

**As at 05 June 2024**

## **Scottish Women’s Premier League – League and Play-Off Competitions Rules**

### **“Competitions Rules”**

<b>A GENERAL.....</b>	<b>6</b>
Name.....	6
Definitions and Interpretation.....	6
Company and Managing Director.....	6
General Meetings.....	6
<b>B CLUBS AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEAGUE.....</b>	<b>7</b>
Relationship between Clubs and the League.....	7
Agreement on Compliance with Applicable Rules, Statutes and Regulations.....	7
Commitment to National teams.....	8
Scottish Cup and League Cup Competitions.....	8
Other Football Competitions.....	8
Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Parties.....	9
<b>C THE LEAGUE AND DIVISIONS.....</b>	<b>10</b>
Membership of the Company, Divisional Membership, Promotion and Relegation.....	10
League Ranking at the End of a Season.....	10
Entitlement to Participate in Divisions.....	11
SWPL1.....	12
SWPL2.....	13
Promotion, Relegation, and the League Play-Off Match.....	13
Allocation of Points in League Matches.....	14
Determination of League etc. Position in Case of Equality of Points.....	14
Champion Clubs.....	16
League Cup Competition.....	16
Other Competitions.....	16
Other Competition Rules.....	17
UEFA Competitions.....	17
Club Ceasing to Operate, Participate in and/or be a Club of the League.....	17
<b>C(A) THE LEAGUE AND DIVISIONS (APPLICABLE IN PLACE OF SECTION C FOR SEASON 2025/26)18</b>	

Membership of the Company, Divisional Membership, Promotion and Relegation .....	18
League Ranking at the End of a Season .....	18
Entitlement to Participate in Divisions .....	19
SWPL1 .....	19
SWPL2 .....	20
Promotion, Relegation, the SWPL1/SWPL2 Play-Off and the League Play-Off Match.....	21
Allocation of Points in League Matches.....	24
Determination of League etc. Position in Case of Equality of Points .....	24
Champion Clubs .....	25
League Cup Competition.....	26
Other Competitions .....	26
Other Competition Rules .....	26
UEFA Competitions .....	26
Club Ceasing to Operate, Participate in and/or be a Club of the League.....	26
<b>C(B) THE LEAGUE AND DIVISIONS (APPLICABLE IN PLACE OF SECTION C AND C(A) FOR SEASON 2026/27 AND EACH SUBSEQUENT SEASON THEREAFTER) .....</b>	<b>27</b>
Membership of the Company, Divisional Membership, Promotion and Relegation .....	27
League Ranking at the End of a Season .....	27
Entitlement to Participate in Divisions .....	28
SWPL1 .....	28
SWPL2 .....	29
Promotion, Relegation, the SWPL1/SWPL2 Play-Off Match and the League Play-Off Match	30
Allocation of Points in League Matches.....	33
Determination of League etc. Position in Case of Equality of Points .....	33
Champion Clubs .....	34
League Cup Competition.....	35
Other Competitions .....	35
Other Competition Rules .....	35
UEFA Competitions .....	35
Club Ceasing to Operate, Participate in and/or be a Club of the League.....	36
<b>D CLUBS .....</b>	<b>37</b>
Membership Criteria.....	37
Employee Contracts.....	38
Inducement to breach Contracts .....	39

<b>E CLUB FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS.....</b>	<b>40</b>
Insolvency .....	40
Default in Player and Football Manager/Coaching Staff Remuneration .....	44
HMRC Obligations and Reporting .....	44
Inspection of Financial Records .....	47
No Overdue Payables and Compliance with Employee Remuneration Requirements.....	50
<b>F PLAYERS.....</b>	<b>54</b>
Registration and Eligibility .....	54
<b>G FIXTURES AND MATCH OFFICIALS .....</b>	<b>55</b>
Fixtures.....	55
Postponement and International Selection.....	55
Match Officials .....	55
Kick-off Times.....	55
Half-time Interval.....	56
Duration of Matches .....	56
Teams for League Matches and Play-Off Matches .....	56
Laws of the Game .....	56
List of Players .....	56
Substitution and Extra-Time .....	58
Player Identification.....	62
Clubs to Register Colours .....	63
Clashes of Colours.....	64
Shirts to Bear Logo(s).....	65
Match Balls.....	65
Match Report .....	65
Postponement and Abandonment of Matches .....	65
Non-fulfilment of Fixture Obligations.....	66
Attendance of Medical Practitioners and Others .....	66
Head Injuries .....	67
Pre-Arranging Results .....	67
Shirt Advertisements and Televised Matches .....	67
Match Officials .....	68
List of Referees .....	68
List of Assistant Referees .....	68

Appointment of Referees and Assistant Referees .....	68
Misconduct.....	68
Retainers and Allowances for Referees and Assistant Referees.....	68
Illegal Payments to Referees and Assistant Referees .....	69
Referee to Visit Ground Early During Bad Weather or at Request of Home Club .....	69
Pitch Report.....	69
Assistant Referees' Flags .....	69
Choice of Football to be Used .....	69
Referee Observer .....	69
Ball Attendants' Clothing.....	70
Substitution and Time Remaining Boards.....	70
<b>H STADIA.....</b>	<b>72</b>
Technical Area Facilities.....	72
Covered Stadia .....	72
Synthetic and Artificial Pitches and Surfaces.....	72
Pitch Protection .....	73
Pitch Condition.....	74
Registration of Ground .....	74
Pitch Dimensions.....	75
Waiver, Relaxation and Period of Grace.....	75
Ground Safety, Behaviour at Matches and Damage to Stadia .....	75
Unacceptable Conduct.....	76
Damage to Stadia.....	78
Giant Screens and LED Perimeter Boards.....	80
Appendices.....	80
<b>K MISCELLANEOUS .....</b>	<b>81</b>
Confidentiality.....	81
Scottish FA Congress.....	81
Dual Interests.....	81
Breach of and Failure to Comply with the Rules, Investigations etc.....	81
<b>APPENDIX 1.....</b>	<b>82</b>
Code of Practice for Use of Giant Screens .....	82
<b>APPENDIX 2.....</b>	<b>84</b>
Code of Practice for Use of LED Perimeter Boards.....	84

<b>APPENDIX 3</b> .....	<b>86</b>
Code of Conduct for Under 18 Players (“the Code of Conduct”) .....	86
<b>APPENDIX 4</b> .....	<b>89</b>
Media Co-Operation Requirements.....	89
<b>APPENDIX 5</b> .....	<b>90</b>
Match Information Form .....	90

## **A General**

### **Name**

- A1** The name of this combination of Football clubs is The Scottish Women's Premier League.

### **Definitions and Interpretation**

- A2** Capitalised words and phrases in these Rules and the rules on Interpretation of these Rules are as stated in the Definitions and Interpretations Rules as adopted by and from time to time amended by the Company.

