

1. **NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM REGULATIONS**

1. NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM REGULATIONS			
No.	REGULATION	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS	RATIONALE
1.	Regulation 1 Definitions	<u>“Tiebreaker” means the following method of ranking two or more Clubs in order to determine which Club should be ranked higher than the other(s):</u> <u>• Stage 1 – highest goal difference (in League matches only, and divided by the total number of League matches played by that Club at the end of the current Regular Season).</u> <u>• Stage 2 – if any Clubs remain tied after Stage 1, most goals scored (in League matches only, and divided by the total number of League matches played by that Club at the end of the current Regular Season).</u> <u>• Stage 3 – if any Clubs remain tied after Stage 2, most League matches won (divided by the total number of League matches played by that Club at the end of the current Regular Season).</u> <u>• Stage 4 – if any Clubs remain tied after Stage 4, the Clubs shall participate in a one-off play-off match (or series of play-off matches) to determine their final ranking (with the format and rules of any such play-off match(es) to be determined by the Committee at its absolute discretion).</u>	To facilitate the introduction of the ‘tiebreaker’ method as a result of the amendments to promotion and relegation procedures below.

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2.	Regulation 5.2 Detailed Promotion and Relegation Issues	[...] Step 2 and Step 3 The Clubs in the bottom four places in each of the two divisions at Step 2 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 3 for the following Playing Season. They will be replaced by the Clubs finishing in 1st position in each of the four divisions at Step 3 together with a further four Clubs determined by a series of Play Off Matches. Where a Club finishes in 1st position <u>in a division at Step 3</u> but does not meet the criteria for promotion to the next Step 2, the Club finishing in 2nd position <u>in that division at Step 3</u> shall be <u>automatically</u> promoted <u>to Step 2 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.</u> 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 3, the Play Off Matches shall be played so that the highest placed of the eligible Clubs plays against the lowest placed and the other two 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 shall receive a bye to a second match where it will play the winner of the other Play Off Match and the winner of that match will play in the further Play Off Match described above	• To increase the number of clubs participating in the Play Off Matches at Step 3 and Step 4 from 4 Clubs to 6 Clubs. • To clarify the structure of the Play Offs at Step 3 and below (i.e. which clubs will play each other). • To add additional scenario planning detail to address situations where clubs do not want to or are ineligible for promotion. • To clarify at the end of this Regulation that the Committee shall be empowered to address any promotion/relegation scenarios not already covered by the Regulation.

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		<u>Where the Clubs finishing in 1st and 2nd position in a division at Step 3 do not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 2:</u> <u>No Club shall be automatically promoted to Step 2 from that division at Step 3.</u> <u>The structure and draw of the Play Off Matches in that division at Step 3 shall be adjusted as necessary by the Competition (such adjustment to be approved by the Committee).</u> <u>The Clubs finishing in the highest relegation positions in each of the two divisions at Step 2 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 any Tiebreaker required).</u> <u>Subject to meeting the criteria for promotion to Step 2, the Clubs finishing in 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th positions in each division of Step 3 shall be eligible to take part in the Play Off Matches.</u> <u>The Play Off Matches in each division of Step 3 shall be as follows:</u> <u>Qualifying Round – (a) the Club finishing in 4th position shall play the Club finishing in 7th position (“QR1”), and (b) the Club finishing in 5th position shall play the Club finishing in 6th position (“QR2”).</u> <u>Semi-Finals – (a) the winner of QR1 shall play the Club finishing in 3rd position (“SF1”), and (b) the winner of QR2 shall play the Club finishing in 2nd position (“SF2”).</u> <u>Final - the winner of SF1 shall play the winner of SF2 in the final Play Off Match, and the winner shall be promoted to Step 2</u> <u>All Play Off Matches shall be played over one leg at the ground of the participating Club that finished in the highest position at the end of the Regular Season.</u>	

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		Clubs finishing below <u>7th</u> position 7 will not be eligible to take part in <u>the</u> Play Off Matches. <u>Where a Club does not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 2, it shall not be permitted to take part in the Play Off Matches and shall not be replaced. The structure and draw of the Play Off Matches shall be adjusted as necessary by the Competition (such adjustment to be approved by the Committee).</u> The promoted Clubs will be placed in a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 2 for the following Playing Season. Step 3 and Step 4 The Clubs finishing in the bottom four places in each of the four divisions at Step 3 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 4 for the following Playing Season. They will be replaced by the Clubs finishing in 1st position in each of the eight divisions at Step 4 together with a further eight Clubs determined by a series of Play Off Matches. Where a Club finishes in 1st position but does not meet the criteria for promotion to the next Step <u>3</u>, the Club finishing in 2nd position <u>in that division at Step 4</u> shall be <u>automatically</u> promoted <u>to Step 3</u> 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 3, the Play Off Matches shall be played so that the highest placed of the eligible	

