

1. STANDARDISED RULES

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No.	RULE	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS	RATIONALE
1.	Throughout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typographical amendments. • Update cross-references. 	General permission sought to make these non-substantive or consequential amendments.
2.	Definitions	<p>“Fees Tariff” means a list of fees approved [by the Company] [by the Board] at a general meeting to be levied by the Company for any matters for which fees are payable under the Rules.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>“Fines Tariff” means a list of fines approved [by the Company] [by the Board] at a general meeting to be levied by the Company for any breach of the Rule.</p>	To reflect the position that, in some Leagues, it is the Board that approves the fees and fines tariffs (rather than the Company at a general meeting).
3.	2.26	Any Club failing to be represented throughout an Annual General Meeting or any other General Meeting <u>general meeting</u> called in accordance with the [Rules] [Articles] without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. [Whenever required to do so all Clubs shall ensure their Manager, or an Assistant Manager, attend in person any Meeting of Clubs called by the Board. Failure to do so without just cause shall be a breach of these Rules and be dealt with in accordance with the Fines Tariff.]	To correct a typographical error (the term “General Meeting” is not defined, and “general meeting” is used elsewhere in the Rules).

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4.	4.6	If a Club fails to comply with a Board Directive within the timescale set out in the notification of such order or instruction, it shall <u>may</u> not be allowed to play or take part in the business of the Company until the expiry of 7 days from the day the order or instruction is complied with.	To enable greater flexibility to league boards, for example in cases where a breach of a particular Board Directive may not warrant the Club not being permitted to play or take part in league business.
5.	8.4	<p>[...]</p> <p>Steps 2 to 4 only</p> <p>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 <u>before the commencement of the Playing Season and by such method as communicated by The FA from time to time.</u></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, <u>but the re-arranged fixture may be scheduled outside of the nominated period where no Competition fixture has been scheduled.</u></p>	<p>To signpost that The FA will communicate with CFAs about how to nominate one week in each month of the playing season (in which county cup fixtures will take precedence).</p> <p>To clarify that re-arranged county cup fixtures can be scheduled outside of the CFA's nominated period, provided no league fixture has already been scheduled.</p>

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6.	8.6	<p>[...]</p> <p>The Competition Secretary reserves the right to amend scheduled fixtures and kick-off times to meet television requirements as necessary. Notification will be provided by the Competition Secretary in writing to both Clubs for fixtures so rescheduled.</p>	To delete this final paragraph of Rule 8.6 and merge it with Rule 8.7, as it is duplicative (see below).
7.	8.7	<p><u>8.7.1</u> The Board may change any Competition fixtures during the season to suit the overall interests of the Competition and (including for broadcasting or live streaming purposes). The [Board] [Competition Secretary] shall notify both participating Clubs in writing about any change to a Competition fixture.</p> <p><u>8.7.2</u> <u>The Board</u> shall have the power to decide whether a ground is suitable for Competition matches and to order a Club whose ground is deemed unsuitable to play its home matches at an alternative suitable ground.</p>	<p>To clarify, by way of example, that competition fixtures may be changed for broadcasting or live streaming purposes.</p> <p>Regarding the merging of Rule 8.6 and 8.7, this would not preclude the Competition Secretary being duly authorised by the Board to change competition fixtures.</p> <p>As it stands, Rule 8.7 could be interpreted to mean that a league can only order a club to play at an alternative ground if it is in the interests of the Competition. This proposed amendment therefore also separates Rule 8.7 into two paragraphs, for greater clarity.</p>

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8.	8.8	[] weeks' notice is required from <u>both participating</u> Clubs wishing to re-arrange a Saturday match to Friday evening or Sunday. A request made in less than this period of time will only be considered by the Board in exceptional circumstances and granted at their sole discretion.	To make clear that any request to re-arrange a match in these circumstances must be a joint request by both participating Clubs in order for it to be considered.
9.	8.13	<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 <u>will</u> apply <u>to players, medical staff and Match Officials (and any other individuals permitted to enter the field of play)</u> at least five days prior to the match. The visiting Club must disseminate this information to its players and club officials. <u>Failure by the visiting Club to ensure its players or club officials comply with any footwear requirements communicated by the home Club in accordance with this Rule may result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</u></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 amend this Rule to more accurately reflect its intention, which is to ensure that those permitted to enter the field of play on an artificial turf pitch adhere to any footwear requirements. This enables managers, head coaches and others in the technical area to be excluded from the same requirements.</p> <p>To include the possibility of a fine in the event of non-compliance.</p>