### **Company and Managing Director**

- A3** Where a discretion, right or power is expressed in these Rules to be exercisable by the Company, such discretion, right or power may be exercisable by the Chair, Managing Director or Secretary in accordance with and to the extent of, any authority delegated to them and/or any two or more of them pursuant to the Articles.

### **General Meetings**

- A4** The Chair or their substitute in terms of the Articles may, subject to the provisions of the Articles and any requirements of the 2006 Act, regulate the proceedings of General Meetings as they think fit.
- A5** Except where exceptional circumstances make it impracticable, each Club must attend at each General Meeting of which notice has been sent to it in accordance with the Articles. For the purposes of this Rule attend includes being present by a duly authorised Official or by any other duly authorised representative, having appointed a proxy in accordance with the Articles who is present at the relevant General Meeting to exercise all rights of the Club to vote at the relevant General Meeting or by being represented at the relevant General Meeting by any other means authorised in terms of the Articles. If a Club shall, except where exceptional circumstances makes it impracticable, fail to so attend at a General Meeting it shall be in breach of these Rules.

## **B Clubs and Membership of the League**

### **Relationship between Clubs and the League**

- B1** In all matters and transactions relating to the League and Company each Club shall behave towards each other Club, the League and the Company with the utmost good faith.
- B2** No Club, either by itself or its Officials, shall by any means whatsoever disparage, belittle, discredit or unfairly criticise any other Club or its Club, the Company, the League, the Directors and the directors of any other Club and the Company's and other Clubs' officers, employees, Officials and agents (which shall, for the avoidance of doubt, in the case of the other Club and its Club, exclude it and its Club's supporters).
- B3** A Club, Official, Committee of a Club and any person who by their engagement with or connection to the Company may come into possession or knowledge of Confidential Information shall not at any time disclose or divulge either directly or indirectly to any person, firm or company whatsoever or otherwise make use of any Confidential Information or any of their or its dealings, transactions or affairs or as to any other matters which may come to its knowledge by reason of their or its Directorship and/or their or its membership of any Committee, without the Company's prior written consent save where required by law to statutory and regulatory authorities (including by the Scottish FA in accordance with the Scottish FA Articles), and to such Officials of a Club to whom such disclosure is strictly necessary for the purpose of the discharge of their duties and only then to the extent strictly necessary for such discharge and on the basis of the same obligation of confidentiality to the Company.

### **Agreement on Compliance with Applicable Rules, Statutes and Regulations**

- B4** Membership of the League shall constitute an agreement between the Company and each Club, and between each of the Clubs, to be bound by and to comply with:
- B4.1** the Articles, Participation Agreement entered into by each Club, Rules and Appendices to the Rules;
- B4.2** decisions of the Company, Board and/or Committees as authorised by the Articles;
- B4.3** articles of association, protocols, procedures, rules, decisions and regulations of the Scottish FA and the statutes and regulations of FIFA and of UEFA;
- B4.4** any Co-Operation Agreement agreed between the Company and Scottish Women's Football; and
- B4.5** the Laws of the Game,

for the purposes of this Rule B4 and Rule B5 only, each of the provisions which each Club has agreed herein to be bound by is herein described as “a **Provision**” and together “**Provisions**”..

- B5** As regards each Club, the agreement in terms of Rule B4 shall have effect from the date of such Club entering into a Participation Agreement and terminate, without prejudice to any rights or claims arising from or connected with any of the Provisions which may have arisen or arise in respect of circumstances prior to, on and/or after termination of such Club’s participation in the League and to any Provisions which, by their terms, establish rights and obligations applicable and/or enforceable after the date, upon which a Club ceases to participate therein.

#### **Commitment to National teams**

- B6** Each Club shall support the Scottish FA and other football associations in relation to all international matches in accordance with the provisions of the Scottish FA Articles and the FIFA Statutes and Regulations.

#### **Scottish Cup and League Cup Competitions**

- B7** In respect of each Season in which the Scottish FA have operate a Scottish Women’s Challenge Cup competition, each of the Clubs shall compete in the Scottish Women’s Challenge Cup competition if eligible to do so.
- B8** Each of the Clubs shall compete in the Scottish Women’s League Cup Competition in respect of each Season in accordance with and subject to the Scottish Women’s League Cup Rules.

#### **Other Football Competitions**

- B9** Clubs shall not, without the consent of the Company, participate in any football competitions in Scotland other than those Competitions which are from time to time operated by the Company and/or are on the Scottish FA's list of approved competitions
- B10** Clubs shall be entitled with the consent of the Company to participate in such international football competitions as may be approved by UEFA and/or FIFA and any Club proposing to play in any other Football match/competition outside of Scotland must, before doing so, obtain the written consent of the Company.
- B11** The Company shall not unreasonably delay the determination of any application by a Club for consent in terms of either Rule B9 or B10 and shall only be entitled to refuse such consent on the grounds that the taking part by the Club seeking such consent in the competition or match for which consent is sought would, in the opinion of the Company, be likely to prejudice the ability of that Club to take part, in accordance with these Rules, in a Competition or Competitions from time to time administered by the Company and/or in which the Club concerned is required, by these Rules, to take part and/or might prejudice the Company in connection with the entering into or performance of/obligations in a Commercial Contract.

## **Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Parties**

- B12** The Board may, in accordance with the Articles, from time to time:
- B12.1** establish, maintain, appoint, specify and/or amend terms of reference of and terminate the existence, of Committees; and
  - B12.2** make appointments to and of the chair and membership of Committees and, at any time and for any reason, terminate such appointments to and/or of Committees as it considers appropriate;
- B13** Committees shall advise the Company and/or Clubs regarding development and amendment of the policies of the Company and/or League, and/or the establishment and operations of new or existing Competitions and/or changes to the Articles, Rules and/or for any other purpose, arrangement or process, including for any purpose provided for in the Disciplinary Rules, which is considered by the Company to be appropriate and each such Committee shall undertake such responsibilities and exercise such powers, as might otherwise be exercisable by the Board, as may be delegated and specified in its terms of reference or otherwise by the Board.
- B14** Committees shall be deemed to include the Audit Committee, provided for in the articles of association of the SPFL Limited and the Company, Directors, members of Committees and Clubs shall take due regard of and for the opinions, advice and decisions of the Audit Committee in all of the business and functions of the Company, League and Competitions.

## **C The League and Divisions**

**C0** In order to implement a restructuring of the League and its Divisions, the following Rules shall be applicable in the following Seasons:

- C0.1** In Season 2024/25, the Rules in Section C shall apply;
- C0.2** In Season 2025/26, the Rules in Section C(a) shall apply and shall supersede and replace the terms of the Rules in Section C (except for this Rule C0); and
- C0.3** From Season 2026/27 onwards, the Rules in Section C(b) shall apply and shall supersede and replace the terms of the Rules in Section C (except for this Rule C0) and Section C(a).

