

The Football Association Standardised Rules 2019-20 Season Rational for proposed amendments



Note: there have been minor alterations made to the Standardised Rules such as renumbering or single word changes for consistency/accuracy which are not listed in the table below. Only amended sections of any rule are shown.

Definitions	Amendment	Rationale
Preamble	These Rules have been compiled by the Sanctions and Registrations Committee of The Football Association for the mandatory use of all sanctioned Competitions at Steps 1 to 6 inclusive of the National League System.	To reflect the restructure of the FA Council committee structure.
New definition	<u>“Participant” shall be as defined in the Rules of The FA</u>	“Participant” is now referenced at a later stage in the Standardised Rules.
Rule	Amendment	Rationale
2.1 Membership Requirements	<p>“Each Club shall register its Ground, and its pitch dimensions, with the Competition prior to the start of each Playing Season. It will be misconduct on the part of a Club to alter its pitch dimensions during a season unless with prior written consent of the Board. The Board may at any time require a Club, at its own cost, to submit a report from a qualified independent source certifying the pitch dimensions.</p> <p>Dimensions of the field of play for all Competition matches shall be:- Length - Maximum 120 yards (110 metres) – Minimum 110 yards (100 metres) Width - Maximum 80 yards (75 metres) – Minimum 70 yards (64 metres)</p> <p>No Club shall remove to another Ground without first obtaining written consent of the Board; such consent not to be withheld unreasonably. In consideration whether to give such consent the Board shall have regard to all the circumstances of the case and shall not grant consent unless it is reasonably satisfied that such consent....”</p>	Amended for accuracy.
2.2 Membership Requirements	Each Club shall return to the General Manager-Competition Secretary a fully completed questionnaire relating to Form “D” required by The FA by the date given in the circular letter accompanying the questionnaire issued by the Competition Secretary	Amended to reduce named roles within the Standardised Rules.

<p>2.14 Ownership and Change of Control</p>	<p>(iv) The Club shall submit a copy of any agreement concerning the completed sale of a controlling ownership interest to the Competition and The FA.</p> <p>If the Competition becomes aware that a change of Control has occurred at a Club in the Membership Year that has not been assessed in accordance with this Rule then, in addition to the powers set out in this Rule, the provisions, criteria and powers set out in Appendix Q: The Licensing System shall apply.</p>	<p>New rule to enures sale and purchase agreements are received as evidence the change of control has occurred, to check no breaches of FA Rules/Regulations e.g. Third Party Ownership. Clarifies that a change of Control is not approved unless and until each of the criteria is satisfied. Cross references to Appendix Q</p>
<p>2.20 General Meetings</p>	<p>Any Club failing to be represented at throughout an Annual General Meeting or any other General Meeting called in accordance with the [Rules] [Articles] without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. [Whenever required to do so all Clubs shall ensure that their Managers, or an Assistant Manager, will be required to attend in person any General Meeting of Clubs to receive a presentation called by the Board. Failure to do so without just cause shall be a breach of these Rules and be dealt with in accordance with the Fines Tariff.]</p>	<p>To ensure any managers' meeting called by the Board is mandatory and subject to sanctions for non-attendance.</p>
<p>6.1.3 Registraion of players</p>	<p>The Board shall have the power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct subject to the right of Appeal to the FA or the relevant County Football Association. Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated conduct, which may deter a pParticipant from being involved in this Competition. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the Player is registered with.</p>	<p>Now defined as per first proposal.</p>
<p>6.4.5 Registrations and Registration Process</p>	<p>Except when where mutually agreed between the Clubs in writing, and specific approval has been given by the Board a Club cannot register more than one cContract or aNon-cContract Player, registered to from another Club or club at any one time unless a period of 1428 days has elapsed between each registration the first and the second notice of approach or acknowledgement.</p>	<p>Currently wording does not reflect reality. Amended to be consistent with FA Rule C2 (a) (v) regarding the 28 day period</p>
<p>6.4.7 Work Experience</p>	<p>A Club may register any number of Work Experience Players.</p>	<p>As Youth Loans are no longer permitted by the EFL the limit on Work Experience players playing in any one match is lifted. The overall limit on players on Short Term, Long Term, Youth Loan and Work Experience would still be limited to 5 as per existing Rule 6.4.8.</p>