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		Clubs plays against the lowest placed and the other two 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 shall receive a bye to a second match where it will play the winner of the other Play Off Match and the winner of that match will play in the further Play Off Match described above <u>Where the Clubs finishing in 1st and 2nd position in a division at Step 4 do not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 3:</u> <u>No Club shall be automatically promoted to Step 3 from that division at Step 4.</u> <u>The structure and draw of the Play Off Matches in that division at Step 4 shall be adjusted as necessary by the Competition (such adjustment to be approved by the Committee).</u> <u>The Clubs finishing in the highest relegation positions in each of the four divisions at Step 3 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 any Tiebreaker required).</u> <u>Subject to meeting the criteria for promotion to Step 3, the Clubs finishing in 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th positions in each division of Step 4 shall be eligible to take part in the Play Off Matches.</u> <u>The Play Off Matches in each division of Step 4 shall be as follows:</u> <u>Qualifying Round – (a) the Club finishing in 4th position shall play the Club finishing in 7th position (“QR1”), and (b) the Club finishing in 5th position shall play the Club finishing in 6th position (“QR2”).</u> <u>Semi-Finals – (a) the winner of QR1 shall play the Club finishing in</u>	

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		<u>3rd position ("SF1"), and (b) the winner of QR2 shall play the Club finishing in 2nd position ("SF2").</u> <u>Final - the winner of SF1 shall play the winner of SF2 in the final Play Off Match, and the winner shall be promoted to Step 3.</u> <u>All Play Off Matches shall be played over one leg at the ground of the participating Club that finished in the highest position at the end of the Regular Season.</u> Clubs finishing below <u>7th</u> position 7 will not be eligible to take part in <u>the</u> Play Off Matches. <u>Where a Club does not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 3, it shall not be permitted to take part in the Play Off Matches and shall not be replaced. The structure and draw of the Play Off Matches shall be adjusted as necessary by the Competition (such adjustment to be approved by the Committee).</u> The promoted Clubs will be placed in a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 3 for the following Playing Season. Step 4 and Step 5 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. 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.	

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		Where a Club finishes in 1st position but does not meet the minimum criteria for promotion to the next Step 4, the Club finishing in 2nd position <u>in that division at Step 5</u> shall be <u>automatically</u> promoted <u>to Step 4</u> 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. <u>Where the Clubs finishing in 1st and 2nd position in a division at Step 5 do not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 4:</u> <u>No Club shall be automatically promoted to Step 4 from that division at Step 5.</u> <u>The structure and draw of the Play Off Matches in that division at Step 5 shall be adjusted as necessary by the Competition (such adjustment to be approved by the Committee).</u> <u>The Clubs finishing in the highest relegation positions in each of the eight divisions at Step 4 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 any Tiebreaker required).</u>	

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		<u>Subject to meeting the criteria for promotion to Step 4, the Clubs finishing in 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th positions in each division of Step 5 shall be eligible to take part in the Play Off Matches.</u> <u>The Play Off Matches in each division of Step 5 shall be as follows:</u> <u>Semi-Finals – (a) the Club finishing in 2nd position shall play the Club finishing in 5th position (“SF1”), and (b) the Club finishing in 3rd position shall play the Club finishing in 4th position (“SF2”).</u> <u>Final - the winner of SF1 shall play the winner of SF2 in the final Play Off Match, and the winner shall be promoted to Step 4.</u> <u>All Play Off Matches shall be played over one leg at the ground of the participating Club that finished in the highest position at the end of the Regular Season.</u> Clubs finishing below 7th position will not be eligible to take part in <u>the</u> Play Off Matches. <u>Where one Club does not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 4, it shall not be permitted to take part in the Play Off Matches and shall be replaced by the Club finishing in 6th position. If the Club finishing in 6th position also does not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 4, the Club finishing in 7th position shall be the replacement Club. If the Club finishing in 7th position does not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 4, there shall be no replacement Club.</u> <u>Where a second Club does not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 4, it shall not be permitted to take part in the Play Off Matches and shall be replaced by the Club finishing in 7th position (unless the Club finishing in 7th position is already participating in the Play Off Matches or does not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 4, in which case there shall be no replacement Club).</u> <u>Where fewer than four Clubs are eligible to take part in the Play Off Matches,</u>	

