

NLS REGULATIONS AND STANDARDISED RULES AMENDMENTS FOR 2023-2024

NLS REGULATIONS

No.	REGULATION	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS	RATIONALE
1.	<p>NLS Regulation 1</p> <p>Definitions</p>	<p>“Criteria” means the Criteria for participation in Play Off Matches and Inter-Step Play Off Matches as set out in regulation 9 of these Regulations.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>“Inter-Step Play Off Match(es)” means matches played between Clubs at Step 4 and Step 5 who finish in an Inter-Step Play Off Position.</p> <p>“Inter-Step Play Off Position” means the position of a Club at the end of each Playing Season which is provided for in Regulation 5.2 and facilitated by Standardised Rule 12 as qualifying the Club to take part in an Inter-Step Play Off Match to qualify for promotion to Step 4 (in respect of the Club in Step 5 in the current Playing Season) or retain its position in Step 4 (in respect of the Club in the Step 4 in the current Playing Season) for the next Playing Season.</p>	<p>Consequential changes to/deletions of definitions arising from the proposed amendments below.</p>
2.	<p>NLS Regulation 5</p> <p>Detailed Promotion and Relegation Issues</p>	<p>[...]</p> <p>Step 4 and Step 5</p> <p><u>2023/24 Season</u></p> <p>The Clubs finishing in the bottom two places in each of the eight divisions at Step 4 at the end of the Regular Season will be relegated and placed in a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 5 for the following Playing Season. The Clubs finishing in third and fourth from bottom in each of the eight divisions at Step 4 at the end of the Regular Season will take part in Inter-Step Play Off Matches against the Clubs finishing in 2nd position in each of the sixteen divisions at Step 5 to determine whether they remain at Step 4 or are relegated to Step 5 for the following Playing Season.</p> <p>Clubs relegated for finishing bottom and second from bottom <u>in the bottom two places</u> in each of the eight divisions at Step 4 will be replaced by the</p>	<p>On completion of the 2023/24 season, Step 4 is to increase from 160 clubs to 176 clubs and so the number of clubs relegated from Step 4 for one season needs to be 16 fewer than the number promoted from Step 5.</p> <p>This will facilitate a ‘regular’ Play Off system in Step 5 leagues and remove the need for Inter-Step Play-Offs.</p> <p>It is also necessary to reference the independent grading of Step 5 clubs who are seeking promotion, as Step 1 to 4 clubs are independently assessed, but Step 5 and 6 clubs generally are not currently.</p> <p>From the 2024/25 season, the position will revert to the bottom four clubs in each of the eight Step 4</p>

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		<p>Clubs finishing in 1st position in each of the sixteen divisions at Step 5 together with a further 16 Clubs (one Club from each of the sixteen divisions at Step 5) determined by a series of Play Off Matches. The Clubs finishing in 2nd position in each of the sixteen divisions at Step 5 will take part in Inter-Step Play Off Matches against the Clubs finishing in third and fourth from bottom in each of the eight divisions at Step 4 to determine whether they remain at Step 5 or are promoted to Step 4 for the following Playing Season. Where a Club finishes in 1st position but does not meet the minimum criteria for promotion to the next Step <u>(which shall include being awarded a Grade 5 following an independent ground grading inspection)</u>, the Club finishing in 2nd position shall be promoted and the Club finishing in 3rd position (and so on) shall be the Club in the next eligible position to take part in the Inter-Step Play Off Matches. Where a Club finishes in an Inter-Step Play Off Position but does not meet the Criteria for participation in Inter-Step Play Off Matches, the Club finishing in the next eligible position shall take part in the Inter-Step Play Off Matches. <u>In each division at Step 5, the Play Off Matches shall be played so that the highest placed of the eligible Clubs plays against the lowest placed of the eligible Clubs and the other two eligible Clubs play each other. The ties will be played on a single match basis with the home Club being the Club with the best points per match ratio in the Regular Season. If there are only three eligible Clubs, then the highest placed eligible Club shall receive a bye and play the winner of the other Play Off Match, and the winner of that match will be promoted.</u> Clubs finishing below 4⁷th position will not be eligible to take part in Inter-Step Play Off Matches.</p> <p><i>Inter-Step Play Off Matches:</i></p> <p>Each Club at Step 4 which finishes the Regular Season in an Inter-Step Play Off Position will be drawn at home against a Club from Step 5 which finishes the Regular Season in an Inter-Step Play Off Position. The conditions of Inter-Step Play Off Matches (such as the criteria of how ties are drawn, associated financial matters, extra time, and player eligibility) will be confirmed by the Committee from time to time. Ties will be a one-off match with the winner being allocated to Step 4 for the following Playing Season and the defeated Club being allocated to Step 5 for the following Playing Season.</p>	<p>divisions (i.e. 32 clubs) being automatically relegated to Step 5 and replaced by the 16 Champion Clubs and 16 Play-Off winners (i.e. 32 clubs) from Step 5.</p> <p>For one season only, the number of relegated Clubs at Step 5 needs to be lowered to 16 to cater for the above.</p> <p>The Regulation concerning Step 6 relegations does not require amendment as those Clubs are only “liable” to relegation.</p>

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		<p>The <u>promoted</u> Clubs allocated to Step 4 will be placed in a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 4 for the following Playing Season. In addition, a Club allocated <u>promoted</u> to Step 4 shall comply with the Licencing System provision as set out in Appendix 1 to the Standardised Rules.</p> <p><u>2024/25 Season onwards</u></p> <p><u>The Clubs finishing in the bottom four places in each of the eight divisions at Step 4 at the end of the Regular Season will be relegated and placed in a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 5 for the following Playing Season.</u></p> <p><u>Clubs relegated for finishing in the bottom four places in each of the eight divisions at Step 4 will be replaced by the Clubs finishing in 1st position in each of the sixteen divisions at Step 5 together with a further 16 Clubs (one Club from each of the sixteen divisions at Step 5) determined by a series of Play Off Matches. Where a Club finishes in 1st position but does not meet the minimum criteria for promotion to the next Step (which shall include being awarded a Grade 5 following an independent ground grading inspection), the Club finishing in 2nd position shall be promoted and the Club finishing in 3rd position (and so on) shall be the Club in the next eligible position to take part in the Play Off Matches. Where a Club finishes in a Play Off Position but does not meet the Criteria for participation in Play Off Matches, the Club finishing in the next eligible position shall take part in the Play Off Matches. In each division at Step 5, the Play Off Matches shall be played so that the highest placed of the eligible Clubs plays against the lowest placed of the eligible Clubs and the other two eligible Clubs play each other. The ties will be played on a single match basis with the home Club being the Club with the best points per match ratio in the Regular Season. If there are only three eligible Clubs, then the highest placed eligible Club shall receive a bye and play the winner of the other Play Off Match, and the winner of that match will be promoted. Clubs finishing below 7th position will not be eligible to take part in Play Off Matches.</u></p>	

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		<p>Step 5 and Step 6</p> <p><u>2023/24 Season</u></p> <p>The Clubs in the bottom two places in each of the sixteen divisions at Step 5 at the end of the Regular Season will be relegated and placed in a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 6 for the following Playing Season.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p><u>2024/25 Season onwards</u></p> <p><u>The Clubs in the bottom two places in each of the sixteen divisions at Step 5 at the end of the Regular Season will be relegated and placed in a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 6 for the following Playing Season.</u></p> <p>[...]</p>	
3.	NLS Regulation 5.9	<p>If a Club is relegated for not achieving the required Grade for the Step at which it is playing (<u>regardless of whether the Club finishes in a relegation position or not</u>), it will not be eligible for promotion again until it has attained the required Grade for the Step to which it wishes to be promoted. The Club must have that Grade at 31st March in the year in which it seeks promotion.</p>	<p>This amendments seeks to make clear that if a Club is relegated for its on field performance and also does not meet the grading requirements, it is required to attain the relevant grade before such a time it is eligible for promotion.</p>
4.	NLS Regulation 5.10	<p>Where a Club resigns from a League, that Club will not be eligible for promotion for at least one Playing Season following the Season in which it resigned. <u>Regulation 5.9 shall also apply if, in the Playing Season during which the Club resigns, that Club failed to attain the required Grade for the Step at which it was playing.</u></p>	<p>To address a possible scenario whereby a club resigns ahead of 31 March in anticipation of failing to attain the relevant grade by the required date – i.e. that the Club must ensure it attains the Grade it was previously required to attain <u>before</u> it is eligible for promotion.</p>