### **Membership of the Company, Divisional Membership, Promotion and Relegation**

- C1** The League shall consist of the 20 leading women's Football clubs in Scotland.
- C2** The Clubs eligible to participate in the League and in each of the Divisions in each Season, shall be those Clubs which, subject to the Articles and these Rules, were the Clubs of the League in the immediately preceding Season, except that the Clubs finishing in position 20 in the League in the immediately preceding Season and the Club finishing in position 19 in the League in the immediately preceding Season if it shall lose the League Play-Off Match, shall be relegated from the League and the one or two Candidate Clubs, depending on the result of the League Play-Off Match, shall be eligible, subject to having first executed a Participation Agreement and fulfilling the Membership Criteria or securing a waiver, relaxation and/or period of grace in terms of Rules D5 and D6, to participate in the League in SWPL2 in the next succeeding Season.
- C3** The League shall be divided into the two Divisions.
- C4** The Divisions shall be ranked with SWPL1 as the top Division and SWPL2 as the next or second Division.
- C5** There shall be 12 Clubs in SWPL1 and 8 Clubs in SWPL2.
- C6** During the course of any one Season each Club shall, subject to these Rules, remain a Club of the Division of which it was a Club at the beginning of the relevant Season.

### **League Ranking at the End of a Season**

- C7** At the end of Season 2024/25, the Clubs shall be ranked in the League from 1 to 20 inclusive on the basis that the Clubs finishing in positions:
  - C7.1** 1 to 12 in SWPL1 shall be ranked in respectively positions 1 to 12 in the League for that Season;
  - C7.2** 1 to 8 in SWPL2 shall be ranked in respectively positions 13 to 20 in the

League for that Season; and

the outcome of any Play-Off Competition in which a Club may be involved at the end of a relevant Season shall have no effect on League ranking at the end of that Season.

**C8** Subject to these Rules, the Clubs entitled to participate in SWPL1 in Season 2024/25 shall be:

**C8.1** the Clubs in positions 1 to 10 inclusive in the League at the end of the immediately preceding Season;

**C8.2** the Club which was the winner of the SWPL1/SWPL2 Play-Off Match held at the end of the immediately preceding Season; and

**C8.3** the Club in position 13 in the League at the end of the immediately preceding Season.

**C9** Subject to these Rules, the Clubs entitled to participate in SWPL2 in Season 2024/25 shall be:

**C9.1** except for any Club which participated in SWPL2 during the immediately preceding Season and which was the winner of the SWPL1/SWPL2 Play-Off Match held at the end of the immediately preceding Season, the Clubs which finished in positions 14 to 18 inclusive of the League at the end of the immediately preceding Season;

**C9.2** any Club which was relegated to SWPL2 from SWPL1 by the SWPL1/SWPL2 Play-Off Match held at the end of the immediately preceding Season;

**C9.3** the Club which finished in position 12 of the League at the end of the immediately preceding Season and which was, as a consequence, relegated to SWPL2;

**C9.4** the Candidate Club which finished in the top position of Scottish Women's Football's top division at the end of the immediately preceding Season and which was promoted to the SWPL as a consequence in accordance with any Co-Operation Agreement; and

**C9.5** the Club which finished in position 19 of the League at the end of the immediately preceding Season or the Candidate Club which was promoted to the SWPL into SWPL2 by the result of the League Play-Off Match held at the end of the immediately preceding Season.

#### **Entitlement to Participate in Divisions**

**C10** Clubs shall, for each Season, subject to being relegated from, or otherwise ceasing to be entitled to participate in the League in terms of the Articles and/or Rules, as a consequence of Divisional and League ranking at the end of the immediately preceding Season and results in Play-Off Matches, held at the end of and

immediately after the end of the immediately preceding Season, play and be entitled, subject to having first executed a Participation Agreement, to participate in one of the Divisions of the League, all as set out in these Rules.

#### **SWPL1**

- C11** The 12 Clubs for the time being entitled in terms of these Rules to participate in SWPL1 shall, disregarding any abandoned or postponed Matches, play in 32 League Matches in any one Season.
- C12** Each of such 12 Clubs shall play against each of the other 11 Clubs in SWPL1 on 22 occasions during such Season and on 11 of those 22 League Matches each Club shall be the Home Club. After all of such 12 Clubs have played such 22 League Matches, or if earlier, where Division positions can then be determined, before all such 22 Matches are played by all of such 12 Clubs, such Clubs shall be ranked by the Secretary on the basis of points earned in terms of Rule C30 and which mathematically can be earned, by each such Club in such 22 Matches.
- C13** The Clubs in positions 1 to 6 of SWPL1, immediately after the 22<sup>nd</sup> League Match in any Season, shall play in a further 10 League Matches, 2 such Matches against each of such other Clubs in positions 1 to 6 of SWPL1. In 5 of such 10 League Matches each of such 6 Clubs shall be the Home Club. Irrespective of the points earned by the Clubs in positions 7 to 12 of SWPL1 after 22 League Matches played by each of such 12 Clubs during the relevant Season and their respective points after having played 32 League Matches during the relevant Season, such 1 to 6 Clubs shall be ranked by the Secretary in descending order by points earned and shall occupy positions 1 to 6 in SWPL1 and in the League at the end of the relevant Season.
- C14** The Clubs in positions 7 to 12 of SWPL1, immediately after the 22<sup>nd</sup> League Match in any Season, shall play in a further 10 League Matches, 2 such Matches against each of such other Clubs in positions 7 to 12 of SWPL1. Irrespective of the points earned by the Clubs in positions 7 to 12 of SWPL1 after 22 League Matches played by each of such 12 Clubs during the relevant Season and their respective points after having played 32 League Matches during the relevant Season, such 7 to 12 Clubs shall be ranked by the Secretary in descending order by points earned and shall occupy positions 7 to 12 in SWPL1 and in the League at the end of the relevant Season.
- C15** In the event that any provision of these Rules is inconsistent with Rule C13, or, as the case may be Rule C14, and if any ambiguities and/or inconsistencies are created thereby, Rules C13 and C14 and their applications and outturns shall take precedence.
- C16** The Clubs in SWPL1, after all League Matches in SWPL1 or exceptionally as directed by the Company, in any Season, shall occupy the first 12 places in the League at the end of that Season.