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10.	8.20	All matches shall be of ninety minutes duration <u>(subject to any allowance for time lost)</u> . The half time interval in all matches shall not exceed fifteen minutes. <u>Save where a match is abandoned, Any any</u> match which is not of less than ninety minutes duration may be ordered <u>by the Board</u> to stand as a completed match or replayed for the full period of ninety minutes or be awarded to the Club not at fault, as the Board may decide, on such terms as the Board shall decide.	To clarify that Rule 8.20 is intended to deal with incidents whereby matches are played for less than 90 minutes (e.g. because of an error by the Match Officials), and is not intended to deal with abandonments (the consequences of which are dealt with separately in the Rules).
11.	8.25	In all Competition Matches the number of Clubs <u>Officials officials of a Club</u> seated on the team benches, in the designated technical area, must not exceed 11 unless the team bench facility provides more than 11 individual seats. <u>Additional seating near or around the team benches in the designated technical area is not permitted.</u>	To assist with the management of technical areas by prohibiting additional seating near or around the team benches.
12.	8.36	In the event that a match is <u>either: (a) abandoned before half time, or (b) postponed after spectators have been permitted to enter the ground,</u> the Club playing at home will issue a voucher to each spectator valid for free admission if the match is ordered to be replayed <u>or is rescheduled</u> . In the event that the match is abandoned during or after the half time interval the Club playing at home is not obliged to issue such a voucher.	To include an additional scenario in which home Clubs are obliged to issue vouchers for free admission to a replayed/rescheduled match in certain circumstances.

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13.	8.37-8.39	<p>8.37 In the event that a match is abandoned for reasons over which neither Club has control, the Club playing at home shall retain the gate receipts for such uncompleted match and the Board shall determine the terms upon which any replayed match shall be played <u>has the power to order that either: (a) the original match stands as a completed match, or (b) the match shall be replayed (and the terms upon which the match is to be replayed).</u></p> <p>8.38 In the event of a match being abandoned due to the conduct of one Club or its members or supporters, the Board has the power to order that <u>either: (a) the original match stands as a completed match, (b) the match is replayed (and the terms upon which the match is replayed, or (c) the match is not replayed,</u> and to award either one or three points to the Club not at fault. # The Board cannot levy a financial penalty due to the conduct of a Club.</p> <p>8.39 In the event of the match being abandoned due to the conduct of both Clubs or their members or supporters, no financial penalty can be applied by the Board to either Club and the Board shall determine whether <u>has the power to order that either: (a) the original match stands as a completed match, or (b) or the match is shall be replayed (and, if replayed, the terms upon which the match is to be replayed).</u></p>	<p>To broaden the options available to a league's Board in the event of an abandonment in certain circumstances.</p> <p>For example, the current drafting of Rule 8.37 suggests that the Board would always have to order a replay if a match is abandoned for reasons over which neither Club had control – which could include a situation where one club is winning a match by a significant margin and the floodlights stop working in added time. In those situations, it could be deemed appropriate for the Board to allow the match to stand as completed.</p>

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14.	8.42	In the event of the match being postponed, not completed or abandoned, the home Club must immediately <u>notify the following by</u> telephone <u>(or by any other means as communicated by the Competition from time to time)</u> ; the Competition results service, the Competition Secretary and, in the case of a match postponement, the Appointing Authority, the visiting Club and the Match Officials. When a postponement occurs in any FA or County Cup competition, the home Club, if two Clubs are playing the tie, or the Club if the match involves a team outside of the Competition, must also follow this procedure.	To provide the option for leagues to instruct clubs to use alternative means of notification.
15.	8.43	Where a match has been postponed for any reason, the two Clubs concerned must agree within 7 days of the postponement a new date (which shall, save in exceptional circumstances, be within 42 <u>35</u> days of the original date) and in default the Board is empowered to order Clubs to play on a date it considers suitable.	To shorten the potential gap between the original fixture and the rescheduled fixture, in order to better preserve competition integrity.
16.	10.2	The home Club shall retain all gate receipts. Where a match is declared all ticket the Away [visiting] Club shall be entitled to 15% of the total number of tickets available (or a minimum of 600 at Steps 1 to <u>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.	To make this applicable to Steps 1 and 2, as well as Step 3.

