubs failing to comply with this rule will be fined in accordance with the standard scale of fines in rule 27.

19. CUSTODY OF LEAGUE TROPHIES

The Championship Cup will be presented to the winning Club of the said competition.

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 League.

We the undersigned Officials of the ........................................

Club do on their behalf receive The Welsh Women’s Premier League Cup 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 League within 28 days of the end of the following season or upon request by the League Secretary.

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

Date: ..........................................
Signed: .........................................
Chairman: ..........................................
Secretary: ..........................................

Note: No inscription is allowed to be placed on the Cups by any Club.

20. MEMENTOES WINNERS, RUNNERS UP

A set of twenty trophies will be presented to the Clubs adjudged Winners and Runners-up in the championship.
Additional trophies to the set of twenty can only be obtained by special sanction of The League Management Committee.

21. **GROUND AND DRESSING ROOM CRITERIA**

All clubs in membership, and those applying for membership, must have a ground that conforms to the following standard code of facilities of the League.

All matches are to be played on private grounds or grounds deemed suitable by the Management Committee.

(a) **Enclosure of Grounds**

Clubs shall have recognisable barriers, and with the exception of a main entrance point to allow the taking of admission prices from spectators, shall be fully enclosed.

The boundary enclosure shall be of a robust structure with a minimum height of 4’6” and be capable of preventing unauthorised access.

No other match will be allowed to take place whilst a League or Cup match is in progress where the Management Committee considers that the proximity of the second pitch will have a detrimental effect on the fixture.

All clubs shall have the playing area of the ground enclosed by a solid barrier during the playing season (rope or wire is not acceptable).

The Pitch size must be a minimum of 100 x 60 yards or the metric equivalent and the maximum must not exceed the Laws of the Game.

(b) **Dressing Rooms**

(i) **Players Dressing Rooms**

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.

Separate changing rooms must be provided for both teams, capable of accommodating a minimum of 20 persons.

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 for each team. A separate shower area must also be provided for each team with a minimum of four shower heads within the dressing room area.

(ii) **Match Officials Dressing Room**

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

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.

Any redevelopment of the changing room area must accommodate separate areas for female and male officials.

(c) **Medical**

All clubs must have first aid equipment which must include a stretcher. The location of this equipment must be clearly marked in all dressing rooms and ideally a separate
First Aid Room should be available. A defibrillator would also be desirable. Clubs should arrange for suitably trained first aid personnel to be provided for players and spectators at all matches.

Emergency vehicles must be able to drive in to the stadium. The access and egress point(s) must not be blocked. 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.

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 the area designated for the access/egress of the emergency vehicle(s).

(d) **Hospitality**

All clubs must provide a room for club officials and guests as near to the playing area as possible.

Hot tea or if appropriate cold drinks must be provided for players and match officials at half time and full time, and at half time for visiting club officials and guests.

Ideally post-match food for Players and Match Officials should be provided at an appropriate location near the ground.

(e) **Covered Areas**

Clubs must provide two covered dugouts – clearly marked Home & Away - adjacent to and on the same side of the playing area.

They must be capable of accommodating a minimum of eight 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 dug outs.

Clubs must provide a covered accommodation made from solid materials erected adjacent to the playing area.

The floor of the covered accommodation is to be of solid material (concrete, tarmac or paved stone).

It must be capable of accommodating a minimum of 50 spectators.

Hard standing along one side of the playing area is preferable.

22. **REGISTRATION AND TRANSFER OF PLAYERS**

Players must be registered with the Football Association of Wales on the appropriate form. No player will be permitted to register after the last Thursday in March each season. Players must be registered by 5.00pm on the date prior to a game for which they are to be eligible.

Transfers between Clubs are permitted, but the appropriate form must be used, and the player will not be deemed to be properly registered until the completed form has been received by the FAW.

A player should not be approached, except during the period of the “Close Season” by any club or person attempting to induce such a player to play for another club or clubs without
at least seven (7) days’ notice in writing to the Secretary of the club for which the player was last known to have played and the negotiations with the player may only commence after seven (7) days of such notice being given and must cease after twenty-one (21) days from the day of such notice being given. The notice must be forwarded by recorded delivery, registered post or a written acknowledgement otherwise obtained. A second notice shall not be given by the same club in respect of the same player during the same football season.

The approaching club or person shall not give notice of intention to approach more than one (1) player of a club at the same time and shall not give notice of intention to approach another player of the same club within twenty-one (21) days of a prior notice.

Any disputes will be resolved in accordance with the FAW Rules.

Players may only be registered with one club at a time.

Players may register with a maximum of three clubs during the period 1st July to 30th June but is only eligible to play in official matches for two clubs during this period.

Clubs in the Welsh Premier Women’s League shall be permitted to register no more than 2 players at any one time when they reach the age of 15 during that playing season to play in the Welsh Premier Women’s League and in the Cup Competition exclusive to the Welsh Premier Women’s League.

23. INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

Any Club playing an ineligible player shall have three points deducted from its League record for each offence and be liable to a fine in accordance with Rule 27.

24. REGULATIONS AFFECTING REFEREES AND ASSISTANT REFEREES

No Referee shall take part in the Management of any League Club.

(a) Referees’ List, Fees and Expenses

Match Officials Fees will be paid directly by the Football Association of Wales.

The Home club shall pay the Referee and Assistant Referees traveling expenses of 35p per mile in the Match Officials Dressing Room immediately after the game.

The travelling expenses of Referees and Assistant Referees shall be pooled, each Club rendering on the result sheet details of all payments made. The League Secretary shall at the conclusion of the season divide the total number of Clubs, and where the total payment made by a Club is less than equal share of the Pool, the Club shall pay the difference. Where the sum paid by a Club is more than the equal share of the Pool, The League will reimburse the Club accordingly.

(b) Fitness of Ground

The Referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of grounds in all matches, and each Club must take every precaution to keep its ground in a playing condition, and, if necessary, the Home Club may request the referee to visit the ground two hours before the advertised time of kick-off. No club shall postpone the playing of a league match on account of apparent unfitness of its ground, a League Match Official being the sole person to decide as to the fitness after inspection.

Decisions in respect of ground fitness must be taken as late as possible, however due
consideration must be given in respect of the distance being travelled by the visiting team and match officials.

An official asked to carry out a pitch inspection by a home club prior to any match will be reimbursed his/her travelling expenses at the League rate by the club involved. An official asked to carry out a pitch inspection by a League official prior to any match will be reimbursed his/her travelling expenses by the League at the League's current rate.

In the event of a match being called off by the appointed match referee at the normal time, all match officials will be entitled to claim half their match fee plus travelling expenses, to be paid by 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.

(c) Late Starts and Reports

Match officials shall be present at their appointed match at least one hour prior to kick off time. If officials are aware of difficulties in adhering to this requirement, they must contact the League Secretary prior to the match.

Referees must report all cases where teams commence a game late, or without eleven players on the field, and also in cases of their own or assistant's late arrival in any match and notify those concerned at the time of their intention.

In the event of any misconduct, the officiating Referee, and Assistant Referees, must render his/her report to the Football Association of Wales.

(d) Postponed Matches

In the event of a match being unavoidably postponed the officials - if any have attended the ground - shall receive Half Fee and Travelling Expenses.

(e) Match Report Forms

Referees must post Match Report Forms on day of match. Each club must hand copies of a list of names and players taking part in the game (including name(s) and number(s) of the nominated substitute(s)) to the referee, and a representative of their opponents in the presence of the referee, at least thirty minutes before the advertised time of kick off. The players' numbers and the colours of the playing strip must be clearly stated. The standard League forms must be used for this purpose.

(f) Appointments

Referees and Assistant Referees must take advantage of travelling together when so requested or whenever possible.

Referees and Assistant Referees are requested to send their replies of acceptance or otherwise within four days following receipt of the Appointments List.

25. EMERGENCY OFFICIALS

Should the appointed referee fail to appear, the most senior appointed assistant referee shall take control.

The senior assistant is the one with the highest grade or if both have similar grades, the one with the longest service as a referee on the League.
In the event of the Referee or Assistant Referees appointed not attending a Match, and the Two Clubs agreeing to one on the ground, such Referee shall be considered to be a League Official for the time being. Referees or Assistant Referees failing to give a satisfactory reason for absence to the Management Committee shall not be appointed to any other Match during the season. No member of the Management Committee shall officiate in the League.

26. PLAYERS INSURANCE

Each Club shall be responsible for maintaining or procuring that there is maintained in full force and effect at all times proper and adequate insurance cover with policy limits and provisions for each of its players from time to time in respect of their death, or bodily injury, by accident howsoever caused on the field of play including (but without limitation) loss of earnings and other consequential losses (together with 'Insured Risks') and shall ensure that all players from time to time shall be entitled to the benefit of such insurance and shall submit sufficient evidence of the existence of such insurance to the Secretary of the League no later than 1st August in each year, and each Club shall indemnify and keep the League fully indemnified against all liability of the League in respect of the insured risks.

27. SCALE OF FINES

Failure to fulfil a fixture - 1st offence plus deduction of points ......................... £100
Failure to fulfil a fixture - each additional offence plus deduction of points .......... £150
Failure to submit team sheet to referee & opponents .............................. £10
Failure to submit team sheet to League within 5 days of fixture ................. £15
Failure to confirm match details with visiting club/match officials .............. £15
Late presentation of team sheet to referee and/or opponents .................... £10
By late arrival, causing match to be delayed ........ £1.00 fine per minute, minimum £10
Failure of club to attend AGM or any Special General Meetings ................ £25
Failure to reply to correspondence .................................................. £10
Starting a fixture with only 10 players ........................................... £10
Starting a fixture with only 9 players ............................................. £20
Starting a fixture with only 8 players ............................................. £30
Failing to report match results in the prescribed manner and/or in a timely manner... £10
Playing an ineligible player – 1st offence fine plus deduction of three points for each offence .......................................................... £25
Playing an ineligible player – each additional offence fine plus deduction of three points for each offence ...........................................£50
Failure to provide a working and up to date website ................................£50 per month

28. GROUND CRITERIA AFFECTING LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP

The Management Committee will have plenary powers to remove any club from League membership should it fail to meet the accepted ground criteria of the League as published. Clubs must rectify any failures from the published ground criteria within thirty days of being
advised in writing by the League. Any club failing to meet the ground criteria and having been advised that its membership is removed will be relegated at the end of that season to the appropriate feeder league.

29. **MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR BY THE RULES**

Any infringement of the Rules and any other matter not provided for by the Rules shall be dealt with by the League Management Committee.

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**The Welsh Premier Women’s League Cup Rules**

1. The competition shall be called Welsh Premier Women’s League Cup Competition.
2. The insurance for the trophy is to be underwritten by the League.
3. The Football Association of Wales shall have entire control of the competition and shall have power to deal with any matter for which no provision is made.
4. The Welsh Premier Women’s League Rules shall apply to this competition except where it is stated otherwise.
5. The competition shall observe the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association of Wales and all matches shall be played under the Laws of the Game.
6. Protests must be made in writing or by telephone to the Secretary and must be lodged at this office within forty-eight hours of the date of playing the tie in which the protest arises. Protests must be accompanied by a fee of £50.00 which may be returned at the discretion of the FAW if the appeal is sustained.
7. In all matches leading up to the Final the gate receipts shall be allocated to the Home Club.
8. The appointment of Referees and Assistant Referees shall be made by the FAW. Match Fees and expenses shall be as paid for League matches.
9. When a match has been postponed through causes over which neither Club has any control, the expenses shall be paid out of receipts for the second match, or by the League at the discretion of the FAW.
10. All Clubs who are currently members of the Welsh Premier Women’s League are to compete.
11. The competition will be a duel format; the opening rounds will be a mini-league with clubs randomly drawn into two groups who will play a single round robin consisting of two home and two away fixtures. The winning team after 90 minutes will be awarded three points, should the score be tied each team will receive one point. At the conclusion of all the round robin games the clubs with the most points will progress to the semi final stage; in the event of two or more teams having the same number of points, final positions will be determined in the following order: goal difference, goals for, head-to-head result.
From the semi-final onward ties will be played on a knock out basis over one leg. If the scores are level at the end of 90 minutes, an extra time period of 15 minutes each way must be played. If the scores are still level at the end of extra time, the winner will be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with International Board procedures.

12. The final tie will take place in a neutral ground, to be decided by the FAW.

13. In the final tie, if the result is a draw at the end of 90 minutes play, an extra 30 minutes shall be played. If the match is still level at the end of extra time, the winners shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with International Board decision.

14. The dates of all matches shall be decided by the FAW.

15. A player shall be considered bona-fide if she is registered by her Club, in accordance with the provision of the League's regulations. Each Club shall play its full available strength squad in all cup ties unless some satisfactory reason is given. In the event of the explanation not being deemed satisfactory the FAW shall have the power to impose such penalties as they think fit. No player may play for more than one competing Club each season. Any Club being found in default of this Rule may be disqualified from the competition and subject to other penalties as the FAW may deem necessary.

16. Each Club must provide copies of a list of names of players taking part in the game, including the name(s) and number(s) of the nominated substitutes to the referee at least 45 minutes before the advertised time of kick-off. The players' numbers and the colours of the playing strip must be clearly stated. Any Clubs failing to comply with this rule or altering its team selection or numbering after team sheets have been exchanged will be subject to any action decided upon by the FAW. The League's standard form Team Sheet shall be used by each Club, using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time.

17. For any match ordered to be replayed in consequence of breach of Rule, the Club in default shall not receive any share of the proceeds of the replayed match without the consent of the FAW and such consent shall only be given in special circumstances. If consent is not given the share shall be taken by the FAW and placed in the pool.

18. The winning Club shall hold the Challenge Cup for one year. The Cup must be returned upon request of the League Secretary.

In addition to the Cup, the FAW shall present 20 souvenirs to the Cup winners and 20 to the runners-up; seventeen for the players and three for the staff of each Club. The match officials for the final tie shall receive a memento in addition to their normal fee and expenses. Additional souvenirs may be presented only by consent of the FAW.

19. The competition shall be organised each season by the League.
04c (xi)
Futsal League
04c(xi) The FAW National Futsal League Rules

1. TITLE AND SCOPE OF APPLICATION
1.1 The FAW Futsal League is affiliated in its own right to The Football Association of Wales, for all purposes of interpretation hereinafter referred to as the “League”.
1.2 The present Regulations govern the rights, duties and responsibilities of all parties participating and involved in the preparation and organisation of League.

2. ENTRIES – ADMISSION - DUTIES
2.1 The FAW will stage the competition every year.

ENTRIES AND ADMISSION
2.2 Any Futsal club, geographically located, within the territory of Wales, are invited to apply to the FAW for admission into the League. FAW Rule 11.1.1 is also applicable.

To be eligible to participate in the competition, a club must fulfil the following criteria:

(a) it must confirm in writing that the club itself, as well as its players and officials, agree to respect the Rules, Regulations, Directives and Decisions of the FAW;
(b) it must confirm in writing that the club itself, as well as its players and officials, agree to recognise the jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne as defined in the relevant provisions of the UEFA Statutes and agree that any proceedings before the CAS concerning admission to or exclusion from the competition will be held in an expedited manner in accordance with the Code of Sports-related Arbitration of the CAS and with the directions issued by the CAS;
(c) it must fill in the official entry documents, which must reach the FAW administration by the deadline communicated in the circular letter accompanying the entry documents. These entry documents contain all the information deemed necessary by the FAW administration for ascertaining compliance with the admission criteria.

2.3 The FAW Chief Executive communicates the decision on admission to the competition to the clubs in writing. Such decisions are final.

2.4 If a club does not fulfil the admission criteria, the FAW administration will not admit it to the competition. Such decisions are final.
**DUTIES OF THE CLUBS**

2.5 On entering the competition, participating clubs agree:

(a) to comply with the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game;
(b) to respect the principles of fair play as defined in the UEFA Statutes;
(c) to play in the competition until their elimination and to field their strongest team throughout the competition;
(d) to comply with all decisions regarding the competition taken by the FAW Council or the FAW administration and communicated appropriately (by circular letter or by official letter, fax or email);
(e) not to represent FAW or the competition without FAW’s prior written approval;
(f) to grant FAW the right to use and authorise others to use photographic, audio-visual and visual material of their team, players and officials (including their names, relevant statistics, data and images), as well as the club name, logo, emblem and team-shirt (including references to the shirt sponsors and kit manufacturers) free of charge worldwide for the full duration of any rights (i) for non-commercial, promotional and/or editorial purposes and/or (ii) as reasonably designated by the FAW. On request, the clubs must supply the FAW, free of charge, with all appropriate material, fully cleared for use, as well as the necessary documentation required to allow the FAW to use and exploit such rights in accordance with this paragraph.

2.6 The club may use its name and/or logo provided all the following requirements are satisfied:

(a) the name is mentioned in the statutes of the club;
(b) it is registered at the relevant Area Association;
(c) it is not regarded by the FAW as derogatory, offensive or irrelevant.
(d) the name and logo of a commercial partner must be approved by the FAW.

2.7 Each member club shall pay an Annual Subscription of One Hundred Pounds (£100). The Subscription to be received by the League Secretary by 1st October each year.

2.8 Each member club must pay the FAW a Match Fee of £50, the cost of which will be invoiced to the club twice per season. This fee covers the cost of the facility, the referees and the match balls.

Clubs failing to pay any debt owing to The League by the due date will automatically incur a fine of £10 per day, until the total fine is paid.

2.9 Clubs shall not withdraw from membership without due notice of such an intention being given in writing before March 31st. Clubs ignoring this requirement will be liable to a fine of £100. Clubs withdrawing without completing their fixtures will be subject to a £500 fine. The un-played fixtures will be recorded as 5-0 defeats.

2.10 There is no promotion or relegation from the League after Year 1. Clubs will need to reapply to the FAW for membership in subsequent seasons.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ASSOCIATIONS AND CLUBS

3.1 The clubs are responsible for the behaviour of their players, officials, members and supporters.
4. INSURANCE

4.1 Each club shall, irrespective of the FAW’s insurance coverage, cover any and all risks with reputable insurers at their own expense.

5. COMPETITION SYSTEM

5.1 The League format will be confirmed to clubs by the FAW, when the entries are confirmed. The format will either be a National League or Regional Conferences.

5.2 Three points are awarded for a win, one for a draw and none for a defeat.

5.3 If the format is a National League, the club with the highest number of points at the end of the season will be declared as the Champions.

5.4 If the format is in Regional Conferences, the two clubs in each Conference with the highest number of points at the end of the season will progress to the Futsal League Play-Offs.

5.5 The Futsal League Play-offs will be determined and organised by the FAW along the principle that Conference Winners will compete against Runners-Up from another Group, whenever possible.

5.6 The two winning clubs from the Play-off Semi-Final progress to the Final, with the Winners being determined as the FAW Futsal League Champions.

5.7 If two or more teams are equal on points on completion of the League or the Regional Conferences, their position within the group is established according to the following criteria, in the order given:

(a) Higher number of points obtained in the matches among the teams in question.
(b) Superior goal difference resulting from the matches among the teams in question.
(c) Higher number of goals scored in the matches involving the teams in question.
(d) If, after having applied criteria (a) to (c) to several teams, two teams still have an equal ranking, the criteria (a) to (c) are reapplied to determine the rankings of the two teams. If this procedure does not lead to a decision, criteria (e) to (f) apply.

(e) Results of all group matches:
   1. Better goal difference
   2. Higher number of goals scored

(f) Drawing of lots.

5.8 If two teams which have the same number of points and the same number of goals scored and conceded play their last group match against each other and are still equal on points at the end of this match, the rankings of the two teams in question is determined by kicks from the penalty mark and not by the criteria listed under 5.7 (a) to (f), provided no other teams within the group have the same number of points on completion of all group matches. Should more than two teams have the same number of points, the criteria listed under paragraph 5.7 apply. This procedure is only necessary if a ranking of the teams is required to determine the group winner or the team which qualifies for the Play-Offs, as the case may be.

5.9 The Champions of the FAW Futsal League will be nominated to represent Wales in the UEFA Futsal Champions League.
6. MATCH ADMINISTRATION

Match dates, Venues and Kick-off times

6.1 The FAW Administration will determine the match dates, which can only be changed by the FAW in extreme circumstances.

6.2 The match venues and halls will be fixed by the FAW with both Conference matches being played consecutively, unless the FAW decides otherwise.

6.3 Clubs are permitted to request a preferred kick-off time, but the confirmed kick-off times are determined by the FAW. In the case of disputes between the clubs regarding kick-off times, the FAW decides the outcome.

6.4 In venues without any proper warm-up area, and in the case of two consecutive matches, the organisers must leave at least 15 minutes for the warm-up.

7. REFUSAL TO PLAY, CANCELLATION OF A MATCH, MATCH ABANDONED AND SIMILAR CASES

Refusal to play and similar cases

7.1 If a club refuses to play or is responsible for a match not taking place or not being played in full, the relevant FAW Committee will take a decision in the matter.

7.2 Exceptionally, the relevant FAW Committee can validate the result as it stood at the moment when the match was abandoned if the match result was to the detriment of the club responsible for the match being abandoned.

7.3 A club which refuses to play or is responsible for a match not taking place or not being played in full loses all entitlement to payments from the FAW.

7.4 Upon receipt of a reasoned and well-documented request from the club or clubs concerned, the relevant FAW Committee may set an amount of compensation due for financial loss.

7.5 If the referee declares that the match cannot commence because the field is not fit for play or for any other reason, it must in principle be played 7 days later, subject to the approval of the FAW administration. The match can still be replayed on another date set by the FAW administration, in consultation with the clubs and the associations concerned. In case of dispute, the FAW administration fixes the date and kick-off time of the match. Its decision is final.

7.6 If a match is abandoned before the end of normal time or during any extra time, because the field is not fit for play, or for any other reason, it must in principle be replayed in full seven days later, subject to the approval of the FAW administration. The match can still be replayed on another date set by the FAW administration, in consultation with the clubs and the associations concerned. In case of dispute, the FAW administration fixes the date and the kick-off time of the match. Its decision is final.

8. VENUES AND MATCH BALLS

Venue conditions

8.1 Halls must be in good condition in terms of both their playing surface and facilities, fully comply with the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game. The FAW will determine the venues, the decision of which is final.
MATCH BALLS

8.2 Match balls are provided to the League’s clubs by the FAW and must conform to the requirements laid down in the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game.

8.3 Clubs are responsible for bringing match balls to all League matches. These are to be used for warm-up and for the match. The home club’s match balls must be available as those used in the match. Replacement balls will be supplied at cost price to the club.

9. MATCH ORGANISATION

9.1 All teams must be at the match hall at least 45 minutes prior to kick-off.

9.2 The players are invited to shake hands with their opponents and the referees after the line-up procedure, as well as after the final whistle, as a gesture of fair play.

9.3 Only three team officials, one of whom must be the first aid officer and nine substitute players are allowed to sit on the substitutes’ bench, i.e. a total of twelve persons. The names of all these persons and their functions must be listed on the team-sheet. Suspended players are not allowed to warm up or sit on the bench on match days.

9.4 Smoking is not allowed during matches.

9.5 No spectators are allowed alongside the touch-line or goal-line, unless behind a fence, net or barrier.

10. FUTSAL LAWS OF THE GAME

10.1 Matches are played in conformity with the current FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game.

11. SUBSTITUTION OF PLAYERS AND TEAM SHEET

SUBSTITUTIONS

11.1 The maximum number of substitutes permitted per team is nine. The number of substitutions during the match is unlimited.

11.2 No substitutions are allowed during time-outs. Substitutions are allowed as soon as a time-out finishes.

11.3 All substitutes must wear a bib when not playing, which is handed to the substituted player in the substitution zone when a substitution takes place.

TEAM SHEET

11.4 Before the match, each team receives a team sheet on which the numbers, surnames and first names of up to 14 players in the squad must be indicated, together with the surnames and first names of the officials seated on the substitutes’ bench. The team sheet must be properly completed in block capitals and signed by the captain or the competent club official. The numbers on the players’ shirts must correspond with the numbers indicated on the team sheet. The goalkeepers and team captain must be identified.

11.5 Both clubs must hand their team sheets to the referee at least 45 minutes before kick-off.

11.6 If the match sheet is not completed and returned in time, clubs will be fined in accordance with the Scale of Fines in Regulation 26.
11.7 Clubs must name a minimum of 8 players on the Team Sheet, all of whom must be available to play in the match. Failure to comply with this Regulation will be subject to a fine in accordance with the Scale of Fines in Regulation 26.

11.8 All nine substitutes listed on the match sheet may take part in the match.

11.9 If there are fewer than three players on either of the teams, the match will be abandoned. In this case, the Control and Disciplinary Body decides on the consequences.

12. REPLACEMENT OF PLAYERS ON THE TEAM SHEET

12.1 After the team sheets have been completed and signed by both teams and returned to the referee, and if the match has not yet kicked off, no replacement is allowed except in the following cases:

(a) If any of the first five players listed on the team sheet are not able to start the match due to unexpected physical incapacity, they may only be replaced by any of the nine substitutes listed on the initial team sheet. 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.

(b) If any of the nine substitutes listed on the team sheet are not able to be fielded due to unexpected physical incapacity, they may only be replaced by any player not listed on the initial match sheet.

(c) If a goalkeeper listed on the team sheet is not able to be fielded for any reason, he may be replaced by another goalkeeper not previously listed on the match sheet.

(d) The club concerned must, upon request, provide the FAW administration with the necessary medical certificates.

13. HALF-TIME INTERVAL, BREAK BEFORE EXTRA TIME

13.1 The half-time interval must not exceed fifteen minutes. If extra time is required, there will be a five-minute break between the end of normal time and the start of extra time. As a rule, the players remain on the pitch during these five-minute breaks, at the discretion of the referee.

14. KICKS FROM THE PENALTY MARK

14.1 For matches where the winner needs to be decided by kicks from the penalty mark, the procedure laid down in the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game promulgated by the IFAB applies.

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

14.3 If the taking of kicks from the penalty mark cannot be completed because of reasons beyond control, the results will be decided by drawing of lots by the referee in the presence of the FAW Administration and the two team captains.

14.4 If through the fault of a club, the taking of kicks from the penalty mark cannot be completed, the provisions of paragraphs 7.1 to 7.3 of the present regulations apply.

15. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

15.1 A player is eligible to play in the competition provided he fulfils all of the following conditions:

(a) he is duly registered with the Football Association of Wales according to FAW Rules and those of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players.
IDENTIFICATION

15.2 Each player taking part in the competition must be in possession of a valid photographic ID and giving full particulars of his date of birth (day, month, year). The FAW Administration or referee may request to see this at any match day.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

15.3 Players are registered for the League by completing the FAW Futsal Registration Form, which is to be signed by the player and the club and completed as follows:

15.4 Players can be registered at any time until 5:00pm on the last working day, on the day before the match.

15.5 Upon registering, it must be confirmed as to whether the player is qualified as a potential Welsh International Player, according to the relevant FIFA Regulation.

15.6 At any point in the competition, a squad list may comprise a maximum of 20 players.

15.7 No player will be permitted to register after the last Thursday in March each season.

15.8 A player should not be approached, except during the period of the “Close Season” by any club or person attempting to induce such a player to play for another club or clubs without at least seven (7) days’ notice in writing to the Secretary of the club for which the player was last known to have played and the negotiations with the player may only commence after seven (7) days of such notice being given and must cease after twenty one (21) days from the day of such notice being given. The notice must be forwarded by recorded delivery, registered post or a written acknowledgement otherwise obtained. A second notice shall not be given by the same club in respect of the same player during the same football season.

The approaching club or person shall not give notice of intention to approach more than one (1) player of a club at the same time and shall not give notice of intention to approach another player of the same club within twenty-one (21) days of a prior notice.

NEW GOALKEEPER REGISTRATION

15.9 If a club cannot count on the services of at least two goalkeepers registered on the list of players because of long-term injury or illness, the club concerned may temporarily replace the goalkeeper concerned and register a new goalkeeper at any time during the League season. The club must provide the FAW with the necessary medical evidence. The FAW may require further medical examination of the goalkeeper(s) by an expert appointed by the FAW administration at the cost of the club. Once the injured or ill goalkeeper is fit to be fielded again he can resume his position in place of his nominated substitute.

PLAYER TRANSFERRED IN THE COURSE OF THE SEASON

15.10 In the course of a season, a player is eligible to play for another club which is also taking part in this season’s competition, providing he has been registered correctly in accordance with Regulation 15.1 – 15.7.]
15.11 Players may register with a maximum of three Futsal clubs during the period 1st July to 30th June but is only eligible to play in official matches for two clubs during this period.

**RESPONSIBILITY**

15.12 When submitting player registration lists, the club concerned must vouch for the content and are responsible for ensuring that the aforementioned provisions are respected.

15.13 The FAW Council decides on questions of player eligibility. Challenged decisions are dealt with by the relevant FAW Committee.

16. **KIT REGULATIONS**

16.1 The FAW Kit Regulations apply to the League.

16.2 At all matches in this competition, team captains must wear a captain’s armband.

17. **REFEREES**

17.1 The FAW administration will appoint the referees for each match. Only registered futsal referees are eligible. For each match, an official timekeeper is also appointed by the FAW.

17.2 The referees and timekeeper must arrive at the venue 60 minutes before their first match.

17.3 Should an appointed referee fail to appear, the timekeeper should replace them. A qualified referee or any other competent person should be appointed as the timekeeper.

17.4 Referee payments will be made directly by the FAW to each referee by bank transfer, following completion of an FAW expense form. The fee is determined annually by the FAW Referees Committee.

**REFEREE’S REPORT**

17.5 Directly after the match, the referee completes the official Referee’s Match Report Form, signs it and submits it to the FAW administration, with both team sheets.

17.6 In the case of red cards or any other major incidents, the referee writes an additional, detailed report for the FAW Compliance department, which must be submitted within two working days of the match.

18. **YELLOW AND RED CARDS**

18.1 As a general rule, a player who is sent off the field of play is suspended for the next match in the competition. The FAW Compliance Department is entitled to augment this punishment. For serious offences the punishment can be extended to all FAW competitions.

18.2 The FAW Rules for Misconduct Offences apply to the FAW Futsal League.

19. **DECLARATION OF PROTESTS**

19.1 All questions relating to the qualification of competitors or interpretation of the Rules, or any dispute whatever shall be referred to the FAW Council, whose decision shall be final and binding on both Clubs.

19.2 Protests cannot be lodged against factual decisions taken by the referee.
19.3 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 Association, 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 Association in the event of the protest not being sustained.

19.4 The Council may order any Club engaged in a dispute or protest to pay such sum as may be considered necessary towards defraying the expenses incurred.

19.5 Any protest relating to the hall, match ball, goal posts or other appurtenances of the game shall not be entertained by the Council unless an objection has been lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the match, and not later than 45 minutes before the official time of the kick-off. The Referee shall require the venue to correct the cause of the objection, if this is possible without unduly delaying the progress of the match.

19.6 When an objection has been lodged with the Referee, a protest must be made to the Association and neither objection nor protest shall be withdrawn, except by leave of the Council.

19.7 The Protest will be heard as per the Rules and Regulations of the FAW.

20. **FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

20.1 For all matches in the competition, the FAW pays for the facilities, referees, timekeepers, and, if applicable, tournament administrator.

20.2 The Prize Money for the league will be distributed upon competition of all matches and will be as follows;

- Prize Money – League Winners ................................................. £1,500
- Prize Money – League Runners Up ............................................... £750
- Prize Money – Southern 2nd Place ............................................... £350
- Prize Money - Northern 2nd Place ............................................... £350
- Prize Money – Southern 3rd Place ............................................... £175
- Prize Money - Northern 3rd Place ............................................... £175
- Prize Money – Southern 4th Place ............................................... £100
- Prize Money - Northern 4th Place ............................................... £100

**TOTAL**  £3,500

21. **COMMERCIAL RIGHTS**

21.1 The FAW is the exclusive, absolute legal and beneficial owner of the commercial rights to the League. The FAW expressly reserves all such commercial rights and shall be exclusively entitled to exploit, retain and distribute all revenues derived from the exploitation of such commercial rights.

21.2 The FAW has the exclusive right to appoint partners. Any such partners appointed by the FAW (and any other third party designated by FAW), as well as their products and/or services, may benefit from the exclusive right to exploit certain commercial rights in and to the League
and its matches. The clubs must take the necessary measures to ensure implementation and enforcement of the rights granted by FAW to partners.

22. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS
22.1 The FAW is the exclusive owner of all intellectual property rights of the competition, including any current or future rights of FAW’s names, logos, brands, medals and trophies. Any use of the aforementioned rights requires the prior written approval of FAW and must comply with any conditions imposed by the FAW.

22.2 All rights to the fixture list, as well as any data and statistics in relation to the matches in the competition, are the sole and exclusive property of the FAW.

23. COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT (CAS)
23.1 In case of litigation resulting from or in relation to these Regulations, the provisions regarding the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) laid down in the UEFA Statutes apply.

24. UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES
24.1 Any matters not provided for in these Regulations, such as cases of force majeure, will be settled by the Chief Executive Officer and FAW Council, whose decisions are final.

25. CLOSING PROVISIONS
25.1 The FAW administration is entrusted with the operational management of the competition and is therefore entitled to take the decisions and adopt the detailed provisions necessary for implementing these Regulations.

25.2 All annexes form an integral part of these regulations.

25.3 Any breach of these regulations may be penalised by the FAW in accordance with the FAW Rules and Regulations.

25.4 Notice of alteration of Rules for the Annual General Meeting must reach the League Secretary by the 31st of March each year.

25.5 These Regulations were adopted by the FAW Council at its meeting on Wednesday 20th June 2018 and came into force on the same day.

26. SCALE OF FINES AND SANCTIONS
   Failure to fulfil a fixture - 1st offence plus deduction of points: ..................... £100
   Failure to fulfil a fixture - each additional offence plus deduction of points: .... £150
   Failure to submit team sheet to referee & opponents on time: ...................... £10
   By late arrival, causing match to be delayed £1.00 fine per minute, minimum: ....... £10
   Failure of club to attend any Special General Meetings or Media Launch: ........... £100
   Failure to reply to correspondence: ............................................................. £10
   Starting a fixture with only 9 players: ........................................................... £10
Starting a fixture with only 8 players: ............................................... £20
Starting a fixture with only 7 players: ............................................... £30
Playing an ineligible player (1st offence)
Fine plus deduction of points gained: ............................................ £100
Playing an ineligible player (each additional offence).
Fine plus deduction of points gained: ............................................ £150
FAW Academy Programme
MISSION STATEMENT

The Welsh Football Trust, Football Association of Wales and the Welsh Premier League Panel are committed to a National Player Development structure that gives equal opportunities and choice to players throughout the country. The focus of the programme is the “Player at the Centre”.

These opportunities will be provided and developed within the National Academy structure and will place the welfare of the player as paramount. To ensure this, all Academies will be expected to adopt and operate the FAW Safeguarding Policy.

The Academies will undertake to:

- Adhere and comply with Club Licensing & FAW Academy Regulations.
- Operate in an open and transparent manner presenting reports as requested
- Ensure the welfare and best interest of the player at all times
- Never place undue pressure on any player which may contravene the FAW Safeguarding policy, which can be viewed on www.faw.org.uk
- Operate within the annual timetable with regards to Accounting and Auditing procedures as agreed by the League and the FAW.

NATIONAL ACADEMY STRUCTURE REGULATIONS

1. NATIONAL STRUCTURE

Under UEFA’s mandatory guidelines for teams within National League Structures, it is necessary for all clubs participating in the Welsh Premier League to achieve the Youth Development Criteria as set out by UEFA in its Club Licensing Regulations. The National Development Structure for Football in Wales has been built around the provision of accessible opportunities in each of the 22 Unitary Authorities. To ensure that nationally, players of potential can access quality coaching via the Academy structure; it is part of the strategy to encourage clubs outside of the Welsh Premier League to establish youth development programmes. These clubs may seek to attain academy status and will undergo an ‘Application for Approval’ Audit to meet the minimum standards before being accepted into the Programme.
2. **APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL**

2.1 All Welsh Premier League Clubs will be approved if they submit their application for approval no later than the annual deadline (See Core Process for Annual Deadline).

2.2 Clubs outside of the Welsh Premier League must apply for approval no later than the annual deadline.

2.3 In order to gain approval, clubs outside of the Welsh Premier League must prove to the Auditor by the annual deadline that they have fulfilled all of the non-conformities listed in their latest independent academy audit report.

2.4 In order to gain approval, clubs outside of the Welsh Premier League must prove to the Auditor by the annual deadline that all players are registered for the mandatory age-groups, coaches (with required qualifications) are in place at all age-groups, training facilities are available for the duration of the season, playing facilities meeting the minimum standards are available for the duration of the season and the season can be financed by providing an annual budget containing the minimum requirements as defined in Appendix 1.

3. **ACADEMY STATUS**

3.1 Academy status is mandatory for the 12 Welsh Premier League clubs.

3.2 Other clubs may be accepted into the programme, subject to adhering to all Regulations, in the following hierarchical order;

3.2.1 Clubs playing at Tier 2 of the FAW Pyramid structure, may be considered for Academy Status under the National Academy structure, subject to the Application for Approval.

3.2.2 Clubs, based in Wales, whose first team is playing in the English pyramid system, may be considered to hold Academy Status under the National Academy structure, subject to the Application for Approval.

3.2.3 Clubs playing at Tier 3 of the FAW Pyramid structure will only be considered for Academy Status if the same club had Academy Status for the duration of the previous football season and met the required audits. The decision will be subject to the Application for Approval.

3.3 Any proposed new academy must not impinge on existing academies.

3.4 The maximum number of clubs in Wales with FAW Academy status will be 28

3.5 For the avoidance of doubt a Club is any legal entity, which is affiliated to either the Football Association of Wales or one of its Area Associations.

*N.B. Clubs competing in the FAW Tier 2 Leagues, who seek promotion to the WPL should work towards FAW Academy status by meeting the FAW Tier 1 Licence Criteria, but they do not have to have already gained the status in order to be licensed.*

4. **ACADEMY STATUS AND AUDITS**

4.1 Academy Status will be issued annually and expire at the end of every season.

4.2 Only Clubs awarded FAW Accredited Academy Status, can use the FAW defined term “Academy”.
4.3 The ‘Academy’ title may only be used in relation to the designated age groups and operating conditions of the Academy as set out in these Regulations.

4.4 Academies will be audited in each season with a view to be issued with their approval for status for that season.

4.5 Academies are required to submit their Application for Academy Status by 15th July each year.

4.6 To gain Academy Status, clubs will be audited by the end of August, based on players, personnel, training facilities and playing facilities. Clubs with Academy Status will then be subject to a minimum of two further annual inspections one based on Technical and the other on their participation of the Games Programme.

4.7 All aspects of the criteria will be thoroughly audited at every inspection. All administrative material, accounts, registrations, technical programmes, coaching records and development will be made available for inspection.

4.8 Academies failing to meet the criteria will be given an action plan to address all areas of concern with a deadline date for adherence at the Auditors discretion. Those Licence holders not meeting the action plan by the deadline date will be sanctioned by one or more of the following:

4.8.1 Academy status will be withdrawn
4.8.2 Funding will be withheld
4.8.3 A fine of up to £1,500
4.8.4 Issued with a final warning
4.8.5 Issued with a caution.

4.9 Information must be collated on the official forms or computer software, as provided by the Football Association of Wales Trust or Football Association of Wales, or its official auditors, from time to time.

4.10 Clubs relegated from the Welsh Premier League may apply to retain their Academy Status but will not be eligible for UEFA Solidarity Payment.

5. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

5.1 Any Club who is not granted Academy Status has the right to appeal to the FAW.

5.2 A first-instance appeal must be submitted in writing as per FAW Rule 43.2 and its sub-clauses.

5.3 Any appeal must be submitted with the appropriate appeals fee as set out under Rule 43.2.3.

5.4 Until all appeals have been exhausted, a club will not be accepted into the Academy Programme.

6. PARTNERSHIPS

6.1 Academies must be within the legal entity of the club or affiliated to its legal entity through an official partnership, which must be approved by the FAW.

6.2 All such affiliations must be recorded, open and transparent with a formal written agreement detailing the roles and responsibilities of both partners on an annual basis.
6.3 Financial and technical support must be provided by the club and affiliated Academies.

6.4 All parties within any partnership agreement will be under the direct management of the Head of Youth.

6.5 The Head of Youth will be responsible to ensure that the Academy meets the audit Criteria. All partners are bound by the Academy criteria and Academy status is subject to all parties meeting the criteria.

6.6 Academy status will be registered to the Club, not to any third-party partnership.

6.7 Workshops and/or Grassroots Conferences for junior clubs are held regionally and annually, to promote a working together philosophy. These are delivered by the FAW Trust Officers and delivered through the junior leagues, with invites extended to Clubs, Area Associations and Academies.

6.8 Opportunities for Academies and Football League clubs to work together and not in direct conflict with each other are encouraged. Any issues that Academies may face are to be raised as soon as possible to the FAW and the Welsh Football Trust are requested to meet the key stakeholders to promote the working together in Partnership ethic.

7. ACADEMY AGE GROUP STRUCTURE - PLAYERS AGED UNDER 10-21

7.1 The Academy must have at least the following mandatory youth teams within its legal entity or affiliated to its legal entity.
   a. Operate one team below the age of 10 (See 8.7).
   b. Operate a team at U12 to play in the Games Programme
   c. Operate a team at U14 to play in the Games Programme
   d. Operate a team at U16 to play in the Games Programme
   e. Operate a team at U19 to play in an affiliated competition.

7.2 Clubs are permitted to run additional age-groups, but with only one team per age band and 18 players maximum.

7.3 Clubs are permitted to arrange U13 and U15 friendly matches but must gain FAW sanction. Sanction would be granted for requests made 28 days in advance, if the proposed match did not clash with the FAW Academy programme. Requests made less than seven days in advance of the fixture, may not be sanctioned. Junior Clubs and Leagues are required to release the players for these matches. The maximum number of friendlies must be in accordance with 7.4.

7.4 The maximum number of friendly matches for U13 and U15 is fifteen (15) for clubs that do not implement 1 player/1 club or twenty-five (25) for clubs that do implement 1 player/1 club.

7.5 The age of the player must conform to the FAW Rules.

7.6 The Academy must provide a weekly session specifically for Goalkeepers. The session can accommodate all goalkeepers aged 12 – 21.

8. GAMES PROGRAMME

8.1 A League competition will be organised for the Under 12, 14 and 16 ages. The four League winners will progress to the knockout cup, which starts in the Spring.
8.2 All academy games should be played in accordance with the Competition Regulations as defined in the Academy Handbook, which is produced annually.

8.3 It is mandatory for Academies to fulfil their Academy Games Programme as specified within the National Fixture Calendar.

8.4 Academies not fulfilling their fixtures will lose a percentage of the allocated funding or be subject to a sanction as defined in 4.8.

8.5 Academies should not play more than the following number of matches or programmes per season and per player:
   - Age Range 15-21 – No more than 40
   - Age Range 10 -14 – No more than 30

8.6 The completed team sheets, confirming the full names of players taking part and the names of substitutes indicating whether or not they took part in the match must be submitted to the FAW within sixty minutes of the match being played using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time. Failure to comply will automatically result in a £10 fine per offence.

8.7 There is no obligation for the Teams at U10 or below to take part in official competitions. For these teams, suitable events should be organised (mini-football festivals, youth gatherings on local level etc.) in order to provide fun and give them the opportunity to gain experience playing with other children teams. No mandatory registration of these players is required.

8.8 All Academies must participate in the Under 12, Under 14 and Under 16 Academy Games Programme.

8.9 Cross-Border friendly fixtures are permitted, but only through the correct application process as per FAW Rule 108. The maximum number of matches as stated in 7.4 must be adhered to.

8.10 The Competition Rules for the Under 12, Under 14 and Under 16 age-groups are provided in a separate document and determined annually by the Football Association of Wales.

9. FUTSAL

9.1 It is mandatory for the Under 12’s and Under 14’s to participate in the FAW Academy Futsal programme. This programme will be organised in the winter months, in accordance with the Academy Futsal Calendar as provided during the Application for Approval stage.

9.2 Academies not fulfilling their Futsal fixtures will lose a percentage of the allocated funding or be subject to a fine or caution from the FAW National Game Board, in accordance with the FAW Academy Competition Regulations.

9.3 All Academies are required to contribute financially to the futsal games programme, which will be used to hire facilities on a regional basis.

9.4 At least one Under 12 coach and at least one under 14 coach must complete the FAW Futsal Coach Education course.

10. FACILITIES FOR MATCHES

10.1 Changing rooms must be separate, accessible, safe and in close proximity to the pitch for both teams and the match officials.
10.2 Goal-nets and corner flags must be provided in all matches.

10.3 The pitch must be marked as per the Laws of the Game.

10.4 A 9v9 pitch must be used for Under 12 matches, as described in Competition Rule 1.

10.5 9v9 goals must be used for Under 12 matches as described in Competition Rule 2.

10.6 Access to a 3G facility must be secured for the Under 16 age group during the months of December, January and February.

11. FACILITIES FOR TRAINING

11.1 Changing rooms must be accessible, safe and in close proximity to the training venue.

11.2 The facility should have a meeting room to enable the club to meet parents and hold general meetings.

11.3 The playing area must have access to floodlights for session held during evening hours.

11.4 The area for coaching and development should be available in all weathers (ideally 3G / AstroTurf, if available) or a quality grass pitch (60m x 40m minimum).

11.5 There should be access to a suitable indoor facility, to be used as contingency during adverse weather conditions.

11.6 A Medical Room must be available to treat injuries.

11.7 Clubs must ensure and provide documentation that all facilities are adequately insured.

12. DURATION AND FREQUENCY OF COACHING ACTIVITIES

12.1 Academies shall operate from 1st August until 31st May for a minimum of 26 weeks and a maximum of 36 weeks in this period.

12.2 All sessions must be a minimum of 1 hour and a maximum of 2 hours in duration.

12.3 There must be a minimum of one session per week, per age-group.

12.4 There must be a weekly programme specifically for goalkeepers. This should be a minimum of 1 hour and a maximum of 3 hours.

12.5 A formal appraisal report should take place twice per year in December and April.

12.6 There must be a minimum of 2 parents’ evenings per season to coincide with the appraisal report.

13. PERSONNEL

The Academy must have its own personnel and administrative structure with the minimum areas of responsibilities being:

- Head of Coaching (For Welsh Premier League Clubs only)
- Head of Youth Development
- Academy Administrator
- Head of Foundation Phase (or Foundation Phase Lead Coach)
- Head of Youth Phase (or Youth Phase Lead Coach)
- Head of Performance Phase (or Performance Phase Lead Coach)
• Age Group Coaches
• Goalkeeper Coach
• Assistant Goalkeeper Coach
• Safeguarding Officer
• Academy Medical Officer
• Academy Education Portal Tutor

Staff may take on more than one role but must acknowledge the area of responsibility within each role undertaken.

14. STAFF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, QUALIFICATIONS & PAYMENTS

Staff must fulfil their specific roles and responsibilities as set out below.

14.1 Academy Administrator

14.1.1 The Academy Administrator is always responsible for completing and updating accurate records through the forms provided by the FAW, FAW Trust or its auditors from time to time.

14.1.2 The Academy Administrator must adhere to the following;

• To ensure the clubs’ Youth Development Programme is undertaken. (Licensing Ref: S.01)
• Valid DBS certificate through the FAW
• Have attended FAW Safeguarding and Child Protection Course and abide by the FAW Safeguarding Policy, which must be adopted by the Academy
• To ensure the COMET management system is being used efficiently and on time by all age-groups.
• Liaise with all staff to ensure their duties are carried out, as per job description.
• Liaise with the club’s Board of Directors regarding academy affairs.
• Chair the Academy Management Forum.
• Liaise with local partners with regard to Academy Developments.
• Act as lead officer on behalf of the club with grant aid applications and monitoring.
• To provide weekly registers.
• To maintain weekly / monthly income records and receipts and invoices.
• To regularly update the database of players.
• To retain copies of players registrations.
• To supervise the club’s website and ensure that it is regularly updated.
• To undertake all Academy correspondence.
• To correlate all technical and financial information as required for the annual audit.
• To ensure that a copy of medical details and parental consent is available at all times.
• To accompany players to hospital in the event of serious injury in the absence of the Safeguarding Officer.
• To report if requested, to the Board of Directors in the absence of the Head of
Youth Development.

14.1.3 The maximum payment from the UEFA Solidarity Grant is £2,000.

14.2 *Head of Youth Development*

14.2.1 The Head of Youth development should assist the Academy Administrator with the completion of the documents, specifically the technical documents through the forms provided by the FAW, FAW Trust or its auditors from time to time.

14.2.2 The Head of Youth must abide by the following:

- They must meet the qualification as per the FAW Domestic Licence criteria.
- Valid DBS certificate through the FAW
- Have attended FAW Safeguarding and Child Protection Course and abide by the FAW Safeguarding Policy, which must be adopted by the Academy
- They should attend all academy sessions, where possible.
- They must be in attendance for the Audit inspection visits.
- They must abide by the FAW Safeguarding Policy and coaches’ codes of conduct.
- They must hold First Aid Award.
- They must ensure that coaching staff fulfils their duties before, during and after the Academy sessions and matches.
- They must liaise with the coaches to discuss the objectives of the Academy technical programme.
- They must ensure that records of the technical programme are submitted and maintained for every session.
- They must ensure the coaching staff is provided with a programme for on-going professional development.
- They must ensure the coaching staff attends the programme for on-going professional development.
- They must ensure records are maintained recording the coaching staff’s on going professional development.
- They must liaise with the Academy Administrator to ensure that all academy records are available for inspection.
- They must be available to answer questions to the Welsh Football Trust and/or the Football Association of Wales, testing their knowledge of the Academy and the club’s Youth Development Programme.

14.2.3 The maximum payment from the UEFA Solidarity payment is £5,000.

14.3 *Coaching Staff*

14.3.1 All coaches must abide by the following:

- Have the qualification as per the FAW Domestic Licence criteria.
- Have attended FAW Safeguarding and Child Protection Course and abide by the FAW Safeguarding Policy, which must be adopted by the Academy.
- Hold the First Aid Award.
- Valid DBS certificate through the FAW.
- Abide by the coaches’ code of conduct at all times.
- Consult with and inform the Head of Youth of the Technical programme prior to
every session.

• Submit a written session planner, outlining details of the session, to the Head of Youth prior to every session.

• Design and undertake the technical programme as per national guidelines.

• Assume responsibility for all kit and equipment necessary for the technical programme.

• Have total responsibility for all safety issues with regard to the technical programme.

• Undertake at least 2 written player assessments per year in consultation with the Head of Youth Development.

14.3.2 Coaches can be paid the amount stated in the ‘Recommendations for Coach Payment’ (See 14.8). The total payment for all other qualified coaches from the UEFA Solidarity Grant is a maximum of £3,000.

14.4 **Goalkeeper and Assistant Goalkeeper Coaches**

14.4.1 The Head Goalkeeper and/or Goalkeeper coach must abide by the following:

• The Head Goalkeeper coach must hold the Goalkeeping ‘C’ Certificate, working towards the FAW Goalkeepers B Licence.

• The Head Goalkeeper coach must hold the outfield FAW ‘C’ certificate.

• The Assistant Goalkeeper Coach must have the FAW Goalkeeper Award and be working towards the FAW Goalkeeper ‘C’ Certificate.

• They must have attended the FAW Safeguarding and Child Protection Course and abide by the FAW Safeguarding policy as adopted by the Academy.

• They must hold the First Aid Award.

• Valid DBS certificate through the FAW.

• Must abide by the coaches' code of conduct at all times.

• To consult with and inform the Head of Youth of the Technical programme for goalkeepers prior to every session.

• To submit a written session planner, outlining details of the session, to the Head of Youth prior to every session.

• To design and undertake the goalkeepers technical programme as per national guidelines.

• To assume responsibility for all kit and equipment necessary for the technical programme.

• To have total responsibility for all safety issues with regard to the technical programme.

• To undertake at least 2 written goalkeepers' assessments per year in consultation with the Head of Youth.

14.4.2 The total payment for all other qualified coaches (including the head goalkeeper coach) from the UEFA Solidarity Grant is a maximum of £3,000.

14.5 **Safeguarding Officer**

14.5.1 The Safeguarding Officer should assist the Academy Administrator with the completion of the documents, specifically the safeguarding documents through the forms provided by the FAW, FAW Trust or its auditors from time to time.
14.5.2 The Safeguarding Officer must abide by the following;

- They must have attended the FAW Safeguarding and Child Protection Course.
- Valid DBS certificate through the FAW.
- To undertake all FAW Safeguarding Procedures.
- To ensure all staff are suitably screened as per FAW Safeguarding guidelines.
- To consult with the Head of Youth and coaching staff on all player Safeguarding issues.
- To ensure all staff abide by the FAW Safeguarding Policy and codes of conduct.
- To submit a written report to the Head of Youth Development regarding details of parental and player concerns and other related safeguarding matters.
- To act on behalf of the players in all disciplinary matters.
- To accompany players to hospital in the event of serious injury, should a parent or Guardian not be available.
- To liaise with schools and or club regarding the Academy programme for players.

14.6 **Head of Foundation Phase (or Foundation Phase Lead Coach)**

Responsible for skill acquisition within the foundation phase (U9-U12). Must ensure that the Foundation phase teams focus on training, learning and engaging.

14.7 **Head of Youth Phase (or Youth Phase Lead Coach)**

Responsible for encouraging decision-making through football awareness and perception game-related practice within the youth phase (U13-U16). Must ensure that the Youth phase teams focus on embedding game understanding and sound decision-making skills.

14.8 **Head of Performance Phase (or Performance Phase Lead Coach)**

Responsible for developing tactical specific, game related problems within the Performance phase (U17-U21). Must ensure that the Performance phase teams focus on the refinement of players’ technical, tactical, physiological and psychosocial capabilities.

14.9 **Academy Medical Officer**

Responsible for overseeing all medical matters within the Academy, including but not limited to the following;

- They must be a General Practitioner, a chartered physiotherapist or hold the Sports Trauma Management (STM) qualification.
- Ensuring that a First Aid Officer, as defined in 14.10, is present at all Academy matches.
- They must be FAW DBS Checked.
- Ensuring that the minimum First Aid Kit, as described in the Academy Application for Approval Form, is provided at all matches.
- Ensuring that all injuries and treatments are recorded in the medical database. Welsh Premier League Clubs must use the systems and procedures as set out by the FAW from time to time.
- Must ensure that an appropriately qualified person undertakes all primary care.
- Must ensure that an appropriately qualified person undertakes diagnostic and remedial care.
• Must maintain and submit written injury and medical reports to the Safeguarding officer.
• Must maintain medical history and emergency contact details.
• Must liaise with club doctor/physiotherapist, whenever necessary.

14.10 First Aid Officer

The First Aid Officer must abide by the following;

• They must have the First Aid for Football Award. For the start of the 2020/21 season, the required qualification is either FASE 1 or FAW Emergency Aid.
• They must be FAW DBS Checked
• They must ensure that the minimum First Aid Kit is available at pitchside for the whole duration of the Match.
• Must maintain and submit written injury and medical reports to the Safeguarding officer.
• Must maintain medical history and emergency contact details
• Must liaise with club doctor/physiotherapist
• Must maintain contact with parents regarding medical issues

14.11 Head of Coaching (Mandatory for Welsh Premier League Clubs only)

All Welsh Premier League clubs must appoint a Head of Coaching in a full-time role.

The qualifications required of the Head of Coaching are;

• UEFA ‘A’ Licence or working towards (Essential)
• AW Accredited Tutor or willingness to working towards (Essential)
• Educated to Degree Level or Equivalent (Desirable)
• Level 3 Accredited Tutor (Desirable)
• Level 3 Mentor & Assessor (Desirable)

The purpose of the Head of Coaching role is:

• To develop players and increase the number of better players in Wales.
• To establish a sustainable system and approach to coach development within the Academy.
• To develop coaches so that they improve and perform to the best of their potential and are consequently able to maximise the potential of the players that they work with.
• To develop community links so that sustainable relationships are built and perform to the best of their potential.

