

THE FAW RESERVE LEAGUE DIVISION RULES
2024/2025

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 Board in accordance with Rule 15 below;
- 1.1.2. **'Board'** 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.
- 1.1.3. **'Business Day'** means a day that is not a Saturday or Sunday or a public or bank holiday in Wales.
- 1.1.4. **'Chair'** means the Chair of the Board who shall be appointed by the FAW Council.
- 1.1.5. **'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.
- 1.1.6. **'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.
- 1.1.7. **'Division'** means each of the divisions of the League, currently known as the FAW Reserve Leagues, as such names may be amended from time to time by the Board with the approval of the FAW directors (for example) to include the name of a title sponsor.
- 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 Board and **'Visiting Club'** means the other Club due to play in the relevant Match.
- 1.1.14. **'League'** means the 'FAW Reserve League' for Clubs whose men's first team competes in Tier 1, 2 or 3 of the FAW's Men's Pyramid League System, as such name may be amended from time to time by the Board with the approval of the FAW directors (for example) to include the name of a title sponsor.

- 1.1.15. **'Match'** means any association football match played in the League.
- 1.1.16. **'Match Officials'** means the Referee, Assistant Referees and any Fourth Official for a Match.
- 1.1.17. **'Official'** means any director, secretary or other duly authorised representative of a Club.
- 1.1.18. **'Player'** means any male association football player, whether or not registered with the FAW to play for a Club.
- 1.1.19. **'Playing Season'** is as defined in the FAW Rules.
- 1.1.20. **'Rules'** means these Rules of the League as amended from time to time.
- 1.1.21. **'Scale of Fines'** means the scale of fines referred to in Rule 31 below.
- 1.1.22. **'Season'** is as defined in the FAW Rules.
- 1.1.23. **'Secretary'** means a person appointed as a Club Secretary to act as the main point of contact for the Club.
- 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. **'Transmission Rights'** means the sole and exclusive worldwide right in perpetuity to record (a) television or other moving pictures of any Match; (b) sounds of and/or commentary upon any Match and (c) data relating to any Match (and, in each case, have sole and exclusive access to the ground of each Club to do so) and transmit and/or exploit and/or otherwise make available the whole or any part of such recordings in any language and whether live and/or delayed by any and all manner and means in all current and future media including by terrestrial, cable and satellite television, radio, internet and mobile networks and whether to the public or closed groups, and to authorise others to do so.
- 1.1.28. **'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 BOARD

- 3.1. The business of the League shall be conducted by the Board 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 Board 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 Board 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 Board deems appropriate.
- 3.5. In the event of the voting at any meeting of the Board being equal, the Chair of such meeting shall have a second casting vote.
- 3.6. The Board shall defray out of the funds of the League all expenses in respect of the administration of the League. A member of the Board may be paid out of League funds such expenses incurred

through attendance at meetings of, or in connection with, the League, as the Board may approve.

3.7. The Board 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 Board 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 Board shall have the power to impose fines not exceeding £2,000 and any other sanctions (including deduction of points or suspension from the League) as the Board shall consider appropriate, subject always to the rights of appeal and (if applicable) the Scale of Fines hereinafter mentioned.

3.8. The Board shall normally meet in each month, but the General Manager shall either of their own volition, or otherwise on the requisition of any three (3) members of the Board, summon a meeting of the Board at any other time.

3.9. The Board shall cause minutes to be retained:

3.9.1. of the names of the members of the Board 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 Board.

The General Manager shall cause such minutes to be circulated to members of the Board, the FAW Council and to the Clubs following ratification by the directors of the FAW.

3.10. The Board may act notwithstanding any temporary vacancy of any member.

3.11. All acts done by any meeting of the Board or by any person acting as representative of the Board 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 Board 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 .

3.13. In relation to any matter not specifically addressed in these Rules the Board 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 Board shall be subject to the approval of the directors of the FAW.

4. GENERAL MEETINGS

4.1. The Annual General Meeting of each Division of the League shall be held in each year at a date, time and place to be determined by the Board.

4.2. The Board may, whenever it thinks fit, convene an Extraordinary General Meeting of any Division

(or the entire League) at a date, time and place to be determined by the Board and the Board shall also, upon a requisition made to the League in writing signed by duly authorised representatives of not less than two thirds (2/3rds) of the Clubs in a Division (or the entire League), convene an Extraordinary General Meeting of that Division (or the entire League) at a date, time and place to be determined by the Board.