6.5.1 Transfers/cancellations & terminations	<p>TRANSFERS. The transfer of a registration of a Player under written Contract from one Club to another must be in writing, on the Competition transfer form, signed by the Contract Player and the two Clubs, and the form must be forwarded to the Company for approval and registration.</p>	To explicitly include the requirement for relevant forms for Contract Players to be submitted to The FA as well as the relevant league.
	<p><u>The transfer form must also be sent to The FA with a completed transfer agreement, contract and registration form for approval and registration.</u></p>	To clarify the process for registration cancellations for both Contract and Non Contract Players and the requirement for such cancellations to be by mutual consent.
	<p>Such Contract Player does not become a bona-fide registered Player of the Club seeking his transfer until the form has been approved and registered by The FA and the Competition. The registration of a Contract Player whose Contract is cancelled by mutual consent shall be automatically cancelled upon receipt by the Competition of a copy of the relevant FA form.</p>	
	<p>Where a Club cancels the registration of a Player, Contract or Non-Contract Player, for any reason whatsoever, the Club must notify the Competition Secretary[General Manager] and The FA immediately, in writing or on the relevant Competition /FA form. To be valid, such notification must be signed by an authorised signatory of the Club and the Player.</p> <p><u>Where a Club cancels the registraion of a Non-Contract Player for any reason whatsoever, the club must notify the Competition Secretary immediately, in writing or on the relevant Competition form. To be valid, such notification must be signed by an authorised signatory of the club.</u></p>	To distinguish between cancellations and terminations and clarify the process for each.
6.5.4 Transfers	<p><u>A Club shall submit to the Board any contract it proposes to enter into which gives the Club or any other party to the proposed contract any rights relating to the transfer of the registration of a Player at a date in the future from or to the Club or any rights relating to the employment for the Player by the Club.</u></p> <p><u>Any such proposed contract shall be subject to the approval of the Board.</u></p>	This is a new rule, in order to protect the integrity of the competition in circumstances where a club could agree to transfer a player at future date whilst the player remains a registered player his original club. The second half of the Rule closes any loophole whereby another Club (or club) may acquire an option to transfer the player at a future date.