The competencies required are;

• A strong background in football coaching, player development and coach education;
• Knowledge and understanding of providing TNAs, formal feedback and development / delivery of CPD programmes;
• Proven ability to implement and develop football programmes and philosophy;
• Proven ability to develop and commission community-based football initiatives;
• Strengths in planning and time management;
• Experience in recruitment, relationship building;
• Ability to form strong and operational teams;
• Excellent interpersonal and communications skills;
• Experience in stakeholder and partnership management;
• Proven leadership and supervisory management experience;
• Strategy and policy development, implementation and reporting;
• Ability to be self-directed and work on own initiative;
• Appropriate IT competencies;
• Ability to present/report effectively to Head of Youth and Board/Panel members;
• Spoken and written Welsh desirable;
• Willing to work unsociable hours and weekends;
• Full driving licence

14.12 *Academy Education Portal Tutor*

All Academies must have a designated individual to present the FAW education training programme, which includes; Anti-discrimination, Anti-Doping, Laws of the Game and Integrity. This programme must be delivered to all mandatory age-groups.

14.13 *Recommendations for Coach Payment*

These are the recommended rates for Coach Payment;

- Head of Youth Development ........... Up to £30.00 per hour
- A Licence coaches .................... Up to £30.00 per hour
- B Licence coaches .................... Up to £20.00 per session
- C Licence coaches ................. National minimum wage
- Futsal coaches ...................... National minimum wage
- Football Leaders ................. National minimum wage

Clubs may make individual decisions on coach payments.

It may be necessary for personnel at the Academy to adopt more than one role within the Academy staff structure. This is acceptable; however, staff will be responsible for the duties set out within their job descriptions.

15. **COACH TO PLAYER RATIO**

15.1 There must be one suitably qualified coach for every 16 players for players aged 12 and over.

15.2 To ensure that all aspects of the FAW Safeguarding Regulations are undertaken, two coaches must work with each group of players.

15.3 There must be a minimum of one coach who holds the First Aid for Football qualification.

16. **EQUIPMENT**

16.1 Players up to and including Under 12’s must use size 4 balls.

16.2 Players at Under 13 and over must use size 5 balls.

16.3 There must be a minimum of 1 ball between 2 players available for coaching sessions at all age groups.
16.4 Marking discs (cones) should be available and must be safe.
16.5 Bibs of at least two differing colours must be available for every age-group.
16.6 Poles should be of a suitable height for each age-group.
16.7 Players should wear adequate shin protection during training and games.
16.8 All equipment must be checked for safety prior to every session.

17. COACH ACCREDITATION
17.1 Each Academy coach must undertake a programme of continuous professional development training per year. This will be a minimum of one accredited workshop per year.
17.2 Training should be delivered through the Accredited Coaches Programme this is delivered at local, regional and national level, supporting the FAW Coach Education Programme.
17.3 A list of accredited coaching workshops, which all Academy coaches must attend, will be circulated annually by the FAW Trust.
17.4 It is the responsibility of all Academy Coaches to revalidate their qualifications as per FAW/UEFA Criteria.
17.5 Each coach should maintain a detailed log of training that they have undertaken.

18. REGIONAL FORUMS
18.1 Regional Forums will be held at least annually.
18.2 The FAW will facilitate the regional forums and make recommendations to the relevant FAW Board and FAW as a result of the forums findings.
18.3 Each Academy should send two delegates to the Regional Academy Forums, one of which needs to be either the Head of Youth, Head of Coaching or Academy Administrator. Failure to do so will be subject to a fine or caution by the relevant FAW Board.

19. TECHNICAL PROGRAMME
19.1 Staff must work within a technical programme which will clearly outline the expected learning outcomes for every age group.
19.2 Weekly session planners must be maintained to support the work undertaken.
19.3 At least four hours of classroom-based educational work, which not only includes the playing skills but also the technical, tactical and physical, must be undertaken with each age group throughout the season.
19.4 Each player is to attend a minimum of four hours player education seminars on topics such as; Diet & Nutrition, Physical conditioning and preparation, Life-Style Management and the Player Development pathway.
19.5 A specific workshop on the Laws of the Game with a qualified Match Official must be undertaken with each age group throughout the season.
19.6 All players must undertake an anti-doping-education programme. This is coordinated by the ‘Coach Clean’ representative (Regulation 14.12).
20. **REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS**

20.1 FAW Rule 59 permits the club to make the choice of whether to allow 1 player / 1 club or to permit the player to play for the junior club and the academy. Clubs can make the choice to suit their own needs and geographical requirement but must also record the playing time of each player.

20.2 Clubs should also refer to Appendix 1, ‘FAW Academy Player Registrations Regulations.’

20.3 Players should be registered for attendance at every training session and match.

20.4 Details of player’s medical conditions should be available at every session.

20.5 Players should not be released from the Academy without having an opportunity to address concerns raised on their appraisal. See Appendix 1 for more information.

20.6 Players and Parents must abide by the player’s code of conduct.

21. **SAFEGUARDING - CODES OF CONDUCT & MISSION STATEMENT**

21.1 The Academy must adhere to all Welfare and Safeguarding Rules and Regulations.

21.2 Every Academy must have a Mission Statement which is promoted openly.

21.3 Every Academy must operate a policy of equality.

21.4 Codes of conduct for coaches, parents & players should be signed annually. Codes of Conduct must include consequences for non-compliance.

21.5 Players, parents and coaches should sign a copy of the Academy Code of Conduct which should be available for inspection.

21.6 The Academy should draw up a health and safety code, which all staff must work within at all times.

21.7 An induction process for every Member of Staff must be carried out before they can work at the Academy.

22. **FINANCIAL PROCEDURE**

22.1 All Academies are to have their own bank account, separate from the first team. Statements must be accessible at Audit.

22.2 All income and expenditure must go through the bank account of the Academy.

22.3 The income and expenditure of the Academy must include all of the minimum disclosure requirements as stated in Appendix 1.

22.4 Up to date records of expenditure and income with receipts must be maintained for audit.

22.5 As Academy finances must be run independently from the clubs, a formal written agreement must be drawn stating the financial arrangements between both parties and that all money from the UEFA Solidarity grant (if applicable) is spent solely on youth development.

22.6 Records of terms and conditions of employment stating rates of pay must be maintained.

22.7 All cash coaching payments must be reconciled with a signature to confirm receipt of payment.

22.8 Regular interim statements and end of year accounts should be available for the Academy forum and clubs’ Board of Directors.
22.9 Parachute payments from the FAW will be at the discretion of the relevant FAW committee annually.

22.10 UEFA Solidarity Payments, which can only be received by top-division clubs must, be used in accordance with the UEFA distribution criteria and the Welsh Premier League Academy Financial Scorecard.

23. **ACADEMY MANAGEMENT**

23.1 **Academy Officers**

The Academy should operate under the direct control of appointed Academy officers. These should include; Head of Youth Development, Academy Administrator, a representation from the Clubs Committee or Board of Directors. Welsh Premier league Clubs should also operate with a Head of Coaching. Additional members may be appointed as required.

23.2 **Management Forum**

The Academy Officers must form an Academy Forum. The Forum will set its own terms of reference which will include; Staff appointments, discipline and grievance procedures, preparation for the Annual Audit, authorisation of the Annual Audit, direct reporting to the club’s committee or board of directors.

They should meet a minimum of 4 times per year. A chair shall be appointed, and minutes will be kept of all Academy Forum meetings. A minimum of 5 representatives should be nominated to include a representative of the club’s board of directors and the player’s parents.

23.3 **Accountability**

The Academy will remain the responsibility of the club it’s registered to. Its committee and Board of Directors shall retain input in all Academy matters and should be informed directly on a regular basis of developments within the Academy.

24. **ADMINISTRATION**

24.1 **General Procedures**

Every Academy is required to maintain accurate records on the FAW’s systems and procedures, as communicated from time to time, and to inform the FAW and FAW Trust regarding any changes in personnel.

24.2 **Other Records**

A database of Attendance Records and the Technical Programme must be maintained.

25. **INSURANCE**

25.1 It is the responsibility of the Academy that all insurance matters relating to the activities of the Academy are covered. This should include players, staff, facilities, matches, travel and any other areas for which the Academy may be liable.

25.2 It is advised that the Academy seek professional guidance regarding all insurance matters.
APPENDIX 1 – FAW ACADEMY PLAYER REGISTRATIONS REGULATIONS

REGISTERED PLAYERS

1. All Players must be registered with the Association. The use of the COMET Football Management System is a mandatory step for the registration of all Players. Only such registered Players are eligible to participate in matches. Any Player not registered with the Association will be deemed ineligible.

2. These Regulations should also be read in conjunction with FAW Rules and the FAW COMET Football Management System Regulations.

3. The appropriate COMET generated registration form as prescribed by the Association from time to time must be duly completed for all Players.

4. A player can only participate for one Academy at a time.

5. The provisions of FAW Rule 79 shall apply to the transfer of Players between Academies.

6. Each Academy is permitted to have a maximum of 16 (sixteen) players registered in the Under 12 age group.

7. Each Academy is permitted to have a maximum of 18 (eighteen) players registered in the Under 14 and Under 16 age groups.

8. Each Academy is permitted to have any number of players registered in any other age group, not referred to above, which it operates.

9. 
   a. Players must be under the age of twelve (12) as of midnight on the 31st August in each season in order to be eligible to participate in matches for an U12’s Academy Age Group. In addition, all players must be in Year seven (7) of compulsory education.
   b. Year 6 players (under 11) are permitted to participate in Year 7 (under 12) football at academy level, when 9v9 football is being played.
   c. Players must be aged twelve (12) as of midnight on the 31st August in any given season and under the age of fourteen (14) as of midnight on the 31st August in the same season to be eligible for the Under 14’s Academy Age Group (Years eight (8) & nine (9) of compulsory education).
   d. Players must be aged fourteen (14) as of midnight on the 31st August in any given season and under the age of sixteen (16) as of midnight on the 31st August in the same season to be eligible for the Under 16’s Academy Age Group (Years ten (10) & eleven (11) of compulsory education).

10. An Academy shall be responsible for maintaining its quota of registered Players for the Under 12, Under 14 and Under 16 age groups via the COMET Football Management System.

11. An age group is defined as the one-year age bracket applicable to the competition structure for Under 12’s eligibility (i.e. those players in Year 7 of compulsory education during the relevant season) and the two year age bracket applicable to the competition structure for Under 14’s and Under 16’s eligibility i.e. an academy can only have 18 participating players at Under 16’s level even if the academy has a team at Under 15’s and Under 16’s.

12. An Academy is required to check the COMET Football Management System at regular intervals to establish the eligibility of its Players.
TRIAL PLAYERS

13. Each Academy is permitted to have a maximum of two (2) players participating as Trial Players within each age group at any given time. This is limited to a maximum of four (4) trial players participating per age group in any given playing season.

14. A Trial Player can only participate for one academy at a time.

15. A player may undertake a trial with a maximum of two (2) academies in any given season.

16. A player cannot trial for an academy if already registered for another academy.

17. A Trial Player may participate for an academy for a maximum period of six weeks.

18. The six-week period begins upon receipt of the confirmation from the FAW of receipt of the relevant JA3 Form.

19. At the conclusion of the trial period, the Academy must not permit the player to participate further for the academy in anyway (training and/or match participation).

20. If an Academy wishes to retain a Trial Player it must register said Player with the Association as per these regulations.

RELEASE OF PLAYERS

21. An application to cancel the registration of an Academy Player can be made at any time and must be submitted via COMET by the Academy with which the Player is currently registered.

22. In the event an Academy is operating at the maximum number of registered players, the academy must release one of its players via COMET either before or at the same time as submitting a completed application for registration of a new player.

23. The Academy is not permitted to field a player if it has cancelled said Players registration via COMET.

24. An Academy can choose to release a player. The parent/guardian of a Player can request the release of their child.

DISPUTES

25. Any disputes relating to the eligibility of a participating player must be forwarded to the FAW Competitions Department within 3 days as of the date of the fixture in which they participated.

26. Any query relating to the operation of these regulations must be addressed to the FAW Registrations Department.
APPENDIX 2 – FAW ACADEMY COMPETITION RULES 2019-20

UNDER 12 AGE GROUP (9 V 9 FOOTBALL)

1. PLAYING AREA
   1.1. The width of the pitch must be 44 yards, which is the width of the 11 v 11 penalty area.
   1.2. The length of the pitch must be from penalty box to penalty box if played on an 11v11 pitch or 70 yards if played on a dedicated 9v9 pitch.
   1.3. The penalty area must be 28 yards wide and 12 yards from goal line.
   1.4. The Penalty spot must be 9 yards from goal line.
   1.5. Goal kicks are to be taken approximately 4 yards from goal line.
   1.6. A painted marker 4 yards from each post is sufficient for guidance.
   1.7. For dedicated 9v9 pitches a goal area can be marked out. This is to be 4 yards from goal line and 4 yards from each goal post towards the corner.

2. SIZE OF GOAL
   2.1. The size of the goal must be 16 ft. (width) x 7 ft. (height).

3. NUMBER OF PLAYERS
   3.1. The maximum number of players per team including the Goalkeeper is nine (9).
   3.2. The maximum squad for a match day is fifteen. (9 players plus 6 substitutes).

4. SUBSTITUTES
   4.1. A club at its discretion may make substitutions on a rolling basis; except to replace a player or players suspended from the game by the Referee.
   4.2. Substitutions can only be made when the play has been stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission. The name(s) and numbers of substitute(s) must be nominated to the Referee on the Official Team Sheet.

5. SIZE OF THE BALL
   5.1. The match ball must be size 4.

6. DURATION OF MATCHES
   6.1. Matches will last 60 minutes in duration.
   6.2. Ordinarily, the match lasts two equal periods of 30 minutes, unless otherwise mutually agreed between the referee and the two teams before the start of play. The only alternative permitted is three equal periods of 20 minutes.
   6.3. Players are entitled to an interval of half-time, which must not exceed 15 minutes.
   6.4 In Semi-Final or Final matches, if the scores are equal at the conclusion of the match, the outcome will be decided through the taking of penalty kicks from a distance of 9 yards. Other than this, penalty kicks shall be taken in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
7. **BACK PASS RULE**

7.1. The back-pass rule becomes applicable as per the Laws of the Game (Law 12). Clubs are responsible for ensuring that their players know the Law, which differs to the Mini-Football Regulations.

8. **START AND RESTART PLAY**

8.1. The kick-off is taken at the centre of the playing area to start the game and after a goal has been scored, as per Law 8 in the Laws of the Game.

8.2. The opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least seven yards from the ball until it is in play.

9. **LAWS OF THE GAME**


9.2. The use of red cards and yellow cards for team officials can be shown by the Referee. Any team official which receives a red card must return to the dressing room immediately.

9.3. Disciplinary sanctions for red cards and the accumulation of yellow cards are in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations, as laid down by the FAW from time to time.

9.4. For any provisions not covered within these Rules, the FAW Rules and Regulations and / or the Laws of the Game apply.

10. **RETREAT LINE (OPTIONAL RULE, ONLY IF AGREED BY BOTH CLUBS)**

10.1. To allow the players to build out the back a retreat line should be marked clearly on the outside of the field of play 10 yards from the penalty area edge.

10.2. During a Goal Kick the opposition team have to drop behind the retreat line and can only travel in once the ball moves. This will encourage players to build out from the back.

10.3. Both managers have to agree to this rule prior to kick off and have to inform the referee.

11. **PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER**

11.1. A club playing an ineligible player in the League will have three points deducted per offence and be liable to a fine not exceeding £250.00.

11.2. A club playing an ineligible player in the cup will be deemed to have lost the match and their opponents will progress to the next round. The club causing the offence will also be liable to a fine not exceeding £250.00.

11.3. Any club guilty of playing a player who is under suspension by either the Football Association of Wales or its affiliated Associations, will be deemed guilty of playing an ineligible player and the sanctions described in Rules 11a and 11b will be applicable.

12. **CLUB COLOURS**

12.1. Each Academy must register details its colours with the FAW by 1st September each season on the form provided for this purpose.

12.2. When the colours of two competing clubs are alike or similar, the visiting club shall change to clothing which does not include any of the basic colours of the home club. Neck and cuffs
trim colours on shirts shall not be regarded as basic colour for the purpose of this rule.

12.3. The goalkeeper shall play in a kit clearly distinguishable from the colours of the shirts worn by all outfield players and match officials.

12.4. Bicycle shorts worn by any player must be of the same colour to that of his shorts.

12.5. The players shirts must be clearly numbered in accordance with the list handed to the Referee before the match and there must be no change of numbers during the match except to change the goalkeeper.

12.6. Clubs are not permitted to wear black as the predominant colour.

13. MATCH DETAILS

13.1. The Football Association of Wales shall determine annually the date on which the playing season shall commence and be completed.

13.2. Any match not completed may be ordered to stand as a completed match or replayed in full as directed by the committee of the FAW constituted in accordance with the FAW Rules and FAW Regulations in order to administer the League from time to time.

13.3. In the event of a game being postponed for any reason, both clubs are to agree an alternative date and notify the FAW Competitions Department within 14 days of the postponement. If the clubs fail to agree, the FAW Competitions Department is to impose a date without right of appeal by either club.

13.4. Any club without just cause failing to fulfil an engagement to play its matches on the appointed date or dates shall for each offence be liable to expulsion from the Competition and/or such other disciplinary action the FAW National Game Board may determine, including the deduction of three points from the offending clubs record, the payment of any expenses incurred by their opponents and a fine not exceeding £500.00.

13.5. The postponement of any match due to ground conditions is only allowed after the playing surface has been properly inspected by a qualified Referee. In the event of their being any doubt regarding the fitness of the ground the home club should arrange for a local referee to make an inspection at a time appropriate to avoid the visiting club making an unnecessary journey.

13.6. Each club must complete their line-up (including the names and numbers of the nominated substitutes) using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled time for the kick off. Each club must present this line-up either in electronic or paper form, to the Referee at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled time for the kick off. The player’s numbers, the captain, the goalkeeper and the colours of the player’s kit must be clearly stated.

13.7. Each home club must confirm with their opponents and the Referee the match venue and kick off time at least five days before the scheduled date of the match and the visiting club and referee must acknowledge receipt three days before the match. It is the duty of the home club to inform the appointed referee in the event of any match being rearranged or cancelled.

13.8. The FAW may change any fixtures during the season to suit the overall interest of the Competition.
14. **GROUP TABLES**

14.1. Three points will be awarded for a win, one for a draw and zero for a defeat.

14.2. The top two teams from every group will progress to the Super Six. The remaining teams will play in the Championship.

14.3. The scores of the League matches will be recorded for the purposes of identifying the ranking of teams that progress to the Super Six and latterly the National Quarter Finalists of the Cup Competition or the final rankings of the Championship.

14.4. In the Super Six; the two clubs with the highest amount of points from the Southern and the two clubs with the highest amount of points from the Northern Conference will progress to the National Semi Finals. If two or more clubs are equal on points, the placing shall be determined in the following order;

- Result between the two clubs concerned.
- In the case of two or more teams, the results between those clubs concerned.
- In the case of two or more teams, the goal difference between those clubs concerned.
- Team with the greatest goal difference in the entire League.
- Total numbers of goals scored.
- Total number of wins.
- Toss of a coin

15. **REPORTING RESULT AND TEAM SHEETS**

15.1. Each home club shall confirm match results, using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time, no later than twelve hours after the advertised time of the match. Failure to comply will automatically result in a £10 fine per offence.

15.2. Each Club competing in a Match shall send the completed standard electronic Match Report Form within sixty (60) minutes of the final whistle, using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time. The Match Report Form must be complete in all details, including the result of the Match, the goal scorers and times of the goals, the full names of the Players taking part in the Match, the names of the substitutes and details of any substitutions made and details of any yellow cards and red cards issued.

16. **REFEREE**

16.1. Home clubs must appoint and pay for a qualified referee (min. Level 4a) for every League match.

16.2. The FAW will appoint and pay for the referee from the Semi-Final stage onwards.

16.3. Referees will be entitled to a fee of £15.00 plus 35p per mile expenses.

16.4. For matches where only a referee is appointed, the club linesmen should only adjudicate the ball out of play.

16.5. Accounting records substantiating each referee claim must be completed and kept on record for auditing purposes.

17. **PROTESTS/APPEALS**

17.1. All protests and appeals must be referred to the Football Association of Wales in accordance with FAW Rules and Regulations.
18. **WITHDRAWAL OF CLUBS**

18.1. If a club withdraws from the competition at any age-group, then (if applicable) UEFA / FAW funding will be withheld (up to 33% of total, per age-group).

18.2. If a club is not eligible for funding, then withdrawal is subject to a fine, which must not exceed the total of a club, which benefits from UEFA/FAW funding.

18.3. The committee of the FAW constituted in accordance with the FAW Rules and FAW Regulations in order to administer the League from time to time will have the express right to suspend a withdrawing club from the competition the following year.

19. **ACADEMY REGULATIONS**

19.1. At all times, clubs must adhere to the FAW Academy Regulations.

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**APPENDIX 3 – FAW ACADEMY COMPETITION RULES 2019-20**

**UNDER 14 AND 16 AGE GROUPS (11 V 11 FOOTBALL)**

1. **PLAYING AREA**

1.1. Full size pitches are to be used in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

2. **SIZE OF GOAL**

2.1. The size of the goal must be 8 yards (width) x 8 ft. (height) or 2.44m x 7.32m.

3. **NUMBER OF PLAYERS**

3.1. The maximum number of players per team including the Goalkeeper is eleven (11).

3.2. The maximum squad for a match day is eighteen (11 players plus 7 substitutes).

4. **SUBSTITUTES**

4.1. A club at its discretion may make substitutions on a rolling basis; except to replace a player or players suspended from the game by the Referee.

4.2. Substitutions can only be made when the play has been stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission. The name(s) and numbers of substitute(s) must be nominated to the Referee on the Official Team Sheet.

5. **SIZE OF THE BALL**

5.1. The match ball must be size 5.

6. **DURATION OF MATCHES AND PENALTIES**

6.1. U.14 Matches will last 70 minutes in duration.

   U.16 Matches will last 80 minutes in duration.

6.2. The match lasts two equal periods, unless otherwise mutually agreed between the referee and the two teams before the start of play.
6.3. Players are entitled to an interval of half-time, which must not exceed 15 minutes.

6.4. In Semi-Final or Final matches, if the scores are equal at the conclusion of the match, the outcome will be decided through the taking of penalty kicks in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

7. LAWS OF THE GAME

7.1. Off-side, free kicks and penalty rules apply as per Laws of the Game.

7.2. The use of red cards and yellow cards for team officials can be shown by the Referee. Any team official which receives a red card must return to the dressing room immediately.

7.3. Disciplinary sanctions for red cards and the accumulation of yellow cards are in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations, as laid down by the FAW from time to time.

7.4. For any provisions not covered within these Rules, the FAW Rules and Regulations and / or the Laws of the Game apply.

8. PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER

8.1. A club playing an ineligible player in the League will have three points deducted per offence and be liable to a fine not exceeding £250.00.

8.2. A club playing an ineligible player in the cup will be deemed to have lost the match and their opponents will progress to the next round. The club causing the offence will also be liable to a fine not exceeding £250.00.

8.3. Any club guilty of playing a player who is under suspension by either the Football Association of Wales or its affiliated Associations, will be deemed guilty of playing an ineligible player and the sanctions described in Rules 11a and 11b will be applicable.

9. CLUB COLOURS

9.1. Each Academy must register details its colours with the FAW by 1st September each season on the form provided for this purpose.

9.2. When the colours of two competing clubs are alike or similar, the visiting club shall change to clothing which does not include any of the basic colours of the home club. Neck and cuff trim colours on shirts shall not be regarded as basic colour for the purpose of this rule.

9.3. The goalkeeper shall play in a kit clearly distinguishable from the colours of the shirts worn by all outfield players and match officials.

9.4. Bicycle shorts worn by any player must be of the same colour to that of his shorts.

9.5. The players shirts must be clearly numbered in accordance with the list handed to the Referee before the match and there must be no change of numbers during the match except to change the goalkeeper.

9.6. Clubs are not permitted to wear black as the predominant colour.

10. MATCH DETAILS

10.1. The Football Association of Wales shall determine annually the date on which the playing season shall commence and be completed.
10.2. Any match not completed may be ordered to stand as a completed match or replayed in full as directed by the committee of the FAW constituted in accordance with the FAW Rules and FAW Regulations in order to administer the League from time to time.

10.3. In the event of a game being postponed for any reason, both clubs are to agree an alternative date and notify the FAW Competitions Department within 14 days of the postponement. If the clubs fail to agree, the FAW Competitions Department is to impose a date without right of appeal by either club.

10.4. Any club without just cause failing to fulfil an engagement to play its matches on the appointed date or dates shall for each offence be liable to expulsion from the Competition and/or such other disciplinary action the FAW National Game Board may determine, including the deduction of three points from the offending clubs record, the payment of any expenses incurred by their opponents and a fine not exceeding £500.00.

10.5. The postponement of any match due to ground conditions is only allowed after the playing surface has been properly inspected by a qualified Referee. In the event of their being any doubt regarding the fitness of the ground the home club should arrange for a local referee to make an inspection at a time appropriate to avoid the visiting club making an unnecessary journey.

10.6. Each club must complete their line-up (including the names and numbers of the nominated substitutes) using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled time for the kick off. Each club must present this line-up either in electronic or paper form, to the Referee at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled time for the kick off. The player’s numbers, the captain, the goalkeeper and the colours of the player’s kit must be clearly stated.

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11.1. Three points will be awarded for a win, one for a draw and zero for a defeat.

11.2. The top two teams from every group will progress to the Super Six. The remaining teams will play in the Championship.

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11.4. In the Super Six; the two clubs with the highest amount of points from the Southern and the two clubs with the highest amount of points in the Northern Conference will progress to the National Semi Finals. If two or more clubs are equal on points, the placing shall be determined in the following order;

- Result between the two clubs concerned.
- In the case of two or more teams, the results between those clubs concerned.
• In the case of two or more teams, the goal difference between those clubs concerned.
• Team with the greatest goal difference in the entire League.
• Total numbers of goals scored.
• Total number of wins.
• Toss of a coin.

12. REPORTING RESULTS AND TEAM SHEETS
12.1. Each home club shall confirm match results, using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time, no later than twelve hours after the advertised time of the match. Failure to comply will automatically result in a £10 fine per offence.

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15.1. If a club withdraws from the competition at any age-group, then (if applicable) UEFA / FAW funding will be withheld (up to 33% of total, per age-group).

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15.3. FAW National Game Board will have the express right to suspend a withdrawing club from the competition the following year.

16. ACADEMY REGULATIONS
16.1. At all times, clubs must adhere to the FAW Academy Regulations.
Mini Football
INTRODUCTION
The Football Association of Wales (“FAW”) recognises that children do not perform the same as adults in an 11-a-side game. Therefore, a modified version is required to meet the developmental needs of young players while maintaining all the features and essence of the full game. Mini Football is recognised by the FAW as the only form of football in Wales for children Under 11 years of age.

WHAT IS MINI FOOTBALL
Mini Football is a modified version of the 11-a-side game. It gives children the chance to play real football, for a real team, whilst experiencing an enjoyable and fun introduction to football through small sided games.

MEETING THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN
All available research shows that children have more fun and learn more playing a game within smaller teams. Mini Football is therefore ideal for girls and boys under 11 years of age in terms of maximizing their enjoyment and technical/skill development.

IF CHILDREN ARE TO ENJOY AND TAKE PART IN FOOTBALL THEY NEED TO:
- Take an active part in the game and have fun without any pressure from parents, coaches or managers.
- Learn to play within a team.
- Understand and observe the rules of football.
- Develop the skills and techniques to play football.
- Be able to take part whatever their ability.
- Have plenty of contact with the ball.

KEY VALUES OF MINI FOOTBALL
Mini football is for girls and boys aged 5 to 11 of all abilities who are interested in football (all children of primary school age). The FAW believes that children should learn how to compete to win fairly, skilfully and within the rules of the game. At this age striving to win is more important than the outcome, winning is not everything, making the effort is.
Mini Football:

- Recognises that children do not perform and compete as adults and therefore its rules are adapted to meet the needs of children.
- Has all the features of real football for children.
- Recognises the value of competitiveness for children and provides an appropriate environment.
- Sets a standard and a framework of behaviour on and off the pitch.
- Is for boys and girls regardless of their ability.

**SKILL DEVELOPMENT**

- There is more contact with the ball in Mini Football leading to a better technique. In 11v11 the ratio of ball to outfield players is 1:20, because there are fewer players in Mini Football each player has more regular contact with the ball. More contact with the ball helps players practice technique and develop technique into a skill through 1v1 competition.
- Decision making is easier and occurs more often because of the small numbers involved. As a result, the players will gain a greater understanding of the game. The basic football situations are easier to see and simpler to solve.
- Because the ball is never far away from the player, the chance of developing concentration is greatly increased. Playing 11-a-side football, many children lose interest in the game because the ball goes out of their immediate vicinity and they quickly become bored spectators.
- Fewer players, more space and simpler decisions will encourage more movement of players whatever the situation.
- More contact leads to more participation and usually, more enjoyment, success is easier to achieve.

**MINI FOOTBALL IS THE BASIS OF ALL FOOTBALL**

Small sided games have been played for hundreds of years in the street, the playground, or on the beach and many professional teams use them as the basis for their coaching. They invariably lead to basic football situations, such as, 1v1, 2v2 and 3v3 so typical of the 11-a-side game. Mini-football, through its dynamic tempo, produces more vigorous exercise than 11-a-side football and so helps to improve children's core components of fitness – speed, agility, balance and coordination.

**ORGANISATION OF MINI FOOTBALL**

The general aim of Mini Football is to provide a safe, supervised environment for children to enjoy their introduction to the game.

1. **PLAYING SURFACE**

1.1 Mini football pitches must be specifically laid out on any suitable open spaces or conventional grass or Astroturf football pitches which can be converted for Mini-Football.

1.2 There must be no debris or dangerous hazards either on the field of play or in the immediate vicinity.
surrounding area.

1.3 Markings must be laid out with the use of conventional lines, marker discs or small cones.

2. **PLAYING EQUIPMENT**

2.1 Children must wear footwear suitable to the surface being played on.

2.2 All children must wear suitable shin guards.

2.3 All jewellery must be removed.

3. **ORGANISATION OF GAMES, FESTIVALS AND FUN DAYS**

3.1 The FAW believe that the game of Mini Football provides children with the necessary introduction to competition. The game itself is a sufficient skill development challenge for children.

3.2 As a consequence no league competition must be organised (or will be sanctioned) involving Mini Football, save for the exemption set out under clause 3.5 below.

3.3 Matches can be scheduled in a number of different ways to be determined by the Junior League:

   3.3.1 On a ‘Home and Away’ basis as determined by the organising junior league.

   3.3.2 On a round robin basis where 3 or 4 teams play at one venue against each other, teams can rotate on and off the pitch having rest breaks when not playing.

   3.3.3 On a festival basis where a number of teams play round robin games at a central venue. Each team plays against each of the other teams, until all of the teams have played against each other OR have played a suitable number of games in line with point 11.

3.4 Clubs affiliated to the FAW or its Area Associations may organise one or two-day competitive tournaments with the approval of the relevant association and with the written consent of the players' parents or guardians (refer to Section H of the FAW Rules).

3.5 League and Knockout competitions may be organised for the 9v9 Mini Football format where children from Academic Year seven (7) are involved.

   *Coaches/Managers should ensure suitable breaks are provided between games.*

4. **‘BEHIND THE LINE, BEHIND THE TEAM’ CAMPAIGN**

   This is mandatory at all Mini Football age groups. As a consequence at all Mini Football games clubs must:-

4.1 Create a ‘Buffer zone’ that runs parallel to pitch, ideally 2 metres from both touchlines, a smaller buffer zone can be used where space doesn’t allow 2 metres.

4.2 Buffer zone should be marked by cones or additional marked line.

4.3 Only players, designated coaches and 1st Aider allowed within zone.

4.4 All other spectators must watch from behind the buffer zone lines.
4.5 NO spectators are allowed to stand on the goal line or behind the goal.

THE RULES OF MINI FOOTBALL

The rules are simple and as near to real football as possible. A game leader, who is urged to be as flexible as possible with the players must supervise the game from the touchline.

Rules are explained as the game proceeds (for example hand ball). It may also be necessary to demonstrate in certain instances how to restart the game (e.g. throw in, corner kicks).

1. PLAYERS ELIGIBLE

1.1 Mini Football is for boys and girls in Academic Years one (1) to six (6).

1.2 An Area Association can extend in its area the scope and application of the Mini Football Regulations to cover Academic Year seven (7) (refer to Section H of the FAW Rules). For the format and rules for Academic Year 7 refer to clause 18. (9v9 Mini Football) in these regulations.

1.3 Mixed football (girls and boys playing together) is permitted for Academic Years one (1) to six (6).

2. AGE GROUPS

2.1 Must be a minimum of a one academic year and a maximum of two academic years.

2.2 A mini player must participate in the age group relevant to their academic year as defined by these regulations and the structure of the league they play in.

2.3 For the purposes of age groupings, an academic year begins on the 1st September and ends on the 31st August of the following year. Academic year one is the year in which a player reaches his / her 6th birthday.

3. TEAM SIZE, PITCH SIZE AND BALL SIZE

3.1 Must be implemented as below in the table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Number of Players (Maximum number of players per team)</th>
<th>Size of Pitch (length x width)</th>
<th>Size of Ball</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 7</td>
<td>4v4 No Goalkeepers</td>
<td>30 x 20 yards</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 8</td>
<td>5v5 Goalkeeper introduced</td>
<td>30 x 20 yards</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 9</td>
<td>6v6</td>
<td>40 x 30 yards</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 10</td>
<td>7v7</td>
<td>60 x 40 yards</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 11</td>
<td>8v8</td>
<td>60 x 40 yards</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. **GOAL SIZE**

4.1 The maximum goal size for all age groups is 12ft x 6ft.

4.2 It is highly recommended that at Under 7 and 8 a smaller goal is utilized. This can be achieved through using cones, placing a 12ft x 6ft Mini Goal face down or using specific smaller goals (such as pop up goals).

4.3 For the Under 10 and 11 age groups, a 12ft x 6ft Mini Goal must be used.

5. **THE GOAL AREA**

5.1 Must be marked by conventional lines or cones on the touchline and a small number of marker discs on the playing area.

5.2 The goal area extends a set distance from the goal line and is also a specified width. See table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Distance from Goal Line to Edge of Area (Length)</th>
<th>Width of Penalty Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 7</td>
<td>NO Goal Area</td>
<td>NO Goal Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 8</td>
<td>5 yards</td>
<td>10 yards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 9</td>
<td>8 yards</td>
<td>15 yards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 10</td>
<td>10 yards</td>
<td>20 yards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 11</td>
<td>10 yards</td>
<td>20 yards</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. **MATCH DURATION**

6.1 A Mini Player must only play a maximum of 60 minutes sanctioned match time in one 24-hour period.

6.2 For under 7 and under 8 players this must be broken down into a maximum of either 15-minute individual periods of play or games.

7. **SUBSTITUTES**

7.1 Any number of substitutes may be used at any time (Rolling substitutes).

7.2 Players may re-enter the game and all substitutes must have a period of play.

7.3 As far as possible there should be equal playing time for each player.

8. **KICK OFF**

8.1 Is taken in the centre of the playing area to start the game and after a goal has been scored.

8.2 The opposition must be 3 yards away from where the ball is placed.
9. **BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY AND THE METHOD OF SCORING**
   9.1 Laws 9 (Ball in and out of play) and 10 (The method of scoring) apply to Mini Football.

10. **OFF-SIDE**
    10.1 There is no off-side (Law 11) in Mini Football.

11. **THROW IN**
    11.1 Although Law 15 (The Throw In) applies and the throw in should be taken in the normal way, game leaders can show flexibility.

12. **CORNER KICKS**
    12.1 Law 17 (The Corner Kick) applies to corner kicks except the opposition must be at least three yards away.

13. **FREE KICKS**
    13.1 Law 12 (Fouls and Misconduct) applies to free kicks although they are all indirect and the opposition must be at least three yards away.

14. **GOALKEEPERS**
    14.1 Can handle the ball in their goal area and there are no restrictions on the number of steps they may take holding the ball.
    14.2 The Goalkeeper can leave the goal area but cannot handle the ball outside the goal area.
    14.3 When handling the ball in the goal area:
        14.3.1 Under 8's and 9's can either throw or kick the ball out of their hands.
        14.3.2 Under 10's and 11's can throw the ball out of their hands or kick the ball on the ground but can then be challenged by opponents.

15. **GOAL-KICKS**
    15.1 Under 7 - are taken anywhere on the goal line from the ground.
    15.2 Under 8, 9, 10 and 11 – are taken from the edge of the goal area.
    15.3 Under 8, 9, 10 and 11 – the ball must be kicked out of the goal area before another player touches it.
    15.4 Under 8 and 9 - Goalkeepers may take the goal-kick from their hands.
    15.5 In all age groups the opposition players must be a minimum of 5 yards away from the point the goal-kick is taken.

16. **PLAYERS IN THE GOAL AREA**
    16.1 There are no restrictions regarding the number of players allowed in the goal area during open play.
17. **PASS BACK TO GOALKEEPER**
17.1. Players can pass the ball to their own goalkeeper, for the goalkeeper to handle the ball.

18. **9V9 MINI FOOTBALL**
18.1 **Team Size, Pitch Size and Ball Size**

18.1.1 Must be implemented as below in the table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Number of Players</th>
<th>Size of Pitch</th>
<th>Size of Ball</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 12</td>
<td>9v9</td>
<td>70 x 44 yards</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

18.1.2 An 11v11 pitch can be adapted for the 9v9 format, utilizing the width of the penalty area (44 yards) for the 9v9 pitch width and the distance from penalty box to penalty box for the 9v9 pitch length. See diagrams below for guidance:
18.2  **Goal Size**

18.2.1  The goal size is 16-foot (width) x 7 feet (height).

18.3  **Penalty and Goal Areas**

18.3.1  The Penalty area must be 28 yards wide and 12 yards from the goal line. A penalty spot should be marked 9 yards from the goal line.

18.3.2  A Goal Area is not necessary, but goal kicks are to be taken approximately 4 yards from the goal line. A painted marker 4 yards from each post is sufficient for guidance.

18.3.3  For dedicated 9v9 pitches a goal area can be marked out. This is to be 4 yards from the goal line and 4 yards from each goal post towards the corner.

18.4  **Match Duration**

18.4.1  A game must be a maximum of 70 minutes, split into two halves of 35 minutes. The duration of half time should not exceed 15 minutes.

18.5  **Substitutes**

18.5.1  Any number of substitutes may be used at appropriate breaks in play with the permission of the referee, a player who has been replaced may re-enter the game (rolling substitutes).

18.5.2  All players should have a period of play.

18.6  **Kick off**

18.6.1  Is taken in the centre of the playing area to start the game and after a goal has been scored.

18.6.2  The opposition must be a minimum of 7 yards away from where the ball is placed.
18.7 **Ball In and Out of Play and the Method of Scoring**

18.7.1 As per the ‘FIFA Laws of the Game’ - Law 9 (Ball in and out of play) and 10 (The method of scoring) apply to 9v9 Mini Football.

18.8 **Off-Side**

18.8.1 As per the ‘FIFA Laws of the Game’ - Law 11 ‘Off-Side’ applies to 9v9 Mini Football.

18.9 **Throw In**

18.9.1 As per the ‘FIFA Laws of the Game’ - Law 15 ‘The Throw in’ applies to 9v9 Mini Football.

18.10 **Corner Kicks**

18.10.1 As per the ‘FIFA Laws of the Game’ - Law 17 ‘The Corner Kick’ applies to 9v9 Mini Football.

18.11 **Free Kicks**

18.11.1 As per the ‘FIFA Laws of the Game’ - Law 12 ‘Fouls and Misconduct’ applies to 9v9 Mini Football.

18.12 **Goalkeepers**

18.12.1 Can handle the ball in their penalty area and there are no restrictions on the number of steps they may take holding the ball.

18.12.2 The Goalkeeper can leave the penalty area but cannot handle the ball outside the penalty area.

18.12.3 The Goalkeeper can throw or kick the ball out of their hands; the Goalkeeper can also kick the ball on the ground but can then be challenged by opponents.

18.12.4 Pass Back to Goalkeeper - Players cannot pass the ball to their own goalkeeper, for the goalkeeper to handle the ball.

18.13 **Goal Kicks**

18.13.1 All goal kicks must be taken from the ground (refer to 18.3.2 for location).

18.13.2 The ball must be kicked out of the penalty area before another player touches it.

18.14 **Players in the Goal Area**

18.14.1 There are no restrictions regarding the number of players allowed in the goal area during open play.

18.15 **The Referee**

18.15.1 Each match is controlled by a referee who has full authority to enforce the rules of 9v9 Mini Football and the FIFA ‘Laws of the Game’.

*For further info on the laws of the game please refer to the ‘FIFA Laws of the Game document’.*
Disability Football
1. SCOPE
These Regulations govern the playing of Disability Football in Wales.

2. STRUCTURE
The Football Association of Wales recognises the following categories of disability:

2.1 Learning Disability
Players must have an intellectual disability, as defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO). To meet this standard, the player’s IQ score must be below 75. Their intellectual disability must have been evident during the developmental period (0-18 years). Players must be in receipt of at least two of the following: special education; special accommodation; special employment; special protection; respite care; financial support. Written proof is required.

2.2 Blind
People who take part in blind football are classified, according to their level of sight, as B1, B2 or B3. Players in the B1 classification are considered blind (while those rated B2 and B3 are classified as visually impaired or partially sighted).

2.2.1 B1 - From no light perception in either eye to light perception, but inability to recognise the shape of a hand at any distance or in any direction.

2.2.2 B2 - From ability to recognise the shape of a hand to a visual acuity of 2/60 and/or visual field of less than 5 degrees.

2.2.3 B3 - From visual acuity above 2/60 to visual acuity of 6/60 and/or visual field of more than 5 degrees and less than 20 degrees.

2.3 Partially Sighted
Players whose eyesight is classified B2 or B3 qualify as partially sighted.

2.4 Deaf/Hearing Impaired
Players must have an average hearing loss of 55 decibels in their better ear.

2.5 Amputee
Outfield players are either above or below knee single-leg amputees. They must play without prostheses on aluminium wrist-crutches. The goalkeepers must be single-arm amputees.
2.6  **Cerebral Palsy**
Players must be ambulant. Eligible participants must have a diagnosis of non-progressive brain damage with motor control dysfunction such as cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke or similar conditions.

3.  **AGE GROUPING**
3.1 Players must be over the age of 8 years on the 1st September in any playing season in order to be eligible for Disability Football in Wales.
3.2 Disability Football will consist of the following age groupings:
   - Under 12;
   - Under 16; and
   - Post 16.
3.3 A player must be within the relevant age grouping as of the 1st September, this being the beginning of the playing season, in order to qualify for that age grouping.
3.4 Under 12 and Under 16 age grouping will be considered as Junior Football.
3.5 Post 16 age grouping will be considered as Senior Football.

4.  **MIXED GENDER**
4.1 Mixed gender matches are permitted at all ages in accordance with FAW Rule 137.

5.  **JUNIOR FOOTBALL**
5.1 A player aged Under 16 can only register for one club.
5.2 A junior player under the age of 16 years old shall only play within their own domestic area; any exception to be approved by the Area Association concerned.

6.  **SENIOR FOOTBALL**
6.1 Senior Football will be considered as Recreational Level.
6.2 A player not holding a written contract with their club will only be registered for one disability club at a time in accordance with FAW Rule 59.
6.3 A player not holding a written contract may transfer freely using the prescribed form up until the last Thursday in March inclusive.
6.4 Players with a written contract may only transfer during the registration periods imposed by the Football Association of Wales in accordance with FAW Rule 61.
6.5 These Regulations do not prevent a player with a disability being registered with a Club to play in a league for Players with a disability at the same time as being registered with the same (or a different) Club to play in a league which is not a league for Players with a disability.

7.  **CLUBS**
7.1 All clubs must affiliate to the relevant Area Association.
7.2 All players must be registered with the relevant league catering for players with a disability and Area Association.
7.3 All players must complete a standard registration form detailing the category of disability to ensure they meet the minimum eligibility criteria.

7.4 Upon completion of the registration form, the player must submit this to the relevant league secretary. The league will process the registration form in line with the Football Association of Wales' registration requirements that they may, from time to time, impose.

7.5 All clubs must participate in the FAW Club Accreditation Scheme and its requirements.

8. COMPETITIONS

8.1 Competitions will be based on a festival structure. A festival structure is defined as a competition which clubs are invited to attend over a period of one or two days.

8.2 All leagues and competitions must, in the first instance, be sanctioned by the Football Association of Wales in accordance with FAW Rule 92. Such applications shall be made direct to the Football Association of Wales.

8.3 In the case of annual leagues or competitions, the sanction must be renewed annually, and such applications shall be lodged with the Area Association in which the league or competition is situated in accordance with FAW Rule 96.

8.4 The Area Association shall forward the application to the Football Association of Wales for their acceptance or rejection. The Football Association of Wales shall have absolute discretion to accept or reject an application for sanctioning of a league or competition.

8.5 Upon being sanctioned, the league or competition must provide the relevant Area Association with the proposed dates of the fixtures. The details of the participants in the competition must be forwarded to the relevant Area Association in advance of the fixture date.

8.6 Competitions will be organised on a North, West or South basis. North is defined as Clubs within the North Wales Coast FA and the North East Wales FA. South is defined as the South Wales FA and the Gwent County FA. West is defined as the West Wales FA. Clubs who affiliate to the Central Wales FA will be permitted to participate in either North, South or West based festivals.

9. COMPETITION RULES

9.1 All games will be small sided and must be a maximum of 8v8.

9.2 The format of the game must be that of Under 11 Mini Football as outlined in the Mini Football Regulations.

9.3 The Under 12 age group must be non-competitive.

9.4 The Under 16 and Post 16 age groups are permitted to use a size 5 football.
Welfare Regulations
1. The Football Association of Wales (“FAW”) shall have a Welfare Policy and enforceable procedures included but not limited to the Procedures Appertaining to the FAW Safeguarding Panel (“Procedures”), that are appropriate to ensure that all its members, officials and workers and all participants in any of its activities at whatever age, level, race or gender are protected from abuse, exploitation, harassment or harm from inside and outside the Association.

2. In particular, the FAW shall have any procedures that are deemed to be necessary by the Chief Executive Officer following consultation with the National Safeguarding Manager in order to ensure the protection of children under the age of 18, adults at risk, any weaker party in a relationship of trust and female participants in the sport of football in Wales.

3. The FAW recognises that “Positions of Trust” exist within football. A Position of Trust is any position in which one individual has power or influence (actual or perceived) over another including, but not limited to, any individual who has contact with children, young persons or adults at risk through football irrespective of their role within football.

4. When working with children, young persons and adults at risk in football any individual who is in a Position of Trust or a Regulated Position must adhere to the FAW’s requirement to undergo any appropriate measures to ensure the safety of those persons. This includes, but is not limited to, a background check utilising an external agency of the FAW’s choosing.

5. The FAW shall appoint a National Safeguarding Manager and any other Safeguarding Officers that are thought necessary.

6. The Chief Executive Officer or his nominees shall have powers to:
   6.1 impose an interim suspension on anyone in a Regulated Position, Position of Trust or affiliated directly or indirectly to the FAW who fails to comply with an instruction issued by the FAW in accordance with these Regulations;
   6.2 impose an interim suspension order in accordance with any subsequent procedures or regulations including but not limited to the Procedures;
   6.3 withdraw any FAW qualifications and remove from any Regulated Position, Position of Trust or affiliation anyone who has received a caution for or been convicted of any offence; and
   6.4 require that any written and signed suspicion or allegation of abuse, exploitation, harassment or harm made against an individual within the FAW is reported to the social services or police.
7. Before using his powers under Regulation 6.4 the Chief Executive Officer or his nominee shall give due consideration to the seriousness of the case and the views and opinions of any adult suffering from abuse, exploitation, harassment or harm, or the views and opinions of parents or guardians of any children that may be involved.

8. It shall be a condition of membership, affiliation or work that all Members of the FAW, Subordinates or any other organisation or individual with involvement in association football must comply with the FAW Welfare Regulations, the Welfare Policy and Procedures, appropriate codes of conduct and all other subsisting regulations. Failure to comply may be deemed misconduct as laid out in Section E of the FAW Rules and may be subject to disciplinary procedures as laid out in the Rules.

9. The FAW shall have procedures that are deemed necessary by the Chief Executive Officer following advice from the National Safeguarding Manager in order to be able to ensure that anyone who formally discloses any information regarding abuse, exploitation, harassment or harm is not discriminated against.

10. The FAW shall have enforceable codes of conduct appropriate to anyone falling within the definition of ‘Regulated Position’ as provided for in Part II Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000, its amendments and revisions; and to anyone else deemed necessary by the Chief Executive Officer following consultation with the National Safeguarding Manager.

11. The FAW shall have enforceable codes of conduct appropriate to anyone in a Position of Trust.

12. The FAW shall regularly monitor and review its Policy and Procedures and shall revise them as necessary to comply with the law or changing circumstances.

13. For the purposes of this Regulation:
   13.1 ‘Regulated Position’ is as provided for in Part II Criminal Justice and Courts Services Act 2000, its revisions and amendments;
   13.2 ‘adult at risk’ is someone aged 18 years or over who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.
   13.3 ‘vulnerable person’ is any adult at risk or the weaker party in a relationship of trust;
   13.4 ‘work’ includes work of any kind, whether paid or unpaid, or under a contract of service or apprenticeship, or a contract for services, or otherwise than under a contract, or established by or by virtue of an enactment;
   13.5 ‘abuse’ includes neglect, physical, sexual and emotional abuse, bullying and incorrect training;
   13.6 ‘exploitation’ is a course of action designed to enhance the furtherance of one person’s career or standing in football at the expense of another/others;
   13.7 ‘harassment’ is a course of conduct likely to cause distress or harm which a reasonable person in possession of the same information would think amounted to harassment of another;
   13.8 ‘harm’ shall include sexual abuse and forms of ill treatment which are not physical; and
13.9 ‘Subordinate’ shall mean any director, member, representative, official, employee, referee or other playing official or Player of a Member of the FAW together with every spectator and any person purporting to be its supporter or follower together also with all other organisations, clubs, bodies, entities or persons who are members of, or affiliated to, or over whom a Member of the FAW exercises, or purports to exercise control.
Welfare Policy
PREAMBLE TO POLICY STATEMENT

For some years the Football Association of Wales has had a child protection awareness policy and code of conduct for its coaches. In it we said:

“the welfare of the child is paramount and all children whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity have a right to be protected from abuse.”

We recognised that the FAW had a responsibility to:

• Safeguard and promote the interests and wellbeing of children with whom we are working.
• Take all reasonable practical steps to protect them from harm, discrimination or degrading treatment.
• Respect their rights, wishes and feelings.

Now as part of the FAW’s commitment to providing good quality football training in a safe environment we are going further and extended our Policy and Procedures to cover everyone taking part in the sport of football in Wales.

And by everyone, we mean everyone; from our paid or voluntary coaches, referees, chaperones and office staff to the children and adults at risk playing football.

Under our Welfare Regulations:

• it is a condition of affiliation that existing and future clubs, leagues, centres and squads have to agree to abide by the FAW Welfare Policy and Procedures applicable to them;
• we are extending the Code of Conduct to anyone within the FAW who works in a ‘regulated position’ (*) with children, within a relationship of trust or with adults at risk;
• we will not knowingly allow anyone who has been disqualified from working with children or adults at risk to work in any regulated position or with adults at risk within the FAW; and
• we have made persistent breach of the Code or Welfare Regulations a Disciplinary Offence under the FAW’s disciplinary Rules.
The changes made are intended to make it clear to everyone inside and outside the FAW that it is not prepared to allow anyone to use the FAW structure or organised activities for their own illegal or selfish reasons.

Any reports of abuse, if made through the prescribed FAW procedures, will be taken seriously and acted upon immediately under the powers given to the Chief Executive Officer in this Regulation, and the FAW will support anyone using these procedures who in good faith, reports any suspicions that a colleague is deliberately breaching any Code or Welfare Procedure.

The Football Association of Wales has introduced this Welfare Policy as a clear sign that it is determined that everyone involved in football, including children, young people and ‘adults at risk’ (**), can participate at all levels in a safe and supportive environment. The Policy establishes the Football Association of Wales’ position, roles and responsibilities and together with the Policy for Preventing Abuse of Trust and Welfare Procedures and Practices (available at www.faw.cymru), clarifies what is expected of other individuals and organisations involved in football.

EQUALITY POLICY STATEMENT

- The FAW is fully committed to the principles of the equality of opportunity.
- No participant, volunteer, job applicant or employee will receive less favourable treatment on the grounds of gender, age, colour, disability, ethnic origin, parental or marital status, religious belief, social class or sexual preference than any other.
- The FAW will ensure that there is open access for all those who wish to participate in the sport, in whatever capacity and that they are treated fairly.
- The FAW recognises its legal obligations not to discriminate.
- The FAW will regard discrimination by any employee, participant or volunteer as grounds for disciplinary action.

WELFARE POLICY STATEMENT

INTRODUCTION

The FAW recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children, young people and adults at risk who are attracted to and participate in football. As part of the FAW’s commitment to providing good quality football in a safe environment, the Child Protection Policy and Procedures and Football Code of Conduct have been extended to cover everyone (paid and unpaid staff, volunteers, coaches, officials and players) taking part in the sport of football.

THE AIMS OF THE FAW WELFARE POLICY ARE:

- To establish an effective system to ensure that all children, young people and adults at risk are able to enjoy football in as safe environment as possible.
- To ensure that everyone involved in football in Wales, in whatever capacity, is trained in protecting the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk.
To ensure that all involved are aware of their responsibilities in the protection of children, young people and adults at risk.

To ensure all involved in football are aware of the procedures relating to the protection of children, young people and adults at risk.

To promote high standards of behaviour by all those involved in all aspects of football.

To ensure everyone who enjoys football in Wales is protected from harassment and abuse.

PRINCIPLES:
The key principles underpinning this Welfare Policy are that:

- The welfare of children, young people (the Children’s Act 1989 defines a young person as under 18 years of age) and adults at risk is the primary concern.

- All children, young people and adults at risk, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse.

- All incidents of possible poor practice and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

- Confidentiality of all parties should be respected within the bounds of the law.

- It is the responsibility of the Child Protection experts to determine whether or not abuse has taken place, but it is everyone’s responsibility to report any concerns.

- All forms of abuse, misconduct and harassment are prohibited.

RESPONSIBILITIES:
In order to ensure that all members, officials, voluntary or paid workers, players and participants are protected from abuse, exploitation, harassment and harm, inside or outside of the Association, the FAW will:

- Accept the moral and legal responsibility to implement procedures to provide a duty of care to children, young people and adults at risk, safeguard their wellbeing and protect them from abuse.

- Respect and promote the rights, wishes and feelings of children, young people and adults at risk.

- Recruit, train and supervise its employees and volunteers to adopt best practice to safeguard and protect children, young people and adults at risk from abuse, and themselves against false allegations.

- Require staff /volunteers to adopt and abide by the FAW’s Code of Conduct and Good Practice and Welfare Policy and Procedures.

- Respond to any allegations appropriately and implement the appropriate disciplinary and appeals procedures.

