

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

12 August 2026

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 2026/27 season.

To that end, please note the broadcasting of matches (including live streaming) during “blocked hours” is prohibited from 22nd August 2026. To clarify, the streaming of matches outside of blocked hours is permitted, subject to the provisions set out in The FA’s Standardised Rules (your League’s Rules). For FA Cup, Trophy and Vase fixtures Clubs must adhere to the specific competition Regulations pursuant 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 2026/27 are every Saturday occurring from 22 August 2026 until 24th April 2027 (inclusive) between the hours of 14:45 and 17:15 with the exception of the following dates:

- 26 September 2026
- 3 October 2026
- 14 November 2026
- 26 December 2026
- 27 March 2027

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.

Which League Rules cover the wider principle of live streaming matches not bound by 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.

(ENDS)