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		<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>Clubs should have a system in operation for home games that enables them to accurately report on the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A record of all tickets sold in advance • A reconciliation of cash received by category of entrant through each turnstile • The number of entrants through each turnstile • A schedule of the numbers admitted to parts of the stadium that do not pass through a turnstile • A list of complimentary tickets authorised <p>This documentation should be reconciled to the overall takings and declared attendance for each home game.</p>	

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17.	10.3 to 10.8	<p>NEXT SECTION IS FOR NATIONAL LEAGUE ONLY</p> <p>10.3 Sale of tickets for away supporters - Clubs are required to sell tickets for their away matches if required to do so by the Home Club and Home Clubs are required to supply tickets for their home matches to the Away Club for sale by the Away Club to its supporters if so requested by the Away Club. These tickets are to be made available on a sale or return basis and must be ordered by the Away Club at least five weeks before the Competition match to which they relate. The Home Club must deliver those tickets to the Away Club at the latest four weeks before the Competition match to which they relate. Where any match is arranged at shorter notice the above steps shall be taken as soon as is reasonably practicable. Visiting supporters should also have the same opportunity to take advantage of pre-booking discounts that apply to home supporters.</p> <p>For League matches only the Away Club shall be entitled to a commission representing five (5) per cent of the aggregate sales (exclusive of VAT) of tickets sold on behalf of the Home Club, unless otherwise agreed between the Clubs. The Away Club shall submit a VAT invoice, in respect of the commission due, to the Home Club within five working days of the match taking place.</p> <p>The Away Club may charge a booking fee of transaction charge to the customer providing this is exactly the same in every</p>	To reflect that Rule 10.3 only applies to Steps 1 and 2, and that all leagues resume from Rule 10.4 (meaning Rules 10.10 to 10.14 can be deleted as they are duplicative of the earlier Rules).

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		<p>respect as that which it charges for tickets to its own home matches.</p> <p>Unless otherwise agreed between the Clubs unsold tickets must be returned, and received by the Home Club, no later than 48 hours prior to the date of the match. Payments for tickets sold by an Away Club must be made to the Home Club within five working days of the date of the match taking place.</p> <p>Any Club making late payment shall:-</p> <p>Pay interest to the Home Club at the rate of 5 (five) per cent per annum over Barclays Bank base rate in force from time to time calculated on a daily basis, on the outstanding sum from the due date to the actual date of payment to the Home Club, and</p> <p>Forfeit its entitlement to the 5 (five) per cent commission detailed above.</p> <p><u>ALL LEAGUES RESUME HERE</u></p> <p>10.4 For Competition league matches only, the travelling expenses of match officials shall be pooled, each Club rendering on the match report details of all payments made.</p> <p>The Company shall, at the conclusion of the season, divide the total cost of officials in each division by the total number of Clubs in that division and where the total payment made by the Club is less than the equal share of the pool, the Club shall pay the</p>	