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5.	<p>NLS Regulation 8.2 (c)</p> <p>Procedures for Ground Grading Appeals</p>	<p>(c) Procedures for Ground Grading Appeals</p> <p>(i) The ratification of the Ground Grading decision must be sent in writing within 14 days of the final decision date, currently 31st March.</p> <p>(ii) Appeals in relation to Ground Grading Appeals must be submitted to The Association’s Judicial Services Department within seven days from the date of the written decision outlining the Grounds of Appeal, with a copy to The Association’s National League System Department.</p> <p>(iii) <u>Unless both parties agree that a hearing should be conducted on the papers, The the</u> Committee will appear before an Appeal Board with the Appellant to respond to the application and there is no requirement to make a formal response in writing.</p> <p>(iv) In all cases the Committee will submit any documentation including the Ground Grading report that was considered by the Committee in relation to the Ground Grading decision, (which the appellant would already have received).</p> <p>(v) Dates would be set annually in advance by the Judicial Services Department for the hearing of Ground Grading appeals and details of the dates would be notified to all Clubs in the correspondence from the Committee notifying the decision of the Ground Grading assessment.</p>	<p>To include the possibility for both parties to a Ground Grading Appeal to agree to a paper hearing.</p>
6.	<p>NLS Regulation 9</p> <p>Criteria for the participation in Play-Off Matches</p>	<p>In order to qualify for Play Off Matches, and Inter-Step Play-Off Matches a Club must comply with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security of Tenure – see Standardised Rule 2.3.2 • Solvency – see Standardised Rule 13.B.2 • Ground Share requirements, i.e. not ground share in order to gain promotion – see 5.7 of these Regulations • Ground Grading – see 5.8 of these regulations and the relevant criteria document 	<p>Consequential amendment arising from the proposed amendment above.</p>

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STANDARDISED RULES

No.	RULE	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS	RATIONALE
1.	Rule 1.1 Definitions	<u>“Agent” shall be as defined in the Rules of The FA.</u>	To reflect the introduction of this definition in FA Rules (which arises from the new FIFA Football Agent Regulations).
2.	Rule 1.1 Definitions	<p><u>“Event Doctor” means an individual qualified in accordance with the requirements set out in ‘Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds’ (known as the ‘Green Guide’), as in force from time to time (formerly known as a crowd doctor).</u></p> <p>[...]</p> <p><u>“First Aider” means a person who holds a valid ‘Emergency Medical First Aid in Football’ or ‘Emergency First Aid in Football’ accreditation (or such equivalent qualification deemed acceptable by The FA from time to time).</u></p> <p>[...]</p> <p><u>“Qualified Medical Practitioner” means a graduate health care professional e.g., a doctor, physiotherapist, paramedic, nurse, sport therapist or sports rehabilitator, having the appropriate valid medical insurance, and being registered with a recognised professional body, (e.g., the General Medical Council, Health Care Professions Council, Royal College of Nursing, Society of Sports Therapists, Sports Therapy Association, Sports Therapy Organisation or Federation of Holistic Therapists Directory Service).</u></p>	To introduce new defined terms as a result of the amendments to the medical-related Rules below.
3.	Rule 1.1 Definitions	<p><u>“Intermediary/Agent 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 <u>or Agent</u> when he carries <u>they carry</u> out any Intermediary/Agent 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 <u>or Agent</u> when he they solely and exclusively undertakes or provides Permitted Legal Advice in relation to any matter relating to a Transaction.</u></p>	To include reference to “Agent”.

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4.	Rule 1.1 Definitions	<p>“Long Term Loan” means a loan transfer in excess of 93 days of a Player who is a qualifying Player within the terms of the Rules <u>from either (a) any date during the first Registration Period to any date during the second Registration Period, or (b) any date during the first or second Registration Period to the end of that Playing Season. For the purposes of this definition only, a “Registration Period” shall mean one of the periods determined by The FA during which players may be registered for a professional men’s club.</u></p>	To update the definition of Long Term Loan.
5.	Rule 1.1 Definitions	<p>“Transmission-Free Period” means the period determined by The FA from time to time pursuant to Article 48 of the UEFA Statutes and the Regulations Governing the Implementation of Article 48 of the UEFA Statutes.</p>	To introduce a new defined term as a result of the proposed introduction of the ‘Match Streaming’ (see below).
6.	Rule 4.11 Power of the Board	<p>A match <u>(or matches)</u> may be played each season [year] between two clubs Clubs nominated by the Board <u>and it shall be a requirement for such match (or matches) to be played on the date(s) nominated by the Board.</u> All matters concerning the match <u>(or matches)</u> will be decided by the Board.</p>	To clarify that it is a requirement to play any such match nominated by the Board.
7.	[NEW] Rule 6.1.2 Registration of Players	<p>A qualifying Player registration</p> <p>The FA’s rules will apply in respect of all matters concerning players.</p> <p>6.1.1 A Player is one who has been registered via the relevant Online Player Registration System and such registration has been approved by the Competition.</p> <p><u>6.1.2 At Steps 1 to 4, a Player’s registration with a Club as a Contract Player shall continue until the earlier of the date upon which: (a) the contract between the Contract Player and the Club expires, (b) the Contract Player’s registration is transferred to another club, or (c) the contract is cancelled in accordance with Rule 6.5.</u></p>	To clarify that registration continues for the length of a playing contract and that re-registration each season is not required.
8.	Rule 6.2.1	Registration Period	To extend the provision so it also applies to Steps 3 and 4 in light of

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	<p>Registration Period</p>	<p>[At Steps 1 to 4, In any Playing Season the Registration Period for that season for The National League, National League North and National League South Clubs shall be the period commencing at midnight on the last day of the immediately preceding Playing Season and ending at 5.00pm on the fourth Thursday in March next following.]</p> <p>After 5.00pm on the [fourth Thursday in March] [31st March] each Playing Season new registrations, new loans, and transfer of registrations will be declined or will be approved subject to such limitations and restrictions as the Board may determine and, if so determined, the Player shall only be eligible to play in the matches for which permission is granted by the Board.</p>	<p>the related extension of the FAS player registration system.</p> <p>The WGS/Club Portal registration system for Steps 5 and 6 does not currently cater for that degree of accuracy due to season close down procedures and so Steps 5 & 6 must remain as-is at this time.</p>
9.	<p>Rules 6.4.7 and 6.4.8</p> <p>Registrations and Registration Procedures</p>	<p>6.4.7 A Club may register any number of Work Experience Players, save that it may only register a maximum of three (3) such players from any one club, including those participating in the Premier League, EFL and the National League System (subject to the overall limit of four (4) Players joining a Club from another club in any Playing Season as set out at Rule 6.6.1).</p> <p>6.4.8 A Club may name up to a maximum of five (5) players on a Team Sheet who are either Short Term Loan, Long Term, [Youth Loan] or Work Experience. Any Club in breach of this Rule which results in more than 5 of such players entering the field of play during the course of any one fixture will be deemed to have played an ineligible player(s) and will be dealt with in accordance with Rule 6.9.</p> <p><u>LOAN AND WORK EXPERIENCE THRESHOLDS</u></p> <p><u>Number and Type of Registrations Permitted</u></p> <p>6.4.7 Subject to Rule 6.4.8, the following numbers and types of registrations are permitted during a Playing Season:</p>	<p>To collate and clarify various existing Rules regarding loan and work experience thresholds.</p>