- Require that all coaches, officials and volunteers be aware of the potential for the development of a relationship of trust between themselves and young people, adults at risk or women in football and the consequences inherent in the accidental or intentional abuse of that relationship.
• Require that coaches demonstrate proper personal behaviour and conduct at all times and encourage children, young people and adults at risk to display the same qualities.
• Ensure that all aspects of the Welfare Policy will be fully resourced.
• Support the rights and interests of all those involved in football in a voluntary or paid position.

CONCLUSION

The FAW, through confirming this Welfare Policy has indicated its determination to ensure that everyone involved in all forms of football activity in Wales can do so with their safety and fair treatment being of paramount importance. It is essential that this Policy be read in conjunction with the Policy for Preventing the Abuse of Trust and Welfare Procedures and Practice (available at www.faw.cymru). All adults involved in football activities should promote good practice and procedures and be aware of their responsibilities to safeguard the well being of children, young people and adults at risk.

* As defined in Part II Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000.

** An ‘adult at risk’ is someone aged 18 years or over who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation. A ‘vulnerable person’ is any adult at risk or the weaker party in a relationship of trust.
04d (iii)
Preventing Abuse of Trust
04d(iii) Policy for Preventing Abuse of Trust

The Football Association of Wales has introduced this Policy for preventing the abuse of trust as a clear sign that it is determined that everyone involved in football, including children, young people and adults at risk, can participate at all levels in a safe and supportive environment.

The Policy establishes the Football Association of Wales’ position, roles and responsibilities and together with the Welfare Policy and Welfare Procedures and Practices (available at www.faw.cymru), clarifies what is expected of other individuals and organisations involved in football.

POLICY STATEMENT FOR THE PREVENTION OF ABUSE OF TRUST

INTRODUCTION

The FAW recognises its responsibility towards children, young people and ‘adults at risk’ (**) to protect them against sexual activity within ‘relationships of trust’ (*). As part of the FAW’s commitment to providing good quality football in a safe environment, it has introduced this Policy which covers the relationships between participants, officials, coaches, volunteers and paid employees.

The aims of the FAW Prevention of Abuse of Trust Policy are:

- To establish an effective system to ensure that all those in a position of trust are aware of their responsibilities to protect those who are deemed to be vulnerable from an unequal and potentially damaging relationship.
- To establish an effective system to ensure that those in a position of trust do not put themselves in a position where allegations of abuse, whether or not these allegations are justified, can be made.
- To ensure high standards of behaviour by all those involved in all aspects of football.
- To ensure everyone who enjoys football in Wales is protected from physical or verbal harassment.
PRINCIPLES
The key principles underpinning this Policy are:

• All children, young people and adults at risk, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs or sexual identity have the right to protection from sexual activity from those working with them in a relationship of trust.

• All incidents of suspicious poor practice and allegations of sexual abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

• Confidentiality of all parties will be respected within the bounds of the law.

• Pre-existing sexual relationships should be ended before a sports relationship, for example, between a coach and a participant commences, OR the sexual relationship should be ended before the sports relationship commences.

• The above principles apply to everyone regardless of sexual orientation, race, gender, religion or disability.

RESPONSIBILITIES
In order to ensure that all members, officials, voluntary or paid workers, players and participants are protected from sexual abuse, exploitation, harassment and harm, inside or outside of the Association, the FAW will:

• Implement procedures to provide protection to children, young people and adults at risk from sexual activity from those with whom they have a relationship of trust.

• Respect and promote the rights, wishes and feelings of children, young people and adults at risk.

• Recruit, train and supervise its employees and volunteers to adopt best practice to safeguard and protect children, young people and adults at risk from sexual abuse and themselves from wrongful allegations.

• Support anyone within the organisation who raises concerns about the behaviour of another in the organisation who is in a position of trust.

• Respond to any allegations appropriately and implement the appropriate investigation, disciplinary and appeals procedures.

• Require that all coaches, officials and volunteers be aware of the potential for the development of a relationship of trust between themselves and children, young people, adults at risk in football and the consequences of the accidental or intentional abuse of that relationship.

• Require that coaches demonstrate proper personal behaviour and conduct at all times and encourage children, young people and adults at risk to display the same qualities.
INFORMATION ON TYPES OF ABUSE

All adults have a responsibility to report any concerns they have if they suspect that abuse is taking place. Physical and behavioural signs that might raise concerns include:

Physical Abuse (e.g. hitting, shaking, squeezing, biting, burning). In football, this may result if the nature of intensity of training is inappropriate for the player; or where drugs or alcohol (specifically under 18s) are advocated or tolerated.

Sexual Abuse (e.g. any form of sexual behaviour between an adult and a young person, or the use of pornographic material). In football, this may be the result of coaches or older players involving young / disabled players in any form of sexual activity (e.g. sexual language, touching or relationships).

Emotional Abuse (e.g. wherever there is any form of abuse as well as the withholding of love or affection, overprotection, frequent use of shouting or taunts). In football this may occur if players are subject to constant criticism, bullying (by coach, parents or peers), taunting to unrealistic pressure to perform to high expectation.

Neglect (e.g. failure to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment). Neglect in football could include a teacher or coach not ensuring children were safe, exposing them to undue cold, heat or unnecessary risk of injury.

WHAT SIGNS MIGHT BE A CAUSE FOR CONCERN?

- Unexplained bruising or injuries and reluctance to talk about them.
- Unexplained changes in behaviour – becoming aggressive, withdrawn or unhappy.
- Something said by a player who may identify a coach as a trusted person with whom to share concerns.
- A change observed over a long period of time (e.g. the person losing weight or becoming increasingly dirty or unkempt).
- Sexually explicit behaviour and language.

* A ‘relationship of trust’ is defined as any in which a person has power or influence over and/or is in a position to confer advancement or failure. A sexual relationship is deemed to be intrinsically unequal within such a relationship of trust and is therefore judged as unacceptable, even where the young person or participant is above the legal age of consent.


** An ‘Adult at risk’ is someone aged 18 years or over who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation. ‘A Vulnerable person’ is any adult at risk or the weaker party in a relationship of trust.
04d (iv) Code of Conduct
The FAW Code of Conduct and Good Practice sets standards for clubs, coaches, players and parents involved in football. It has been developed to improve standards of good practice and protect the welfare and well-being of all those involved in the game, particularly young players themselves.

PARENTS
- Encourage your child to play by the laws of the game.
- Avoid pressurising players about winning or losing.
- Support and encourage all players, including the opposition.
- Never publicly criticise your child or other players.
- Do not question decisions made by the match officials.

PLAYERS
- Show respect and fair play to your opponents.
- Play within the rules of the game.
- Encourage, support and co-operate with your team-mates.
- Respect the officials and accept all decisions without question.

COACHES
- Give all players, whatever their ability, the chance to play.
- Always pursue fair play.
- Accept that striving to win is more important than winning itself.
- Ensure that coaching sessions are fun, well-structured and focus on developing skill, decision-making and understanding of the game.

ADDITIONAL GOOD PRACTICE FOR ALL ADULTS IN FOOTBALL
(Including Match Officials, Medical Staff and Volunteers)
- Be aware of the FAW Welfare Policy and your responsibilities.
- Avoid spending time alone with young players and adults at risk away from others.
• It is not appropriate to have an intimate relationship with a young player or an adult at risk.
• Avoid any horseplay, sexually suggestive comments or language.
• Never ridicule a child or adult at risk or reduce them to tears.
• Never do things of a personal nature for a child or an adult at risk that they can do for themselves.
• Never allow allegations made by a child or an adult at risk to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon.

WHO TO CONTACT

If you suspect abuse could be taking place you should contact your nominated Club Safeguarding Officer, or a Safeguarding Officer appointed by the FAW’s Area Association to which your club is registered. If you are unsure who these persons are, or if you wish to speak directly to an expert for advice then contact the NSPCC Helpline.

It is not your responsibility to decide whether abuse is taking place, but it is your responsibility to act if you have any concerns.
04d(v) Regulations Governing the Safeguarding Card Scheme

In accordance with its commitment to the safety of children, young persons and adults at risk, the FAW will provide a system of identification of individuals who have completed a DBS Check to the satisfaction of the Association. These Regulations set out the nature, qualification criteria, use, authority over and all other details relating to such a system.

1. NATURE OF THE SAFEGUARDING SCHEME CARD

1.1 The FAW will put in place a system of issuing identification cards to all individuals who meet the criteria as set out by the FAW in these Regulations.

1.2 The FAW Safeguarding Scheme Card (the ‘Card’) will contain details of the bearer’s name, their FAW number, their URN number, the level of DBS check completed, the workforce with which the bearer is permitted to work, the Area Association in which the bearer resided at the time the Card was issued, and the expiry date of the Card.

1.3 The Card will contain a recent photograph of the bearer.

1.4 The FAW will control and regulate all aspects of the design and production of the FAW Safeguarding Scheme Card.

2. QUALIFICATION FOR THE FAW SAFEGUARDING SCHEME CARD

2.1 The FAW will only issue a Card to an individual who has undergone a DBS check to the satisfaction of the FAW.

2.2 The Card does not bestow on the bearer any qualifications or licence other than to confirm that the bearer has undertaken a DBS check to the satisfaction of the FAW.

2.3 There is no requirement for the bearer to hold FAW qualifications.

2.4 All individuals who are defined as being in a ‘Position of Trust’ or a ‘Regulated Position’ in football must undertake all required steps to obtain a FAW Safeguarding Scheme Card.

3. USE OF THE FAW SAFEGUARDING SCHEME CARD

3.1 The FAW Safeguarding Scheme Card is intended to demonstrate that the bearer has complied with the FAW’s requirements regarding a DBS check. Therefore, the Card must be worn during all football related activity where the bearer comes in to contact with children, young persons or adults at risk.
3.2 The FAW Safeguarding Scheme Card does not give the bearer any additional rights of access to grounds, changing rooms or any other environment which they would not normally have access to.

4. **AUTHORITY OVER THE ISSUING AND REMOVAL OF THE FAW SAFEGUARDING SCHEME CARD**

4.1 The FAW Safeguarding Scheme Card will be issued by the FAW.

4.2 Conversely, only the FAW can remove or invalidate a FAW Safeguarding Scheme Card.

4.3 Should a card holder be subject to disciplinary action for a breach of the FAW Welfare Regulations, terms of the FAW Welfare Policy and Procedures and the appropriate codes of conduct, the relevant disciplinary body (i.e. an Area Association or league) shall copy to the FAW the evidence upon which it relied and a copy of its decision relating to the misconduct charge.

4.4 In consideration of the disciplinary body’s decision, the FAW will have the right to withdraw the FAW Safeguarding Scheme Card from an individual.

4.5 On removal of the Card, the FAW will set the terms and conditions of revalidation of the individual’s Card. Such terms and conditions will be communicated to the individual concerned at the time of removal.

4.6 An individual will be required to surrender their FAW Safeguarding Scheme Card to the FAW when required to do so.

4.7 The FAW will issue to all relevant parties notice of the name, address and relevant Area Association of all individuals who have had a FAW Safeguarding Scheme Card withdrawn.

5. **NON-SPECIFIC MATTERS**

5.1 When requested to do so by a designated Area, League or Club Safeguarding Officer in a footballing environment, the bearer must produce their FAW Safeguarding Scheme Card for inspection. Any individual who fails to comply at the time of the request must be reported by the Safeguarding Officer to the FAW Safeguarding Department.

5.2 Any individual within a Position of Trust or Regulated Position who fails to display their FAW Safeguarding Scheme Card when in contact with children, young persons or adults at risk, must be reported by the Safeguarding Officer to the FAW Safeguarding Department.

5.3 Any individual who is issued a FAW Safeguarding Scheme Card must comply with the FAW Welfare Regulations, the FAW Welfare Policy and Procedures and any codes of conduct issued in accordance with the FAW Welfare Policy.

5.4 A FAW Safeguarding Scheme Card which is defaced must be replaced. The cost of the replacement will be borne by the individual concerned. A defaced FAW Welfare Card must be returned to the FAW when applying for a replacement Card.

5.5 Should an individual lose a FAW Safeguarding Scheme Card, the loss must be reported to the FAW Safeguarding Department immediately. The cost of replacing a lost Card will be borne by the individual concerned.

5.6 A FAW Safeguarding Scheme Card which has passed its validity date must be returned to the FAW before the FAW will issue a valid card in its place.
5.7 It is the responsibility of the FAW Safeguarding Scheme Card bearer to ensure that the details contained on the Card are correct.

5.8 The FAW Safeguarding Scheme Card is not proof of identity.

5.9 Any attempt to fraudulently obtain a FAW Safeguarding Scheme Card, or any fraudulent use of the Card will be considered an act of misconduct and will be dealt with in accordance with the FAW’s disciplinary procedures.

5.10 Any matter not specifically dealt with in these Regulations will be referred to the Chief Executive Officer and the National Safeguarding Manager for a decision.
Recruitment of Ex-Offenders
As an organisation using the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) to assess applicants’ suitability for positions of trust, the Football Association of Wales (FAW) complies fully with the DBS Code of Practice and undertakes to treat all applicants for positions fairly. It undertakes not to discriminate unfairly against any subject of a Disclosure on the basis of conviction or other information revealed.

The FAW is committed to the fair treatment of its staff, potential staff or users of its services, regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, responsibilities for dependants, age, physical/mental disability or offending background.

This is a written policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders, which is available to anyone in the recruitment process or who has an interest in this Policy.

We actively promote equality of opportunity for all with the right mix of talent, skills, and potential and welcome applications from a wide range of candidates, including those with criminal records. We select all candidates for interview based on their skills, qualifications, and experience.

A Disclosure is only requested after a thorough risk assessment has indicated that one is both proportionate and relevant to the position concerned. For those positions where a Disclosure is required, all application forms, job adverts and recruitment briefs will contain a statement that a Disclosure will be requested in the event of the individual being offered the position.

Where a Disclosure is to form part of the recruitment process, we encourage all applicants called for interview to provide details of their criminal record at an early stage in the application process. We guarantee that this information is only seen by those who need to see it as part of the recruitment process.

Unless the nature of the position allows the FAW to ask questions about your entire criminal record we only ask about “unspent” convictions as defined in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

We ensure that all those in the FAW who are involved in the recruitment process have knowledge of the relevant legislation relating to the employment of ex-offenders and are able to assess the relevance and circumstances of offences to the position applied for.

At interview, or in a separate discussion, we ensure that an open and measured discussion takes place on the subject of any offences or other matter that might be relevant to the position. Failure to reveal information that is directly relevant to the position sought could lead to withdrawal of an offer of employment.
At any time, any subject of a DBS check may request a copy of the DBS Code of Practice.

We undertake to discuss any matter revealed in a Disclosure with the person seeking the position before withdrawing a conditional offer of employment.

Having a criminal record will not necessarily bar you from working with us. This will depend on the nature of the position and the circumstances and background of your offences.
Disclosure Information
BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THIS POLICY

In accordance with the regulations set down by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), all organisations who use the DBS to help assess the suitability of applicants for positions of trust and who are recipients of Disclosure information must comply fully with the DBS Code of Practice. Amongst other things, this obliges the organisation to have a written policy on the correct handling and safekeeping of Disclosure information. It also obliges them to ensure that this policy is available to anyone who requests a copy.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

As an organisation using the DBS to help assess the suitability of applicants for positions of trust, the Football Association of Wales (FAW) complies fully with the DBS Code of Practice regarding the correct handling, use, storage, retention and disposal of Disclosures and Disclosure information. It also complies fully with its obligations under the Data Protection Act (its amendments or revisions) and other relevant legislation pertaining to the safe handling, use, storage, retention and disposal of Disclosure information and has a written policy on these matters, which is available to those who wish to see it on request.

STORAGE & ACCESS

Disclosure information is never kept on an applicant's personnel file and is always kept separately and securely, in lockable, non-portable, storage containers with access strictly controlled and limited to those who are entitled to see it as part of their duties.

HANDLING

In accordance with section 124 of the Police Act 1997, Disclosure information is only passed to those who are authorized to receive it in the course of their duties. We maintain a record of all those to whom Disclosures or Disclosure information has been revealed and we recognise that it is a criminal offence to pass this information to anyone who is not entitled to receive it.
USAGE
Disclosure information is only used for the specific purpose for which it was requested and for which the applicant’s full consent has been given.

RETENTION
Once a recruitment (or other relevant) decision has been made, we do not keep Disclosure information for any longer than is absolutely necessary. This is generally for a period of up to three years, to allow for the consideration and resolution of any disputes or complaints. If, in very exceptional circumstances, it is considered necessary to keep Disclosure information for longer than six-months, we will consult the DBS about this and will give full consideration to the Data Protection and Human Rights of the individual subject before doing so. Throughout this time, the usual conditions regarding safe storage and strictly controlled access will prevail.

DISPOSAL
Once the retention period has elapsed, we will ensure that any Disclosure information is immediately suitably destroyed by secure means, i.e. by shredding, pulping or burning. While awaiting destruction, Disclosure information will not be kept in any insecure receptacle (e.g. waste bin or confidential waste sack). We will not keep any photocopy or other image of the Disclosure or any copy or representation of the contents of a Disclosure. However, notwithstanding the above, we may keep a record of the date of issue of a Disclosure, the name of the subject, the type of Disclosure requested, the position for which the Disclosure was requested, the unique reference number of the Disclosure and the details of the recruitment decision taken.

ACTING AS AN UMBRELLA BODY
Before acting as an Umbrella Body (one which countersigns applications and receives Disclosure information on behalf of other employers or recruiting organisations), we will take all reasonable steps to ensure that they can comply fully with the DBS Code of Practice. We will also take all reasonable steps to satisfy ourselves that they will handle, use, store, retain and dispose of Disclosure information in full compliance with the DBS Code and in full accordance with this policy. We will also ensure that any body or individual, at whose request applications for Disclosure are countersigned, has such a written policy and, if necessary, will provide a model policy for that body or individual to use or adapt for this purpose.
Club Accreditation
04e Regulations Governing the Implementation of the Club Accreditation Scheme

1. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with its commitment to developing and raising standards within junior football in Wales, the Football Association of Wales (“FAW”), in conjunction with the FAW Trust, has introduced and maintains a scheme of Club Accreditation. The following regulations govern the implementation of, authority over and requirements to comply with the Club Accreditation Scheme.

1.1 Nature of the Club Accreditation Scheme

1.1.1 The Club Accreditation Scheme will be operated and maintained on behalf of the Football Association of Wales by the FAW Trust.

1.1.2 The Club Accreditation Scheme will comprise of five defined levels being STANDARD, BRONZE, SILVER, GOLD and PLATINUM. The criteria for these levels will be set by the FAW in consultation with the FAW Trust.

1.1.3 The STANDARD criteria will be the minimum acceptable level for junior football clubs in Wales. Failure to achieve and maintain the STANDARD criteria will result in Disciplinary action against the club concerned which will result in the immediate cessation of all junior related football activities and inhibit entry into the junior league for non-compliant teams within the club.

1.1.4 All other criteria will provide clear development guidance to clubs.

1.1.5 All criteria set at STANDARD level must be obtained by 50% or more of a club's junior teams before a junior club will be awarded this level of accreditation. If certain teams are identified as not meeting minimum accreditation levels, they will be identified as non-compliant teams which will result in the immediate cessation of junior related football activities and inhibit entry into the junior league for non-compliant teams within the club.

1.1.6 All criteria set at BRONZE, SILVER, GOLD and PLATINUM must be obtained by all club's junior teams before a junior club will be awarded these levels of accreditation.

1.1.7 The FAW, in conjunction with the FAW Trust, shall retain overall authority over the operation of this scheme and the awarding of levels.

1.1.8 The FAW, in conjunction with the FAW Trust, reserves the right to amend a club's accreditation level based on behaviour contrary to the spirit of FAW rules and regulations or improper conduct.
1.1.9 Clubs that attain the criteria will receive accredited status for one season.

1.1.10 Clubs may seek to progress and attain a higher-level award between the 1st January and 31st January in the season of the accreditation period; subject always to the appropriate assessment and confirmation by the FAW Trust and FAW Compliance Department. Should it be determined that a club has attained a higher-level award, the accredited period shall continue to be until May 31st.

1.2 Responsibilities of a Club

1.2.1 All new and existing clubs must attain, as a minimum, the STANDARD AWARD criteria before participating in junior football.

1.2.2 It is the responsibility of every junior club to maintain the criteria of accreditation awarded to the club via the official Club Accreditation Data Capture Workbook system and maintain an accurate copy of the workbook as a database of individuals who have access to children and young people.

1.2.3 Utilise FAW resources including FAW kitbag and club development resources.

1.2.4 Once a club has achieved the relevant criteria, the club will be entitled to display the FAW Club Accreditation mark/logo and certificate appropriate to the level achieved for the season awarded.

1.3 Operation of the Club Accreditation Scheme

1.3.1 Junior Football League Secretaries or their appointed League Accreditation Officer to issue a Club Accreditation Data Capture Workbook to all new league clubs via e-mail. Clubs continuing their affiliation with the league will be sent the most up to date version of their club's workbook from the FAW Trust in order for information to be updated in preparation for the new accreditation window. Forms to be completed and returned in accordance with respective Junior League Club Accreditation administration timeline via e-mail only and within the designated timelines set out by the FAW and FAW Trust.

1.3.2 All junior clubs must input their details on to the CAP Data Capture Workbook provided for such purpose. A club’s Workbook must be completed fully and sent to the club accreditation auditor via the league secretary (or appointed person) prior to the 23rd August.

1.3.3 The junior league will undertake an initial audit of the workbook to determine, from the information available, whether the club has met the criteria to achieve STANDARD AWARD. The junior league must send the workbook to the club accreditation auditor as soon as the initial audit has been completed.

1.3.4 Regardless of the outcome of the initial audit by the junior league, all workbooks must be sent to the club accreditation auditor prior to 23rd August.

1.3.5 In the event of a club not sending a complete workbook prior to 23rd August, they will be prohibited from participating in all football related activity until a workbook is received.

1.3.6 In the event of a club being prohibited from participating in all football related activity, a club may appeal the decision in writing to their respective Area Association in accordance with the procedures set out by their respective Area Association. Any notice of appeal must be lodged with their Area Association by the club no later than 7 Business Days following receipt of the copy of the junior league’s decision.
JUNIOR CLUB QUALITY STANDARDS

2. STANDARD AWARD

Clubs registered on the scheme MUST complete the following quality standards in order to affiliate to a Junior League:

2.1 Constitution and Affiliation

Clubs must:

2.1.1 Operate within a constitution comprising of the following nominated officers: Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Club Accreditation Officer. One person cannot hold more than two of these positions.

2.1.2 Affiliate to the appropriate FAW Area Association.

2.1.3 Attend meetings as designated by the respective local junior league. In the event of the club secretary being unable to attend, one of the three other nominated officers may attend in his/her absence.

2.1.4 Place the safety, welfare and enjoyment of players at the centre of the club philosophy and constitution.

2.2 Safeguarding and Player Welfare

Clubs must:

2.2.1 Appoint a nominated Safeguarding Officer to liaise with the local League Safeguarding Officer.

2.2.2 Ensure the nominated Safeguarding Officer attends a FAW Safeguarding Award, holds a valid FAW DBS check and FAW number.

2.2.3 Ensure the Safeguarding Officer’s details are clearly displayed and communicated on club digital platforms, clubhouse and welcome pack.

2.2.4 Ensure that the club and all persons who have access to children and young people adhere to the FAW Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices, Codes of Conduct, all Welfare regulations and instructions issued by the FAW.

2.2.5 Ensure all persons who have access to children and young people participate in the FAW national DBS programme and obtain a valid DBS Certificate and subsequent FAW number. All persons who hold solely administrative positions (including but not limited to Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer or equivalent positions) and as such do not have active roles with children will require approval through the COMET Football Management system.

2.2.6 Ensure all persons with access to children display the FAW Safeguarding Scheme Card or COMET ID at all appropriate times.

2.2.7 Adhere to FAW volunteer recruitment and deployment guidelines.

2.3 Club Workforce and Development

Clubs must:

2.3.1 Ensure each coach works with a maximum of 16 players – 2 adults who have completed an FAW DBS Check should be in attendance at all times.
2.3.2 A club may appoint volunteers to the role of ‘team helper’ with any team. Subject to completion of a FAW DBS check these individuals can supervise young people to ensure the 16 players – 2 adult ratio is maintained. Unless the team helper holds a valid FAW Football Leaders Award (or higher) they must not lead training or matches.

2.3.3 Ensure each age group team has at least ONE qualified coach, minimum FAW Football Leaders Award.

2.3.4 Ensure each age group team has at least ONE First Aid qualified person. Only FAW First Aid Awards will be accepted from January 2020 for individuals whose current qualification expires 31 December 2019 or are undertaking the qualification for the first time. Individuals whose qualifications expire in 2020, 2021 or 2022 will need to complete and FAW First Aid Award upon expiry of their current qualification. Those undertaking the following medical roles – doctor, nurse or paramedic as a professional occupation will be determined as an appropriately qualified first aid provider without completing the qualification.

2.3.5 Ensure that during all matches/training sessions there is an adult(s) in attendance at all times who possesses a FAW Football Leaders Award and a First Aid Award, only FAW First Aid Awards will be accepted from January 2020.

2.3.6 Ensure all coaches are protected through either club or individual indemnity insurance if coaches aren’t registered on the COMET system.

2.3.7 Ensure all coaches and First Aid trained persons provide the club with their FAW numbers and Coach education expiry dates for purposes of FAW Club Accreditation.

2.4 Equipment and Facilities

Clubs must:-

2.4.1 Use appropriate and safe facilities for games and coaching sessions.

2.4.2 Ensure all portable goalposts are used in accordance with the GOALPOST SAFETY guidelines issued by the FAW (www.faw.cymru) and are stored away safely and securely when not in use.

2.4.3 Ensure risk assessment and goalpost safety form is completed and stored appropriately by clubs.

2.5 Club provision and development

Clubs must:-

2.5.1 Ensure all teams of primary school age adhere to FAW Mini Football regulations.

2.5.2 Adopt an equal playing opportunities policy for all registered players, regardless of gender or ability.

2.5.3 Run a minimum of ONE mini (u7-u11) OR junior (u12-u16) age group team.

3. BRONZE AWARD

Clubs registered on the scheme MUST complete the following quality standards in order to achieve BRONZE AWARD accreditation:
3.1 **Constitution and Affiliation**

Clubs must:-

3.1.1 Operate within a constitution comprising of the following nominated officers: Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Club Accreditation Officer. One person cannot hold more than two of these positions.

3.1.2 Affiliate to the appropriate FAW Area Association.

3.1.3 Attend meetings as designated by the respective local junior league. In the event of the club secretary being unable to attend, one of the three other nominated officers may attend in his/her absence.

3.1.4 Place the safety, welfare and enjoyment of players at the centre of the club philosophy and constitution.

3.2 **Safeguarding and Player Welfare**

Clubs must:-

3.2.1 Appoint a nominated Safeguarding Officer to liaise with the local League Safeguarding Officer.

3.2.2 Ensure the nominated Safeguarding Officer attends a FAW Safeguarding Award, holds a valid FAW DBS check and FAW number.

3.2.3 Ensure the Safeguarding Officer’s details are clearly displayed and communicated on club digital platforms, clubhouse and welcome pack.

3.2.4 Ensure that the club and all persons who have access to children and young people adhere to the FAW Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices, Codes of Conduct, all Welfare regulations and instructions issued by the FAW.

3.2.5 Ensure all persons who have access to children and young people participate in the FAW national DBS programme and obtain a valid DBS Certificate and subsequent FAW number. All persons who hold solely administrative positions (including but not limited to Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer or equivalent positions) and as such do not have active roles with children will require approval through the COMET Football Management system.

3.2.6 Ensure all persons with access to children display the FAW Safeguarding Scheme Card or COMET ID at all appropriate times.

3.2.7 Adhere to FAW volunteer recruitment and deployment guidelines

3.3 **Club workforce and development**

Clubs must:-

3.3.1 Ensure each coach works with a maximum of 16 players – 2 adults who have completed an FAW DBS Check should be in attendance at all times.

3.3.2 A club may appoint volunteers to the role of ‘team helper’ with any team. Subject to completion of a FAW DBS check these individuals can supervise young people to ensure the 16 players – 2 adult ratio is maintained. Unless the team helper holds a valid FAW Football Leaders Award (or higher) they must not lead training or matches.

3.3.3 Ensure each mini age group team (u7 – u11) has at least ONE qualified coach, minimum FAW Football Leaders Award.
3.3.4 Ensure each junior age group team (u12 – u16) has at least TWO qualified coaches, minimum FAW Football Leaders Award.

3.3.5 Ensure each age group team has at least ONE First Aid qualified person. Only FAW First Aid Awards will be accepted from January 2020 for individuals whose current qualification expires 31 December 2019 or are undertaking the qualification for the first time. Individuals whose qualifications expire in 2020, 2021 or 2022 will need to complete and FAW First Aid Award upon expiry of their current qualification. Those undertaking the following medical roles – doctor, nurse or paramedic as a professional occupation will be determined as an appropriately qualified first aid provider without completing the qualification.

3.3.6 Ensure that during all matches/training sessions there is an adult(s) in attendance at all times who possesses a FAW Football Leaders Award and a First Aid Award, only FAW First Aid Awards will be accepted from January 2020.

3.3.7 Ensure all coaches are protected through either club or individual indemnity insurance if coaches aren’t registered on the COMET system.

3.3.8 Ensure all coaches and First Aid trained persons provide the club with their FAW numbers and Coach education expiry dates for purposes of FAW Club Accreditation.

3.4 Equipment and Facilities

Clubs must:-

3.4.1 Use appropriate and safe facilities for games and coaching sessions.

3.4.2 Ensure all portable goalposts are used in accordance with the GOALPOST SAFETY guidelines issued by the FAW (www.faw.cymru) and are stored away safely and securely when not in use.

3.4.3 Ensure risk assessment and goalpost safety form is completed and stored appropriately by clubs.

3.5 Club provision and development

Clubs must:-

3.5.1 Organise and run a minimum of TWO different age group teams at MINI FOOTBALL (U7 – U11) OR JUNIOR FOOTBALL (U12 – U16) within the club.

3.5.2 Ensure all teams of primary school age adhere to FAW Mini Football regulations.

3.5.3 Adopt an equal playing opportunities policy for all registered players, regardless of gender or ability.

4. SILVER AWARD

Clubs registered on the scheme MUST complete the following quality standards in order to achieve SILVER AWARD accreditation:

4.1 Constitution and Affiliation

Clubs must:-

4.1.1 Operate within a constitution comprising of the following nominated officers: Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Club Accreditation Officer. One person cannot hold more than two of these positions.
4.1.2 Affiliate to the appropriate FAW Area Association.

4.1.3 Attend meetings as designated by the respective local junior league. In the event of the secretary being unable to attend, one of the three other nominated officers may attend in his/her absence.

4.1.4 Place the safety, welfare and enjoyment of players at the centre of the club philosophy and constitution.

4.2 Safeguarding and Player Welfare

Clubs must:

4.2.1 Appoint a nominated Safeguarding Officer to liaise with the local League Safeguarding Officer.

4.2.2 Ensure the nominated Safeguarding Officer attends a FAW Safeguarding Award, holds a valid FAW DBS check and FAW number.

4.2.3 Ensure the Safeguarding Officer’s details are clearly displayed and communicated on club digital platforms, clubhouse and welcome pack.

4.2.4 Ensure that the club and all persons who have access to children and young people adhere to the FAW Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices, Codes of Conduct, all Welfare regulations and instructions issued by the FAW.

4.2.5 Ensure all persons who have access to children and young people participate in the FAW national DBS programme and obtain a valid DBS Certificate and subsequent FAW number. All persons who hold solely administrative positions (including but not limited to Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer or equivalent positions) and as such do not have active roles with children will require approval through the COMET Football Management system.

4.2.6 Ensure all persons with access to children display the FAW Safeguarding Scheme Card or COMET ID at all appropriate times.

4.2.7 Adhere to FAW volunteer recruitment and deployment guidelines.

4.3 Club workforce and development

Clubs must:

4.3.1 Ensure each coach works with a maximum of 16 players – 2 adults who have completed an FAW DBS Check should be in attendance at all times.

4.3.2 A club may appoint volunteers to the role of ‘team helper’ with any team. Subject to completion of a FAW DBS check these individuals can supervise young people to ensure the 16 players – 2 adult ratio is maintained. Unless the team helper holds a valid FAW Football Leaders Award (or higher) they must not lead training or matches.

4.3.3 Ensure each mini age group team (u7 – u11) has at least ONE qualified coach, minimum FAW Football Leaders Award.

4.3.4 Ensure each junior age group team (u12 – u16) has at least TWO qualified coaches, minimum FAW Football Leaders Award.

4.3.5 Ensure each age group team has at least ONE First Aid qualified person. Only FAW First Aid Awards will be accepted from January 2020 for individuals whose current...
qualification expires 31 December 2019 or are undertaking the qualification for the first time. Individuals whose qualifications expire in 2020, 2021 or 2022 will need to complete and FAW First Aid Award upon expiry of their current qualification. Those undertaking the following medical roles – doctor, nurse or paramedic as a professional occupation will be determined as an appropriately qualified first aid provider without completing the qualification.

4.3.6 Appoint a nominated Club Coaching Coordinator that has a minimum FAW C Certificate qualification.

4.3.7 Ensure one coach minimum completes and maintains a valid FAW Goalkeepers Award.

4.3.8 Ensure that during all matches/training sessions there is an adult(s) in attendance at all times who possesses a FAW Football Leaders Award and a First Aid Award, only FAW First Aid Awards will be accepted from January 2020.

4.3.9 Appoint a nominated Club Volunteer Coordinator.

4.3.10 Ensure all coaches are protected through either club or individual indemnity insurance if coaches aren’t registered on the COMET system.

4.3.11 Ensure all coaches and First Aid trained persons provide the club with their FAW numbers and Coach education expiry dates for purposes of FAW Club Accreditation.

4.4 Equipment and Facilities

Clubs must:

4.4.1 Use appropriate and safe facilities for games and coaching sessions.

4.4.2 Ensure all portable goalposts are used in accordance with the GOALPOST SAFETY guidelines issued by the FAW (www.faw.cymru) and are stored away safely and securely when not in use.

4.4.3 Ensure risk assessment and goalpost safety form is completed and stored appropriately by clubs.

4.5 Club provision and development

Clubs must:

4.5.1 Organise a MINIMUM 2 different age group teams at MINI FOOTBALL (U7-U11) AND JUNIOR FOOTBALL (U12-U16)

4.5.2 Ensure all teams of primary school age adhere to FAW Mini Football regulations.

4.5.3 Adopt an equal playing opportunities policy for all registered players, regardless of gender or ability.

5. GOLD AWARD

Clubs registered on the scheme MUST complete the following quality standards in order to achieve GOLD AWARD accreditation:

5.1 Constitution and Affiliation

Clubs must:

5.1.1 Operate within a constitution comprising of the following nominated officers:
Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Club Accreditation Officer. One person cannot hold more than two of these positions.

5.1.2 Affiliate to the appropriate FAW Area Association.

5.1.3 Attend meetings as designated by the respective local junior league. In the of the secretary being unable to attend, one of the three other nominated officers may attend in his/her absence.

5.1.4 Place the safety, welfare and enjoyment of players at the centre of the club philosophy and constitution.

5.2 Safeguarding and Player Welfare

Clubs must:-

5.2.1 Appoint a nominated Safeguarding Officer to liaise with the local League Safeguarding Officer.

5.2.2 Ensure the nominated Safeguarding Officer attends a FAW Safeguarding Award, holds a valid FAW DBS check and FAW number.

5.2.3 Ensure the Safeguarding Officer’s details are clearly displayed and communicated on club digital platforms, clubhouse and welcome pack.

5.2.4 Ensure that the club and all persons who have access to children and young people adhere to the FAW Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices, Codes of Conduct, all Welfare regulations and instructions issued by the FAW.

5.2.5 Ensure all persons who have access to children and young people participate in the FAW national DBS programme and obtain a valid DBS Certificate and subsequent FAW number. All persons who hold solely administrative positions (including but not limited to Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer or equivalent positions) and as such do not have active roles with children will require approval through the COMET Football Management system.

5.2.6 Ensure all persons with access to children display the FAW Safeguarding Scheme Card or COMET ID at all appropriate times.

5.2.7 Adhere to FAW volunteer recruitment and deployment guidelines.

5.3 Club workforce and development

Clubs must:-

5.3.1 Ensure each coach works with a maximum of 16 players – 2 adults who have completed an FAW DBS Check should be in attendance at all times.

5.3.2 A club may appoint volunteers to the role of ‘team helper’ with any team. Subject to completion of a FAW DBS check these individuals can supervise young people to ensure the 16 players – 2 adult ratio is maintained. Unless the team helper holds a valid FAW Football Leaders Award (or higher) they must not lead training or matches.

5.3.3 Ensure each mini age group team (u7 – u11) has at least ONE qualified coach, minimum FAW Football Leaders Award.

5.3.4 Ensure each junior age group team (u12 – u16) has at least TWO qualified coaches, minimum FAW Football Leaders Award.
5.3.5 Ensure each age group team has at least ONE First Aid qualified person. Only FAW First Aid Awards will be accepted from January 2020 for individuals whose current qualification expires 31 December 2019 or are undertaking the qualification for the first time. Individuals whose qualifications expire in 2020, 2021 or 2022 will need to complete and FAW First Aid Award upon expiry of their current qualification. Those undertaking the following medical roles – doctor, nurse or paramedic as a professional occupation will be determined as an appropriately qualified first aid provider without completing the qualification.

5.3.6 Appoint a nominated Club Coaching Coordinator that has a minimum FAW B Certificate or UEFA ‘B’ Licence Coach within the club.

5.3.7 Ensure there is a ratio of one valid FAW ‘C’ Certificate coach for every three teams within the club.

5.3.8 Ensure one coach minimum completes and maintains a valid FAW Goalkeepers Award.

5.3.9 Ensure that during all age group matches/training sessions there is an adult(s) in attendance at all times who possesses the appropriate level of coaching qualification and a valid First Aid Award, only FAW First Aid Awards will be accepted from January 2020.

5.3.10 Appoint a nominated Club Volunteer Coordinator.

5.3.11 Ensure all coaches are protected through either club or individual indemnity insurance if coaches aren’t registered on the COMET system.

5.4 Equipment and Facilities

Clubs must:-

5.4.1 Use appropriate and safe facilities for games and coaching sessions.

5.4.2 Ensure all portable goalposts are used in accordance with the GOALPOST SAFETY guidelines issued by the FAW (www.faw.cymru) and are stored away safely and securely when not in use.

5.4.3 Ensure risk assessment and goalpost safety form is completed and stored appropriately by clubs.

5.5 Club provision and development

Clubs must:-

5.5.1 Organise and run a MINIMUM
3 different age group teams at MINI FOOTBALL (U7-U11)
3 different age group teams at JUNIOR FOOTBALL (U12-U16)
1 YOUTH OR 1 SENIOR ADULT team

An adult team can be provided by a partner club providing there is a formal relationship for players to transition to these teams from the junior section

5.5.2 Organise and run at least ONE of the following community activities Open days, Disability football sessions, School football sessions, Festivals, Open or Community days, Walking football, FAW Footy Huddle Centre or FAW / McDonalds Fun Football Centre.
5.5.3 Ensure all teams of primary school age adhere to FAW Mini Football rules.
5.5.4 Adopt an equal playing opportunities policy for all registered players, regardless of gender or ability.

6. **PLATINUM AWARD**

Clubs registered on the scheme MUST complete the following quality standards in order to achieve PLATINUM AWARD accreditation:

6.1 **Constitution and Affiliation**

Clubs must:-

6.1.1 Operate within a constitution comprising of the following nominated officers: Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Club Accreditation Officer. One person cannot hold more than two of these positions.

6.1.2 Affiliate to the appropriate FAW Area Association.

6.1.3 Attend meetings as designated by the respective local junior league. In the of the secretary being unable to attend, one of the three other nominated officers may attend in his/her absence.

6.1.4 Place the safety, welfare and enjoyment of players at the centre of the club philosophy and constitution.

6.2 **Safeguarding and Player Welfare**

Clubs must:-

6.2.1 Appoint a nominated Safeguarding Officer to liaise with the local League Safeguarding Officer.

6.2.2 Ensure the nominated Safeguarding Officer attends a FAW Safeguarding Award, holds a valid FAW DBS check and FAW number.

6.2.3 Ensure the Safeguarding Officer’s details are clearly displayed and communicated on club digital platforms, clubhouse and welcome pack.

6.2.4 Ensure that all persons who have access to children and young people adhere to the FAW Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices, Codes of Conduct, all Welfare regulations and instructions issued by the FAW.

6.2.5 Ensure all persons who have access to children and young people participate in the FAW national DBS programme and obtain a valid DBS Certificate and subsequent FAW number. All persons who hold solely administrative positions (including but not limited to Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer or equivalent positions) and as such do not have active roles with children will require approval through the COMET Football Management system.

6.2.6 Ensure all persons with access to children display the FAW Safeguarding Scheme Card or COMET ID at all appropriate times.

6.2.7 Adhere to FAW Volunteer recruitment and deployment guidelines.

6.3 **Club workforce and development**

Clubs must:-
6.3.1 Ensure each coach works with a maximum of 16 players – 2 adults who have completed an FAW DBS Check should be in attendance at all times.

6.3.2 A club may appoint volunteers to the role of ‘team helper’ with any team. Subject to completion of a FAW DBS check these individuals can supervise young people to ensure the 16 players – 2 adult ratio is maintained. Unless the team helper holds a valid FAW Football Leaders Award (or higher) they must not lead training or matches.

6.3.3 Ensure each mini age group team (u7 – u11) has at least ONE qualified coach, minimum FAW Football Leaders Award.

6.3.4 Ensure each junior age group team (u12 – u16) has at least TWO qualified coaches, minimum FAW Football Leaders Award.

6.3.5 Ensure each age group team has at least ONE First Aid qualified person. Only FAW First Aid Awards will be accepted from January 2020 for individuals whose current qualification expires 31 December 2019 or are undertaking the qualification for the first time. Individuals whose qualifications expire in 2020, 2021 or 2022 will need to complete and FAW First Aid Award upon expiry of their current qualification. Those undertaking the following medical roles – doctor, nurse or paramedic as a professional occupation will be determined as an appropriately qualified first aid provider without completing the qualification.

6.3.6 Appoint a nominated Club Coaching Coordinator that has a minimum FAW B Certificate or UEFA ‘B’ Licence Coach within the club.

6.3.7 Ensure there is a ratio of one valid FAW ‘C’ Certificate coach for every three teams within the club.

6.3.8 Ensure one coach minimum completes and maintains a valid FAW Goalkeepers Award.

6.3.9 Ensure that during all age group matches/training sessions there is an adult(s) in attendance at all times who possesses the appropriate level of coaching qualification and a valid First Aid Award, only FAW First Aid Awards will be accepted from January 2020.

6.3.10 Appoint a nominated Club Volunteer Coordinator.

6.3.11 Ensure all coaches are protected through either club or individual indemnity insurance if coaches aren’t registered on the COMET system.

6.4 **Equipment and Facilities**

Clubs must:-

6.4.1 Use appropriate and safe facilities for games and coaching sessions.

6.4.2 Ensure all portable goalposts are used in accordance with the GOALPOST SAFETY guidelines issued by the FAW (www.faw.cymru) and are stored away safely and securely when not in use.

6.4.3 Ensure risk assessment and goalpost safety form is completed and stored appropriately by clubs.
6.5 **Club provision and development**

Clubs must:-

6.5.1 Organise and run MINIMUM

- 3 different age group teams at MINI FOOTBALL (U7-U11)
- 3 different age group teams at JUNIOR FOOTBALL (U12-U16)
- 1 YOUTH team AND 1 SENIOR ADULT team

OR

- 2 SENIOR ADULT teams

Youth and adult teams can be provided by a partner club providing there is a formal relationship in place for players to transition to these teams from the junior section.

6.5.2 Organise and run at least THREE of the following community activities: Open days, Disability football sessions, School football sessions, Festivals, Open or Community days, Walking football, FAW Footy Huddle Centre or FAW / McDonalds Fun Football Centre.

6.5.3 Ensure all teams of primary school age adhere to FAW Mini Football rules.

6.5.4. Adopt an equal playing opportunities policy for all registered players, regardless of gender or ability.

7 **CLUB GOOD PRACTICE**

7.1 **Code of Conduct**

Clubs should:--

7.1.1 Promote the FAW Code of Conduct and Good Practice through the use of appropriate literature and other tools engaging children, young people and adults.

7.2 **Equipment and Facilities**

Clubs should:--

7.2.1 Ensure players in year 6 or under use size 3/4 footballs with a minimum of 1 ball for every two players.

7.2.2 Ensure players in year 7 and over use size 4/5 footballs with a minimum of 1 ball for every two players.

7.2.3 Ensure each team/16 players having the following equipment as a minimum requirement:

- 8 balls, 20 marker cones, 2 x Sets of coloured training bibs, 1 x ball net, 1 x stirrup pump, 1 x first aid kit.

7.3 **Volunteer recruitment**

Clubs should:-

7.3.1 Encourage parents of children to take an active role within the club by identifying roles and responsibilities by them undertaking a parent registration form.

7.4 **Identification and support of Talented Players**

Clubs should:-

7.4.1 Encourage and refer male and female players with potential to attend the local Performance Centre, Coaching Centre or Academy.
04f (i)
FAW COMET Regulations
1. **PREAMBLE**

The purpose of this Regulation is to ensure that where directed by the Association all Members and Subordinates use the FAW COMET system properly and in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of Use and the User Guidelines. Where the context so requires, capitalised or defined words or phrases used in this Regulation have the same definition and meaning set out in the FAW Rules. Any reference to an FAW Rule or Regulation in this document will automatically include any amendments or additions to that Rule and Regulation that may be made by the Association from time to time.

2. **DEFINITIONS**

In these Regulations the following words and expressions have the following meanings:-

**Annual Fee**

means the fee payable by Professional Players, Amateur Players and Futsal Players via the Club in respect of the administration charges for the registration of those Players, currently ten pounds (£10.00) inclusive of VAT in respect of Players aged sixteen (16) and over (but in whatever sum that the Association shall determine from time to time) and the fee payable by a Player’s parent or guardian via the Club for the cost of processing the registration of an Amateur Player aged fifteen (15) and under (currently five pounds (£5.00) inclusive of VAT but in such sums as may be determined by the Association from time to time).

**Competition Management**

means the general administration of football between Clubs and the competition administrator concerned. This includes, but is not limited to; confirming the team line-ups, uploading the match data, 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).

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**04f(i) COMET Regulations**
**Confirmed** means that an application to register a Player, coach, Staff or Match Official has been approved by the Association via FAW COMET.

**Entered** means that an application to register a Player, coach, Staff or Match Official has been created via FAW COMET by a Club or Match Official but not Submitted to the Association.

**Entered (INT)** means that an application to register a Player who is either:

- registered with a Club under the jurisdiction of a different National Association; or
- is not of Welsh Nationality; or
- was not born in Wales

has been created on FAW COMET by a Club but not Submitted to the Association. In this instance the Player may require an International Transfer Certificate as per FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.

**FAW COMET** means the Football Management System used by the Association as set out in these Regulations. Any reference to FAW COMET, COMET or system shall mean the same.

**Payments** means those fees payable in respect of player registrations, disciplinary fines owed by Clubs, cup entry, affiliation and/or membership and the registration of Match Officials to be made via FAW COMET.

**Pending (INT)** means that an application to register a Player who is either:

- registered with a Club under the jurisdiction of a different National Association; or
- is not of Welsh Nationality; or
- was not born in Wales

has been reviewed by the Association and is awaiting receipt of an International Transfer Certificate from the relevant National Association.

**Request (INT)** means that the Association has received a request for an International Transfer Certificate from another National Association for a Player holding a Confirmed registration with a Club.

**Staff** means those roles listed in the FAW COMET User Guidelines – Registering your Coaches, Staff and Club Officers.
Status Log means the appropriate part of FAW COMET detailing the date and time that a User has changed a status or uploaded a document onto an FAW COMET record.

Submitted means that an application to register a Player, Coach, Staff or Match Official has been formally Submitted to the Association via FAW COMET for approval.

Submitted (INT) means that an application to register a Player who is either:
- registered with a Club under the jurisdiction of a different National Association; or
- is not of Welsh Nationality; or
- was not born in Wales
has been formally Submitted to the Association via FAW COMET for approval. In this instance the Player may require an International Transfer Certificate as per FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.

Temporary Eligibility means an Amateur Player who has been granted Temporary Eligibility to participate within a designated Youth League or Junior League Only until 31st May in the relevant Playing Season.

Terminated means that the registration of a Player, coach or Match Official has been cancelled or has naturally expired.

Terms and Conditions of Use means the FAW COMET Terms and Conditions of Use as determined by the FAW from time to time.

User means an individual who has duly agreed to the FAW COMET Terms of Use and has been provided access to FAW COMET by the Association.

User Guidelines means user guidelines issued in respect of the correct usage of FAW COMET as determined by the FAW from time to time.

3. REGULATIONS

It is mandatory that all Members and Subordinates use the FAW COMET system where directed by the Association including, but not limited, to the following:-

3.1. Professional Player registrations and transfers
3.2. Amateur Player registrations and transfers
3.3. Professional Player cancellations
3.4. Amateur Player cancellations
3.5. Loans & loan recalls as referred to in Section H of FAW Rules
3.6. Notices of approach as referred to in Section H of FAW Rules
3.7. Match Official registration and appointments

3.8. Registration of coaches

3.9. All matters relating to the Disciplinary Procedures concerning On-Field Offences for Players and Team Officials excluding claims of wrongful dismissal or claims of mistaken identity

3.10. Contact details of Club, Member, Officials and Subordinates personal contact details

3.11. Details of any affiliation with any National League, Junior League, Youth League

3.12. Details of any affiliation to any competition organised by any National League, Junior League, Youth League or Area Association.

3.13. Payments


4. USERS

All Users must ensure that FAW COMET is used in accordance with the User Guidelines and the FAW COMET Terms and Conditions of Use both of which can be found on the FAW website. In particular all Users must ensure, amongst all other obligations, that:-

4.1. information entered onto FAW COMET is true and accurate and up to date insofar as practicable and that all relevant identification documentation has been received and verified before information is entered;

4.2. all information entered onto FAW COMET is regularly maintained and updated;

4.3. all data entered onto FAW COMET is kept strictly confidential;

4.4. only authorised Users will have access to FAW COMET;

4.5. all confidential information obtained by Users to comply with their obligations under these Regulations will be used exclusively for the purpose of completing FAW COMET registration;

4.6. all authorised Users’ training on FAW COMET is up to date; and

4.7. any updates to the User Guide and/or terms and conditions of use and/or these Regulations will be complied with.

5. ANNUAL FEE

5.1. An Annual Fee in any amount determined by the Association from time to time is payable by the Club via FAW COMET and within thirty-one (31) days of the date of registration of the Player, such fee being repayable by the Player / parent or guardian (including Futsal Players) or to the Club thereafter.

5.2. A failure to pay the Annual Fee within thirty one (31) calendar days from the date of registration of the Player will automatically and immediately and without notice mean that that Player will be ineligible to participate in any Official Match and any participation in those circumstances will be a breach of the FAW Rules.

6. FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

6.1. Any financial transaction outstanding on a Player’s FAW COMET record will mean such Player will not be permitted to transfer to another Club, cancel his or her registration or register for any other Club until the financial transaction has been paid by the Club via FAW COMET.
7. **PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS**

7.1. Professional Players must complete the appropriate FAW COMET-generated registration form, as prescribed by the Association from time to time.

7.2. An application for the registration of a Professional Player must include a copy of a passport-style photograph of the Player and it shall be the responsibility of the Club to ensure that the photograph of the Professional Player is maintained and kept up to date throughout the period of the Professional Player’s registration with the Club.

7.3. A Professional Player’s contract of employment, and the appropriate FAW COMET-generated registration form, as prescribed by the Association from time to time, must be uploaded onto FAW COMET within five (5) Business Days of the date of the Player’s signature on the contract of employer. If the relevant registration form and employment contract is not received on FAW COMET within the prescribed timeframe and/or is incomplete the registration will not be accepted the application will be returned to the Club by the Association and the Professional Player will be ineligible to participate in any Official Match.

7.4. During the period of a contract of a Professional Player the transfer of a Professional Player from one Club to another Club must be made on a form as prescribed by the Association from time to time. Such form must be submitted to the Association and accompanied with a written agreement which shall set out the full particulars of all financial and other arrangements between both Clubs which shall be signed by a Recognised Signatory of each of the two Clubs concerned and forwarded to the Association for approval via the FAW COMET.

7.5. During the period of a contract of a Professional Player the loan of a Professional Player from one Club to another Club must be made on a form as prescribed by the Association from time to time. Such form must be submitted to the Association and accompanied with a written loan agreement which shall set out the full particulars of all financial and other arrangements between both Clubs which shall be signed by a Recognised Signatory of each of the two Clubs concerned and forwarded to the Association for approval via the FAW COMET.

8. **AMATEUR PLAYERS**

8.1. Amateur Players must complete the appropriate FAW COMET-generated registration form, as prescribed by the Association from time to time.

8.2. Any application for the registration of an Amateur Player shall include the provision of the Association via FAW COMET a copy of a passport-style photograph of the Amateur Player and it shall be the responsibility of the Club to ensure that the Amateur Player’s photograph is maintained and kept up to date throughout the period of the Amateur Player’s registration with the Club.

8.3. A relevant completed registration form, as prescribed by the Association from time to time must be uploaded onto FAW COMET within five (5) Business Days of the date of the Player’s signature (or in the case of a Junior Player within five (5) Business Days of the date of the parent’s or guardian’s signature). If the relevant registration form is received on FAW COMET after five (5) Business Days from the date of the relevant signature, and/or is incomplete, the Association shall not accept the application for registration and shall return to the Club via FAW COMET with an explanation as to why the application for registration has not been accepted. The Club must then inform the Player, or the parent or guardian (if applicable) that his/her registration with the Club has not been accepted by the Association.
8.4. An Amateur Player aged sixteen (16) years old and over will remain registered with a Club until such time as that registration is cancelled or the Player transfers to another Club.

8.5. An Amateur Player aged under sixteen (16) years old will remain registered with a Club until:

8.5.1. such time as that registration is cancelled; or

8.5.2. the Player transfers to another Club; or

8.5.3. the end of the Playing Season in which the Player turns sixteen (16). The Player’s registration will be automatically terminated by the Association at the end of the aforementioned Playing Season and the Player will be required to re-register for the following Playing Season subject to the relevant Professional Registration Period or Amateur Registration Period as the case may be.

8.6. An application to cancel the registration of an Amateur Player must be submitted via FAW COMET by the Club with which the Player is currently registered. In such cases the Club must notify the Player in writing that his or her registration with the Club has been cancelled.

8.7. In the case of an Amateur Player contacting the Club he or she is registered with to request in writing that his or her registration is cancelled then said Club must cancel said registration via FAW COMET immediately and notify the Player in writing once cancelled.

8.8. A Club approached by an Amateur Player or intending to approach or negotiate with an Amateur Player for him or her to play for that Club must give notice via the FAW COMET and in accordance with Section H of FAW Rules.

8.9. Subject to Section H of FAW Rules, a Junior Club shall be permitted to request that an Amateur Player registered with another Club’s Academy is granted Temporary Eligibility via FAW COMET to participate as a Junior Player for said Junior Club within a designated Junior League only. Temporary Eligibility may only be granted during an Amateur Registration Period and must expire on 31st May of each Playing Season. In such cases the Academy will retain the Player’s registration details on the Player passport.

8.10. Subject to Section H of FAW Rules, a Club who participate in a designated Youth League shall be permitted to request that an Amateur Player registered with another Club is granted Temporary Eligibility via FAW COMET to participate as a Youth Player for said Club within a designated Youth League only. Eligibility may only be granted during the relevant Professional Registration Period or Amateur Registration Period and must expire on 31st May of each Playing Season. In such cases the Club participating in a designated Youth League shall not retain the players registration details on the Player passport.