## **SWPL2**

- C17** The 8 Clubs for the time being entitled in terms of these Rules to participate in SWPL2 shall, disregarding any abandoned or postponed Matches, play in 28 League Matches in any one Season.
- C18** Each of such 8 Clubs shall play against each of the other 7 Clubs on 4 occasions during any one Season and on 2 of such 4 occasions each such Club shall be the Home Club and on the other 2 occasions the other Club shall be the Home Club and *vice versa* as regards being the Away Club.
- C19** After each of such 8 Clubs shall have played 28 League Matches during a Season, such 8 Clubs shall be ranked by the Secretary in descending order by points earned in terms of Rule C30 and shall occupy positions 1 to 8 in SWPL2 and 13 to 20 in the League at the end of the relevant Season.

### **Promotion, Relegation, and the League Play-Off Match**

- C20** At the end of Season 2024/25, following completion of all League Matches in SWPL1 in that Season or exceptionally as otherwise directed by the Company, the Clubs in positions 10, 11 and, 12 in SWPL1 shall be relegated to play and be eligible to participate in SWPL2 for and during the next Season.
- C21** At the end of Season 2024/25, following completion of all League Matches in SWPL1 in that Season or exceptionally as otherwise directed by the Company, there shall be no SWPL1/SWPL2 Play-Off Match held immediately after the end of that Season.
- C22** At the end of Season 2024/25, following completion of all League Matches in SWPL2 in that Season or exceptionally as otherwise directed by the Company, the Club in position 8 in SWPL2, position 20 in the League, shall be relegated to play and be eligible to participate in the top division of Scottish Women's Football for and during the next Season.
- C23** At the end of Season 2024/25, following completion of all League Matches in SWPL2 in that Season or exceptionally as otherwise directed by the Company, the Club in position 7 in SWPL2, position 19 in the League, shall, subject to fulfilling the Membership Criteria or securing a waiver, relaxation and/or period of grace in terms of Rules D5 and D6, take part in the League Play-Off Match held immediately after the end of that Season. The format of the League Play-Off Match shall be as set out in Rule C26 and Rules C28 and C29.
- C24** The League Play-Off Match shall be operated in accordance with Rules C26, C27, C28 and C29.
- C25** At the end of Season 2024/25, there shall be no SWPL1/SWPL2 Play-Off.
- C26** The format of the League Play-Off Match shall be:-
- C26.1** the winning Club in the League Play-Off Match will be the Club which scores

the greatest number of goals in that Match. In the event that the scores are equal at what would be full-time, an extra-time of 30 minutes (i.e. 15 minutes each way) will take place and thereafter if necessary kicks from the penalty mark will be taken in accordance with the rules laid down by the International Football Association Board which will determine the winner;

- C26.2** the winning Club in the League Play-Off Match will play and be entitled to participate in SWPL2 in the immediately succeeding Season;
  - C26.3** the losing Club in the League Play-Off Match will play and be entitled to participate in the top division of Scottish Women's Football in the immediately succeeding Season; and
  - C26.4** the League Play-Off Match will be played in respect of each Season on a date and at a time determined by and shall be organised by the Company.
- C27** No Club in the top division of Scottish Women's Football shall be entitled to participate in the League Play-Off Match if it would, in respect of the immediately succeeding Season, fail to fully comply with the Membership Criteria applicable to a Club in SWPL2 and no waiver, relaxation or period of grace is or has been granted to the relevant Club in terms of Rule D6.
- C28** The gross gate receipts and all other revenue (including VAT) from any and all other activities during or at a League Play-Off Match shall be collected by and retained by the Company to be applied first against the costs of staging such Play-Off Match in respect of a Season and with any balance being credited to Commercial Revenue.
- C29** Clubs shall not include or provide for admission to a League Play-Off Match in any 'season ticket', 'season book' or like or equivalent arrangement sold or otherwise issued by any Club in relation to any Season, part of any Season or other series of matches. All spectator admissions to a League Play-Off Match, whether ticketed or not, must be individually charged for at the prices determined from time to time by the Company.

#### **Allocation of Points in League Matches**

- C30** Three points shall be awarded to the winning Club participating in a League Match which is won, and one point awarded to each Club participating in a League Match which is drawn.

#### **Determination of League etc. Position in Case of Equality of Points**

- C31** If any two or more Clubs are equal in points in either Division at the end of the Season the higher/highest placed Club shall, in descending order of precedence, be
- C31.1** the Club with the larger or largest positive goal difference (or the lower or lowest negative goal difference where appropriate). Goal difference for a Club shall be determined by deducting the goals conceded by such Club from the goals scored by such Club in all League Matches played by such

Club during the relevant Season and in the event of the goal difference as between two or more such Clubs being equal;

- C31.2** the higher/highest placed Club shall be the Club, which has scored the most goals in League Matches during the relevant Season and in the event of each/all of the Clubs having the scored the same number of goals in League Matches during the Season;
- C31.3** the higher/highest placed Club shall be the Club, having the greater/greatest number of points in League Matches between the relevant Club(s) in the Season in question; and
- C31.4** in the event of the number of such points referenced in C31.3 being equal the higher/highest placed Club shall be the Club with the larger or largest positive goal difference (or the lower or lowest negative goal difference where appropriate) in League Matches as between each of the relevant Clubs during the relevant Season.
- C32** Where in relation to any Season three or more Clubs are equal in points in either Division at the end of that Season the provisions of Rule C31 shall first be applied to determine the highest placed of the relevant Clubs and thereafter applied to determine the respective rankings of the next two Clubs and so on until the respective rankings of each of such Clubs are determined.
- C33** If the League position between any two or more clubs cannot be determined by application of Rules C31 and C32 and their positions in the League at the relevant time have a bearing on deciding which Club is the Champion Club of the League and/or a Division, whether a Club is promoted or a Club is relegated to or from a Division, participation in a Play-Off Match or qualification (or consideration for qualification) for any other competition, including for UEFA Competitions, then the Clubs concerned shall play-off a single deciding Match to determine League position on a date and time and at a Neutral Venue as determined and organised by the Company in each case. Such deciding Matches shall be of 90 minutes duration with 30 minutes of extra time and kicks from the penalty mark if necessary to decide the winning Club, in accordance with the rules laid down by the International Football Association Board which will determine the winner of each such Match. Rule C28 shall apply to any and all such deciding Matches. The Company shall determine all scheduling and all other arrangements in relation to or in connection with such deciding Matches.
- C34** If the League position between any two or more clubs cannot be determined by application of Rules C31 and C32 and their positions in the League at the relevant time do not have a bearing on deciding which Club is the Champion Club of the League and/or a Division, whether they are promoted or relegated to or from a Division, participation in a Play-Off Match or qualification (or consideration for qualification) for any other competitions, including UEFA Competitions, then the Clubs concerned shall not play-off a deciding Match and shall be deemed to have finished in an equal position for all purposes.

