

THE GENERO ADRAK PREMIER

CONSTITUTION AND RULES 2022-23

1. Definitions and Interpretation

1.1. In these Rules, the following words and expressions have the following meanings:

- 1.1.1. **'Authorised Kit'** means each Match playing kit approved by the Board in accordance with Rule 19 below;
- 1.1.2. **'Board'** means the committee of the FAW constituted in accordance with the FAW Rules and FAW Regulations in order to administer the League from time to time.
- 1.1.3. **'Business Day'** means a day that is not a Saturday or Sunday or a public or bank holiday in Wales.
- 1.1.4. **'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.
- 1.1.5. **'Club'** means an association football club which is for the time being a member of the League or (where the context requires) a prospective member or a former member of the League.
- 1.1.6. **'Chair'** means the Chairman/Chairwoman of the Board who shall be appointed by the FAW Council.
- 1.1.7. **'FAW'** means the Football Association of Wales Ltd.
- 1.1.8. **'FAW Pyramid Regulations'** means the Women's Pyramid League System Regulations
- 1.1.9. **'FAW Regulations'** means the regulations, standing orders, byelaws, orders, codes, policies, procedures, directives and instructions for the time being of the FAW.
- 1.1.10. **'FAW Rules'** means the Rules for the time being of the FAW.
- 1.1.11. **'General Manager'** means the General Manager of the League or any other person appointed by the FAW to perform the duties of the General Manager from time to time.
- 1.1.12. **'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 9 below.
- 1.1.13. **'Home Club'** means the Club on whose ground any Match should be or should have been played and where ground sharing is in operation the Club whose name first appears on the relevant Match details issued by the Board and **'Visiting Club'** means the other Club due to play in the relevant Match.
- 1.1.14. **'League'** means the Adrak Premier, as such name may be amended from time to time by the Board with the approval of the FAW directors to include the name of a title sponsor.
- 1.1.15. **'Match'** means any association football match played in the League.
- 1.1.16. **'Match Officials'** means the Referee, Assistant Referees and any Fourth Official for a Match.
- 1.1.17. **'Official'** means any director, secretary or other duly authorised representative of a Club.
- 1.1.18. **'Phase 1'** and **'Phase 2'** have the meanings given in Rule 6 below.
- 1.1.19. **'Player'** means any female association football player, whether or not registered with the FAW to play for a Club.
- 1.1.20. **'Rules'** means these Rules of the League as amended from time to time.
- 1.1.21. **'Scale of Fines'** means the scale of fines referred to in Rule 35 below.

- 1.1.22. **'Sponsorship Rights'** means any and all sponsorship rights worldwide in perpetuity relating to the League, including rights to use League designations (such as title sponsor, official sponsor, official partner and/or official supplier of the League), League advertising rights, rights to use League logos, rights to League press and other public relations campaigns, rights to League licensing, merchandising and promotions but excluding Transmission Rights.
- 1.1.23. **'Sponsorship Contracts'** means any and all contracts entered into by the FAW and/or its agents and licensees in or ancillary to the exercise of the Sponsorship Rights.
- 1.1.24. **'Team Sheet'** means the information as provided by the League from time to time listing the numbers, surnames and first names of the Players in the relevant Club team's Match day squad, together with the surnames and first names of Officials to be seated on the substitutes' bench for a Match.
- 1.1.25. **'Tier 1 Licence'** has the meaning given in Rule 11 below.
- 1.1.26. **'Transmission Rights'** means the sole and exclusive worldwide right in perpetuity to record (a) television or other moving pictures of any League match; (b) sounds of and/or commentary upon any Match and (c) data relating to any Match (and, in each case, have sole and exclusive access to the ground of each Club to do so) and transmit and/or exploit and/or otherwise make available the whole or any part of such recordings in any language and whether live and/or delayed by any and all manner and means in all current and future media including by terrestrial, cable and satellite television, radio, internet and mobile networks and whether to the public or closed groups, and to authorise others to do so.
- 1.1.27. **'Transmission Contracts'** means any and all contracts entered into by the FAW and/or its agents and licensees in or ancillary to the exercise of the Transmission Rights.
- 1.1.28. **'UEFA Licence'** has the meaning give in Rule 11 below.
- 1.2. A reference to a person includes a body corporate and an unincorporated body of persons.
- 1.3. Referring to natural persons include both genders. The singular case applies to the plural and vice versa.
- 1.4. The headings in these Rules are inserted for ease of reference and do not affect the interpretation of these Rules.
- 1.5. The terms 'include', 'including', 'for example', 'such as' and 'in particular' or any similar expression shall be construed as illustrative, without limiting the sense or scope of the words preceding them.

2. General

- 2.1. These Rules have been prepared in accordance with FAW Rule 28.
- 2.2. Acceptance of membership of the League shall constitute an agreement between the Club concerned and the FAW, to be bound by and comply with these 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.
- 2.3. In addition to these Rules, all Clubs shall be bound by and comply with:
- 2.3.1. Laws of the Game.
- 2.4. In the event that any of these Rules conflict with the FAW Rules or FAW Regulations the FAW Rules or FAW Regulations shall prevail.

