



FA | WALES  
CBD | CYMRU

FAW

MODERNISATION

PROGRAMME.

# IMPLEMENTATION OF A NEW FOOTBALL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.

The Football Association of Wales are currently implementing a 'Modernisation Programme' across the organisation that will change the current set up and future of Welsh football.

The modernisation of the FAW includes the introduction of COMET — the new Football Management System, the FAW Pyramid Review and the significant governance changes.

The information included details why these changes are taking place, the progress being made and the next steps for your clubs.

## What is happening?

The FAW is implementing a new Football Management System which will be used by all areas of Welsh football. The new COMET System was created in 2004 and is currently used by 41 of FIFA's 211 Member Associations.

The new integrated Football Management System, COMET, is an online-based application system that aggregates all the key processes, data and transactions that take place within Welsh football. This connected system of processes will include, but is not limited to; registration, discipline, match officials, match fixtures and match results.


The integrated system will be used by the National teams through to grassroots football, to ensure that all the information and processes on the system are correct and timely.

## When?

The new system will be implemented over the next two seasons with all player registrations being processed via COMET from the start of the 2019/20 season. The current (FSI) registration system will cease to be used at the end of the current season.

## Why are we changing the current system?

The current systems and processes are no longer fit-for-purpose and place a significant burden on clubs, leagues and match officials.



THE NEW  
SYSTEM WILL  
MOVE US  
FROM THIS....



TO THIS.

# HOW WILL THE COMET SYSTEM BENEFIT ME AND MY CLUB / LEAGUE?

Here's an impressive starting XI of some of the COMET System's benefits:

- There will be no charge to a club, league or match official to use the COMET System
- The system can be used anywhere and at any time — it is smartphone and tablet friendly
- It will significantly reduce the administration burden for clubs, leagues and match officials
- All payments will be centralised and processed online — no need to send cheques in the post
- Simplified and real-time communication with players and match officials (e.g. fixture changes)
- Introduction of lifetime player registrations — no need to fill in paper forms every season
- Electronic team sheets with player photos
- Live match scoring centre automatically published on public facing websites
- Electronic reporting of match results with league tables updated within minutes of the final whistle
- Useful team and player statistics (e.g. minutes and games played; analysis of when goals scored / conceded)
- Electronic submission of disciplinary reports and real-time updating of player's eligibility for selection