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		<u>TYPE OF REGISTRAT ION</u>	<u>WHO DOES IT APPLY TO?</u>	<u>LENGTH</u>	<u>RIGHT OF RECALL</u>	<u>NUMBER PERMITTED DURING A PLAYING SEASON</u>	<u>NUMBER PERMITTED TO/FROM ONE CLUB</u>	
		<u>SHORT TERM LOAN</u> <u>(Also see Rule 6.6.2)</u>	<u>Any Contract Player</u>	<u>Minimum: 28 days, Maximum: Until end of Playing Season ^1</u>	<u>Cannot be recalled within first 28 days (except goalkeepers)</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>2 permitted to or from any one Club or club at any one time</u>	
		<u>LONG TERM LOAN</u> <u>(Also see Rule 6.6.3)</u>	<u>Any Contract Player</u>	<u>(a) Full Playing Season; or (b) Any date during First professional game registration period to any date during second professional game registration period; or</u>	<u>Within the first or second registration period during which players may be registered for a professional men's club (except where the Player is a goalkeeper or where the Player is being</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2 permitted to or from any one Club or club at any one time</u>	

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				<p><u>(c) Any date during second professional game registration period to the end of Playing Season</u></p>	<p><u>transferred permanently)</u></p>			
		<p><u>YOUTH LOAN</u> <u>(Also see Rule 6.6.4)</u></p>	<p><u>(a) Scholars in 2nd or 3rd year of a Scholarship at a Premier League or EFL club</u></p> <p><u>(b) Contract Players aged 20 or below on 1 July immediately preceding the Playing Season</u></p>	<p><u>Minimum: 28 days</u></p> <p><u>Permitted at any time of the Playing Season</u></p> <p><u>Cannot extend beyond the date immediately preceding the date of the Player's 21st birthday or the date the Player's contract with their parent club expires</u></p>	<p><u>Player may continue to train and play for their parent club (in non-first team matches)</u></p>	<p><u>Unlimited (to or from clubs at Steps 1-4)</u></p>	<p><u>2 permitted to or from any one Club or club at any one time.</u></p>	

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		<p><u>WORK EXPERIENCE</u> <u>(Also see Rule 6.6.5)</u></p>	<p><u>Work Experience Player</u></p>	<p><u>No minimum or maximum limits</u></p>	<p><u>No specific restrictions on ability to recall player</u> <u>Player may continue to play for their parent club (in non-first team matches).</u></p>	<p><u>Unlimited</u></p>	<p><u>3 permitted to or from any one Club or club at any one time.</u></p>	
		<p><u>^1 Note: there are additional Short Term Loan restrictions for players registering from EFL clubs. These can be found in the EFL's Regulations.</u></p> <p><u>6.4.8 No more than a combination of four (4) Short Term, Long Term or Youth Loans from any one club during a single Playing Season are permitted. One additional Youth Loan may be added to this figure.</u></p> <p><u>Team Sheets</u></p> <p><u>6.4.9 A Club may name up to a maximum of five (5) players on a Team Sheet who are registered as either a Short Term Loan, Long Term Loan, [Youth Loan] or Work Experience. A breach of this Rule by a Club which results in more than 5 of such players entering the field of play during the course of a Competition Match shall be treated as that Club having played an ineligible player(s) and will be dealt with in accordance with Rule 6.9.</u></p>						

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10.	Rule 6.5.1 Transfers	<p>The transfer of a registration of a Player under written Contract <u>Player's registration</u> from one Club to another must be in writing, on the Competition transfer form <u>a completed transfer agreement that is signed by the Contract Player and the two Clubs, and accompanied by the Player's contract and registration form.</u>, signed by the Contract Player and the two Clubs, and <u>The forms</u> must be forwarded to the Company for approval and registration <u>submitted via the relevant Online Player Registration System.</u></p> <p>The transfer form must also be sent to the FA with a completed transfer agreement, contract and registration form for approval and registration.</p> <p>Such Contract Player does not become a registered Player of the Club seeking his transfer until the forms <u>has have</u> been approved and registered by The FA and the Competition<u>(s)</u>.</p> <p>CANCELLATIONS Where a Club cancels the registration of a Contract Player, for any reason whatsoever, the Club must notify the Competition Secretary and The FA immediately, in writing or be submit a notification via the relevant Online Player Registration System or on the relevant Competition/FA form <u>and such cancellation must be approved by the relevant parties</u>. To be valid such notification must be signed by an authorised signatory of that Club and the Player.</p> <p>Where a Club cancels the registration of a Non-Contract Player for any reason whatsoever, the Club must notify the Competition Secretary immediately, in writing or on submit via the relevant Online Player Registration System and/or the relevant Competition form. To be valid, such notification must be signed by an authorised signatory of the Club.</p>	To clarify administrative matters re the transfer of Contract Player registrations.
11.	Rule 6.5.2 Transfers	<p>The transfer of a <u>Non-Contract Player's</u> registration of a Non-Contract Player from one Club to another must be: <u>(a)</u> in writing, on the <u>relevant</u> Competition transfer form, signed by the Non-Contract Player and the two Clubs <u>(as required by the Competition)</u>, and <u>(b) the form must be forwarded to the Company submitted via the relevant Online Player Registration System</u> for approval and registration. Such Non-Contract Player does not become a bona-fide registered Player of the Club seeking his transfer until the form transfer <u>form transfer</u> has been approved and registered by the Competition. A Non-Contract Player whose registration for a Club is cancelled or transferred for any reason whatsoever cannot, without the consent of the Board, return to his original Club until a minimum of fourteen (14) days has elapsed from the date of the cancellation or transfer.</p>	To clarify administrative matters regarding the transfer of Non-Contract Player registrations.

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12.	<p>Rule 6.6.1</p> <p>Temporary Transfers (Loans)</p>	<p>[...]</p> <p>No more than four (4) Players (Short Term, Long Term, Work Experience, or Youth) may join one Club from another Club (or club) in any Playing Season. An additional Youth Loan Player may be added to this figure.</p> <p>[...]</p>	<p>Contents of paragraph now included in new Rule 6.4.8.</p>
13.	<p>Rule 6.6.3</p> <p>Temporary Transfers (Loans)</p>	<p>Long Term Loan Transfers – Clubs may have up to a maximum of six (6) Long Term Loan Transfers of any age during a Playing Season.</p> <p>Clubs playing in Competitions at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System may register players on a Long-Term Loan from other clubs playing in Competitions at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System.</p> <p>Only Clubs playing in Competitions at Steps 1 to 4 of the National League System may register players on a Long-Term Loan from clubs in the <u>Premier League or EFL</u>.</p> <p>Long Term Loan Transfers shall be from any date prior to the agreed summer transfer window deadline to the end of the Playing Season; or from any date prior to the agreed summer transfer window deadline to any date within the agreed winter transfer window;); or from any date within the agreed winter transfer window to the end of the Playing Season.</p> <p>A Player on Long Term Loan may be recalled on any date from the beginning of the Loan until the agreed summer transfer window deadline, provided that the initial 28 days have elapsed, except in the case of a goalkeeper, and within the agreed winter transfer window,), except for a goalkeeper or where the Player is to be transferred permanently by the Club (or club) holding his registered contract in each case, subject to the agreement of the loaning Club, the borrowing Club and the Player, which may be pre-agreed in a recall clause in the original Loan agreement.</p> <p>To extend the period of any long term loan transfer a further Competition Temporary Transfer Form (for internal Temporary Transfers) or FA form H3 (for Temporary Transfers involving two competitions) must be completed and copies retained as directed above.</p> <p>The Competition shall not approve more than two (2) Long Term Loan transfers to or from any</p>	<p>To align with the content of the final paragraph (which references both Premier League and EFL clubs).</p> <p>To remove a paragraph now covered by the new definition of Long Term Loan.</p>