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		<p>difference within 14 days of the date of posting of the written notification to the Club.</p> <p>Where the sum paid by the Club is more than the equal share of the pool, the Club will be reimbursed from the pool of monies received from all the other Clubs.</p> <p>10.5 In the event of a transfer of a player where a consideration is agreed, the consideration can only be paid between the two clubs (the transferor and transferee clubs).</p> <p>The full name of each contracting club should be stated in the transfer agreement. The full consideration involved must be recorded in the accounting records of both clubs.</p> <p>10.6 Any Club temporarily transferring a player's registration to another club should invoice the receiving club in accordance with the terms of the loan agreement. The player concerned should remain on the payroll of the Club holding his permanent registration for the period of the loan.</p> <p>10.7 All loans extended to a Club must be documented in full in the accounting records of the Club. Documentation supporting each loan must be retained and should include the following information:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The value of the loan. 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The length of the loan. • The interest rate charged, and whether this is fixed or variable. • Repayment terms. • The full names of the individual or corporate body extending the loan. • The terms in the event of a default on the loan. <p>The document should be signed by two directors, Officers or Executive Committee Members who are independent of the party extending the loan.</p> <p>10.8 Within nine months of its accounting reference date, each Club shall submit to the Company a copy of its full annual financial statements as approved by the Club's board or committee and confirmation that the annual financial statements have been circulated to its members/shareholders.</p> <p>ALL OTHER LEAGUES RESUME HERE</p> <p>10.9 All Clubs must comply with The FA's Third Party Interest in Players Regulations.</p> <p>10.10 For Competition league matches only, the travelling expenses of match officials shall be pooled, each Club rendering on the match report details of all payments made. The Company</p>	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The value of the loan • The length of the loan • The interest rate charged, and whether this is fixed or variable • Repayment terms • The full names of the individual or corporate body extending the loan • The terms in the event of a default on the loan <p>The document should be signed by two directors, Officers or Executive Committee Members who are independent of the party extending the loan.</p> <p>10.14 Within nine months of its accounting reference date, each Club shall submit to the Company a copy of its full financial statements as presented to its members/shareholders with confirmation that the accounts have been approved at a duly convened general meeting.</p>	

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18.	14.7	<p><u>At Steps 2 to 6, The the</u> home Club will be responsible for paying the Match Officials the fees and match expenses set by the Appointing Authority <u>either: (a)</u> on the day of the match in their dressing room, within a reasonable time after the conclusion of the match (including matches abandoned for any reason), <u>or (b) by BACS payment if this is actioned within 24 hours of the kick off time.</u> In the case of a postponed match, whether or not gate money is taken, any Match Official who has travelled to the match will be entitled to claim travelling expenses and half their match fee from the home Club. Where provided by the home Club, each Match Official must complete and submit a claim form for expenses.</p>	<p>To reflect the practice of Clubs now paying Match Official fees and expenses by BACS payment.</p> <p>Step 1 is excluded as payments to Match Officials are made from central funding.</p>
19.	23.4 and 23.6	<p><u>Football Turf Pitches</u></p> <p><u>New Installations</u></p> <p>23.4 Where a Club proposes to install a Football Turf Pitch (or replace an existing Football Turf Pitch) the following shall apply:</p> <p>[...]</p> <p><u>Annual Requirements</u></p> <p>23.6 Without prejudice to the obligations set out in Paragraph 23.3 above, Clubs that have a Football Turf Pitch shall:-</p> <p>(a) take such steps and/or refrain from such actions as are necessary to ensure that the Football Turf Pitch continues</p>	<p>To add headings for greater clarity as to which provisions apply to new installations, and which relate to annual requirements.</p> <p>To aid administration of the Artificial Turf Pitch Register (by the Football Foundation) and create a 'testing window' from 1 January to 31 May each season.</p> <p>Clubs that fail the initial test would have until 31 July to conduct another Pitch</p>

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		<p>to meet the requirements for a FIFA Quality Certificate or Quality Pro Certificate (as applicable) at all times during each Playing Season including, without limitation, complying with all requirements of the FIFA Quality Standard;</p> <p>(b) where required to undertake Pitch Tests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) <u>conduct an initial Pitch Test between 1 January and 31 May in the relevant Playing Season (in addition to any Pitch Test carried out in accordance with Rule 23.4(d) or Rule 23.4(h));</u> (ii) <u>where the initial Pitch Test is failed, conduct a further Pitch Test by 31 July following the relevant Playing Season;</u> (iii) procure that the FIFA accredited field test institute undertaking any Pitch Test provides to The Competition a copy of their official reports to FIFA immediately following completion of the Pitch Test; (iv) provide a copy of the FIFA Quality Certificate or Quality Pro Certificate to the Competition and Football Foundation by 31 July prior to the 	<p>Test and provide the necessary certificate to the Competition.</p> <p>Regardless of the date of the successful Pitch Test (between 1 January and 31 July), a compliant pitch will be added to the register until 31 May of the following season.</p>