8.11. Any Amateur Player granted Temporary Eligibility will not be permitted to participate in any other type of Association Football for said Club other than that which he or she has been granted Temporary Eligibility to participate in.

8.12. In the event of an Amateur Players registration with a Club being Terminated, any Temporary Eligibility held by the Player will remain valid for participation in a designated Youth League or Junior League as applicable until the end of the relevant Playing Season.

8.13. An application to cancel any Temporary Eligibility granted to an Amateur Player must be made via the FAW COMET by the Club who requested said Temporary Eligibility for the Amateur Player.

8.14. In accordance with Section H of FAW Rules any Amateur Player granted Temporary Eligibility shall be considered as registered with the Association and shall be eligible to participate in Official Matches within the relevant Youth League or Junior League as applicable.
9. **FUTSAL PLAYERS**

9.1. Futsal Players must complete the appropriate FAW COMET-generated registration form, as prescribed by the Association from time to time.

9.2. An application for the registration of a Futsal Player shall include providing the Association via FAW COMET with a copy of a passport-style photograph of the Futsal Player and it shall be the responsibility of the Club to ensure that the Futsal Player’s photograph is maintained and kept up to date throughout the period of the Futsal Player’s registration with the Club.

9.3. A relevant completed registration form, as prescribed by the Association from time to time must be uploaded onto FAW COMET within five (5) Business Days of the date of the Futsal Player’s signature. If the relevant registration form is received on FAW COMET after five (5) Business Days from the date of the relevant signature, and/or is incomplete, the Association shall not accept the application for registration and shall return to the Club via FAW COMET with an explanation as to why the application for registration has not be accepted. The Club must then inform the Futsal Player, that his/her registration with the Club has not been accepted by the Association.

10. **PLAYER REGISTRATIONS DEADLINES**

10.1. An application for registration of any Player must be received by the Association via FAW COMET by no later than 5pm on the last Business Day prior to the match in which they wish to participate.

10.2. Pursuant to FAW Rule 144, if an application to register a Player is Submitted via FAW COMET after 5pm on a Business Day or is Submitted on a day which is not a Business Day, then the Association will deem receipt of the application to register said Player at 9.00am on the next Business Day. The ‘Status Log’ on a Players FAW COMET record will be used for the purpose of establishing the date and time a Club has Submitted an application to register a Player via FAW COMET.

10.3. For any Player to be eligible for participation in an Official Match said Player must be Confirmed by the Association via FAW COMET by no later than midnight on the last Business Day prior to the match in which they wish to participate.

11. **INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER PROCEDURES**

11.1. If a Player requires an International Transfer Certificate, the Club must ensure that FAW COMET is completed properly and in particular must ensure that the Player’s most recent former club and the name of the national association the former club is affiliated to, is included in the application, and in the event of an international transfer of a Professional Player, the Club must also ensure that the FIFA TMS reference number is entered into FAW COMET.

12. **ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE APPLICATION OF FAW RULE 87**

12.1. If a Junior Player wishes to register with a Junior Club who participate in a Junior League outside of the boundary of the Area Association in which the Player principally resides, the Association will refer the matter to the Area Association in which the Player principally resides for consideration and decision based on the individual circumstances of the matter.

12.2. In such circumstances, the Association will only Confirm an application to register said Junior Player once it has received written confirmation from the Area Association in which the Player principally resides.
13. MATCH OFFICIALS

13.1. Match Officials (for all FAW and National League competitions) are responsible for submitting the match report form through FAW COMET to confirm match data, as outlined in the Rules relating to the qualification, registration and control of referees and assistant referees and in accordance with the Rules of the relevant competition as set from time to time.

14. BREACH OF THESE REGULATIONS

14.1. It shall be a breach of these Regulations if any User, Member, Club or Subordinate fails to comply with the provisions of these Regulations or use the FAW COMET contrary to the User Guidelines or the Terms and Conditions of Use.

14.2. Any breach of this Code will be a Disciplinary Offence under the FAW Rules and any charge or sanction against any Member or Subordinate bound by this Regulation will be in accordance with the procedures set out in Section E of the FAW Rules.

14.3. Nothing in this Regulation will restrict or limit the scope of any Disciplinary Offence under Rule 38.1.
04f (ii)
ITC
Regulations
Players previously registered with one National Association may only register with a new National Association provided the following FIFA Regulations governing the Status and Transfer of Players have been observed.

REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

ARTICLE 9 - INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER CERTIFICATES

1. Players registered at one association may only be registered at a new association once the latter has received an International Transfer Certificate (hereinafter: ITC) from the former association. The ITC shall be issued free of charge without any conditions or time limit. Any provisions to the contrary shall be null and void. The association issuing the ITC shall lodge a copy with FIFA. The administrative procedures for issuing the ITC are contained in Annex 3 article 8, and Annexe 3a of the Regulations.

2. Associations are forbidden from requesting the issue of an ITC in order to allow a player to participate in trial matches.

3. The new association shall inform the association(s) of the club(s) that trained and educated the player between the ages of 12 and 23 (article 7 of the Regulations) in writing of the registration of the player as a professional after receipt of the ITC.

4. An ITC is not required for a player under the age of 10 years.

ANNEX 3

ARTICLE 8 - ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE GOVERNING THE TRANSFER OF PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS BETWEEN ASSOCIATIONS

ARTICLE 8.1 - PRINCIPLES

1. Any professional player who is registered with a club that is affiliated to one association may only be registered with a club affiliated to a different association after an ITC has been delivered by the former association and the new association has confirmed receipt of the ITC. The ITC procedure must be conducted exclusively via TMS. Any form of ITC other than the one created by TMS shall not be recognised.
2. At the very latest, the ITC must be requested by the new association in TMS on the last day of the registration period of the new association.

3. The former association must upload a copy of the player passport (article 7 of the Regulations) when creating an ITC in favour of the new association.

4. The former association must upload a copy of any relevant documentation pertaining to disciplinary sanctions imposed on a player and, if applicable, their extension to have worldwide effect (article 12 of the Regulations) when creating an ITC in favour of the new association.

**ARTICLE 8.2 - CREATING AN ITC FOR A PROFESSIONAL PLAYER**

1. All data allowing the new association to request an ITC shall be entered into TMS, confirmed and matched by the club wishing to register a player during one of the registration periods established by that association (Annexe 3, article 4 para. 4 of the Regulations). When entering the relevant data, depending on the selected instruction type, the new club shall upload at least the following documents into TMS:-

   - a copy of the contract between the new club and the professional player;
   - a copy of the transfer or loan agreement concluded between the new club and the former club, if applicable;
   - copy of proof of the player’s identity, nationality(ies) and birth date, such as passport or identity card;
   - proof of player’s last contract end date and reason for termination.
   - Proof signed by the player and his/her former club that there is no third-party ownership of the player’s economic rights.

Where third-party ownership of a players’ economic rights has been declared (Annexe 3, article 4, paragraph 2), the former club shall upload a copy of the relevant agreement with the third party.

Documents must be uploaded in the format required by the relevant TMS department.

If explicitly requested, a document not available in one of the four official languages of FIFA (English, French, German and Spanish), or a specifically defined excerpt of it, must be uploaded in TMS together with its respective translation in one of the four official languages. Failure to do so may result in the document in question being disregarded.

A professional player is not eligible to play in official matches for his/her new club until the new association has confirmed the receipt of the ITC and has entered and confirmed the player registration date in TMS (Annexe 3, article 5.2 para. 4 of the Regulations).

2. Upon notification in the system that the transfer instruction is awaiting an ITC request, the new association shall immediately request the former association through TMS to deliver an ITC for the professional player (“ITC request”).

3. Upon receipt of the ITC request, the former association shall immediately request the former club and the professional player to confirm whether the professional player’s contract has expired, whether early termination was mutually agreed or whether there is a contractual dispute.

4. Within seven days of the date of the ITC request, the former association shall, by using the appropriate selection in TMS, either:-
(a) Deliver the ITC in favour of the new association and enter the deregistration date of the
player; or
(b) Reject the ITC request and indicate in TMS the reason for rejection, which may be either
that the contract between the former club and the professional player has not expired
or that there has been no mutual agreement regarding its early termination.

5. Once the ITC has been delivered, the new association shall confirm receipt and complete the
relevant player registration information in TMS.

6. If the new association does not receive a response to the ITC request within 15 days of the
ITC request being made, it shall immediately register the professional player with the new
club on a provisional basis (“provisional registration”). The new association shall complete the
relevant player registration information in TMS (Annexe 3, article 5.2 para. 6 of the Regulations).
A provisional registration shall become permanent one year after the ITC request. The Players’
Status Committee may withdraw a provisional registration, if, during this one-year period, the
former association presents valid reasons explaining why it did not respond to the ITC request.

7. The former association shall not deliver an ITC if a contractual dispute on grounds of the
circumstances stipulated in Annexe 3, article 8.2 para. 4b) has arisen between the former club
and the professional player. In such a case, upon request of the new association, FIFA may
take provisional measures in exceptional circumstances. If the competent body authorises
the provisional registration (article 23 para. 3 of the Regulations), the new association shall
complete the relevant player registration information in TMS (Annexe 3, article 5.2 para. 6).
Furthermore, the professional player, the former club and/or the new club are entitled to
lodge a claim with FIFA in accordance with article 22 of the Regulations. FIFA shall then decide
on the issue of the ITC and on sporting sanctions within 60 days. In any case, the decision on
sporting sanctions shall be taken before the delivery of the ITC. The delivery of the ITC shall be
without prejudice to compensation for breach of contract.

ARTICLE 8.3 - LOAN OF PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS

1. The rules set out above also apply to the loan of a professional player from a club affiliated
to one association to a club affiliated to another association, as well as to his/her return from
loan to his/her original club, if applicable.

2. When applying for the registration of a professional player on a loan basis, the new club shall
upload a copy of the pertinent loan agreement concluded with the former club, and possibly
also signed by the player, into TMS (Annexe 3, article 8.2 para. 1 of the Regulations). The terms
of the loan agreement shall be represented in TMS.

3. Loan extensions and permanent transfers resulting from loans shall also be entered in TMS at
the appropriate time.

ARTICLE 9 - SANCTIONS

ARTICLE 9.1 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Sanctions may be imposed on any association or club that violates any of the provisions of the
present annexe.

2. Sanctions may also be imposed on any association or club found to have entered untrue or
false data into the system or for having misused TMS for illegitimate purposes.
3. Associations and clubs are liable for the actions and information entered by their TMS managers.

ARTICLE 9.2 - COMPETENCE
1. The FIFA Disciplinary Committee is responsible for imposing sanctions in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
2. Sanction proceedings may be initiated by FIFA, either on its own initiative or at the request of any party concerned.
3. The relevant TMS department may also initiate sanction proceedings on its own initiative for non-compliance with the obligations under its jurisdiction (specifically with respect to the defined Administrative Sanction Procedure (FIFA Circular 1478)) and when authorised to do so by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee for explicitly specified violations.

ARTICLE 9.3 - SANCTIONS ON ASSOCIATIONS
In particular, the following sanctions may be imposed on associations for violation of the present annexe in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code:-

- a reprimand or a warning;
- a fine;
- exclusion from a competition;
- return of awards.

These sanctions may be imposed separately or in combination.

ARTICLE 9.4 - SANCTIONS ON CLUBS
In particular, the following sanctions may be imposed on clubs for violation of the present annexe in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code:-

- a reprimand or a warning;
- a fine;
- annulment of the result of a match;
- defeat by forfeit;
- exclusion from a competition;
- a deduction of points;
- demotion to a lower division;
- a transfer ban;
- return of awards.

These sanctions may be imposed separately or in combination.

ARTICLE 10 - TIME LIMITS
With respect to proceedings and investigations conducted by the relevant TMS department, electronic notifications through TMS or by electronic mail to the address provided in TMS by the parties are considered as valid means of communication and will be deemed sufficient to establish time limits.
ANNEX 3A

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE GOVERNING THE TRANSFER OF PLAYERS BETWEEN ASSOCIATIONS OUTSIDE TMS

ARTICLE 1 - SCOPE

The present annexe governs the procedure for the international transfer of all amateur male and female players participating in eleven-a-side football and futsal players.

ARTICLE 2 - PRINCIPLES

1. Any player who is registered with a club that is affiliated to one association shall not be eligible to play for a club affiliated to a different association unless an ITC has been issued by the former association and received by the new association in accordance with the provisions of this annexe. Special forms provided by FIFA for this purpose or forms with similar wording shall be used.

2. At the very latest, the ITC must be requested on the last day of the registration period of the new association.

3. The association issuing the ITC shall also attach a copy of the player passport to it.

ARTICLE 3 - ISSUE OF AN ITC FOR A PROFESSIONAL

1. All applications to register a professional must be submitted by the new club to the new association during one of the registration periods established by that association. All applications shall be accompanied by a copy of the contract between the new club and the professional. Equally, a copy of the transfer agreement concluded between the new club and the former club shall be provided to the new association, if applicable. A professional is not eligible to play in official matches for his new club until an ITC has been issued by the former association and received by the new association.

2. Upon receipt of the application, the new association shall immediately request the former association to issue an ITC for the professional (“ITC request”). An association that receives an unsolicited ITC from another association is not entitled to register the professional concerned with one of its clubs.

3. Upon receipt of the ITC request, the former association shall immediately request the former club and the professional to confirm whether the professional’s contract has expired, whether early termination was mutually agreed or whether a contractual dispute exists.

4. Within seven days of receiving the ITC request, the former association shall either:-
   (a) issue the ITC to the new association; or
   (b) inform the new association that the ITC cannot be issued because the contract between the former club and the professional has not expired or that there has been no mutual agreement regarding its early termination.

5. If the new association does not receive a response to the ITC request within 30 days of the ITC request being made, it shall immediately register the professional with the new club on a provisional basis (“provisional registration”). A provisional registration shall become permanent one year after the ITC request. The Players’ Status Committee may withdraw a
provisional registration, if, during this one-year period, the former association presents valid reasons explaining why it did not respond to the ITC request.

6. The former association shall not issue an ITC if a contractual dispute has arisen between the former club and the professional. In such a case, the professional, the former club and/or the new club are entitled to lodge a claim with FIFA in accordance with article 22 of the Regulations. FIFA shall then decide on the issue of the ITC and on sporting sanctions within 60 days. In any case, the decision on sporting sanctions shall be taken before the issue of the ITC. The issue of the ITC shall be without prejudice to compensation for breach of contract. FIFA may take provisional measures in exceptional circumstances.

7. The new association may grant a player temporary eligibility to play until the end of the season that is underway on the basis of an ITC sent by fax. If the original ITC is not received by that time, the player’s eligibility to play shall be considered definitive.

8. The foregoing rules and procedures also apply to professionals who, upon moving to their new club, acquire amateur status.

ARTICLE 4 - ISSUE OF AN ITC FOR AN AMATEUR

1. All applications to register an amateur player must be submitted by the new club to the new association during one of the registration periods established by that association.

2. Upon receipt of the application, the new association shall immediately request the former association to issue an ITC for the player (“ITC request”).

3. The former association shall, within seven days of receiving the ITC request, issue the ITC to the new association.

4. If the new association does not receive a response to the ITC request within 30 days, it shall immediately register the amateur with the new club on a provisional basis (“provisional registration”). A provisional registration shall become permanent one year after the ITC request. The FIFA ‘Players’ Status Committee’ may withdraw a provisional registration, if, during this one-year period, the former association presents valid reasons explaining why it did not respond to the ITC request.

5. The foregoing rules and procedures also apply for amateurs who, upon moving to their new club, acquire professional status.

ARTICLE 5 - LOAN OF A PLAYERS

1. The rules set out above also apply to the loan of a professional from a club affiliated to one association to a club affiliated to another association.

2. The terms of the loan agreement shall be enclosed with the ITC request.

3. Upon expiry of the loan period, the ITC shall be returned, upon request, to the association of the club that released the player on loan.

INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS INVOLVING MINORS

ARTICLE 19 – PROTECTION OF MINORS

1. International transfers of players are only permitted if the player is over the age of 18.
2. The following three exceptions to this rule apply:-
   (a) The player's parents move to the country in which the new club is located for reasons not linked to football.
   (b) The transfer takes place within the territory of the European Union (EU) or European Economic Area (EEA) and the player is aged between 16 and 18. In this case, the new club must fulfil the following minimum obligations:-
      i. It shall provide the player with an adequate football education and/or training in line with the highest national standards.
      ii. It shall guarantee the player an academic and/or school and/or vocational education and/or training, in addition to his football education and/or training, which will allow the player to pursue a career other than football should he cease playing professional football.
      iii. It shall make all necessary arrangements to ensure that the player is looked after in the best possible way (optimum living standards with a host family or in club accommodation, appointment of a mentor at the club, etc.).
      iv. It shall, on registration of such a player, provide the relevant association with proof that it is complying with the aforementioned obligations.
   (c) The player lives no further than 50km from a national border and the club with which the player wishes to be registered in the neighbouring association is also within 50km of that border. The maximum distance between the player's domicile and the club's headquarters shall be 100km. In such cases, the player must continue to live at home and the two associations concerned must give their explicit consent.

3. The conditions of this article shall also apply to any player who has never previously been registered with a club, is not a national of the country in which he wishes to be registered for the first time and has not lived continuously for at least the last five years in said country.

4. Every international transfer according to paragraph 2 and every first registration according to paragraph 3, as well as every first registration of a foreign minor player who has lived continuously for at least the last five years in the country in which he wishes to be registered, is subject to the approval of the subcommittee appointed by the Players' Status Committee for that purpose. The application for approval shall be submitted by the association that wishes to register the player. The former association shall be given the opportunity to submit its position. The sub-committee's approval shall be obtained prior to any request from an association for an International Transfer Certificate and/or a first registration. Any violations of this provision will be sanctioned by the Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code. In addition to the association that failed to apply to the sub-committee, sanctions may also be imposed on the former association for issuing an International Transfer Certificate without the approval of the sub-committee, as well as on the clubs that reached an agreement for the transfer of a minor.

5. The procedures for applying to the sub-committee for a first registration and an international transfer of a minor are contained in Annexe 2 of the Regulations.
04f (iii)
Work Permit Regulations
04f(iii) Football Players - Work Permit Criteria Points Based System

This guidance is to be used for all Tier 2 and Tier 5 government body endorsement requests made on or after the 1st June 2017.

SECTION 1

Overview of governing body endorsements for Tier 2 (Sportsperson) and Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) Creative and Sporting categories of the Points Based System

Set out below is a brief explanation of what endorsement requirements apply in respect of Tier 2 (Sportsperson) and/or Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) - Creative and Sporting categories of the Points Based System.

The Tier 2 (Sportsperson) category is for elite sportspeople and coaches who are internationally established at the highest level and whose employment will make a significant contribution to the development of their sport at the highest level in the UK, and who will base themselves in the UK; and the post cannot be filled by a suitable settled worker.

The Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) - Creative and Sporting category is for sportspeople (and their entourage where appropriate) and coaches (who must be suitably qualified to fulfil the role in question) who are internationally established at the highest level in their sport, and/or will make a significant contribution to the development of their sport in the UK; and the post cannot be filled by a suitable settled worker.

The Football Association of Wales (“FAW”) is a sport governing body recognised by Sport Wales and approved by the Home Office and is included in Appendix M of the Immigration Rules.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Migrants applying to come to the UK under either of the sporting categories above need to be sponsored by an organisation that has a sponsor licence under Tier 2 (Sportsperson) or Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) - Creative and Sporting.

An organisation wishing to sponsor such migrants must have a sponsor licence. Before applying to the Home Office for a license an organisation must be endorsed by the FAW. This endorsement confirms to the Home Office that the application for a licence is from a genuine football club (or equivalent) that has a legitimate requirement to bring migrants to the UK as sportspeople. Once licensed, an organisation can assign certificates of sponsorship to a sportsperson or coach with a job offer that allows them to apply for leave to enter or remain in the UK. Each individual must also have a personal endorsement from the FAW before an organisation assign’s the certificate of sponsorship.
The tiers for which the FAW is currently approved by the Home Office is in Appendix M of the Immigration Rules.

The FAW will work within the Home Office code of practice for sports governing bodies and must comply with any immigration regulations, UK legislation and the principles of the Points Based System as detailed on the GOV.UK website.

LENGTH OF ENDORSEMENT

FAW Governing Body Endorsements should be issued for a period appropriate to the period of approval for sponsorship or the tier under which the migrant’s application is being made, that is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Tier</th>
<th>Length of endorsement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sponsor</td>
<td>Tier 2 (Sportsperson) and/or Tier 5 (Creative and Sporting)</td>
<td>4 years from date of issue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migrant</td>
<td>Tier 2 (Sportsperson)</td>
<td>For an initial maximum period of 3 years, with a further extension of a maximum period of 3 years. If the contract is for fewer than 3 years, it will be issued for the length of the contract.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migrant</td>
<td>Tier 5 Temporary Worker (Creative and Sporting)</td>
<td>For the length of the contract or up to a maximum of twelve (12) months, whichever is the shorter period.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHANGE OF EMPLOYMENT

If a migrant is intending to change employer, their new employer must request a new FAW Governing Body Endorsement. The endorsement can be issued for the length of the contract or to the maximum period permitted within the category, whichever is the shorter. The new employer must assign a new certificate of sponsorship to the migrant to allow them to apply to the Home Office for new leave to remain. Leave to remain must be granted before the migrant can start work with the new employer.

SALARY

The salary should be agreed as part of the contract between the migrant and the sponsor. This and the other conditions of employment should be at least equal to those normally given to a resident worker for the type of work undertaken.

SUPPLEMENTARY EMPLOYMENT

Tier 2 & Tier 5 migrants are eligible to undertake supplementary employment under the Home Office Supplementary Employment Regulations (please refer to the Tier 2 & 5 Guidance for Sponsors – Supplementary Employment).

SECTION 2

REQUIREMENTS

Set out below are the FAW’s requirements under the Tier 2 (Sportsperson) and Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) Creative and Sporting categories. The requirements are effective from 1st June 2017.
CONSULTATION
The following requirements have been agreed by the Home Office following consultation with the FAW, The FA, The FA Premier League, The Football League, Professional Footballers’ Association, the League Managers’ Association and the other Home Associations of The Scottish FA and The Irish FA.

REVIEW
The requirements will be reviewed biennially. The next review will be in January 2019.

LENGTH OF SEASON
For the purposes of these requirements, the playing season for football is from June to May. This may vary slightly from season to season depending on the arrangement of the first and last match.

REQUIREMENTS
Set out below are the endorsement requirements for sponsors and migrants.

SPONSOR
Tier 2 (Sportsperson) and or Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) Creative and Sporting.
FAW Governing Body Endorsements will only be issued to Clubs in membership of either:
- The FA Premier League
- The Football League
- The Welsh Premier League

MIGRANT
Tier 2 (Sportsperson) and or Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) Creative and Sporting

CRITERIA FOR PLAYERS
These Regulations will apply to players registering for Clubs Affiliated to the Football Association of Wales ("FAW") save that, subject to the proviso below these Regulations will not apply to a player registering for an FAW Affiliated Club participating in competitions under the jurisdiction of The Football Association ("The FA"). For the avoidance of doubt players registering for these clubs will be subject to the relevant Regulations of The FA which the FAW will apply.

FAW Governing Body Endorsements will be available for migrants if they meet the following criteria:
- the applicant Club must be in membership of the Welsh Premier League; during the period of endorsement the player may only play for Clubs in membership of this league (i.e. the player may not be loaned to a Club below the Welsh Premier League)
- the player must have participated in at least 75% of his home country’s senior competitive international matches where he was available for selection during the two (2) years preceding the date of the application; and
- the player's National Association must be at or above 70th place in the official FIFA World Rankings when averaged over the two (2) years preceding the date of the application.
COMPETITIVE INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

The definition of a Competitive International Match means any match played in the following tournaments:

- FIFA World Cup Finals
- FIFA World Cup Qualifying group
- FIFA Confederations Cup and
- Continental Cup Qualifiers and Finals, for example:
  - UEFA European Championships and Qualifiers
  - CAF African Cup of Nations and Qualifiers
  - AFC Asia Nations Cup and Qualifiers
  - CONCACAF Gold Cup
  - CONCACAF Copa Caribe
  - UNCAF Nations Cup
  - CONMEBOL Copa America
  - OFC Nations Cup

INTERNATIONAL APPEARANCES

When submitting an application, clubs should provide written confirmation of the player’s international appearance record over the preceding two (2) years, highlighting those matches where the player took part, as well as those for which they were unavailable for selection due to injury or suspension. Confirmation of the player’s appearances should be obtained from their National Association. If this is not possible, the information will be independently verified by the FAW through all available sources. A decision cannot be made until this process has been completed and any relevant supporting evidence is submitted.

INJURY AND SUSPENSION

If a player was not available for selection for a match or series of matches due to injury or suspension and provided that written evidence is submitted to this effect, those games will be excluded from the total when calculating the player’s appearance percentage. Ideally, evidence should be obtained from the player’s National Association or Club doctor, stipulating which games the player missed through injury.

Please note that, where a player does not take part in a match, they will not be considered as injured if they were listed as a substitute and therefore any such matches will be counted as non-appearances when calculating the player’s appearance percentage.

FIFA RANKINGS

There are currently 209 international teams listed in the official FIFA World Rankings. Those countries which have regularly achieved a 70th placing or higher over a period of two years are regarded as nations who have competed regularly at a highly competitive international level and have players of the highest standard who have contributed consistently to the achievement of that ranking.
The FAW will produce the aggregated two-year rankings list on a monthly basis when the FIFA World Rankings are published. These will be made available on www.faw.cymru and those countries ranked at 70th or above in the most recent list at the time of application will be considered to have met the criterion.

**TIER 5 SWITCHING TO TIER 2**

A Player can enter under Tier 5 (if they are unable to meet the English Language requirement set by the Home Office) and then apply in country (provided this is within the first twelve (12) months) to switch to Tier 2 once they have passed the English language test. To do this the Club will be required to send a new application for a FAW Governing Body Endorsement so that a new certificate of sponsorship under Tier 2 can be assigned by the Club. The new application will need to be supported by a notification of pass or pass certificate at the agreed level from an accredited English Language Test Centre.

If, at the end of the twelve (12) month period, the player has been unable to meet the English language requirement, he will need to return home and obtain entry clearance for a further twelve (12) month period under Tier 5.

Where a player wishes to switch into Tier 2 for the remainder of their employment and they do not meet the criteria for initial applications, the application will be dealt with by consultation with the relevant football governing bodies in a similar way to extension applications. If approval is not given for the application to be progressed automatically, however, an appeal panel will be required.

**EXTENSION APPLICATIONS**

Where the player is extending his employment with the same Club -

If a Club wishes to retain the services of a player beyond the period of their FAW Governing Body Endorsement, the Club must send a new application before the player’s leave to remain expires. If the criteria are satisfied, an endorsement will be issued for the period of their contract, up to a maximum of three years. Where the player does not satisfy the criteria, the FAW will consult with the other relevant football bodies by email, providing any details put forward by the Club in favour of that individual. If it is their unanimous recommendation that the application does not need to be considered by a panel, then the case can be processed without.

If the football bodies do not unanimously agree to the renewal then the Club may request that it be considered by a panel.

**CHANGES DURING THE PERIOD OF APPROVAL**

**CHANGE OF EMPLOYMENT**

A Club wishing to sign a player who has been granted a FAW Governing Body Endorsement through another Club must send a new application for a governing body endorsement to the FAW. If the criteria are satisfied, a FAW Governing Body Endorsement will be issued for a maximum of three (3) years in respect of their employment with the new Club. If the criteria are not satisfied, the FAW will consult with the relevant football bodies by email, providing any details put forward by the Club in favour of the player, such as their appearance record for that Club and details of how far they meet the criteria. If it is their unanimous recommendation that the application does not need to be considered by a panel, then the case can be processed without. If any party expresses concern about the application, an appeal panel will be required.
TEMPORARY TRANSFER OF REGISTRATION (LOANS)

For the purpose of these requirements, loans are defined as temporary transfers which do not extend beyond the end of the season in which the registration is temporarily transferred. Loans are only permissible within the player’s current period of approval and should not be used to avoid making extension or change of employment applications.

TO ANOTHER CLUB IN THE UK OR OVERSEAS

If a player on a Certificate of Sponsorship is moving to another Club, (either in the UK or abroad) on a loan basis, the player’s parent Club must notify the Home Office of the temporary transfer and the change of location via the sponsor management system.

For the duration of the loan period, the loaning Club retains overall responsibility for the player as his employer and sponsor and the player is granted permission to move temporarily under the provisions of his current leave, provided that the Certificate of Sponsorship assigned by the loaning Club is valid for the duration of the loan period. This means that where the loan is to another Club within Wales, neither the parent Club nor the loanee Club has to send a new application for a governing body endorsement to the FAW. Where the loan is to a Club within another Home Association, the player will have to satisfy that Home Association’s governing body endorsement process.

When the player returns to their parent Club after the loan period, the player does not need to be assessed again against the entry criteria and may simply resume their employment with their original Club (provided that their FAW Governing Body Endorsement remains valid beyond the date of their return), on the basis that the player has an existing Certificate of Sponsorship and has already met the entry requirements at the beginning of their employment with that Club.

TEMPORARY TRANSFER FROM A CLUB OUTSIDE THE UK TO A CLUB WITHIN WALES

Any player joining a Welsh Club on loan from an overseas Club (outside the UK) must meet all the requirements of Tier 2 or Tier 5 and therefore an application must be submitted to the FAW. International loan players are also subject to appeal panels if they do not meet the criteria.

CONTRACT CHANGES OR RE-NEGOTIATION DURING THE PERIOD OF APPROVAL

Where a Club wishes to make significant changes to the terms and conditions of the player’s contract, for instance to improve their salary or length of contract part-way through the approved period, the Club should notify the Home Office of this.

If a new application is required and the endorsement requirements are not met:

- the Club must submit a summary of the player’s domestic Club appearances over the previous twelve (12) months as well as any other information which the Club deems to be relevant to its application. The FAW will at this stage consult with the other Relevant Football Bodies by email and by doing so will provide any details put forward by the Club in support of the application. When considering the application and deciding whether the application should be granted, the FAW and Relevant Football Bodies shall consider the information which they deem to be relevant in their absolute discretion which indicates whether the player remains of sufficient quality to be awarded a FAW Governing Body Endorsement. If the majority of the FAW and Relevant Football Bodies recommend that a FAW Governing Body Endorsement should be granted, a governing body endorsement will be issued. If a majority recommendation is not given, a FAW Governing Body Endorsement will not be granted.
CEASING THE EMPLOYMENT OF A PLAYER

If a Club prematurely ceases to employ a player who has a certificate of sponsorship, the Club must inform the Home Office.

TRIALS ARRANGEMENTS

Governing body endorsements will not be issued to Clubs for the purpose of having players to trial with them. Clubs may wish to approach the UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) contact centre on 0300 123 2241 for further information should they wish to consider taking a non-European Economic Area (EEA) player on trial.

INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER WINDOWS

FAW Governing Body Endorsements may be applied for by Clubs at any time and will be considered against the criteria as above. Clubs should take into consideration the fact that a FAW Governing Body Endorsement for a player, once issued, must be used within four (4) months, unless that Club has the express approval of the FAW.

MANAGERS AND FIRST TEAM COACHES

FAW Governing Body Endorsements will be available for migrants if they meet the following criteria:

• managers and first team coaches must have overall responsibility for first team selection. Joint or partial responsibility for first team selection does not meet the criteria
• the manager or first team coach must:
  o hold a UEFA professional licence or equivalent or
  o have managed or coached in a professional league for at least two of the last five years or
  o have managed or coached an international team with a FIFA ranking of 70th or higher within the last five years.

FIFA RANKINGS

There are currently 209 international teams listed in the official FIFA World Rankings. Those countries which have regularly achieved a 70th placing or higher over a period of two (2) years are regarded as nations who have competed regularly at a highly competitive international level and have players of the highest standard who have contributed consistently to the achievement of that ranking.

The FAW will produce the aggregated two-year rankings list on a monthly basis when the FIFA World Rankings are published. These will be made available on www.faw.cymru and those countries ranked at 70th or above in the most recent list at the time of application will be considered to have met the criterion.

EXTENSION APPLICATIONS

If a Club wishes to retain the services of a manager or first team coach, they should submit a new application for a FAW Governing Body Endorsement before their current leave expires. If the governing body endorsement criteria are satisfied, an endorsement will be issued for the period of their contract, up to a maximum period appropriate for the tier under which the application is being made.
CHANGE OF EMPLOYMENT

A Club wishing to sign a manager or first team coach from another UK Club must submit an application to the FAW. If the criteria are satisfied, a FAW Governing Body Endorsement will be issued for the period of their contract, up to a maximum period appropriate for the tier under which the application is being made.

FURTHER INFORMATION

This information is available on the following websites:

The Football Association of Wales www.faw.cymru

For any queries relating to the requirements or the endorsement process please contact:

PLAYER REGISTRATIONS

Compliance Department

The Football Association of Wales
11-12 Neptune Court
Vanguard Way
Cardiff CF24 5PJ

Telephone: 02920 435830
Email: registrations@faw.co.uk

Information on visas and immigration is available on the GOV.UK website

DISPUTE HANDLING PROCEDURES

Where an application does not meet the published criteria, a Club may request a panel to consider the player’s skills and experience. In these cases, the FAW will refer the Club’s evidence to an independent panel.

Where possible the Club’s supporting evidence will be sent to the FAW and other football bodies in advance for their consideration in order to allow an informed decision.

The panel will normally consist of representatives from the Relevant Football Bodies together with up to three (3) independent experts. The FAW will endeavour to ensure there are no conflicts of interest between the independent experts and the applicant Club. If the applicant Club wishes to object to the involvement of any of the independent experts it must do so in writing at least 24 hours before the panel hearing explaining their reasons for the objection.

THE PANEL’S TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR ARE:

• to consider whether the player, manager or first team coach is of the highest calibre
• to consider whether the player, manager or first team coach is able to contribute significantly to the development of the game at the top level in Wales.

The panel will make a recommendation to the FAW whose decision will then be relayed to the Club. The details of the voting will not be disclosed. Each member of the panel will provide written reasons for their own decision to the secretary of the panel. A positive vote is required to approve an application (e.g. 4-2, 5-1 or 6-0).
Full terms of reference and roles of the panel members and the Club are available to attendees. Clubs should note that, in respect of any application, there will only be one panel available (i.e. a panel and recommendation, followed by a decision). A Club should therefore ensure that all evidence it wishes to present in support of its application is presented to the panel.

**SECTION 3**

**PROCESS FOR APPLING FOR AN ENDORSEMENT**

How to apply for governing body endorsements for Tier 2 (Sportsperson) and Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) Creative and Sporting sponsor applications.

An administration fee of £100 will be charged for each application for a FAW Governing Body Endorsement issued.

The cost of an application that is referred to a panel will be £1000.00 plus VAT to cover the fees and travel of the independent experts. The cost of the representatives of the FAW, relevant league and PFA will be met by their own organisations. Each party will meet its own costs of appeal.
Domestic Training Compensation
04f(iv) Domestic Training Compensation Regulations

1. These Regulations apply only to players moving between clubs under the jurisdiction of the Football Association of Wales (“FAW”) save that, subject to the proviso below, these Regulations will not apply to a player who moves between clubs under the jurisdiction of the FAW participating in leagues under the jurisdiction of The Football Association (“The FA”). For the avoidance of doubt movements between these clubs will be subject to the relevant compensation Rules for the league in which they participate PROVIDED THAT where a player moves between clubs under the jurisdiction of the FAW participating in leagues under the jurisdiction of The FA and the move is the player’s first registration as a professional, paragraph 3 of these Regulations will apply in respect of payment of training compensation by the signing club to each of the player’s former clubs under the jurisdiction of the FAW involved in his or her training.

2. Save as set out in paragraph 1 above, clubs under the jurisdiction of the FAW that have trained a player between the ages of 12 and 21 shall be entitled to training compensation:-

2.1. when that player signs his or her first professional contract for another club under the jurisdiction of the FAW; and

2.2. each time a professional with a club under the jurisdiction of the FAW is transferred to another club under the jurisdiction of the FAW until the end of the season of the player’s 23rd birthday.

3. The first time a player registers as a professional, the training compensation will be payable by the club signing the player as a professional to each of the player’s former clubs involved in his or her training. Such payment shall be the sole entitlement of such clubs to training compensation under these Regulations.

4. Where before the end of the season of the player’s 23rd birthday, the player subsequently transfers from one professional club to another, any applicable training compensation will be payable by the club signing the player but only to the player’s immediate former (transferring) club.
5. In the case of a subsequent transfer under paragraph 4 above, the former (transferring) club shall not be entitled to training compensation under these Regulations if:-

5.1. the former club and player have agreed a mutual termination of his or her previous contract;

5.2. the player is transferred to another club for a fee agreed between both clubs;

5.3. the player acquires amateur status upon signing for the new club;

5.4. the former club terminates the player’s contract without just cause; or

5.5. the former club does not offer the player a contract at least thirty (30) days before the expiry of his or her current contract and such offer must be of at least an equivalent value to the player’s then current contract.

6. When a player registers as a professional for the first time, the club with which he or she is registered shall be responsible for paying training compensation within thirty (30) days of registration to every club at which the player has previously been registered (in accordance with the player’s career history which shall be solely based upon the FAW’s Central Registrations Database) and that has contributed to his or her training starting from the season of his or her 12th birthday.

7. In the case of a subsequent transfer under paragraph 4 above, the club with which the player is registered shall be responsible for paying training compensation to the former (transferring) club within thirty (30) days of registration provided the former club has contributed to his or her training before they reach the age of 21.

8. The training compensation payable under these Regulations shall be calculated as follows:-

8.1. there shall be three (3) categories of clubs and payments:-

8.1.1. **Category 1: £2,500 per season** (Cardiff City FC, Swansea City AFC) (25% of the set FIFA Training Compensation);

8.1.2. **Category 2: £625 per season** (Wrexham AFC, Newport County AFC and all clubs with a FAW recognised academy at U12, U14 & U16 level) (25% of Category 1); and

8.1.3. **Category 3: £156 per season** (all other clubs under the jurisdiction of the FAW except that no training compensation shall be payable in respect of a “Junior” player to a Category 3 club for any season in which the club did not hold “Standard Level” accreditation under the FAW’s Club Accreditation Scheme) (25% of Category 2).

8.2. The training compensation payable to the former club(s) shall be calculated by multiplying the number of whole seasons (commencing 1st August each year) the former club trained the player by the sum of the Category of the said two (2) clubs divided by two (2) (rounded up to the nearest pound, if applicable). In such calculation, the relevant Category of each club will be their Category at the time the player signs the contract. For example, a player is registered at a Category 2 club for five (5) full seasons between the ages of 12 and 16. The player signs a first professional contract for a Category 1 club. The training club is still a Category 2 club at the time the player signs.

The sum will be: (£2,500 + £625) divided by two (2) = £1,563.
The Category 1 club must pay the Category 2 club compensation of:

Five (5) complete seasons x £1,563 = £7,815.

8.3. It shall be the responsibility of the former club (claiming compensation) to calculate the amount of training compensation due and to inform the paying (signing) club. The former club shall provide all information and evidence reasonably necessary to support its claim. Such claim must be lodged within eighteen (18) months of the player signing with the paying club. Time shall be of the essence in this respect.

9. In the case of a dispute over whether training compensation is payable under these Regulations, or the amount of training compensation payable to any club, the dispute shall be submitted to the FAW Disciplinary Panel for resolution in accordance with the FAW Rules.

10. These Regulations are subject to review on an annual basis, although such review need not result in any change to these Regulations.
Agent Regulations
INTRODUCTION AND INTERPRETATION
These Regulations have been written in compliance with FIFA’s requirement that National Associations have regulations governing the engagement of services provided by intermediaries and must be read in conjunction with the ‘FIFA Regulations on Working with Intermediaries’. In the event of any conflict these Regulations shall apply.
In accordance with FAW Rule 3, these Regulations will be binding on all Intermediaries.
These Regulations will supersede any previous FIFA Agent Regulations and FAW Regulations concerning Intermediaries.

1. SCOPE, GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND ELIGIBILITY

1.1. Only an Intermediary may be used and paid by a Player or Club in relation to any Intermediary Activity. Alternatively, a Player or Club may represent themselves in any matter to a Transaction.

1.2. A Player or Club must not use or pay any person for Intermediary Activity unless that person has received confirmation from the FAW that his application has been received and that he has either been provisionally registered by the FAW as an Intermediary or that his application has been approved and is therefore entitled to act under a valid Representation Contract. An Intermediary must not carry out any Intermediary Activity in place of, or on behalf of, or as an agent or representative of, any person other than the Player and/or the Club he is engaged to act for (unless in accordance with clause 2.6).

1.3. A Club, Player, Intermediary or other participant must not so arrange matters as to conceal or misrepresent the reality and/or substance of any matter in relation to the Transaction.

1.4. Any party to a Transaction is prohibited from:-

   1.4.1. proposing in any way, either directly or indirectly, to any other party to the Transaction that the Transaction is dependent upon a Player’s agreement to contract with a specific Intermediary; or

   1.4.2. making the Transaction conditional on a Player’s agreement to contract with a specific Intermediary.

1.5. A Club shall use reasonable endeavours to ensure that its Club Officials and Manager comply with the requirements of these Regulations.

1.6. An Intermediary, Club and Player must ensure that all relevant contracts and documents contain the name, signature and registration number of each and every Intermediary.
carrying out any Intermediary Activity in relation to a Transaction (whether directly or indirectly), as well as any other information as may be required by the FAW from time to time. If a Player or Club has not used the services of an Intermediary at any time in a Transaction, this fact must be stated in all relevant documents in respect of such Transaction.

1.7. Any natural or legal person who wishes to act as an Intermediary shall apply for registration with the FAW on a form as may be prescribed by the FAW from time to time. The Registration, if approved, will be valid for one (1) year.

1.8. A natural or legal person who wishes to register with the FAW to act as an Intermediary will be required to pay a fee of five hundred pounds (£500.00) or any other fee that may be prescribed by the FAW from time to time. A natural or legal person already registered with the FAW to act as an Intermediary will be required to pay a fee of two hundred and fifty pounds (£250.00) or any other fee prescribed by the FAW from time to time in order to renew that Registration.

1.9. Any natural or legal person who wishes to act as an Intermediary will be required to maintain during the course of their Registration a full and comprehensive Insurance Policy in respect of the provision of Intermediary Activity and as a requirement of Registration a copy of a valid Insurance Policy will be lodged with the FAW.

1.10. An Official (as defined by the FIFA Statutes or any successor hereto) or a Player cannot register as an Intermediary. In the event of an Intermediary becoming an Official or a Player he shall have his Registration suspended for as long as he remains an Official or a Player.

1.11. A natural person seeking to register as an Intermediary will be required to satisfy the FAW of his impeccable reputation before such Registration will be approved, on terms stipulated from time to time. As such, Intermediaries are obliged to notify the FAW within ten (10) Business Days of any change in circumstances relating to an Intermediary’s impeccable reputation.

1.12. Should the FAW become aware of any change in circumstances which affects or could affect the impeccable reputation of a natural person registered as an Intermediary the FAW can, in its absolute discretion, suspend the Registration of the Intermediary and will automatically refer the matter to the Disciplinary Panel. In these circumstances, the suspension of the Registration will remain in force until the Disciplinary Panel has completed its consideration of the suspension and made its own order in respect of the cancellation or continuation of the suspension. The relevant provisions of Section E of the FAW Rules shall apply to the Disciplinary Panel’s consideration of the matter, including in respect of any hearing and any subsequent appeal.

1.13. Where, for any reason, the FAW is not prepared to approve the Intermediary’s application for Registration, the FAW shall, other than in the circumstances described in 1.19 below, upon receiving written notice from the applicant within 7 Business Days of the FAW issuing notification of its decision, refer the matter to the Disciplinary Panel who shall make a final decision on whether or not to grant the application (and, if granted, with or without conditions). The relevant provisions of Section E of the FAW Rules shall apply to the Disciplinary Panel’s consideration of the matter, including in respect of any hearing and any subsequent appeal.

1.14. A natural or legal person may appeal against the decision of the Disciplinary Panel of the FAW Judicial Bodies to reject an application for Registration or to continue to suspend or to revoke a Registration to either the Appeals Panel or the Independent Arbitration Panel of the FAW Judicial Bodies in accordance with the procedures as set out under Section E of the FAW Rules.

1.15. If the appeal is upheld the FAW will approve the natural or legal person’s Registration or revoke the suspension of the Registration but shall not accrue any liability of any nature whatsoever.
to the natural or legal person arising out of, or in connection with, any decision or action taken or omitted by the FAW in relation to the determination of, suspension or revocation of the natural or legal person’s Registration.

REGISTRATION PROCESS AND CONDITIONS

1.16. As soon as the FAW receives the application for Registration on the appropriate form or forms as may be prescribed by the FAW from time to time and the appropriate application fee as may be prescribed by the FAW from time to time has been paid the natural or legal person will receive confirmation that he has been provisionally registered as an Intermediary. Upon receiving confirmation of provisional Registration he will be entitled to carry out Intermediary Activity within Wales subject to the provisions of 1.19 below.

1.17. The provisional Registration of an Intermediary as referred to in 1.16 above, will only proceed to full Registration upon confirmation from the FAW that the conditions relating to the impeccable reputation of the Intermediary (referred to in 1.11 above) as well as any other conditions that the FAW, in its sole discretion, may stipulate from time to time have been satisfied. Once the FAW has satisfied itself of the Intermediary’s impeccable reputation it will confirm to him that his full Registration as an Intermediary has been approved.

1.18. As soon as his Registration has been approved by the FAW, the Intermediary will be entitled to use the following designation, and no variation thereof, after his name and business relations; “FAW Registered Intermediary”. An Intermediary shall not be entitled to hold himself out as having any connection with the FAW other than this designation (for the avoidance of doubt usage of the FAW’s crest by the Intermediary is prohibited).

1.19. If the natural or legal person does not provide all of the information as required by the FAW within ten (10) Business Days from the date of the application for Registration, the provisional Registration will automatically lapse and the application for Registration as an Intermediary will not be approved. In these circumstances the natural or legal person will not be registered to carry out Intermediary Activity within Wales and all such activity must cease immediately.

1.20. Where a natural or legal person allows a provisional Registration to lapse in accordance with the provisions referred to in 1.19 above, that natural or legal person will be, in any future application for Registration, required to provide all of the information as required by the FAW to establish his impeccable reputation before being able to carry out any Intermediary Activity within Wales and will not be entitled to obtain provisional Registration as per the provisions of 1.16 above.

1.21. An Intermediary must procure that the Organisation with which they are associated complies with any requirements of the FAW pursuant to its Rules and Regulations.

REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO MINORS

1.22. Prior to entering into a Representation Contract with a Minor or with a Club in respect of a Minor, an Intermediary must obtain permission from the FAW to deal with Minors, which shall include the Intermediary undertaking an Enhanced DBS check for Regulated Activity to the satisfaction of the FAW. This authorisation can be applied for by an Intermediary when registering with the FAW or at any point after his Registration. This authorisation shall be valid for 3 years subject to the Intermediary being registered for 3 years.

1.23. Only a natural person registering as an Intermediary can register to work with Minors.
1.24. An Intermediary applying to deal with Minors shall be required to satisfy the FAW of his suitability, on the terms that shall be stipulated by the FAW from time to time.

REQUIREMENTS OF LEGAL PERSONS

1.25. A legal person can only be registered as an Intermediary by a natural person already registered as an Intermediary.

1.26. A legal person registered as an Intermediary shall be responsible for declaring those natural persons registered as Intermediaries who are authorized to conduct Intermediary Activity on behalf of the legal person.

1.27. Any Intermediary Activity carried out on behalf of a legal person registered as an Intermediary must be carried out by a natural person registered as an Intermediary and authorised to represent the legal person pursuant to clause 1.7 of these Regulations.

1.28. When a legal person registered as an Intermediary carries out Intermediary Activity for or on behalf of a Player and/or a Club in a Transaction, the name, signature and registration number of the natural person representing said legal person pursuant to clause 1.23 of these Regulations, must appear on all relevant paperwork as is required by the FAW from time to time.

1.29. For the purpose of clause 4.2 of these regulations when a legal person registered as an Intermediary is involved in a Transaction, the FAW will publish the name of the natural person declared as representing the legal person in said Transaction.

2. REPRESENTATION CONTRACT

2.1. An Intermediary and a Player or Club (as applicable) must have entered into a validly executed written Representation Contract prior to the Intermediary carrying out any Intermediary Activity on its behalf.

2.2. The Representation Contract must contain the entire agreement between parties in relation to the Intermediary Activity and shall, as a minimum, contain all Obligatory Terms of the relevant Standard Representation Contract. The parties may add other terms so long as they are consistent with the Obligatory Terms of the Standard Representation Contract and the requirements of these Regulations and the FIFA ‘Regulations on Working with Intermediaries’.

2.3. All parties to a Representation Contract must ensure that copies of any and all Representation Contracts that came into force after 1st April 2015 and to which they are a party are lodged with the FAW in any manner as may be prescribed from time to time. Representation Contracts must be lodged within ten (10) Business Days of being executed and in any event no later than at the time of the registration of a Transaction by the FAW.

2.4. Any term of a Representation Contract that breaches the requirements of these Regulations or the FIFA ‘Regulations on Working with Intermediaries’, is not permitted. In such cases, the FAW shall have the power to notify the parties of any such breach whereupon the parties shall remedy the breach by making the necessary amendments as notified. Failure to remedy any breach shall constitute a breach of these Regulations, separate from and in addition to the initial breach.

2.5. All parties to a Representation Contract must inform the FAW in writing of any early termination, novation, variation or other events that affects the validity or status of a Representation Contract (except natural expiration) within ten (10) Business Days of such event.
2.6. Where an Intermediary assigns or subcontracts any Intermediary Activity duties or services or responsibilities in relation to a Player or a Club to another Intermediary, the Intermediary must:-

2.6.1. lodge with the FAW a copy of the Representation Contract between the assigning or subcontracting Intermediary and the Player or Club in accordance with clause 2.3 of these Regulations;

2.6.2. record the terms upon which those obligations are assigned or subcontracted and incorporate the written consent of the Player or Club in a single document; and

2.6.3. complete and lodge with the FAW such document in the same way as a Representation Contract under clause 2.3 of these Regulations.

2.7. Where a Player has a non-exclusive Representation Contract with an Intermediary, a Club must deal with that Intermediary in relation to any Transaction concerning the Player, unless the Player provides a prior written request to the Club requesting it not to do so; such written request also to be provided by the player to the Intermediary as soon as reasonably practicable and in any event prior to the Transaction taking place.

2.8. An Intermediary must not either directly or indirectly, make any approach to, or enter into any agreement, with a Player in relation to any Intermediary Activity before 1st January of the year of the Player’s 16th birthday.

2.9. An Intermediary cannot enter into a Representation Contract with a Minor unless it is countersigned by the Minor’s parent or guardian with parental responsibility and has the authorisation of the FAW to do so.

2.10. An Intermediary can only enter into a Representation Contract with a player for a maximum of 2 years.

3. PAYMENT TO INTERMEDIARIES

3.1. An Intermediary may be remunerated by the Club or the Player for whom he acts. Payments must be made in accordance with the terms of the Representation Contract between the parties or the relevant paperwork submitted to FAW to register the Transaction.

3.2. Where an Intermediary undertakes Intermediary Activity for the Player, the Player may discharge his obligations to pay the Intermediary as specified in the Representation Contract between the parties or the relevant paperwork submitted to the FAW to register the Transaction in one or more of the following ways only:-

3.2.1. the Player may pay the Intermediary Directly; or

3.2.2. where the Player makes a request in writing to the Club, the Club may:-

3.2.2.1. make an actual deduction in periodic instalment(s) form the Players net salary in favour of the Intermediary, so that the sums are deducted and paid in discharge of the Player’s obligation to the Intermediary contained in the relevant Representation Contract or paperwork submitted to the FAW; and/or

3.2.2.2. discharge the Player’s liability towards his Intermediary, as contained in the relevant Representation Contract or the relevant paperwork submitted to the FAW, on the Player’s behalf as a taxable benefit.
3.3. Where the Intermediary and the Player agree in the Representation Contract that a commission (lump sum or instalments) is to be paid in respect of a Transaction it shall be calculated on the basis of the Player’s Basic Gross Income as set out on the employment contract concluded by the Player in respect of which he was represented by the Intermediary.

3.4. Where the Intermediary and the Player agree periodic instalments and the Player’s employment contract in respect of which he is represented by the Intermediary lasts longer than the Representation Contract, the Intermediary is entitled to the agreed instalments after expiry of the Representation Contract, until the Player’s employment contract expires or, if earlier, until the Player signs a new employment contract without the involvement of that Intermediary.

3.5. Any and all remuneration or payments of whatever nature, and however arising, and whether direct or indirect, made to any natural or legal person in relation to any Intermediary Activity for or on behalf of a Club, must be paid by the Club only, and must be fully recorded in the accounting records of the Club. This does not prevent an Intermediary acting for a Club from paying another Intermediary with whom he has assigned or sub-contracted any Intermediary Activity duties or services or responsibilities in accordance with clause 2.6 of these Regulations.

3.6. Where the Intermediary and the Club agree that such commission is to be paid, they shall also agree in the Representation Contract what the commission shall be and whether the Club shall remunerate the Intermediary with a lump sum payment at the start of the employment contract of the Player who was subject to the Transaction or whether the Club will pay by periodic instalments and/or whether such commission (or any instalment or part thereof) shall be conditional in any way.

3.7. Save when acting further to clause 2.6 of these Regulations, an Intermediary, or an Intermediary’s Organisation, must not pass any remuneration directly relating to Intermediary Activity to any other person. This does not affect the ability of the Organisation to pay its employees or contractors pursuant to their employment or other contracts or any other parties for purposes unrelated to any Intermediary Activity.

3.8. A Club which pays to a club a compensation payment and/or any Solidarity Payment and/or any Domestic or International Training Compensation, or other sum properly payable as consideration for, or in connection with, a Transaction must ensure that it pays such amount(s) only to the club and/or any other clubs and/or persons to whom the same is payable in accordance with any applicable competition rules and/or the Rules and/or the Regulations of the FAW. A Club must not pay any amount to any other third party (including but not limited to any Intermediary involved with the Transaction) save with the express consent of the appropriate governing body in respect of the Transaction in question.

3.9. Players and/or Clubs that engage the services of an Intermediary when negotiating an employment contract and/or a transfer agreement are prohibited from making any payment to such Intermediary if the Player concerned is a Minor.

3.10. As a recommendation, Players, Clubs and Intermediaries may adopt the following benchmarks:-

3.10.1. the total amount of remuneration per Transaction due to Intermediaries who have been engaged to act on a Player’s behalf should not exceed three percent (3%) of the Player’s Basic Gross Income for the entire duration of the relevant employment contract.
3.10.2. the total amount of remuneration per Transaction due to Intermediaries who have been engaged to act on a Club’s behalf in order to conclude an employment contract with a Player should not exceed three percent (3%) of the Player’s eventual Basic Gross Income for the entire duration of the relevant employment contract.

3.10.3. subject to clause 6.3 of these Regulations, the total amount of remuneration per Transaction due to Intermediaries who have been engaged to act on a Club’s behalf in order to conclude a transfer agreement should not exceed three percent (3%) of the eventual transfer compensation paid in connection with the relevant transfer of the Player.

4. DISCLOSURE & PUBLICATION

4.1. The FAW shall be entitled to publish the name and registration number of every Intermediary, as well as, where applicable, the name of the Organisation (or legal person registered as an Intermediary) he is connected with.

4.2. The FAW shall be entitled to publish in any manner at any time it considers appropriate, the list of every Transaction in which any Intermediary has been involved.