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		<u>the structure and draw of the Play Off Matches shall be adjusted as necessary by the Competition (such adjustment to be approved by the Committee).</u> <u>The promoted Clubs will be placed in a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 4 for the following Playing Season.</u> Step 5 and Step 6 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. These Clubs will be replaced by (i) the Clubs finishing in 1st position at the end of the Regular Season in each of the two divisions operated by the South West Peninsula League; (ii) the Clubs finishing in 1st position at the end of the Regular Season in each of the remaining fifteen divisions at Step 6; and (iii) a further fifteen Clubs determined by a series of Play Off Matches within those remaining fifteen divisions (i.e. not including the two divisions operated by the South West Peninsula League). Where a Club finishes in 1st position but does not meet the criteria for promotion to the next Step 5, the Club finishing in 2nd <u>position in that division at Step 6</u> shall be <u>automatically</u> promoted <u>to Step 5</u> 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 6, the Play Off Matches shall be played so that the highest placed of the eligible Clubs plays against the lowest placed and the other two 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 game ratio in the Regular Season. If there are	

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		only three eligible Clubs then the highest placed shall receive a bye to the second match where it will play the winner of the other Play Off Match and the winner of that match will be promoted. <u>Where the Clubs finishing in 1st and 2nd position in a division at Step 6 operated by the South West Peninsula League do not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 5:</u> <u>No Club shall be automatically promoted to Step 5 from that division at Step 6.</u> <u>The Clubs finishing in the highest relegation positions in each of the divisions at Step 5 (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 any Tiebreaker required).</u> <u>Where the Clubs finishing in 1st and 2nd position in one of the remaining fifteen divisions at Step 6 do not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 5:</u> <u>No Club shall be automatically promoted to Step 5 from that division at Step 6.</u> <u>The structure and draw of the Play Off Matches in that division at Step 6 shall be adjusted as necessary by the Competition (such adjustment to be approved by the Committee).</u> <u>The Clubs finishing in the highest relegation positions in each of the divisions at Step 5 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 any Tiebreaker required).</u> <u>Subject to meeting the criteria for promotion to Step 5, the Clubs finishing in 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th positions in each of the remaining fifteen divisions at Step</u>	

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		<u>6 shall be eligible to take part in the Play Off Matches.</u> <u>The Play Off Matches in each of the remaining fifteen divisions of Step 6 shall be as follows:</u> <u>Semi-Finals – (a) the Club finishing in 2nd position shall play the Club finishing in 5th position (“SF1”), and (b) the Club finishing in 3rd position shall play the Club finishing in 4th position (“SF2”).</u> <u>Final - the winner of SF1 shall play the winner of SF2 in the final Play Off Match, and the winner shall be promoted to Step 5.</u> <u>All Play Off Matches shall be played over one leg at the ground of the participating Club that finished in the highest position at the end of the Regular Season.</u> Clubs finishing below 7th position will not be eligible to take part in <u>the</u> Play Off Matches. <u>Where one Club does not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 5, it shall not be permitted to take part in the Play Off Matches and shall be replaced by the Club finishing in 6th position. If the Club finishing in 6th position also does not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 5, the Club finishing in 7th position shall be the replacement Club. If the Club finishing in 7th position does not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 5, there shall be no replacement Club.</u> <u>Where a second Club does not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 5, it shall not be permitted to take part in the Play Off Matches and shall be replaced by the Club finishing in 7th position (unless the Club finishing in 7th position is already participating in the Play Off Matches or does not meet the criteria for promotion to Step 5, in which case there shall be no replacement Club).</u> <u>Where fewer than four Clubs are eligible to take part in the Play Off Matches,</u>	

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		<u>the structure and draw of the Play Off Matches shall be adjusted as necessary by the Competition (such adjustment to be approved by the Committee).</u> The promoted Clubs will be placed in a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 5 for the following Playing Season. <u>Power of the Committee</u> <u>Where this Regulation 5.2 does not provide a resolution to a particular combination of promotion and relegation scenarios, the Committee shall determine at its absolute discretion how to resolve the matter.</u>	
3.	Regulations 5.5 and 5.6 Detailed Promotion and Relegation Issues	<i>Regulations 5.5 and 5.6 are to be deleted and replaced with the provisions set out at Annex 1A below this table.</i>	To redraft the provisions relating to the procedure for filling vacancies within the NLS for greater clarity.
4.	Regulation 5.7 Detailed Promotion and Relegation Issues	Clubs are not allowed to enter into a ground share agreement in order to gain promotion or to retain membership at a particular Step where the Club has failed to attain or maintain the relevant Grade. <u>Clubs are not allowed to enter into a ground share agreement at a ground already shared by two Clubs, save for in exceptional circumstances as determined by the Committee in its absolute discretion.</u>	To preclude ground shares involving three or more NLS Clubs, as this is leading to a growing number of Clubs that can only play home matches on a Friday (due to the ground share arrangement) and this is deemed problematic in leagues based on playing fixtures on Saturdays.

