

# **THE WELSH PREMIER LEAGUE RULES**

## **INTERPRETATION**

1. (i) The terms given below denote the following:
  - (a) 'Clear days' in relation to the period of notice means that period excluding the day when notice is given or deemed to be given and the day for which it is given or on which it is to take effect.
  - (b) 'Club' means a football club which is for the time being a member of the League.
  - (c) 'Chairman' means the Chairman of the Panel who shall be nominated by the Council of the Football Association of Wales.
  - (d) 'FAW' means the Football Association of Wales Ltd.
  - (e) 'FAW Regulations' means the rules, regulations, standing orders and disciplinary procedures concerning field offences for the time being of the FAW.
  - (f) 'FAW Rules' means the Rules of the FAW
  - (g) 'General Meeting' means any meeting of the Clubs and shall include the Annual General Meeting and any Extraordinary General Meetings called in accordance with Rule 6.
  - (h) 'Home Club' means the Club on whose ground any League or League Cup match should be or should have been played and where ground sharing is in operation the Club whose name first appears on the relevant fixture.
  - (i) 'The League' means the Welsh Premier League.
  - (j) 'League Secretary' means the secretary of the League or any other person appointed to perform the duties of the League Secretary including a joint, assistant or deputy secretary.
  - (k) 'Match Officials' means the Referee, Assistant Referees and any Reserve Official for a match.
  - (l) 'Official' means any director, secretary or other duly authorised representative of a Club.

- (m) 'Panel' means the sub-committee of the FAW constituted in accordance with the Standing Orders of the FAW in order to administer the League.
- (n) 'Player' means any association football player registered to play for a Club.
- (o) 'Rules' means the within written Rules of the League as amended from time to time.
- (p) 'Scale of Fines' means the scale of fines referred to in Rule 31.
- (q) 'The Welsh Cup' means the FAW Challenge Cup.
- (ii) A reference to a person includes a body corporate and an unincorporated body of persons.
- (iii) Referring to natural persons include both genders. The singular case applies to the plural and vice versa.
- (iv) Wherever in the Rules the computation of time is involved, unless the contrary is stated, Sunday is regarded as a day.
- (v) The headings in the Rules are inserted for ease of reference and do not affect the construction of the Rules.

## **GENERAL**

2. These Rules have been prepared in accordance with FAW Rule 28.
3. Acceptance of membership of the League shall constitute an agreement between the Club concerned and the League, to be bound by and comply with the Rules, such agreement to be effective from the date of the Club's admission to the League and to terminate from the date a Club ceases to be a member of the League.
4. In addition to the Rules, all Clubs shall be bound by and comply with:
  - (i) The FAW Regulations.
  - (ii) The Laws of the Game.

In the event that any of the Rules conflict with the FAW Regulations the FAW Regulations shall prevail.

## **THE PANEL**

5. (i) The business of the League shall be conducted by the Panel / Management Committee which, subject to the FAW Rules, shall have jurisdiction over all matters relating to the administration of the League and the conduct of Clubs.

- (ii) The Panel shall consist of members as decided by the FAW Council from time to time.

The President of the League shall be the President of the FAW for the time being who shall be entitled to attend and vote at all meetings of the Panel

- (iii) The Panel may from its own number, appoint and elect such sub-committees as it deems necessary for the efficient management of the business of the League and may delegate to such sub-committees such of its powers as the Panel deems appropriate.
- (iv) In the event of the voting at any meeting of the Panel being equal, the Chairman of such meeting shall have a second casting vote.
- (v) The Panel shall defray out of the funds of the League all expenses in respect of the administration of the League. A member of the Panel may be paid out of League funds such expenses incurred through attendance at meetings of, or in connection with, the League, as the Panel may approve.
- (vi) The Panel may do all such acts and exercise all such powers as may be required to give effect to the provisions of the Rules. Save for those matters which in the first instance are to be dealt with or determined by the FAW, the Panel shall in the first instance determine all matters of misconduct or dispute by or between Clubs, Players, Officials or other personnel directly or indirectly involved with the League and the Panel shall have the power to impose fines not exceeding £15000 and any other sanctions (including deduction of points or suspension from the League) as the Panel shall consider appropriate subject always to the rights of appeal hereinafter mentioned.
- (vii) The Panel shall meet in each month except July, but the League Secretary shall either of his own volition, or otherwise on the requisition of any three members of the Panel, summon a meeting of the Panel at any other time.
- (viii) The Panel shall cause minutes to be retained
  - (a) of the names of the members of the Panel present at each meeting thereof and of any sub-committees.
  - (b) of all proceedings and decisions at General Meetings and at all meetings of the Panel.