4.3. The FAW shall be entitled to publish, in any manner it considers appropriate, the total consolidated amount of all payments paid by all Players to intermediaries and the total consolidated amount of all payments made by each Club to Intermediaries.

4.4. The FAW shall be entitled to publish the findings of disciplinary proceedings against an Intermediary who has breached these Regulations.

4.5. The FAW shall be entitled to publish, in any manner it considers appropriate, the suspension or revocation of the Registration of an Intermediary.

5. CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

5.1. An Intermediary may only act for one party to a Transaction save where the Intermediary and other relevant parties comply in full with the requirements regarding consent for dual/multiple representation set out in clauses 5.2 and 5.3 below. The content of clauses 5.2 and 5.3 must also be complied with prior to any situation where two or more Connected Intermediaries are proposing to act for more than one party to a Transaction. In that case, the Connected Intermediaries will collectively be required to comply with the requirements of clauses 5.2 and 5.3.

5.2. An Intermediary may undertake Intermediary Activity for more than one party in relation to a Transaction, only where the following requirements are met in full:-

5.2.1. the Intermediary has a pre-existing Representation Contract with one party to the Transaction (“the first party”) and the Representation Contract has been lodged with the FAW in accordance with the requirements of clause 2 of these Regulations. Alternatively, the Intermediary has entered into a sub-contract agreement in relation to the first party in accordance with the requirements of clause 2.6; and

5.2.2. the Intermediary obtains all parties prior written consent to him providing services to any other party to the Transaction (the other parties) in a form prescribed by the FAW from time to time; and

5.2.3. once the Intermediary and the other parties have agreed terms, (but prior to them entering into a Representation Contract), the Intermediary must inform all parties in
the form prescribed by the FAW from time to time of the full particulars of the proposed arrangements including, without limitation, the proposed fee (if any) to be paid by all the parties to the Intermediary; and

5.2.4. all parties are given the reasonable opportunity to take independent legal advice and/or in the case of a Player, to take advice from the Professional Footballers Association prior to providing written consent in the form prescribed by the FAW from time to time; and

5.2.5. having been given such opportunity, all parties provide their express written consent for the Intermediary to enter into a Representation Contract with the other party(ies) on the proposed terms in the form prescribed by the FAW from time to time.

5.3. Where any party does not provide its express consent in accordance with the above requirements, the Intermediary is not permitted to proceed with the provision of services to the other party(ies), or receive any remuneration from the other party(ies) in respect of the Transaction, and the other parties are not permitted to receive any services from the Intermediary or make any payment to the Intermediary in respect of the relevant Transaction. The Intermediary may continue to represent the first party (only) in respect of the relevant Transaction and be paid for such services in accordance with clause 3 of these Regulations and the terms of the relevant Representation Contract.

6. RESTRICTION ON CONFLICT OF INTEREST

6.1. An Intermediary or an Intermediary Organisation shall not have an interest in a Club. Similarly, a Player, Club, Club Official or Manager shall not have any interest in the business or affairs of an Intermediary or Intermediary’s Organisations.

Such interest shall be defined as:-

6.1.1. beneficial ownership of more than 5% of any entity, firm or company through which the activities of the Club or Intermediary (as applicable) are conducted; and/or

6.1.2. being in a position or having any association that may enable the exercise of a material, financial, commercial, administrative, managerial or any other influence over the affairs of the Club or Intermediary (as applicable) whether direct or indirectly and whether formally or informally.

6.2. An interest for the purpose of clauses 6.1.1 and 6.1.2 above includes an interest of:-

6.2.1. a spouse, child, stepchild, parent or sibling of the Intermediary, Player, Club Official or Manager (as applicable); and/or

6.2.2. a company in which any legal or beneficial interest or any proportion or share is held by the Intermediary, Player, Club Official or Manager or any spouse, child, stepchild, parent or sibling of the Intermediary, Player, Club Official or Manager (as applicable); and/or

6.2.3. a company over whose financial, commercial, administrative, managerial affairs any other control or influence can be exercised by the spouse, child, stepchild, parent or sibling of the Intermediary, Player, Club Official or Manager (as applicable).

6.3. An Intermediary must not have, either directly or indirectly, any interest of any nature whatsoever in relation to a registration right or an economic right. This includes, but is not limited to, owning any interest in any transfer compensation or any future transfer value of a player. This does not prevent an Intermediary acting solely for a Club in a Transaction being
remunerated by reference to the total amount of the transfer compensation generated by the Transaction.

6.4. An Intermediary must not give, offer or seek to offer, any consideration of any kind, either directly or indirectly, to any Club, Club Official, Manager or Player as a result of, or in connection with, a Transaction or in return for any benefit, service, favour or any kind of preferential treatment in respect of the Club’s Players, access to those Players or the promotion of the Intermediary’s services with those Players. Clubs, Club Officials, Managers and Players are prohibited from accepting such offers or receiving such consideration.

6.5. An Intermediary must not give, offer or seek to offer, any consideration of any kind, either directly or indirectly, to a Player (or any family member of that Player) in relation to entering into a Representation Contract with that Intermediary. Players are prohibited from accepting such offers or receiving such consideration.

7. **DUTY TO DISCLOSE**

7.1. A Player, Club, Club Official or Manager must disclose to the FAW any agreement or contractual or other arrangement whether formal or informal that exists between any Player, Club, Club Official or Manager and any Intermediary (or any Intermediary’s Organisation) whereby any money is paid by or on behalf of such Intermediary (or such Intermediary’s Organisation) to such Player, Club, Club Official or Manager. Such disclosure must be made within ten (10) Business Days of the Intermediary entering into such a contractual or customary arrangement with the Player, Club, Club Official or Manager.

7.2. An Intermediary must disclose to the FAW any agreement or contractual or other arrangement whether formal or informal that exist between that Intermediary and any Club Official, Manager or Club in respect of a Club Official or Manager whereby such Intermediary represents the interests of any such Club Official, Manager or Club in respect of a Club Official or Manager. Such disclosure must be made within Ten (10) Business Days of:-

7.2.1. the Intermediary entering into such an agreement or contractual or other arrangement with a Club Official, Manager or Club in respect of a Club Official or Manager; or

7.2.2. an individual becoming a Club Official or Manager and having pre-existing agreement or contractual or other arrangement with an Intermediary; or

7.2.3. a natural or legal person registering as an Intermediary and having a pre-existing agreement or contractual or other arrangement with a Club Official, Manager, or Club in respect of a Club Official or Manager.

7.3. Intermediaries, Players, Clubs, Club Officials and Managers shall disclose in writing any actual or potential conflict of interest they might have in relation to a Transaction and shall obtain the express written consent of the other parties involved in the matter (in a form prescribed by the FAW from time to time) in order for their activity in the Transaction to continue. A copy of this form shall be disclosed to the FAW within 10 Business Days of being completed and in any event no later than at the time of the Registration of a Transaction by the FAW.

8. **BREACH OF THESE REGULATIONS**

8.1. Any breach or allegation of breach of these Regulations shall be dealt with by the Judicial Bodies of the FAW in accordance with Section E of the FAW Rules.
9. MISCELLANEOUS

9.1. To the extent that any provision of these Regulations or its performance contravenes any applicable law or regulation, it shall be deemed to be null and void; provided, however, that such determination shall not affect the validity and enforceability of any other provision of these Regulations, which shall remain in full force and effect.

DEFINITIONS

The following terms shall have the following meaning meanings:

“Basic Gross Income” means a Player's basic gross salary or wage, excluding any bonus that is conditional upon the Player and/or his Club's performance. For the avoidance of doubt, benefits and privileges are also excluded from the Basic Gross Income.

“Business Days” means any day of the week except a Saturday or Sunday or public bank holiday in Wales.

“Club” means any football club which is affiliated to the Football Association of Wales, or directly affiliated Area Association other than those clubs referred to in the FAW Ceding Regulations 2011.

“club” means any football club that plays the game of football in any country in any country in a competition sanctioned and recognised by the relevant National Association.

“Club Official” in these regulations shall mean any official, director, secretary, servant or representative of a Club.

“Connected Intermediary” means an intermediary who is connected to another intermediary as a result of:-

i) them being employed or retained by, shareholder in or director or co-owner of the same Organisation or legal person registered as an intermediary; or

ii) being representative of a legal person registered as an intermediary pursuant to clause 1 of these regulations;

iii) them being married to, sibling of, or parent, child or stepchild of the other Intermediary; or

iv) them having made any contractual or other arrangement whether formal or informal to co-operate in the provision of any Intermediary Activity or to share the revenue or profits of any part of their Intermediary Activity.

“Disciplinary Panel” means the first instance panel of the Association constituted and empowered to hear disciplinary matters and disputes pursuant to Section E of the FAW Rules.

“Insurance Policy” means commercial general liability insurance cover to provide cover for all liability arising out of or connected to Intermediary Activity.

“Intermediary” means any natural or legal person who carries out Intermediary Activity and has registered with the FAW in accordance with Clause 1.

“Intermediary Activity” means acting in any way and at any time either, directly or indirectly, for or on behalf of a Player or a Club in relation to any matter relating to a Transaction. This includes, but is not limited to, entering into a Representation Contract with a Player or a Club.

For the avoidance of doubt, a Club Official is not acting as an Intermediary when he carries out any Intermediary Activity in relation to any matter relating to a Transaction for or on behalf of that Club. Similarly, a lawyer is not acting as an Intermediary when he solely and exclusively undertakes or provides Permitted Legal Advice in relation to any matter relating to a Transaction.
“Lawyer” means an individual who is duly authorised by the appropriate professional or regulatory body to act in the capacity of solicitor or barrister in the United Kingdom, or the equivalent profession in a jurisdiction outside of the United Kingdom.

“Minor” means a Player who has yet not yet reached the age of 18.

“Obligatory Term” means clauses set out in a Standard Representation Contract, and marked in bold (bold or italics) therein, that parties are required under clause 2 of these regulations to include unaltered in a Representation Contract.

“Organisation” means an agency, person, firm or company retaining, comprising, employing, or otherwise acting as a vehicle for one or more Intermediaries and not registered as an Intermediary itself pursuant to clause 2 of these regulations.

“Manager” means the Official of a Club responsible for selecting a Club team.

“Permitted Legal Advice” means advice or assistance provided by a Lawyer to a Club or Player, either directly or indirectly, in relation to any Transaction where:

i) the Lawyer has entered into terms of engagement with the Club in a form required by the Lawyer’s professional regulator and solely operates under those terms; and

ii) the lawyer is providing the advice or assistance as part of a practise which is regulated by the Lawyer’s profession; and

iii) the advice or assistance either related to:

a) the legal form of the documents that arise out of the Transaction, or the legal implications of that Transaction, as opposed to the negotiation of the substantive terms of the Transaction and, in particular, the remuneration terms of the Transactions; or

b) a dispute arising out of a transaction; and

c) the Lawyer is remunerated in a manner which is consistent with the manner in which Lawyers are ordinarily remunerated for carrying out such services or assistance.

“Player” means a player of Association Football registered with the Association, an Area Association, Qualifying Club or any other league or club.

“player” means any football player who plays the game of football in any country and is recognised as such by their National Association.

“Registration” means completion of the process defined from time to time by the FAW whereby a natural or legal person registers with the FAW as an Intermediary.

“Representation Contract” means any agreement between an Intermediary (on the one hand), and a player and/or Club (on the other hand), the purpose or effect which is to cover the provision of Intermediary Activity. A Representation Contract must comply with the Obligatory Terms of a Standard Representation Contract.

“Solidarity Payment” means any payment pursuant to the requirements of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players in relation to the Solidarity Mechanism as defined within those regulations or any successor or replacement thereof.

“Standard Representation Contract” is a Representation Contract in the form prescribed by the FAW from time to time.

“Training Compensation Payment” means any payment pursuant to the requirements of the FIFA
Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and the FAW Regulations in relation to the Training Compensation Payment as defined within those regulations or any successor or replacement thereof.

“Transaction” means any negotiation or related activity, including any communication relating or preparatory to the same, the intention or effect of which is to create, terminate or vary the terms of a player’s contract of employment with a Club to facilitate or effect the registration of a player with a Club, or the transfer of the registration of a player from a club to a Club (whether temporary or permanent basis). A completed Transaction is one that has so achieved the creation, termination or variation of the terms of the Player’s contract or employment with a Club, the registration of the player with a Club or the transfer of the registration from a club to a Club.
04f (vi)
Status & Transfer of Futsal Players
PREAMBLE

Set out below are the FIFA Rules for the Status and Transfer of Futsal Players. These rules are an integral part (Annex 7) of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (the “Regulations”) and should be read at all times in conjunction with the Regulations, a copy of which can be viewed or downloaded from www.fifa.com.

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of these rules, the terms set out below are defined as follows:

**Former association:** the association to which the former club is affiliated.

**New association:** the association to which the new club is affiliated.

**New club:** the club that the player is joining.

**Official matches:** matches played in the framework of organised football, such as national league championships, national cups and international championships for clubs, but not including friendly and trial matches.

**Organised football:** association football organised under the auspices of FIFA, the confederations and the associations, or authorised by them.

**Registration period:** a period fixed by the relevant association in accordance with article 6 of the Regulations.

**Season:** the period starting with the first official match of the relevant national league championship and ending with the last official match of the relevant national league championship.

**Training compensation:** the payments made in accordance with Annexe 4 to cover the development of young players.

**Minor:** a player who has not yet reached the age of 18.

**Eleven-a-side football:** football played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as authorised by the International Football Association Board.

**Futsal:** football played in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game that have been drawn up by FIFA in collaboration with the Sub-Committee of the International Football Association Board.

**NB:** Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.
FIFA RULES FOR THE STATUS AND TRANSFER OF FUTSAL PLAYERS (ANNEXE 7)

1. **PRINCIPLE**

These rules are an integral part of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.

2. **SCOPE**

1. The Rules for the Status and Transfer of Futsal Players establish global and binding provisions concerning the status of futsal players, their eligibility to participate in organised football, and their transfer between clubs belonging to different associations.

2. The Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players shall apply without alterations to futsal players unless a diverging provision in this Annexe 7 expressly provides for a different rule applicable to futsal.

3. The transfer of futsal players between clubs belonging to the same Association is governed by specific regulations issued by the Association in accordance with art. 1 of these regulations.

4. The following provisions in the Regulations are binding for futsal at national level and shall be included, without modification, in the association's regulations: art. 2-8, 10, 11, 12bis, 18, 18bis, 18ter, 19 and 19bis.

5. Each association shall include in its regulations appropriate means to protect contractual stability, paying due respect to mandatory national law and collective bargaining agreements. In particular, the principles in art. 1 par. 3(b) of the Regulations shall be considered.

3. **RELEASE AND ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS FOR ASSOCIATION TEAMS**

1. The provisions in Annexe 1 of the Regulations are binding.

2. A player may only represent one association in both futsal and eleven-a-side football. Any player who has already represented one association (either in full or in part) in an official eleven-a-side or futsal competition of any category may not play an international match with another association team. This provision is subject to the exception in art. 5 par. 2 and art. 8 of the Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes.

4. **REGISTRATION OF FUTSAL PLAYERS**

1. A futsal player must be registered with an association to play for a club as either a professional or an amateur in accordance with the provisions of art. 2 of the Regulations. Only registered players are eligible to participate in organised football. By the act of registering, a player agrees to abide by the Statutes and regulations of FIFA, the confederations and the associations.

2. A player may only be registered for one futsal club at a time. A player may, however, also be registered for one eleven-a-side club during this time. It is not necessary for the futsal and the eleven-a-side club to belong to the same association.

3. Players may be registered with a maximum of three futsal clubs during one season. During this period, the player is only eligible to play official matches for two futsal clubs. As an exception to this rule, a player moving between two futsal clubs belonging to associations with overlapping seasons (i.e. start of the season in the summer/autumn
as opposed to winter/spring) may be eligible to play in official matches for a third futsal club during the relevant season, provided he has fully complied with his contractual obligations toward his previous club. Equally, the provisions relating to the registration period (art. 6 of the Regulations) as well as to the minimum length of a contract (art. 18 par. 2 of the Regulations) must be respected. The number of eleven-a-side clubs with which the same player may also be registered during one season is specified in art. 5 par. 3 of the Regulations.

5. INTERNATIONAL FUTSAL TRANSFER CERTIFICATE

1. Futsal players registered with one association may only be registered with a futsal club of a new association once the latter has received an International Futsal Transfer Certificate (hereinafter: IFTC) from the former association. The IFTC shall be issued free of charge without any conditions or time limitation. Any provision to the contrary shall be null and void. The association issuing the IFTC shall deposit a copy with FIFA. The administrative procedures for issuing an International Transfer Certificate (ITC) for eleven-a-side football shall be likewise applicable to the issuing of an IFTC. These procedures are set out in Annexe 3a of the Regulations. The IFTC must be distinguishable from the ITC used in eleven-a-side football.

2. An IFTC is not required for a player under the age of 10.

6. ENFORCEMENT OF DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

1. A suspension imposed in terms of matches (cf. art. 20 paras 1 and 2 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code) on a player for an infringement committed when playing futsal or in relation to a futsal match shall only affect the player’s participation for his futsal club. Similarly, a suspension imposed in terms of matches on a player participating in eleven-a-side football shall only affect the player’s participation for his eleven-a-side club.

2. A suspension imposed in terms of days and months shall affect a player’s participation for both his futsal as well as his eleven-a-side club, regardless of whether the infringement was committed in eleven-a-side football or futsal.

3. The association with which a player is registered shall notify a suspension imposed in terms of days and months to the second association with which this player may be registered, if the player is registered for a futsal and an eleven-a-side club belonging to two different associations.

4. Any disciplinary sanction of up to four matches or up to three months that has been imposed on a player by the former association but not yet (entirely) served by the time of the transfer shall be enforced by the new association at which the player has been registered in order for the sanction to be served at domestic level. When issuing the IFTC, the former association shall notify the new association in writing of any such disciplinary sanction that has yet to be (entirely) served.

5. Any disciplinary sanction of more than four matches or more than three months that has not yet been (entirely) served by a player shall be enforced by the new association that has registered the player only if the FIFA Disciplinary Committee has extended the disciplinary sanction to have worldwide effect. Additionally, when issuing the IFTC, the former association shall notify the new association in writing of any such pending disciplinary sanction.
7. RESPECT OF CONTRACT
1. A professional under contract with an eleven-a-side club may only sign a second professional contract with a different futsal club if he obtains written approval from the eleven-a-side club employing him. A professional under contract with a futsal club may only sign a second professional contract with a different eleven-a-side club if he obtains written approval from the futsal club employing him.
2. The provisions applicable to the maintenance of contractual stability are set out in arts 13-18 of the Regulations.

8. PROTECTION OF MINORS
1. International player transfers are only permitted if the player is over the age of 18. The exceptions to this rule are outlined in art. 19 of the Regulations.

9. TRAINING COMPENSATION
1. The provisions on training compensation as provided for in art. 20 and Annexe 4 of the Regulations shall not apply to the transfer of players to and from futsal clubs.

10. SOLIDARITY MECHANISM
1. The provisions on solidarity mechanism as provided for in art. 21 and Annexe 5 of the Regulations shall not apply to the transfer of players to and from futsal clubs.

11. FIFA COMPETENCE
1. Without prejudice to the right of any futsal player or club to seek redress before a civil court for employment-related disputes, FIFA is competent to deal with disputes as stipulated in art. 22 of the Regulations.
2. The Players’ Status Committee or the single judge shall adjudicate on all disputes as stipulated in art. 23 of the Regulations.
3. The Dispute Resolution Chamber or the DRC judge shall deal with disputes as provided for in art. 24 of the Regulations.
4. The decisions passed by the aforementioned bodies may be appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

12. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR
1. Matters not provided for in these rules shall be governed by the Regulations.
Disciplinary Procedures
04g(i) Disciplinary Procedures

Senior, Reserve & Youth Team Football

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES CONCERNING FIELD OFFENCES IN LEAGUE MATCHES ONLY - PLAYERS

As set out in the schedule hereto for Players associated with Clubs playing teams in Senior, Reserve & Youth divisions of the Directly Affiliated Leagues SEASON 2019/2020

1. REPORTING OF OFFENCES BY MATCH OFFICIALS

(a) Caution Offences
Referees must submit a report to the Football Association of Wales within 24 hours after the kick off time of the match stating the offence and giving a description using the procedures set by the Association from time to time.

(b) Sending-off Offences
Referees must submit a report to the Football Association of Wales within 24 hours after the kick off time of the match stating the offence(s) and giving a description of the incident(s) using the procedures set by the Association from time to time.

(c) If a Referee omits to show the appropriate card when taking action against a player, this will not nullify the caution or sending-off offence. However, the attention of the Referee will be drawn to the correct procedure.

2. CAUTION OFFENCES

A player who has been cautioned in any match will be notified through the player’s club by this Association using the systems and procedures set by the Association from time to time of:-

(a) the offence reported by the Referee;
(b) the total number of cautions recorded against the player under these procedures during the current Season; and
(c) any punishment resulting from the accumulation of these cautions. Any such punishment
will take effect regardless of whether or not the notification of it from this Association is
received before it is due to take effect in accordance with these Disciplinary Procedures
and clubs must therefore maintain their own records.

An administration fee of £10.00 will be charged to the player through the club for the cost of
processing each report.

3. SENDING-OFF OFFENCES

A player who has been sent-off in a match under the provisions of Law 12 will be notified
through the player’s club by this Association using the systems and procedures set by the
Association from time to time of:-

(a) the offence reported by the Referee;

(b) That the player will be subject to the agreed standard punishment (see Section 6). Any
such punishment will take effect regardless of whether or not the notification of it from this
Association is received before it is due to take effect in accordance with these Disciplinary
Procedures and clubs must therefore maintain their own records.

An administration fee of £10.00 will be charged to the player through the club for the cost of
processing each report.

4. CLAIMS OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY

(a) In the case of a claim of alleged mistaken identity concerning a player cautioned or sent-off
in a match, the club, on behalf of the player, must:-

(i) By 2.00pm of the next Business Day following the day of the match submit in writing
via fax (029 20 435876) or e-mail (discipline@faw.co.uk) to the Football Association of
Wales their intention to submit a claim and the particulars upon which the claim is
founded.

(ii) By 2.00pm on the second Business Day following the day of the match, submit to the
Football Association of Wales written statements and evidence (including video/DVD
where available) in support of the claim together with the relevant fee as set out in
Appendix 1. A signed statement by the player reported by the referee that they were
not responsible for the offence reported and identifying specifically the name of the
person responsible must be included. Where possible a written statement from the
player responsible for the offence should also be supplied.

(b) Should a club have two matches with no, or insufficient Business Days in between, a Claim
of Mistaken Identity shall be notified and lodged with the Football Association of Wales in
accordance with the following procedure:-

(i) Where there are no Business Days between two matches, written notification of the
club’s intent to make a claim must be faxed (029 20 435876) or e-mailed (discipline@faw.co.uk)
to the Football Association of Wales prior to the commencement of the
second match.

(ii) Where there is just one Business Day between two matches, the timetable for
notification as set out in 4(a)(i) hereabove, will still apply.

(iii) The submission of statements, evidence and the applicable fee must be lodged with
the Football Association of Wales by 2.00pm on the second Business Day as set out in
4(a)(ii) hereabove.

In respect of these specific circumstances, a player will be eligible to play in the second match, if, and only if, notification as set out in 4(b)(i) or 4(b)(ii) hereabove is appropriately submitted. A club will not be permitted to withdraw a claim once written notice to do so has been sent via fax or e-mail to the Football Association of Wales and therefore attention should be paid to 4(d) (ii) herebelow, in respect of claims which are believed to be frivolous or an abuse of process.

(c) Should a player play in a match without the appropriate notification having been lodged as set out hereabove, the Football Association of Wales will prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the club and player concerned for playing whilst under suspension.

(d) The decisions available to the Disciplinary Panel considering a Claim of Mistaken Identity are as follows:-

(i) The claim is rejected - the player reported by the referee serves the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum.

(ii) The claim is rejected and considered frivolous and/or an abuse of process - the Disciplinary Panel will have the discretion to increase the match suspension to up to twice that of the standard punishment.

(iii) The claim is successful - the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum is transferred from the record of the player reported by the referee to the appropriate identified offender.

(e) Irrespective of the decision reached, the Disciplinary Panel shall have the discretion to either retain or return the fee submitted and if considered appropriate, make an order of costs against the claimant(s).

(f) A club failing to lodge a claim for mistaken identity may be charged with misconduct by the Football Association of Wales if there is evidence that the club sought to gain an advantage by remaining silent on the matter.

(g) It is important to note that the time limits set out above are strict. Only complete claims submitted before the relevant deadlines will be considered by the Football Association of Wales.

(h) The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to a Claim of Mistaken Identity is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

5. CLAIMS OF WRONGFUL DISMISSAL

(a) A player and their club may seek to limit the disciplinary consequences of the dismissal of a player from the Field-of-Play by demonstrating to this Association that the dismissal was wrongful.

(b) A Claim of Wrongful Dismissal may be lodged only for on-field offences which result in a sending-off, except for two cautions leading to a dismissal.

(c) The club, on behalf of the player, must:-

(i) By 2.00pm of the next Business Day following the day of the match submit in writing via fax (029 20 435876) or e-mail (discipline@faw.co.uk) to the Football Association of Wales their intention to submit a claim and the particulars upon which the claim is founded.

(ii) By 2.00pm of the second Business Day following the day of the match submit written statements and evidence (including a video/DVD of the incident where available) in
support of the claim together with the relevant fee as set out in Appendix 1.

(d) A Disciplinary Panel will be convened as soon as is practically possible to decide the matter on any relevant documentary and video/DVD evidence submitted. The Disciplinary Panel considering a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal is concerned with only the question of whether any sanction of a suspension from play is one which should be imposed in view of the facts of the case. It must be noted that in accordance with the Laws of the Game, the match referee's decision is final and the player's dismissal from the field of play will remain on the record of the player and the club. The offence will remain the subject of the administration fee and the club will accrue the appropriate number of penalty points for the sending-off. Consequently, the club, player and match official(s) will not attend the meeting of the Disciplinary Panel when the matter is considered.

(e) Should a club have two matches with no, or insufficient Business Days in between, a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal shall be notified and lodged with the Football Association of Wales in accordance with the following procedure:-

(i) Where there are no Business Days between two matches, written notification of the club's intent to make a claim must be faxed (029 20 435876) or e-mailed (discipline@faw.co.uk) to the Football Association of Wales prior to the commencement of the second match.

(ii) Where there is just one Business Day between two matches, the timetable for notification as set out in 5(c)(i) hereabove, will still apply.

(iii) The submission of statements, evidence and the applicable fee must be lodged with the Football Association of Wales by 2.00pm on the second Business Day as set out in 5(c)(ii) hereabove.

In respect of these specific circumstances, a player will be eligible to play in the second match, if, and only if, notification as set out in 5(e)(i) or 5(e)(ii) hereabove is appropriately submitted. A club will not be permitted to withdraw a claim once written notice to do so has been sent via fax or e-mail to the Football Association of Wales and therefore attention should be paid to 5(g)(ii) herebelow, in respect of claims which are believed to be frivolous or an abuse of process.

(f) Should a player play in a match without the appropriate notification having been lodged as set out hereabove, the Football Association of Wales will prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the club and player concerned for playing whilst under suspension.

(g) Dismissal are as follows:-

(i) The claim is rejected - the player serves the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum.

(ii) The claim is rejected and considered frivolous and/or an abuse of process – the Panel will have the discretion to increase the match suspension beyond the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum.

(iii) The claim is successful - the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum is withdrawn and Section 6(f) will not be invoked in relation to this dismissal if the player is sent-off again following the offence.

(h) Irrespective of the decision reached, the Disciplinary Panel shall have the discretion to either retain or return the fee submitted and if considered appropriate, make an order for
costs against the claimant(s).

(i) It is important to note that the time limits set out above are strict. Only complete claims submitted before the relevant deadlines will be considered by the Football Association of Wales.

(j) The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

6. PUNISHMENTS

(a) Caution Offences

(i) If a player accumulates five (5) recorded cautions in the same League Competition which is under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association any time during the season, the player will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same League Competition only, until such time as the player has missed his/her club’s next ONE (1) recognised match in the same League Competition (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season.

(ii) If a player accumulates ten (10) recorded cautions in the same League Competition which is under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association any time during the season, the player will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same League Competition only, until such time as the player has missed his/her club’s next TWO (2) recognised matches in the same League Competition (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season.

(iii) If a player accumulates fifteen (15) recorded cautions in the same League Competition which is under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association any time during the season, the player will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same League Competition only, until such time as the player has missed his/her club’s next THREE (3) recognised matches in the same League Competition (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season.

(iv) A player who has already been subject to disciplinary action as a result of accumulating five (5) cautions, ten (10) cautions and fifteen (15) cautions, and who goes on to record twenty (20) cautions in the same League Competition which is under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association in the same season, shall be required to attend a meeting of a Disciplinary Panel. The members of the Panel shall have the power to deal with the player in such manner as they deem fit. The same procedure will apply for every further five (5) cautions recorded against a player.

(v) The terms of a suspension resulting from the accumulation of cautions will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see Section 8).

(vi) The player must serve the suspension with the club at which the player holds a valid registration.

(vii) Any period of suspension or part thereof which remains outstanding at the end of a season must be served at the commencement of the next following season.

(b) Players Sent-off Under Law 12 (7)
A player who is dismissed from the Field of Play for a second cautionable offence after having received a caution will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same League Competition and Open Friendly matches (see clause 9) only, until such time as the player has missed his/her club’s next ONE (1) recognised match in the same League Competition (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see Section 8).

The player must serve the suspension with the club at which the player holds a valid registration.

(c) 

Players Sent-off Under Law 12 (4) and (5)

A player who is dismissed from the Field of Play for denying a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent whose overall movement is towards the offender’s goal or by handling the ball, will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same League Competition and Open Friendly matches (see clause 9) only, until such time as the player has missed his/her club’s next ONE (1) recognised match in the same League Competition (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see Section 8).

The player must serve the suspension with the club at which the player holds a valid registration.

(d) 

Players Sent-off Under Law 12 (6)

A player who is dismissed from the Field of Play for using offensive, insulting or abusive language/gestures, whether they have previously been cautioned in the match or not, will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same League Competition and Open Friendly matches (see clause 9) only, until such time the player has missed his/her club’s next TWO (2) recognised matches in the same League Competition (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see Section 8).

The player must serve the suspension with the club at which the player holds a valid registration.

(e) 

Players Sent-off Under Law 12 (1) (2) and (3)

A player who is dismissed from the Field of play for Violent Conduct, Serious Foul Play or Spitting at an opponent or any other person whether they have previously been cautioned in the match or not, will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same League Competition and Open Friendly matches (see clause 9) only, until such time as the player has missed his/her club’s next THREE (3) recognised matches in the same League Competition (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see Section 8).

The player must serve the suspension with the club at which the player holds a valid registration.

(f) 

Additional Sendings-off

Players dismissed from the field of play for a second time in the same Season in the same
League Competition and an Open Friendly match, in addition to the automatic suspension applicable to the offence, will be suspended for one extra match.

A player dismissed for a third time in the same Season in the same League Competition and an Open Friendly match will be suspended for an extra two matches, and so on.

(g) **Measurement of Suspension**

All suspensions from League Competitions will remain separate and only applicable to that specific League Competition. Therefore, any suspension imposed under these procedures will only be applicable to the League Competition in which the player received their suspension.

The only exception is whereby a player receives a suspension from an Open Friendly match (see clause 9). This must be measured by players next match(es) in League Competitions.

(h) **Outstanding Suspensions**

Any period of suspension or part thereof which remains outstanding at the end of a season must be served at the commencement of the next following season with the club at which the player is registered and measured by the players club’s matches in the same League Competition.

(i) **FAW Rule 38**

In special cases where:-

(i) a match official’s report indicates a serious breach of the Laws of the Game, or

(ii) a player commits an act of misconduct and/or a sending-off offence under Law 12 (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of the Laws of the Game whilst on the field of play which is not seen by the match officials but caught on video;

the Football Association of Wales reserves the right to prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the player in accordance with one or more of the provisions under FAW Rule 38.

When dealing with a case under (h)(i) hereabove, the Disciplinary Panel may take into account any automatic punishment imposed under the Procedures.

When dealing with a case under (h)(ii) hereabove, confirmation by the match officials that they did not see the incident in question shall be conclusive evidence of that fact.

(j) **Payment to Players Under Suspension**

Clubs must not pay a player more than their basic wage during the period of a suspension.

(k) **Clubs Imposing Fines**

Clubs may fine players for on-field offences but must notify the Football Association of Wales, without delay, the details of the fine in each case.

(l) **Re-Arranged Matches**

A FAW Disciplinary Panel shall have discretionary power to rule that a match shall not count towards the completion of a suspension if it is satisfied that the game has been arranged by the club with a view to enabling the player to complete their suspension and thus
qualify them to play in a specific match. The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to re-arranged matches is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

(m) Collection of Administration Fees

It will be the responsibility of the club to collect the £10.00 administration fee from the players concerned. Clubs will have 31 calendar days to make the payment for each player’s £10.00 administration fee as and when the caution or sending off report is submitted on COMET. Should the club fail to make the payment of the £10.00 administration fee within 31 calendar days, then the player will become ineligible from playing in any Association Football and Futsal match until payment is received. The administration fee must be paid on the COMET system, or any other system as prescribed by the Association from time to time.

Any club experiencing difficulty in meeting the 31-day limit should contact the Finance Department of the Football Association of Wales on (029) 20 435833.

7. DISCIPLINARY ACTION ON CLUBS FOR MISCONDUCT BY THEIR PLAYERS

(a) Any club whose players accumulate a total number of Penalty Points during a season, and that total is considered to be appreciably above the average number of points in the same league, may be required to appear before a FAW Disciplinary Panel and shall be liable to be warned and/or fined for having permitted its players to violate the Laws of the Game in contravention of FAW Rule 38.1.1. In addition, the Panel shall be entitled to make an order as to costs against the club. Any action taken by the club to discipline its players under Section 6(k) will be taken into consideration by the Panel in its findings.

In so far as this Regulation shall apply, the following Penalty Points will be recorded against a club:-

For all recorded cautions .......................................................... 4 Points
For Sending-off under Law 12 (4) (5) & (7) .................................... 10 Points
For Sending-off under Law 12 (1) (2) (3) & (6) ............................... 12 Points

(b) A club required to appear before an FAW Disciplinary Panel shall be represented by at least one of its Directors/Officials and the Manager.

(c) The Football Association of Wales reserves the right to prefer a charge against a club at any time during the season arising from field offences committed by players of the club.

8 SUSPENSIONS IMPOSED UNDER THESE REGULATIONS

(a) Unless otherwise ordered by a FAW Disciplinary Panel, Appeals Panel or Independent Arbitration Panel, the terms of the suspensions imposed under these entire regulations will be as set out under the category of a Match Suspension (see clause 9).

(b) Any suspension imposed may only be served whilst the player holds a registration with a football club. Should a player transfer or register for a new club prior to the commencement of the suspension or during the period of the suspension, the player will not be eligible to play for their new club until such time as the new club with which the player has transferred to has completed the required number of matches in Approved Competitions.

9 DEFINITIONS

i BUSINESS DAY
Any day of the week except a Saturday or Sunday or public bank holiday in Wales.

ii. CLOSED FRIENDLY MATCH

A game of Association Football which is not an Official Match which is played between two (2) teams (whether or not from different Clubs) but is not made open for the public to attend.

iii. MATCH SUSPENSION

A Match Suspension is a ban on taking part in a match and on attending it in the area immediately surrounding the field-of-play. A Match Suspension may be imposed on a player or an official.

The area immediately surrounding the field-of-play includes:-

1. The field-of-play.
2. The dressing rooms and their immediate area.
3. The tunnel and/or private way leading from the dressing rooms to the field-of-play.
4. The dugouts, benches and technical areas.
5. The prohibited area in the vicinity of the touchline and goal lines.

The player or official under a Match Suspension is prohibited from contact with match officials, players and club officials, as well as giving any media interviews, before, during and after the match.

A Match Suspension does not prohibit a player or official from attending or taking part in a Closed Friendly Match or a club organised private training session. However, a player or official is prohibited from attending or taking part in an Open Friendly Match.

A club who permits a player or an official to attend any ground whilst serving a Match Suspension will be responsible for ensuring the terms of the suspension are adhered to.

iv. OPEN FRIENDLY MATCH

A game of Association Football which is not an Official Match which is played between two (2) teams (whether or not from different Clubs) and is made open to the public to attend.
APPENDIX 1

Fees applicable when making a Claim of Mistaken Identity or a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal

The following fees are defined by FAW Rule 43.2.3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For teams playing in:-</th>
<th>£ Fee payable (inclusive of VAT)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Welsh Premier Football League</td>
<td>314.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Championship</td>
<td>219.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Welsh Football League</td>
<td>219.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mid Wales Football League</td>
<td>219.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Welsh Alliance Football League</td>
<td>219.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Welsh National Football League</td>
<td>219.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Welsh Premier Women’s League</td>
<td>219.60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPENDIX 2

APPROVED COMPETITIONS

LEAGUES

The Welsh Premier Football League
The Championship
The Welsh Football League
The Mid Wales Football League
The Welsh Alliance Football League
The Welsh National Football League
The Welsh Premier Women's Football League
Senior, Reserve & Youth Team Football

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES CONCERNING FIELD OFFENCES IN CUP MATCHES ONLY - PLAYERS

As set out in the schedule hereto for Players associated with Clubs playing teams in the Directly Affiliated Leagues for Cup Competitions only
SEASON 2019/2020

1. REPORTING OF OFFENCES BY MATCH OFFICIALS
   
   (a) Caution Offences
   
   Referees must submit a report to the Football Association of Wales within 24 hours after the kick off time of the match stating the offence and giving a description using the procedures set by the Association from time to time.

   (b) Sending-off Offences
   
   Referees must submit a report to the Football Association of Wales within 24 hours after the kick off time of the match stating the offence(s) and giving a description of the incident(s) using the procedures set by the Association from time to time.

   (c) If a Referee omits to show the appropriate card when taking action against a player, this will not nullify the caution or sending-off offence. However, the attention of the Referee will be drawn to the correct procedure.

2. CAUTION OFFENCES

   A player who has been cautioned in any match will be notified through the player’s club by this Association using the systems and procedures set by the Association from time to time of:-

   (a) the offence reported by the Referee;

   (b) the total number of cautions recorded against the player under these procedures during the current Season; and

   (c) any punishment resulting from the accumulation of these cautions. Any such punishment will take effect regardless of whether or not the notification of it from this Association is received before it is due to take effect in accordance with these Disciplinary Procedures and clubs must therefore maintain their own records.

   An administration fee of £10.00 will be charged to the player through the club for the cost of processing each report.
3. **SENDING-OFF OFFENCES**

A player who has been sent-off in a match under the provisions of Law 12 will be notified through the player’s club by this Association using the systems and procedures set by the Association from time to time of:

(a) the offence reported by the Referee;

(b) That the player will be subject to the agreed standard punishment (see Section 6). Any such punishment will take effect regardless of whether or not the notification of it from this Association is received before it is due to take effect in accordance with these Disciplinary Procedures and clubs must therefore maintain their own records.

An administration fee of £10.00 will be charged to the player through the club for the cost of processing each report.

4. **CLAIMS OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY**

(a) In the case of a claim of alleged mistaken identity concerning a player cautioned or sent-off in a match, the club, on behalf of the player, must:

(i) By 2.00pm of the next Business Day following the day of the match submit in writing via fax (029 20 435876) or e-mail (discipline@faw.co.uk) to the Football Association of Wales their intention to submit a claim and the particulars upon which the claim is founded.

(ii) By 2.00pm on the second Business Day following the day of the match, submit to the Football Association of Wales written statements and evidence (including video/DVD where available) in support of the claim together with the relevant fee as set out in Appendix 1. A signed statement by the player reported by the referee that they were not responsible for the offence reported and identifying specifically the name of the person responsible must be included. Where possible a written statement from the player responsible for the offence should also be supplied.

(b) Should a club have two matches with no, or insufficient Business Days in between, a Claim of Mistaken Identity shall be notified and lodged with the Football Association of Wales in accordance with the following procedure:

(i) Where there are no Business Days between two matches, written notification of the club’s intent to make a claim must be faxed (029 20 435876) or e-mailed (discipline@faw.co.uk) to the Football Association of Wales prior to the commencement of the second match.

(ii) Where there is just one Business Day between two matches, the timetable for notification as set out in 4(a)(i) hereabove, will still apply.

(iii) The submission of statements, evidence and the applicable fee must be lodged with the Football Association of Wales by 2.00pm on the second Business Day as set out in 4(a)(ii) hereabove.

In respect of these specific circumstances, a player will be eligible to play in the second match, if, and only if, notification as set out in 4(b)(i) or 4(b)(ii) hereabove is appropriately submitted. A club will not be permitted to withdraw a claim once written notice to do so has been sent via fax or e-mail to the Football Association of Wales and therefore attention should be paid to 4(d)(ii) herebelow, in respect of claims which are believed to be frivolous or an abuse of process.
(c) Should a player play in a match without the appropriate notification having been lodged as set out hereabove, the Football Association of Wales will prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the club and player concerned for playing whilst under suspension.

(d) The decisions available to the Disciplinary Panel considering a Claim of Mistaken Identity are as follows:-

(i) The claim is rejected - the player reported by the referee serves the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum.

(ii) The claim is rejected and considered frivolous and/or an abuse of process - the Disciplinary Panel will have the discretion to increase the match suspension to up to twice that of the standard punishment.

(iii) The claim is successful - the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum is transferred from the record of the player reported by the referee to the appropriate identified offender.

(e) Irrespective of the decision reached, the Disciplinary Panel shall have the discretion to either retain or return the fee submitted and if considered appropriate, make an order of costs against the claimant(s).

(f) A club failing to lodge a claim for mistaken identity may be charged with misconduct by the Football Association of Wales if there is evidence that the club sought to gain an advantage by remaining silent on the matter.

(g) It is important to note that the time limits set out above are strict. Only complete claims submitted before the relevant deadlines will be considered by the Football Association of Wales.

(h) The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to a Claim of Mistaken Identity is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

5. CLAIMS OF WRONGFUL DISMISSAL

(a) A player and their club may seek to limit the disciplinary consequences of the dismissal of a player from the Field-of-Play by demonstrating to this Association that the dismissal was wrongful.

(b) A Claim of Wrongful Dismissal may be lodged only for on-field offences which result in a sending-off, except for two cautions leading to a dismissal.

(c) The club, on behalf of the player, must:-

(i) By 2.00pm of the next Business Day following the day of the match submit in writing via fax (029 20 435876) or e-mail (discipline@faw.co.uk) to the Football Association of Wales their intention to submit a claim and the particulars upon which the claim is founded.

(ii) By 2.00pm of the second Business Day following the day of the match submit written statements and evidence (including a video/DVD of the incident where available) in support of the claim together with the relevant fee as set out in Appendix 1.

(d) A Disciplinary Panel will be convened as soon as is practically possible to decide the matter on any relevant documentary and video/DVD evidence submitted. The Disciplinary Panel considering a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal is concerned with only the question of whether any sanction of a suspension from play is one which should be imposed in view of the facts
of the case. It must be noted that in accordance with the Laws of the Game, the match referee’s decision is final and the player’s dismissal from the field of play will remain on the record of the player and the club. The offence will remain the subject of the administration fee and the club will accrue the appropriate number of penalty points for the sending-off. Consequently, the club, player and match official(s) will not attend the meeting of the Disciplinary Panel when the matter is considered.

(e) Should a club have two matches with no, or insufficient Business Days in between, a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal shall be notified and lodged with the Football Association of Wales in accordance with the following procedure:-

(i) Where there are no Business Days between two matches, written notification of the club’s intent to make a claim must be faxed (029 20 435876) or e-mailed (discipline@faw.co.uk) to the Football Association of Wales prior to the commencement of the second match.

(ii) Where there is just one Business Day between two matches, the timetable for notification as set out in 5(c)(i) hereabove, will still apply.

(iii) The submission of statements, evidence and the applicable fee must be lodged with the Football Association of Wales by 2.00pm on the second Business Day as set out in 5(c)(ii) hereabove.

In respect of these specific circumstances, a player will be eligible to play in the second match, if, and only if, notification as set out in 5(e)(i) or 5(e)(ii) hereabove is appropriately submitted. A club will not be permitted to withdraw a claim once written notice to do so has been sent via fax or e-mail to the Football Association of Wales and therefore attention should be paid to 5(g)(ii) herebelow, in respect of claims which are believed to be frivolous or an abuse of process.

(f) Should a player play in a match without the appropriate notification having been lodged as set out hereabove, the Football Association of Wales will prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the club and player concerned for playing whilst under suspension.

(g) The decisions available to a Disciplinary Panel when considering a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal are as follows:-

(i) The claim is rejected - the player serves the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum.

(ii) The claim is rejected and considered frivolous and/or an abuse of process – the Panel will have the discretion to increase the match suspension beyond the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum.

(iii) The claim is successful - the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum is withdrawn and Section 6(f) will not be invoked in relation to this dismissal if the player is sent-off again following the offence.

(h) Irrespective of the decision reached, the Disciplinary Panel shall have the discretion to either retain or return the fee submitted and if considered appropriate, make an order for costs against the claimant(s).

(i) It is important to note that the time limits set out above are strict. Only complete claims submitted before the relevant deadlines will be considered by the Football Association of Wales.
The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

6. PUNISHMENTS

(a) Caution Offences

(i) If a player accumulates two (2) recorded cautions in the same Cup Competition (see Appendix 2) which is under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association any time during the season, the player will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same Cup Competition only, until such time as the player has missed his/her club's next ONE (1) recognised match in the same Cup Competition (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match in the same Cup Competition of the 2019/2020 Season.

(ii) If a player accumulates four (4) recorded cautions in the same Cup Competition (see Appendix 2) which is under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association any time during the season, the player will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same Cup Competition only, until such time as the player has missed his/her club's next ONE (1) recognised match in the same Cup Competition (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season.

(iii) If a player accumulates six (6) recorded cautions in the same Cup Competition (see Appendix 2) which is under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this association any time during the season, the player will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same Cup Competition only, until such time as the player has missed his/her club's next ONE (1) recognised match in the same Cup Competition (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season.

(iv) A player who has already been subject to disciplinary action as a result of accumulating two (2) cautions, four (4) cautions and six (6) cautions, and who goes on to record eight (8) cautions in the same Cup Competition which is under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association in the same season, shall be required to attend a meeting of a Disciplinary Panel. The members of the Panel shall have the power to deal with the player in such manner as they deem fit. The same procedure will apply for every further two (2) cautions recorded against a player in the same Cup Competition.

(v) After the completion of the Quarter Final Round in all Cup Competitions listed in Appendix 2, the caution count shall be reset with all players being regarded as having zero (0) cautions attributed to them. For the avoidance of doubt, any player who receives a suspension resulting from an accumulation of cautions in a Quarter Final match will be suspended for the same Cup Competitions Semi-Final.

(vi) The terms of a suspension resulting from the accumulation of cautions will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see Section 8).

(vii) The player must serve the suspension with the club at which the player holds a valid registration.

(viii) Any period of suspension or part thereof which remains outstanding at the end of a season must be served at the commencement of the next following season.
(b) **Players Sent-off Under Law 12 (7)**

A player who is dismissed from the Field of Play for a second cautionable offence after having received a caution will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same Cup Competition only, until such time as the player has missed his/her club’s next ONE (1) recognised match in the same Cup Competition (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see Section 8).

The player must serve the suspension with the club at which the player holds a valid registration.

(c) **Players Sent-off Under Law 12 (4) and (5)**

A player who is dismissed from the Field of Play for denying a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent whose overall movement is towards the offender’s goal or by handling the ball, will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same Cup Competition only, until such time as the player has missed his/her club’s next ONE (1) recognised match in the same Cup Competition (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see Section 8).

The player must serve the suspension with the club at which the player holds a valid registration.

(d) **Players Sent-off Under Law 12 (6)**

A player who is dismissed from the Field of Play for using offensive, insulting or abusive language/gestures, whether they have previously been cautioned in the match or not, will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same Cup Competition only, until such time the player has missed his/her club’s next TWO (2) recognised matches in the same Cup Competition (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see Section 8).

The player must serve the suspension with the club at which the player holds a valid registration.

(e) **Players Sent-off Under Law 12 (1) (2) and (3)**

A player who is dismissed from the Field of Play for Violent Conduct, Serious Foul Play or Spitting at an opponent or any other person whether they have previously been cautioned in the match or not, will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same Cup Competition only, until such time as the player has missed his/her club’s next THREE (3) recognised matches in the same Cup Competition (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see Section 8).

The player must serve the suspension with the club at which the player holds a valid registration.

(f) **Additional Sendings-off**

Players dismissed from the field of play for a second time in the same Season in the same Cup Competition, in addition to the automatic suspension applicable to the offence, will be suspended for one extra match.
A player dismissed for a third time in the same Season in the same Cup Competition will be suspended for an extra two matches, and so on.

(g) **Measurement of Suspension**

All suspensions from Cup Competitions will remain separate and only applicable to that specific Cup Competition. Therefore, any suspension imposed under these procedures will only be applicable to the Cup Competition in which the player received their suspension.

(h) **Outstanding Suspensions**

Any period of suspension or part thereof which remains outstanding at the end of a season must be served at the commencement of the next following season with the club at which the player is registered with and measured by the Club’s matches in the same Cup Competition.

(i) **FAW Rule 38**

In special cases where:-

(i) a match official’s report indicates a serious breach of the Laws of the Game, or

(ii) a player commits an act of misconduct and/or a sending-off offence under Law 12 (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of the Laws of the Game whilst on the field of play which is not seen by the match officials but caught on video;

the Football Association of Wales reserves the right to prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the player in accordance with one or more of the provisions under FAW Rule 38.

When dealing with a case under (i)(i) hereabove, the Disciplinary Panel may take into account any automatic punishment imposed under the Procedures.

When dealing with a case under (i)(ii) hereabove, confirmation by the match officials that they did not see the incident in question shall be conclusive evidence of that fact.

(j) **Payment to Players Under Suspension**

Clubs must not pay a player more than their basic wage during the period of a suspension.

(k) **Clubs Imposing Fines**

Clubs may fine players for on-field offences but must notify the Football Association of Wales, without delay, the details of the fine in each case.

(l) **Collection of Administration Fees**

It will be the responsibility of the club to collect the £10.00 administration fee from the players concerned. Clubs will have 31 calendar days to make the payment for each player’s £10.00 administration fee as and when the caution or sending off report is submitted on COMET. Should the club fail to make the payment of the £10.00 administration fee within 31 calendar days, then the player will become ineligible from playing in ANY Association Football and Futsal match until payment is received. The administration fee must be paid on the COMET system, or any other system as prescribed by the Football Association of Wales from time to time.

Any club experiencing difficulty meeting the 31-day limit should contact the Finance Department of the Football Association of Wales on (029) 20 435833.
7. **DISCIPLINARY ACTION ON CLUBS FOR MISCONDUCT BY THEIR PLAYERS**

The Football Association of Wales reserves the right to prefer a charge against a club at any time during the season arising from field offences committed by players of the club.

8. **SUSPENSIONS IMPOSED UNDER THESE REGULATIONS**

(a) Unless otherwise ordered by a FAW Disciplinary Panel, Appeals Panel or Independent Arbitration Panel, the terms of the suspensions imposed under these entire regulations will be as set out under the category of a Match Suspension (see clause 9).

(b) Any suspension imposed may only be served whilst the player holds a registration with a football club. Should a player transfer or register for a new club prior to the commencement of the suspension or during the period of the suspension, the player will not be eligible to play for their new club until such time as the new club with which the player has transferred to has completed the required number of matches in Approved Competitions.

9. **DEFINITIONS**

i. **BUSINESS DAY**

   Any day of the week except a Saturday or Sunday or public bank holiday in Wales.

ii. **CLOSED FRIENDLY MATCH**

   A game of Association Football which is not an Official Match which is played between two (2) teams (whether or not from different Clubs) but is not made open for the public to attend.

iii. **MATCH SUSPENSION**

   A Match Suspension is a ban on taking part in a match and on attending it in the area immediately surrounding the field-of-play. A Match Suspension may be imposed on a player or an official.

   The area immediately surrounding the field-of-play includes:

   1. The field-of-play.
   2. The dressing rooms and their immediate area.
   3. The tunnel and/or private way leading from the dressing rooms to the field-of-play.
   4. The dugouts, benches and technical areas.
   5. The prohibited area in the vicinity of the touchline and goal lines.

   The player or official under a Match Suspension is prohibited from contact with match officials, players and club officials, as well as giving any media interviews, before, during and after the match.

   A Match Suspension does not prohibit a player or official from attending or taking part in a Closed Friendly Match or a club organised private training session. However, a player or official is prohibited from attending or taking part in an Open Friendly Match.

   A club who permits a player or an official to attend any ground whilst serving a Match Suspension will be responsible for ensuring the terms of the suspension are adhered to.
iv. **OPEN FRIENDLY MATCH**

game of Association Football which is not an Official Match which is played between two (2) teams (whether or not from different Clubs) and is made open to the public to attend.

**APPENDIX 1**

Fees applicable when making a Claim of Mistaken Identity or a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal

The following fees are defined by FAW Rule 43.2.3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For teams playing in:-</th>
<th>£ Fee payable (inclusive of VAT)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Welsh Premier Football League</td>
<td>314.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Championship</td>
<td>219.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Welsh Football League</td>
<td>219.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mid Wales Football League</td>
<td>219.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Welsh Alliance Football League</td>
<td>219.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Welsh National Football League</td>
<td>219.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Welsh Premier Women's League</td>
<td>219.60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**APPENDIX 2**

**APPROVED COMPETITIONS**

**CUP COMPETITIONS**

The FAW Welsh Cup
The FAW Women’s Cup
The FAW Trophy
The FAW Youth Cup
The Nathaniel MG Cup
The Welsh Premier Development League Cup
The Welsh Premier Women’s League Cup
The Nathaniel Car Sales Welsh Football League Cup
The Welsh Football League Youth Cup
The Huws Gray Cymru Alliance League Cup
The Mid Wales Football League Division One Cup
The Mid Wales Football League Division Two Cup
The Welsh Alliance League Division One Cup
The Welsh Alliance League Division Two Cup
The Welsh Alliance League Mawddach Challenge Cup
The Welsh National League Premier Division Cup
The Welsh National League Division One Cup
The Welsh National League Presidents Cup
The North East Wales FA Challenge Cup
The North Wales Coast FA Senior Challenge Cup
The Central Wales FA Challenge Cup
The West Wales FA Senior Cup
The South Wales FA Senior Cup
Senior Area Association Cup Competitions (Women’s)
DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES CONCERNING FIELD OFFENCES IN LEAGUE MATCHES ONLY – TEAM OFFICIALS

As set out in the schedule hereto for Team Officials associated with Clubs playing teams in Senior divisions of the Directly Affiliated Leagues

SEASON 2019/2020

1. REPORTING OF OFFENCES BY MATCH OFFICIALS

(a) Caution Offences

Referees must submit a report to the Football Association of Wales within 24 hours after the kick off time of the match stating the offence and giving a description using the procedures set by the Association from time to time.

(b) Sending-off Offences

Referees must submit a report to the Football Association of Wales within 24 hours after the kick off time of the match stating the offence(s) and giving a description of the incident(s) using the procedures set by the Association from time to time.

(c) If a Referee omits to show the appropriate card when taking action against a team official, this will not nullify the caution or sending-off offence. However, the attention of the Referee will be drawn to the correct procedure.

2. CAUTION OFFENCES

A team official who has been cautioned in any match will be notified through their club by this Association using the systems and procedures set by the Association from time to time of:-

(a) the offence reported by the Referee;

(b) the total number of cautions recorded against the team official under these procedures during the current Season; and

(c) any punishment resulting from the accumulation of these cautions. Any such punishment will take effect regardless of whether or not the notification of it from this Association is received before it is due to take effect in accordance with these Disciplinary Procedures and clubs must therefore maintain their own records.
An administration fee of £10.00 will be charged to the team official through the club for the cost of processing each report.