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			It is proposed that the Committee retains an ability to permit such ground share agreements in exceptional circumstances.
5.	Regulations 5.9 Detailed Promotion and Relegation Issues Stadium Accreditation Programme	5.9 If a Club is relegated for not achieving the required Grade for the Step at which it is playing (regardless of whether the Club finishes in a relegation position or not), it will not be eligible for promotion again until it <u>the ground</u> has attained the required Grade for the Step to which it <u>that Club</u> wishes to be promoted. The Club must have <u>attain</u> that Grade at <u>by</u> 31st March in the year in which it seeks promotion.	Minor clarificatory amendments.
6.	Regulation 6.5 The Movement of Clubs within the NLS other than by Promotion or Relegation	<u>For the purposes of this Regulation 6.5, references to a “club” shall mean a club participating in a league below the NLS and Feeder Leagues in which the default day for league fixtures to be played is a Saturday.</u> If two or more Clubs (<u>or a Club and a club</u>) (“the Merging Clubs”) are proposing a transaction or series of transactions that result in the merging or consolidation (“the Proposed Merger”) of those Clubs (<u>or Club and club</u>) into one Club (“the Merged Club”) then a formal application to do so must be received by the Committee and the league(s) of which the Merging Clubs are members by 31st December to be valid for the following Playing Season. A Deed of Agreement, which shall be legally binding on all parties must be submitted to The Association by 31st March in the year immediately following receipt of the application. The Committee shall determine at its absolute	To provide the Committee with oversight of transactions involving an NLS Club and a club participating outside the NLS/Feeder Leagues. This follows a growing number of these transactions and aims to ensure that the Committee can scrutinise any such transaction alongside the principle set out in Regulation 7.1 that ordinarily a club can only enter Step 6 via a Feeder League.

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		discretion where <u>(or whether, if the application involves a club)</u> the Merged Club is to be included in the NLS for the following Playing Season subject to the provisions of item 6.5.5 below. A Deed of Agreement, which shall be legally binding on all parties must be submitted to The Association by 31st March in the year immediately following receipt of the application. The Committee shall determine at its absolute discretion where the Merged Club is to be included in the NLS for the following Playing Season subject to the provisions of item 6.5.5 below. In arriving at its decision the Committee may apply the following minimum criteria: 6.5.1 The requirements of Standardised Rule 2.9 for the current Playing Season must be met by each of the Merging Clubs. If one or more of the Merging Clubs is subject to an insolvency event then Standardised Rule 2.9.2 shall be applied to such club(s), otherwise Standardised Rule 2.9.1 shall be applied; 6.5.2 The proposed playing name of the Merged Club must be acceptable to the Committee; and 6.5.3 The Merged Club must have security of tenure to a ground that meets the relevant Stadium Accreditation requirements; 6.5.4 Any other criteria that the Committee may from time to time deem to be appropriate; 6.5.5 The Merged Club will ordinarily be placed at the lower of the Steps at which the Merging Clubs ended the Playing Season in which the application is made <u>(or outside the NLS if the transaction involves a club)</u>. For the purposes of this Regulation, if one of the Merging Clubs has finished that Playing Season in a relegation place, then they will be deemed to have ended the Playing Season at the Step to which they would have been relegated without the Proposed Merger proceeding. Any decision regarding whether a proposed transaction or series of transactions falls to be considered under this Regulation shall be determined	

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		by the Committee at its absolute discretion.	

2. STANDARDISED RULES

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1.	Definitions Rule 1	"Football Creditor" means any one of the following: • The Football Association Limited. • Any Club affiliated with an Affiliated Association. • Any League sanctioned by The Association or an Affiliated Association. • Any full time or part time employee of a Club, or former full time or part time employee of a Club, in respect of sums due to such person by way of arrears of remuneration or expenses. This excludes for these purposes all and any claims for redundancy, unfair or wrongful dismissal or other claims arising out of the termination of the contract or in respect of any period after the actual date of termination. • The Professional Footballers' Association Limited. • The Football Foundation. • <u>The Premier League Stadium Fund.</u> • Any Affiliated Association.	To include the Premier League Stadium Fund in the definition of Football Creditor, given the PLSF is the body that issues grants to fund improvements to stadium facilities at this level of the game (separately or in collaboration with The Football Foundation, which is already included in the definition and therefore why the PLSF is considered an appropriate addition).