The League Secretary shall cause such minutes to be circulated to members of the Panel, FAW Council and to the Clubs following ratification by the FAW Council.

- (ix) The Panel may act notwithstanding any temporary vacancy of any member.
- (x) All acts done by any meeting of the Panel or by any person acting as representative of the Panel shall, notwithstanding that it is afterwards discovered that there was some defect in the appointment of any person so

acting or that any person so acting was disqualified, be as valid as if such a person had been duly appointed and qualified.

- (xi) Each member of the Panel shall be furnished with a pass (which shall not be transferable) and all Clubs shall admit the holder to their grounds and stands to all matches under the jurisdiction of the League and to all Welsh Cup matches.
- (xii) In relation to any matter not specifically addressed in the Rules the Panel shall, subject to the FAW Regulations, have the power to take such action and make such decisions, orders and impose such penalties as it deems necessary and to follow such procedure as it considers appropriate.
- (xiii) All decisions made by the Panel shall be subject to the approval of the FAW Council.

## **GENERAL MEETINGS**

- 6. (i) The Annual General Meeting of the League shall be held in each year at a time and place to be determined by the Panel.
- (ii) The Panel may, whenever it thinks fit and shall upon a requisition made by not less than two thirds of the Clubs convene an Extraordinary General Meeting.
- (iii) The League Secretary shall notify all Clubs and the members of the Panel of the date time and place of all General Meetings not less than seven (7) clear days in advance, such notice to be in writing and to contain basic details of the matters to be discussed. Short notice can be given with the consent of all the Clubs.
- (iv) Each Club shall be entitled to have two representatives and one vote at any General Meeting and Clubs shall prior to the General Meeting in question notify the League Secretary with the identity of the Club representative. Votes may only be given by representatives personally and voting by proxy shall not be permitted. Any resolution at a General Meeting must have the support of 2/3rds of the Clubs present at the meeting.
- (v) The Chairman of the Panel shall be the Chairman at all General Meetings but in his absence the members of the Panel present shall choose one of their number to be Chairman.
- (vi) The President of the League shall have full voting rights at a General Meeting and also have a casting vote in the event of a tie.
- (vii) The Council of the FAW shall have the power to veto any resolution of the Clubs at a General Meeting.
- (viii) Failure of a member club to be represented by its Chairman (or deputy satisfactory to the Panel) at the annual Chairman's Meeting shall be fined £500.

## **NATIONAL DOMESTIC CLUB LICENSING**

7. Only those Clubs which attain a FAW Domestic Club Licence shall be eligible for membership of the League in the season which next commences after the grant of such Domestic Licence.

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

8. The annual subscription of each Club to the League shall be £500 or such other sum as shall be determined by the Panel from time to time. All annual subscriptions shall be paid on or before 31<sup>st</sup> July in each year to the League Secretary. Any Club whose subscription has not been paid by 31<sup>st</sup> July shall not be entitled to be represented at any General Meeting until the same shall have been paid and will be fined £50.00 for any month or part of a month that the subscription remains unpaid.

## **ACCOUNTS**

9. The FAW shall cause proper accounts to be kept of all income and expenditure of the League to 30<sup>th</sup> June in each year and shall lay the said accounts before the Annual General Meeting of the League for the information of the Clubs. The FAW shall be solely responsible for the manner in which the income of the League is expended.

## **NOTICES**

10. Any notice to be given in accordance with the Rules shall be delivered in accordance with Rule 144.1 of the FAW Rules. All notices sent to the Clubs shall be sent to the secretary of the Club whose name and address shall be notified by the Club to the League Secretary. Any notice or other communication to be served on the League shall be addressed to the League's Secretary at 11/12 Neptune Court, Vanguard Way, Cardiff, CF24 5PJ or by facsimile on 02920 496 953. Proof of service shall be in accordance with FAW Rules 144.5.

## **INDEMNITY**

11. Any member of the Panel who is not a director of the FAW shall be indemnified out of the assets of the FAW in identical form to the indemnity contained in article 47 of the Articles of Association of the FAW.

## **ARBITRATION**

12. Any dispute arising out of or in respect of the Rules shall be referred to and determined in accordance with the FAW Rules procedures contained in Rule 146 of the FAW Rules.