3. The Board

- 3.1.** The business of the League shall be conducted by the Board which, subject to the FAW Rules and FAW Regulations, shall have jurisdiction over all matters relating to the administration of the League and the conduct of Clubs.
- 3.2.** The Board shall consist of members as decided by the FAW Council from time to time.
- 3.3.** The President of the League shall be the President of the FAW for the time being.
- 3.4.** The Board shall 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 Board deems appropriate.
- 3.5.** In the event of the voting at any meeting of the Board being equal, the Chair of such meeting shall have a second casting vote.
- 3.6.** The Board shall defray out of the funds of the League all expenses in respect of the administration of the League. A member of the Board may be paid out of League funds such expenses incurred through attendance at meetings of, or in connection with, the League, as the Board may approve.
- 3.7.** The Board may do all such acts and exercise all such powers as may be required to give effect to the provisions of these Rules. Save for those matters which in the first instance are to be dealt with or determined by other bodies of the FAW in accordance with the FAW Rules or FAW Regulations, the Board shall in the first instance determine all breaches of these Rules or other matters of misconduct or dispute by or between Clubs, Players, Officials or other personnel directly or indirectly involved with the League. The Board shall have the power to impose fines as defined in Rule 33 'Scale of Fines' and any other sanctions (including deduction of points or suspension from the League) as the Board shall consider appropriate, subject always to the rights of appeal and (if applicable) the Scale of Fines hereinafter mentioned.
- 3.8.** The Board shall normally meet in each month except July, but the General Manager shall either of their own volition, or otherwise, on the requisition of any three (3) members of the Board, summon a meeting of the Board at any other time.
- 3.9.** The Board shall cause minutes to be retained:
 - 3.9.1. of the names of the members of the Board present at each meeting thereof and of any sub-committees; and
 - 3.9.2. of all proceedings and decisions at General Meetings and at all meetings of the Board.
- 3.10.** The General Manager shall cause such minutes to be circulated to members of the Board, the FAW Council and to the Clubs following ratification by the directors of the FAW.
- 3.11.** The Board may act notwithstanding any temporary vacancy of any member.
- 3.12.** All acts done by any meeting of the Board or by any person acting as representative of the Board 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.
- 3.13.** Each member of the Board 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 FAW Women's and Girl's Cup matches.
- 3.14.** In relation to any matter not specifically addressed in these Rules the Board shall, subject to the FAW Rules and 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.

3.15. All decisions made by the Board shall be subject to the approval of the directors of the FAW.

4. *Indemnity*

4.1. Any member of the Board 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.

5. *Title*

5.1. This combination of Association Football Clubs shall be called "The Adran Premier" and being affiliated in its own right to The Football Association of Wales is for all purposes of interpretation hereinafter referred to as the "League"

6. *League Format, Champions, Promotion and Relegation*

- 6.1.** The League will comprise a maximum of eight (8) member Clubs in each season.
- 6.2.** The Board shall determine annually the date on which Matches shall commence and the date on which the normal playing season of the League shall be intended to terminate.
- 6.3.** A Club may not enter its first team in any other competition except the Adran Trophy, the FAW Women's Cup, UEFA club competitions and any invitational competition approved in writing in advance by the Board. The General Manager must be promptly informed by the relevant Club in advance of all proposed fixtures to be played (and afterwards all results of fixtures played) by its first team in any competition other than those named.
- 6.4.** In each season, the Clubs will initially play Matches against each other on a home and away basis, giving a maximum total of fourteen (14) Matches per Club ('Phase 1'), following which the League will be split into two (2) groups, the first comprising the four (4) highest placed Clubs and the second comprising the remaining lowest placed Clubs, with points already gained carried forward. Each group of Clubs will then play each other on a home and away basis, giving a total of a further maximum six (6) Matches per Club ('Phase 2'). The first group consisting of the four (4) highest placed clubs will be known as the 'Championship Conference'. The second group consisting of the remaining lowest placed clubs will be known as the 'Plate Conference' or another name as determined by the FAW as it may deem appropriate (and each is a 'Conference' and together the 'Conferences'). Following the formation of the Conferences, no Club from either Conference can be moved from one Conference to another and no Club from the Plate Conference can achieve a place higher in the League than any Club in the Championship Conference, even if during or at the end of Phase 2 the points total of a Club in the Plate Conference is greater than a Club Championship Conference.
- 6.5.** All Matches shall be of ninety (90) minutes' duration. Three (3) points will be awarded to a Club for a win in a Match at home or away, and one (1) point for a drawn Match at home or away. At the end of each season's League competition (comprising Phase 1 and Phase 2), the Club from the

Championship Conference scoring the largest number of total points shall be declared the League champion Club for that season and the Club with the fewest points in the Plate Division shall be relegated, in accordance with FAW Pyramid Regulations.