## **Champion Clubs**

- C35** The Club occupying position one in the League at the end of a Season shall be declared the Champion Club of the League and shall hold the "The Scottish Women's Premier League Trophy" until the next Season's League Competition is concluded. When the winner of The Scottish Women's Premier League trophy has been ascertained, the Trophy shall be handed over to the winner who shall return the same to the Company at the League Office not later than 3 weeks prior to the end of the next following Season, in good order and condition and in any event as soon as reasonably practicable following a request from the Company.
- C36** It shall be the responsibility of the winning Club in each Division to arrange appropriate insurance cover for each relevant trophy held by and awarded to it throughout the period when it is held by the Club.
- C37** The Company shall present to the Champion Club of the League 30 Medals for Players, other staff and Officials. Additional League Champion Medals may be purchased from the Company with the prior consent of the Company.
- C38** The Club occupying position 13 in the League at the end of the Season shall be declared the Champion Club of the SWPL2, shall hold the "The Scottish Women's Premier League Division 2 Trophy" until the next Season's SWPL2 Competition is concluded. When the winner of a Scottish Women's Premier League Division 2 trophy has been ascertained, the relevant trophy shall be handed over to the winner who shall return the same to the Company at the League Office not later than 3 weeks prior to the end of the next following Season, in good order and condition and in any event as soon as reasonably practicable following a request from the Company.
- C39** Intentionally not used.
- C40** The Company shall present to the Champion Club of SWPL2 in each Season, 30 Division 2 Champion Club medals for Players, other staff and Officials. Additional Champion Division 2 medals may be purchased from the Company by a Division 2 Champion Club with the prior consent of the Company.

## **League Cup Competition**

- C41** The Company shall organise a League Cup Competition for each Season in which it shall be mandatory for all Clubs to participate.
- C42** The Scottish Women's League Cup shall be operated in accordance with the Scottish Women's League Cup Rules.

## **Other Competitions**

- C43** Competitions other than the League shall be operated in accordance with their respective Rules.

## **Other Competition Rules**

- C44** The Company may specify in the Rules of other Competitions which of these League and Play-Off Competition Rules, including any amendments thereto for the purposes of such other Competitions, shall apply to Competitions other than the League and Play-Off Competitions, the extent of such application and, except insofar as provided in these Rules, generally determine the arrangements for the operation of each of such Other Competitions.

## **UEFA Competitions**

- C45** The relevant SWPL1 Clubs shall participate in UEFA competitions based on League position at the end of the preceding Season. It is acknowledged that the Scottish FA shall determine and nominate to UEFA the Clubs to compete in the UEFA Competitions each Season in accordance with the Scottish FA Articles and the Regulations of the UEFA Competitions.
- C46** The Company will procure that all fixtures for League Matches shall be arranged or rearranged to allow for any Club's fixtures in UEFA Competitions to be played on and at the due date and time.

## **Club Ceasing to Operate, Participate in and/or be a Club of the League**

- C47** If, for any reason and during or after any Season, any Club ceases to operate or participate in or to be a Club of the League, its playing record in the League may be expunged by the Company and/or the Company may determine the deemed score in the remainder of its Official Matches and/or the Company may take such steps and make such determinations as to League and Divisional position and/or promotion and/or relegation and participation and/or results in and outcome of any Play-Off Competition and/or any other Competition operated by the Company and any and all such further or other steps or measures as the Company shall consider appropriate in the circumstances.

**C(a) The League and Divisions (applicable in place of section C for Season 2025/26)**

**Membership of the Company, Divisional Membership, Promotion and Relegation**

- C(a)1** The League shall consist of the 20 leading women's Football clubs in Scotland.
- C(a)2** The Clubs eligible to participate in the League and in each of the Divisions in each Season shall be those Clubs which, subject to the Articles and these Rules, were the Clubs of the League in the immediately preceding Season, except that the Clubs finishing in position 20 in the League in the immediately preceding Season and the Club finishing in position 19 in the League in the immediately preceding Season if it shall lose the League Play-Off Match, shall be relegated from the League and the one or two Candidate Clubs, depending on the result of the League Play-Off Match, shall be eligible, subject to having first executed a Participation Agreement and fulfilling the Membership Criteria or securing a waiver, relaxation and/or period of grace in terms of Rules D5 and D6, to participate in the League in SWPL2 in the next succeeding Season.
- C(a)3** The League shall be divided into the two Divisions.
- C(a)4** The Divisions shall be ranked with SWPL1 as the top Division and SWPL2 as the next or second Division.
- C(a)5** There shall be 10 Clubs in SWPL1 and 10 Clubs in SWPL2.
- C(a)6** During the course of any one Season each Club shall, subject to these Rules, remain a Club of the Division of which it was a Club at the beginning of the relevant Season.

**League Ranking at the End of a Season**

- C(a)7** At the end of each Season, the Clubs shall be ranked in the League from 1 to 20 inclusive on the basis that the Clubs finishing the relevant Season in positions:
- C(a)7.1** 1 to 10 in SWPL1 shall be ranked in respectively positions 1 to 10 in the League for that Season;
- C(a)7.2** 1 to 10 in SWPL2 shall be ranked in respectively positions 11 to 20 in the League for that Season; and
- the outcome of any Play-Off Competition in which a Club may be involved at the end of a relevant Season shall have no effect on League ranking at the end of that Season.
- C(a)8** Subject to these Rules, the Clubs entitled to participate in SWPL1 in Season 2025/26 shall be the:
- C(a)8.1** the Clubs in positions 1 to 9 inclusive in the League at the end of the immediately preceding Season;
- C(a)8.2** the Club in position 13 in the League at the end of the immediately preceding Season.

**C(a)9** Subject to these Rules, the Clubs entitled to participate in SWPL2 in Season 2025/26 shall be:

**C(a)9.1** the Clubs which finished in positions 14 to 18 inclusive of the League at the end of the immediately preceding Season;

**C(a)9.2** the Clubs which finished in positions 10, 11, and 12 of the League at the end of the immediately preceding Season and which were relegated to SWPL2 in accordance with Rule C20;

**C(a)9.3** the Candidate Club which finished in the top position of Scottish Women's Football's top division at the end of the immediately preceding Season and which was promoted to the SWPL as a consequence in accordance with any Co-Operation Agreement; and

**C(a)9.4** the Club which finished in position 19 of the League at the end of the immediately preceding Season or the Candidate Club which was promoted to the SWPL into SWPL2 by the result of the League Play-Off Match held at the end of the immediately preceding Season.

#### **Entitlement to Participate in Divisions**

**C(a)10** Clubs shall, for each Season, subject to being relegated from, or otherwise ceasing to be entitled to participate in the League in terms of the Articles and/or Rules, as a consequence of Divisional and League ranking at the end of the immediately preceding Season and results in Play-Off Matches, held at the end of and immediately after the end of the immediately preceding Season, play and be entitled, subject to having first executed a Participation Agreement, to participate in one of the Divisions of the League, all as set out in these Rules.