## **ALTERATIONS TO THE RULES**

13. No alteration in the Rules shall be made until they have been approved by the Council of the FAW in accordance with Rule 30 of the FAW Rules. Alterations to the Rules shall only be made at the Annual General Meeting or at Extraordinary General Meeting convened under Rule 6 for that purpose. Any alteration to the Rules must be supported by at least 2/3rds of those present and eligible to vote at such meeting.

Proposals for alterations to the Rules together with the name of their proposers and seconders shall be received by the League Secretary no later than the 1<sup>st</sup> March prior to the date fixed for the Annual General Meeting in any year. The Panel may also propose alterations to the Rules to be considered at an appropriate Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting.

## **APPEALS AND SANCTIONS**

14. Provisions relating to disciplinary procedures, disputes, appeals, independent arbitration, penalties, sanctions and other powers shall be dealt with in accordance with Rules 37-54(A) of the FAW Rules.

## **CONTRACTS TRANSFERS AND REGISTRATION**

15. Provisions relating to Players' contracts transfers and registration shall (if as so far as applicable) be dealt with in accordance with Rules 55-91 of the FAW Rules. All Registration and Transfer forms must be received by 5pm on the last working day prior to the game for which they are eligible.

## **DOMESTIC LOANS**

16. Clubs may undertake a maximum of 4 Domestic Loans a season. Only players registered under written contract with a Club will be eligible to be registered on a 'Domestic Loan' and a Club may only have two Domestic Loan Players at any one time.

An outfield player may only be subject to a recall after 28 days have elapsed from the initial Domestic Loan date. A goalkeeper may only be subject to a recall after 7 days have elapsed from the initial Domestic Loan date.

The 'Domestic Loan' has a minimum period of 28 days and must expire prior to the start of the next registration period.

Players may only be able to register on a 'Domestic Loan' during the following periods:

- (i) 8<sup>th</sup> September to the last Thursday in November inclusive; and
- (ii) 9<sup>th</sup> February to the last Thursday in March inclusive.

Domestic Loans must be submitted on the standard FAW J12 registration form by no later than 5pm on the last working day before the match in which the player wishes to participate and shall not count against a Club's quota of temporary transfers per season.

## **SUBSTITUTE AND INELIGIBLE PLAYERS**

17. A Club at its discretion may use three substitutes at any time during a match except to replace a player or players who have been suspended from the game by the Referee. Substitutions can only be made when the play has been stopped for any

reason and the Referee has given permission. The name(s) and numbers of the substitute(s) must be nominated to the Referee in accordance with Rule 20 (d)(iv) when making substitutions, Clubs and Match Officials must ensure that the appropriate substitution boards supplied by the League are used. Clubs may nominate up to five substitutes and up to 2 additional substitutes (who are aged not more than 19 on 31st August of the applicable season) known as Youth Substitutes provided each Youth Substitute nominated is registered with the League.

If a player does not take part in the game for which he is the nominated substitute he shall be deemed as not having played for the Club in that game. If the named substitute is not a registered Player with the League and does NOT take part in the match, the offending Club shall be fined in accordance with the League's standard list of fines.

### **PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER**

18. Any Club playing an ineligible player will have up to three points deducted from its record and be liable to a fine not exceeding £500.

### **CLUB COLOURS**

19.
  - (a) During the close season the League Secretary shall obtain from the Clubs, in writing, details of their colours (shirts, shorts and socks) and such details shall be published in the League Handbook. The colours registered by each Club shall be worn during the following season and no changes of either colours or combination of colours shall be permitted during the course of the season except when the colours of two competing Clubs are alike or similar the visiting Club shall change to clothing that does not include any of the basic colour of the Home Club. Neck and cuff trim colours on the shirts shall not be regarded as a basic colour for the purpose of this regulation.
  - (b) the goalkeeper shall play in a kit clearly distinguishable from the colours of the shirts worn by all outfield players and Match Officials. In adverse weather conditions he may wear tracksuit trousers acceptable to the Referee.
  - (c) if undershorts or tights are worn they must be of the same main colour as the shorts.
  - (d) no Club shall be permitted to register or play in shirts the colour of which is likely to cause confusion with the outfits worn by Referees and Assistant Referees.
  - (e) The Players' shirts must be clearly named and numbered in accordance with the list handed to the Referee before the match and there must be no change of numbers during the match except of a change of goalkeeper. The captain shall wear a distinguishing arm band to indicate his status.
  - (f) Each team shall allocate two additional squad numbers and shirts at the beginning of the season so that they can immediately be assigned to new signings. An unmarked blood shirt is also required by every team at every match. Failure to comply will result in a £200 fine.