- 6.6.** Where two or more Clubs, in either Phase 1 or Phase 2, possess the same number of points, the following criteria will be applied in the order given to determine their rankings:
 - 6.6.1. Superior goal difference obtained in all League matches (Phase 1 and Phase 2);
 - 6.6.2. Higher or highest number of goals scored in all League matches (Phase 1 and Phase 2);
 - 6.6.3. Higher or highest number of points obtained in all League matches (Phase 1 and Phase 2) played among the Clubs in question;
 - 6.6.4. Superior goal difference obtained in all League matches played among the Clubs in question;
 - 6.6.5. Higher or highest number of goals scored in all League matches played among the teams in question;
 - 6.6.6. Higher or highest number of goals scored away from home in all League matches played among the teams in question;
 - 6.6.7. Higher or highest number of wins in all League matches;
 - 6.6.8. Higher or highest number of away wins in all League matches;
 - 6.6.9. Lower or lowest disciplinary points total based only on yellow and red cards received in all League matches; and
 - 6.6.10. The Clubs concerned shall play-off, in a format as directed by the Board.
- 6.7.** The League champion Club shall hold the League trophy for approximately one year. It should be promptly returned at the request of the General Manager.
- 6.8.** The League champion Club will be eligible to be nominated by the FAW for the UEFA Women's Champions League for the following season subject to the Club having attained a UEFA Club competition licence ('UEFA Licence') in accordance with the relevant FAW club licensing regulations for the following season. If the Club does not attain the necessary UEFA Licence, the second highest placed Club will be eligible to be nominated by the FAW, subject to the Club having attained a UEFA Licence.
- 6.9.** Clubs shall be promoted to and relegated from the League in accordance with the FAW Regulations for the Pyramid League System and the FAW Rules.
- 6.10.** 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 will be made. The remaining Clubs shall constitute the members of the League for that season.
- 6.11.** 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 Matches, 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 FAW funds shall be withheld and from the date of the withdrawal no further payments shall become due to it.
- 6.12.** A Club that enters into administration at any time during the playing season shall have ten (10) points deducted from its record, and any monies due to it from FAW funds shall be withheld.
- 6.13.** A Club that enters into administration outside of the playing season shall have ten (10) points deducted from its record in the season following the date on which it entered administration, and any monies due to it from the FAW funds shall be withheld unless and until the Club exits administration on a solvent basis.

- 6.14. 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 £2500.
- 6.15. If a club wishes to resign from the League at the end of the season it must do so by 1st April. Giving notice after this date, but before the AGM will result in a fine of £1500.
- 6.16. Each Club shall play its full strength in all League matches. The fine for non-observance of this Rule to be at the discretion of the Board.

7. *Appointment of General Manager*

- 7.1. The General Manager shall be appointed and shall not directly or indirectly, connected with any Club in membership with the League nor shall they be allowed to exercise voting power at any meeting held under its jurisdiction.

8. *Jurisdiction*

- 8.1. The Board shall have jurisdiction over all matters whether specially provided for in these rules or not. They shall have power to form any Sub-Committee they may consider necessary and may delegate all or any of their powers to any such Sub-Committee.
- 8.2. In the event of the voting at any meeting being equal, the Chair of such meeting shall have the casting vote, save as before mentioned. The Board shall meet every month, if necessary. No resolution shall be rescinded at the meeting at which it is passed.
- 8.3. A member club, or player, ordered by the League to provide a written response to a charge preferred by the League or a protest, appeal, claim or complaint lodged with the League by a club or player must do so within seven Business Days of the date of the letter from the League requesting the written response.
- 8.4. Such written response must stipulate whether or not the club requires a personal hearing. Should a club or player fail to provide a written response within the stipulated seven Business Days, they will be deemed to have denied the charge of misconduct or allegation contained in the protest, appeal, claim or complaint lodged and the League will take the required steps to convene a hearing at which the club or player will be required to attend.

9. *Annual General, Extraordinary General and Special General Meetings, Awards Dinner*

- 9.1. The Annual General Meeting of the League shall be held in each year at a time and place to be determined by the Board.
- 9.2. The Board may, whenever it thinks fit and shall upon a requisition made to the League in writing signed by duly authorised representatives of not less than two thirds (2/3rds) of the Clubs convene an Extraordinary General Meeting.
- 9.3. The General Manager shall notify all Clubs and the members of the Board of the date time and place of all General Meetings not less than seven (7) Clear Days in advance, such notice to contain basic details of the matters to be discussed. Short notice can be given with the consent of all the Clubs.

- 9.4. Each Club shall be entitled to have two (2) representatives and one (1) vote at any General Meeting and Clubs shall at least 48 hours prior to the General Meeting in question notify the General Manager of the identity of the Club representatives and which representative shall be entitled to cast the Club's vote. 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 two thirds (2/3rds) of the Clubs present at the meeting.
- 9.5. The Chair of the Board shall be the Chair at all General Meetings but in their absence the members of the Board present shall choose one of their number to be Chair.
- 9.6. The directors of the FAW shall have the power to veto any resolution of the Clubs at a General Meeting.
- 9.7. Clubs failing to attend and AGM, Extraordinary General or Special General Meetings, may be liable to a fine of £100 in accordance with Rule 35.
- 9.8. Clubs are expected to purchase a minimum of four tickets to Awards presentations, where formal events are held, or shall be fined at a minimum the sum of the cost of the tickets.

10. Objectionable Conduct

- 10.1. At the Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9 above, a seventy-five per cent (75%) majority of the accredited Club representatives present and eligible to vote 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.
- 10.2. It is the responsibility of all Clubs to ensure that 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.

11. Club Licensing

- 11.1. Clubs and prospective Clubs which attain a FAW Tier 1 Licence ('Adran Premier Licence') under the FAW's Club Licensing Regulations shall be eligible for membership of the League in the season which next commences after the grant of such Tier 1 Licence.
- 11.2. Clubs and prospective Clubs which attain a UEFA Champions League Licence under UEFA's Club Licensing Regulations shall be eligible to compete in the UEFA Women's Champion's League in the season which next commences after the grant of such a Licence.

