

## REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM

### 1. DEFINITIONS

In the interpretation of these Regulations: any words and expressions, unless otherwise defined herein, shall be words and expressions as defined as follows:-

“AC” means the Alliance Committee appointed by FA Council.

“Association” means The Football Association Limited.

“Club” means a football club for the time being in a League in membership of the NLS

“Competition” in these Regulations means a League in the National League System.

“Conditional Licence” means a Licence with conditions attached to be met by a Club within a period determined by the Competition in which the Club holding the Licence is allocated by the Leagues Committee. Such period is not to exceed 1 March in the Membership Year to which the Licence relates. Save in exceptional circumstances a Conditional Licence cannot be granted to a Club for successive Membership Years in respect of the same Criterion.

“League” means any competition sanctioned by the Association and/or an Affiliated Association in membership of the NLS.

“LC” means the Leagues Committee appointed by FA Council.

“Licence” means an annual licence required to be held by a Club to be a member of a Competition that may be either an Unconditional Licence or Conditional Licence.

“NLS” means the National League System of competitions controlled by the Association where promotion and relegation links exist between participating Leagues.

“Playing Season” means the period between the date on which the first competitive fixture in the League is played each year until the date on which the last competitive fixture in the League is played. For Clubs participating in Play Off Matches this does include the period when Play Off Matches are played.

“Play Off Match(es)” means matches played between Clubs in a Play Off Position on a format to be determined by each League provided that the format is the same across each Step.

“Play Off Position” means the position of a Club at the end of each Playing Season which is provided for in Standardised Rule 13 as qualifying the Club to take part in a Play Off Match to qualify for promotion to the next Step for the next Playing Season.

“Regulations” means these regulations.

“Rules” means the FA Standardised Rules or FA Standard Code of Rules under which a League is administered.

“Step” means the level at which a Club participates in the National League System.

“Unconditional Licence” means a Licence without any conditions attached.

### 2. The National League System (“NLS”) shall be operated in accordance with the Regulations.

A Club shall be required to hold a Licence to be a member of a Competition at Steps 1 to 4 of the NLS.

The aims and objectives of the NLS are to provide:

2.1 Clubs with a level of competitive football appropriate to their playing ability, stadium/ground facilities and geographical location.

2.2 A framework for discussion on matters of policy and common interest to Leagues and Clubs.

2.3 The seasonal movement of Clubs.

All Leagues are bound by the Regulations. A Club is bound by the Regulations from the date it has qualified for placement into the NLS until such time as it leaves the NLS for whatever reason.

### 3. Position of a League in the National League System

#### 3.1 The current structure of the NLS is set out below:

Step 1

Step 2

Step 3

CHART