# WHAT

# HAPPENS

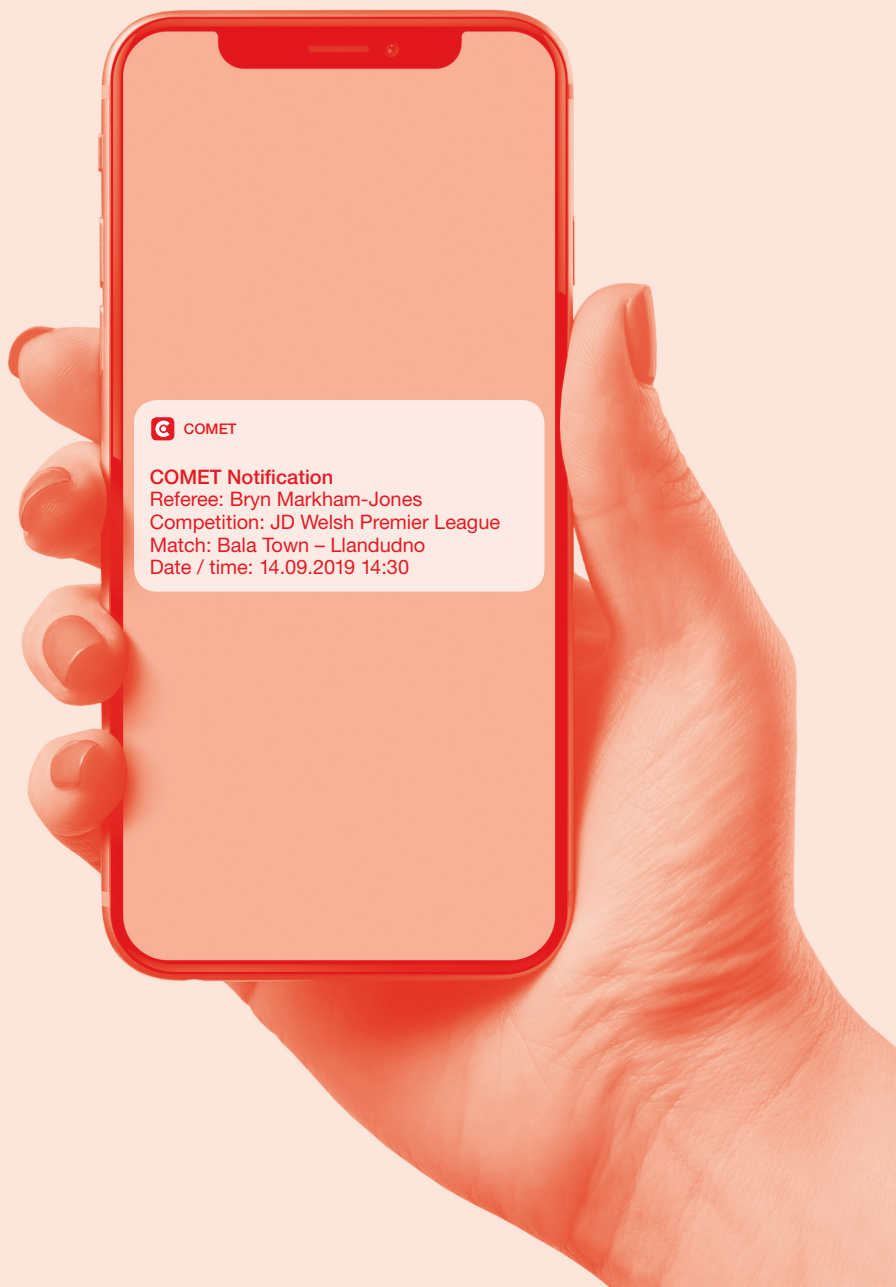
# NOW?

Every club and league should now start the process of identifying two respective 'COMET System Champions'. These individuals will be the main system users and will be provided with extensive training by the FAW.

The 'COMET System Champions' will work closely with the FAW and will transfer information and training to other club volunteers.

Clubs and leagues are free to choose their own 'COMET System Champions' — they do not have to be individuals who already sit on their club / league committee.

Over the coming weeks and months, the FAW will provide all clubs and leagues with the necessary support and information (e.g. role of 'COMET System Champions', skills requirements, proposed training programme etc.) to ensure that the implementation of the new system is successful.



FAW

DOMESTIC

FOOTBALL

PYRAMID

REVIEW.

Why did we need a Pyramid Review?

A key objective of the FAW's "2020 vision and strategic plan for Welsh football" is to have "Stronger clubs operating at levels 1 and 2, following a successful restructure of the FAW Pyramid and a greater number of clubs attaining the National Licence."

The Pyramid Review was established to ensure that the Association addressed this fundamental objective with the aim of improving the domestic game in Wales and developing a consistent approach at all levels of the Pyramid.

Furthermore, the FAW is concerned that an increasing number of clubs at Tiers 3 and 4 of the FAW pyramid in Central and North Wales have resigned in the last two seasons (8 clubs in 2017/18 and currently 5 clubs in 2018/19).