12. Annual Subscriptions

- 12.1. Each Member Club shall pay an Annual Subscription of Three Hundred Pounds (£300). The Subscription to be paid via COMET by 31st July each year.
- 12.2. Clubs failing to pay any debt owing to The League by the due date will automatically incur a fine of £20 per month that the money is outstanding.

13. Accounts

- 13.1.** The FAW shall cause proper annual accounts to be kept of all income and expenditure of the League to 30th 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.

14. Notices

- 14.1.** Any notice or other communication to be given in accordance with these Rules shall be delivered in accordance with Rule 144 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 General Manager.
- 14.2.** Any notice or other communication to be served on the League shall be addressed to the General Manager at FAW, Vale Resort, Pontyclun, CF72 8JY or by email. Proof of service shall be in accordance with Rule 144 of the FAW Rules.

15. Rules - Infringement/Revisions

- 15.1.** Any infringement of The League Rules shall be dealt with in such a manner as the Board may think fit. Any appeal against the decision of the Board shall be to The Football Association of Wales in accordance with its Rules.
- 15.2.** No alteration in these Rules shall be made until they have been approved by the FAW in accordance with Rule 30 of the FAW Rules. Alterations to these Rules shall only be made at the Annual General Meeting or at Extraordinary General Meeting convened under Rule 9 above for that purpose. Any alteration to these Rules must be supported by at least two thirds (2/3rds) of those present and eligible to vote at such meeting.
- 15.3.** Club proposals for alterations to these Rules together with the name of their Club proposers and seconders shall be received by the General Manager no later than the 31st March prior to the date fixed for the Annual General Meeting in any year. The Board may also propose alterations to these Rules to be considered at an appropriate Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting.
- 15.4.** Any rule changes submitted by a club must be signed by the Club Secretary (as listed in the League Handbook) and also by the chair or a committee member.

16. Protests, Claims and Complaints

- 16.1.** Provisions relating to disciplinary procedures, disputes, appeals, independent arbitration, penalties, sanctions and other powers shall be dealt with in accordance with the FAW Rules and FAW Regulations including Rules 37-54(A) and 146 of the FAW Rules.

17. Registration, Contracts and Transfer of Players

- 17.1. Provisions relating to Player registrations, contracts and transfers shall (if as so far as applicable) be dealt with in accordance with these Rules and the FAW Rules and FAW Regulations including Rules 55-91 of the FAW Rules.
- 17.2. All Player registration and transfer forms and any other applicable documents must be received by the FAW (in each case, using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time) by 5pm on the last Business Day prior to the Match in which the Club wishes the Player to participate.

18. Ineligible Players

- 18.1. Any Club playing an ineligible player shall have three points deducted from the Adran Premier record for each offence and be liable to a fine in accordance with Rule 35, unless the breach involves a player as proscribed in 18.2.
- 18.2. Players who are under the age of 18 on a match day shall be restricted to a maximum of 120 minutes playing time in a 72-hour period. Only nominated goal keepers are exempt from this rule.
 - 18.2.1. Once a player has reached the limit of 120 minutes they shall be deemed as ineligible. Should they exceed this limit, the rules of the Competition in which they became ineligible shall be followed.
 - 18.2.2. Any breach of this rule may have three points deducted from its League record for each offence and be liable to a fine in accordance with Rule 35.

19. Authorised Kits

- 19.1. By 24th June, each Club shall submit to the General Manager, in writing, in PDF format full details of their proposed Match kit colours (comprising shirts, shorts and socks for both outfield players and goalkeepers in both home and change kit versions, and including any proposed sponsor logos) for the forthcoming season and, once approved by the Panel (each such kit then being an "Authorised Kit"), such details shall be published in the League Handbook for that season. The Authorised Kits shall be worn during the relevant season and no changes of either colours or combination of colours shall be permitted during the course of the season except:
 - 19.1.1. When the colours of two competing Clubs are alike or similar the Visiting Club shall change to another kit approved in writing by the Panel (or, in an emergency, approved by the Referee) that does not include any of the basic colour of the Authorised Kits of the Home Club; and
 - 19.1.2. Clubs may submit a request in writing to the General Manager at least fourteen (14) clear days before a Match to wear an alternative special kit (for example, a charity kit or a new season launch kit) and may wear such a kit if it obtains prior written approval from the General Manager.
- 19.2. Each goalkeeper shall play each Match in a kit clearly distinguishable from the colours of the shirts worn by all outfield players and Match Officials and the other goalkeeper.
- 19.3. If undershorts or tights or undersocks or undershirts are to be worn by a Player in a Match, they must be of a colour approved by the Panel in relation to the applicable Authorised Kit prior to the relevant season.

- 19.4.** No Club shall be permitted to register or play a Match in shirts the colour of which is likely to cause confusion with the outfits worn by Referees and Assistant Referees.
- 19.5.** The Players' shirts for each Match must be clearly numbered (and if applicable named) in accordance with the Team Sheet handed to the Referee before the Match and there must be no change of numbers during the Match except if there is a change of goalkeeper. The captain of each team shall wear a distinguishing arm band to indicate her status.
- 19.6.** Clubs wishing to make alterations to their Authorised Kits after the date set by the Panel under Rule 19.1 above, must make an application to the Panel. The Panel require all Players participating in Matches to carry the League's and/or a League sponsor's logo on both sleeves of their shirts.
- 19.7.** The colours of the clothing worn by any ball kids and/or other personnel for each Match must not clash with those of either of the competing teams or Match Officials.
- 19.8.** All kits for Matches must comply with FAW Kit Regulations.