- (g) Clubs wishing to make alterations to their registered colours after the Annual General Meeting must make application to the Panel. The Panel may require all Players in the League games to carry the League or Sponsor's logo on both sleeves of their shirts.
- (h) The colours of the clothing worn by ball boys must not clash with those of either of the competing teams or Match Officials.
- (i) All league kits, including sponsors logos shall be sent to the League Secretary in PDF format for approval by June 24th. All kits must comply with FAW Kit Regulations. Failure to comply shall lead to a fine of up to £5000.

**PLAYING SEASON, CONDITION OF PLAY, TIMES OF KICK-OFF, POSTPONMENTS, SUBSTITUTES**

20. (a) The Panel shall determine annually the date on which the League's competitions shall commence. The Panel shall fix the date in the following year on which the normal playing season of the League shall terminate and no Club shall be compelled to play after that date.
- (b) The Regulations of the FAW will operate where applicable. All matches shall be played under the Rules of the FAW and in accordance with the Laws of the Game as approved by the International Football Association Board.
- (c) All matches shall be of ninety (90) minutes duration. Any match not completed may be ordered to stand as a completed match or replayed for the full period of ninety minutes, as the Panel may direct. In the event of a match not being played to a finish owing to fog or other causes over which neither Club has control, the Home Club shall take its own gate of such uncompleted match and the gate of the replayed game shall be divided on Welsh Cup tie terms, except that Season Ticket holders of the Home Club shall be admitted on producing their cards of membership.
- (d) In the event of a match having to be postponed for any reason due to problems arising from one of the Clubs involved, their prospective opponents shall be compensated by them/or the League at the discretion of the Panel.

In the case of the visiting Club, should it have undertaken all or part of the journey, travelling expenses and meal allowance may be claimed based on the total mileage on the whole journey. The allowance will be as assessed by the Panel up to a maximum of £300.

Details of the compensation claim by either/both Clubs shall be placed before the Panel, with all the details clearly itemised.

When a game is postponed, both Clubs are to agree an alternative date and notify the League Secretary within 14 days of the revised date. If the Clubs fail to agree, the League Secretary is to impose a date without right of appeal by either Club.



Any Club without just cause failing to fulfil an engagement to play its League matches on the appointed date or causing a game to be abandoned without giving a reason deemed to be satisfactory by the Management Committee, shall have three points deducted, be liable for any reasonable expenses as deemed necessary by the Management Committee and shall be fined £10,000 (maximum). Any subsequent charges will be doubled.

(e) The postponement of a game due to ground conditions must be carried out in accordance with Rule 23 (a).

(f) (i) Each Club shall pay its full strength in all matches and shall be prepared to kick off at the advertised time unless some satisfactory explanation be offered. In the event of an explanation not being deemed satisfactory, the Panel shall have power at its discretion to impose a fine not exceeding £5,000.

(ii) When a Club obtains the consent of the Panel to postpone a fixture because of an epidemic or similar, affecting the availability of its players, that Club shall be liable to pay any direct expenses incurred, if any, to the opposing Club.

Requests for the postponement of a match for any reason will not be considered more than forty-eight hours before the scheduled time of kick-off.

(iii) Medical Certificates for those Players affected sent signed by the Player's own doctor must be forwarded to the League Secretary within fourteen days of the postponement, along with the full list of Contract and Non Contract players currently engaged by the Club during the season, giving full reasons against each name for that player's unavailability.

(iv) Both match team sheets must be completed and handed in to the home match day secretary 75 minutes before kick-off and 90 minutes before kick-off on "live" televised games.

(v) Any Club altering its team selection or numbering after team sheets have been exchanged will be subject to any action decided upon by the Panel. If any nominated player or substitute player sustains an injury after the submission of the team sheets to the Referee and before kick-off, he may be replaced provided that the referee is informed accordingly.

(vi) The standard League forms shall be used.

(g) (i) Each Home Club shall advise the visiting Club, Referee and Assistant Referees, the date and time of kick off, to be received at least five days prior to the match and the visiting Club, Referee and Assistant Referees must acknowledge receipt three days before the match.

Away Clubs to confirm on match correspondence to Home Clubs, if they will be attending post-match hospitality or not.