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		<p>one club, including Premier League and EFL clubs, at any one time (subject to the overall limit of four (4) Players joining a Club from another club in any Playing Season as set out at Rule 6.6.1).</p>	
14.	<p>Rule 7.6 Club Colours</p>	<p>7.6 Both sleeves of the shirts of all Players in matches played under the jurisdiction of the Company shall carry a Competition logo as supplied by the Competition on an annual basis if so decided by the Board. When playing in other competitions the shirts of all Players must include the Competition logo.</p> <p><u>7.7 A Club may apply to the Board for permission to use either (a) a variation of the Competition logo referred to in Rule 7.6 (for example, a variation in size or colour) or (b) in relation to one sleeve of the shirt only, an alternative in place of the Competition logo referred to in Rule 7.6 (for example, advertising). The cost of producing any variation or alternative shall be the sole responsibility of the applicant Club.</u></p> <p>Advertising must comply with <u>The FA's</u> Kit and Advertising Regulations.</p>	<p>To enable clubs to apply for permission to use a variation of the Competition logo on both sleeves of their playing shirts, or enable the use of an alternative in place of the Competition logo (e.g. a sponsor logo).</p>
15.	<p>Rule 8.4 Playing of Matches Arrangement of Fixtures</p>	<p>All matches shall be played on the home and away principle and the Board shall determine how the fixtures shall be arranged.</p> <p>Steps 1 to 4 only</p> <p>Saturday <u>(and in the case of Step 1, Saturday and midweek)</u> fixtures in the Competition shall take precedence over all other competitions in which a Club may engage with the exception of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FA Challenge Cup/Welsh Cup • The FA Challenge Trophy Competition <p>Scheduled Saturday fixtures in the Competition must not be re-arranged without permission of the Competition Secretary. Clubs may be ordered to re-arrange outstanding matches, at the</p>	<p>This is proposed to reduce issues caused to League and League Cup fixtures. The arrangement and re-arrangement of postponed County Cup matches can lead to League/League Cup matches being postponed which can have an even bigger impact if the two Clubs are from different County FA's who have different County Cup fixture dates.</p> <p>This proposal removes precedence over both Saturday and midweek fixtures at Steps 2 to 4, however, the Leagues are keen to ensure that County FAs are</p>

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		<p>discretion of the Board, and where necessary their prospective opponents instructed accordingly. Clubs with open dates on Saturdays may be instructed to play any outstanding Competition fixture on such date. A minimum of five days' notice will be given in respect of any such re-arrangement.</p> <p>Steps 2 to 4 only</p> <p>Midweek fixtures in the Competition shall not take precedence over fixtures in the Nominated Cup Competition of the Affiliated Association to which it was first affiliated. Fixtures in the Competition shall take precedence over fixtures in any cup competition of the Affiliated Association to which a club is affiliated, save that the fixtures in the Nominated Cup Competition of the Affiliated Association to which a Club is first affiliated shall take precedence over midweek fixtures of that Club on one week in each month of the Playing Season as nominated by that Affiliated Association.</p> <p>A re-arranged fixture in the Nominated Cup Competition of the Affiliated Association cannot take precedence over a fixture in the Competition that has already been scheduled.</p> <p>Steps 5/6 only</p> <p>Saturday fixtures in the Competition shall take precedence over all other competitions in which a Club may engage with the exception of:</p>	<p>treated reasonably and the proposal is to utilise set County Cup round weeks. Any re-arranged County Cup games would either be scheduled for mutually free midweek dates or be put back to the next County Cup week.</p>

NLS REGULATIONS AND STANDARDISED RULES AMENDMENTS FOR 2023-2024

No.	RULE	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS	RATIONALE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FA Challenge Cup/Welsh Cup • The FA Challenge Vase Competition • The Nominated Cup Competition for which the club is eligible, of the Affiliated Association to which it was first affiliated. <p>Scheduled Saturday fixtures in the Competition must not be re-arranged without permission of the Competition Secretary. Clubs may be ordered to re-arrange outstanding matches, at the discretion of the Board, and where necessary their prospective opponents instructed accordingly. Clubs with open dates on Saturdays may be instructed to play any outstanding Competition fixture on such date. A minimum of days' notice will be given in respect of any such arrangement.</p> <p>Midweek fixtures in the Competition shall not take precedence over fixtures in the Nominated Cup Competition of the Affiliated Association to which it was first affiliated.</p>	
16.	<p>Rule 8.5</p> <p>Playing of Matches</p> <p>Arrangement of Fixtures</p>	<p>In the event of any Club being required to play an FA Cup, or FA Trophy <u>or FA Vase</u> match within 48 hours of a scheduled Competition fixture it shall have the right to apply in writing as soon as practically possible (but in any event no later than 48 hours after becoming aware of the relevant Cup fixture) to have its Competition fixture postponed with or without the consent of its opponent. At the same time as it makes the application a copy shall be sent to its opponent who shall raise any objection within a further 24 hours of notification. Thereafter the Competition shall decide in its absolute discretion as soon as reasonably possible as to whether or not the application is approved. <u>The Competition may, in its absolute discretion, consider an application to postpone a Competition fixture made by an applicant Club more than 48 hours after it became aware of the relevant Cup fixture.</u></p>	<p>To include FA Vase matches in this Rule.</p> <p>To afford a league the discretion to consider an application submitted by a Club more than 48 hours after becoming aware of the relevant cup fixture.</p>

NLS REGULATIONS AND STANDARDISED RULES AMENDMENTS FOR 2023-2024

No.	RULE	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS	RATIONALE
17.	Rule 8.10 Playing of Matches Arrangement of Fixtures	<p>When a Club obtains the consent of the Board to postpone a fixture because of an epidemic affecting due to the non-availability of their its Players, that Club shall be liable to pay any direct expenses directly attributable to such postponement which have been incurred, if any, to by the opposing Club. Any claim by the opposing Club must be submitted to the Competition Secretary within three working days of such postponement, with a copy to the Club that obtained the postponement. If the reason for the postponement is the illness of the Club's Players, medical certificates for those Players must be submitted to the Competition Secretary within three working days of such postponement together with a list of all Players registered by that Club with the Competition at the date of postponement with full details of each Player's inability to play entered against each name on the list.</p> <p>The amount of claim will be at the discretion of the Board. Requests for the postponement of a match for any reason will not be considered more than forty-eight hours before the scheduled time of kick-off.</p> <p>Medical certificates for those Players affected, signed by the Players' own doctor, must be forwarded to the Competition Secretary within [fourteen days] of the postponement, along with a full list of contract and Non-Contract Players currently registered by the Club at the date of the match which was postponed, giving full reasons against each name for the Player's unavailability.</p>	<p>To amend this Rule so as not to limit any such claim to matches postponed for medical reasons.</p>
18.	Rule 8.13 Playing of Matches Pre-Match Arrangements and Responsibilities	<p>The home Club shall advise the visiting Club and the Match Officials of the date and time of kick-off of each match and the team colours, including the colour of the goalkeeper's jersey, it will be wearing, to be received at least five days prior to the match and the visiting Club and the Match Officials must acknowledge receipt to be received at least three days before the match.</p> <p>Where the home Club has a Football Turf Pitch, it shall advise the visiting Club and Match Officials of any footwear requirements that apply at least five days prior to the match. The visiting Club must disseminate this information to its players and club officials.</p> <p>The visiting Club must include in its acknowledgement the team colours, including the colour of the goalkeeper's jersey, it will be wearing.</p>	<p>To address an issue in some leagues whereby visiting players have arrived with non-compliant footwear.</p> <p>This Rule seeks to mitigate those issues.</p> <p>(Note: 'Football Turf Pitch' is defined as an artificial 3G pitch)</p>
19.	Rule 8.14	<p>The home Club is responsible for publishing a full match programme acceptable to the Board for each of its Competition matches. [A full match programme available electronically only shall be acceptable</p>	<p>To update this Rule to align it with modern-day practices.</p>