20. Regulations RE Matches

- 20.1.** All matches shall be played under the rules of The Football Association of Wales, and shall be of 90 minutes duration. Clubs shall not mutually agree to play a match in lieu of a League match.
- 20.2.** If a match is played to a conclusion it must be a League match. Any match not completed may be ordered to stand as a completed match, or be replayed for the full period of 90 minutes as the Board may direct.
- 20.3.** Clubs responsible for a late start, shall be liable to a fine in accordance with Rule 35.

21. Fixtures and Times for Kick Off

- 21.1.** The Board shall determine how the Matches shall be arranged and rearranged over the playing season. The Board may change the schedule of Matches during the season to suit the overall interests of the League. The Matches shall take precedence over all competitions in which a Club may engage, with the exception of the FAW Women's Cup, Adran Trophy, UEFA club competitions and any invitational competition as agreed by the Board.
- 21.2.** The schedule of Matches shall be issued by the General Manager; fixtures will predominantly be played on Sundays, with a kick off time of 2pm.
- 21.3.** Midweek fixtures may be scheduled by the League when floodlights are available; the Home Club shall have the initial right to choose if the match shall be played on Wednesday or Thursday. The kick off time for a midweek fixture shall be 7pm.
- 21.4.** Where both teams are in agreement, a fixture may be brought forward in the preceding week of the original fixture and not less than seventy-two (72) hours after the last match either Club has fulfilled. No kick-off times later than the scheduled time will be permitted, unless under floodlights. At least fourteen (14) Clear Days prior notice is required from Clubs wishing to re-arrange a fixture or change a kick off time; a request made in less than this period of time will only be considered by the Board in exceptional circumstances.
- 21.5.** No Club shall be allowed to postpone a fixture with another Club unless it is to play in the FAW Women's Cup, Adran Trophy or a UEFA competition.

- 21.6.** Clubs affected by the selection of two or more players for International Duty by their National Association for Senior, Under 19 and Under 17 UEFA and FIFA competitive matches or International friendlies / trials / camps during scheduled international dates may request a postponement by the Board of its League fixture provided at least 10 clear days' notice is given to the General Manager in writing. If one player is selected and that player is the goalkeeper, a Club could make a similar request for the postponement of its League fixture.
- 21.7.** 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 Board shall have three points deducted, be liable for any reasonable expenses as deemed necessary by the Board and shall be fined £150. Any subsequent charges will be fined £250 and shall have three points deducted for each offence.
- 21.8.** The League reserves the right to arrange matches for those clubs who do not have a scheduled fixture on a Sunday. Clubs shall be given a minimum of fourteen (14) clear days' notice to any new fixture dates, unless in extreme circumstances or when mutually agreed by all parties.
- 21.9.** Should a fixture be postponed, Clubs shall have seven (7) clear days from the date of the confirmed postponement to mutually agree and submit a new date to the General Manager for the League to approve; proposed dates must be before the scheduled end of the Phase to which the match belongs. If Clubs fail to agree or if there is less than twenty-one (21) clear days between the original fixture and the end of the Phase the League shall determine when the fixture shall be played without right of appeal by either club.
- 21.10.** The League retains the right to be the final arbiter of the date and kick off time in the best interests of the League, including for televised matches.
- 21.11.** Visiting Clubs shall also confirm in such match correspondence to Home Clubs if they will be attending post-Match hospitality or not.

22. Condition of Grounds and Postponements

- 22.1.** Any Match not completed may be ordered to stand as a completed Match or replayed for the full period of ninety (90) minutes, as the Board 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 receipts of such uncompleted Match and the gate receipts of the replayed Match.
- 22.2.** 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 Board.
- 22.3.** 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 Board up to a maximum of £300.
- 22.4.** Details of the compensation claim by either/both Clubs shall be placed before the Board, with all the details clearly itemised.
- 22.5.** No Club shall postpone the playing of a 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 for the

Home Club to call in the most senior FAW qualified referee available, to give a ruling as to the fitness after consultation with the General Manager. The time of any inspection shall be by mutual agreement between the two Clubs taking into account the travelling time of the visiting Club, but shall not be considered more than forty-eight (48) hours before the scheduled time of kick-off. In case of dispute, the General Manager shall decide the time of any inspection.

- 22.6.** In the event of the available referee declaring the ground unfit, the Home Club shall notify the Visiting Club and the Match Officials forthwith by email and telephone call to avoid all unnecessary expense in travelling and the General Manager. The Visiting Club shall forthwith acknowledge receipt of such notice. If the Home Club does not receive an acknowledgement promptly, the Home Club shall forthwith notify the General Manager.
- 22.7.** If the available referee or designated person as deemed competent by the FAW Referee's Manager does not declare the ground unfit, a final decision shall be made by the Match Referee upon their arrival at the ground (each such Referee taking into account that Referees should not hastily postpone or abandon Matches).

23. Regulations Affecting Referees and Assistant Referees

23.1. Match Official Appointments

- 23.1.1. The FAW shall decide on the appointments of Match Officials
- 23.1.2. No Referee shall take part in the Management of any League Club.