# HOW THE PYRAMID STRUCTURE WILL CHANGE.

## The FAW Pyramid — 2018/19 Season

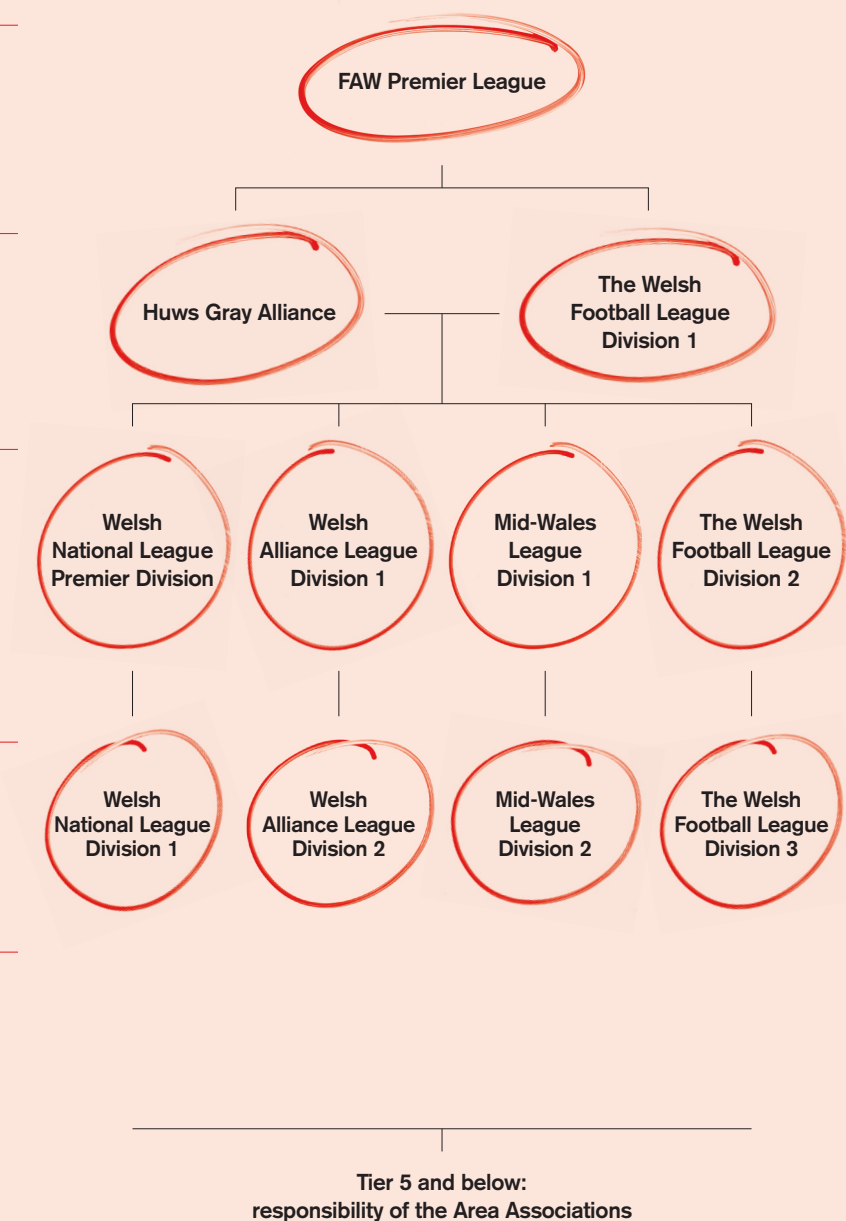
Tier 1  
12 clubs

Tier 2  
32 clubs

Tier 3  
64 clubs

Tier 4  
64 clubs

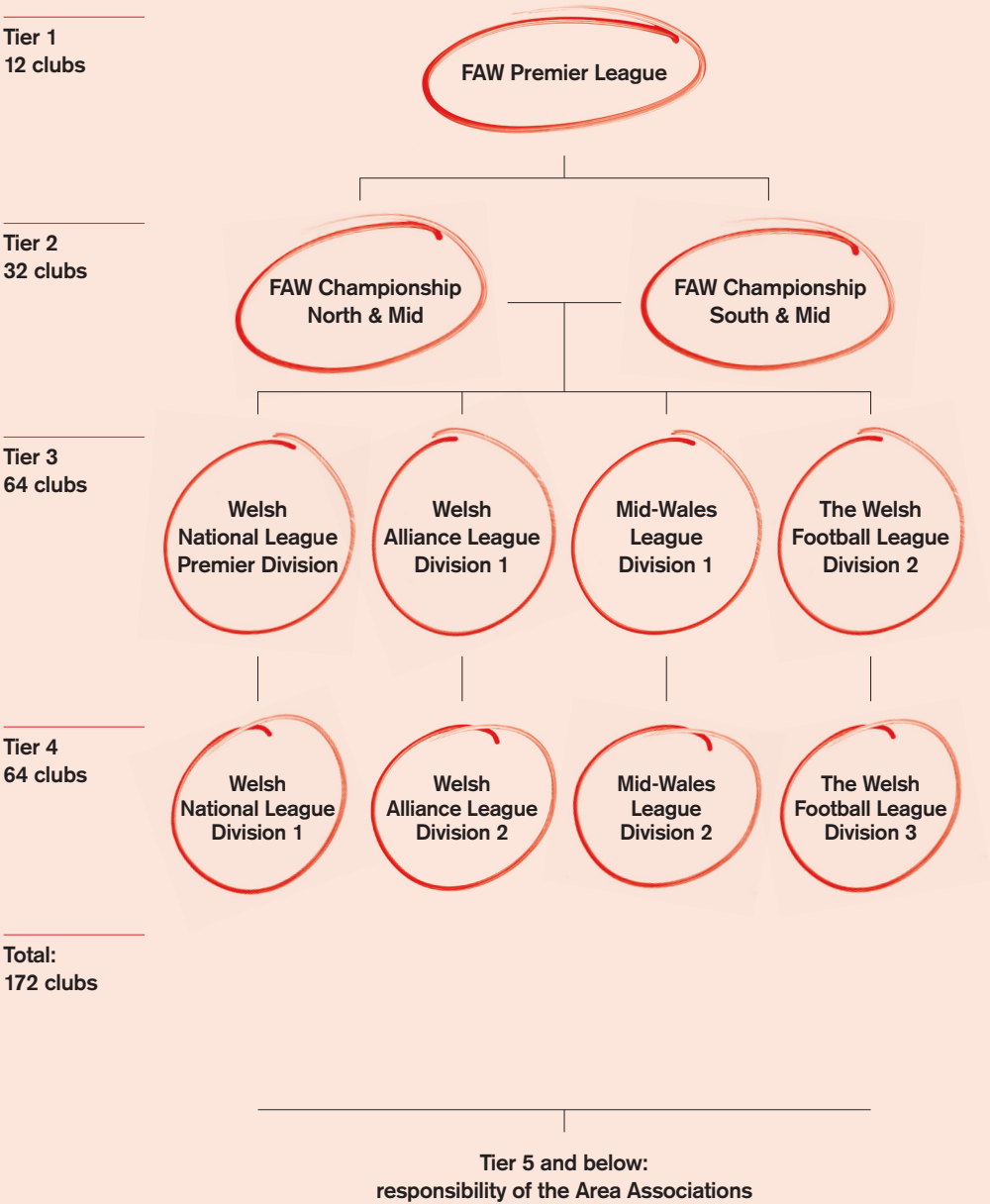
Total:  
172 clubs



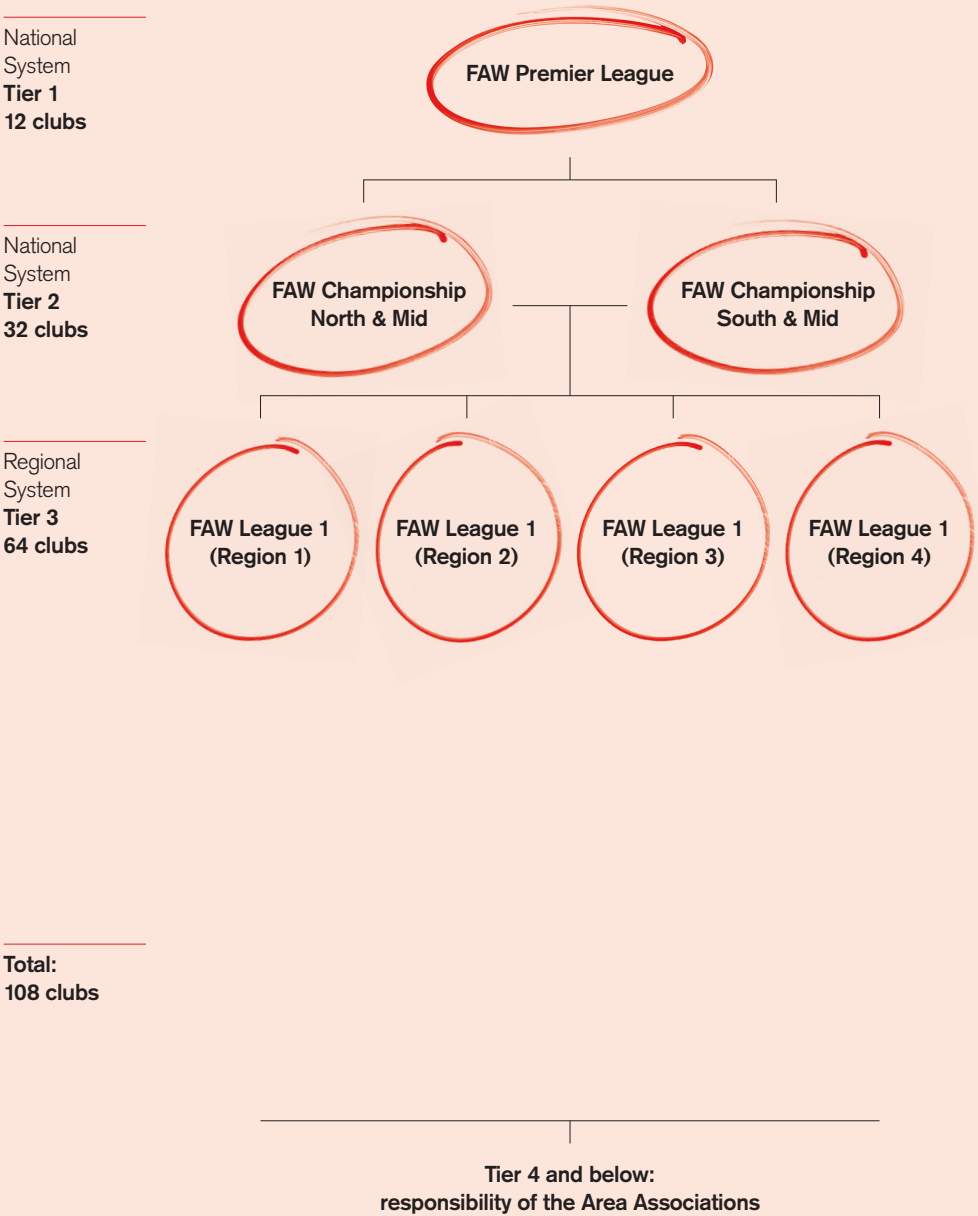


The FAW Pyramid —  
2019/20 Season

Approved by National Game Board 28.03.2018  
(As Amended by Council 27.04.2018)  
Pyramid League Structure at start of season 2019/20



The FAW Pyramid —  
2020/21 Season



# PROMOTION AND RELEGATION.

Following the restructure, promotion and relegation from the relevant tiers will be as follows:

---

## Tier 2 to Tier 1:

- League Champions promoted (or runner-up if Tier 1 licence not achieved)
- Two Tier 1 Clubs relegated
- Geographical distribution decided after the 32 clubs are confirmed

---

## Tier 3 to Tier 2:

- League Champions promoted
- Play-off for the two runners-up
- Two clubs relegated from each league
- Geographical distribution decided after the 64 clubs are confirmed

---

## Tier 4 to Tier 3:

- Bottom three relegated from each Tier 3 League, with 2 clubs per Area Association able to promote
- 

## What is happening and when?

From the 2019/20 season, the FAW will own and administer Tier 2 of the Pyramid; the 'Northern Championship' and the 'Southern Championship'. The Management Committee of these 'Championship' leagues will come under the jurisdiction of the FAW through its standing committees. The FAW will also appoint 'Championship' league secretaries to ensure the effective function and operation of the leagues.