NLS REGULATIONS AND STANDARDISED RULES AMENDMENTS FOR 2023-2024

No.	RULE	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS	RATIONALE
	<p>Playing of Matches</p> <p>Pre-Match Arrangements and Responsibilities</p>	<p>providing that each Club has approval from the Board before the commencement of the Playing Season and must be continuous for the whole of that Playing Season.] A Team Sheet will not be considered sufficient to comply with this Rule.</p> <p>The visiting Club must send in writing to the home Club details of their proposed team they plan to field matchday squad and management team together with any supplementary information required by the Competition from time to time (this may include their Club crest, Club history, and up-to-date pen pictures of their current Players registered with the Competition for the season, and the latest team photograph] and/or kit colours) at least five days before the scheduled date of the match between the two Clubs.</p> <p>The home Club programme must include the details sent by the visiting Club in the match day programme [and a copy of each match day programme shall be sent by the home Club to the Competition Secretary within 3 days of the match with the relevant match report form unless advised of an alternative arrangement by the Competition Secretary.]</p> <p>Clubs will be responsible for all comments in their match day programme in respect of the Competition, the Company or other member Clubs, notwithstanding any disclaimers to the contrary. No part of a Club's programme issued for a match in any competition shall, in the opinion of the Board, bring the Competition or the Company into disrepute.</p> <p>All Clubs will be responsible for their official website or similar computer related information system, which is within the public domain. Nothing shall be included on the website which in the opinion of the Board brings the Competition or the Company into disrepute.</p>	
20.	<p>Rule 8.18</p> <p>Playing of Matches</p> <p>Pre-Match Arrangements and Responsibilities</p>	<p>All Clubs at Steps 1 to 4 6 are required to have a working and serviced defibrillator available at all home matches.</p> <p><i>[Note: The Fines Tariff at Schedule A to the Standardised Rules will require an equivalent amendment]</i></p>	<p>This was due to be amended for the 2022-23 season but was omitted in error.</p>

NLS REGULATIONS AND STANDARDISED RULES AMENDMENTS FOR 2023-2024

No.	RULE	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS	RATIONALE
21.	<p>[NEW] Rule 8.19</p> <p>Playing of Matches</p> <p>Match Management</p>	<p><u>Clubs shall be permitted access to the field of play at least sixty (60) minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time, such access to include the use of fully working floodlights where necessary.</u></p> <p><u>Players and Club officials accessing a Football Turf Pitch must adhere to any applicable footwear requirements.</u></p>	<p>To address an issue whereby numerous clubs have denied their opponents access to the pitch within a reasonable time before fixtures.</p> <p>(Note: 'Football Turf Pitch' is defined as an artificial 3G pitch)</p>
22.	<p>Rule 8.27</p> <p>Playing of Matches</p> <p>Match Management</p>	<p>The occupants of the technical area must behave in a responsible manner at all times. Misconduct by occupants of this area will be reported by the Referee to The FA, who shall have the power to impose sanctions as deemed fit. Any occupant dismissed from the technical area shall immediately go to a location within the ground from which they cannot view the remainder of the game.</p>	<p>To remove the square brackets from the final sentence to make the Rule mandatory.</p> <p>This change would support efforts to tackle poor behaviour by technical area occupants.</p>
23.	<p>Rule 8.29</p> <p>Playing of Matches</p> <p>Match Management</p>	<p>[All occupants of the technical area must wear the corporate bench kit supplied to each Member Club as directed by the Competition. The only exception would be the Team manager who will be allowed to wear suits and overcoats not displaying any sponsorship logos. [Corporate bench kit supplied to each Member Club must also be worn by the players and staff in warm-ups and warm-downs, and where possible in media interviews on match days]. Failure to wear the bench kit will result in a fine.]</p>	<p>To remove reference to the supply of corporate bench kit because Clubs can have any number of staff and each League does not necessarily provide all coaches with bench kit (e.g. only three sets per Club).</p>
24.	<p>Rule 8.31</p> <p>Playing of Matches</p> <p>Post-Match Management</p>	<p>Each Club shall submit the fully completed copy of the appropriate match result forms by first class post, or facsimile, or email <u>or as otherwise instructed by the Competition</u> to the Appointing Authority and the Competition within 3 days of the match. When a Club considers that the Referee has discharged his duties incompetently and awards a mark of 60 or less, a detailed report must be sent to the Appointing Authority within three days of the match by the method instructed by the Appointing Authority. Clubs in default of any provision of the Rule will be subject to a fine for each offence.</p>	<p>To provide greater flexibility in circumstances where certain leagues do not require a submission as the data is held within an online system.</p>

NLS REGULATIONS AND STANDARDISED RULES AMENDMENTS FOR 2023-2024

No.	RULE	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS	RATIONALE
25.	<p>[NEW] Rule 8.32</p> <p>Match Streaming By A Club</p>	<p><u>MATCH STREAMING BY A CLUB</u></p> <p><u>8.32 Unless determined otherwise by The FA, a Club participating in a Competition Match may offer a live stream of that match online subject to compliance with the following conditions:</u></p> <p><u>8.32.1 consent of the Board to the live stream taking place must be obtained;</u></p> <p><u>8.32.2 the two competing Clubs must consent to the live stream taking place and agree any associated live streaming arrangements (including the costs associated with those arrangements, if applicable);</u></p> <p><u>8.32.3 subject to Rule 8.31.4, the live stream cannot take place during the Transmission-Free Period;</u></p> <p><u>8.32.4 where the live stream is to take place during the Transmission-Free Period, it must be geo-blocked so that it is not accessible in the UK (or any Crown Dependency of the UK); and</u></p> <p><u>8.32.5 a copy of the live stream footage must be provided to The FA, the Board or the opposing Club upon request following the Competition Match.</u></p> <p><u>8.33 A Club must provide evidence of compliance with the conditions set out in Rule 8.31 upon request by The FA or the Board.</u></p> <p><u>8.34 The FA or the Board may take action against any Club for a failure to comply with any of the conditions set out in Rule 8.32 or any failure to comply with a request made pursuant to Rule 8.33.</u></p>	<p>To clarify the position regarding online streaming of matches by Clubs.</p> <p>This responds to an increasing number of queries received by The FA Executive relating to the ‘streaming’ and broadcasting of matches, both within the UK and abroad.</p> <p>Proposed text largely mirrors the approach adopted in the rules of certain FA Competitions.</p>
26.	<p>Rule 9</p> <p>Registered Intermediaries</p>	<p>REGISTERED INTERMEDIARIES/AGENTS</p> <p>9.1 An Intermediary/<u>Agent</u> cannot have an involvement in any Club in an official capacity (as defined by the Board) nor may he hold office with the Competition.</p> <p>9.2 All Clubs must comply with The FA Regulations concerning Intermediaries/<u>Agents</u>.</p>	<p>To include reference to “Agent.”</p>