- (ii) Where a match is re-arranged or cancelled after the Match Officials have been appointed, it is the duty of the Home Club to notify the officials of the cancellation of their appointments immediately. Clubs in default of this Rule may be subject to any action decided by the Panel.
- (h) (i) Unless mutually agreed by the Clubs concerned, the time of kick-off shall be: Saturday and Sunday matches: 2.30pm or as directed by the Panel. Evening matches: 7.45pm or as mutually agreed between the two Clubs.

In all League matches, the half-time interval shall not exceed 15 minutes.

- (ii) All agreed changes to time of kick-off to be notified to the League Secretary immediately for confirmation at least two weeks prior to the date of the match.
- (i) (i) All matches shall be played on the home and away principle and the Panel shall determine how the fixtures shall be arranged. Such fixtures shall take precedence over all competitions in which a Club may engage, with the exception of the Welsh Cup, UEFA club competitions and any invitational competition as agreed by the Panel.
- (ii) The fixtures shall be made by the League Secretary after consultation with the Clubs. The Home Club for each fixture shall have the right to determine whether a weekend fixture is to be played on a Friday evening or a Saturday or Sunday save that all weekday evening fixtures, including Monday and Friday when the distance between the Home Club and the visiting Club is more than 100 miles shall only take place with the consent of both Clubs; subject thereto, the League Secretary shall have sole authority to arrange and rearrange all matches. In the event of a scheduled match being postponed the Clubs shall agree a rearranged date but in default the League Secretary shall notify the clubs concerned of the rearranged date within 14 days of the postponement.
- (j) A club may not enter its first team in any outside competitions other than the Welsh Cup, UEFA club competitions and any invitational competition as agreed by the Panel. The League Secretary must be informed of all fixtures (including results) played in any outside competition.
- (k) (i) Each Home Club will issue to the visiting club
  - (1) A pass to cover eighteen players plus team manager, assistant coach and physiotherapist, and also

- (2) Passes to give access to the ground and directors' boardroom for six directors.
- (ii) Additional tickets in respect of (2) must be issued upon request from the visiting Club, up to a maximum of six, provided it is understood that such requests must be restricted to bona-fide Directors.
- (iii) Ten League passes will be issued to each Club. The passes are for ground admission and stand, but will not guarantee admittance in to the Club boardroom or directors box. The passes are transferable.
- (l) The Panel may change any League fixtures during the Season to suit the overall interests of the League.
- (m) Two weeks-notice is required from Clubs wishing to re-arrange a Saturday game to Friday evening. A request made in less than this period of time will only be considered by the Panel in exceptional circumstances.
- (n) Clubs shall not be required to play a league match 72 hours prior to, or 72 hours after a commitment in UEFA Club Competitions.
- (o) Clubs shall adhere to any additional requirements agreed by the Panel and contained in the broadcaster's protocol to be provided to the Clubs by the League Secretary at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the playing season.
- (p) The grass length at Welsh Premier League matches shall not exceed 30mm. If any member clubs fail to meet this requirement, the match referee may delay or postpone the game. Any costs incurred by the visiting team shall be met by the hosts. Host clubs must make every effort to ensure that the pitch is in the best possible condition for play. If the home club does not implement the appropriate measures a fine of up to £5000 can be imposed by the Panel.

## **RESULT/REPORT FORMS**

- 21. Each Club shall send the completed electronic Match Result Form within 30 minutes of the final whistle. The Referee's Report Form and a detailed account of receipts and expenses should be sent on the Standard League Form and must be posted **FIRST CLASS** and show a postmark within two days of the match being played (excluding Sundays and Bank Holidays). The match result form must be complete in all details, and show the result of the match, the names and initials of the players taking part in the match, the name of the substitutes together with the time when a substitution if any is made and League record to date. Home Clubs must show the Referee and Assistant Referees' expenses. When a Club considers that the referee has discharged his duties incompetently and awards a mark of five or less a detailed report must be sent to the League Secretary within four days of the match.