- 4.3. The General Manager shall notify all relevant Clubs and the members of the Board of the date, time and place of all General Meetings not less than seven (7) Clear Days in advance, such notice to contain basic details of the matters to be discussed. Short notice can be given with the consent of the Board and all relevant Clubs.
- 4.4. Each relevant Club shall be entitled to have two (2) representatives and one (1) vote at any General Meeting. Each relevant Club shall ensure that at least one (1) representative attends each General Meeting but the meeting, if validly convened, may proceed in their absence. Each relevant Club shall prior to the General Meeting in question notify the General Manager of the identity of the Club's representatives and which representative shall be entitled to cast the Club's vote. Votes may only be cast by representatives personally and voting by proxy shall not be permitted. Any resolution at a General Meeting must have the support of two thirds (2/3rds) of the Clubs present and eligible to vote on the resolution at the meeting. The attendees for each Annual General Meeting of a Division (a) must include at least one (1) representative of any relevant Club that has been promoted to or relegated to that Division for the following Playing Season, and each such Club shall be entitled to vote at that meeting; and (b) may include a representative of any Club that has been promoted from or relegated from that Division for the following Playing Season, but each such Club shall not be entitled to vote at that meeting. A General Meeting of a Division shall consider and vote on resolutions relating to that Division and/or the entire League, and shall not consider and vote on resolutions relating to the other Division. A resolution passed at a General Meeting of one Division relating to the entire League shall not be effective unless it is also passed at a General Meeting of the other Division.
- 4.5. The Chair of the Board shall be the Chair at all General Meetings but in their absence the members of the Board present shall choose one of their number to be Chair.
- 4.6. The directors of the FAW shall have the power to veto any resolution of the relevant Clubs at a General Meeting.
- 4.7. Each Club shall ensure that its Chair (or a deputy satisfactory to the Board) attends the annual Club Chairs' Meeting (which the Board may convene either for a Division or the entire League) but the meeting, if validly convened, may proceed in their absence.
- 4.8. The Board may permit attendance and/or voting at any of the above meetings by electronic means.

5. FAW CLUB LICENSING

- 5.1. Only those Clubs which attain an FAW Tier 1-, 2-, or 3-Men's licence under the applicable FAW Club Licensing Regulations (or which attain such other criteria which may be stipulated by the Board from

time to time) shall be eligible for membership of the League in the Playing Season which next commences after the grant of such FAW Club licence (or the attainment of such other criteria).

6. SUBSCRIPTIONS

- 6.1. The annual subscription of each Club to the League shall be £100 or such other sum as shall be determined by the Panel from time to time. All annual subscriptions shall be paid to the General Manager before the start of the League in each Playing Season. Any Club whose subscription has not been paid by the due date 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, address, email address and telephone number(s) 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 the FAW, Vale Resort, Pontyclun, CF72 8JY, or by email to such email address issued for such purpose by the League from time to time, or via such online system or procedure prescribed by the FAW from time to time. Proof of service shall be in accordance with Rule 144 of the FAW Rules.

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 an 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 Board 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 Section E and Rule 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 Section H 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 no later than 5pm on the last Business Day prior to the Match in which the Club wishes the Player to participate.

13. SUBSTITUTES

- 13.1. A Club at its discretion may use up to five (5) substitutes during a Match except to replace a Player or Players who have been sent off or suspended from the Match by the Referee. Substitutions can only be made when the play has been stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission.
- 13.2. During a Match, each Club:
- 13.2.1. may use a maximum of five substitutes.
 - 13.2.2. has a maximum of three (3) substitution opportunities; and
 - 13.2.3. may additionally make substitutions at half-time.
 - 13.2.4. Where both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as a substitution opportunity for each team.

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

- 13.3. The name(s) and numbers of the substitute(s) must be nominated to the Referee on the Team Sheet in accordance with Rule 20 below. Clubs may nominate up to five (5) substitutes for each Match.

14. INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

- 14.1. 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 League record for that Playing Season up to a maximum of 18 points 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.

- 14.2. 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 and eligible to play in the Match.