23.2. Arrival of Match Officials

- 23.2.1. Match Officials should be present at the appointment at least sixty (60) 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 Home Club. If any Match Official becomes aware that they are likely to arrive late, they must immediately notify the participating Clubs, other Match Officials and the General Manager via telephone calls.
- 23.2.2. In cases where it is considered necessary to stop playing a Match owing to adverse weather or another cause, the Referee must wait a reasonable length of time before deciding on abandonment.
- 23.2.3. Should the appointed Referee fail to appear, the senior Assistant Referee shall take charge. The senior Assistant Referee is the Assistant Referee with the longer service on the League.

23.3. Match Officials Fees and Expenses

- 23.3.1. The Match Officials fees shall be paid by the FAW, Home Clubs shall be liable for paying their expenses either in cash immediately after the Match or by bank transfer within three Business Days of the Match.
- 23.3.2. All Match 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 FAW when travelling by car. Match Officials must travel together when instructed to do so by the FAW.
- 23.3.3. Match Officials shall be entitled to a meal allowance determined from time to time by the Board when travelling a total of one hundred and fifty (150) miles or more. In addition, Home

Clubs must provide adequate refreshments to the Match Officials in their dressing room at least sixty (60) minutes prior to kick-off and food within 30 minutes of the final whistle.

- 23.3.4. In the case of postponed Matches where they have travelled but where the game has not kicked off the Match Officials shall be paid their travelling expenses by the Home Club. They shall also receive half their Match Fee from the FAW. If a match is abandoned once the match has commenced, all match officials are entitled to claim their full match fee plus travelling expenses.

23.4. Match Report Forms

- 23.4.1. The Referee shall send the completed standard Referee's Report Form to the General Manager within sixty (60) minutes of the final whistle, using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time. The Referee's Report Form must be complete in all details, including the result of the Match, the full names of the Players taking part in the Match, the names of the substitutes and details of any substitutions made (including the Match time when the substitution was made), and details of any yellow cards and red cards issued (including the Match time when the card was issued).
- 23.4.2. Referees must report to the General Manager all cases where Clubs commence a Match late, or without eleven (11) Players on the field, where the Team Sheet was amended after submission and also in case of their own or any Assistant Referee's (including the Fourth Official's) late arrival for any Match as soon as possible after the Match. Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials must also send an explanation of their late arrival to the General Manager as soon as possible after the Match.

23.5. Kits and Footballs

- 23.5.1. Referees must ensure that Clubs play Matches in the correct Authorised Kit as defined in Rule 19 above. Any breach of this Rule must be reported to the General Manager.
- 23.5.2. The kit worn by Match Officials at Matches shall be approved by the FAW Referees Committee.
- 23.5.3. The football(s) proposed to be used in a Match must be the applicable official Match ball type as determined by the Board and notified to the Clubs by the General Manager from time to time. The Home Club must ensure that the proposed Match balls are in good condition. The proposed Match ball(s) (comprising a minimum number of eight (8)) shall be submitted by the Home Club to the Referee for their approval before commencement of the Match. The multi-ball system may be used, either if directed by the FAW or in agreement with the Referee with the required number of balls strategically placed on cones around the perimeter of the pitch.

23.6. Match Official Observers

- 23.6.1. The Association may appoint a Referee Observer, whose identity will be confirmed using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time. The Referee Observer must be allocated a car parking space, complimentary entry into the Ground and a seat in the VIP section with a full and unobstructed view of the Ground. The Referee Observer will also act as the Match delegate and is responsible for ensuring the orderly organisation of the match and that the Competition and FAW Rules and Regulations are complied with. The Referee Observer may submit a report to the FAW if they deem it necessary following any alleged breaches of the Rules and Regulations.

23.7. Feedback

23.7.1. Any comments, questions or complaints regarding the decisions of a given Match Official shall be directed to the FAW Match Officials Manager (initially via email), not to any individual Match Official. Under no circumstances are conversations between club personnel and match officials to be recorded with any device without the knowledge and permission of all parties.

24. Team Sheets and Strength of Teams

24.1. Both Match Team Sheets must be completed at least thirty (30) minutes before kick-off of each Match (except at least seventy-five (75) minutes before kick-off of any Match to be transmitted "live" on terrestrial or television or to be streamed by the FAW or one of our partners) using the COMET system.

24.2. Any Club altering its team selection or numbering after Team Sheets have been exchanged will be subject to any action decided upon by the Board. After the validated Team Sheets have been submitted by both Clubs, and if the Match has not yet kicked off, no replacement is allowed except in the following cases:

24.2.1. If any of the outfield Players indicated on the Team Sheet as forming the starting 11 are not able to start the match due to physical incapacity, they may only be replaced by any of the substitutes listed on the initial Team Sheet. The substitute(s) in question may then only be replaced by a registered player (players) not listed on the initial Team Sheet, so that the quota of substitutes is not reduced. During the match, five (5) Players may still be substituted.

24.2.2. Should the named goalkeeper indicated on the Team Sheet as forming the starting 11 is not able to start the match due to physical incapacity, they may be replaced by another nominated goalkeeper, regardless if they have previously been listed as a substitute on the Team Sheet.

24.2.3. If any of the substitutes listed on the Team Sheet are not able to be fielded due to physical incapacity, they may only be replaced by a registered Player not listed on the initial Team Sheet.