## **CHAMPIONSHIP AND RELEGATION**

22. (a) Three points will be awarded for a win at HOME and AWAY, and one point for a drawn game at HOME or AWAY. At the end of each season's competition, the Club scoring the largest number of points shall be declared the Champion Club, but if two or more Clubs are equal on points the winner shall be decided on goal difference.
- (b) In each case, the goals scored against shall be deducted from the goals scored and the winner shall be the Club with the largest goal difference. In the event of the difference being equal, the winner shall be the Club which has scored the most goals. If two or more Clubs have the same difference and have scored the same number of goals, then the winners shall be the Club winning the most games. If no decision can be reached the Clubs concerned shall play off a deciding match on a neutral ground the net gate money after deducting the usual match expenses shall be divided equally between the two competing Clubs
- (c) Where two or more Clubs, having completed their fixtures, possess the same number of points, that Club with the inferior goal difference shall be considered the lower. In the event of the difference being equal, the Club which has scored the fewest goals shall be considered the lower. If the two Clubs have the same goal difference and have scored the same number of goals then the Club winning the fewer games shall be considered the lower. If no decision can be reached then the Clubs concerned shall play off a deciding match on the same terms and conditions as aforementioned in this Regulation.
- (d) The League will comprise a maximum of twelve member Clubs. Clubs will initially play each other on a home and away basis, giving a total of 22 games, following which the League will be split into two groups comprising the six highest placed clubs and the six lowest placed clubs, with points already gained carried over. Each group of clubs will then play each other on a home and away basis, giving a total of a further 10 games. The League Champions will be nominated for the UEFA Champions' League and the runners up to the UEFA Europa League. The third to seventh placed Clubs will play off for the remaining Europa League place. The Play off Competition is to be organised by the Panel.
- (e) Two Clubs may be promoted to the League (and an equivalent number relegated from the League) one each from the Welsh Football League and the Cymru Alliance League, providing that each Club is either the champion Club or runner-up, and has a valid FAW Domestic Club Licence.
- (f) If any Club ceases to operate between the Annual General meeting and the commencement of the following season, NO adjustments to the number of Clubs in membership of the League would be made. The remaining Clubs shall constitute the members of the League for that season.
- (g) A Club which for any reason ceases to operate at any time during Phase 1 shall have its playing record expunged. If the Club ceases to operate during Phase 2 before it completes its fixtures, all of its playing record in Phase 2 shall be expunged but its results in Phase 1 shall stand. Any monies due to it from the League funds shall be withheld and from the date of the withdrawal no further payments shall become due to it.

- (h) A Club that enters into administration at any time during the playing season shall have 10 points deducted from its record, and any monies due to it from FAW funds shall be withheld. A Club that enters into administration outside of the playing season shall have 10 points deducted from its record in the season following the date which it entered administration, and any monies due to it from FAW funds shall be withheld.

## **REFEREES AND ASSISTANT REFEREES AND 4<sup>TH</sup> OFFICIALS**

- 23. (a) The FAW shall decide as to the number of appointments of Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials. No Club shall postpone the playing of a League match on account of apparent unfitness of its ground, the Referee being the sole person to decide as to the fitness after inspection. In bad weather, or where it seems apparent that there is not a possibility of the match being played, it shall be obligatory of the Home Club to call in the most senior referee available, to give a ruling as to the fitness after consultation with the League Secretary. The time of any inspection shall be by mutual agreement between the two Clubs taking into account the travelling time of the visiting team. In case of dispute, the League Secretary shall decide the time of any inspection. In the event of the Referee declaring the ground unfit, the Home Club shall notify its opponents and the Match Officials forthwith to avoid all unnecessary expense in travelling. If that referee does not declare the ground unfit, a final decision shall be made by the match referee upon his arrival at the ground (Referees should not hastily postpone or abandon games). Officials conducting pitch inspections shall be entitled to a £30 fee and travelling expenses to be met by the League.
- (b) In the event of the Match Officials not being in attendance at the match, the two Clubs must agree to a substitute on the ground and such substitute shall be considered a Match Official for the time being.
- (c) Match Officials should be present at the appointment at least one hour and fifteen minutes prior to the advertised time of kick-off. The appointed referee may be required to visit the ground earlier if requested to do so by the Club.
- (d) In cases where it is considered necessary to stop playing owing to the weather or other cause, the referee must wait a reasonable length of time before deciding on abandonment.
- (e) Should the appointed referee fail to appear, the senior assistant referee should take charge. The senior assistant referee is the assistant referee with the longer service on the League.
- (f) Referees must report all cases where teams commence a game late, or without eleven players on the field and also in case of their own or assistant referee's late arrival in any match and notify those concerned at the time of their intention. Assistant Referees must also send an explanation of their late arrival to the League Secretary as soon as possible after the game. Failure of Match Officials to comply with this rule may result in disciplinary action being taken by the Panel.