15. AUTHORISED KITS

- 15.1. By 24th June, each Club shall submit at least two (2) goalkeeper kits and at least two (2) outfield kits 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 Playing Season and, once approved by the Board (each such kit then being an “Authorised Kit”), such details shall be published in the League Handbook for that Playing Season. The Authorised Kits shall be worn during the relevant Playing Season and no changes of either colours or combinations of colours shall be permitted during the course of the Playing 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 Board (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 Playing Season launch kit) and may wear such a kit if it obtains prior written approval from the Board.
- 15.2. 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.
- 15.3. 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 Board in relation to the applicable Authorised Kit prior to the relevant Playing season and must comply with the Laws of the Game.
- 15.4. No Club shall be permitted to register or play a Match in kit colours (comprising shirts, shorts and socks) which are likely to cause confusion with the outfits worn by Referees and Assistant Referees.
- 15.5. 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.
- 15.6. Clubs wishing to make alterations to their Authorised Kits after the date set by the Board under Rule 15.1 above, must make an application to the Board for their prior written approval. The Board 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.
- 15.7. All kits for Matches must comply with FAW Kit Regulations.

16. LEAGUE FORMAT

- 16.1. The League will be organised into Divisions. Each Club will be allocated to a Division, as determined by the Board and approved by the FAW directors prior to the start of the relevant Playing Season. The Board shall determine annually the date on which Matches shall commence. The Board shall fix the date in the following year on which the normal playing season of the League shall terminate.

- 16.2. A Club may not enter its reserve team in any other competition unless express written permission has been granted by the FAW in accordance with the FAW Reserve Team Policy for playing in Area Association Football or via any other mechanism determined by the National Leagues Board
- 16.3. In each Playing Season, the Clubs in each Division will play Matches against each other on a home and away basis or as determined by the National Leagues Board
- 16.4. 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 Playing 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 Playingseason.
- 16.5. 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:
 - 16.5.1. Superior goal difference obtained in all League matches ;
 - 16.5.2. Higher or highest number of goals scored in all League matches ;
 - 16.5.3. Higher or highest number of points obtained in all League matches played among the Clubs in question;
 - 16.5.4. Superior goal difference obtained in all League matches played among the Clubs in question;
 - 16.5.5. higher or highest number of goals scored in all League matches played among the teams in question;
 - 16.5.6. higher or highest number of goals scored away from home in all League matches played among the teams in question;
 - 16.5.7. higher or highest number of wins in all League matches;
 - 16.5.8. higher or highest number of away wins in all League matches;
 - 16.5.9. lower or lowest disciplinary points total based only on yellow and red cards received in all League matches; and
 - 16.5.10. the Clubs concerned shall play-off, in a format as directed by the Board
- 16.6. The Division champion Club shall hold the Division trophy for approximately one year and the FAW will be responsible for the engraving of the trophy. 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. The date, time, and location of any such presentation shall be decided by the Board.
- 16.7. If any Club ceases to operate between the Annual General Meeting and the commencement of the following Playing Season, no adjustments to the number of Clubs in membership of the League will be made, unless approved by the Directors in their absolute discretion. The remaining Clubs shall constitute the members of the League for that PlayingSeason.

- 16.8. A Club which for any reason ceases to operate at any time during the Playing Season shall have its League 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.
- 16.9. A Club that enters into administration at any time during the Playing Season shall have ten (10) points deducted from its League playing 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 League playing record in the Playing 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.

17. SCHEDULING OF MATCHES AND KICK-OFF TIMES

- 17.1. The Board shall determine how the Matches shall be arranged and rearranged over the Playing Season. The draft schedule of Matches shall be issued by the General Manager for consultation with the Clubs, which may then be amended by the Board. All fixtures in the draft schedule that cannot avoid a clash with a first team match will be scheduled for 11am on a Saturday. The Board may also change the schedule of Matches during the Playing Season to suit the overall interests of the League. The final schedule of Matches approved by the Board shall not be subject to any appeals or protests by Clubs.
- 17.2. The Home Club for each Match shall have the right to determine the day on which a Match is to be played, provided that:
- 17.2.1. the fixtures remain in the draft consultation period, as determined by the General Manager
 - 17.2.2. more than two weeks' prior notice is provided between the date of notice and the date of the fixture
 - 17.2.3. all weekday (Monday to Friday) evening Matches only occur when the distance between the Home Club and the Visiting Club is no more than forty (40) miles, unless express permission is granted to override this by the Visiting Club
 - 17.2.4. the time of kick-off is no earlier than 7:30pm and no later than 8pm for all weekday (Monday to Friday) Matches, unless mutually agreed between both Clubs.
 - 17.2.5. the time of kick-off is no earlier than 11am and no later than 5pm for all weekend (Saturday and Sunday) Matches, unless mutually agreed both Clubs.
- 17.3. Once the draft consultation period has concluded, at least fourteen (14) Clear Days prior written notice is required from Clubs wishing to re-arrange a Saturday or Sunday Match to the preceding Friday, and each such notice period must exclude the new proposed date of the Match. A request made in less than this period of time will only be considered by the Board in exceptional circumstances.
- 17.4. Once the draft consultation period has concluded, at least fourteen (14) Clear Days prior written notice is required from Clubs wishing to re-arrange a Match between Monday-Thursday to the preceding or subsequent day, and each such notice period must exclude the new proposed date of the Match. A request made in less than this period of time will only be considered by the Board in exceptional circumstances.
- 17.5. Once the draft consultation period has concluded, no request to move a match between Friday

and Sunday to the preceding or subsequent midweek will be considered unless there is mutual agreement between the two competing Clubs.