<p>6.6.1 Temporary Transfers (Loans)</p>	<p>Where the Rules of the relevant League permit, Short Term Loans, Youth Loans and Long Term Loans of Contract players shall be allowed to or from Clubs in membership of:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Premier League •The Football League •The National League •The Isthmian Football League •The Northern Premier League •The Southern Football League <p>Any other Leagues which have been authorised by the FA [as shown in Appendix K] on such terms and conditions as shall be mutually agreed by the two clubs and the player. For Loan Transfers between Clubs in the same Competition the transfer must be completed on the National League System Temporary Transfer Form. For Loan Transfers between Clubs in different Competitions the transfer must be completed on FA Form H3 together with a registration form applicable for the Competition of the transferee club.</p> <p>The player being taken on loan, [including Youth Loan,] must sign a Competition contract registration form which will be valid for the full period of the loan, including any extension to the loan period.</p> <p><u>If the original Loan agreement contains a pre-agreed recall clause, a Player may be recalled by the loaning Club submitting written confirmation to the borrowing Club, the Competition and The FA.</u></p> <p><u>Where no pre-agreed recall clause exists, the cancellation must be agreed between the loaning Club, the borrowing Club and the Player. The loaning Club must submit written confirmation to the borrowing Club, the Competition and The FA</u></p> <p>The Competition's standard cancellation form must be used to prematurely end the Temporary transfer period. The temporary registration for the borrowing Club will automatically be deemed to be cancelled upon maturity of the temporary transfer period.</p>	<p>To make clear that all parties need to be in agreement before a recall can be accepted by the Competition and to define how recalls are completed. Also to confirm that The FA must be notified of any recall.</p>
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<p>6.6.3 Temporary Transfers (Long Term Loans)</p>	<p>A Player on Long Term Loan may <u>only be recalled between 1st and 31st January or from any date after the end of the Playing Season until 31st August</u> not be recalled, except for a goalkeeper or where the Player is to be transferred permanently by the Club (or club) holding his registered contract <u>in each case, subject to the agreement of the loaning Club, the borrowing Club and the Player, which may be pre-agreed in a recall clause in the original Loan agreement. A Player other than a goalkeeper so recalled cannot be permitted to play for the Club (or club) holding his registration after such recall until the end of the Playing Season. Players so recalled can only be replaced by a further Long Term Loan with permission from the Company. Long Term Loan Transfers will not count against the number of Short Term Loan Transfers.</u></p>	<p>To confirm that Long Term Loans (with the exception of a goalkeeper or a player to be permanently transferred) may only be recalled in the January transfer window or close season</p>
<p>6.6.4 Youth Loan Transfers</p>	<p>The minimum period of a Youth Loan shall be 28 days, thereafter a break clause may be included. Youth Loans cannot extend beyond the end date of the Player's 21st birthday and/or the contract period with the parent club.]</p>	<p>To clarify that all Youth Loans terminate on the day before a player's 21st birthday and that a player on Youth Loan is not permitted to play on the date of his 21st birthday.</p>
<p>8.29 Bench Kit</p>	<p>[All occupants of the technical area must wear the corporate bench kit supplied to each Member Club. Failure to wear the bench kit will result in a fine. The only exception would be the Team manager who will be allowed to wear suits and overcoats not displaying any sponsorship logos. <u>[Corporate bench kit supplied to each Member Club must also be worn by the players and staff in warm-ups and warm-downs, and where possible in media interviews on match days]</u> Failure to wear the bench kit will result in a fine.]</p>	<p>Inclusion of squared brackets when a league wishes to specify key events where the bench kit is to be worn.</p>
<p>10.9 Third Party Investment</p>	<p><u>All Clubs must comply with The FA's Third Party Interest in Players Regulations.</u></p>	<p>New rule confirming the necessity of compliance with The FA's Players Regulations.</p>
<p>12.10 NATIONAL LEAGUE ONLY</p>	<p><u>The Board may nominate Clubs to participate in sanctioned international competitions. The Board shall nominate the highest placed Club(s) from the previous season or apply any other reasonable method in its absolute discretion. Subject to FA approval, such nominated Clubs shall be obliged to participate and may apply to the Board to request necessary fixture alterations to enable its participation and may apply to the Board for a contribution to any reasonable travel costs sustained directly related to its participation that are not adequately covered by income from the sanctioned competition organiser or from shares of net gate receipts.</u></p>	<p>This is a new rule to enable Clubs participation in the IRN-BRU Cup, to make it obligatory for Clubs to accept the nomination, to enable fixture alterations and to underwrite travel costs not covered by gate receipts; travel costs grants and prize money. The Rule also has reference to The FA sanctioning such participation.</p>

<p>14.11 Match Officials</p>	<p><u>Match Officials officiating in Competitions using the reporting functionality in The FA's Match Official Administration System (MOAS) must report all breaches of Rule via MOAS within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match.</u></p> <p>Referees must report all breaches of Rule <u>Match Officials officiating in Competitions not using the reporting functionality in MOAS must report all breaches of Rule</u> to the Competition Secretary in writing within three days of the match on the appropriate form by first class post or electronically.</p>	<p>Necessity to report via the MOAS system.</p> <p>Using the term 'Match Officials' as opposed to 'Referees'.</p>
<p>19 Alteration To Rules</p>	<p>No alteration to the Rules shall be made until they have been approved by The FA. Alterations to Rules shall be approved at a general meeting of the Company [in accordance with article [____] of the Articles of Association of the Company].</p> <p>Proposals for alterations to Rules, together with the name of their proposers and seconders, shall be received by the [League] [Company] Secretary not later than 31st January <u>[30th November/31st January]</u> prior to the date fixed for the Annual General Meeting of the Company in each year or not later than eight weeks before the holding of an Extraordinary General Meeting called for the purpose of amending the Rules.</p>	<p>Current process does not work with regards to the timings.</p>
<p>20 Admission Charges</p>	<p>The minimum charge for admission to all matches shall be determined from time to time by the Board. Admission charges, excluding home Club concessions as appropriate, must be the same for home and visiting supporters at Competition matches <u>for equivalent accommodation. If there is no equivalent accommodation, the Board may in its absolute discretion consider the charges set by the home Club and determine a reasonable equivalent admission charge for visiting supporters, which shall be implemented by the home Club until the end of the current Playing Season.</u></p> <p>Clubs may, with the written permission of the Board, have a maximum of three Competition Match days each Playing Season during which they can vary <u>general</u> admission charges for adults including allowing free admission.</p> <p><u>Concessionary admission charges or pricing policies for disabled people and their carers/helpers, senior citizens, students, children, unemployed, armed forces etc, if available for home supporters, must be offered on a similar basis to visiting supporters.</u></p>	<p>To allow greater flexibility for Clubs. Rule amended to make it clear that concessionary prices should be made available to away supporters. The addition of "general" allows Clubs to vary admission prices on a small scale (e.g. a community scheme promotion or targeting of a specific postcode) without seeking permission.</p>