NLS REGULATIONS AND STANDARDISED RULES AMENDMENTS FOR 2023-2024

No.	RULE	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS	RATIONALE
27.	Rule 10.2 Financial Records	<p>The home Club shall retain all gate receipts. Where a match is declared all ticket the Away [visiting] Club shall be entitled to <u>40%-15%</u> of the total number of tickets available (or a minimum of 600 <u>at Step 3</u>, whichever is the greater), subject to any stipulation by the relevant safety authority affecting these figures. A reasonable allocation of the total disabled spectator accommodation where appropriate shall be made available to disabled supporters of the Away Club.</p> <p>Clubs must ensure that all gate receipts are fully and properly recorded and accounted for in the accounting records of the club.</p>	<p>To align with FA Competition directives at 15%.</p> <p>To limit the applicability of the 600 figure to Step 3 as otherwise some smaller clubs would risk having a greater number of visiting supporters than home allocation once League, League Sponsor & partner obligations are met.</p>
28.	Rule 16.1 Protests, claims or complaints relating to Rules	<p>Subject to Rules 16.5 and 16.10 below, all protests, claims or complaints relating to these Rules shall be heard and determined by the Board (or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Board), which shall have the power to regulate its own procedure. The Clubs or Players protesting, claiming or complaining must send two copies of email such protest, claim or complaint <u>to the Competition Secretary</u> and deposit a fee which shall be forfeited in the event of the protest, claim or complaint not being upheld, and the unsuccessful party (or parties) may, in addition, be ordered to pay the costs at the direction of the Board.</p>	<p>To reflect the fact that correspondence of this nature is submitted via email in practice.</p>
29.	Rule 16.4 Protests, claims or complaints relating to Rules	<p><u>An intention to appeal against a decision of the Board must be lodged with The FA within seven days of the Board providing written notification of its decision.</u></p> <p><u>Any A notice of</u> appeal against a decision of the Board must be lodged with The FA within fourteen days of the Board providing written notification of its decision, accompanied by the relevant fee which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. A copy of the <u>notice of</u> appeal must also be sent to the Competition Secretary.</p> <p>All appeals to The FA must be lodged in accordance with Part C: Appeals Non-Fast Track of The FA's Disciplinary Regulations.</p>	<p>To introduce a requirement that a party seeking to appeal a decision of the Board lodges its intention to appeal within 7 days of the Board's decision being provided in writing (with the notice of appeal due within 14 days).</p> <p>This better reflects the usual process for appeals (i.e. those from a decision of a Regulatory Commission or Disciplinary Commission) and will assist the management of appeals - in particular, providing Judicial</p>

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No.	RULE	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS	RATIONALE
			Services with an early opportunity to ensure appellants are aware of what needs to be provided with/included in its notice of appeal.
30.	Rule 16.9 Disputes arising from a Player's Contract Termination	If the recipient of a notice referred to in Rules 16.7 and 16.8 above wishes to do so, he they may appeal against the relevant notice to the Board within seven days of the date of receipt of the notice in writing by email in duplicate to the Competition Secretary with the relevant appeal fee as set out in Schedule A to these Rules. The Board shall have the power to regulate its own procedure. The grounds of appeal available to the appellant shall not be limited and the Board shall have full power to review the facts and any evidence (including hearing from any relevant witnesses).	To clarify the ability to use email.
31.	Rule 19 Alterations to Rules	No alteration to the Rules shall be made until they have been approved by The FA. Alterations to Rules shall be approved at a general meeting of the Company in accordance with article 87 of the Articles of Association of the Company. Proposals for alterations to Rules, together with the name of their proposers and seconders, shall be received by the Competition Secretary not later than 30th November / 31st January October prior to the date fixed for the Annual General Meeting of the Company in each year or not later than eight weeks before the holding of an Extraordinary General Meeting called for the purpose of amending the Rules.	To stipulate an earlier deadline in order to be able to progress through the approvals process in a timely fashion.
32.	Rule 25 Medical Personnel	<p>MEDICAL PERSONNEL</p> <p>[The home Club must have a qualified medical practitioner in attendance throughout the match. The HOME doctor to visit both the home and away teams' dressing rooms before leaving the ground. The name of the doctor present at the match must be entered on the Team Sheet. Failure by any Club to meet this requirement may result in a fine being imposed at the discretion of the Board.]</p>	To set out new medical requirements.

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No.	RULE	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS	RATIONALE
		<p>[The home Club should have a therapist who is a Graduate, Chartered or a registered member of the Health Professions Council in attendance throughout matches, to attend to injured Players on the field of play and in the dressing room(s) and who holds a valid first aid certificate. Away Clubs should be accompanied by a therapist as stated above, for the same purpose].</p> <p>Clubs shall ensure their medical practitioner or physiotherapist or equivalent keeps detailed up-to-date medical records for all Contract Players in the form and in accordance with the requirements and guidelines published by the Football Association from time to time.</p> <p>When a Player's registration is about to be transferred the Transferor Club must make such records available to the medical practitioner or physiotherapist of the Transferee Club. This procedure shall also apply to all Players whose registrations are temporarily transferred under the provisions for Long, Short and Youth Loans.</p> <p>NEXT SECTION IS FOR NATIONAL LEAGUE, NATIONAL LEAGUE NORTH AND NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH ONLY</p> <p>(a) National League only – The home Club must have a qualified medical practitioner in attendance throughout the match. The HOME doctor to visit both the home and away teams' dressing rooms before leaving the ground. The name of the doctor present at the match must be entered on the team sheet. Failure by any Club to meet this requirement may result in a fine being imposed at the discretion of the Board.</p> <p>(b) All Clubs – The home Club should have a therapist who is a Graduate, Chartered or a registered member of the Health Professions Council in attendance throughout matches, to attend to injured players on the field of play and in the dressing room(s) and who holds a valid first aid certificate.</p> <p>Away Clubs should be accompanied by a therapist as stated above, for the same purpose.</p> <p>(c) Medical Records for Contract Players.</p> <p>Clubs shall ensure their medical practitioner or physiotherapist or equivalent keeps detailed up-to-date medical records for all Contract Players in the form and in accordance with the requirements and guidelines published by the Football Association from time to time.</p>	

NLS REGULATIONS AND STANDARDISED RULES AMENDMENTS FOR 2023-2024

No.	RULE	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS	RATIONALE
		<p>When a Player's registration is about to be transferred the Transferor Club must make such records available to the medical practitioner or physiotherapist of the Transferee Club. This procedure shall also apply to all Players whose registrations are temporarily transferred under the provisions for Long, Short and Youth Loans.</p> <p>All Clubs are required to have a Medical Emergency Action Plan (MEAP), or equivalent, in place. A copy of which must be submitted to the on the standard form provided by no later than 1st August in each year.</p> <p>(d) Crowd Doctors.</p> <p>Where necessary, any Doctors employed as Crowd Doctors must have successfully undertaken:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the 2 day FA Course in Immediate Medical Care or pre-Hospital Care; • the Diploma in Immediate Medical Care; or • an equivalent. <p>ALL OTHER LEAGUES RESUME HERE</p> <p>QUALIFIED MEDICAL PRACTITIONER</p> <p><i>The safety of Players (and, where applicable, others) is of paramount importance. These Rules and set out the medical requirements for Clubs participating within the National League System.</i></p> <p><i>Nothing in these Rules:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>prevents any Club from arranging medical provisions that exceed any minimum medical requirements prescribed by these Rules; or</i> • <i>replaces, reduces, or affects in any way the obligations imposed on Clubs or any other persons by statute or common law in the fields of medicine, occupational health and/or health and safety (or any other area).</i> 	

