



**To: All Clubs at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System**

22 August 2024

Dear colleagues,

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING BLOCKED HOURS AND LIVE STREAMING OF MATCHES**

We are writing to Clubs to inform them of the “blocked hours” that will be in place for the 2024/25 season.

To that end, please note that:

- From 24 August 2024, the broadcasting or live streaming of matches during “blocked hours” is prohibited.
- Outside of “blocked hours”, live streaming of matches is permitted, subject to the provisions set out in your League’s Rules (see below).
- For FA Cup, FA Trophy and FA Vase fixtures, Clubs must adhere to the rules of those competitions related to broadcasting.

**What are blocked hours?**

Blocked hours are set time periods occurring on a Saturday when it is prohibited to broadcast any form of live football.

Blocked hours for Season 2024/25 are every Saturday occurring during each period (inclusive of the dates set out below) between the hours of 14:45 and 17:15:

Saturday 24 August 2024	to	Saturday 31 August 2024
Saturday 14 September 2024	to	Saturday 5 October 2024
Saturday 19 October 2024	to	Saturday 9 November 2024
Saturday 23 November 2024	to	Saturday 21 December 2024
Saturday 4 January 2025		
Saturday 18 January 2025	to	Saturday 1 February 2025
Saturday 15 February 2025	to	Saturday 22 February 2025
Saturday 8 March 2025	to	Saturday 15 March 2025
Saturday 5 April 2025	to	Saturday 26 April 2025
Saturday 10 May 2025		



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## **Why do we have blocked hours?**

Blocked hours have been in place for many years in England and are permitted by Article 48 of the UEFA Statutes.

The rationale for blocked hours includes:

- To ensure spectators are not deterred from attending your matches.
- In parallel to the above, protecting Clubs' revenue generated by gate receipts.
- To protect the interests of football within each national association.

For the avoidance of doubt, Clubs are not permitted to broadcast games in the periods set out above, but may record fixtures for later match analysis or highlights purposes.

## **What are the consequences of broadcasting or live streaming matches during blocked hours?**

This could result in disciplinary action against a Club or individuals as Clubs would be in breach of UEFA Article 48.

## **What rules apply to Clubs that want to offer a live stream of a league matches outside of “blocked hours”?**

These are set out in Rules 8.32 to 8.34:

### *MATCH STREAMING BY A CLUB*

- 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:*
- 8.32.1 consent of the Board to the live stream taking place must be obtained;*
  - 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);*
  - 8.32.3 subject to Rule 8.32.4, the live stream cannot take place during the Transmission-Free Period;*
  - 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*
  - 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.*
- 8.33 A Club must provide evidence of compliance with the conditions set out in Rule 8.32 upon request by The FA or the Board.*
- 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.*

## **FA Cup 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> round weekends**

We will be in touch with Clubs separately with regards to these fixtures, in due course.

**(ENDS)**