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		<p>commencement of each <u>following the relevant</u> Playing Season; and</p> <p>(c) co-operate with all reasonable requests made by the Competition, the Association or FIFA for the performance of the Football Turf Pitch to be measured.</p> <p>[...]</p>	
20.	23.4	<p>For matches played under the auspices of The National League at Step 1& 2 of the National League System:-</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>(b) no installation works shall commence until such time as the Competition has <u>approved given written approval for</u> the proposed installation and the timetable thereof. Installation may only take place outside the Playing Season;</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>For matches played at Step 3 and below of the National League System:-</p>	<p>To clarify that written approval is required for new artificial pitch installations.</p> <p>To include more detailed requirements to be met for a grant of approval, to help avoid potential issues caused by delay and/or a failure to ensure alternative provisions are in place before the commencement of a season.</p>

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		<p>[...]</p> <p>(g) no installation works shall commence until such time as the Competition has approved <u>given written approval for</u> the proposed installation and the timetable thereof; <u>The Competition will not grant approval unless the Club is able to evidence that:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Installation works are scheduled to take place before 15 July in any year with a confirmed end date.</u> <u>Any necessary funding for the installation works is in place.</u> <u>A fully executed groundshare agreement (in a form acceptable to the Competition) is in place for the period of the installation.</u> <u>Where required pursuant to a lease, permission for the installation works has been obtained.</u> <p><u>If approval is granted but installation works do not commence by 15 July in the relevant year, the Competition may withdraw its approval and order that the works cannot commence until the end of the Playing Season.</u></p>	

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21.	Schedule A Fines Tariff	Add a new row to the table for a failure to comply with any footwear requirements issued by the home Club in accordance with Rule 8.13.	To reflect the proposed amendment to Rule 8.13 set out above.
22.	FRI Appendix 2.1 (vi) onwards	<p><u>Initial Reporting</u></p> <p>2.1 By 31 August and 28 February of each year (collectively ‘the Reporting Dates’), each Club shall submit the following information to the Competition:</p> <p>[...]</p> <p><u>(vii) A copy of a rent statement or mortgage statement (as applicable) in relation to any property rented or mortgaged by the Club (in a form acceptable to the Competition);</u></p> <p><u>(viii) Confirmation of whether any property owned by the Club is the subject of a secured loan;</u></p>	To add additional items to the list of information to be submitted by clubs on the Reporting Dates (31 August and 28 February of each year), for greater financial transparency.

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23.	FRI Appendix 2.8	<p><u>Requests for Financial Assistance</u></p> <p><u>2.8 Any Club requesting financial assistance (for a non-capital project) for the Club must notify the Competition as soon as reasonably practicable prior to such request being made.</u></p> <p><u>2.9 Within 5 working days of any such request, the Club shall provide to the Competition:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>An up-to-date profit and loss statement;</u> <u>An up-to-date list of any debt owed by the Club to any other creditor which exceeds £1,000 and the Club's proposals for payment of the same;</u> <u>A list of all obligations in relation to employees and players; and</u> <u>Details of any mortgage or rent arrears.</u> <p><u>2.10 The Club shall also provide monthly management accounts to the Competition accurately detailing the income generated by the request for financial assistance for such period of time as determined by the Competition (with the first set to be provided together with the information listed at paragraph 2.9).</u></p>	To elicit an up-to-date picture of a club's finances in the event that it is forced to seek external financial assistance.

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24.	FRI Appendix 3	3 Sanctions [...] <u>3.6 Any Club that fails to comply with the notification requirement of paragraph 2.8 or fails to provide some or all of the documentation detailed at paragraph 2.9 or paragraph 2.10 shall be subject to a sanction determined by the Board or the Sub-Committee detailed in Section 4.</u>	To add a paragraph to the sanctions section of the FRI Appendix, in light of the addition proposed above.