3. SENDING-OFF OFFENCES

A team official who has been sent-off in a match under the provisions of Law 5 and/or Law 12 will be notified through the team officials club by this Association using the systems and procedures set by the Association from time to time of:-

(a) the offence reported by the Referee;
(b) That the team official will be subject to the agreed standard punishment (see Section 6). Any such punishment will take effect regardless of whether or not the notification of it from this Association is received before it is due to take effect in accordance with these Disciplinary Procedures and clubs must therefore maintain their own records.

An administration fee of £10.00 will be charged to the team official through the club for the cost of processing each report.

4. CLAIMS OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY

(a) In the case of a claim of alleged mistaken identity concerning a team official cautioned or sent-off in a match, the club, on behalf of the team official, must:-

(i) By 2.00pm of the next Business Day following the day of the match submit in writing via fax (029 20 435876) or e-mail (discipline@faw.co.uk) to the Football Association of Wales their intention to submit a claim and the particulars upon which the claim is founded.

(ii) By 2.00pm on the second Business Day following the day of the match, submit to the Football Association of Wales written statements and evidence (including video/DVD where available) in support of the claim together with the relevant fee as set out in Appendix 1. A signed statement by the team official reported by the referee that they were not responsible for the offence reported and identifying specifically the name of the person responsible must be included. Where possible a written statement from the team official responsible for the offence should also be supplied.

(b) Should a club have two matches with no, or insufficient Business Days in between, a Claim of Mistaken Identity shall be notified and lodged with the Football Association of Wales in accordance with the following procedure:-

(i) Where there are no Business Days between two matches, written notification of the club’s intent to make a claim must be faxed (029 20 435876) or e-mailed (discipline@faw.co.uk) to the Football Association of Wales prior to the commencement of the second match.

(ii) Where there is just one Business Day between two matches, the timetable for notification as set out in 4(a)(i) hereabove, will still apply.

(iii) The submission of statements, evidence and the applicable fee must be lodged with the Football Association of Wales by 2.00pm on the second Business Day as set out in 4(a)(ii) hereabove.

In respect of these specific circumstances, a team official will be eligible to play in the second match, if, and only if, notification as set out in 4(b)(i) or 4(b)(ii) hereabove is appropriately


submitted. A club will not be permitted to withdraw a claim once written notice to do so has been sent via fax or e-mail to the Football Association of Wales and therefore attention should be paid to 4(d)(ii) herebelow, in respect of claims which are believed to be frivolous or an abuse of process.

(c) Should a team official participate in a match without the appropriate notification having been lodged as set out hereabove, the Football Association of Wales will prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the club and team official concerned for breaching the terms of their suspension.

(d) The decisions available to the Disciplinary Panel considering a Claim of Mistaken Identity are as follows:-

(i) The claim is rejected - the team official reported by the referee serves the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum.

(ii) The claim is rejected and considered frivolous and/or an abuse of process - the Disciplinary Panel will have the discretion to increase the match suspension to up to twice that of the standard punishment.

(iii) The claim is successful - the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum is transferred from the record of the team official reported by the referee to the appropriate identified offender.

(e) Irrespective of the decision reached, the Disciplinary Panel shall have the discretion to either retain or return the fee submitted and if considered appropriate, make an order of costs against the claimant(s).

(f) A club failing to lodge a claim for mistaken identity may be charged with misconduct by the Football Association of Wales if there is evidence that the club sought to gain an advantage by remaining silent on the matter.

(g) It is important to note that the time limits set out above are strict. Only complete claims submitted before the relevant deadlines will be considered by the Football Association of Wales.

(h) The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to a Claim of Mistaken Identity is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

5. CLAIMS OF WRONGFUL DISMISSAL

(a) A team official and their club may seek to limit the disciplinary consequences of the dismissal of a player from the Field-of-Play by demonstrating to this Association that the dismissal was wrongful.

(b) A Claim of Wrongful Dismissal may be lodged only for on-field offences which result in a sending-off, except for two cautions leading to a dismissal.

(c) The club, on behalf of the team official, must:-

(i) By 2.00pm of the next Business Day following the day of the match submit in writing via fax (029 20 435876) or e-mail (discipline@faw.co.uk) to the Football Association of Wales their intention to submit a claim and the particulars upon which the claim is founded.

(ii) By 2.00pm of the second Business Day following the day of the match submit written
statements and evidence (including a video/DVD of the incident where available) in support of the claim together with the relevant fee as set out in Appendix 1.

(d) A Disciplinary Panel will be convened as soon as is practically possible to decide the matter on any relevant documentary and video/DVD evidence submitted. The Disciplinary Panel considering a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal is concerned with only the question of whether any sanction of a suspension is one which should be imposed in view of the facts of the case. It must be noted that in accordance with the Laws of the Game, the match referee’s decision is final and the team official’s dismissal from the Technical Area will remain on the record of the team official and the club. The offence will remain the subject of the administration fee and the club will accrue the appropriate number of penalty points for the sending-off. Consequently, the club, team official and match official(s) will not attend the meeting of the Disciplinary Panel when the matter is considered.

(e) Should a club have two matches with no, or insufficient Business Days in between, a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal shall be notified and lodged with the Football Association of Wales in accordance with the following procedure:-

(i) Where there are no Business Days between two matches, written notification of the club’s intent to make a claim must be faxed (029 20 435876) or e-mailed (discipline@faw.co.uk) to the Football Association of Wales prior to the commencement of the second match.

(ii) Where there is just one Business Day between two matches, the timetable for notification as set out in 5(c)(i) hereabove, will still apply.

(iii) The submission of statements, evidence and the applicable fee must be lodged with the Football Association of Wales by 2.00pm on the second Business Day as set out in 5(c)(ii) hereabove.

In respect of these specific circumstances, a team official will be eligible to participate in the second match, if, and only if, notification as set out in 5(e)(i) or 5(e)(ii) hereabove is appropriately submitted. A club will not be permitted to withdraw a claim once written notice to do so has been sent via fax or e-mail to the Football Association of Wales and therefore attention should be paid to 5(g)(ii) herebelow, in respect of claims which are believed to be frivolous or an abuse of process.

(f) Should a team official participate in a match without the appropriate notification having been lodged as set out hereabove, the Football Association of Wales will prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the club and team official concerned for breaching the terms of their suspension.

(g) The decisions available to a Disciplinary Panel when considering a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal are as follows:-

(i) The claim is rejected - the team official serves the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum.

(ii) The claim is rejected and considered frivolous and/or an abuse of process – the Panel will have the discretion to increase the match suspension beyond the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum.

(iii) The claim is successful - the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum is withdrawn and Section 6(f) will not be invoked in relation to this dismissal if the team official is sent-off again following the offence.

(h) Irrespective of the decision reached, the Disciplinary Panel shall have the discretion to
either retain or return the fee submitted and if considered appropriate, make an order for costs against the claimant(s).

(i) It is important to note that the time limits set out above are strict. Only complete claims submitted before the relevant deadlines will be considered by the Football Association of Wales.

(j) The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

6. PUNISHMENTS

(a) Caution Offences

(i) If a team official accumulates three (3) recorded cautions in the same League Competition which is under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association any time during the season, the team official will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same League Competition only, until such time as the team official has missed his/her club’s next ONE (1) recognised match in the same League Competition (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season.

(ii) If a team official accumulates six (6) recorded cautions in the same League Competition which is under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association any time during the season, the team official will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same League Competition only, until such time as the team official has missed his/her club’s next TWO (2) recognised matches in the same League Competition (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season.

(iii) If a team official accumulates nine (9) recorded cautions in the same League Competition which is under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association any time during the season, the team official will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same League Competition only, until such time as the team official has missed his/her club’s next THREE (3) recognised matches in the same League Competition (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season.

(iv) A team official who has already been subject to disciplinary action as a result of accumulating three (3) cautions, six (6) cautions and nine (9) cautions, and who goes on to record twelve (12) cautions in the same League Competition which is under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association in the same season, shall be required to attend a meeting of a Disciplinary Panel. The members of the Panel shall have the power to deal with the team official in such manner as they deem fit. The same procedure will apply for every further three (3) cautions recorded against a team official.

(v) The terms of a suspension resulting from the accumulation of cautions will be as set out under the category of a TOUCHLINE SUSPENSION (see Section 8).

(vi) The team official must serve the suspension with the club at which the team official holds a valid registration.

(vii) Any period of suspension or part thereof which remains outstanding at the end of a
season must be served at the commencement of the next following season.

(b) **Sending Off resulting in a One Match Suspension**

Any team official dismissed from the Technical Area for one of the reasons listed below will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same League Competition and Open Friendly matches (see clause 9) only, until such time as the team official has missed his/her club’s next ONE (1) recognised match in the same League Competition for which the team official participates in (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see Section 8).

- delaying the restart of play by the opposing team e.g. holding onto the ball, kicking the ball away, obstructing the movement of a player
- receiving a second caution in the same match
- using unauthorised electronic or communication equipment and/or behaving in an inappropriate manner as the result of using electronic or communication equipment

The team official must serve the suspension with the club at which the team official committed the suspension offence.

(c) **Sending Off resulting in a Two Match Suspension**

Any team official dismissed from the Technical Area for one of the reasons listed below will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same League Competition and Open Friendly matches (see clause 9) only, until such time as the team official has missed his/her club’s next TWO (2) recognised matches in the same League Competition for which the team official participates in (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see Section 8).

- deliberately leaving the technical area to:
  i. show dissent towards, or remonstrate with, a match official
  ii. act in a provocative or inflammatory manner
  iii. enter the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner
- using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
- entering the video operation room (VOR)
- entering the field of play to interfere with play, an opposing player or match official
- entering the field of play to confront a match official (including at half-time and full-time)

The team official must serve the suspension with the club at which the team official committed the suspension offence.

(d) **Sending Off resulting in a Three Match Suspension**

Any team official dismissed from the Technical Area for one of the reasons listed below will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same League Competition and Open Friendly matches (see clause 9) only, until such time as the team official has missed his/her club’s next THREE (3) recognised matches in the same League Competition.
for which the team official participates in (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see Section 8).

- deliberately throwing/kicking an object onto the field of play
- physical or aggressive behaviour (including spitting or biting) towards an opposing player, substitute, team official, match official, spectator or any other person (e.g. ball boy/girl, security or competition official etc.)
- violent conduct

The team official must serve the suspension with the club at which the team official committed the suspension offence.

(e) Sending’s Off not detailed

(i) Any team official dismissed from the Technical Area for a reason not set out in section 6(b), (c) & (d), will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same League Competition and Open Friendly matches (see clause 9) only for ONE (1) recognised match in the same League Competition for which the team official participates in (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see Section 8).

(ii) The dismissal will then be subject for review by a Disciplinary Panel of the Football Association of Wales. The Disciplinary Panel shall have the power to determine:

(a) A one Match Suspension as set out in 6(e)(i) shall suffice and there should be no further suspension; or

(b) That the standard one Match Suspension as set out in 6(e)(i) is insufficient and the Panel will have the power to increase the Match Suspension.

(iii) The club or team official will not be permitted to submit any evidence for the Disciplinary Panel’s considerations and the matter will be considered solely on the match official(s) sending off report. Should a club require a Disciplinary Panel to consider the validity of the suspension resulting from the sending off, then they must submit a Claim of Mistaken Identity and/or a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal as set out in Section 4 and 5. In this procedure set out in 6(e), the Disciplinary Panel will only confine themselves to the level of sanction imposed from the dismissal.

(iv) Should a club lodge a Claim of Mistaken Identity then the same Disciplinary Panel will consider the sanction.

(v) Should a club lodge a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal and the claim is rejected as set out under section 5(g)(i) & (ii), then the same Disciplinary Panel will consider the sanction.

(vi) The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to this procedure is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

(f) Additional Sendings-off

Team officials dismissed from the Technical Area for a second time in the same Season in the same League Competition or an Open Friendly, in addition to the automatic suspension applicable to the offence, will be suspended for one extra match.
A team official dismissed for a third time in the same Season in the same League Competition will be suspended for an extra two matches, and so on.

(g) **Measurement of Suspension**

All suspensions from League Competitions will remain separate and only applicable to that specific League Competition. Therefore, any suspension imposed under these procedures will only be applicable to the League Competition in which the team official received their suspension.

The only exception is whereby a team official receives a suspension from an Open Friendly match (see clause 9). This must be measured by the team officials next match(es) in League Competitions.

(h) **Outstanding Suspensions**

Any period of suspension or part thereof which remains outstanding at the end of a season must be served at the commencement of the next following season with the club at which the team official committed the suspension offence and measured by the Club's matches in the same League Competition.

(i) **FAW Rule 38**

In special cases where:-

(i) a match official's report indicates a serious breach of the Laws of the Game, or

(ii) a team official commits an act of misconduct and/or a sending-off offence as set out in the Laws of the Game whilst on the field of play and/or in the Technical Area which is not seen by the match officials but caught on video;

the Football Association of Wales reserves the right to prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the team official in accordance with one or more of the provisions under FAW Rule 38.

When dealing with a case under (h)(i) hereabove, the Disciplinary Panel may take into account any automatic punishment imposed under the Procedures.

When dealing with a case under (h)(ii) hereabove, confirmation by the match officials that they did not see the incident in question shall be conclusive evidence of that fact.

(j) **Clubs Imposing Fines**

Clubs may fine team officials for on-field offences but must notify the Football Association of Wales, without delay, the details of the fine in each case.

(k) **Re-Arranged Matches**

A FAW Disciplinary Panel shall have discretionary power to rule that a match shall not count towards the completion of a suspension if it is satisfied that the game has been arranged by the club with a view to enabling the team official to complete their suspension and thus qualify them to participate in a specific match. The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to re-arranged matches is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

(l) **Collection of Administration Fees**

It will be the responsibility of the club to collect the £10.00 administration fee from the team officials concerned. Clubs will have 31 calendar days to make the payment for each
team official’s £10.00 administration fee as and when the caution or sending off report is submitted on COMET. Should the club fail to make the payment of the £10.00 administration fee within 31 calendar days, then the team official will become ineligible from participating in any Association Football and Futsal match until payment is received. The administration fee must be paid on the COMET system, or any other system as prescribed by the Association from time to time.

Any club experiencing difficulty in meeting the 31-day limit should contact the Finance Department of the Football Association of Wales on (029) 20435833.

7. **DISCIPLINARY ACTION ON CLUBS FOR MISCONDUCT BY THEIR TEAM OFFICIALS**

(a) Any club whose team official accumulate a total number of Penalty Points during a season, and that total is considered to be appreciably above the average number of points in the same league, may be required to appear before a FAW Disciplinary Panel and shall be liable to be warned and/or fined for having permitted its team officials to violate the Laws of the Game in contravention of FAW Rule 38.1.1. In addition, the Panel shall be entitled to make an order as to costs against the club. Any action taken by the club to discipline its team officials under Section 6(j) will be taken into consideration by the Panel in its findings.

In so far as this Regulation shall apply, the following Penalty Points will be recorded against a club:

- For all recorded cautions .......................................................... 4 Points
- For Sendings-off resulting in a one Match Suspension ................. 10 Points
- For Sendings-off resulting in all other Match Suspensions .......... 12 Points

(b) A club required to appear before an FAW Disciplinary Panel shall be represented by at least one of its Directors/Officials and the Manager.

(c) The Football Association of Wales reserves the right to prefer a charge against a club at any time during the season arising from field offences committed by team officials of the club.

8 **SUSPENSIONS IMPOSED UNDER THESE REGULATIONS**

(a) Unless otherwise ordered by a FAW Disciplinary Panel, Appeals Panel or Independent Arbitration Panel, the terms of the suspensions imposed under these entire regulations will be as set out under the category of a Match Suspension (see clause 9).

(b) Any suspension imposed may only be served whilst the team official holds a registration with a football club. Should a team official transfer or register for a new club prior to the commencement of the suspension or during the period of the suspension, the team official will not be eligible to participate for their new club until such time as the new club with which the team official has transferred to has completed the required number of matches in Approved Competitions.

9 **DEFINITIONS**

i  **BUSINESS DAY**

   Any day of the week except a Saturday or Sunday or public bank holiday in Wales.
ii. CLOSED FRIENDLY MATCH

A game of Association Football which is not an Official Match which is played between two (2) teams (whether or not from different Clubs) but is not made open for the public to attend.

iii. MATCH SUSPENSION

A Match Suspension is a ban on taking part in a match and on attending it in the area immediately surrounding the field-of-play. A Match Suspension may be imposed on a player or an official.

The area immediately surrounding the field-of-play includes:-
1. The field-of-play.
2. The dressing rooms and their immediate area.
3. The tunnel and/or private way leading from the dressing rooms to the field-of-play.
4. The dugouts, benches and technical areas.
5. The prohibited area in the vicinity of the touchline and goal lines.

The player or official under a Match Suspension is prohibited from contact with match officials, players and club officials, as well as giving any media interviews, before, during and after the match.

A Match Suspension does not prohibit a player or official from attending or taking part in a Closed Friendly Match or a club organised private training session. However, a player or official is prohibited from attending or taking part in an Open Friendly Match.

A club who permits a player or an official to attend any ground whilst serving a Match Suspension will be responsible for ensuring the terms of the suspension are adhered to.

iv. OPEN FRIENDLY MATCH

A game of Association Football which is not an Official Match which is played between two (2) teams (whether or not from different Clubs) and is made open to the public to attend.

APPENDIX 1

Fees applicable when making a Claim of Mistaken Identity or a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal

The following fees are defined by FAW Rule 43.2.3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For teams playing in:</th>
<th>£ Fee payable (inclusive of VAT)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Welsh Premier Football League</td>
<td>314.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Championship</td>
<td>219.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Welsh Football League</td>
<td>219.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mid Wales Football League</td>
<td>219.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Welsh Alliance Football League</td>
<td>219.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Welsh National Football League</td>
<td>219.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Welsh Premier Women’s League</td>
<td>219.60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX 2

APPROVED COMPETITIONS

LEAGUES
The Welsh Premier Football League
The Championship
The Welsh Football League
The Mid Wales Football League
The Welsh Alliance Football League
The Welsh National Football League
The Welsh Premier Women's Football League
Senior, Reserve & Youth Team Football

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES CONCERNING FIELD OFFENCES IN CUP MATCHES ONLY – TEAM OFFICIALS

As set out in the schedule hereto for Team Officials associated with Clubs playing teams in the Directly Affiliated Leagues for Cup Competitions only

SEASON 2019/2020

1. REPORTING OF OFFENCES BY MATCH OFFICIALS
   (a) Caution Offences
       Referees must submit a report to the Football Association of Wales within 24 hours after the kick off time of the match stating the offence and giving a description using the procedures set by the Association from time to time.
   (b) Sending-off Offences
       Referees must submit a report to the Football Association of Wales within 24 hours after the kick off time of the match stating the offence(s) and giving a description of the incident(s) using the procedures set by the Association from time to time.
   (c) If a Referee omits to show the appropriate card when taking action against a team official, this will not nullify the caution or sending-off offence. However, the attention of the Referee will be drawn to the correct procedure.

2. CAUTION OFFENCES

A team official who has been cautioned in any match will be notified through the team official’s club by this Association using the systems and procedures set by the Association from time to time of:-
   (a) the offence reported by the Referee;
   (b) the total number of cautions recorded against the team official under these procedures during the current Season; and
   (c) any punishment resulting from the accumulation of these cautions. Any such punishment will take effect regardless of whether or not the notification of it from this Association is received before it is due to take effect in accordance with these Disciplinary Procedures and clubs must therefore maintain their own records.

An administration fee of £10.00 will be charged to the team official through the club for the cost of processing each report.
3. **SENDING-OFF OFFENCES**

A team official who has been sent-off in a match under the provisions of Law 12 will be notified through the team official’s club by this Association using the systems and procedures set by the Association from time to time of:-

(a) the offence reported by the Referee;

(b) That the team official will be subject to the agreed standard punishment (see Section 6). Any such punishment will take effect regardless of whether or not the notification of it from this Association is received before it is due to take effect in accordance with these Disciplinary Procedures and clubs must therefore maintain their own records.

An administration fee of £10.00 will be charged to the team official through the club for the cost of processing each report.

4. **CLAIMS OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY**

(a) In the case of a claim of alleged mistaken identity concerning a team official cautioned or sent-off in a match, the club, on behalf of the team official, must:-

(i) By 2.00pm of the next Business Day following the day of the match submit in writing via fax (029 20 435876) or e-mail (discipline@faw.co.uk) to the Football Association of Wales their intention to submit a claim and the particulars upon which the claim is founded.

(ii) By 2.00pm on the second Business Day following the day of the match, submit to the Football Association of Wales written statements and evidence (including video/DVD where available) in support of the claim together with the relevant fee as set out in Appendix 1. A signed statement by the team official reported by the referee that they were not responsible for the offence reported and identifying specifically the name of the person responsible must be included. Where possible a written statement from the team official responsible for the offence should also be supplied.

(b) Should a club have two matches with no, or insufficient Business Days in between, a Claim of Mistaken Identity shall be notified and lodged with the Football Association of Wales in accordance with the following procedure:-

(i) Where there are no Business Days between two matches, written notification of the club’s intent to make a claim must be faxed (029 20 435876) or e-mailed (discipline@faw.co.uk) to the Football Association of Wales prior to the commencement of the second match.

(ii) Where there is just one Business Day between two matches, the timetable for notification as set out in 4(a)(i) hereabove, will still apply.

(iii) The submission of statements, evidence and the applicable fee must be lodged with the Football Association of Wales by 2.00pm on the second Business Day as set out in 4(a)(ii) hereabove.

In respect of these specific circumstances, a team official will be eligible to play in the second match, if, and only if, notification as set out in 4(b)(i) or 4(b)(ii) hereabove is appropriately submitted. A club will not be permitted to withdraw a claim once written notice to do so has been sent via fax or e-mail to the Football Association of Wales and therefore attention should be paid to 4(d)(ii) herebelow, in respect of claims which are believed to be frivolous
or an abuse of process.

(c) Should a team official participate in a match without the appropriate notification having been lodged as set out hereabove, the Football Association of Wales will prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the club and team official concerned for playing whilst under suspension.

(d) The decisions available to the Disciplinary Panel considering a Claim of Mistaken Identity are as follows:-

(i) The claim is rejected - the team official reported by the referee serves the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum.

(ii) The claim is rejected and considered frivolous and/or an abuse of process - the Disciplinary Panel will have the discretion to increase the match suspension to up to twice that of the standard punishment.

(iii) The claim is successful - the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum is transferred from the record of the team official reported by the referee to the appropriate identified offender.

(e) Irrespective of the decision reached, the Disciplinary Panel shall have the discretion to either retain or return the fee submitted and if considered appropriate, make an order of costs against the claimant(s).

(f) A club failing to lodge a claim for mistaken identity may be charged with misconduct by the Football Association of Wales if there is evidence that the club sought to gain an advantage by remaining silent on the matter.

(g) It is important to note that the time limits set out above are strict. Only complete claims submitted before the relevant deadlines will be considered by the Football Association of Wales.

(h) The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to a Claim of Mistaken Identity is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

5. CLAIMS OF WRONGFUL DISMISSAL

(a) A team official and their club may seek to limit the disciplinary consequences of the dismissal of a team official from the Field-of-Play by demonstrating to this Association that the dismissal was wrongful.

(b) A Claim of Wrongful Dismissal may be lodged only for on-field offences which result in a sending-off, except for two cautions leading to a dismissal.

(c) The club, on behalf of the team official, must:

(i) By 2.00pm of the next Business Day following the day of the match submit in writing via fax (029 20 435876) or e-mail (discipline@faw.co.uk) to the Football Association of Wales their intention to submit a claim and the particulars upon which the claim is founded.

(ii) By 2.00pm of the second Business Day following the day of the match submit written statements and evidence (including a video/DVD of the incident where available) in support of the claim together with the relevant fee as set out in Appendix 1.

(d) A Disciplinary Panel will be convened as soon as is practically possible to decide the matter
on any relevant documentary and video/DVD evidence submitted. The Disciplinary Panel considering a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal is concerned with only the question of whether any sanction of a suspension is one which should be imposed in view of the facts of the case. It must be noted that in accordance with the Laws of the Game, the match referee’s decision is final and the team official’s dismissal from the Technical Area will remain on the record of the team official and the club. The offence will remain the subject of the administration fee and the club will accrue the appropriate number of penalty points for the sending-off. Consequently, the club, team official and match official(s) will not attend the meeting of the Disciplinary Panel when the matter is considered.

(e) Should a club have two matches with no, or insufficient Business Days in between, a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal shall be notified and lodged with the Football Association of Wales in accordance with the following procedure:-

(i) Where there are no Business Days between two matches, written notification of the club’s intent to make a claim must be faxed (029 20 435876) or e-mailed (discipline@faw.co.uk) to the Football Association of Wales prior to the commencement of the second match.

(ii) Where there is just one Business Day between two matches, the timetable for notification as set out in 5(c)(i) hereabove, will still apply.

(iii) The submission of statements, evidence and the applicable fee must be lodged with the Football Association of Wales by 2.00pm on the second Business Day as set out in 5(c)(ii) hereabove.

In respect of these specific circumstances, a team official will be eligible to participate in the second match, if, and only if, notification as set out in 5(e)(i) or 5(e)(ii) hereabove is appropriately submitted. A club will not be permitted to withdraw a claim once written notice to do so has been sent via fax or e-mail to the Football Association of Wales and therefore attention should be paid to 5(g)(ii) herebelow, in respect of claims which are believed to be frivolous or an abuse of process.

(f) Should a team official participate in a match without the appropriate notification having been lodged as set out hereabove, the Football Association of Wales will prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the club and team official concerned for breaching the terms of their suspension.

(g) The decisions available to a Disciplinary Panel when considering a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal are as follows:-

(i) The claim is rejected - the team official serves the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum.

(ii) The claim is rejected and considered frivolous and/or an abuse of process – the Panel will have the discretion to increase the match suspension beyond the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum.

(iii) The claim is successful - the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum is withdrawn and Section 6(f) will not be invoked in relation to this dismissal if the team official is sent-off again following the offence.

(h) Irrespective of the decision reached, the Disciplinary Panel shall have the discretion to either retain or return the fee submitted and if considered appropriate, make an order for costs against the claimant(s).
(i) It is important to note that the time limits set out above are strict. Only complete claims submitted before the relevant deadlines will be considered by the Football Association of Wales.

(j) The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

6. **PUNISHMENTS**

(a) **Caution Offences**

(i) If a team official accumulates two (2) recorded cautions in the same Cup Competition (see Appendix 2) which is under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association any time during the season, the team official will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same Cup Competition only, until such time as the team official has missed his/her club's next ONE (1) recognised match in the same Cup Competition (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match in the Cup Competition and final match in the same Cup Competition of the 2019/2020 Season.

(ii) If a team official accumulates four (4) recorded cautions in the same Cup Competition (see Appendix 2) which is under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association any time during the season, the team official will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same Cup Competition only, until such time as the team official has missed his/her club's next ONE (1) recognised match in the same Cup Competition (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season.

(iii) If a team official accumulates six (6) recorded cautions in the same Cup Competition (see Appendix 2) which is under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association any time during the season, the team official will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same Cup Competition only, until such time as the team official has missed his/her club's next ONE (1) recognised match in the same Cup Competition (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season.

(iv) A team official who has already been subject to disciplinary action as a result of accumulating two (2) cautions, four (4) cautions and six (6) cautions, and who goes on to record eight (8) cautions in the same Cup Competition which is under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association in the same season, shall be required to attend a meeting of a Disciplinary Panel. The members of the Panel shall have the power to deal with the team official in such manner as they deem fit. The same procedure will apply for every further two (2) cautions recorded against a team official in the same Cup Competition.

(v) After the completion of the Quarter Final Round in all Cup Competitions listed in Appendix 2, the caution count shall be reset with all team officials being regarded as having zero (0) cautions attributed to them. For the avoidance of doubt, any team official who receives a suspension resulting from an accumulation of cautions in a Quarter Final match will be suspended for the same Cup Competitions Semi-Final.

(vi) The terms of a suspension resulting from the accumulation of cautions will be as set
out under the category of a TOUCHLINE SUSPENSION (see Section 8).

(vii) The team official must serve the suspension with the club at which the team official committed the suspension offence.

(viii) Any period of suspension or part thereof which remains outstanding at the end of a season must be served at the commencement of the next following season.

(b) Sending Off resulting in a One Match Suspension

Any team official dismissed from the Technical Area for one of the reasons listed below will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same Cup Competition (see clause 9) only, until such time as the team official has missed his/her club’s next ONE (1) recognised match in the same Cup Competition for which the team official participates in (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see Section 8).

• delaying the restart of play by the opposing team e.g. holding onto the ball, kicking the ball away, obstructing the movement of a player
• receiving a second caution in the same match
• using unauthorised electronic or communication equipment and/or behaving in an inappropriate manner as the result of using electronic or communication equipment

The team official must serve the suspension with the club at which the team official committed the suspension offence.

(c) Sending Off resulting in a Two Match Suspension

Any team official dismissed from the Technical Area for one of the reasons listed below will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same Cup Competition (see clause 9) only, until such time as the team official has missed his/her club’s next TWO (2) recognised matches in the same Cup Competition for which the team official participates in (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see Section 8).

• deliberately leaving the technical area to:
  i. show dissent towards, or remonstrate with, a match official
  ii. act in a provocative or inflammatory manner
  iii. enter the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner
• using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
• entering the video operation room (VOR)
• entering the field of play to interfere with play, an opposing player or match official
• entering the field of play to confront a match official (including at half-time and full-time)

The team official must serve the suspension with the club at which the team official committed the suspension offence.

(d) Sending Off resulting in a Three Match Suspension
Any team official dismissed from the Technical Area for one of the reasons listed below will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same Cup Competition (see clause 9) only, until such time as the team official has missed his/her club’s next THREE (3) recognised matches in the same Cup Competition for which the team official participates in (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see Section 8).

- deliberately throwing/kicking an object onto the field of play
- physical or aggressive behaviour (including spitting or biting) towards an opposing player, substitute, team official, match official, spectator or any other person (e.g. ball boy/girl, security or competition official etc.)
- violent conduct

The team official must serve the suspension with the club at which the team official committed the suspension offence.

(e) Sending’s Off not detailed

(i) Any team official dismissed from the Technical Area for a reason not set out in section 6(b), (c) & (d), will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same Cup Competition (see clause 9) only for ONE (1) recognised match in the same Cup Competition for which the team official participates in (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see Section 8).

(ii) The dismissal will then be subject for review by a Disciplinary Panel of the Football Association of Wales. The Disciplinary Panel shall have the power to determine:

(a) A one Match Suspension as set out in 6(e)(i) shall suffice and there should be no further suspension; or
(b) That the standard one Match Suspension as set out in 6(e)(i) is insufficient and the Panel will have the power to increase the Match Suspension.

(iii) The club or team official will not be permitted to submit any evidence for the Disciplinary Panel’s considerations and the matter will be considered solely on the match official(s) sending off report. Should a club require a Disciplinary Panel to consider the validity of the suspension resulting from the sending off, then they must submit a Claim of Mistaken Identity and/or a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal as set out in Section 4 and 5. In this procedure set out in 6(e), the Disciplinary Panel will only confine themselves to the level of sanction imposed from the dismissal.

(iv) Should a club lodge a Claim of Mistaken Identity then the same Disciplinary Panel will consider the sanction.

(v) Should a club lodge a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal and the claim is rejected as set out under section 5(g)(i) & (ii), then the same Disciplinary Panel will consider the sanction.

(vi) The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to this procedure is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

(f) Additional Sendings-off

Team officials dismissed from the Technical Area for a second time in the same Season in the same Cup Competition, in addition to the automatic suspension applicable to the
offence, will be suspended for one extra match.

A team official dismissed for a third time in the same Season in the same Cup Competition will be suspended for an extra two matches, and so on.

(g) **Measurement of Suspension**

All suspensions from Cup Competitions will remain separate and only applicable to that specific Cup Competition. Therefore, any suspension imposed under these procedures will only be applicable to the Cup Competition in which the team official received their suspension.

(h) **Outstanding Suspensions**

Any period of suspension or part thereof which remains outstanding at the end of a season must be served at the commencement of the next following season with the club at which the team official committed the suspension offence and measured by the Club’s matches in the same Cup Competition.

(i) **FAW Rule 38**

In special cases where:-

(i) a match official’s report indicates a serious breach of the Laws of the Game, or

(ii) a team official commits an act of misconduct and/or a sending-off offence as set out in the Laws of the Game whilst in the Technical Area which is not seen by the match officials but caught on video;

the Football Association of Wales reserves the right to prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the team official in accordance with one or more of the provisions under FAW Rule 38.

When dealing with a case under (i)(i) hereabove, the Disciplinary Panel may take into account any automatic punishment imposed under the Procedures.

When dealing with a case under (i)(ii) hereabove, confirmation by the match officials that they did not see the incident in question shall be conclusive evidence of that fact.

(j) **Clubs Imposing Fines**

Clubs may fine team officials for on-field offences but must notify the Football Association of Wales, without delay, the details of the fine in each case.

(k) **Collection of Administration Fees**

It will be the responsibility of the club to collect the £10.00 administration fee from the team officials concerned. Clubs will have 31 calendar days to make the payment for each team official’s £10.00 administration fee as and when the caution or sending off report is submitted on COMET. Should the club fail to make the payment of the £10.00 administration fee within 31 calendar days, then the team official will become ineligible from playing in ANY Association Football and Futsal match until payment is received. The administration fee must be paid on the COMET system, or any other system as prescribed by the Football Association of Wales from time to time.

Any club experiencing difficulty meeting the 31-day limit should contact the Finance
7. **DISCIPLINARY ACTION ON CLUBS FOR MISCONDUCT BY THEIR TEAM OFFICIALS**

   The Football Association of Wales reserves the right to prefer a charge against a club at any time during the season arising from field offences committed by team officials of the club.

8. **SUSPENSIONS IMPOSED UNDER THESE REGULATIONS**

   (a) Unless otherwise ordered by a FAW Disciplinary Panel, Appeals Panel or Independent Arbitration Panel, the terms of the suspensions imposed under these entire regulations will be as set out under the category of a Match Suspension (see clause 9).

   (b) Any suspension imposed may only be served whilst the team official holds a registration with a football club. Should a team official transfer or register for a new club prior to the commencement of the suspension or during the period of the suspension, the team official will not be eligible to participate for their new club until such time as the new club with which the team official has transferred to has completed the required number of matches in Approved Competitions.

9. **DEFINITIONS**

   i. **BUSINESS DAY**

   Any day of the week except a Saturday or Sunday or public bank holiday in Wales.

   ii. **CLOSED FRIENDLY MATCH**

   A game of Association Football which is not an Official Match which is played between two (2) teams (whether or not from different Clubs) but is not made open for the public to attend.

   iii. **MATCH SUSPENSION**

   A Match Suspension is a ban on taking part in a match and on attending it in the area immediately surrounding the field-of-play. A Match Suspension may be imposed on a player or an official.

   The area immediately surrounding the field-of-play includes:-

   1. The field-of-play.
   2. The dressing rooms and their immediate area.
   3. The tunnel and/or private way leading from the dressing rooms to the field-of-play.
   4. The dugouts, benches and technical areas.
   5. The prohibited area in the vicinity of the touchline and goal lines.

   The player or official under a Match Suspension is prohibited from contact with match officials, players and club officials, as well as giving any media interviews, before, during and after the match.

   A Match Suspension does not prohibit a player or official from attending or taking part in a Closed Friendly Match or a club organised private training session. However, a player or official is prohibited from attending or taking part in an Open Friendly Match.
A club who permits a player or an official to attend any ground whilst serving a Match Suspension will be responsible for ensuring the terms of the suspension are adhered to.

iv. OPEN FRIENDLY MATCH

A game of Association Football which is not an Official Match which is played between two (2) teams (whether or not from different Clubs) and is made open to the public to attend.

APPENDIX 1

Fees applicable when making a Claim of Mistaken Identity or a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal

The following fees are defined by FAW Rule 43.2.3

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>For teams playing in:-</th>
<th>£ Fee payable (inclusive of VAT)</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Welsh Premier Football League</td>
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<td>The Championship</td>
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<td>The Welsh Football League</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Welsh Premier Women’s League</td>
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APPENDIX 2

APPROVED COMPETITIONS

CUP COMPETITIONS

The FAW Welsh Cup
The FAW Women’s Cup
The FAW Trophy
The FAW Youth Cup
The Nathaniel MG Cup
The Welsh Premier Development League Cup
The Welsh Premier Women’s League Cup
The Nathaniel Car Sales Welsh Football League Cup
The Welsh Football League Youth Cup
The Huws Gray Cymru Alliance League Cup
The Mid Wales Football League Division One Cup
The Mid Wales Football League Division Two Cup
The Welsh Alliance League Division One Cup
The Welsh Alliance League Division Two Cup
The Welsh Alliance League Mawddach Challenge Cup
The Welsh National League Premier Division Cup
The Welsh National League Division One Cup
The Welsh National League Presidents Cup
The North East Wales FA Challenge Cup
The North Wales Coast FA Senior Challenge Cup
The Central Wales FA Challenge Cup
The West Wales FA Senior Cup
The South Wales FA Senior Cup
Senior Area Association Cup Competitions (Women's)
The FAW National FUTSAL League Disciplinary Procedures

CONCERNING PITCH OFFENCES

As set out in the schedule hereto for Players associated with Clubs playing teams in the FAW National Futsal League
SEASON 2019/2020

1. REPORTING OF OFFENCES BY MATCH OFFICIALS

(a) Caution Offences
Referees must submit a report to the Football Association of Wales within 24 hours after the kick off time of the match stating the offence and giving a description using the procedures set by the Association from time to time.

(b) Sending-off Offences
Referees must submit a report to the Football Association of Wales within 24 hours after the kick off time of the match stating the offence(s) and giving a description of the incident(s) using the procedures set by the Association from time to time.

(c) If a Referee omits to show the appropriate card when taking action against a player, this will not nullify the caution or sending-off offence. However, the attention of the Referee will be drawn to the correct procedure.

2. CAUTION OFFENCES

A player who has been cautioned in any match will be notified through the player’s club by this Association using the systems and procedures set by the Association from time to time of:-

(a) the offence reported by the Referee;

(b) the total number of cautions recorded against the player under these procedures during the current Season; and

(c) any punishment resulting from the accumulation of these cautions. Any such punishment will take effect regardless of whether or not the notification of it from this Association is received before it is due to take effect in accordance with these Disciplinary Procedures.

An administration fee of £10.00 will be charged to the player through the club for the cost of processing each report.

3. SENDING-OFF OFFENCES

A player who has been sent-off in a match under the provisions of Law 12 of the Futsal Laws of
the Game will be notified through the player’s club by this Association of:-

(a) the offence reported by the Referee;

(b) That the player will be subject to the agreed standard punishment (see Section 6). Any such punishment will take effect regardless of whether or not the notification of it from this Association is received before it is due to take effect in accordance with these Disciplinary Procedures.

An administration fee of £10.00 will be charged to the player through the club for the cost of processing each report.

4. CLAIMS OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY

(a) In the case of a claim of alleged mistaken identity concerning a player cautioned or sent-off in a match, the club, on behalf of the player, must:-

(i) By 2.00pm of the next Business Day following the day of the match submit in writing via fax (029 20 435876) or e-mail (discipline@faw.co.uk) to the Football Association of Wales their intention to submit a claim and the particulars upon which the claim is founded.

(ii) By 2.00pm on the second Business Day following the day of the match, submit to the Football Association of Wales written statements and evidence (including video/DVD where available) in support of the claim together with the relevant fee as set out in Appendix 1. A signed statement by the player reported by the referee that they were not responsible for the offence reported and identifying specifically the name of the person responsible must be included. Where possible a written statement from the player responsible for the offence should also be supplied.

(b) Should a club have two matches with no, or insufficient Business Days in between, a Claim of Mistaken Identity shall be notified and lodged with the Football Association of Wales in accordance with the following procedure:-

(i) Where there are no Business Days between two matches, written notification of the club’s intent to make a claim must be faxed (029 20 435876) or e-mailed (discipline@faw.co.uk) to the Football Association of Wales prior to the commencement of the second match.

(ii) Where there is just one Business Day between two matches, the timetable for notification as set out in 4(a)(i) hereabove, will still apply.

(iii) The submission of statements, evidence and the applicable fee must be lodged with the Football Association of Wales by 2.00pm on the second Business Day as set out in 4(a)(ii) hereabove.

In respect of these specific circumstances, a player will be eligible to play in the second match, if, and only if, notification as set out in 4(b)(i) or 4(b)(ii) hereabove is appropriately submitted. A club will not be permitted to withdraw a claim once written notice to do so has been sent via fax or e-mail to the Football Association of Wales and therefore attention should be paid to 4(d)(ii) herebelow, in respect of claims which are believed to be frivolous or an abuse of process.

(c) Should a player play in a match without the appropriate notification having being lodged as set out hereabove, the Football Association of Wales will prefer an appropriate charge of
misconduct against the club and player concerned for playing whilst under suspension.

(d) The decisions available to the Disciplinary Panel considering a Claim of Mistaken Identity are as follows:-

(i) The claim is rejected - the player reported by the referee serves the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum.

(ii) The claim is rejected and considered frivolous and/or an abuse of process - the Disciplinary Panel will have the discretion to increase the match suspension to up to twice that of the standard punishment.

(iii) The claim is successful - the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum is transferred from the record of the player reported by the referee to the appropriate identified offender.

(e) Irrespective of the decision reached, the Disciplinary Panel shall have the discretion to either retain or return the fee submitted and if considered appropriate, make an order of costs against the claimant(s).

(f) A club failing to lodge a claim for mistaken identity may be charged with misconduct by the Football Association of Wales if there is evidence that the club sought to gain an advantage by remaining silent on the matter.

(g) It is important to note that the time limits set out above are strict. Only complete claims submitted before the relevant deadlines will be considered by the Football Association of Wales.

(h) The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to a Claim of Mistaken Identity is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

5. CLAIMS OF WRONGFUL DISMISSAL

(a) A player and their club may seek to limit the disciplinary consequences of the dismissal of a player from the pitch by demonstrating to this Association that the dismissal was wrongful.

(b) A Claim of Wrongful Dismissal may be lodged only for offences which result in a sending-off, except for two cautions leading to a dismissal.

(c) The club, on behalf of the player, must:-

(i) By 2.00pm of the next Business Day following the day of the match submit in writing via fax (029 20 435876) or e-mail (discipline@faw.co.uk) to the Football Association of Wales their intention to submit a claim and the particulars upon which the claim is founded.

(ii) By 2.00pm of the second Business Day following the day of the match submit written statements and evidence (including a video/DVD of the incident where available) in support of the claim together with the relevant fee as set out in Appendix 1.

(d) A Disciplinary Panel will be convened as soon as is practically possible to decide the matter on any relevant documentary and video/DVD evidence submitted. The Disciplinary Panel considering a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal is concerned with only the question of whether any sanction of a suspension from play is one which should be imposed in view of the facts of the case. It must be noted that in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game, the match referee's decision is final and the player's dismissal from the field of play will
remain on the record of the player and the club. The offence will remain the subject of the administration fee and the club will accrue the appropriate number of penalty points for the sending-off. Consequently, the club, player and match official(s) will not attend the meeting of the Disciplinary Panel when the matter is considered.

(e) Should a club have two matches with no, or insufficient Business Days in between, a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal shall be notified and lodged with the Football Association of Wales in accordance with the following procedure:-

(i) Where there are no Business Days between two matches, written notification of the club's intent to make a claim must be faxed (029 20 435876) or e-mailed (discipline@faw.co.uk) to the Football Association of Wales prior to the commencement of the second match.

(ii) Where there is just one Business Day between two matches, the timetable for notification as set out in 5(c)(i) hereabove, will still apply.

(iii) The submission of statements, evidence and the applicable fee must be lodged with the Football Association of Wales by 2.00pm on the second Business Day as set out in 5(c)(ii) hereabove.

In respect of these specific circumstances, a player will be eligible to play in the second match, if, and only if, notification as set out in 5(e)(i) or 5(e)(ii) hereabove is appropriately submitted. A club will not be permitted to withdraw a claim once written notice to do so has been sent via fax or e-mail to the Football Association of Wales and therefore attention should be paid to 5(g)(ii) herebelow, in respect of claims which are believed to be frivolous or an abuse of process.

(f) Should a player play in a match without the appropriate notification having being lodged as set out hereabove, the Football Association of Wales will prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the club and player concerned for playing whilst under suspension.

(g) The decisions available to a Disciplinary Panel when considering a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal are as follows:-

(i) The claim is rejected - the player serves the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum.

(ii) The claim is rejected and considered frivolous and/or an abuse of process – the Panel will have the discretion to increase the match suspension beyond the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum.

(iii) The claim is successful - the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum is withdrawn and Section 6(f) will not be invoked in relation to this dismissal if the player is sent-off again following the offence.

(h) Irrespective of the decision reached, the Disciplinary Panel shall have the discretion to either retain or return the fee submitted and if considered appropriate, make an order for costs against the claimant(s).

(i) It is important to note that the time limits set out above are strict. Only complete claims submitted before the relevant deadlines will be considered by the Football Association of Wales.

(j) The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.
6. PUNISHMENTS

(a) Caution Offences

(i) If a player accumulates three (3) recorded cautions in the FAW National Futsal League under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association between the opening day of the playing season and the last day of the same season, the player will be suspended automatically for a period covering ONE (1) Match.

(ii) If a player accumulates five (5) recorded cautions in the FAW National Futsal League under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association between the opening day of the playing season and the last day of the same season, the player will be suspended automatically for a period covering ONE (1) Match.

(iii) If a player accumulates seven (7) recorded cautions in the FAW National Futsal League under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association between the opening day of the playing season and the last day of the same season, the player will be suspended automatically for a period covering ONE (1) Match.

(iv) A player who has already been subject to disciplinary action as a result of accumulating three (3) cautions, five (5) cautions and seven (7) cautions, and who goes on to record nine (9) cautions in any competition under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association in the same season, shall be required to attend a meeting of a Disciplinary Panel when requested to do so. The members of the Panel shall have the power to deal with the player in such manner as they deem fit. The same procedure will apply for every further two (2) cautions recorded against a player.

(v) Any period of suspension arising from the accumulation of cautions shall commence with immediate effect. The suspension shall cover all National Futsal League matches and friendly matches until such time as the player’s club’s recognised FAW National Futsal League team has completed the number of matches appropriate to the punishment in Approved Competitions (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see clause 9 of these regulations).

The player must serve the suspension with the futsal club at which the player holds a valid registration with.

(vi) Any period of suspension or part thereof which remains outstanding at the end of a season must be served at the commencement of the next following season.

(b) Players Sent-off Under Law 12 (7)

A player who is dismissed from the pitch for a second cautionable offence after having received a caution will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from all FAW National Futsal League and friendly matches until such time as the player has missed his/her club’s next 1 (ONE) recognised match in Approved Competitions (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see clause 9 of these regulations).

The player must serve the suspension with the futsal club at which the player holds a valid registration with.
(c) **Players Sent-off Under Law 12 (4) and (5)**

A player who is dismissed from the pitch for denying a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by physical means or by handling the ball, will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from all FAW National Futsal League matches and friendly matches until such time as the player has missed his/her club's next 1 (ONE) recognised match in Approved Competitions (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see clause 9 of these regulations).

The player must serve the suspension with the futsal club at which the player holds a valid registration with.

(d) **Players Sent-off Under Law 12 (6)**

A player who is dismissed from the pitch for using offensive, insulting or abusive language/gestures, whether they have previously been cautioned in the match or not, will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from all FAW National Futsal League and friendly matches until such time as the player has missed his/her club's next 2 (TWO) recognised matches in Approved Competitions (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see clause 9 of these regulations).

The player must serve the suspension with the futsal club at which the player holds a valid registration with.

(e) **Players Sent-off Under Law 12 (1) (2) and (3)**

A player who is dismissed from the pitch for Violent Conduct, Serious Foul Play or Spitting at an opponent or any other person whether they have previously been cautioned in the match or not, will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from all FAW National Futsal League and friendly matches until such time as the player has missed his/her club's next 3 (THREE) recognised matches in Approved Competitions (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see clause 9 of these regulations).

The player must serve the suspension with the futsal club at which the player holds a valid registration with.

(f) **Additional Sendings-off**

Players dismissed from the pitch for a second time in the same Season, in addition to the automatic suspension applicable to the offence, will be suspended for one extra match.

A player dismissed for a third time in the same Season will be suspended for an extra two matches, and so on.

(g) **Outstanding Suspensions**

Any period of suspension or part thereof which remains outstanding at the end of a season must be served at the commencement of the next following season with the futsal club at which the player is registered with and measured by the players club's matches in the FAW National Futsal League.
(h) **FAW Rule 38**

In special cases where a match official’s report indicates a serious breach of the Futsal Laws of the Game, the Football Association of Wales reserves the right to prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the player in accordance with one or more of the provisions under FAW Rule 38. When dealing with such a case, the Disciplinary Panel may take into account any automatic punishment imposed under these regulations.

(i) **Payment To Players Under Suspension**

Clubs must not pay a player more than their basic wage during the period of a suspension.

(j) **Clubs Imposing Fines**

Clubs may fine players for on-field offences but must notify the Football Association of Wales, without delay, the details of the fine in each case.

(k) **Re-Arranged Matches**

A FAW Disciplinary Panel shall have discretionary power to rule that a match shall not count towards the completion of a suspension if it is satisfied that the game has been arranged by the futsal club with a view to enabling the player to complete their suspension and thus qualify them to play in a specific match. The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to re-arranged matches is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

(l) **Collection of Administration Fees**

It will be the responsibility of the club to collect the £10.00 administration fee from the players concerned. Clubs will have 31 calendar days to make the payment for each player's £10.00 administration fee as and when the caution or sending off report is submitted on COMET. Should the club fail to make the payment of the £10.00 administration fee within 31 calendar days, then the player will become ineligible from playing in any Association Football and Futsal match until payment is received. The administration fee must be paid on the COMET system, or any other system as prescribed by the Association from time to time.

Any club experiencing difficulty in meeting the 31-day limit should contact the Finance Department of the Football Association of Wales on (029) 20 435833.

7. **DISCIPLINARY ACTION ON CLUBS FOR MISCONDUCT BY THEIR PLAYERS**

(a) Any futsal club whose players accumulate a total number of penalty points during a season, and that total is considered to be appreciably above the average number of points in the same league, may be required to appear before a FAW Disciplinary Panel and shall be liable to be warned and/or fined for having permitted its players to violate the Futsal Laws of the Game in contravention of FAW Rule 38.1.1. In addition, the Panel shall be entitled to make an order as to costs against the club. Any action taken by the club to discipline its players under Section 6(j) will be taken into consideration by the Panel in its findings.

In so far as this Regulation shall apply, the following penalty points will be recorded against a futsal club:-

For all recorded cautions .......................................................... 4 Points
For Sending-off under Law 12  (4) (5) & (7) ................................. 10 Points
For Sending-off under Law 12  (1) (2) (3) & (6) .............................. 12 Points
(b) A club required to appear before an FAW Disciplinary Panel shall be represented by at least one of its Directors/Officials and the Manager.

(c) The Football Association of Wales reserves the right to prefer a charge against a futsal club at any time during the season arising from field offences committed by players of the club.

8. **SUSPENSIONS IMPOSED UNDER THESE REGULATIONS**

(a) Unless otherwise ordered by a FAW Disciplinary Panel, Appeals Panel or Independent Arbitration Panel, the terms of the suspensions imposed under these entire regulations will be as set out under the category of a Match Suspension (see clause 9).

(b) Any suspension imposed may only be served whilst the player holds a registration with a futsal club. Should a player transfer or register for a new club prior to the commencement of the suspension or during the period of the suspension, the player will not be eligible to play for their new club until such time as the new club with which the player has transferred to has completed the required number of matches in Approved Competitions.

(c) Any period of suspension imposed under these ‘Regulations’ shall be from the FAW National Futsal League only.

9 **DEFINITIONS**

(a) **BUSINESS DAY**

Any day of the week except a Saturday or Sunday or public bank holiday in Wales.

(b) **MATCH SUSPENSION**

A Match Suspension is a ban on taking part in a match and on attending it in the area immediately surrounding the field-of-play. A Match Suspension may be imposed on a player or an official.

The area immediately surrounding the field-of-play includes:

1. The field-of-play.
2. The dressing rooms and their immediate area.
3. The tunnel and/or private way leading from the dressing rooms to the field-of-play.
4. The dugouts, benches and technical areas.
5. The prohibited area in the vicinity of the touchline and goal lines.

The player or official under a Match Suspension is prohibited from contact with match officials, players and club officials, as well as giving any media interviews, before, during and after the match.

A Match Suspension does not prohibit a player or official from attending or taking part in a Closed Friendly Match or a club organised private training session. However, a player or official is prohibited from attending or taking part in an Open Friendly Match.

A club who permits a player or an official to attend any ground whilst serving a Match Suspension will be responsible for ensuring the terms of the suspension are adhered to.

APPENDIX 1
Fees applicable when making a Claim of Mistaken Identity or a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal

The following fees are defined by FAW Rule 43.2.3

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<td>The FAW Futsal League</td>
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**APPENDIX 2**

**APPROVED COMPETITIONS**

(For those clubs whose Team play in the FAW Futsal League)

League:
The FAW National Futsal League
The FAW National FUTSAL Cup

As set out in the schedule hereto for Players associated with Clubs playing teams in the FAW National Futsal Cup.

SEASON 2019/2020

1. REPORTING OF OFFENCES BY MATCH OFFICIALS
   (a) Caution Offences
       Referees must submit a report to the Football Association of Wales within 24 hours after the kick off time of the match stating the offence and giving a description using the procedures set by the Association from time to time.
   (b) Sending-off Offences
       Referees must submit a report to the Football Association of Wales within 24 hours after the kick off time of the match stating the offence(s) and giving a description of the incident(s) using the procedures set by the Association from time to time.
   (c) If a Referee omits to show the appropriate card when taking action against a player, this will not nullify the caution or sending-off offence. However, the attention of the Referee will be drawn to the correct procedure.

2. CAUTION OFFENCES
   A player who has been cautioned in any match will be notified through the player’s club by this Association using the systems and procedures set by the Association from time to time of:-
   (a) the offence reported by the Referee;
   (b) the total number of cautions recorded against the player under these procedures during the current Season; and
   (c) any punishment resulting from the accumulation of these cautions. Any such punishment will take effect regardless of whether or not the notification of it from this Association is received before it is due to take effect in accordance with these Disciplinary Procedures.
   An administration fee of £10.00 will be charged to the player through the club for the cost of processing each report.

3. SENDING-OFF OFFENCES
   A player who has been sent-off in a match under the provisions of Law 12 of the Futsal Laws of the Game will be notified through the player’s club by this Association of:-
(a) the offence reported by the Referee;

(b) That the player will be subject to the agreed standard punishment (see Section 6). Any such punishment will take effect regardless of whether or not the notification of it from this Association is received before it is due to take effect in accordance with these Disciplinary Procedures.

An administration fee of £10.00 will be charged to the player through the club for the cost of processing each report.

4. CLAIMS OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY

(a) In the case of a claim of alleged mistaken identity concerning a player cautioned or sent-off in a match, the club, on behalf of the player, must:

(i) By 2.00pm of the next Business Day following the day of the match submit in writing via fax (029 20 435876) or e-mail (discipline@faw.co.uk) to the Football Association of Wales their intention to submit a claim and the particulars upon which the claim is founded.