2. STANDARDISED RULES			
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		Any pension scheme or plan administered by or on behalf of the Competition.	
2.	Membership Requirements Acquisition of Control Rule 2.9	2.9 Any Club which is incorporated must be incorporated in England and Wales. Any Club wishing to incorporate shall notify The FA, its Affiliated Association and the Company Secretary before it makes any resolutions in this regard and Rule 2.16 shall also apply where the Club participates at Step 1 2 of the National League System. Any person wishing to be appointed as an Officer to a Club <u>at Step 2 and below</u> must comply with the requirements of The FA Owners' and Directors' Test Regulations and send to the [League] [Company] Secretary a copy of the Owners' and Directors' Declaration within 5 days of sending the same to The FA (save where Rule 2.16 applies).	See first bullet of the rationale below.
3.	Membership Requirements Acquisition of Control Rule 2.16	NEXT SECTION IS FOR NATIONAL LEAGUE <u>(STEP 2)</u> ONLY Acquisition of Control 2.16 If any Person proposes to acquire Control of a Club (a "Proposed Acquiror"): 2.16.1 the Club and/or the Proposed Acquiror shall, as far in advance of the proposed acquisition of Control as reasonably possible and in any event no later than 10 Days prior to the date on which it is anticipated that such acquisition of Control will take place: <u>(a) pay a non-refundable fee of £5,000 to the Competition;</u> [...]	- To revise the scope of the acquisition rules to Step 2 Clubs only (as Step 1 Clubs will instead be subject from 5 May 2026 to the Independent Football Regulator's Owners, Directors and Senior Executives (ODSE) regime which will cover this process). - At the request of the National League, to include a £5,000 non-refundable fee in order to process Acquisition of Control applications in light of the administration/costs associated with such applications.

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4.	Registration of Players Loan and Work Experience Thresholds Number and Type of Registrations Permitted Rule 6.4.7	6.4.7 Subject to Rule 6.4.8, the following numbers and types of registrations are permitted during a Playing Season: <table><tr><th>TYPE OF REGISTRATION</th><th>WHO DOES IT APPLY TO?</th><th>LENGTH</th><th>RIGHT OF RECALL</th><th>NUMBER PERMITTED DURING A PLAYING SEASON</th><th>NUMBER PERMITTED TO//FROM ONE CLUB</th></tr><tr><td>SHORT TERM LOAN (also see Rule 6.6.2)</td><td>Any Contract Player</td><td>Minimum: 28 days, Maximum: Until end of Playing Season 93 days¹</td><td>Cannot be recalled within first 28 days (except Goalkeepers <u>or where player is being permanently transferred to another club</u>)</td><td>12</td><td>2 permitted to or from any one Club or club at any one time</td></tr></table>				TYPE OF REGISTRATION	WHO DOES IT APPLY TO?	LENGTH	RIGHT OF RECALL	NUMBER PERMITTED DURING A PLAYING SEASON	NUMBER PERMITTED TO//FROM ONE CLUB	SHORT TERM LOAN (also see Rule 6.6.2)	Any Contract Player	Minimum: 28 days, Maximum: Until end of Playing Season 93 days¹	Cannot be recalled within first 28 days (except Goalkeepers <u>or where player is being permanently transferred to another club</u>)	12	2 permitted to or from any one Club or club at any one time	Consequential amendment to the Loan/Work Experience Thresholds table at Rule 6.4.7 as a result of the proposed changes to Rule 6.6.2 below.
TYPE OF REGISTRATION	WHO DOES IT APPLY TO?	LENGTH	RIGHT OF RECALL	NUMBER PERMITTED DURING A PLAYING SEASON	NUMBER PERMITTED TO//FROM ONE CLUB													
SHORT TERM LOAN (also see Rule 6.6.2)	Any Contract Player	Minimum: 28 days, Maximum: Until end of Playing Season 93 days¹	Cannot be recalled within first 28 days (except Goalkeepers <u>or where player is being permanently transferred to another club</u>)	12	2 permitted to or from any one Club or club at any one time													