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No.	RULE	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS	RATIONALE												
		<p><u>While not forming part of these Rules, from time to time The FA issues guidance in respect of medical matters, which is published on The FA's website and distributed to Participants as appropriate.</u></p> <p><u>25.1 Subject to Rule 25.2, the following table sets out the designated Qualified Medical Practitioner or First Aider which each home Club, operating at its respective Step of the National League System, shall have in attendance throughout all Competition Matches:-</u></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="499 531 1653 1123"> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="499 531 667 627"><u>Step 1 Clubs</u></td> <td data-bbox="667 531 1653 627"><u>Each Club shall have at least one Qualified Medical Practitioner having a valid Advance Trauma Medical Management in Football (ATMMiF) qualification.</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="499 627 667 722"><u>Step 2 Clubs</u></td> <td data-bbox="667 627 1653 722"><u>Each Club shall have at least one Qualified Medical Practitioner, having a valid Intermediate Trauma Medical Management in Football (ITMMiF) qualification.</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="499 722 667 818"><u>Step 3 Clubs</u></td> <td data-bbox="667 722 1653 818"><u>Each Club shall have at least one Qualified Medical Practitioner, having a valid Emergency Medical First Aid in Football (EMFAiF) qualification.</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="499 818 667 914"><u>Step 4 Clubs</u></td> <td data-bbox="667 818 1653 914"><u>Each Club shall have at least one First Aider, or Qualified Medical Practitioner having a valid Emergency Medical First Aid in Football (EMFAiF) qualification.</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="499 914 667 1010"><u>Steps 5 Clubs</u></td> <td data-bbox="667 914 1653 1010"><u>Each Club shall have at least one First Aider having a valid Emergency First Aid in Football (EFAiF) qualification.</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="499 1010 667 1106"><u>Step 6 Clubs</u></td> <td data-bbox="667 1010 1653 1106"><u>Each Club shall have at least one First Aider who has a valid Emergency First Aid in Football (EFAiF) qualification.</u></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><u>AT STEPS 1 TO 3 ONLY</u></p> <p><u>25.1.1 The Qualified Medical Practitioner shall visit both the home and away teams' dressing rooms before leaving the ground. The name of the practitioner present at the Competition Match must be entered on the team sheet.</u></p>	<u>Step 1 Clubs</u>	<u>Each Club shall have at least one Qualified Medical Practitioner having a valid Advance Trauma Medical Management in Football (ATMMiF) qualification.</u>	<u>Step 2 Clubs</u>	<u>Each Club shall have at least one Qualified Medical Practitioner, having a valid Intermediate Trauma Medical Management in Football (ITMMiF) qualification.</u>	<u>Step 3 Clubs</u>	<u>Each Club shall have at least one Qualified Medical Practitioner, having a valid Emergency Medical First Aid in Football (EMFAiF) qualification.</u>	<u>Step 4 Clubs</u>	<u>Each Club shall have at least one First Aider, or Qualified Medical Practitioner having a valid Emergency Medical First Aid in Football (EMFAiF) qualification.</u>	<u>Steps 5 Clubs</u>	<u>Each Club shall have at least one First Aider having a valid Emergency First Aid in Football (EFAiF) qualification.</u>	<u>Step 6 Clubs</u>	<u>Each Club shall have at least one First Aider who has a valid Emergency First Aid in Football (EFAiF) qualification.</u>	
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<u>Step 6 Clubs</u>	<u>Each Club shall have at least one First Aider who has a valid Emergency First Aid in Football (EFAiF) qualification.</u>														

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No.	RULE	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS	RATIONALE
		<p><u>ALL LEAGUES RESUME HERE</u></p> <p><u>25.2 In exceptional circumstances, where the home Club is unable to ensure that Qualified Medical Practitioner or First Aider shall be present at a Competition Match, the home Club shall;</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>25.2.1 Make alternative arrangements appropriate for the level of Competition Match.</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>25.2.2 Liaise with the away Club in advance of the Competition Match to ensure that each Club is aware of the medical provision that will be available at the Competition Match.</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>25.2.3 Fully document any alternative arrangements within the home Club's Emergency Medical Emergency Action Plan and share the updated plan with the away Club, prior to the Competition Match taking place.</u></p> <p><u>25.3 Clubs shall ensure their Qualified Medical Practitioner or First Aider keeps detailed up-to-date medical records for all Players in the form and in accordance with the requirements and guidelines published by The FA from time to time.</u></p> <p><u>25.4 When a Player's registration is about to be transferred, the Club that Player is registered to must make such records as referred to in Rule 25.3 available to the Qualified Medical Practitioner or First Aider of the Club that the Player is being transferred to. This procedure shall also apply to all Players whose registrations are temporarily transferred under the provisions for Long, Short and Youth Loans.</u></p> <p><u>25.5 All Clubs are required to have a Medical Emergency Action Plan (MEAP) in place. A copy of which must be submitted to the Competition on the standard form provided by no later than 1st August in each year and placed clearly in the home, away and match officials dressing rooms.</u></p> <p><u>Event Doctors</u></p> <p><u>25.6 Any persons employed as an Event Doctor shall comply with any relevant health and safety legislation.</u></p>	

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No.	RULE	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS	RATIONALE
33.	Rule 34	<p>Each Club must utilise any match boards provided by the Competition’s sponsor and must procure that any <u>corporate</u> bench kit provided by a sponsor shall be worn during competitive and first team matches, <u>as directed by the Competition</u>. In the event that a Competition does not have a bench kit sponsor, a Club may enter into its own bench kit sponsor agreement providing any such agreement is in writing and the Club obtains the consent of the Competition in writing before entering into such agreement which must include a break clause which facilitates ending the agreement if the Club is promoted, relegated or laterally moved to another competition, or the Competition negotiates a new agreement in the future. A full copy of such agreement must be provided to the Competition Secretary within five (5) days of the sending of such request by the Competition.</p>	<p>To clarify matters regarding the wearing of corporate bench kit.</p>

STANDARDISED RULES (CONTINUED)

No.	RULE	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS	RATIONALE
34.	1.1	<p>“<u>CVA Creditor Compromise</u>” shall mean an agreement reached by a Club under a Company Voluntary Arrangement (under the Insolvency Act 1986) or a Scheme of Arrangement (under the Companies Act 1985 or Companies Act 2006) <u>or a restructuring plan (under Part 26A of the Companies Act 2006)</u>.</p>	<p>To reflect the fact that a “restructuring plan” introduced under the Corporate Governance and Insolvency Act 2020 is similar in nature to a Company Voluntary Arrangement.</p> <p>To include the new insolvency provisions and as a result amend the definition “CVA” to cover the broader range of insolvency processes under the definition.</p>
35.	1.1	<p>“Insolvency Event” means any one of the following:</p> <p>a. entering into a Company Voluntary Arrangement pursuant to Part 1 of the Insolvency Act 1986 (“the 1986 Act”) or a compromise or arrangement with its creditors under Part 26 of the Companies Act 2006 <u>or a restructuring plan under Part 26A of the Companies Act 2006</u> or any compromise agreement with its creditors as a whole; or</p> <p>b. lodging a Notice of Intention to Appoint an Administrator or Notice of Appointment of an Administrator at the Court in accordance with paragraph 26 or paragraph 29 of Schedule B1 to the 1986 Act, an application to the Court for an Administration Order under paragraph 12 of Schedule B1 to the 1986 Act (other than paragraph 12 (1)(c)) or where an Administrator is appointed or an Administration Order is made in respect of it (“Administrator” and “Administration Order” having the meanings attributed to them respectively by paragraphs 1 and 10 of Schedule B1 to the 1986 Act); or</p> <p>c. an Administrative Receiver (as defined by section 251 of the 1986 Act), a Law of Property Act Receiver (appointed under section 109 of the Law of Property Act 1925) or any Receiver appointed by the Court under the Supreme Court Act 1981 or any other Receiver</p>	<p>This definition has been widened to incorporate the new types of insolvency procedures introduced by the Corporate Governance and Insolvency Act 2020; (1) the “restructuring plan”; and (2) the statutory moratorium. These new procedures have been introduced via existing legislation (hence the references to the Companies Act and Insolvency Act).</p>