As previously mentioned the new COMET Football Management System will be mandatory for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Leagues and Clubs. The registration of players throughout Tier 2 will be managed through the FAW Registrations Department. However, there will be no change to the disciplinary procedures.

Following the restructure, all levels below Tier 3 will be defined as community football, with the Area Associations therefore responsible for administration of the leagues. The Welsh Football League, as an established league in the South, will administer the relevant regions at Tier 3 and either one of the existing Directly Affiliated Leagues (or a new organising body) will be established by the FAW to administer the relevant regions operating in North Wales at Tier 3 of the Pyramid.

The restructure of Tier 3, Tier 4 and below will be implemented for the 2020/21 season.

### How are the FAW progressing?

There are many advancements currently taking place within the FAW to develop the new 'Championship' leagues.

The FAW Commercial department are in advanced stages of developing the new 'Championship' brand and will be targeting companies for a headline sponsor and VIK (Value in Kind) commercial deals in the coming months.

The FAW Media department have also started their work on the development of the media channels for the 'Championship' (e.g. website, social media) and new and existing FAW staff will be allocated roles to work closer with 'Championship' clubs.

In addition to this the FAW are working with its solicitors to draft the 'Championship' League Rules for FAW approval by December 2018.

The current 2018/19 season was ground-breaking for the FAW as for the first time, a National Ground Criteria for Tier 2 Clubs was introduced as mandatory. A total of 44 clubs achieved the standards and the success of the new FAW Tier 2 Ground Criteria can be seen and enjoyed at many grounds throughout Wales.

This approach will be expanded to Tier 3 Clubs before the 2020/21 season as the FAW Tier 3 Ground Criteria becomes mandatory for prospective Tier 3 Clubs in the new structure on 30th April 2020.

### What happens Next?

Clubs will be canvassed on their requirements for reserve and youth team football across Tier 2 and Tier 3 Clubs and the FAW will ensure their needs are facilitated.

All Tier 3 Clubs in Wales have been provided with Club Action Plans by the FAW to help them achieve the FAW Tier 3 Ground Criteria by the 30th April 2020 deadline.

FAW media training will be supplied to all Club Media Officers. This will be delivered to clubs free of charge. The training will enable a streamlined communications strategy across the leagues as well as developing and upskilling your club volunteers.

A large number of FAQs about the Welsh Football Pyramid Review, which include answers to questions on the impact on refereeing, finance, the consultation process and more, can be found at:

[faw.cymru/en/about-faw/domestic/pyramid-review/](http://faw.cymru/en/about-faw/domestic/pyramid-review/)

# FAW

# GOVERNANCE

# REVIEW.

## Why are we changing the Governance Structure?

This summer The Football Association of Wales Council voted through significant governance changes that will modernise and streamline the way in which decisions are made on important business and Welsh football matters.

The changes will speed up decision-making, improve accountability and align the association more effectively with FIFA, UEFA and other stakeholder expectations.

## What is happening?

As a result, FAW Council will establish a streamlined Executive Board made up of 11 Directors of the company. This will comprise of:

- The President
- Three Officers
- Three elected Council Members
- Independent Chairperson
- Two independent Directors
- The Chief Executive

The current National Game Board, Welsh Premier League Panel and the Welsh Premier Women's League Panel will also be replaced by a National League Board and National Cup Board.

The Chairpersons of the Community Game Board, National League Board, National Cup Board and International Game Board will then report to the Executive Board and FAW Council on a regular basis.

The important reforms are the result of the findings from the Governance Working Group, established in late 2017 to reflect on governance structures and the remit of decision-making bodies.

## What happens now?

The Working Group will now move forward with the next phase of the work, which will involve reflecting on other issues including succession planning and representation of the game.

The FAW will consult with the Member Clubs before implementing these changes, which will include changes to the Rules and Regulations of the Association.

**FOR MORE  
INFORMATION.**

**Football Association of Wales**

**11–12 Neptune Court**

**Vanguard Way**

**Cardiff CF24 5PJ**

**029 2043 5830**

**[info@faw.co.uk](mailto:info@faw.co.uk)**

**[faw.cymru](http://faw.cymru)**