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5.	Registration of Players Loan and Work Experience Thresholds Additional Goalkeeper Registrations Rule 6.4.11	The Company at its discretion may approve at any time the registration of an additional goalkeeper on a short-term basis if none of the Clubs' registered goalkeepers are available ahead of a Competition Match. <u>Subject to the approval of the EFL, this may include the registration of a goalkeeper on a temporary transfer from a club in membership of the EFL for a minimum of 7 days. Any such registration shall count as a Short Term Loan for the purposes of the thresholds set out at Rule 6.4.7 and 6.6.2.</u>	To alleviate the issue currently being experienced by NLS Clubs when attempting to source a loan goalkeeper from an EFL club and the club won't send the player out for 28 days. In practice, this will operate like a 28-day loan being recalled within 7 days as it is a goalkeeper, but satisfies the EFL clubs that are otherwise not willing to send the players out for 28 days.
6.	Registration of Players Temporary Transfers (Loans) Short Term Loans Rule 6.6.2	6.6.2 Short Term Loan Transfers – A Club can have up to a maximum of twelve (12) Short Term Loans during a Playing Season. The minimum period of a Short Term Loan transfer must be twenty eight (28) days with a maximum period to the end of the Playing Season <u>of ninety-three (93) days in any one Playing Season</u>. Clubs playing in Competitions at Steps 1 to 4 of the National League System may register players on a Short Term Loan from clubs in the EFL [...] Players other than goalkeepers may not be recalled within the first month, i.e. 28 days, of any loan <u>except where the Player is to be permanently transferred to another club by their parent club (subject to the agreement of the loaning club, the borrowing Club and the Player, which may set out in the original loan agreement).</u>	To re-introduce the maximum period of 93 days for a Short Term Loan within a Playing Season. To permit Players on Short Term Loans to be recalled by their parent club for the purposes of a permanent transfer away from that club (mirroring the position regarding Long Term Loans).

2. STANDARDISED RULES			
No.	RULE	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS	RATIONALE
		Any Short Term Loan transfer which may terminate after the last day for registrations may be extended for a further period provided the loan period does not extend beyond the current Playing Season <u>maximum period of 93 days is not exceeded.</u> [...]	
7.	Registration of Players Temporary Transfers (Loans) Long Term Loans Rule 6.6.3 (New Paragraph)	[...] <u>A Player registered on a Long Term Loan from a club participating in the Premier League or the EFL may, provided it is agreed between the two clubs and the Player, continue to train with and/or play for his loaning club in any match other than matches played as part of the Premier League Competition, EFL Competition, EFL Cup, FA Cup or, where the parent club is in the EFL, the EFL Trophy (i.e. First Team matches.) Participation by the Player in First Team matches for the borrowing Club shall take precedence.</u>	To replicate the same provision from the Youth Loan section (re playing/training with loaning club) so that it applies to Long Term Loans (this incorporates the proposed amendment to the Youth Loan section set out below).

2. STANDARDISED RULES			
No.	RULE	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS	RATIONALE
8.	Registration of Players Temporary Transfers (Loans) Youth Loans Rule 6.6.4	[...] A Player registered on a Youth Loan <u>from a club participating in the Premier League or the EFL</u> may, provided it is agreed between the two clubs and the Player, continue to train with and/or play for his loaning Club (or club) in any match other than matches played as part of the Premier League Competition, EFL Competition, EFL Cup, FA Cup or, where the parent club is in the EFL, the EFL Trophy (i.e. First Team matches.) Participation by the Player in First Team matches for the borrowing Club shall take precedence. Any days on which the Player participates in a Reserve Team match and/or attends any training sessions for the loaning Club (or club) shall still count towards the period of the Youth Loan. The minimum period of a Youth Loan shall be 28 days, thereafter a break clause may be included. In the case of a goalkeeper, the clubs may mutually agree to include a recall clause in the agreement to enable the parent club to recall the Player at any time during the loan period. Players other than goalkeepers may not be recalled within the first month, i.e. 28 days, of any loan <u>except where the Player is to be permanently transferred to another club by their parent club (subject to the agreement of the loaning club, the borrowing Club and the Player, which may set out in the original loan agreement).</u> Youth Loans cannot extend beyond the date immediately preceding the date of the Player's 21st birthday and/or the Player's contract period with their parent club.	To clarify that players registered on a Youth Loan may only continue to train/play in non-first team matches for their parent club if that club participates in the Premier League or EFL. To replicate the proposed amendment above about recalls during Short Term Loans, but in the context of Youth Loans.