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		<p>is appointed over any assets which, in the opinion of the Board, are material to the Club's ability to fulfil its obligations as a member of the League; or</p> <p>e.d. <u>the coming into force of a moratorium pursuant to Part A1 of the Insolvency Act 1986; or</u></p> <p>d.e. shareholders passing a resolution pursuant to section 84(1) of the 1986 Act to voluntarily wind up; or</p> <p>e.f. a meeting of creditors is convened pursuant to section 95 or section 98 of the 1986 Act; or</p> <p>f.g. a winding up order is made by the Court under section 122 of the 1986 Act or a provisional liquidator is appointed under section 135 of the 1986 Act; or</p> <p>g.h. ceasing or forming an intention to cease wholly or substantially to carry on business save for</p> <p>g.i. being subject to any insolvency regime in any jurisdiction outside England and Wales which is analogous with the insolvency regimes detailed in (a) to (gh) above; and/or</p> <p>h.j. have any proceeding or step taken or any court order in any jurisdiction made which has a substantially similar effect to any of the foregoing.</p>	
36.	1.1	<p>"Paid in Full" shall mean when a Club has either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • paid (in cleared funds) to the supervisor of its <u>Creditor Compromise CVA</u> or its administrator, sufficient funds to pay all its creditors in full (100p in the £) and to cover the costs of the <u>Creditor Compromise CVA</u> or the administration and confirmation of this fact has been received in writing from the supervisor/administrator; or • paid (in cleared funds) sufficient to settle in full (100p in the £) any debts owed to creditors outside a <u>Creditor Compromise CVA</u>. 	See above.
37.	13.B.1	13.B. GENERAL INSOLVENCY	See above.

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		<p>13.B.1 In the event of a Club entering an Insolvency Event between the end of the AGM and start of the AGM immediately following thereafter ('the next AGM') then it shall automatically be relegated by one Step at the next AGM, unless one of the following requirements has been met, namely:</p> <p>(i) Prior to the next AGM it has Paid in Full all its creditors (including but not limited to Football Creditors); or</p> <p>(ii) Prior to the next AGM it has Paid in Full its Football Creditors and entered a compliant <u>Creditor Compromise CVA</u>.</p> <p>For the purposes of this Rule, a <u>Creditor Compromise CVA</u> shall be considered compliant if it provides for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That all Creditors will be paid in Full; - The first payment under the terms of the <u>Creditor Compromise CVA</u> shall be made within 28 days of the approval of the <u>CVA Creditor Compromise</u> and shall constitute a minimum of 10% of the total sum payable; - The balance shall be paid in equal amounts over the remaining period of the <u>Creditor Compromise CVA</u>; - The period of the <u>Creditor Compromise CVA</u> shall not extend beyond three years from the date of approval. <p>Notwithstanding the above, in the event of a Club being subject to an Insolvency Event at the date of the AGM, then the Club may be subject to such sanction as the Board may determine, (including expulsion from membership of the Competition) unless the Board is satisfied that by no later than 5pm on 31 July (or, if the 31 July falls on a weekend, 5pm on the immediately preceding Business Day) that the Club (or any new entity to which its membership is subsequently transferred under 2.9.2 above) is in a financial position to complete all of its fixtures for the immediate following Playing Season.</p>	

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		<p>This sanction shall apply in addition to any Club being relegated pursuant to its playing record in the same period namely that in the event of the Club having already been relegated by one Step it shall be relegated two Steps.</p> <p>This provision is subject to Rule 2.9.1 in respect of Clubs which have transferred their membership pursuant to an Insolvency Event and in that case where there is any conflict between any provision of Clause 14 and Rule 2.9.1 then this Clause 14 shall prevail.</p>	
38.	13.B.2	<p>13.B.2 A Club shall not be eligible for promotion or to compete in the Play Offs at the end of a Playing Season if at 5pm on the date on which the last scheduled League fixture is due to be played that Club:</p> <p>(i) has entered an Insolvency Event between the date of the AGM and 5pm on the date on which the last scheduled League fixture is played and has not Paid in Full all its creditors to which the Insolvency Event applies (including but not limited to Football Creditors) or Paid in Full all its Football Creditors and entered a <u>CVA Creditor Compromise</u> to have Paid in Full all other creditors over an agreed period not extending more than three years following the date of approval of the <u>Creditor Compromise CVA</u>: or</p> <p>(ii) has not complied with the terms of a <u>Creditor Compromise CVA</u> by which it is bound or is to seek to extend the period of the <u>Creditor Compromise CVA</u>.</p>	See above.
39.	13.B.4	<p>Compliance With/Extension of <u>Creditor Compromises CVA's</u></p> <p>13.B.4 Any Club must inform the Competition in writing (and provide supporting evidence) within seven (7) days of the Club:</p> <p>(i) making a payment under the terms of a <u>Creditor Compromise CVA</u> and provide evidence of that payment;</p> <p>(ii) becoming aware of any failure to comply with the terms of <u>any Creditor Compromise CVA</u> entered into by it (including the failure to make a payment by the due date);</p>	See above.

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		<p>(iii) making an application to extend or vary the terms of the <u>Creditor Compromise CVA</u> entered into by it and provide a copy of the application,</p> <p>(iv) completing all its obligations under an Insolvency Event and receiving confirmation of such from the relevant Insolvency Practitioner, or</p> <p>(v) becoming aware of any consent by creditors to compromise the whole or part of the debt admitted into the <u>Creditor Compromise CVA</u>.</p>	
40.	13.B.5	<p>13.B.5 Following the approval of a <u>Creditor Compromise CVA</u>, if creditors subsequently consent to compromise the whole or part of the debt admitted to the <u>Creditor Compromise CVA</u> or if any Club makes a successful application to vary the terms of its <u>Creditor Compromise CVA</u> so that the <u>Creditor Compromise CVA</u> is not compliant as provided for in Rule 13.B.1 then that Club shall be automatically relegated by one Step at the end of the Playing Season in which the event takes place. If the Club has already been relegated due to its position in the final table of the Division in which it is competing then it shall be relegated two Steps.</p>	See above.
41.	13.B.6	<p>13.B.6 In the event of any Club</p> <p>(i) Failing to comply with the terms of any <u>Creditor Compromise CVA</u> entered into by it (whether securing Payment in Full of all of its creditors or not) including the failure to make a payment by the due date; and/or</p> <p>(ii) Breaching any of the provisions of Rule 13.B.4 or failing to notify the Competition of any consent by creditors to compromise the whole or part of the debt admitted thereby rendering the <u>Creditor Compromise CVA</u> as non-compliant as required in Rule 13.B.1.</p> <p>Then the Board shall have the power to impose such sanction as it deems appropriate, including, but without limitation to expulsion of that Club, the relegation of that Club, the deduction of points and an Embargo.</p>	See above.

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42.	13.B.7	13.B.7 Where a Club has transferred its membership under Rule 2.9.2 the provisions of Rule 13.B in relation to a Creditor Compromise GVA shall be applied to the former entity that was subject to the Insolvency Event and/or the new entity.	See above.
43.	4.6 of Annex 1 – Licence Criteria	<p>4.6 Insolvency Event</p> <p>4.6.1 By 14 March in a Membership Year a Club must confirm to the Competition in writing whether or not it is subject to an Insolvency Event as at the 1 March immediately preceding. If a Club is so subject to an Insolvency Event then the Club may be subject to assessment by the Competition in accordance with the requirements of Rule 13.B. In addition to the requirements at Rule 13.B the Competition may refuse the licence, withdraw a Licence or issue a Conditional Licence.</p> <p>4.6.2 Irrespective of the content of paragraph 4.6.1, a Club subject to Insolvency Events (ed), (fe), (gf) or (hg) as defined in the Rules is not entitled to hold a Licence and must not be permitted to participate in the Competition from the date of the Insolvency Event. A Licence shall automatically lapse should a Club become subject to Insolvency Events (ed), (fe), (gf) or (hg) as defined in the Rules.</p>	Updates made to reflect the new paragraph numbering of the definition of Insolvency Event (per the above row).