- (g) The Home Club must pay the Match Officials their expenses on the date of the match, in their dressing room, within a reasonable time after the conclusion of the match.
- (h) Assistant referees shall be provided with distinctive flags, red and yellow of suitable size. Assistant referees must keep the flags unfurled when in use.
- (i) The football proposed to be used in the game must be of the type approved by the Panel and submitted to the referee for his approval before commencement of the game.
- (j) The scale of payments for Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials shall be determined by the Panel and notified to the Clubs by the League Secretary prior to the commencement of the playing season.

All officials shall be entitled to claim the cheapest form of rail travel available on the day of the match or motoring expenses determined from time to time by the Panel when travelling by car.

Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials must travel together when instructed to do so.

Officials shall be entitled to a meal allowance determined from time to time by the Panel when travelling a total of 150 miles or more.

In postponed matches where gate money is not taken, the Match officials shall be paid their travelling expenses and half their ordinary fee.

- (k) Referees must retain the team sheets of both Clubs and forward to the League Secretary within six days of the match.

Referees must report any late presentation or non-presentation of team sheets or alteration of teams after presentation of team sheets in accordance with Rule 20 (h)

- (l) Referees must ensure that teams play in the correct registered colours as defined in Rule 19. Any breach of this Rule must be reported to the League Secretary.
- (m) The kit worn by Match Officials at League matches shall be approved by the FAW Referees Committee.

## **WITHDRAWAL OF CLUBS**

- 24. If a club wishes to resign from the League after being accepted at the League AGM and before completing its fixtures, it will be fined £15,000 (maximum).

If a club wishes to resign from the League at the end of the season, it must do so by 1<sup>st</sup> April each year and will be fined £15,000 (maximum).

Any Club which applies to join a league outside the Welsh Pyramid System, prior to 28<sup>th</sup> February each season without informing the League Secretary of its application will be liable to a fine not exceeding £5,000.

### **EXCLUSION OF CLUBS – MISCONDUCT CLUBS’ OFFICIALS, PLAYERS**

25. (a) At the Annual General Meeting or at a Extraordinary General Meeting called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 6 a 75% majority of the accredited representatives shall have power to exclude from further participation in the League any Club whose conduct has in their opinion been objectionable and detrimental to the good conduct of the name of the League.
- (b) Any Club official or member proved guilty of misconduct of inducing or attempting to induce a player of another Club to join them shall be liable to expulsion or such penalty as the Panel may decide.
- (c) It is the responsibility of all Clubs to ensure their officials, players or other members of the Club do not, by their written or spoken words or actions, bring the League or any other Club into disrepute.

Any Club of which an official, player or other member is found guilty of such actions will be liable to a fine not exceeding £500.

### **PROGRAMME DETAILS**

26. The visiting Club must send the Home Club a brief history of the Club, details of the team it plans to field together with players’ pen pictures and colours of shirts, shorts and socks in time to be received by the Home Club at least seven days prior to the scheduled date of the match. If as a result of exceptional circumstances a game is re-arranged with less than seven days notice, the details must be forwarded to the Home Club immediately upon notification of the re-arrangement. All Clubs must publish a minimum 16-page programme for all League and League Cup games.

All Clubs are required to forward to the League Secretary within seven days of any League or League Cup games being completed a copy of the match programme. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule will be fined in accordance with the Scale of Fines.

### **PUBLIC LIABILITY AND PLAYERS INSURANCE**

27. All member clubs must have Player v Player and Public Liability Insurance in the minimum sum determined from time to time by the Panel, evidence of such cover having to be provided to the League Secretary at least 14 days before the start of the season. In the event of the League arranging block cover for Public Liability Insurance all clubs will be required to participate on such terms as the Panel shall decide.

### **GROUND SHARING**

28. Any Club which intends entering a ground sharing agreement either by sharing its own ground with another Club, irrespective of whether the other Club is from within or outside the League must initially submit in writing to the League Secretary full details

of the agreement which must then be approved by the Panel before it can be accepted. Details of ground sharing agreements must be submitted to the League Secretary by 1<sup>st</sup> March to be effective for the following season. In all cases where grounds are shared, the Club is to have priority of use at all times unless there are exceptional circumstances approved by the Panel, failure to adhere to which will render the ground unacceptable and not capable of obtaining a Domestic Club Licence.

## **SPONSORSHIP**

29. The FAW, without prejudice to existing commercial rights, powers and duties in connection with the management of the business of the League clubs, shall have full authority at its discretion to negotiate or enter into as agents for and on behalf of each of the Clubs any Sponsorship Agreement and the Clubs shall comply with all obligations on their part which may be contained or referred to in any Sponsorship Agreement.