- 17.6. Clubs shall not be required to play a Match within seventy (72) hours prior to, or within seventy (72) hours after playing another reserve team match.
- 17.7. Unless mutually agreed by the Clubs concerned (with Board approval), the time of kick-off shall be as per 17.2.4 and 17.2.5. If Clubs are unable to mutually agree, the Board shall have the discretion to fix the kick-off time.
- 17.8. In all Matches, the half-time interval shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes.
- 17.9. All agreed changes to time of kick-off of a Match which may be agreed between the two (2) participating Clubs shall be promptly notified to the General Manager by the Home Club at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the Match, for approval by the Board.
- 17.10. Each Home Club shall confirm its proposed full Authorised kit colours (including goalkeeper) for a Match, via the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time at least three (3) days prior to the Match. The Visiting Club and Referee must also confirm their proposed full Authorised Kit colours (including goalkeeper) for the Match via the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time at least three (3) days prior to the Match. The Match Referee must approval of both Clubs' proposed kit colours with both Clubs and the General Manager via the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time at least three (3) days prior to the Match at least forty eight (48) hours prior to kick off, unless it is impracticable to do so. If the Match Referee believes that there will be a clash of kit colours for a Match, then they may (after consultation with the General Manager, except where it is impracticable to do so on a Match day) require the Visiting Club or the Home Club to change their kit colours for the Match. Each Club shall arrive for a Match with the kit which has been approved by the Match Referee as set out above.
- 17.11. Visiting Clubs shall also confirm in such Match correspondence to Home Clubs if they will be attending post-Match hospitality or not.
- 17.12. 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.

18. GATE RECEIPTS

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

19. CONDITION OF GROUNDS AND POSTPONEMENTS

- 19.1. 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 Board 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.

19.2. A Match may only be postponed:

19.2.1. With the approval of the Match Referee or the available referee and the General Manager on Match day -1;

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

19.2.3. By order of the police;

19.2.4. By order of any other authority exercising its statutory power; or

19.2.5. With the approval of the Board.

19.3. Each participating Club shall take all reasonable steps to avoid the postponement of a Match. If a Match is postponed, then each relevant Club shall (if requested by the General Manager) make submissions to the Board about the circumstances which led to the postponement. If a Match is postponed, wholly or partly due to a breach by a Club of this Rule, their prospective opponents may be compensated by them/or the League at the discretion of the Board.

19.4. 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 Board up to a maximum of £500.

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

19.6. When a Match is postponed, both Clubs shall endeavour to agree an alternative Match date within seven (7) days and, once a date is agreed, the Home Club shall immediately notify the General Manager of the proposed date, for the approval of the Board. If the Clubs fail to agree within the seven (7) day period, the Board shall impose a date without right of appeal by either Club.

The postponement by a referee 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 or designated person as deemed competent by the FAW Referee's Manager, 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.

19.7. 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.

19.8. If the available referee or designated person as deemed competent by the FAW Referee's Manager does not declare the ground unfit, a final decision shall be made by the Match Referee upon their arrival at the ground (each such Referee taking into account that Referees should not hastily

postpone or abandon Matches). A Match Official conducting a ground inspection shall be entitled to an inspection fee, as set by the FAW Referees Committee from time to time, and travelling expenses to be met by the League.

- 19.9. When a Club obtains the approval of the Board 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.
- 19.10. 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.
- 19.11. The General Manager may require a Home Club to identify a suitable alternative ground for a Match if they have any concerns about the condition of the Home Club's ground in the build up to a Match. Any such proposed alternative ground shall be subject to the approval of the Board.

20. TEAM SHEETS AND STRENGTH OF TEAMS

- 20.1. Both Match Team Sheets must be completed at least thirty (30) minutes before kick-off of each Match using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time.
- 20.2. Any Club altering its team selection or numbering after Team Sheets have been exchanged will be subject to any action decided upon by the Board. 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:
 - 20.2.1. If any of the eleven (11) Players indicated on the Team Sheet as forming the starting eleven (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 (5) Players may still be substituted.
 - 20.2.2. 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.
 - 20.2.3. 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.
 - 20.2.4. The Club concerned must, upon request, provide the Panel with the necessary medical certificates.
- 20.3. 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.
- 20.4. 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.