(ii) By 2.00pm on the second Business Day following the day of the match, submit to the Football Association of Wales written statements and evidence (including video/DVD where available) in support of the claim together with the relevant fee as set out in Appendix 1. A signed statement by the player reported by the referee that they were not responsible for the offence reported and identifying specifically the name of the person responsible must be included. Where possible a written statement from the player responsible for the offence should also be supplied.

(b) Should a club have two matches with no, or insufficient Business Days in between, a Claim of Mistaken Identity shall be notified and lodged with the Football Association of Wales in accordance with the following procedure:

(i) Where there are no Business Days between two matches, written notification of the club’s intent to make a claim must be faxed (029 20 435876) or e-mailed (discipline@faw.co.uk) to the Football Association of Wales prior to the commencement of the second match.

(ii) Where there is just one Business Day between two matches, the timetable for notification as set out in 4(a)(i) hereabove, will still apply.

(iii) The submission of statements, evidence and the applicable fee must be lodged with the Football Association of Wales by 2.00pm on the second Business Day as set out in 4(a)(ii) hereabove.

In respect of these specific circumstances, a player will be eligible to play in the second match, if, and only if, notification as set out in 4(b)(i) or 4(b)(ii) hereabove is appropriately submitted. A club will not be permitted to withdraw a claim once written notice to do so has been sent via fax or e-mail to the Football Association of Wales and therefore attention should be paid to 4(d)(ii) herebelow, in respect of claims which are believed to be frivolous or an abuse of process.

(c) Should a player play in a match without the appropriate notification having being lodged as set out hereabove, the Football Association of Wales will prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the club and player concerned for playing whilst under suspension.
(d) The decisions available to the Disciplinary Panel considering a Claim of Mistaken Identity are as follows:-

(i) The claim is rejected - the player reported by the referee serves the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum.

(ii) The claim is rejected and considered frivolous and/or an abuse of process - the Disciplinary Panel will have the discretion to increase the match suspension to up to twice that of the standard punishment.

(iii) The claim is successful - the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum is transferred from the record of the player reported by the referee to the appropriate identified offender.

(e) Irrespective of the decision reached, the Disciplinary Panel shall have the discretion to either retain or return the fee submitted and if considered appropriate, make an order of costs against the claimant(s).

(f) A club failing to lodge a claim for mistaken identity may be charged with misconduct by the Football Association of Wales if there is evidence that the club sought to gain an advantage by remaining silent on the matter.

(g) It is important to note that the time limits set out above are strict. Only complete claims submitted before the relevant deadlines will be considered by the Football Association of Wales.

(h) The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to a Claim of Mistaken Identity is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

5. CLAIMS OF WRONGFUL DISMISSAL

(a) A player and their club may seek to limit the disciplinary consequences of the dismissal of a player from the pitch by demonstrating to this Association that the dismissal was wrongful.

(b) A Claim of Wrongful Dismissal may be lodged only for offences which result in a sending-off, except for two cautions leading to a dismissal.

(c) The club, on behalf of the player, must:-

(i) By 2.00pm of the next Business Day following the day of the match submit in writing via fax (029 20 435876) or e-mail (discipline@faw.co.uk) to the Football Association of Wales their intention to submit a claim and the particulars upon which the claim is founded.

(ii) By 2.00pm of the second Business Day following the day of the match submit written statements and evidence (including a video/DVD of the incident where available) in support of the claim together with the relevant fee as set out in Appendix 1.

(d) A Disciplinary Panel will be convened as soon as is practically possible to decide the matter on any relevant documentary and video/DVD evidence submitted. The Disciplinary Panel considering a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal is concerned with only the question of whether any sanction of a suspension from play is one which should be imposed in view of the facts of the case. It must be noted that in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game, the match referee's decision is final and the player's dismissal from the field of play will remain on the record of the player and the club. The offence will remain the subject of the administration fee and the club will accrue the appropriate number of penalty points.
for the sending-off. Consequently, the club, player and match official(s) will not attend the meeting of the Disciplinary Panel when the matter is considered.

(e) Should a club have two matches with no, or insufficient Business Days in between, a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal shall be notified and lodged with the Football Association of Wales in accordance with the following procedure:-

(i) Where there are no Business Days between two matches, written notification of the club’s intent to make a claim must be faxed (029 20 435876) or e-mailed (discipline@faw.co.uk) to the Football Association of Wales prior to the commencement of the second match.

(ii) Where there is just one Business Day between two matches, the timetable for notification as set out in 5(c)(i) hereabove, will still apply.

(iii) The submission of statements, evidence and the applicable fee must be lodged with the Football Association of Wales by 2.00pm on the second Business Day as set out in 5(c)(ii) hereabove.

In respect of these specific circumstances, a player will be eligible to play in the second match, if, and only if, notification as set out in 5(e)(i) or 5(e)(ii) hereabove is appropriately submitted. A club will not be permitted to withdraw a claim once written notice to do so has been sent via fax or e-mail to the Football Association of Wales and therefore attention should be paid to 5(g)(ii) herebelow, in respect of claims which are believed to be frivolous or an abuse of process.

(f) Should a player play in a match without the appropriate notification having being lodged as set out hereabove, the Football Association of Wales will prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the club and player concerned for playing whilst under suspension.

(g) The decisions available to a Disciplinary Panel when considering a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal are as follows:-

(i) The claim is rejected - the player serves the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum.

(ii) The claim is rejected and considered frivolous and/or an abuse of process – the Panel will have the discretion to increase the match suspension beyond the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum.

(iii) The claim is successful - the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum is withdrawn and Section 6(f) will not be invoked in relation to this dismissal if the player is sent-off again following the offence.

(h) Irrespective of the decision reached, the Disciplinary Panel shall have the discretion to either retain or return the fee submitted and if considered appropriate, make an order for costs against the claimant(s).

(i) It is important to note that the time limits set out above are strict. Only complete claims submitted before the relevant deadlines will be considered by the Football Association of Wales.

(j) The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.
6. PUNISHMENTS

(a) Caution Offences

(i) If a player accumulates two (2) recorded cautions in the FAW National Futsal Cup under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association between the opening day of the playing season and the last day of the same season, the player will be suspended automatically for a period covering ONE (1) Match.

(ii) If a player accumulates four (4) recorded cautions in the FAW National Futsal Cup under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association between the opening day of the playing season and the last day of the same season, the player will be suspended automatically for a period covering ONE (1) Match.

(iii) If a player accumulates six (6) recorded cautions in the FAW National Futsal Cup under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association between the opening day of the playing season and the last day of the same season, the player will be suspended automatically for a period covering ONE (1) Match.

(iv) A player who has already been subject to disciplinary action as a result of accumulating two (2) cautions, four (4) cautions and six (6) cautions, and who goes on to record eight (8) cautions in any competition under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association in the same season, shall be required to attend a meeting of a Disciplinary Panel when requested to do so. The members of the Panel shall have the power to deal with the player in such manner as they deem fit. The same procedure will apply for every further two (2) cautions recorded against a player.

(v) Any period of suspension arising from the accumulation of cautions shall commence with immediate effect. The suspension shall cover all National Futsal Cup matches until such time as the player’s club’s recognised FAW National Futsal Cup team has completed the number of matches appropriate to the punishment in Approved Competitions (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see clause 9 of these regulations).

The player must serve the suspension with the futsal club at which the player holds a valid registration with.

(vi) Any period of suspension or part thereof which remains outstanding at the end of a season must be served at the commencement of the next following season.

(b) Players Sent-off Under Law 12 (7)

A player who is dismissed from the pitch for a second cautionable offence after having received a caution will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from all FAW National Futsal Cup until such time as the player has missed his/her club’s next 1 (ONE) recognised match in Approved Competitions (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see clause 9 of these regulations).

The player must serve the suspension with the futsal club at which the player holds a valid registration with.
(c) **Players Sent-off Under Law 12 (4) and (5)**

A player who is dismissed from the pitch for denying a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by physical means or by handling the ball, will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from all FAW National Futsal Cup matches until such time as the player has missed his/her club's next 1 (ONE) recognised match in Approved Competitions (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see clause 9 of these regulations).

The player must serve the suspension with the futsal club at which the player holds a valid registration with.

(d) **Players Sent-off Under Law 12 (6)**

A player who is dismissed from the pitch for using offensive, insulting or abusive language/gestures, whether they have previously been cautioned in the match or not, will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from all FAW National Futsal Cup until such time as the player has missed his/her club's next 2 (TWO) recognised matches in Approved Competitions (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see clause 9 of these regulations).

The player must serve the suspension with the futsal club at which the player holds a valid registration with.

(e) **Players Sent-off Under Law 12 (1) (2) and (3)**

A player who is dismissed from the pitch for Violent Conduct, Serious Foul Play or Spitting at an opponent or any other person whether they have previously been cautioned in the match or not, will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from all FAW National Futsal Cup until such time as the player has missed his/her club's next 3 (THREE) recognised matches in Approved Competitions (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2019/2020 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see clause 9 of these regulations).

The player must serve the suspension with the futsal club at which the player holds a valid registration with.

(f) **Additional Sendings-off**

Players dismissed from the pitch for a second time in the same Season, in addition to the automatic suspension applicable to the offence, will be suspended for one extra match. A player dismissed for a third time in the same Season will be suspended for an extra two matches, and so on.

(g) **Outstanding Suspensions**

Any period of suspension or part thereof which remains outstanding at the end of a season must be served at the commencement of the next following season with the futsal club at which the player is registered with and measured by the players club's matches in the FAW National Futsal Cup.

(h) **FAW Rule 38**

In special cases where a match official's report indicates a serious breach of the Futsal Laws
of the Game, the Football Association of Wales reserves the right to prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the player in accordance with one or more of the provisions under FAW Rule 38. When dealing with such a case, the Disciplinary Panel may take into account any automatic punishment imposed under these regulations.

(i) **Payment To Players Under Suspension**

Clubs must not pay a player more than their basic wage during the period of a suspension.

(j) **Clubs Imposing Fines**

Clubs may fine players for on-field offences but must notify the Football Association of Wales, without delay, the details of the fine in each case.

(k) **Re-Arranged Matches**

A FAW Disciplinary Panel shall have discretionary power to rule that a match shall not count towards the completion of a suspension if it is satisfied that the game has been arranged by the futsal club with a view to enabling the player to complete their suspension and thus qualify them to play in a specific match. The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to re-arranged matches is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

(l) **Collection of Administration Fees**

It will be the responsibility of the club to collect the £10.00 administration fee from the players concerned. Clubs will have 31 calendar days to make the payment for each player’s £10.00 administration fee as and when the caution or sending off report is submitted on COMET. Should the club fail to make the payment of the £10.00 administration fee within 31 calendar days, then the player will become ineligible from playing in any Association Football and Futsal match until payment is received. The administration fee must be paid on the COMET system, or any other system as prescribed by the Association from time to time.

Any club experiencing difficulty in meeting the 31-day limit should contact the Finance Department of the Football Association of Wales on (029) 20 435833.

7. **DISCIPLINARY ACTION ON CLUBS FOR MISCONDUCT BY THEIR PLAYERS**

(a) Any futsal club whose players accumulate a total number of penalty points during a season, and that total is considered to be appreciably above the average number of points in the same league, may be required to appear before a FAW Disciplinary Panel and shall be liable to be warned and/or fined for having permitted its players to violate the Futsal Laws of the Game in contravention of FAW Rule 38.1.1. In addition, the Panel shall be entitled to make an order as to costs against the club. Any action taken by the club to discipline its players under Section 6(j) will be taken into consideration by the Panel in its findings.

In so far as this Regulation shall apply, the following penalty points will be recorded against a futsal club:-

For all recorded cautions ............................................................. 4 Points
For Sending-off under Law 12 (4) (5) & (7) ................................. 10 Points
For Sending-off under Law 12 (1) (2) (3) & (6) ................................. 12 Points

(b) A club required to appear before an FAW Disciplinary Panel shall be represented by at least one of its Directors/Officials and the Manager.
(c) The Football Association of Wales reserves the right to prefer a charge against a futsal club at any time during the season arising from field offences committed by players of the club.

8. SUSPENSIONS IMPOSED UNDER THESE REGULATIONS

(a) Unless otherwise ordered by a FAW Disciplinary Panel, Appeals Panel or Independent Arbitration Panel, the terms of the suspensions imposed under these entire regulations will be as set out under the category of a Match Suspension (see clause 9).

(b) Any suspension imposed may only be served whilst the player holds a registration with a futsal club. Should a player transfer or register for a new club prior to the commencement of the suspension or during the period of the suspension, the player will not be eligible to play for their new club until such time as the new club with which the player has transferred to has completed the required number of matches in Approved Competitions.

(c) Any period of suspension imposed under these ‘Regulations’ shall be from the FAW National Futsal Cup only.

9 DEFINITIONS

(a) BUSINESS DAY

Any day of the week except a Saturday or Sunday or public bank holiday in Wales.

(b) MATCH SUSPENSION

A Match Suspension is a ban on taking part in a match and on attending it in the area immediately surrounding the field-of-play. A Match Suspension may be imposed on a player or an official.

The area immediately surrounding the field-of-play includes:-

1. The field-of-play.
2. The dressing rooms and their immediate area.
3. The tunnel and/or private way leading from the dressing rooms to the field-of-play.
4. The dugouts, benches and technical areas.
5. The prohibited area in the vicinity of the touchline and goal lines.

The player or official under a Match Suspension is prohibited from contact with match officials, players and club officials, as well as giving any media interviews, before, during and after the match.

A Match Suspension does not prohibit a player or official from attending or taking part in a Closed Friendly Match or a club organised private training session. However, a player or official is prohibited from attending or taking part in an Open Friendly Match.

A club who permits a player or an official to attend any ground whilst serving a Match Suspension will be responsible for ensuring the terms of the suspension are adhered to.
APPENDIX 1

Fees applicable when making a Claim of Mistaken Identity or a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal

The following fees are defined by FAW Rule 43.2.3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For teams playing in:-</th>
<th>£ Fee payable (inclusive of VAT)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The FAW Futsal Cup</td>
<td>120.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPENDIX 2

APPROVED COMPETITIONS

For those clubs whose Team play in the FAW Futsal Cup

League:
The FAW National Futsal Cup
1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of these Regulations is to give effect to the agreement reached between the Association and the English FA under which the Association has agreed to permit the English FA to exercise authority and jurisdiction, in respect of the disciplinary offences defined below, over those Member Clubs of the Association (and those individuals employed by or associated with such Member Clubs) defined below.

1.2 The Association will continue to exercise sole and exclusive authority and jurisdiction over the said Member Clubs (and those individuals employed by or associated with such Member Clubs) in all other matters arising under the Association’s Rules (or Regulations, orders, bye-laws, codes or otherwise made under or arising out of the Rules) not expressly ceded to the English FA under these Regulations. For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in these Regulations shall cede authority or jurisdiction to the English FA in respect of any disciplinary offence arising out of a comment or other statement to the media about Association or any aspect of football in Wales made by or on behalf of a Member Club or those individuals employed by or associated with such Member Club. In the event of conflict between this clause and any other provision of these Regulations, the provisions of this clause will prevail.

1.3 Any Member Club affected by these Regulations will remain a member of the Association and nothing in these Regulations shall affect such membership. The Association will continue processing the registrations and transfers of the Member Clubs and their players in accordance with FIFA Statutes.

1.4 In these Regulations, save where the context otherwise requires, references to any capitalised word, term or phrase shall have the same meaning as set out in the Rules of the Association.
2. MEMBER CLUBS AND THEIR TEAMS

2.1 These Regulations apply only to any Member Club of the Association ("Ceded Club") playing from time to time in the English Premier League, Championship, Division 1 or Division 2 ("English Leagues").

2.2 These Regulations apply to all teams of a Ceded Club, whether the men's first team playing in the relevant English League or any other team of the Ceded Club (of any age group or category) playing in a league or competition organised by, or sanctioned by or under, the English FA.

2.3 These Regulations do not apply to any team of a Ceded Club playing in a league or competition organised by, or sanctioned by or under, the Association.

3. DISCIPLINARY OFFENCES

3.1 The Ceded Clubs (and those individuals employed by or associated with them) will submit to and accept the authority and jurisdiction of the English FA (in substitution for the authority and jurisdiction of the Association) in respect only of the following disciplinary matters set out or referred to in section E1 of the rules of the English FA ("Ceded Offences"). Solely for the purpose of the disciplinary matters listed below in this clause 3.1 (and not in any other part of these Regulations), references to any capitalised word, term or phrase shall have the same meaning as set out or referred to in section E1 of the Rules of the English FA. The Ceded Offences are:-

3.1.1 the Laws of the Game;
3.1.2 the Rules and regulations of The Association and in particular Rules E3 to 26;
3.1.3 the statutes and regulations of UEFA;
3.1.4 the statutes and regulations of FIFA.
3.1.5 the rules or regulations of an Affiliated Association or Competition; and
3.1.6 an order, requirement, direction or instruction of The Association.

3.2 To the extent there is any difference or conflict between the wording or scope of a Ceded Offence and a Disciplinary Offence under the Association's Rules, the wording and scope of the Ceded Offence will apply.

4. PROCEDURE

4.1 The procedures of the English FA will apply in substitution for those of the Association in respect of any Ceded Club (or any individual employed by or associated with the Ceded Club) charged with or accused of a Ceded Offence.

4.2 If as a consequence of the procedures of the English FA in respect of a Ceded Offence, the Ceded Club (or any individual employed by or associated with the Ceded Club) is ordered to pay any fine or other financial penalty, such payment shall be made to the English FA.
04g (iii)
Assault Regulations
04g(iii) Regulations Governing Assaults on Match Officials

These Regulations shall apply at all levels of the game

1. PREFERING A CHARGE

1.1 Upon receipt of a report from a match official detailing an alleged assault against him/her, the appropriate authority i.e. the Football Association of Wales or relevant Area Association (“the Association”) will, without delay:

1.1.1 investigate the official’s report and if the authority is satisfied that a prima-facie case of assault of a match official can be made out against the alleged offender, the Association shall;

1.1.2 take the necessary steps to prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the alleged offender. Details of the charge shall be addressed specifically to the alleged offender and be sent by First Class post to the alleged offender’s home address; and

1.1.3 forward a copy of the charge by First Class post to the alleged offender’s club and the relevant league and/or Area Association.

1.2 Where the Association is in receipt of a report from a Match Official detailing that an alleged assault has occurred pursuant to Section 3B (Assault (whether or not causing bodily harm)) or Section 3C (Assault Causing Serious Bodily Harm), the Association shall impose an immediate interim suspension on the alleged offender concerned upon invoking Regulation 1.1 hereabove.

1.3 Where the Association is not in receipt of a report from the Match Official but is in receipt of information (whether verbally or in writing) that an assault pursuant to Section 3B (Assault (whether or not causing bodily harm)) or Section 3C (Assault Causing Serious Bodily Harm) has occurred, the Association may impose an immediate interim suspension on the alleged offender.

1.3.1 In deciding to adopt this course of action, the Association must:-

1.3.1.1 contact the alleged offender’s club and establish, without delay, address and telephone contact details of the alleged offender; the club should also be informed of the suspension at this time;

1.3.1.2 contact the alleged offender directly, confirming the suspension and reasons for this course of action.
1.3.1.3 A written report of the incident must be received from the match official concerned within two (2) Business Days of the match and forwarded, with a letter setting the details of the charge of misconduct, to the alleged offender concerned as detailed under Regulation 1.1 hereabove.

1.3.1.4 If the match official’s report is NOT received within two (2) Business Days of the match, the authority must lift the suspension by means of contacting the club and alleged offender directly and make appropriate enquiries with the match official(s) concerned. This action should be confirmed in writing to all parties.

2. CONDUCT OF THE HEARING

2.1 A disciplinary body of the Association must be convened within fourteen (14) Business Days as of the date of the letter detailing the charge of misconduct against the alleged offender.

2.2 The alleged offender shall be given a minimum notice of seven (7) Business Days to attend the convened disciplinary body’s hearing.

2.3 The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the relevant rules of the Association.

2.4 Having considered all the evidence available, the disciplinary body shall decide one of the following:

2.4.1 The alleged offender is not guilty of misconduct

2.4.2 The alleged offender is guilty of misconduct defined under FAW Rule 38.1.9 (or equivalent Area Association rule).

2.4.3 The alleged offender is guilty of misconduct and such conduct falls within the definition of Category A (Technical Assault) of these Regulations detailed in Section 3 herebelow.

2.4.4 The alleged offender is guilty of misconduct and such conduct falls within the definition of Category B (Assault whether or not causing bodily harm) of these Regulations detailed in Section 3 herebelow.

2.4.5 The alleged offender is guilty of misconduct and such conduct falls within the definition of Category C (Assault causing serious bodily harm) of these Regulations detailed in Section 3 herebelow.

2.5 In relation to a finding under Regulation 2.4.1, 2.4.2 and 2.4.3 hereabove, the disciplinary body will lift any interim suspension imposed, under Regulation 1.2 with immediate effect, and inform the alleged offender accordingly at the conclusion of the hearing.

2.6 If the alleged offender is found guilty of misconduct as set out under Regulation 2.4.2, 2.4.3, 2.4.4 or 2.4.5 hereabove, the disciplinary body will request mitigating factors and due consideration will be given to these factors when considering the level of penalty or sanction to impose.

2.7 In relation to a finding under Regulation 2.4.2, 2.4.3, 2.4.4 and 2.4.5 hereabove, the disciplinary body when deciding the penalty or sanction must give consideration to the matches missed by the alleged offender as a result of any interim suspension imposed.

2.8 In relation to a finding under Regulations 2.4.2, 2.4.3, 2.4.4 and 2.4.5 hereabove, any period of suspension imposed by the disciplinary body must commence from the date of the interim suspension.
2.9 Where a suspension is imposed as a result of a finding under Regulation 2.4.2, 2.4.3, 2.4.4 or 2.4.5 hereabove, the disciplinary body shall consider the ‘Category of Suspension’ (as defined by the FAW Regulations) to be served.

2.10 Where practicably possible, the disciplinary body shall inform the alleged offender of the penalty or sanction imposed at the conclusion of the hearing.

2.11 Whether or not the penalty or sanction is given at the conclusion of the hearing, the disciplinary body will confirm their decision and penalty or sanctions imposed in writing to the alleged offender within three (3) Business Days as of the date of the hearing.

2.12 A copy of the decision relating to the hearing must be forwarded to the Football Association of Wales within three (3) Business Days as of the date of the hearing.

3. CATEGORIES OF ASSAULT

3A. Technical Assault (where there is no element of contact between the offender and match official)

3A.1 A Technical Assault will occur where:
   3A.1.1 An individual uses words or actions that are reasonably likely to intimidate and/or threaten the official; and
   3A.1.2 The intimidation and/or threat is one of a violent nature; and
   3A.1.3 The individual was within a close proximity to the official at the time of the intimidation and/or threatening behaviour; and
   3A.1.4 The words or actions used caused the official to feel intimidated, threatened and/or fearful of the use of violence by the individual.

3A.2 A Technical Assault will occur regardless of whether the individual intended to carry out the threats.

3A.3 Actions that are reasonably likely to intimidate and/or threaten the official will also include careless actions which will include, but is not limited to, the throwing or kicking of objects or substances or spitting towards the match official but where no contact is made with the said official.

3A.4 When considering proximity under 3A.1.3, the disciplinary body will consider whether the individual made an attempt to advance towards the official in order to intimidate and/or threaten.

3B. Assault (whether or not causing bodily harm)

3B.1 An assault in accordance with this category is defined as any circumstance of an inappropriate nature where physical contact is made with an official whether or not any injury results.

3B.2 This category also includes, but is not limited to, the throwing or kicking of objects or substances or spitting towards the match official where the said object or substance or spit makes contact with the match official.

3C. Assault Causing Serious Bodily Harm

3C.1 An assault shall be regarded as causing serious bodily harm if the official suffers any serious injury, including but not limited to injury to limbs, bones or senses, cuts, bruises, burns or concussion.
3C.2 Serious bodily harm may occur whether or not the Official requires medical treatment or first aid but shall not include harm which at the reasonable discretion of the disciplinary body is deemed bodily harm of a minor nature falling within Category B above.

4. RECOMMENDED SANCTIONS

4A. Technical Assault
   A maximum of 182 days suspension from football (the ‘Category of Suspension’ to be determined by the disciplinary body) and a minimum fine of £50.00.

4B. Assault (whether or not causing bodily harm)
   A maximum of two years suspension from football (the ‘Category of Suspension’ to be determined by the disciplinary body) and a minimum fine of £75.00.

4C. Assault causing Serious Bodily Harm
   A Sine Die suspension from ALL FOOTBALL RELATED ACTIVITY with no review to be considered under a period of 5 years and a minimum fine of £100.00.

5. AGGRAVATING AND MITIGATING FACTORS

5.1 When determining the penalty or sanction to be imposed under Regulation 4A, 4B or 4C hereabove, consideration should be given to:-

5.1.1 aggravating factors - these may include (but not limited to):- the level of the game the alleged offender participates, the seniority of the alleged offender within the club, the length of the incident, the requirement for others to prevent an escalation of the incident, the impact on the match official, the severity of the incident and previous disciplinary record;

5.1.2 mitigating factors - these may include (but not limited to):- the remorsefulness of the alleged offender, acceptance of the charge of misconduct, post incident behaviour of the alleged offender, the length of the incident, lack of involvement from any other party to stop the incident and previous disciplinary record.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

6.1 Any penalty or sanction imposed in accordance with these Regulations is subject to appeal as set out under FAW Rule 44.

6.2 A suspension from football imposed in the case of a disciplinary body’s finding under Regulation 2.4.4 or 2.4.5 hereabove, shall remain in place until such time as an appeals body determines otherwise. Except that, an appellant may submit a written application to the appointed chairman of an appeals body convened to consider an appeal for the penalty or sanction imposed to be set aside whilst the appeal hearing is pending.

6.3 The decision of the chairman of an appeals body relating to any such application under Regulation 6.2 shall be final and binding on all parties and not subject to further appeal.
Non Discrimination Regulations
04g(iv) Non-Discrimination Regulations

1. This Regulation is to address the growing culture of discriminatory attitudes and behaviours including, but not limited to, the use of words and/or actions within and/or connected to the game of football regulated by the Association. It is the Association's intention to take vigorous action against this deplorable trend by imposing strict sanctions against Members and/or Subordinates who are found guilty of any of the offences detailed below. This Regulation is set out in accordance with Article 58 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code and Article 14 of the UEFA Disciplinary Regulations.

2. Where there is evidence of an offence as specified under this Regulation, the Member and/or Subordinate concerned will be charged with a Disciplinary Offence as set out under FAW Rule 38 and the matter dealt with in accordance with the provisions set out in Section E of the Rules.

3. Where a Member and/or Subordinate is found guilty of a Disciplinary Offence as set out under FAW Rule 38 for any of the offences specified under this Regulation, the following shall apply:

   3.1 Any Member and/or Subordinate who offends the dignity of a person, group of persons or any Country, either directly or indirectly through contemptuous, discriminatory or denigratory words or actions concerning, but not limited to;

   3.1.1. age;
   3.1.2. disability;
   3.1.3. gender;
   3.1.4. gender reassignment;
   3.1.5. skin colour;
   3.1.6. race;
   3.1.7. religion or belief;
   3.1.8. sex;
   3.1.9. sexual orientation;
   3.1.10. language;
   3.1.11. ethnic, natural or social origin;
3.1.12. political opinion; or
3.1.13. wealth
shall be sanctioned by the FAW.

3.2. Where a player or official breaches Clause 3.1, they shall be suspended for at least ten matches. If the perpetrator is a player, a fine of at least £500 shall be imposed. If the perpetrator is an official, the fine shall be at least £750.

3.3. Where several persons (officials and/or players) from the same club or association simultaneously breach Clause 3.1, or there are other aggravating circumstances, the team concerned may be deducted three points from their league record for a first offence and six points from their league record for a second offence; a further offence may result in demotion to a lower division. In the case of matches in which no points are awarded, the team may be disqualified from the competition.

3.4. Where supporters of a team breach Clause 3.1 at a match, a warning, a fine of at least £750 and/or a partial or full ground closure shall be imposed on the club concerned regardless of the question of culpable conduct or culpable oversight. Clubs that reoffend, or in the case of a serious offence, may be sanctioned with point deductions, expulsion from a competition or demotion to a lower division.

3.4.1 Supporters who breach Regulation 3.1 hereabove shall receive a Ground Suspension of at least two years.

3.5. The offences and fines referred to in these clauses are not exhaustive and the Disciplinary Panel is empowered to levy additional sanctions after considering the seriousness of the offence.

4. In determining whether the dignity of a person or group of persons has been offended, the Disciplinary Panel will be entitled to draw reasonable inferences, that is to say, there is no requirement to identify an individual who was offended at the time the comment or action was made or published. In finding a matter to be proved, it will be open to the panel to conclude that by their very nature, the comments and/or actions made, offend the dignity of a person or group of persons.

5. Referees shall have the power to stop, suspend or even abandon a match if an incident of a discriminatory nature occurs. For a first incident the referee may stop a match and a public warning given. For a second incident the referee may suspend the match for a period of time. If the discriminatory behaviour has not ceased, and after coordination with any security / safety officers present, the referee may abandon the match.

5.1 If a match is subsequently abandoned by the referee because of discriminatory conduct, the match may be declared forfeit.
Social Media Regulations
1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Social Media is defined as “websites and applications that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking”.

1.2. The Association recognises that the use of Social Media can have a positive impact on the promotion and accessibility of football in Wales. The Association promotes within these Regulations the participation in these online communities and encourages every Member and/or Subordinate to exercise respect, responsibility and integrity when using Social Media.

1.3. These Regulations are designed to ensure the responsible use of Social Media Platforms by all those involved in football under the jurisdiction of the Association. This Regulation aims to prevent the use of Social Media in any way which may be harmful to the interests of the FAW. It is the Association’s intention to take vigorous action against individuals and/or clubs who act in any way in contravention of this Regulation.

2. SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

2.1. Members and Subordinates should refer to the guidance on the use of Social Media Platforms contained within the Football Association of Wales’ “off the Pitch” policy.

2.2. For the purpose of these Regulations, Social Media Platforms will include (without limitation) the following:

2.2.1. Twitter;
2.2.2. Facebook;
2.2.3. MySpace;
2.2.4. LinkedIn;
2.2.5. Instagram;
2.2.6. YouTube;
2.2.7. Blogs; and
2.2.8. Forums.

The Association recognises that there are numerous Social Media Platforms available and the above list is not intended to be exhaustive. Live broadcasts and/or recordings will also be subject to these Regulations.
3. SCOPE

3.1. Where there is sufficient evidence of an offence as specified under this Regulation, the individual and/or club concerned will be charged with a Disciplinary Offence as set out under FAW Rule 38 and the matter dealt with in accordance with the provisions set out in Section E of the Rules.

4. OFFENCE

4.1. It shall be a breach of these Regulations if any Member and/or Subordinate publishes or share’s, on any Social Media Platform, anything which:

4.1.1. implies bias of any player, club, club official, match official, league, league official, Area Association or Area Association official;

4.1.2. questions the integrity of any Member and/or Subordinate;

4.1.3. is offensive, abusive, insulting, threatening, derogatory or of a personal nature which is likely to cause offence at any time;

4.1.4. is intended to harass another Member and/or Subordinate. Harassment is defined as systematic, hostile and repeated acts for a considerable duration, intended to isolate or ostracise a Member and/or Subordinate and affect the dignity of that Member and/or Subordinate;

4.1.5. brings the Association and/or the game of Association Football or all other forms of football under the jurisdiction of the Association into disrepute.

4.2. For the avoidance of doubt, any Member and/or Subordinate will be held responsible for any comments made that are recorded and/or streamed live, which are directly or indirectly published or broadcast to a wider audience.

4.3. Any Member and/or Subordinate who posts, on any Social Media Platform, a post which is deemed to be of a discriminatory nature, as defined by section 3.1 of the Non-Discrimination Regulations, may be charged pursuant to the Non-Discrimination Regulations.

4.4. Upon receipt of a report that any Member and/or Subordinate may have in any way contravened this Regulation, the Association will investigate and decide on the appropriate action to be taken.

4.5. Any Member and/or Subordinate who is deemed to be in breach of this Regulation may be charged with a Disciplinary Offence under the FAW Rules and sanctioned in accordance with Section E.

4.6. You are also reminded that, in certain circumstances, breach of this Regulation may also constitute a criminal offence.
04g(vi) Fair Play Code

AIM
The aim of the FAW Fair Play Code is to encourage good behaviour and raise awareness of the ‘Fair Play’ message.

The FAW Fair Play Code is to inspire players, clubs and supporters to take an active role in promoting this message for the benefit of football at every level in Wales, as we all have a collective responsibility for the image of the game.

THE CODE

PLAY FAIR
There is no value to victory if it has been achieved unfairly or dishonestly. Playing fair is more satisfying and rewarding. Even when a game is lost, playing fair earns respect while dishonesty only brings shame.

PLAY TO WIN, ACCEPT DEFEAT WITH DIGNITY
Winning is the object of any game. Never set out to lose but remember that nobody wins all the time and it is important to lose graciously. Do not seek excuses for defeat as reasons will always be self-evident. The winners should always be congratulated with good grace. No blame should be directed at the referee or anyone else and there should always be a determination to do better next time. Good losers always earn more respect than bad winners.

OBSERVE THE LAWS OF THE GAME
The rules of football are simple and easy to learn. In learning the rules, a greater understanding of the game will be gained. Through a better understanding of the game, players, clubs and supporters will have a greater respect for the referee’s decisions. It is equally important to understand the spirit of the rules. They are designed to make the game fun to play and fun to watch. By following the rules, the game will be more enjoyable for all.

RESPECT OPPONENTS, TEAM-MATES, REFEREES, OFFICIALS AND SPECTATORS
Respect is part of the game and is fundamental to the FAW Fair Play Code. Without opponents there can be no game. Everyone has the same rights, including the right to be respected. In a team all members are equal. Referees are there to maintain discipline and Fair Play. Always accept their decisions without arguing and help them to enable all participants to have a more enjoyable
game. Officials are also part of the game and must be respected accordingly. Spectators provide a
game with atmosphere. They want to see the game played fairly but they too must behave fairly and
with respect themselves.

PROMOTE THE INTERESTS OF FOOTBALL

Football is the world’s greatest game. But it always needs everybody’s help to maintain its greatness.
Think of football’s interests before your own. Think how your actions may affect the image of the
game in Wales. Talk about the positive aspects of the game. Encourage other people to watch and
play fairly. Help others to have as much fun from football as you do. Be an ambassador for the game
in Wales.

HONOUR THOSE WHO DEFEND FOOTBALL’S GOOD REPUTATION

The good name of football has survived because the vast majority of people who love the game are
honest and fair. Sometimes somebody does something exceptional that deserves the recognition
of the FAW. They should be honoured and their fine example publicised. This encourages others to
act in the same way. Between the FAW and yourselves we can help to promote football’s image by
publicising its good deeds.

REJECT NEGATIVE OUTSIDE INTERESTS

Football’s popularity sometimes makes it vulnerable to negative outside interests. Drugs have no
place in football, in any other sport or in society as a whole. Say no to drugs. Help to kick racism
and bigotry out of football. Treat everyone involved in the game with equal respect, regardless of
their religion, race, sex or national origin. Show zero tolerance for gambling on games in which you
participate. It negatively affects your ability to perform and creates the appearance of a conflict of
interests. Show that football does not want violence, even from your own fans. Football is sport, and
sport should be played peacefully in a safe environment.

FOOTBALL COMMUNITY

Football has an incredible power, which can be used to make your community a better place in which
everyone can live. Use this powerful platform to promote peace, equality, health and education for
everyone. Make the game better by taking it into your community.
04g (vii)
Reduced Penalty Regulations
1. **INTRODUCTION**

   The purpose of these Regulations is to give effect to the principle that when dealing with the penalties imposed by the Association for Disciplinary Offences, credit, in the form of a reduction in the applicable penalty, should be given to the Party charged who admits to a charge of a Disciplinary Offence preferred by the Association and to the timely disposal of such matters. To achieve this, when a charge of a Disciplinary Offence is brought under the procedures in these Regulations, it will also incorporate an offer of a reduced penalty on the Association’s minimum standard penalty for the Disciplinary Offence as published from time to time. In the case of a financial penalty, the offer shall be a reduction of one-third (to the nearest whole pound). In the case of any other penalty, the offer shall be a reduction of one-third or the nearest whole number equivalent. Should the Party charged elect NOT to accept the reduced penalty offered or fails to comply with the requirements set out under Clauses 3.2(c) and/or 3.2(d)(v) of these regulations, and the charge is subsequently found proved at a Disciplinary Panel hearing, a higher penalty will apply, which will not incorporate the reduction.

2. **EXEMPTIONS**

2.1 The procedures in these Regulations shall not apply to any Disciplinary Offence in relation to any of the following:–

   • A Disciplinary Offence as set out under FAW Rule 38.1.4, 38.1.4(A) or any other charge brought concerning betting activity related to any match;
   • A Disciplinary Offence as set out under FAW Rule 38.1.5, 38.1.5(A), 38.1.5(B), 38.1.5(C) or any other charge brought relating to ‘match fixing’;
• A Disciplinary Offence as set out under FAW Rule 38.1.7, or any other charge brought relating to ticket touting;
• A Disciplinary Offence as set out under FAW Rule 38.1.8, or any other charge brought relating to a match that has been played at a ground closed by the Association;
• Disciplinary Offences as set out under FAW Rules 38.1.10 or 38.1.11, or any other charge brought relating to the ‘ANTI-DOPING REGULATIONS OF THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES’;
• A Disciplinary Offence as set out under FAW Rule 38.1.12, or any other charge brought relating to ‘THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES WELFARE REGULATIONS’ or ‘WELFARE POLICY’;
• Disciplinary Offences as set out under FAW Rules 38.1.13, 38.1.14 or 38.1.15 relating to the conduct of a club’s supporters and/or spectators and/or followers; or
• A Disciplinary Offence brought pursuant to ‘THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES’ CODE OF ETHICS’.

2.2 Any charge of a Disciplinary Offence preferred by the Association that is exempt from the procedures in these Regulations will be dealt with in accordance with the procedures as set out under FAW Rules 43.1 to 43.1.14 inclusive.

3. SCOPE OF PROCEDURES

3.1 Subject to the exemptions in 2 above, in all cases, it shall be at the absolute discretion of the Association whether a reduced penalty shall be offered under the procedures in these Regulations. In exercising that discretion, the Association shall not utilise these procedures where any one or more of the following exceptional circumstances applies:-

• Where the particular facts of the alleged Disciplinary Offence are of a serious and/or unusual nature, as determined by the Association;
• Where the Party charged has pleaded guilty or been found guilty with a similar matter, as determined by the Association, in the current season;
• Where the alleged Disciplinary Offence is allegedly aggravated by reference to any of the factors as set out under the ‘FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES NON-DISCRIMINATION REGULATIONS’; or
• Where the particular facts of the alleged Disciplinary Offence, as determined by the Association, necessitate a charge of misconduct to be brought against a participant pursuant to the ‘REGULATIONS GOVERNING ASSAULTS ON MATCH OFFICIALS’.

3.2 Upon the Association deciding that facts or matters may give rise to a Disciplinary Offence and that a charge be brought which should include the offer of a reduced penalty under these Regulations, the following procedure will apply:-

THE CHARGE

(a) The Association will give written notice (‘the Disciplinary Notice’) to the Party charged, stipulating:–

(i) The nature of the alleged Disciplinary Offence;
(ii) Details of the reduced penalty offered; and
(ii) Details of the options available to the Party charged.

(b) If an individual is charged, a copy of the Disciplinary Notice will be sent to his/her club. If a club is charged, a copy of the Disciplinary Notice will be sent to the club's relevant league.

THE RESPONSE

(c) The Party charged shall have seven (7) Business Days after service of the Disciplinary Notice to respond in writing to the charge.

(d) Should the Party charged elect to admit the charge and accept the reduced penalty offered, the following shall apply:–

(i) There shall be no Disciplinary Panel hearing and the matter shall be dealt with at an administrative level by the Association;

(ii) The Party charged shall not be entitled to provide evidence in mitigation;

(iii) The penalty imposed on the Party charged by the Association shall be the reduced penalty set out in the Disciplinary Notice;

(iv) Any suspension which forms part of the reduced penalty offered shall automatically come into effect fourteen (14) calendar days following the date of the Disciplinary Notice;

(v) Any fine which forms part of the reduced penalty offered shall be payable within seven (7) Business Days following the date of the Disciplinary Notice;

(vi) There shall be no costs payable by the Party charged; and

(vii) The Association shall write to the Party charged with confirmation of the outcome.

(e) Should the Party charged elect NOT to accept the reduced penalty offered, the matter will proceed in accordance with FAW Rules 43.1.2 to 43.1.14 and the following shall apply:–

(i) The reduced penalty offered shall be withdrawn;

(ii) A Disciplinary Panel shall be convened;

(iii) The Party charged shall be entitled to provide evidence in mitigation;

(iv) If a charge is found proven, any penalty applied shall be based on the standard minimum penalty; and

(v) If a charge is found proven, the Disciplinary Panel shall be entitled to impose costs against the Party charged.

(f) Should the Party charged either fail to respond in writing to the charge as per Clause 3.2(c) hereabove, or fail to pay any fine offered as part of the reduced penalty offered as per Clause 3.2(d)(v) hereabove, within the required seven (7) Business Days, the matter will proceed in accordance with FAW Rule 43.1.3 and the following shall apply:–

(i) The reduced penalty offered shall be withdrawn;

(ii) The Party charged will be deemed to have denied the charge and to have waived their right to a private hearing before the Disciplinary Panel;

(iii) The Association will, without further notice to the Party charged, convene a
Disciplinary Panel who will consider the alleged Disciplinary Offence in the absence of the Party charged.

(iv) If a charge is found proven, the standard minimum penalty shall form the basis of any penalty applied; and

(v) If a charge is found proven, the Disciplinary Panel shall be entitled to impose costs against the Party charged.

4. APPEALS

4.1 Should the Party charged elect to admit the charge and accept the reduced penalty offered, there shall be no right of appeal under the FAW Rules to the outcome set out in 3.2(d) above except where –

(a) It is necessary to allow an appeal in order to avoid real injustice;

(b) The circumstances are exceptional and make it appropriate to allow an appeal; and

(c) There is no alternative effective remedy.

4.2 A Party wishing to claim a right of appeal in the circumstances set out in 4(a) above shall make application in writing for leave to appeal to the Association within five (5) calendar days after service of the Association’s written notification under 3.2(d)(vii) above. The Association shall place the application for leave before a person nominated by the Association from the pool of persons who sit as the chairmen of the Association’s Appeals Panel from time to time. The said chairman shall consider the application in private and shall have absolute discretion whether or not to grant leave to appeal and, if so, whether to suspend the penalty imposed by the original procedure. There shall be no right of appeal against the chairman’s decision, or any part of that decision. If leave to appeal is granted, the procedure for the hearing of the appeal shall be in accordance with FAW Rule 44.

4.3 Should the Party charged elect NOT to accept the reduced penalty offered and the charge is subsequently found proved at a Disciplinary Panel, the Party charged shall have a right of appeal in accordance with FAW Rule 44.
INTRODUCTION

1. The Chairman will introduce the proceedings by reminding the parties of the reason for the hearing which is to determine whether or not the Defendant has acted in breach of The Football Association of Wales’ Rules or procedures and, if he/she has, to determine the appropriate penalty with regard to the relevant guidelines.

2. Both parties will be asked to confirm that they have had an opportunity to prepare their case, that they understand the procedure to be followed and are ready to proceed. The Defendant will be reminded that he or she should listen carefully to the case against him/her and that he/she will be given an opportunity to challenge what is said and present his/her own case later in the proceedings.

THE COMPLAINANT’S CASE

3. The Chairman will then invite the Complainant to present the case against the Defendant. The Complainant will read his/her report and be given an opportunity to add any other information or comments or refer the Disciplinary Panel to any documentation which may be relevant.

4. Once the Complainant has presented his/her case, the Disciplinary Panel may question the Complainant if it requires clarification of any point.

5. The Defendant will then be invited to ask questions and challenge the Complainant’s evidence and assertions.

6. The Complainant will then have an opportunity to call witnesses who will be asked to give evidence in turn and, at the end of each witness’s evidence, the Defendant will be given an opportunity to ask questions and challenge the evidence of each witness. The Disciplinary Panel may also question the witnesses if it wishes.

THE DEFENDANT’S CASE

7. The Chairman will then invite the Defendant to present his/her case. The Defendant may read a prepared statement and/or present any information or comments or refer the Disciplinary Panel to any documentation which may be relevant.

8. Once the Defendant has presented his/her case, the Disciplinary Panel may question the
Defendant if it requires clarification of any point.

9. The Complainant will then be given an opportunity to ask questions and challenge the Defendant’s evidence and assertions.

10. The Defendant may then call any witnesses who are to give evidence on his/her behalf in turn and, at the end of each witness’s evidence, the Complainant will be given an opportunity to question the witnesses. The Disciplinary Panel may also question the witnesses if it wishes.

THE DECISION OF THE DISCIPLINARY PANEL

11. Once the Defendant has confirmed that he/she has finished presenting his/her case, and provided that the Chairman is satisfied that both parties have had every opportunity to present any relevant information in support of their cases, the Chairman will adjourn the hearing to enable the Disciplinary Panel to consider its decision.

12. Once the Disciplinary Panel has reached its decision, the hearing will be reconvened, and the Chairman will announce the decision to the parties.

13. If the decision is that the case against the Defendant has been proven, and before the Disciplinary Panel decides on the appropriate penalty, the Defendant will be given an opportunity to bring to the attention of the Disciplinary Panel any mitigating factors or other circumstances which might affect the penalty imposed.

14. The hearing should then be adjourned again to allow the Disciplinary Panel to consider the appropriate penalty taking into account the nature of the misconduct and any mitigating circumstances. In reaching its decision the Disciplinary Panel will have regard to the guidelines set out in the Rules and relevant regulations but will not regard itself as bound by those guidelines in the event that it considers an alternative penalty more suitable in taking into account all of the particular circumstances of the case.

15. The decision of the Disciplinary Panel will be announced either at the hearing or notified to the parties in writing within the next 10 days (or in cases of Assault, written notification will be sent to all parties within three days). In any event, the decision of the Disciplinary Panel will be confirmed in writing and, if appropriate, will advise the Defendant of his or her right to appeal.

PLEASE NOTE:

The Chairman of the hearing has the discretion to vary the procedure at any time prior to or during the hearing and in any way he/she may consider appropriate at the time.
Memorandum on Appeals Procedures

INTRODUCTION
1. The Chairman will introduce the proceedings by reminding the parties of the reason for the hearing.
2. Both parties will be asked to confirm that they have had an opportunity to prepare their case, they understand the procedure to be followed and are ready to proceed.

THE APPELLANT’S CASE
3. The Chairman will then invite the Appellant to present their appeal against the decision of the Respondent.
4. The Respondent will then be invited to ask questions and challenge the Appellant's assertions.
5. Once the Appellant has presented their appeal, the Disciplinary Panel may question the Appellant if it requires clarification of any point.
6. The appellant will then have an opportunity to call witnesses who will be asked to give evidence in turn and, at the end of each witness's evidence, the Respondent will be given an opportunity to ask questions and challenge the evidence of each witness. The Disciplinary Panel may also question the witnesses if it wishes.

THE RESPONDENT’S CASE
7. The Chairman will then invite the Respondent to present their case in support of the decision made.
8. The Appellant will then be given an opportunity to ask questions and challenge the Respondent's assertions.
9. Once the Respondent has presented his/her case, the Disciplinary Panel may question the Respondent if it requires clarification of any point.
10. The Respondent may then call any witnesses who are to give evidence on his/her behalf in turn and, at the end of each witnesses' evidence, the Appellant will be given an opportunity to question the witnesses. The Disciplinary Panel may also question the witnesses if it wishes.
11. The Chairman may invite both parties to submit closing remarks.
12. Provided that the Chairman is satisfied that both parties have had every opportunity to present any relevant information in support of their cases, the Chairman will adjourn the hearing to enable the Disciplinary Panel to consider its decision.
13. The decision may be announced on the day or reserved to a later date in which case the decision will be delivered in writing.

PLEASE NOTE:
The Chairman of the hearing has the discretion to vary the procedure at any time prior to or during the hearing and in any way as he/she may consider appropriate at the time.
Categories of Suspension
04g(ix) Categories of Suspension

TOUCHLINE SUSPENSION

A Touchline Suspension is a ban from any immediate contact with Players, Club officials and match officials participating in a match for the duration of the match. A Touchline Suspension may be imposed on a Player and an official. A Touchline Suspension prohibits an individual from:

1. Attending the dugouts and technical areas before, during and after the match.
2. Entering the field-of-play and the prohibited area in the vicinity of the touchline and goal lines.
3. Coaching or issuing instructions for the duration of the game.
4. Engaging the match officials whilst they are on the field-of-play or in the tunnel and/or private way leading from the dressing rooms to the field-of-play.

The Player or official under a Touchline Suspension is permitted to attend the team changing room pre-match, at half-time and post-match. Furthermore, the individual is permitted to approach the match officials pre-match or post-match whilst they are in their dressing room and provided the match officials are agreeable to the approach.

The FAW is aware that due to the nature of many grounds, the individual under a Touchline Suspension may stand behind the perimeter barrier surrounding the field-of-play but still remain sufficiently close enough to the field-of-play to allow them to continue coaching or issue instructions to the coaching / technical staff. This will be considered as a breach of the Touchline Suspension and will result in the Football Association of Wales preferring charges of misconduct against the Club and Player or official who is under the suspension.

Where a stand exists within the ground, the Football Association of Wales requires the Player or official to sit in the stand away from the field-of-play.

For the duration of the game, a Player or official under a Touchline Suspension is NOT PERMITTED to communicate with the coaching / technical staff via radio or other electronic communication and is prohibited from having personal contact with any such persons.
MATCH SUSPENSION
A Match Suspension is a ban on taking part in a match and on attending it in the area immediately surrounding the field-of-play. A Match Suspension may be imposed on a Player or an official. The area immediately surrounding the field-of-play includes:
1. The field-of-play.
2. The dressing rooms and their immediate area.
3. The tunnel and/or private way leading from the dressing rooms to the field-of-play.
4. The dugouts, benches and technical areas.
5. The prohibited area in the vicinity of the touchline and goal lines.

The Player or official under a Match Suspension is prohibited from contact with match officials, Players and Club officials, as well as giving any media interviews, before, during and after the match. A Match Suspension does not prohibit a Player or official from attending or taking part in a Closed Friendly Match or a Club organised private training session. However, a Player or official is prohibited from attending or taking part in an Open Friendly Match.

A Club who permits a Player or an official to attend any ground whilst serving a Match Suspension will be responsible for ensuring the terms of the suspension are adhered to.

GROUND SUSPENSION
A Ground Suspension is a ban from attending or taking part in any association football match played at a ground under the jurisdiction of the Football Association of Wales. A Ground Suspension can be imposed on a Player, an official or spectator.

A SUSPENSION FROM ALL FOOTBALL RELATED ACTIVITY
A suspension from all football related activity prohibits an individual from any involvement in football. This includes but is not limited to:
1. Attending any association football match played at a ground under the jurisdiction of the Football Association of Wales.
2. Participating in any association football match played at a ground under the jurisdiction of the Football Association of Wales.
3. Attending or participating in any training activities connected to any Club under the jurisdiction of the Football Association of Wales.
4. Conducting any administrative duties connected to football or a football Club.

A suspension from all football related activity may be placed on a Player, an official or spectator.

A BREACH OF THE TERMS OF SUSPENSION IMPOSED
A breach of the terms of a Touchline Suspension, Match Suspension, Ground Suspension or Suspension from all football related Activity, will result in the Football Association of Wales preferring charges of misconduct against the Club and/or the individual concerned.
DEFINITIONS

i. **Closed Friendly Match**

A game of Association Football which is not an Official Match which is played between two (2) teams (whether or not from different Clubs) but is not made open for the public to attend.

ii. **Open Friendly Match**

A game of Association Football which is not an Official Match which is played between two (2) teams (whether or not from different Clubs) and is made open to the public to attend.
Anti-Doping Regulations
1. SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION

1.1. FAW and anti-doping

1.1.1 FAW is the governing body for the sport of football within Wales.

1.1.2 These Regulations are adopted pursuant to the Rules of the FAW and shall be effective as of 1st August 2015.

1.1.3 The principles of integrity, fairness, equity and respect are key values which are essential to meaningful sporting success. The illicit use of drugs wholly undermines these principles and may also damage the reputation of a sport and the health of Players.

1.1.4 FAW is committed to protecting the integrity of football in Wales and establishing an environment which promotes and reinforces doping-free behaviour among Participants, so that successive generations of Players will have confidence in their ability to succeed without the misuse of Prohibited Substances and Methods and are supported by likeminded Player Support Personnel.

1.2. Background to these Regulations

1.2.1. FAW is a member of the Federation of International Football Federations (“FIFA”), the international federation for football. FAW is required to adopt anti-doping regulations which are compliant with the FIFA’s own anti-doping rules (“FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations”). A link to the current version of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations is included at Section 2 of this document.

1.2.2. In addition to these Regulations which are derived directly from the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, there are supplementary provisions in these Regulations as to management and enforcement which are applicable to Participants. The supplemental provisions are set out in Section 3 below.
2. **SECTION 2 – LINK TO THE FIFA ANTI-DOPING REGULATIONS**

2.1. The current version of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, which these Regulations apply to the extent set out in Section 3 below, can be located at -


3. **SECTION 3 - ANTI-DOPING REGULATIONS OF THE FAW LINKED WITH THE FIFA ANTI-DOPING REGULATIONS**

3.1. **Authority to Regulate**

3.1.1. FAW is the governing body of the sport of football in Wales under the jurisdiction of FIFA.

3.1.2. The FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations apply to all member federations of FIFA. FAW is a member federation of FIFA and is required to incorporate the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations into its own anti-doping regulations. The purpose of these Regulations and the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations is to prohibit doping in order to protect the rights and health of Players and to protect the values of fair play in football.

3.1.3. FAW shall, further to its powers set out in its Articles of Association and in its Rules, regulate the prohibition and control of doping in football within the UK and shall make, maintain and enforce these Regulations.

3.2. **Application of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations**

3.2.1. FAW hereby adopts the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations (as amended from time to time) as its Anti-Doping Regulations subject to FAW’s specific amendments and supplemental provisions as to testing, results management and enforcement set out below. In the event that FIFA adopts new Anti-Doping Regulations which supersede these Regulations, the new FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations will prevail.

3.2.2. FAW hereby adopts the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations (as amended from time to time), a link to which is set out in Schedule 2 above.

3.3. **Definitions**

3.3.1. Words and definitions used in FIFA’s Anti-Doping Regulations shall have the same meaning in these Regulations. In addition, the following words shall have the meanings set out opposite them:

“Domestic Registered Testing Pool” - a pool of Players (who are not included in the National Registered Testing Pool) established by the NADO from time to time who are required to provide Whereabouts Filings and make themselves available for Testing at such whereabouts in accordance with Regulation 3.8 below.

“NADO” - the National Anti-Doping Organisation being United Kingdom Anti-Doping Limited (trading as “UKad”) or its successor body.

“NADP” - the panel of arbitrators known as the National Anti-Doping Panel, which is administered by Sports Dispute Resolution Panel Limited (trading as “Sport Resolutions (UK)”), or any successor body.

“NADP Rules” - the procedural rules issued by the NADP from time to time.

“National Registered Testing Pool” - the pool of Players established by the NADO from
time to time who are required to provide Whereabouts Filings and make themselves available for Testing at such whereabouts in accordance with Regulation 3.8 below.

“National Level Player” - a player who is either subject to Testing (whether In Competition or Out of Competition) as part of the NADO’s doping programme or who otherwise falls within FAW’s jurisdiction.