Any Club failing to fulfil the requirements of any League Sponsorship Agreement may, at the discretion of the Panel, have its share or part share of any money due to it from the sponsorship withheld.

## **MEDICAL COVER**

30. At all matches played under the jurisdiction of the League, medical cover must be provided by the Home Club for players and spectators. This should be at least St. Johns Ambulance personnel or their equivalent. Failure to comply with this rule, at any match, will result in the offending Club being liable to a fine not exceeding £500.

## **SCALE OF FINES**

31. The scale of fines to be imposed by the Panel shall be determined by the Panel from time to time and notified to the Clubs by the League Secretary at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the playing season.

## **THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE OF WALES CUP RULES**

1. The competition shall be called The Football Association of Wales Word Cup Competition.
2. The insurance for the trophy is to be underwritten by the League.
3. The Football Association of Wales shall have entire control of the competition and shall have power to deal with any matter for which no provision is made.
4. The Welsh Premier League Rules shall apply to this competition except where it is stated otherwise.
5. The competition shall observe the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association of Wales and all matches shall be played under the Laws of the Game.



6. Protests must be made in writing or by telephone to the Secretary and must be lodged at this office within forty-eight hours of the date of playing the tie in which the protest arises. Protests must be accompanied by a fee of £50.00 which may be returned at the discretion of the FAW if the appeal is sustained.
7. In all matches leading up to the Final the gate receipts shall be allocated to the Home Club.  
  
The Home Club shall submit to the League, within two days of the match being played, a detailed account of receipts and expenses on the Standard League Form.
8. The appointment of Referees and Assistant Referees shall be made by the FAW. Match Fees and expenses shall be as paid for League matches.
9. When a match has been postponed through causes over which neither Club has any control, the expenses shall be paid out of receipts for the second match, or by the League at the discretion of the FAW.
10. All Clubs who are currently members of the Welsh Premier League are to compete. Six clubs from the Welsh League Division 1 and six clubs from the Huws Gray Alliance shall be invited to compete annually (floodlights obligatory). An additional four Wildcard entries will also be permitted at the discretion of the Panel.
11. The draw for all rounds prior to the Final will be regionalised and all ties will be played on a knock out basis over one leg. If the scores are level at the end of 90 minutes, an extra time period of 15 minutes each way must be played. If the scores are still level at the end of extra time, the winner will be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with International Board procedures.
12. The final tie will take place in a neutral ground, to be decided by the FAW.
13. In the final tie, if the result is a draw at the end of 90 minutes play, an extra 30 minutes shall be played. If the match is still level at the end of extra time, the winners shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with International Board decision.
14. The dates of all matches shall be decided by the FAW.
15. A player shall be considered bona-fide if he is registered by his Club, in accordance with the provision of the League's regulations. Each Club shall play its full available strength in all cup ties unless some satisfactory reason is given. In the event of the explanation not being deemed satisfactory the FAW shall have the power to impose such penalties as they think fit. No player may play for more than one competing Club each season. Any Club being found in default of this Rule may be disqualified from the competition and subject to other penalties as the FAW may deem necessary.
16. Each Club must hand copies of a list of names of players taking part in the game, including the name(s) and number(s) of the nominated substitutes to the referee and representative of their opponents in the presence of the referee at least 45 minutes before the advertised time of kick-off (90 minutes for any live matches). The players'

numbers and the colours of the playing strip must be clearly stated. Any Clubs failing to comply with this rule or altering its team selection or numbering after team sheets have been exchanged will be subject to any action decided upon by the FAW. The standard League forms shall be used.

17. For any match ordered to be replayed in consequence of breach of Rule, the Club in default shall not receive any share of the proceeds of the replayed match without the consent of the FAW and such consent shall only be given in special circumstances. If consent is not given the share shall be taken by the FAW and placed in the pool.
18. The winning Club shall hold the Challenge Cup for one year and will be responsible for the engraving of the cup prior to its return. The Cup must be returned not later than 1st March.

In addition to the Cup, the FAW shall present 20 souvenirs to the Cup winners and 20 to the runners-up; seventeen for the players and three for the staff of each Club. The match officials for the final tie shall receive a memento in addition to their normal fee and expenses. Additional souvenirs may be presented only by consent of the FAW.

19. The competition shall be organised each season by the League. The scheme for the competition in any particular season shall be inserted as an appendix in the League Handbook.