2. STANDARDISED RULES			
No.	RULE	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS	RATIONALE
9.	Club Colours Rule 7.1	7.1 On or before a date specified by the Company each year, every Club shall notify the Competition Secretary, in writing, of details of their first choice colours for outfield players and their goalkeeper (shirts, shorts and socks) and such details shall be printed in the Handbook published by the Company <u>in the Competition Handbook and/or on the Competition's website</u> for the ensuing Playing Season. The colours registered by each Club shall be worn during the following season when playing at home. Shirts must be numbered [1 to 25] [in accordance with the Competition squad numbering provision] such that the numbers can be clearly identified by officials and spectators. Striped, hooped or otherwise patterned shirts shall have numbers affixed to contrasting patches or numbers in a contrasting colour with bold outline. No changes to the first choice colours or combination of colours shall be permitted without the consent of the Board. Subject to the consent of the Board, each Club is authorised on one occasion per Playing Season to wear an alternative strip in a home match.	To address the fact that some Leagues no longer produce a Handbook.
10.	Club Colours [NEW] Rule 7.5	<u>7.5 [A Club may apply to the Board for permission to print on the reverse of each Player's shirt the surname of that Player, provided the printed surname is the same as that which is registered on the Online Player Registration System and the printing complies with The FA's Kit and Advertising Regulations. Any such application must be submitted to the Board at least 14 days prior to the start of the Playing Season.]</u>	To include an optional Rule which permits Clubs to apply to the Competition for permission to print player names on shirts (subject to conditions).

2. STANDARDISED RULES

No.	RULE	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS	RATIONALE
11.	Playing Matches of Arrangement of Fixtures Rule 8.5	In the event of any Club being required to play an FA Cup, FA Trophy or FA Vase match within 48 <u>72</u> hours of before and/or after a scheduled Competition fixture <u>(or fixtures)</u> 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<u>(s)</u> 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<u>(s)</u> 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. The Competition may, in its absolute discretion, consider an application to postpone a Competition fixture<u>(s)</u> made by an applicant Club more than 48 hours after it became aware of the relevant Cup fixture.	To account for those fixtures moved to lunch time on the Sunday (e.g. for a live broadcast in the FA Cup), which would then cover a postponement of a Tuesday evening fixture following that FA Cup fixture.

2. STANDARDISED RULES

No.	RULE	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS	RATIONALE
12.	Playing Matches of Arrangement of Fixtures Rule 8.7	8.7.1 The Board may change any Competition fixtures, <u>including the kick off time</u>, during the season to suit the overall interests of the Competition (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. <u>Any decision made pursuant to this Rule 8.7.1 is made at the absolute discretion of the Board and cannot be appealed by either of the participating Clubs pursuant to Rule 16.1 or 16.4.</u> 8.7.2 The Board 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.	To provide that Competition decisions regarding operational match day matters (e.g. fixtures, kick off times) should not be subject to appeal (as per FA Cup Rules). Variations to kick-off times may be necessary in some circumstances, for instance where a club needs to kick off after sunset during Ramadan.
13.	Playing Matches of Pre-Match Arrangements & Responsibilities Rule 8.12	All Clubs must have [a facsimile machine,] a mobile telephone and an email address operational at all times. These will be listed <u>published</u> in the Competition Handbook <u>and/or on the Competition's website</u> unless a Club requests otherwise.	To address the fact that some Leagues no longer produce a Handbook.

2. STANDARDISED RULES

No.	RULE	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS	RATIONALE
14.	Playing Matches of Pre-Match Arrangements & Responsibilities Rule 8.13	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. Where the home Club has a Football Turf Pitch, it shall advise the visiting Club and Match Officials of any footwear requirements <u>issued by the Football Turf Pitch manufacturer</u> that will apply to players, medical staff and Match Officials (and any other individuals permitted to enter the field of play) at least five days prior to the match. The visiting Club must disseminate this information to its players and club officials. 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. The visiting Club must include in its acknowledgement the team colours, including the colour of the goalkeeper's jersey, it will be wearing.	To clarify that any footwear requirements communicated to the visiting Club must only be those issued by the manufacturer of the Football Turf Pitch.
15.	Playing Matches of Post Match Management Rule 8.36	In the event that a match is abandoned before half time the Club playing at home will issue a voucher to each spectator valid for free admission if the match is ordered to be replayed. 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. <u>In the event that a match is postponed before kick-off, then the Club playing at home will inform spectators who have already paid for admission, how they can make an application for reimbursement of that admission cost.</u>	To require home Clubs in this situation to communicate what spectators need to do to apply for a refund of their admission cost where a match is postponed before kick-off.

