

ANNEX 1A

REDRAFT OF NLS REGULATIONS 5.5 AND 5.6

5.5 A vacancy occurs within the NLS when a Club:

(a) notifies the League in which it holds membership that it shall resign from the League (either with immediate effect or at the end of the Playing Season);

(b) is withdrawn or removed from the League for any reason; or

(c) is relegated in accordance with Regulation 5.8 (in circumstances where that Club has not otherwise been relegated).

5.6 Where a Club notifies the League in which it holds membership that it shall resign from the League at the end of the Playing season, that resignation may only be withdrawn before the end of the Playing Season with the consent of that League.

5.7 Where a vacancy occurs within the NLS the following procedures will apply:

TIMING / CIRCUMSTANCES OF VACANCY	PROCEDURE
After the AGM of the League in which the Club holds membership, but before the League has commenced its first fixture (in any division)	• Only internal changes to the constitution of a League are allowed following the AGM of that League • The League is not otherwise permitted to fill the vacancy for that Playing Season. • Where a League decides to make an internal change to fill the vacancy, it shall be filled by the Club finishing in the highest relegation position in that division of the League at the end of the previous Playing Season. • Where a League does not fill the vacancy via an internal change, the Club shall be treated as a relegated Club for the purposes of the

	standings of that division of the League and will be placed in (and remain in) bottom place until the end of the forthcoming Playing Season. ○ The vacancy shall therefore pass to the Step below and shall be filled as follows: The Clubs finishing in the highest relegation positions in the divisions of that Step at the end of the forthcoming Regular Season shall be ranked by points-per-game (League matches only) and the Club with the highest points-per game shall be granted a reprieve from relegation (subject to the Club being eligible for a reprieve and subject to any Tiebreaker required). • Where the Club finishing in the highest relegation position in a division has already been granted a reprieve (or is not eligible for a reprieve), it shall not form part of any ranking process and shall not be replaced in that process. • Where all the Clubs finishing in the highest relegation position in the divisions of that Step have already been granted a reprieve (or are not eligible for a reprieve), the Clubs finishing in the next highest relegation positions in the divisions will be ranked according to the process set out above (and so on). • Where the number of vacancies is greater than the number of Clubs eligible to be reprieved, the Committee shall determine how to fill those vacancies at its absolute discretion.
After the first fixture has commenced in the League in which the Club holds membership, but before the completion of fixtures in the division of the League in which the vacancy has occurred	• The playing record of the Club shall be expunged (and the playing records of the other Clubs in the division shall be adjusted accordingly).

	• The Club's points total will be reduced to 0. • The Club shall be treated as a relegated club for the purposes of the standings of that division and shall be placed in (and remain in) bottom place until the end of the Playing Season. • The vacancy shall therefore pass to the Step below and shall be filled as follows: The Clubs finishing in the highest relegation positions in the divisions of that Step at the end of the Regular Season shall be ranked by points-per-game (League matches only) and the Club with the highest points-per game shall be granted a reprieve from relegation (subject to the Club being eligible for a reprieve and subject to any Tiebreaker required). • • Where the Club finishing in the highest relegation position in a division has already been granted a reprieve (or is not eligible for a reprieve), it shall not form part of any ranking process and shall not be replaced in that process. • Where all the Clubs finishing in the highest relegation position in the divisions of that Step have already been granted a reprieve (or are not eligible for a reprieve), the Clubs finishing in the next highest relegation positions in the divisions will be ranked according to the process set out above (and so on). • Where the number of vacancies is greater than the number of Clubs eligible to be reprieved, the Committee shall determine how to fill those vacancies at its absolute discretion.
After the completion of fixtures in the division of the League in which the vacancy has occurred, but before Club allocations for the following Playing Season have been determined by The Association	• The standings of that division for the most recent Playing Season shall not be affected.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Club shall be treated as a relegated Club (regardless of final standing).• Where the Club did not finish the Playing Season in a relegation position, the Club that finished the Playing Season in the highest relegation position in that division shall be granted a reprieve from relegation.• In any event, the vacancy shall pass to the Step below and shall be filled as follows: The Clubs finishing in the highest relegation positions in the divisions of that Step at the end of the Regular Season shall be ranked by points-per-game (League matches only) and the Club with the highest points-per game shall be granted a reprieve from relegation (subject to the Club being eligible for a reprieve and subject to any Tiebreaker required).• Where the Club finishing in the highest relegation position in a division has already been granted a reprieve (or is not eligible for a reprieve), it shall not form part of any ranking process and shall not be replaced in that process.• Where all the Clubs finishing in the highest relegation position in the divisions of that Step have already been granted a reprieve (or are not eligible for a reprieve), the Clubs finishing in the next highest relegation positions in the divisions will be ranked according to the process set out above (and so on).• Where the number of vacancies is greater than the number of Clubs eligible to be reprieved, the Committee shall determine how to fill those vacancies at its absolute discretion. |
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After the completion of fixtures in the same division of the League in which the vacancy has occurred, and after Club allocations for the following Playing Season have been determined by The Association	• The Committee shall determine how to fill the vacancy at its absolute discretion. <i>Guidance</i> <i>To the extent possible, the Committee shall aim to fill the vacancy in a way which causes the least disruption to the NLS.</i>
Relegation in accordance with Regulation 5.8 (in circumstances where that Club has not otherwise been relegated)	• The standings of that division for the most recent Playing Season shall not be affected. • The Club shall be treated as a relegated Club (regardless of final standing). • The Club that: (a) finished the most recent Playing Season in the highest relegation position in that division and (b) is eligible to be granted a reprieve from relegation, shall be granted a reprieve from relegation.

Power of the Committee

Where this Regulation 5.7 does not provide a resolution for a particular vacancy, the Committee shall determine at its absolute discretion how to resolve the matter.