#### **SWPL1**

**C(a)11** The 10 Clubs for the time being entitled in terms of these Rules to participate in SWPL1 shall, disregarding any abandoned or postponed Matches, play in 28 (positions 1 to 6 in the League after 18 League Matches) or 24 (positions 7 to 10 in the League after 18 League Matches) League Matches in any one Season.

**C(a)12** Each of such 10 Clubs shall play against each of the other 9 Clubs in SWPL1 on 18 occasions during such Season and on 9 of those 18 League Matches each Club shall be the Home Club. After all of such 10 Clubs have played such 18 League Matches, or if earlier, where Division positions can then be determined, before all such 18 Matches are played by all of such 10 Clubs, such Clubs shall be ranked by the Secretary on the basis of points earned in terms of Rule C(a)36 and which mathematically can be earned, by each such Club in such 18 Matches.

**C(a)13** The Clubs in positions 1 to 6 of SWPL1, immediately after the 18<sup>th</sup> League Match in any Season, shall play in a further 10 League Matches, 2 such Matches against each of such other Clubs in positions 1 to 6 of SWPL1. In 5 of such 10 League Matches each of such 6 Clubs shall be the Home Club. Irrespective of the points earned by the Clubs

in positions 7 to 10 of SWPL1 after 18 League Matches played by each of such 10 Clubs during the relevant Season and their respective points after having played 28 or 24 League Matches during the relevant Season, such 1 to 6 Clubs shall be ranked by the Secretary in descending order by points earned and shall occupy positions 1 to 6 in SWPL1 and in the League at the end of the relevant Season.

**C(a)14** The Clubs in positions 7 to 10 of SWPL1, immediately after the 18<sup>th</sup> League Match in any Season, shall play in a further 6 League Matches, 2 such Matches against each of such other Clubs in positions 7 to 10 of SWPL1. Irrespective of the points earned by the Clubs in positions 7 to 10 of SWPL1 after 18 League Matches played by each of such 10 Clubs during the relevant Season and their respective points after having played 28 or 24 League Matches during the relevant Season, such 7 to 10 Clubs shall be ranked by the Secretary in descending order by points earned and shall occupy positions 7 to 10 in SWPL1 and in the League at the end of the relevant Season.

**C(a)15** In the event that any provision of these Rules is inconsistent with Rule C(a)13, or, as the case may be Rule C(a)14, and if any ambiguities and/or inconsistencies are created thereby, Rules C(a)13 and C(a)14 and their applications and outturns shall take precedence.

**C(a)16** The Clubs in SWPL1, after all League Matches in SWPL1 or exceptionally as directed by the Company, in any Season, shall occupy the first 10 places in the League at the end of that Season.

## **SWPL2**

**C(a)17** The 10 Clubs for the time being entitled in terms of these Rules to participate in SWPL2 shall, disregarding any abandoned or postponed Matches, play in 28 (positions 11 to 16 in the League after 18 League Matches) or 24 (positions 17 to 20 in the League after 18 League Matches) League Matches in any one Season.

**C(a)18** Each of such 10 Clubs shall play against each of the other 9 Clubs in SWPL2 on 18 occasions during such Season and on 9 of those 18 League Matches each Club shall be the Home Club. After all of such 10 Clubs have played such 18 League Matches, or if earlier, where Division positions can then be determined, before all such 18 Matches are played by all of such 10 Clubs, such Clubs shall be ranked by the Secretary on the basis of points earned in terms of Rule C(a)36 and which mathematically can be earned, by such Club in such 18 Matches.

**C(a)19** The Clubs in positions 1 to 6 of SWPL2, immediately after the 18<sup>th</sup> League Match in any Season, shall play in a further 10 League Matches, 2 such Matches against each of such other Clubs in positions 1 to 6 of SWPL 2. In 5 of such 10 League Matches each of such 6 Clubs shall be the Home Club. Irrespective of the points earned by the Clubs in positions 7 to 10 of SWPL2 after 18 League Matches played by each of such 10 Clubs during the relevant Season and their respective points having played 28 or 24 League Matches during the relevant Season, such 1 to 6 Clubs in SWPL2 shall be ranked by the Secretary in descending order by points earned and shall occupy positions 1 to 6 in SWPL2 and positions 11 to 16 in the League at the end of the

relevant Season.

- C(a)20** The Clubs in positions 7 to 10 of SWPL2, immediately after the 18<sup>th</sup> League Match in any Season, shall play in a further 6 League Matches, 2 such Matches against each of such other Clubs in positions 7 to 10 of SWPL 2. In 5 of such 10 League Matches each of such 6 Clubs shall be the Home Club. Irrespective of the points earned by the Clubs in positions 7 to 10 of SWPL2 after 18 League Matches played by each of such 10 Clubs during the relevant Season and their respective points having played 28 or 24 League Matches during the relevant Season, such 7 to 10 Clubs in SWPL2 shall be ranked by the Secretary in descending order by points earned and shall occupy positions 7 to 10 in SWPL2 and positions 17 to 20 in the League at the end of the relevant Season.
- C(a)21** In the event that any provision of these Rules is inconsistent with Rule C(a)19, or as the case may be Rule C(a)20, and if any ambiguities and/or inconsistencies are created thereby, Rules C(a)19 and C(a)20 and their applications and outturns shall take precedence.
- C(a)22** After each of such 10 Clubs shall have played 28 or 24 League Matches during a Season, such 10 Clubs shall be ranked by the Secretary in descending order by points earned in terms of Rule C(a)36 and shall occupy positions 1 to 10 in SWPL2 and 11 to 20 in the League at the end of the relevant Season.

#### **Promotion, Relegation, the SWPL1/SWPL2 Play-Off and the League Play-Off Match**

- C(a)23** At the end of each Season, following completion of all League Matches in SWPL1 in that Season or exceptionally as otherwise directed by the Company, the Club in position 10 in SWPL1 shall be relegated to play and be eligible to participate in SWPL2 for and during the next Season.
- C(a)24** At the end of each Season, following completion of all League Matches in SWPL1 in that Season or exceptionally as otherwise directed by the Company, the Club in position 9 in SWPL1 shall take part in the third tie of the SWPL1/SWPL2 Play-Off in accordance with Rule C(a)29.3 held immediately after the end of that Season.
- C(a)25** At the end of each Season, following completion of all League Matches in SWPL2 in that Season or exceptionally as otherwise directed by the Company, the Club in position 10 in SWPL2, position 20 in the League, shall be relegated to play and be eligible to participate in the top division of Scottish Women's Football for and during the next Season.
- C(a)26** At the end of each Season, following completion of all League Matches in SWPL2 in that Season or exceptionally as otherwise directed by the Company, the Club in position 9 in SWPL2, position 19 in the League, shall, subject to fulfilling the Membership Criteria or securing a waiver, relaxation and/or period of grace in terms of Rules D5 and D6, take part in the League Play-Off Match held immediately after the end of that Season. The format of the League Play-Off Match shall be as set out in Rules C(a)32, C(a)34 and C(a)35.