“Results Management Authority” or “RMA” - the NADO, being the body appointed by the FAW with authority to manage results, conduct investigations and present cases and/or appeals to the NADP or the CAS under these Regulations.

these “Regulations” - the Anti-Doping Regulations of the FAW set out in this document.

“Rules of the FAW” - the supreme rules of the FAW from time to time.

“Whereabouts Filing” - Information provided by or on behalf of a Player in the National Registered Testing Pool or the Domestic Registered Testing Pool.

3.4. **Application of these Regulations and Core Responsibilities**

3.4.1. These Regulations shall apply to and shall bind all Participants and other persons under the jurisdiction of FAW. Those to whom these Regulations apply include (without limitation):

3.4.1.1. all Players and Player Support Personnel who are members of, or registered by FAW and/or member or affiliate organisations of FAW (including any Qualifying Clubs, Directly Affiliated Leagues or Area Associations, as defined in the Rules of the FAW);

3.4.1.2. all Players and Player Support Personnel participating in such capacity in Competitions, Matches and other activities organised, convened or authorised by FAW or any of its member or affiliate organisations (including any Qualifying Clubs, Directly Affiliated Leagues or Area Associations), wherever held; and

3.4.1.3. any other Player or Player Support Personnel who, by virtue of a contractual arrangement or otherwise, is subject to the jurisdiction of FAW for the purposes of anti-doping whether or not such person(s) is or are resident in the UK.

3.4.2. All Players, Player Support Personnel and other persons under the jurisdiction of FAW, accept that they will comply with these Regulations and agree to be subject to any Testing carried out by FAW, the NADO, FIFA or any other body with competent authority to test under these Regulations.

3.4.3. Without prejudice to Regulation 3.4.2 above, it is the personal responsibility of each Player:

3.4.3.1. to acquaint him/herself with these Regulations and the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, and to ensure that each Person (including medical personnel) from whom he/she takes advice is acquainted with all the requirements of these Regulations, including (without limitation) being aware of what constitutes an anti-doping rule violation and of what substances and methods are on the Prohibited List;

3.4.3.2. to comply with these Regulations in all respects;
3.4.3.3. to take full responsibility for what he/she ingests and uses;
3.4.3.4. to carry out research regarding any products or substances (including supplements) which he/she intends to ingest or Use (prior to such ingestion or Use) to ensure compliance with these Regulations and such research shall, at a minimum, include a reasonable internet search of (1) the name of the product or substance, (2) the ingredients/substances listed on the product or substance label, and (3) other related information revealed through research of points (1) and (2);
3.4.3.5. to ensure that any medical treatment he/she receives does not infringe these Regulations;
3.4.3.6. to make him/herself available for Testing at all times upon request whether In-Competition or Out of Competition;
3.4.3.7. when appropriate to provide accurate and up-to-date Whereabouts Filings for the purposes of Testing;
3.4.3.8. to disclose to FAW any decision by a non-Signatory to the effect that the Player committed an anti-doping rule violation within the previous ten years; and
3.4.3.9. to cooperate fully with FAW and/or the NADO conducting investigations into possible anti-doping rule violations.

3.4.4. Without prejudice to Regulation 3.4.2 above, it is the personal responsibility of each Player Support Personnel:
3.4.4.1. to acquaint him/herself with all of the provisions of these Regulations and the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations including (without limitation) being aware of what constitutes an anti-doping rule violation and what substances and methods are on the Prohibited List;
3.4.4.2. to comply with these Regulations in all respects;
3.4.4.3. not to Use or Possess any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method without valid justification. A Player Support Personnel who Uses or Possesses a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method without valid justification may not provide support to any Player;
3.4.4.4. to cooperate fully with the Testing of Players;
3.4.4.5. to use his/her influence on Player values and behaviour to foster anti-doping attitudes;
3.4.4.6. to disclose to FAW any decision by a non-Signatory to the effect that the Player Support Personnel committed an anti-doping rule violation within the previous ten years; and
3.4.4.7. to cooperate fully with FAW and/or the NADO conducting investigations into possible anti-doping rule violations.

3.5. The NADO
3.5.1. FAW has appointed the NADO to undertake Testing on Players under the jurisdiction of the FAW.
3.5.2. FAW has appointed the NADO to undertake the role of the Results Management Authority.

3.5.3. FAW has appointed NADP as the body empowered to rule on any alleged breach of these Regulations (including, without limitation, any alleged disciplinary offence, whether or not involving a hearing) and to rule on any appeal of the first instance ruling.

3.5.4. FAW has appointed the NADO to grant TUEs for National Level Players.


3.6.1. FIFA's decision as to which Players are International-level Players for the purposes of these Regulations shall be final and binding.

3.6.2. The NADO shall (in consultation with FAW) be entitled to establish the National Registered Testing Pool and the Domestic Registered Testing Pool and shall keep a register of those National Level Players who are required to provide Whereabouts Filings. Anyone included in the National Registered Testing Pool or the Domestic Registered Testing Pool will be notified in accordance with the NADO’s procedures.

3.6.3. The NADO may conduct Testing on any Player both In-Competition and Out of Competition at any time or place and shall apply the principles and procedures set out in the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations when Testing.

3.6.4. For the avoidance of doubt, FIFA may conduct Testing in Wales on International and National Level Players or on any other Player both In Competition and Out of Competition.

3.7. TUEs

3.7.1. A Player in the National Registered Testing Pool or the Domestic Registered Testing Pool (who is not an International-level Player) must obtain a TUE for the Use, Possession or administration of any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method required for therapeutic use from the NADO (in accordance with its applicable procedures). For the avoidance of doubt, where appropriate, International-level Players must obtain a TUE from FIFA or, where they already have a TUE granted by the NADO, must apply to FIFA for recognition of that TUE.

3.7.2. A Player who is not in the National Registered Testing Pool or the Domestic Registered Testing Pool and who is not an International-level Player may, in the event he/she is tested under these Regulations and has been using a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method for therapeutic use, make a retrospective application for a TUE in accordance with the NADO’s applicable procedures.

3.8. Players Whereabouts Requirements

3.8.1. The provisions in the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations relating to whereabouts shall apply to Players in the National Registered Testing Pool and the Domestic Registered Testing Pool. Such Players shall provide their Whereabouts Filings to the NADO in such format as the NADO shall from time to time prescribe and such Whereabouts Filings shall be provided through ADAMS (or such other database management system as WADA may adopt from time to time).
3.9. **Retirement and Return to Competition**

3.9.1. The FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations relating to retirement and return to Competition shall apply to Players in the National Registered Testing Pool except that notice, in writing, is to be given to the NADO rather than FIFA. FAW may establish requirements for retirement and returning to competition for other National Level Players, including those in the Domestic Registered Testing Pool.

3.10. **Results Management**

3.10.1. The RMA shall apply the procedures set out in the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations following notification of an Adverse Analytical Finding on a National Level Player or other Person who is not an International-level Player or for any other alleged anti-doping rule violation by a National Level Player or other Person who is not an International-level Player.

3.10.2. All samples collected as a result of Testing under these Regulations shall be the property of the RMA.

3.10.3. Any costs associated with the analysis of a Player’s B Sample following a test initiated by the NADO under these Regulations shall be borne by the Player, except where the Player accepts his/her A Sample analytical results but the Results Management Authority elects to proceed with the B Sample.

3.11. **Disciplinary Process**

3.11.1. The proceedings of NADP as the body empowered by the FAW to rule on any alleged breach of these Regulations including, without limitation, any alleged disciplinary offence, (whether or not involving a hearing) and to rule on any appeal of the first instance ruling, shall be conducted in accordance with the NADP Rules and in any event NADP shall give written notice of the findings or outcome of the proceedings to the parties to the proceedings and all third parties entitled to such notification under the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.
04i Policy on Transgender and Transsexual People in Welsh Football

INTRODUCTION

Football is, and should be an accessible sport for all. The benefits that can derive from it have a physical, mental and social impact and as such equal opportunities to play football should be afforded everybody.

The Football Association of Wales (FAW) has a commitment to equality and diversity, and gender should not be a barrier for those who wish to participate in football.

Under the Equality Act 2010, gender reassignment is a protected characteristic and as such transgender and transsexual people are protected against discrimination.

INFORMATION

This policy governs participation in domestic football within Wales and those competitions managed by the Football Association of Wales.

It does not govern:-
- Participation in any football not under the jurisdiction of the FAW
- Participation in international football
- Participation in competitions governed by FIFA, UEFA or the International Olympic Committee

DEFINITIONS

‘Gender’ The state of being male or female (typically used with reference to social and cultural differences, rather than biological ones.)

‘Transsexual’ A person who emotionally and psychologically feels that they belong to the opposite sex. Most transsexual people actively desire and complete gender reassignment surgery.

‘Transgender’ A person who, like a transsexual person, transitions – sometimes with the help of hormone therapy and / or cosmetic surgery – to live in the gender role of choice, but has not undergone, and generally does not intend to undergo genital surgery.
'Gender Reassignment' when a person is proposing to undergo, is undergoing, or has undergone a process (or part thereof) for the purpose of reassigning that persons’ sex by changing physiological or other attributes of sex.5

POLICY

Football is classified as a gender affected sport in which the physical strength, stamina, or physique of average persons of one gender, would put them at a disadvantage to average persons of the other gender as competitors in events involving the sport.6

Consequently, the FAW’s policy on transgender and transsexual people wishing to participate in football in their affirmed gender is as follows:-

1. Enquiries and applications to play football in an acquired gender to be directed to the FAW Safeguarding Manager, who will notify Head of Compliance and Chief Executive Officer.

2. Enquiries and applications to be handled sensitively and with absolute confidentiality in line with the Data Protection Act 1998, the Gender Recognition Act 2004, and the Equality Act 2010.

3. Applications to be considered on a case by case basis and directed to a Case Management Panel consisting of: FAW Safeguarding Manager, an appointed medical expert and an appointed legal expert.

4. All transsexual individuals who underwent sex reassignment prior to puberty will be recognised and eligible to partake in football in their assigned gender immediately.

5. When considering an application for a post pubescent transsexual or transgender individual, the following requirements must be satisfied:-
   (a) Female to Male Transsexual (Male): the hormone level of blood testosterone is within the natal male range for an appropriate length of time. The individual must provide medical records, undergo annual hormone treatment verification and be in possession of a gender recognition certificate.
   (b) Male to Female Transsexual (Female): the hormone level or gonadectomy results of blood testosterone are within the natal female range for an appropriate length of time. The individual must provide medical records, undergo annual hormone treatment verification and be in possession of a gender recognition certificate.

6. In all cases due regard must be given to:-
   (a) The safety of and welfare of the applicant and their fellow players.
   (b) The need to ensure a fair and level playing field.

7. If an applicant has not undergone hormone therapy or reassignment surgery, the FAW Case Management panel must consider the safety and welfare of the applicant and fellow players, and the need to ensure a fair and level playing field.

8. When making an application, the applicant must provide consent for their GP to provide relevant medical records to the FAW Safeguarding Manager.

9. The FAW Safeguarding manager will keep a confidential record of those players cleared to play football in their affirmed gender which may be subject to review.
10. Individuals will be unable to partake in football in their assigned gender until the panel has provided clearance.

RIGHT OF APPEAL

11. An applicant may appeal against the decision of the FAW Case Management panel in line with the FAW Appeals Policy.
DEFINITION

In these Regulations (which includes the Introduction as an operative part), the following words and expressions have the following meaning:

Area Association: Any regional football association defined pursuant to Rule 11.1.2.

Council: Supreme executive body of the FAW as defined in the Rules.

Directly Affiliated League: Any men’s league defined pursuant to Rule 11.1.3.

FAW: Football Association of Wales Limited.

FAW Championship: Means the divisions in Tier 2 of the Pyramid League System being the “FAW Championship North & Mid” and the “FAW Championship South & Mid”.

Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations: The quality standards and procedures set by the FAW from time to time to which all existing members of the Welsh Premier League and those seeking promotion to the Welsh Premier League must adhere.

Tier 2 Compliance Regulations: The regulations set by the FAW from time to time which all existing members of Tier 2 and those seeking promotion to Tier 2 must adhere at their registered home ground.

Tier 3 Ground Criteria Regulations: The ground facilities set by the FAW from time to time which all existing members of Tier 3 and those seeking promotion to Tier 3 must adhere at their registered home ground.

Football Related Liabilities: Shall have the meaning defined in the Preamble to the Rules.

Ground Criteria: Shall mean the Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations, the Tier 2 Ground Criteria Regulations, the Tier 3 Ground Criteria Regulations or the Tier 3 or 4 Ground Criteria, as the case may be.

Playing Season: Shall have the meaning defined in the Preamble to the Rules.
Pyramid League System: .......... The pyramid league system for the playing of competitive league men’s football in Wales at various levels (“Tiers”), as approved by the FAW from time to time.

Pyramid Tiers 1 – 4: ............... The top Tiers 1 - 4 inclusive of the Pyramid League System the structure of which from the commencement of Playing Season 2018/2019 is attached as Appendix 1 to these Regulations and from the commencement of Playing Season 2019/2020 is attached as Appendix 2 to these Regulations.

Qualifying Club: ................. Any club, being a full Member of the FAW, defined pursuant to Rule 11.1.1.

Rules: ............................... The rules of the FAW as passed by the Members of the FAW from time to time.

Tier 3 or 4 Ground Criteria: .... The mandatory ground facilities set by the relevant Directly Affiliated League to which all existing members of the relevant Tier 3 or 4 Directly Affiliated League and those seeking promotion to it must adhere at their registered home ground (and either “Tier 3 Ground Criteria” or “Tier 4 Ground Criteria” accordingly).

Welsh Premier League: .......... Means the premier league (Tier 1), being the top division in the Pyramid League System, for the playing of association football by men in Wales.

INTRODUCTION

(A) From the start of Playing Season 2020-21 the Directly Affiliated Leagues in the Pyramid League System will comprise three Tiers and the provisions of the “Regulations for the Pyramid League System effective for season 2020-21” passed by Council at its meeting on 12th December 2017 (or any amended version of the same passed by Council from time to time) (“2020-21 Regulations”) shall apply from the start of the 2020-21 Playing Season.

(B) These Regulations contain transitional provisions relating to the period prior to the start of the 2020-21 Playing Season and the coming into effect of the 2020-21 Regulations.

(C) From the start of the 2019-20 Playing Season, the current two divisions in Tier 2 will be replaced by two divisions of the new FAW Championship.

(D) At the end of the 2018-19 Playing Season promotion and relegation into and out of each division in each of Pyramid Tiers 1-4 (for the commencement of the 2019-20 Playing Season) shall be in accordance with these Regulations.

(E) At the end of the 2019-20 Playing Season promotion and relegation into/out of each division in each of Pyramid Tiers 1-3 (for the commencement of the 2020-21 Playing Season) shall be in accordance with these Regulations.
1. **Responsibilities and Objectives**

(a) The Pyramid League System provides football clubs throughout Wales with a framework of competitive men’s football appropriate to their playing standards, ground facilities, geographical location and economic means and permits the seasonal promotion, relegation or lateral movement of clubs between the Tiers and the divisions of the Tiers in an orderly manner.

(b) The FAW has responsibility for Pyramid Tiers 1 – 4 which form the Directly Affiliated Leagues in the Pyramid League System and the Area Associations have responsibility for those leagues in the Pyramid League System below the Directly Affiliated Leagues (Tier 5 and below).

(c) Except where otherwise stated, these Regulations apply to Pyramid Tiers 1 – 4.

2. **League Structure**

(a) The Pyramid Tiers 1 - 4 for Directly Affiliated Leagues shall be determined by the FAW. Each Directly Affiliated League (and its divisions in Tiers 2, 3 and 4) will be placed at a given Tier in the system, with the Welsh Premier League at the head.

(b) No Directly Affiliated League or Area Association shall incorporate any changes in the structure of any part of the Pyramid League System except at the direction, and with the approval, of the FAW.

(c) The FAW will control these Regulations. No Directly Affiliated League in the Pyramid Tiers 1 - 4 shall change the number of its divisions or number of teams playing in a division without the written permission of the FAW.

(d) Divisions in Pyramid Tiers 1 - 4 shall contain no more than 16 teams, unless with the written permission of the FAW.

(e) Every Directly Affiliated League in the Pyramid Tiers 1 - 4 shall conform with the decisions of the FAW as laid down from time to time.

(f) All clubs in the Welsh Premier League must hold a current annual Tier 1 licence under the Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations to play in the Welsh Premier League. Any club playing in the Welsh Premier League that fails to obtain renewal of its licence for the next season shall be relegated one Tier from the Welsh Premier League to the FAW Championship at the end of the season in which the unsuccessful application was made.

(g) All Tier 2 clubs must satisfy the Tier 2 Ground Criteria Regulations to play in Tier 2. Any club playing Tier 2 that fails to satisfy the Tier 2 Ground Criteria Regulations for the next season shall be relegated one Tier to Tier 3 at the end of the season in which the unsuccessful application was made.

(h) All Tier 3 and 4 clubs must satisfy the Tier 3 or 4 Ground Criteria to play in Tier 3 or 4 (as the case may be) in the 2019/20 Playing Season. Any club playing Tier 3 or 4 that fails to satisfy the relevant Tier 3 or 4 Ground Criteria for the 2019/20 Playing Season shall be relegated one Tier to Tier 4 or 5 (as the case may be) at the end of the 2018/19 Playing Season.

(i) All Tier 3 clubs must satisfy the Tier 3 Ground Criteria Regulations to play in Tier 3 in the 2020/21 Playing Season. Any club playing in Tier 3 that fails to satisfy the Tier 3 Ground Criteria Regulations for the 2020/21 Playing Season shall be relegated one Tier to Tier 4 at the end of the 2019/20 Playing Season.
3. Promotion / Relegation

(a) At the end of the 2018/19 Playing Season, save where the FAW otherwise directs under Regulation 3(i), there shall be automatic promotion and relegation between the Tiers of the Pyramid Tiers 1 – 4 (and promoted/relegated into and out of Tier 4), provided the promoted club meets the necessary Ground Criteria. A Qualifying Club (and a club otherwise promoted into Tier 4 from Tier 5) will not be promoted if it is not successful in its application.

(b) At the end of the 2019/20 Playing Season, save where the FAW otherwise directs under Regulation 3(i), there shall be automatic promotion and relegation between the Tiers of the Pyramid Tiers 1 – 3 (and promoted/relegated into and out of Tier 3), provided the promoted club meets the necessary Ground Criteria. A Qualifying Club (and a club otherwise promoted into Tier 3 from Tier 4) will not be promoted if it is not successful in its application.

(c) No Directly Affiliated League or Area Association will be allowed to operate a Ground Criteria for promotion which is more stringent than the level of the Pyramid Tiers 1 - 4 they feed into.

(d) The Tier 3 or 4 Ground Criteria shall be subject to the approval of the FAW. No Directly Affiliated League or Area Association will be allowed to operate a Ground Criteria for promotion which is more stringent than the level of the Pyramid Tiers 1 - 4 they feed into.

(e) The Ground Criteria application process shall be as follows:-

(i) clubs must apply to the FAW in writing as per the Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations if they wish to be assessed against the criteria in the Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations for playing in the Welsh Premier League;

(ii) clubs must apply to the FAW in writing as per the Tier 2 Ground Criteria Regulations if they wish to be assessed against the criteria in the Tier 2 Ground Criteria Regulations for playing in Tier 2;

(iii) clubs must apply to the relevant Directly Affiliated League in writing as per the relevant Tier 3 or 4 Ground Criteria if they wish to be assessed against the Tier 3 or 4 Ground Criteria for playing in Tier 3 or 4 in the 2019/20 Playing Season;

(iv) clubs must apply to the FAW in writing as per the Tier 3 Ground Criteria Regulations if they wish to be assessed against the criteria in the Tier 3 Ground Criteria Regulations for playing in Tier 3 in the 2020/21 Playing Season; and

(v) clubs must apply to the relevant Directly Affiliated League in writing as per the relevant Tier 4 Ground Criteria if they wish to be assessed against the Tier 4 Ground Criteria for playing in Tier 4 in the 2020/21 Playing Season.

(f) A Qualifying Club in any division of Pyramid Tiers 2, 3 or 4 that applies for and meets the relevant Ground Criteria and achieves a promotional place in its division of a Tier and a club from Tier 5 that achieves a promotional place to Tier 4 and meets the Tier 4 Ground Criteria must take up the promotion to the higher Tier in the next Playing Season.

(g) No reserve team shall be permitted to play in the Pyramid Tiers 1 - 4, except in a dedicated reserves division which operates outside of the Pyramid League System.
(h) Subject to the overriding provisions of Regulations 2(d), 2(f), 2(g), 2(h) and 2(i) and the FAW’s right to prescribe the number of clubs to be promoted and relegated within the Pyramid Tiers 1 – 4 under Regulation 3(i), promotion and relegation at the end of the Playing Season shall be as follows:-

i. between Tiers 1 and 2 – the clubs finishing the bottom two places of the Welsh Premier League shall be relegated to the FAW Championship and placed by the FAW (using its power under Regulation 3(i)) in the most geographically appropriate division of the FAW Championship. These clubs will be replaced by the clubs finishing in first position in each of the divisions of Tier 2 but where a club finishing in first position does not meet the Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations the club finishing in second position in that division shall be promoted provided it meets the Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations;

ii. between Tiers 2 and 3:-

- **Relegation from Tier 2 to Tier 3** - the bottom three clubs will be relegated from each of the two Tier 2 divisions;

- **Promotion from Tier 3 to Tier 2** – in the North: one up from each of the Welsh Alliance League Division 1, Mid-Wales League Division 1 and Welsh National League Premier Division to the FAW Championship. In the South: three up from the Welsh Football League Division 2 to the FAW Championship;

iii. between Tiers 3 and 4 at the end of the 2018/19 Playing Season:-

- **Relegation from Tier 3 to Tier 4** – in the North: two down from each of Welsh Alliance League Division 1, Mid-Wales League Division 1 and Welsh National League Premier Division to Tier 4. In the South: two down from the Welsh Football League Division 2 to Tier 4;

- **Promotion from Tier 4 to Tier 3** – in the North: two up from each of Welsh Alliance League Division 2, Mid-Wales League Division 2 and Welsh National League Division 1 to Tier 3. In the South: two up from the Welsh Football League Division 3 to Tier 3; and

iv. between Tiers 3 and 4 at the end of the 2019/20 Playing Season:-

- **Relegation from Tier 3 to Tier 4** – in the North: two down from each of Welsh Alliance League Division 1, Mid-Wales League Division 1 and Welsh National League Premier Division to Tier 4. In the South: two down from the Welsh Football League Division 2 to Tier 4. In all such cases the relegated clubs will be placed in a division of Tier 4 by the FAW (after considering the representations made by the joint liaison committee meeting held under Regulation 5(b)) in the most geographically appropriate division of Tier 4;

- **Promotion from Tier 4 to Tier 3** - in the North: two up from each of Welsh Alliance League Division 2, Mid-Wales League Division 2 and Welsh National League Division 1 to Tier 3. In the South: two up from the Welsh Football League Division 3 to Tier 3.

(i) The number of clubs promoted to a Tier must equate to the number of clubs relegated from the Tier, unless (subject to any dispensation granted by the FAW) this would result in the Welsh Premier League or a division of Tiers 2 – 4 (as the case may be) having
more or less than 16 teams in the next Playing Season or, in the case of Tiers 2, 3 and 4, any club playing in a division inappropriate to its geographical location. In such circumstances, the FAW may consider:-

i. reducing the number of clubs relegated from the higher Tier;

ii. increasing the number of clubs relegated from the lower Tier;

iii. increasing or decreasing the number of clubs promoted into or out of any Tier;

iv. at the end of the 2018/19 Playing Season placing a club relegated from the Welsh Premier League or promoted from Tier 3 to the FAW Championship (or a club in Tier 2 that has not been promoted or relegated from/into the FAW Championship) in a different division of the FAW Championship to that which it would otherwise be promoted or relegated or would have remained; or

v. at the end of the 2019/20 Playing Season placing a club promoted or relegated to or from a Tier, or a club in a Tier that has not been promoted or relegated, in a different division of the relevant Tier to that which it would otherwise be promoted or relegated, or would have remained.

(j) Subject as directed by the FAW using its power under Regulation 3(ii)ii., no Directly Affiliated League shall promote a club which does not finish as champions, or runners up, except leagues that operate more than one division, which may, with the specific approval of the FAW, promote up to the top three of the same division.

(k) Directly Affiliated Leagues must inform both the FAW and the relevant Area Associations by 1st February each year of clubs that have made application to be assessed against the Tier 3 or 4 Ground Criteria and therefore who, if successful, will be eligible to be promoted to Tier 3 or 4 (as the case may be) of the Pyramid League System at the end of the season, irrespective of league positions at that date.

(l) All clubs who wish to make an application to be assessed against the relevant Ground Criteria and therefore who, if successful, will be eligible to be promoted to or within the Pyramid Tiers 1 – 4 in the following season must do so in writing to the higher Directly Affiliated League between the start of the season and 31st December, except for the Welsh Premier League where applications must be made by 30th September. A first ground inspection will be made before 1st February to inform clubs what work they are required to do to meet the Ground Criteria but (subject to anything to the contrary in the Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations, Tier 2 Ground Criteria Regulations, Tier 3 Ground Criteria Regulations or Tier 3 or 4 Ground Criteria, as applicable) they must complete all work to comply in full with the Ground Criteria of the higher Directly Affiliated League by 30th April to be eligible for promotion. Save as permitted in the Tier 2 Ground Criteria Regulations, Tier 3 Ground Criteria Regulations and Tier 3 or 4 Ground Criteria, under no circumstances will a club be promoted if it does not meet the Ground Criteria by the 30th April deadline. Time shall be of the essence in respect of all deadlines contained or referred to in this sub-clause of the Regulations.

(m) Any club proposing ground sharing arrangements for matches in the next season in the Pyramid Tiers 1 – 4 must ensure written confirmation is provided to the FAW by 1st April. This arrangement must satisfy the FAW and must be for a minimum of one season. Any club entering into a ground sharing arrangement for one season and being promoted on this basis, will automatically be relegated after one season if they
are unable to continue the arrangement and are unable to confirm their facilities for the following season by 1st April. Time shall be of the essence in respect of all deadlines in this sub-clause of the Regulations.

(n) The inspection of clubs’ facilities against the Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations, Tier 2 Ground Criteria Regulations, Tier 3 Ground Criteria Regulations or Tier 3 or 4 Ground Criteria (as the case may be) shall be the responsibility of the relevant body as set out in Regulation 3(e) above. The said relevant body shall be solely responsible for determining whether the applicant complies with the Ground Criteria of the relevant Directly Affiliated League. All applicant clubs must pay a ground inspection fee as follows; Tier 1 = £200, Tier 2 = £150, Tier 3 = £100, Tier 4 = £100.

(o) In respect of the Pyramid Tiers 1 – 4, Directly Affiliated Leagues and Area Associations must advise the FAW and each other within seven days of end of the Playing Season of the clubs who, subject to these Regulations, will be relegated or, having satisfied the Ground Criteria, will be eligible for promotion.

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

(a) Whenever a club applies pursuant to Rule 11.1.1.3 for admission to Membership of the FAW as a Qualifying Club playing in a Directly Affiliated League, the following will apply:

i. The application by the club should be submitted as soon as possible and in any event must be received by the Chief Executive of the FAW by 1st June.

ii. The application should include details of:-
   a. the reason for the application;
   b. the proposed playing name;
   c. a description of the ground facilities and evidence of security of tenure that meets the relevant Ground Criteria; and
   d. the management structure of the club.

iii. The application will be determined by the Council in its absolute discretion. Without limiting such discretion, the Council shall have the power to:-
   a. grant consent as applied for; or
   b. grant consent in principle but order the applicant club play at a different Tier in Pyramid Tiers 1 - 4 to that applied for; or
   c. refuse consent for the applicant club to play in Pyramid Tiers 1 – 4 but order the applicant club play in a league at a Tier in the Pyramid League System below Tier 4; or
   d. in any of the above cases where consent is granted or an order made, impose such conditions as the Council thinks necessary including, without limitation, the playing name of the applicant club or, where there is a strong connection between the applicant club and the club that has, for example, (1) been wound up or (2) is being taken over as a going concern by the applicant club, the Council will have the power to impose a condition requiring the applicant club to make a contribution (in whole or in part in the Council’s absolute discretion)
to the Football Related Liabilities of the club that has been wound up or is being taken over; or

e. refuse the application.

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

(b) If a Qualifying Club ceases to compete in a Directly Affiliated League during a season but that Qualifying Club wishes to apply to continue playing in the Pyramid Tiers 1 - 4 in the following season, the following will apply:-

i. An application by the Qualifying Club should be submitted as soon as possible and in any event must be received by the Chief Executive of the FAW by 1st June.

ii. The application should include details of:-

a. the reason for the application, including the reason the Qualifying Club ceased to compete in the Directly Affiliated League;

b. a description of the ground facilities and evidence of security of tenure that meets the relevant Ground Criteria; and

c. the management structure of the applicant.

iii. The application will be determined by the Council in its absolute discretion. Without limiting such discretion, the Council shall have the power to:-

a. grant consent as applied for; or

b. grant consent in principle but order the Qualifying Club play at a different Tier in Pyramid Tiers 1 -4 to that applied for; or

c. refuse consent for the Qualifying Club to play in Pyramid Tiers 1 – 4 but order the Qualifying Club play in a league at a Tier in the Pyramid League System below Tier 4; or

d. in any of the above cases where consent is granted or an order made, impose such conditions as the Council thinks necessary including, without limitation, a condition requiring the applicant club to discharge (in whole or in part in the Council’s absolute discretion) the Football Related Liabilities of the club before the commencement of the next Playing Season; or

e. refuse the application.

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

(c) If two or more Qualifying Clubs or one Qualifying Club and another club propose a transaction or series of transactions which result in the merging or consolidation of those two clubs into one club (“the Proposed Merged Club”) and wish to apply for
consent to play in Pyramid Tiers 1 – 4 in the following season, the following will apply:-

i. A joint application by the two clubs must be received by the Chief Executive of the FAW by no later than 1st June.

ii. The application should include details of:-
   a. the reason for the application;
   b. the proposed playing name;
   c. a description of the ground facilities and evidence of security of tenure that meets the relevant Ground Criteria;
   d. identification of all Football Related Liabilities;
   e. a declaration that the Proposed Merged Club will adopt and, in the ordinary course of business, discharge all the Football Related Liabilities of the two clubs; and
   f. a declaration that each applicant club is compliant with the Rules and rules of membership of its relevant Directly Affiliated League or Area Association.

iii. The application will be determined by the Council in its absolute discretion. Without limiting such discretion, the Council shall have the power to:-
   a. grant consent as applied for; or
   b. grant consent in principle but order the Proposed Merged Club play at a different Tier in Pyramid Tiers 1 - 4 to that applied for; or
   c. refuse consent for the Proposed Merged Club to play in Pyramid Tiers 1 – 4 but order the Proposed Merged Club play in a league at a Tier in the Pyramid League System below Tier 4; or
   d. in any of the above cases where consent is granted or an order made, impose such conditions as the Council thinks necessary including, without limitation, a condition requiring the Proposed Merged Club to discharge (in whole or in part in the Council’s absolute discretion) the Football Related Liabilities of both applicant clubs before the commencement of the next Playing Season; or
   e. refuse the application.

(d) Any application to fill a vacancy or otherwise compete in the Pyramid Tiers 1 – 4 in any other circumstances (including, without limitation, following incorporation or de-incorporation of a Qualifying Club under Rule 134) shall be determined by the Council in its absolute discretion. The Council shall only consider an application from a club playing at the immediate Tier below the League to which it applies to join.

5. Joint Liaison Committees

(a) A joint liaison committee ("JLC") shall discuss matters of policy relating to Ground Criteria and promotion and relegation issues which are common to the leagues in the Pyramid League System.

(b) The JLC shall meet annually no sooner than 1st February and no later than 31st May each year and will be arranged by the FAW’s National Game Board ("NGB") who will
provide 14 days’ notice of the date and venue of the meeting along with a copy of the agenda specifying the business to be considered. Representatives of all Directly Affiliated Leagues must attend. Area Associations should also be invited to attend to discuss relevant matters concerning promotion and relegation between Tiers 4 and 5 but the final decision will be made by the FAW using its power under Regulation 3(g) (iii).

(c) Any other meetings of the JLC that are deemed necessary can be called at any time by the NGB upon giving the notice referred to in Regulation 5(b) above.

(d) Meetings of the JLC shall be chaired by a FAW representative from the NGB.

(e) The expense of holding meetings of the JLC shall be borne by the FAW. The expenses of the relevant representatives attending JLC meetings shall be met by the Directly Affiliated League or the Area Association the delegate is representing.

(f) JLCs shall have no jurisdiction over, or responsibility for, boundary adjustments for clubs playing in any Directly Affiliated League or Area Association. Such jurisdiction and responsibility shall rest solely with the FAW.
APPENDIX 1

PYRAMID LEAGUE STRUCTURE AT START OF SEASON 2018-19

![Diagram of the pyramid league structure]

12 Clubs

FAW Premier League 12

32 Clubs

Huws Gray Alliance

The Welsh Football League Division 1

64 Clubs

Welsh National League Premier Division

Welsh Alliance League Division 1

Mid-Wales League Division 1

The Welsh Football League Division 2

64 Clubs

Welsh National League Division 1

Welsh Alliance League Division 2

Mid-Wales League Division 2

The Welsh Football League Division 3

172 Clubs

Tier 5 and below - responsibility of the Area Associations
APPENDIX 2

PYRAMID LEAGUE STRUCTURE AT START OF SEASON 2019-20

- **FAW Premier League 12** (12 Clubs)
- **FAW Championship North & Mid** (32 Clubs)
- **FAW Championship South & Mid** (32 Clubs)
- **Welsh National League Premier Division** (64 Clubs)
- **Welsh Alliance League Division 1** (64 Clubs)
- **Mid-Wales League Division 1** (64 Clubs)
- **The Welsh Football League Division 2** (64 Clubs)
- **Welsh National League Division 1** (64 Clubs)
- **Welsh Alliance League Division 2** (64 Clubs)
- **Mid-Wales League Division 2** (64 Clubs)
- **The Welsh Football League Division 3** (64 Clubs)

Tier 5 and below - responsibility of the Area Associations
04k(i) Kit Regulations
04k(i) Kit Regulations

1. **SCOPE OF APPLICATION**
   1.1 These Regulations apply at all levels of the game.
   1.2 These Regulations govern the authorisation of kit worn by the players and officials of a team, by a referee team, as well as other persons in and around the field of play and cover all references to the club, the sponsor, the manufacturer or any other third party appearing on any kit item.
   1.3 Where no provision of these regulations is applicable, the corresponding competition regulations shall apply and the FAW may take the relevant Laws of the Game and the FIFA Equipment Regulations into account before taking a decision.

2. **KIT (SPORTS EQUIPMENT)**
   2.1 Kit includes all garments and equipment worn by the following persons;
   a. outfield players;
   b. goalkeepers;
   c. substitutes
   d. coaching team
   e. medical staff
   f. other officials in the technical area
   2.2 The aforementioned persons are subject to the provisions of these Regulations at all times.
   2.3 The provisions of these Regulations apply on a match day in and around the field of play.
   2.4 Football boots are excluded from these Regulations.

3. **PRINCIPLE**
   3.1 No item falling under the scope of these Regulations may offend common decency or transmit political, religious or racial messages. Commercial messages are only allowed in the form of sponsor advertising.
3.2 As regards choice of colour, kit worn on the field of play is subject to the provisions of these Regulations and where necessary the referee’s authority, as stipulated in the relevant Laws of the Game.

4. APPROVAL

4.1 The club is responsible for the compliance of these Regulations.

4.2 The club is solely responsible for the conduct of its players, coaches, officials, etc. as far as the correct implementation of these provisions is concerned.

5. KIT MATERIAL

5.1 No item of the playing attire, numbers, players’ names, badges or material used may be reflective or change its colour or appearance due to external influence.

6. COLOURS

6.1 No item of the playing attire worn by outfield players (shirts, shorts and socks) may consist of more than four colours. This provision does not apply to the colours used for lettering (number, player’s name, sponsor, etc.). If three or more colours are used, one must be clearly dominant on the surface of the shirt, shorts and socks respectively, and the remaining colours must clearly be minor colours. For hooped, banded, stripes or checked socks, a further colour is considered as a decorative colour and may not be dominant or affect the distinctiveness of the socks.

6.2 Players may wear items such as underwear, T-Shirts, long sleeved T-shirts, and thermal shorts under their playing attire. Such items worn under the playing attire may be separate from, or permanently attached to, the shirts or shorts. Any such visible item worn under the playing attire must be of the same colour group as the corresponding part (e.g. sleeves or legs) of the playing attire.

6.3 Tape used to fix socks and/or shin guards must be of the same dominant colour as the socks.

6.4 In order to minimise colour clashes, a team’s first choice and second choice kit must differ visibly and contrast with each other and with the colours of its goalkeeper’s kits, so that they could be worn by opposite teams in a match. Teams may be requested to mix the first and second-choice kits (shirt, shorts, socks) in order to create a visible contrast with the other team.

6.5 If the referee decides on the spot that the colours of the two teams could lead to confusion, the home team must wear other colours for practical reasons.

6.6 For a final, both teams may wear the first-choice kits. However, if there is a colour clash, the designated ‘away team’ must wear its second-choice kit. If a colour clash still exists and the team officials are unable to agree on the colours to be worn by their teams, the competition administration will decide in consultation with the referee.
6.7 Only Welsh Premier League clubs are permitted to have black and/or navy as the dominant colour on the shirt.

7. NUMBERS
7.1 A number must appear on the back of the shirt. It must be centred.
7.2 The number must be of a single colour with the required minimum contrast with the background colour.
7.3 When the shirt is striped, around the figure, there must be a zone comprising a single-coloured background.
7.4 The number must be clearly legible and 25-35cm high (20-35cm for women's competitions) with a stroke width of the figure being 2-5cm.
7.5 Numbers must be individual whole numbers from 1-99. The number 1 can only be used by a goalkeeper.

8. SHIRT NAMES
8.1 Players may also be identified on their shirts by means of their surname and/or first name. A nickname may only be used if approved by the relevant competition.
8.2 The player's shirt name must correspond with the name submitted on the match team sheet.
8.3 The competition regulations may stipulate the use of the player's name as mandatory.
8.4 If a player's name is used, it must be placed on the back of the shirt, above the number.
8.5 The letters must be in Latin alphabet and in one single colour.
8.6 The height of the letters must not exceed 7.5cm.
8.7 Players' names must be clearly distinguishable from the colours of the kit.

9. CLUB IDENTIFICATION
9.1 The club may use the following types of identification on playing attire;
   a. Club emblem;
   b. Club name;
   c. Competition emblem;
   d. Competition name;
   e. National flag;
   f. Anniversary emblem or name;
   g. Coat of arms or flag of town or region.
9.2 Emblems listed in 9.1 may only appear once on the shirt, shorts and each sock.
9.3 The maximum sizes are; shirt maximum of 100cm², short maximum of 50cm² and socks maximum of 50cm².

10. SPONSOR ADVERTISING
10.1 Sponsor advertising is permitted on the shirts, shorts and socks.
10.2 The advertising of tobacco, e-cigarettes, strong alcoholic beverages, as well as slogans
of a political, religious or racial nature, or for other causes that offend common decency, are prohibited.

11. NUMBER OF SPONSORS
11.1 One club sponsor is permitted on the front of the shirt, which must be centrally located and not exceed 200cm².
11.2 Two club sponsors are permitted on the back of the shirt. One sponsor may be located above the number if the player name is not used and it must not exceed 200cm². One sponsor may be located below the number and must not exceed 200cm².
11.3 One club sponsor may be used on the shorts and not exceed 100cm².
11.4 One club sponsor may be used on the socks and not exceed 50cm².

12. MANUFACTURER IDENTIFICATION
12.1 The manufacturer may use one registered trademark on the shirt, which must not exceed 20cm².
12.2 The manufacturer may use one registered trademark on the shorts, which must not exceed 20cm².
12.3 The manufacturer may use up to two registered trademarks on each sock, which must not exceed 20cm² for one single item or 10cm² for each of two items.

13. DOMESTIC TITLES AND STARS
13.1 A current or former holder of a domestic title is entitled to wear the corresponding representation approved by the relevant competition administration(s). This is permitted at chest height on the shirt.
13.2 This representation must not exceed 10cm².
13.3 Stars for multiple winners of a domestic championship may be used immediately adjacent to the club emblem. The height of each star must not exceed 2cm².

14. RESPECT BADGE
14.1 A Respect badge or any equivalent is permitted on the left sleeve of the shirt.

15. COMPETITION LOGO
15.1 The Competition logo and the competition sponsor, may be used on the right and/or left sleeve of the shirt. This must not exceed 50cm².

16. MEASUREMENT PROCEDURE
16.1 The measurement procedure is in accordance with the UEFA Kit Regulations.

17. CLOSING PROVISIONS
17.1 Any cases not provided for in these Regulations will be dealt with by the Chief Executive and such decisions are final.
Regulations for Football Turf Pitches
04k (ii) Regulations for the Use of Football Turf Pitches in FAW Competitions

Football Turf pitches may be used in FAW competitions subject to the following conditions:

1. The pitch is certified to the appropriate category of performance, as detailed below, and is listed on the FAW’s Register of Certified Football Turf Pitches.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition</th>
<th>Category of certification</th>
<th>Certification period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welsh Premier League &amp; Welsh Cup competitions from Round 1.</td>
<td>FIFA Quality</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAW Tier 2 and Tier 3, Welsh Premier Women’s League, FAW Women’s Cup from Quarter-Final.</td>
<td>FIFA Quality</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other domestic FAW and Area Association competitions</td>
<td>FIFA Quality</td>
<td>FAW Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UEFA competitions – all rounds</td>
<td>FIFA Quality Pro</td>
<td>FIFA Quality Pro</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. The FAW reserves the right to spot check a pitch at any time to verify it is still complying with the relevant level of certification. If during a spot check a pitch is found to be non-compliant the FAW may, at its discretion, allow the pitch to be used for the remainder of the season, providing that at the end of the season all necessary remedial works (including resurfacing) are undertaken to enable the pitch to comply with the certification requirements prior to the start of the next season.

3. A field must be retested and certified whenever the Football Turf surface is replaced.

4. The replacement of significant sections of the Football Turf surface may only be undertaken following consultation with the FAW. All repairs must be undertaken using Football Turf of the same specification to that installed. The FAW retains the right to ask a Club to retest the field after such works.

5. The Football Turf pitch, including run-offs, shall be one continuous playing surface. It must be green in colour. All football pitch line markings shall be white and in accordance with the Laws of Association Football. Any other lines on pitches used for Welsh Premier League or Welsh Cup matches shall be masked out prior to a game. For Tiers 2 and 3 and the Welsh Premier Women’s League, any other white or yellow lines must be masked out. Dark colour lines, such as red, dark green or blue are permitted in all other domestic FAW competitions.

6. The home Club shall allow their opposition the opportunity to use the pitch and train on the surface 45 minutes prior to kick-off and there must not be another game or event on the pitch following the training period. If it is intended to water the pitch before the match, the pitch shall also be watered prior to the training period.

7. The Club using the Football Turf pitch shall advise their opponents at least 24 hours before the match of limitations or recommendations on the types of boot or stud that may be used on the surface.

8. For Tiers 1 – 3 the Club must provide all necessary assistance and data relating to player assessments, injury records, maintenance etc as requested by the FAW, FIFA or UEFA.

NOTES:

a. A pitch must be tested, certified and entered onto the FAW’s Register of Certified Football Turf Pitches prior to any competitive games being played. Clubs are advised to ensure the installation programme for a new pitch makes adequate allowance for any bedding-in period recommended by the Football Turf manufacturer prior to the pitch being tested;

b. All tests must be undertaken by FIFA accredited test institutes. Details may be obtained at https://football-technology.fifa.com/en/media-tiles/fifa-accredited-test-institutes/

c. Certification to the FIFA Quality Pro category is valid for one year. At the end of the 12 months the pitch must be retested. If the Club has qualified again for a UEFA competition the pitch must be tested and recertified to the FIFA Quality Pro level. If the Club has not qualified for a UEFA competition and the pitch will only be used in FAW competitions the following season it may be tested and certified to the FIFA Quality level. This new certificate is then for three years.

If a club downgrades to the FIFA Quality level and then subsequently qualifies for a UEFA competition in another season it may have the pitch retested, and providing it is found to comply, recertified as a FIFA Quality Pro pitch. This certificate will be valid for 12 months, after which the pitch will have to be retested.
The following terms and definitions apply to this Regulation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Football Turf</th>
<th>The term used by FIFA to describe long pile (3G) synthetic turf surfaces designed for football.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FQP</td>
<td>FIFA Quality Programme for Football Turf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIFA Quality</td>
<td>The category of Football Turf and field certification, as defined in the FQP and intended for pitches that are subjected to higher levels of use, typical of those built in Wales. This designation has been used by FIFA since 2015, replacing the FIFA One Star category.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FQP 2012 manual</td>
<td>A FIFA Quality (FIFA One Star) field must have either a FIFA One Star Category Football Turf surface or a FIFA Two Star category surface that has also been shown to satisfy the laboratory test requirements of a FIFA One Star product.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FQP 2015 Manual</td>
<td>A FIFA Quality field must have a Football Turf surface that has also been shown to satisfy the laboratory test requirements of a FIFA Quality product.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIFA Quality Pro</td>
<td>The category of Football Turf and pitch certification, as defined in the FQP and intended for pitches used by professional football clubs for matches and training. This designation has been used by FIFA since 2015, replacing the FIFA Two Star category.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FQP 2012 manual</td>
<td>A FIFA Quality Pro (FIFA Two Star) field must be surfaced with a FIFA Two Star compliant Football Turf.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| FQP 2015 Manual                                                                 | A FIFA Quality Pro field must be surfaced with a FIFA Quality Pro compliant Football Turf. Note: A Football Turf may be certified as meeting the laboratory test requirements of a FIFA Quality Pro and a FIFA Quality product. Football Turfs with both certifications are recommended for WPL clubs.
FAW Register of Certified Football Turf Pitches

A list maintained by the FAW of pitches that have been tested and shown to comply with this regulation.

Testing of a pitch and applying for it to appear on the register is the responsibility of the Club wishing to play on the field. In the event of more than one Club or team playing on the same pitch each Club or team is required to apply for the pitch to be registered for their use, although the pitch need only be tested once.

All costs incurred for the testing of a pitch are the responsibility of the Club facility owner / operator. The FAW makes no charge for the registration of a pitch.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initial certification</th>
<th>The first time a field is tested and certified to a particular category.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subsequent certifications</td>
<td>All certifications following the initial certification period expiring.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. No person shall officiate as a referee and/or assistant referee in any competition under the jurisdiction of the Football Association of Wales (“the FAW”) unless they are registered with the Association.

2. A referee and/or assistant referee must be registered with the Association on payment of a subscription fee of £20.00, which shall increase to £30.00 if renewal payment is made after the 30th June for the forthcoming season.

3. Any person who wishes to be registered shall register on the Association’s Comet system and pay an annual subscription fee. The Association shall keep a register on the Comet system of all registered referees and/or assistant referees.

4. A referee and/or assistant referee will be allocated to an Area Association within the area they reside, and that Area Association shall then be their parent Association and shall deal with all matters concerning them as a referee and/or assistant referee. The referees parent Association shall also deal with promotions up to and including Grade 3A.

5. The qualification of such applicants shall be subject to such examinations as the Council of the FAW or the Area Association shall determine from time to time. All applicants must have completed a full qualification (or other relevant FIFA member Association qualification). Referees of Grade 3B and above and any referee or assistant referee seeking promotion must revalidate this qualification by attending the relevant Association educational course every 3 years.

6. Grading shall be in four levels. The grading of a referee and assistant referee by the Association or Area Association must be accepted by all other Associations affiliated to the FAW.

7. All registration fees are payable annually. The Association shall, on or before 1st July in each year, classify their Grade 2 referees and assistant referees and above and validate this information on the Comet system on or before the 1st day of August. Each Area Association shall, on or before 1st July in each year, classify their Grade 3A referees and below and validate this information on the Comet system on or before the 1st day of August.
8. In the Welsh Cup Competition, only Grade 3B referees and above shall be appointed, however, lower level officials may act as assistant referee but the senior assistant referee in all Welsh Cup matches shall be either a specialist assistant referee or at least Grade 3B when available. In the Football Association of Wales Trophy, Women’s Cup and Youth Cup Competitions, after round four, only Grade 3B referees and above shall be appointed, however, lower level officials may act as assistant referee.

9. Referees and/or assistant referees must not travel in company with teams.

10. An applicant between the ages of 14-16 years must be registered as a junior referee by the Area Association following completion of the Associations advanced referees’ course.

11. An applicant over the age of 14 may be registered to referee junior football by completing the referees’ leaders award course.

12. Referees and/or assistant referees must only accept appointments from the competition administrator.

13. Referees and/or assistant referees should wear a referee kit in all Official Matches and Open Friendly Matches.

14. Referees in Grade 3B and assistant referees in Grade 2AR and above must wear the official badge of the Association. Referees in all other classes must wear the official badge of the Area Association to which they reside.

15. No referee and/or assistant referee shall be allowed to officiate in any Official Match or Open Friendly Match if not registered with the Association.

16. Referees and/or assistant referees registered with the Association are not permitted to act either as referee or assistant referee in any league or competition in which they also take part as a Player.

17. If for unforeseen circumstances, a registered referee and/or assistant referee is unable to officiate, competitions or Clubs may agree on some other person to act in these extreme circumstances.

18. Any referee and/or assistant referee proved to have been concerned as an Intermediary for a Club in the transfer and/or engagement of a player shall be deemed to have committed a Disciplinary Offence.

19. Sponsorship is only permitted on the sleeve of a referee and/or assistant referee shirt, as per FIFA Rules.

20. Each Area Association will have a referee development group. FIFA nominations should firstly be considered from those officials who had progressed through the scheme, when they are National list officials, unless in special circumstances.

21. The referee is to decide what is required from the club assistant in terms of ball out and offside. The referee should decide on which side the club assistant should stand but it is recommended that he takes his own forward line.

22. All referee’s and/or assistant referee’s officiating in FAW and National League Competitions are responsible for submitting the match report form through FAW COMET to confirm match data as outlined in the Rules relating to the qualification, registration and control of referees and assistant referees in accordance with the Rules of the relevant competition as set from time to time, including but not limited to;
(i) the result of the match;
(ii) the full names of the Players taking part in the match;
(iii) the names of the substitutes and details of any substitution(s) made (including the match time when the substitution was made);
(iv) details of any yellow cards and red cards issued (including the match time when the card was issued); and
(v) Details of any further misconduct.

23. Any referee and/or assistant referee who does not adhere to the relevant Rules shall be dealt with in accordance with the procedures as laid down by the Association. The Deadlines for submitting the match reports are as follows:
   (i) Welsh Premier League – within one (1) hour.
   (ii) FAW Championship – within one (1) hour.
   (iii) All other FAW or National League Competitions twenty-four (24) hours.

24. In all other matches a referee and/or assistant referee who submits a match report after any deadline set shall be dealt with in accordance with the procedures as laid down by the Area Associations from time to time.

25. All referees and/or assistant referees must use the Comet system as required by the Association to submit availability, accept or decline appointments and to submit match reports in accordance with competition regulations.

26. The hierarchy of authority for referees and/or assistant referees on a Sunday is as follows; FAW appointments, Welsh Premier League, Welsh Premier Women’s League, other.

27. (i) The fee for the advanced referees’ course is £80.00.
   (ii) The fee for the referees’ leaders award course is £20.00.
   (iii) Any referee and/or assistant referee who has been inactive for five years, must re-take the whole course.

28. Attendance at Area Association training and education seminars is mandatory for all referees and/or assistant referees seeking promotion, unless a legitimate reason for non-attendance is provided and accepted by the Area Association. Fitness tests should also be completed where appropriate.
Referee & Assistant Referee Categories

CATEGORY ONE- REFEREE

International (FIFA List)

1A Cymru Premier referees.
1B Cymru Premier talent referees.

CATEGORY TWO:

FAW Cymru North and Cymru South referees.

CATEGORY THREE:

3A Referees’ Panel of the National Leagues at Tier 3 of the Pyramid (Welsh League Division 1, Mid Wales League Division 1, Welsh National League Premier Division, Welsh Alliance League Division 1) and act as assistant referees at Tier 2.
3B Referees’ Panel of the National Leagues at Tier 4 of the Pyramid (Welsh League Division 2, Mid Wales League Division 2, Welsh National League Division 1, Welsh Alliance League Division 2) and at area level and act as assistant referees at Tier 2 & 3.

CATEGORY FOUR:

4A Third season referees (and longer) who referee at Area Association level and are permitted to act as assistant referees in their respective Directly Affiliated Leagues at Tier 2.
4B* Second season referees (and longer) over the age of 16 who operate at Area Association level and are permitted to act as assistant referees in their respective Directly Affiliated Leagues at Tier 2 & 3 subject to have attended an assistant referees’ course as organised by the Area Association. Also permitted to referee in Directly Affiliated reserve league matches.
4C** First year referees over the age of 16 who referee at Area Association level but are not eligible to act as assistant referees on the Directly Affiliated Leagues.
4D Qualified and registered referees under the ages of 14 - 16 (not eligible for adult football).
4E Qualified and registered referees who are non-active.

* Minimum length of time in category 4B to be two seasons unless exceptional circumstances apply.
** Minimum length of time in category 4C to be one season.
Assistant Referee Pathway

INTERNATIONAL (FIFA LIST)

1AR National list specialist assistant referee.

1ART Specialist assistant referees at Tier 2 but have been identified as assistant referees with potential and are eligible to be appointed to Tier 1 matches from time to time.

2AR Specialist assistant referee at Tier 2.

3AR Specialist assistant referee at Tier 3.

4AR Specialist assistant referee (in training) – This would run in parallel with the refereeing Grade 4 for those interested in following assistant referee pathway with a view of becoming a 3AR. Referees would have to serve a minimum of 1 year core refereeing experience prior to electing to join the assistant referee pathway.

Female Pathway

CATEGORY ONE - REFEREE

F International (FIFA List).

F-1A National list referee.

F-1B National list talent referee.

CATEGORY ONE – SPECIALIST ASSISTANT REFEREE

F International (FIFA List).

F-1AR National list assistant referee.

CATEGORY TWO – REFEREE

F-2A 2nd year referee who operates in the feeder leagues to WPWL and acts as assistant referee in the WPWL.

F-2B 1st Year referee who operates in the feeder leagues to WPWL and acts as assistant referee in the WPWL (and has attended an assistant referee course as organised by the Area Association).

NOTE

*Referees for the Welsh Premier Women’s League will be taken from the Male categories 3A and above and Female Category F-1B and above, whilst the Cymru Premier Development League will also be from 3B and above. Assistant referees can be taken from Categories 4C to 4A.*
Junior Referees

AJRAdult football referees officiating in junior football with the referees’ leaders award qualification only.

CJRChild junior referee officiating junior football matches with referees’ leaders award qualification only (These referees must only referee football matches of an age range below their academic year).

FOOTNOTE

Where season is mentioned above, the referee must be registered by 31st December of that season.
04m(ii)
FIFA
International Match Calendar
04m(ii) FIFA International Match Calendar

No adult fixtures shall be scheduled for FIFA International Match Calendar dates when the Wales senior squad are playing a home fixture.

A junior club may request a postponement of its fixtures scheduled to be played on the same day as a Wales home fixture in the FIFA International Match Calendar and that request must be accepted by its league with no further sanction applicable.

A junior and senior club may request a postponement of its fixtures scheduled to be played on the same day as any Wales home friendly fixture in the FIFA International Match Calendar and that request must be accepted by its league with no further sanction applicable.