21. SUBSTITUTES BENCHES AND TECHNICAL AREAS

21.1. At each Match:

21.1.1. 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 13.3. 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.

21.1.2. 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.

21.1.3. The person on duty as First Aid Officer shall be either the Club's incumbent First Aid Officer who holds a valid FASE 1 or FAW First Aid course or, in exceptional circumstances, a replacement who is a chartered physiotherapist, General Medical Practitioner, or that holds a valid FASE 1 or FAW First Aid course.

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.

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

22. RESULT/REPORT FORMS

22.1. Each Club competing in a Match shall send the completed Match Report Form to the General Manager within sixty (60) minutes of the final whistle, using the COMET system. The Referee shall send the completed standard Referee's Report Form to the General Manager within ninety (90) 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).

23. MATCH OFFICIALS

23.1. The FAW shall decide on the appointments of Match Officials, which will in most cases be a referee only, except as agreed by the General Manager in exceptional circumstances.

23.2. In the event of the Match Officials not being in attendance at the Match in accordance with

Rule 23.3 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.

- 23.3. Match Officials should be present at the ground at least sixty (60) minutes prior to the advertised time of kick-off. The appointed Referee may be required to visit the ground earlier if requested to do so by the Home Club. If any Match Official becomes aware that they are likely to arrive late, they must immediately notify the participating Clubs, other Match Officials and the General Manager via telephone calls.
- 23.4. 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.
- 23.5. 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.
- 23.6. If a Match Official prefers being paid their expenses either in cash or by bank transfer, they must notify the Home Club of their preference at least forty eight (48) hours before the Match. Otherwise, the Home Club shall decide on the payment method. The Home Club must pay the Match Officials their fee and/or expenses either (a) in cash on the date of the Match, in their dressing room, within a reasonable time after the conclusion of the Match or (b) by bank transfer within three (3) Business Days after the Match.
- 23.7. The scale of payments for Match Officials shall be determined by the FAW and notified to the Clubs by the General Manager prior to the commencement of the League in each Playing Season.
- 23.8. 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.
- 23.9. Match Officials must travel together when instructed to do so by the FAW.
- 23.10. Home Clubs must provide adequate refreshments to the Match Officials in their dressing room at least sixty (60) minutes prior to kick-off.
- 23.11. 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 within three (3) Business Days of the Match.
- 23.12. 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 20 above.
- 23.13. All players who receive treatment, or where the physio/doctor enters the field of play will be required to remain off the field of play for a minimum of 30 seconds before returning on the referees' signal.
- 23.14. Referees must ensure that Clubs play Matches in the correct Authorised Kit as defined in Rule 15 above. Any breach of this Rule must be reported to the General Manager.

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

24. WITHDRAWAL OF CLUBS

24.1. 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 Playing Season.

24.2. If a Club wishes to resign from the League at the end of the Playing Season, it must do so by giving notice by 1st April.

25. EXCLUSION OF CLUBS – MISCONDUCT BY CLUB, THEIR OFFICIALS, PLAYERS OR OTHERS

25.1. The Board 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.

25.2. It is the responsibility of all Clubs to ensure that their Officials, Players or other members of the Club do not, by their written or spoken words or actions, bring the League, any Match Official, or any other Club into disrepute.

26. PUBLIC LIABILITY AND PLAYERS INSURANCE

26.1. 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 League in each Playing 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.

27. REGISTRATION OF GROUNDS AND GROUND SHARING

27.1. Each Club must register its ground for Home Matches with the General Manager by 30th June prior to the start of the League in each Playing Season. All Matches must be played on a ground compliant with the FAW's Club Licensing Regulations for Tiers 1, 2 or 3 of the FAW Men's Pyramid League System. Each Club may only use another ground for Home Matches with the Board's prior written approval following a ground inspection by the General Manager.

28. TRANSMISSION OF LEAGUE MATCHES

28.1. 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.

29. SPONSORSHIP

- 29.1. 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.

30. MEDICAL COVER

- 30.1. At all Matches, medical cover to at least FAW First Aid Award level must be provided by the Home Club for Players, Officials, Match Officials and spectators.

31. SCALE OF FINES AND PAYMENT OF FINES

- 31.1. 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.
- 31.2. 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.

Ends