**C(a)27** The SWPL1/SWPL2 Play-Off Matches shall be operated in accordance with Rules C(a)28, C(a)29, C(a)30 and C(a)31.

**C(a)28** At the end of each Season the Club occupying position 9 in SWPL1 (9 in the League) and the Clubs occupying positions 2, 3 and 4 in SWPL2 (12, 13 and 14 in the League) shall take part in the SWPL1/SWPL2 Play-Off Competition to determine which further Clubs, if any are promoted and relegated to and from SWPL1 and SWPL2.

**C(a)29** The format of the SWPL1/SWPL2 Play-Off Competition shall be:-

**C(a)29.1** in the first tie the Club occupying position 3 in SWPL2 will play the Club occupying position 4 in SWPL2 (13 and 14 in the League) at their Registered Ground and the result determined in accordance with Rule C(a)29.4;

**C(a)29.2** in the second tie the Club occupying position 2 in SWPL2 (12 in the League) will play the winning Club in the first tie. The Club occupying position 2 in SWPL2 will play the Match at their Registered Ground on a single game knock-out basis;

**C(a)29.3** in the third tie, the Club occupying position 9 in SWPL1 (position 9 in the League) will play the winning Club in the second tie on a single game knock-out basis. This Match shall be played at a venue as determined by the Company.

**C(a)29.4** the winning Club in each tie will be the Club to score the greatest number of goals. In the event that the score is equal at what would be full-time, an extra-time of 30 minutes (i.e. 15 minutes each way) will take place and thereafter if necessary kicks from the penalty mark will be taken in accordance with the rules laid down by the International Football Association Board which will determine the winner;

**C(a)29.5** the winning Club in the third and final tie will play and be entitled to participate in SWPL1 in the immediately succeeding Season;

**C(a)29.6** the losers of each of the three ties will play and be entitled to participate in SWPL 2 in the immediately succeeding Season; and

**C(a)29.7** the third and final tie will be played in respect of each Season on a date and at a time determined by and shall be organised by the Company.

**C(a)30** No Club in SWPL2 shall be entitled to participate in the SWPL1/SWPL2 Play-Off Competition if it would in respect of the immediately succeeding Season, fail to fully comply with the Membership Criteria applicable to a Club in SWPL1 and no waiver, relaxation or period of grace is or has been granted to the relevant Club in terms of Rule D6. In the event that any Club which would otherwise be entitled to participate in the SWPL1/SWPL2 Play-Off Competition would in respect of the immediately succeeding Season fail to fully comply with the Membership Criteria applicable to a Club in SWPL1 and no waiver, relaxation or period of grace is or has been granted to that Club in terms of Rule D6 then the position of such Club in the SWPL1/SWPL2

Play-Off Competition shall be substituted with the next Club in reducing League position order at the end of the immediately preceding Season which would so comply or which has such a waiver, relaxation or period of grace.

**C(a)31** The gross gate receipts and all other revenue (including VAT) from any and all other activities during or at the third and final SWPL1/SWPL2 Play-Off Match shall be collected by and retained by the Company to be applied first against the costs of staging each of such Play-Off Match in respect of a Season and with any balance being credited to Commercial Revenue.

**C(a)32** The format of the League Play-Off Match shall be:-

**C(a)32.1** the Club occupying position 9 in SWPL2 (19 in the League) will play-off against the Candidate Club which finished in position 2 of Scottish Women's Football's top division in that Season and the result determined in accordance with Rule C(a)32.2;

**C(a)32.2** the winning Club in the League Play-Off Match will be the Club which scores the greatest number of goals in that Match. In the event that the score is equal at what would be full-time, an extra-time of 30 minutes (i.e. 15 minutes each way) will take place and thereafter if necessary kicks from the penalty mark will be taken in accordance with the rules laid down by the International Football Association Board which will determine the winner;

**C(a)32.3** the winning Club in the League Play-Off Match will play and be entitled to participate in SWPL2 in the immediately succeeding Season;

**C(a)32.4** the losing Club in the League Play-Off Match will play and be entitled to participate in the top division of Scottish Women's Football in the immediately succeeding Season; and

**C(a)32.5** the League Play-Off Match will be played in respect of each Season on a date and at a time determined by and shall be organised by the Company.

**C(a)33** No Club in the top division of Scottish Women's Football shall be entitled to participate in the League Play-Off Match if it would, in respect of the immediately succeeding Season, fail to fully comply with the Membership Criteria applicable to a Club in SWPL2 and no waiver, relaxation or period of grace is or has been granted to the relevant Club in terms of Rule D6.

**C(a)34** The gross gate receipts and all other revenue (including VAT) from any and all other activities during or at a League Play-Off Match shall be collected by and retained by the Company to be applied first against the costs of staging such Play-Off Match in respect of a Season and with any balance being credited to Commercial Revenue.

**C(a)35** Clubs shall not include or provide for admission to a SWPL1/SWPL2 Play-Off Match or a League Play-Off Match in any 'season ticket', 'season book' or like or equivalent arrangement sold or otherwise issued by any Club in relation to any Season, part of any Season or other series of matches. All spectator admissions to a SWPL1/SWPL2

Play-Off Match or to a League Play-Off Match, whether ticketed or not, must be individually charged for at the prices determined from time to time by the Company.

### **Allocation of Points in League Matches**

**C(a)36** Three points shall be awarded to the winning Club participating in a League Match which is won, and one point awarded to each Club participating in a League Match which is drawn.

### **Determination of League etc. Position in Case of Equality of Points**

**C(a)37** If any two or more Clubs are equal in points in either Division at the end of the Season the higher/highest placed Club shall, in descending order of precedence, be

**C(a)37.1** the Club with the larger or largest positive goal difference (or the lower or lowest negative goal difference where appropriate). Goal difference for a Club shall be determined by deducting the goals conceded by such Club from the goals scored by such Club in all League Matches played by such Club during the relevant Season and in the event of the goal difference as between two or more such Clubs being equal;

**C(a)37.2** the higher/highest placed Club shall be the Club, which has scored the most goals in League Matches during the relevant Season and in the event of each/all of the Clubs having the scored the same number of goals in League Matches during the Season;

**C(a)37.3** the higher/highest placed Club shall be the Club, having the greater/greatest number of points in League Matches between the relevant Club(s) in the Season in question; and

**C(a)37.4** in the event of the number of such points referenced in C(a)37.3 being equal the higher/highest placed Club shall be the Club with the larger or largest positive goal difference (or the lower or lowest negative goal difference where appropriate) in League Matches as between each of the relevant Clubs during the relevant Season.