24.3. The Club concerned must, upon request, provide the Board with the necessary medical certificates.

24.4. Each Club shall play its full-strength team in all Matches and shall be prepared to kick off at the advertised time unless an explanation is offered which is deemed satisfactory by the Board.

25. Substitutes

25.1. Clubs may nominate five (5) substitutes on the Team Sheet.

25.2. A Club at its discretion may use up to five (5) substitutes during a Match except to replace a Player or Players who have been sent off or suspended from the Match by the Referee. Substitutions can only be made when the play has been stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission.

25.3. During the match, each team:

25.3.1. may use a maximum of five substitutes

25.3.2. has a maximum of three substitution opportunities

25.3.3. may additionally make substitutions at half-time where both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as a substitution opportunity for each team.

25.4. The name(s) and numbers of the substitute(s) must be nominated to the Referee on the Team Sheet in accordance with Rule 24 above.

26. Substitutes Benches and Technical Areas

- 26.1.** At each Match up to thirteen (13) Players and Officials in total (of which no more than five (5) may be the substitutes or the Players they have replaced on the field of play) may sit on the substitutes' bench of the relevant Club in the designated technical area. The full name of each person and their function must be listed on the Team Sheet.
- 26.2.** Only one (1) person at a time from the relevant Club may stand in the designated technical area. Only one (1) person at a time from the relevant Club may convey tactic instructions from the designated technical area.
- 26.3.** A qualified medic as defined in the Club Licensing Regulations should be pitchside. The person on duty shall be either the Club's incumbent named medic in accordance with the Club's Licence or, in exceptional circumstances, a suitable replacement as agreed in advance with the General Manager.
- 26.4.** During the Match, substitutes are allowed to leave the designed technical area to warm up. The Referee may determine exactly where they may warm up and how many substitutes are allowed to warm up simultaneously but in any event, no more than three (3) in total from each Club. A Club Official (as indicated on the Team Sheet) may join the substitutes warming up and, if so, is responsible for compliance with the Referee's instructions.
- 26.5.** Each Club participating in a Match must have two (2) sets of warm up bibs available to present to the Referee before the Match. Should there be a colour clash the Referee will decide which bibs the substitutes must wear during their warm-ups.
- 26.6.** Smoking (including the use of e-cigarettes) is not allowed in the technical area during Matches.
- 26.7.** Three home and three away bibs to be placed opposite the technical areas in preparation for substitutions (as players are now expected to leave the field at the nearest point after being substituted).
- 26.8.** The use of any electronic communication equipment and/or systems is regulated by the IFAB Laws of the Game and the relevant instructions issued. Under no circumstances may any such systems be used by teams in connection with any kind of refereeing decision or matter.

27. Players Insurance

- 27.1.** It is the responsibility of the Club that all insurance matters relating to the activities of the Club are covered. This should include players, staff, facilities, matches, travel and any other areas for which the Club may be liable. Insurance offered by the FAW in respect of COMET registration may form part of this provision. It is advised that Clubs seek professional guidance regarding all insurance matters.

28. Sponsorship

- 28.1.** The FAW shall have the sole and exclusive right to exercise the Sponsorship Rights and to enter into Sponsorship Contracts and/or authorise others to do so. The Clubs shall do nothing to infringe such rights and shall at their own cost do all such things and sign all such documents as are necessary to facilitate the exercise of the Sponsorship Rights and enable the FAW, its agents and licensees to comply with the terms of Sponsorship Contracts, including the provision of access, facilities and services and the right to use Club, Official and Player names, logos, images and biographies.

29. Transmission of League Matches

- 29.1.** The FAW shall have the sole and exclusive right to exercise the Transmission Rights and enter into Transmission Contracts and/or authorise others to do so. The Clubs shall do nothing to infringe such rights and shall at their own cost do all such things and sign all such documents as are necessary to facilitate the exercise of the Transmission Rights and enable the FAW, its agents and licensees to comply with the terms of Transmission Contracts, including the provision of access, facilities and services and the right to use Club, Official and Player names, logos, images and biographies.

30. Gate Receipts

- 30.1.** Save as expressly stated in these Rules, the Home Club shall retain all gate receipts generated from each Match.

31. Custody of League Trophies

- 31.1.** The Adran Premier trophy will be presented to the winning Club of the said competition.
- 31.2.** Upon receiving the said trophy, the following agreement will be signed in connection with the safe keeping and eventual return of the trophy to the League.
- 31.3.** We the undersigned Officials of the.....Club do on their behalf receive The Adran Premier trophy and acknowledge that same has been delivered into our keeping in good and sound condition.
- 31.4.** We agree that the Club will return the said trophy to the League within 28 days of the end of the following season or upon request by the General Manager.
- 31.5.** We further agree to indemnify the League against Loss of or Damage to the trophy while in our possession or otherwise to provide an exact replica of the Cup concerned.
- Date:
- Signed:
- Chair:
- Secretary:
- 31.6.** Note: No inscription is allowed to be placed on the Cups by any Club.

32. Mementoes Winners, Runners Up

- 32.1.** A set of twenty trophies will be presented to the Clubs adjudged Winners and Runners-up in the championship.
- 32.2.** Additional trophies to the set of twenty can only be obtained by special sanction of the Board.