<p>34 Competition Sponsors</p>	<p>Each Club shall be obliged to utilise any match boards provided by the Competition's sponsor and further shall be obliged to procure that any bench kit provided by a sponsor shall be worn during competitive and first team matches. In the event of any Club having an existing agreement with a competitor to the Competition's sponsor in respect of match boards, and bench kit and other commercial or advertising obligations, they should be entitled to honour that agreement <u>on an on-going basis but shall not renew the same.</u></p>	<p>For clarification.</p>
<p>41 Budget Monitoring NATIONAL LEAGUE ONLY Budget Monitoring scheme & Permitted loans</p>	<p><u>A Club shall comply with the provisions of Appendix E, 'Budget Moirntoring Scheme & Permitted Loans' as shall be enforced from time to time as determined by the</u> **Note - as a result, 'Embargo. Will need to be renumbered to '42'**</p>	<p>For inclusion in FA Standardised Rules.</p>
<p>Appendices</p>	<p>The following appendices are incorporated within the membership rules and should be read in conjunction with the aforementioned rules. The rules and appendices were approved and passed by the clubs at the Annual General Meeting (insert date..... 20....).</p> <p>An Embargo may be imposed pursuant to any of the relevant preceding or subsequent Rules and Regulations or Appendices but in any event shall be imposed:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . where a Club has undergone an Insolvency Event . where a Club has been served with a winding-up petition which has not been satisfied in full or to the satisfaction of the petitioning creditors as evidenced by written agreement or . where a Club has either defaulted on such an agreement or has omitted or incorrectly reported its failure to adhere to the terms of any agreement. <p>Any Embargo is without prejudice to any other penalties that the Competition may wish or be entitled to impose pursuant to any other Rule or Regulation or Appendix in relation to any matter giving rise to the right to impose an Embargo including but not limited to any default, or any agreement reached with creditors or failure to report the default or incorrectly reporting the Club's adherence to any agreement with creditors.</p> <p><u>The following appendices are incorporated within the membership rules and should be read in conjunction with the aforementioned rules. The rules and appendices were approved and passed by the Clubs at the Annual General Meeting (insert date..... 20....).</u></p>	<p>This is to be repositioned to below Rule 42.</p> <p>To be repositioned to below Rule 42.</p>

<p>2.3.1 & 2.3.2 NATIONAL LEAGUE ONLY Annex 1 - Licence Criteria - NL Only</p>	<p>2.3.1 Where a change of control of a Club has occurred in a Membership Year then it must have been approved <u>assessed</u> by the Competition in accordance with Rule 2.14. Compliance with Rule 2.14 shall be deemed to meet the criteria.</p>	<p>To be repositioned to below Rule 42.</p>
	<p>2.3.2 If the Competition becomes aware that a change of control has occurred at a Club in the Membership Year that it has not approved <u>assessed</u> in accordance with Rule 2.14 then in addition to the powers of the Competition set out at Rule 2.14 the Competition may refuse a Licence, attach conditions to a Licence and / or apply a penalty at the discretion of the Competition.</p>	<p>Word change.</p>