2. STANDARDISED RULES

No.	RULE	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS	RATIONALE
16.	Playing of Matches Post Match Management Rule 8.38 and Rule 8.40	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 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, and to award either one or three points to the Club not at fault. <u>Subject to Rule 8.40.</u> The the Board cannot levy a financial penalty due to the conduct of a Club. [...] 8.40 In the event of a match having to be postponed <u>or abandoned</u> and one Club is found to be at fault then opponents for that match shall be compensated by the Club at fault. In the case of a visiting Club where it has undertaken all or part of its journey then travelling expenses and meal allowances may be claimed based on the total mileage involved in the whole journey. In exceptional circumstances, expenses for overnight accommodation up to a maximum of 18 persons may be claimed. In some instances compensation may also be claimed when neither of the Clubs is at fault. The Board will determine the amount of compensation payments to be made, if any. All claims for compensation by either Club in the case of either an abandoned match or a postponed match must be received by the Competition Secretary within 14 days of the date of the match to which the claim relates.	To clarify that where one Club is found to be at fault for an abandoned match, their opponents can be compensated (as is the case for postponements which are the fault of one Club). Rule 8.38 has also been amended to clarify that the inability for a Board to levy a financial penalty on a Club at fault for an abandonment is subject to such an order re compensation.

2. STANDARDISED RULES			
No.	RULE	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS	RATIONALE
17.	Financial Records Tickets Rule 10.2	The home Club shall retain all gate receipts. Where a match is declared all ticket the The Away [visiting] Club shall be entitled to 15% of the total number of tickets available <u>Ground's maximum capacity</u> (or a minimum of 600 <u>tickets</u> at Steps 4-3 <u>1-2</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. <u>At Step 1, the Away Club's allocation entitlement shall include a minimum of 90 covered seat tickets.</u> <u>At Step 2, the Away Club's allocation entitlement shall include a reasonable number of covered seat tickets.</u>	The term "all ticket" is not defined in Standardised Rules leading to confusion as to when the 15%/600 ticket allocation should or should not be applied. The updated wording provides greater clarity and consistency for Away Club allocations. To provide that a proportion of the Away Club's allocation must include a minimum number of covered seats (this follows complaints from away club supporters). The minimum 600 tickets aspect is to be made applicable only at Steps 1 and 2.
18.	Misconduct of Clubs, Officers and Players Rule 17(a)	(a) Undertakings to be given by Club Employees All Clubs must incorporate in any contracts of employment with their employees, including Player, an undertaking on the part of the employee not to bring The Competition or any Club into disrepute and an undertaking on the part of the employee not knowingly to do anything or omit to do anything which will cause the Club to be in breach of the Laws of the Game, the Rules of The Football Association or the Rules of the Competition. Without prejudice to the generality of this rule, all Clubs <u>at Step 2 and below</u> must ensure they, and where appropriate any Officers of the Club, comply with the obligations of The Football Association's Owners' and Directors' Test.	To reflect that Step 1 Clubs now fall outside the scope of The FA's ODT.

2. STANDARDISED RULES			
No.	RULE	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS	RATIONALE
19.	Admission Charges Rule 20	The minimum charge for admission to all matches shall be determined from time to time by the Board. Admission charges must be the same for home and visiting supporters at Competition matches for equivalent accommodation. If there is no equivalent accommodation, the Board may in its absolute discretion consider the changes set by the home Club and determine a reasonable equivalent admission charge for visiting supporters, which shall be implemented by the home Club until the end of the current Playing Season. Clubs may, with the <u>prior</u> written permission of the Board, have a [maximum of three (3) Competition] [unlimited] Match days each Playing Season during which they can vary general admission charges for adults <u>to an amount below the minimum charge from time to time determined by the Board</u> (including allowing free admission). <u>Any such variation must be applied to both home and visiting (or neutral) supporters.</u>	To provide Clubs with further opportunities to vary admission charges below the minimum charge set by the Competition (with the permission of the Competition).
20.	Appendix – The Licensing System Licence Criteria Annex 1 Paragraph 3.1	3. INTEGRITY 3.1 Owners' and Directors' Test 3.1.1 By 14 March in a Membership Year a Club <u>at Step 2 and below</u> must confirm to the Competition that the Club has met the reporting requirements of The Association's Owners' and Directors' Test Regulations as at 1 March immediately preceding in a Membership Year. 3.1.2 If at 1 March the Competition has received a Notice issued by The Association in accordance with the Owners' and Directors' Test Regulations and the Club's membership of the Competition has been suspended at that date then the Licence may be refused.	To reflect that Step 1 Clubs now fall outside the scope of The FA's ODT.