33. Scale of Fines

Resignation from the League at the end of the season between 1st April and the AGM

£1500

Resignation from the League after the AGM	£2500
Failure to fulfil a fixture - 1st offence plus deduction of points	£150
Failure to fulfil a fixture - each additional offence plus deduction of points	£250
Failure to confirm full kit colours (including goalkeeper kit) on COMET five days ahead of a scheduled match (Home) and three days ahead of match (Away)	£50
Late presentation of team sheet on COMET	£25
By late arrival, causing match to be delayed £1.00 fine per minute, minimum	£20
Starting a fixture with only 10 players	£100
Starting a fixture with only 9 players	£150
Starting a fixture with only 8 players	£200
Failure to input match live match information into COMET (per offence)	£50
Playing an ineligible player – 1st offence fine plus deduction of three points for each offence*. Up to	£200
Playing an ineligible player – each additional offence fine plus deduction of three points for each offence*	
*With the exception of players deemed ineligible as per Rule 18.2	Up to £200
Failure to use the required match balls (if balls are supplied) (per match)	£100
The unauthorised recording of conversations between club personnel and match officials	£500
Failure of club to attend AGM or any Special General Meetings, or event proscribed as mandatory	£100
Failure to reply to correspondence or to meet a set deadline	£25
Failure to display sponsor's boards in the agreed positions (per match)	£250

The maximum possible sanction for not adhering to these Rules, unless stipulated above, shall be equivalent to the designated 'FAW Grant' or £5,000 whichever is the higher.

34. Matters Not Provided for by the Rules

Any infringement of the Rules and any other matter not provided for by the Rules shall be dealt with by the Board.

THE ADRAN TROPHY RULES

1. The competition shall be called The Adran Trophy, or may be known by another name subject to agreement by the FAW.
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 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. In the event that any of the Adran Trophy Rules conflicts with the FAW Rules or the FAW Regulations, the FAW Rules or FAW Regulations shall prevail.
5. The Adran Premier Rules shall apply to this Competition, save as amended (where necessary) to refer to the Competition instead of the League and save as otherwise amended by these rules (the "Adran Trophy Rules").
6. The competition shall be organised each season by the FAW, in collaboration with the respective League Management Committees for Adran North and South.
7. All Clubs who are currently members of the Adran Premier, Adran North and Adran South Leagues are to compete. Clubs failing to complete fixtures will be subject to a sanction as determined by the National League Board.
8. The competition will be a dual format.

The opening rounds will be four mini-leagues, with Adran North and Adran South clubs geographically drawn into groups who will play in a fixture programme as determined by the Adran Tier 2 League Management Committees.

The winning team after 90 minutes will be awarded three points, should the score be tied each team will receive one point. A losing team will not receive any points. At the conclusion of all the mini-league games, the two clubs with the most points from each group will progress to the 'Round of 16' stage; in the event of two or more teams having the same number of points, final positions will be determined as in Adran Premier Rule 6.6.

From the Round of 16 onward ties will be played on a knockout basis over one leg and Adran Premier League teams shall join the competition. The draw for this round shall be made with Adran Premier League clubs seeded and drawn against teams from Adran North and South. All subsequent draws shall not feature seeded teams.

In the knockout stages, if the scores are level at the end of 90 minutes, the winner will be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with International Football Association Board procedures.

9. The dates of all matches shall be decided by the FAW.
10. In all matches leading up to the Final the gate receipts shall be allocated to the Home Club.
11. The final tie will take place in a neutral ground, to be decided by the FAW.
12. The appointment of Referees and Assistant Referees shall be made by the FAW. Match Fees and expenses shall be as paid for League matches. If the match involves an Adran Premier club, these fees shall be paid by the FAW.
13. Any Club without just cause failing to fulfil an engagement to play its Adran Trophy group stage matches on the appointed date or causing a game to be abandoned without giving a reason deemed to be satisfactory by the League Management Committee may have three points deducted, be liable for any reasonable expenses as deemed necessary by the League Management Committee and shall be fined £100. Any subsequent charges may be doubled.
14. Any Club without just cause failing to fulfil an engagement to play its Adran Trophy knock-out stage matches on the appointed date or causing a game to be abandoned without giving a reason deemed to be satisfactory by the Board may be removed from the competition, be liable for any reasonable expenses as deemed necessary by the Board and shall be fined £150. Any subsequent charges shall be fined £250 per offence.
15. Should a group stage match be postponed for any reason, it shall be rescheduled to be played before the group stages are due to conclude. If it is the final game of the group stage, it must be rescheduled for the following week, or in the event of a clash with the FAW Women's Cup, no more than 14 days after the original fixture date.
16. Should a knock-out match be postponed for any reason, it must be rescheduled for the following week, or in the event of a clash with the FAW Women's Cup no more than 14 days after the original fixture date.
17. 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 FAW at its discretion.
18. For any match ordered to be replayed in consequence of a breach of Rule 13 or Rule 14, 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.

19. A player shall be considered bona-fide if she is registered by her Club, in accordance with the provision of the relevant League's regulations and Section H of the FAW Rules. Each Club shall play its full available strength squad 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. Any Club being found in default of this Rule shall be disqualified from the competition and subject to other penalties as the FAW may deem necessary.
20. The winning Club shall hold the Adran Trophy for one year. The Cup must be returned upon request of the League General Manager.
21. 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.