**C(a)38** Where in relation to any Season three or more Clubs are equal in points in either Division at the end of that Season the provisions of Rule C(a)37 shall first be applied to determine the highest placed of the relevant Clubs and thereafter applied to determine the respective rankings of the next two Clubs and so on until the respective rankings of each of such Clubs are determined.

**C(a)39** If the League position between any two or more clubs cannot be determined by application of Rules C(a)37 and C(a)38 and their positions in the League at the relevant time have a bearing on deciding which Club is the Champion Club of the League and/or a Division, whether a Club is promoted or a Club is relegated to or from a Division, participation in a Play-Off Match or qualification (or consideration for qualification) for any other competition, including for UEFA Competitions, then the Clubs concerned shall play-off a single deciding Match to determine League

position on a date and time and at a Neutral Venue as determined and organised by the Company in each case. Such deciding Matches shall be of 90 minutes duration with 30 minutes of extra time and kicks from the penalty mark if necessary to decide the winning Club, in accordance with the rules laid down by the International Football Association Board which will determine the winner of each such Match. Rule C(a)34 shall apply to any and all such deciding Matches. The Company shall determine all scheduling and all other arrangements in relation to or in connection with such deciding Matches.

**C(a)40** If the League position between any two or more clubs cannot be determined by application of Rules C(a)37 and C(a)38 and their positions in the League at the relevant time do not have a bearing on deciding which Club is the Champion Club of the League and/or a Division, whether they are promoted or relegated to or from a Division, participation in a Play-Off Match or qualification (or consideration for qualification) for any other competitions, including UEFA Competitions, then the Clubs concerned shall not play-off a deciding Match and shall be deemed to have finished in an equal position for all purposes.

### **Champion Clubs**

**C(a)41** The Club occupying position one in the League at the end of a Season shall be declared the Champion Club of the League and shall hold the "The Scottish Women's Premier League Trophy" until the next Season's League Competition is concluded. When the winner of The Scottish Women's Premier League trophy has been ascertained, the Trophy shall be handed over to the winner who shall return the same to the Company at the League Office not later than 3 weeks prior to the end of the next following Season, in good order and condition and in any event as soon as reasonably practicable following a request from the Company.

**C(a)42** It shall be the responsibility of the winning Club in each Division to arrange appropriate insurance cover for each relevant trophy held by and awarded to it throughout the period when it is held by the Club.

**C(a)43** The Company shall present to the Champion Club of the League 30 Medals for Players, other staff and Officials. Additional League Champion Medals may be purchased from the Company with the prior consent of the Company.

**C(a)44** The Club occupying position 11 in the League at the end of a Season shall be declared the Champion Club of the SWPL2, shall hold the "The Scottish Women's Premier League Division 2 Trophy" until the next Season's SWPL2 Competition is concluded. When the winner of a Scottish Women's Premier League Division 2 trophy has been ascertained, the relevant trophy shall be handed over to the winner who shall return the same to the Company at the League Office not later than 3 weeks prior to the end of the next following Season, in good order and condition and in any event as soon as reasonably practicable following a request from the Company.

**C(a)45** Intentionally not used.

**C(a)46** The Company shall present to the Champion Club of SWPL2 in each Season, 30 Division

2 Champion Club medals for Players, other staff and Officials. Additional Champion Division 2 medals may be purchased from the Company by a Division 2 Champion Club with the prior consent of the Company.

### **League Cup Competition**

**C(a)47** The Company shall organise a League Cup Competition for each Season in which it shall be mandatory for all Clubs to participate.

**C(a)48** The Scottish Women's League Cup shall be operated in accordance with the Scottish Women's League Cup Rules.

### **Other Competitions**

**C(a)49** Competitions other than the League shall be operated in accordance with their respective Rules.

### **Other Competition Rules**

**C(a)50** The Company may specify in the Rules of other Competitions which of these League and Play-Off Competition Rules, including any amendments thereto for the purposes of such other Competitions, shall apply to Competitions other than the League and Play-Off Competitions, the extent of such application and, except insofar as provided in these Rules, generally determine the arrangements for the operation of each of such Other Competitions.

### **UEFA Competitions**

**C(a)51** The relevant SWPL1 Clubs shall participate in UEFA competitions based on League position at the end of the preceding Season. It is acknowledged that the Scottish FA shall determine and nominate to UEFA the Clubs to compete in the UEFA Competitions each Season in accordance with the Scottish FA Articles and the Regulations of the UEFA Competitions.

**C(a)52** The Company will procure that all fixtures for League Matches shall be arranged or rearranged to allow for any Club's fixtures in UEFA Competitions to be played on and at the due date and time.

### **Club Ceasing to Operate, Participate in and/or be a Club of the League**

**C(a)53** If, for any reason and during or after any Season, any Club ceases to operate or participate in or to be a Club of the League, its playing record in the League may be expunged by the Company and/or the Company may determine the deemed score in the remainder of its Official Matches and/or the Company may take such steps and make such determinations as to League and Divisional position and/or promotion and/or relegation and participation and/or results in and outcome of any Play-Off Competition and/or any other Competition operated by the Company and any and all such further or other steps or measures as the Company shall consider appropriate in the circumstances.

**C(b) The League and Divisions (applicable in place of section C and C(a) for Season 2026/27 and each subsequent Season thereafter)**

**Membership of the Company, Divisional Membership, Promotion and Relegation**

- C(b)1** The League shall consist of the 20 leading women's Football clubs in Scotland.
- C(b)2** The Clubs eligible to participate in the League and in each of the Divisions in each Season shall be those Clubs which, subject to the Articles and these Rules, were the Clubs of the League in the immediately preceding Season, except that the Clubs finishing in position 20 in the League in the immediately preceding Season and the Club finishing in position 19 in the League in the immediately preceding Season if it shall lose the League Play-Off Match, shall be relegated from the League and the one or two Candidate Clubs, depending on the result of the League Play-Off Match, shall be eligible, subject to having first executed a Participation Agreement and fulfilling the Membership Criteria or securing a waiver, relaxation and/or period of grace in terms of Rules D5 and D6, to participate in the League in SWPL2 in the next succeeding Season.
- C(b)3** The League shall be divided into two Divisions.
- C(b)4** The Divisions shall be ranked with SWPL1 as the top Division and SWPL2 as the next or second Division.
- C(b)5** There shall be 10 Clubs in SWPL1 and 10 Clubs in SWPL2.
- C(b)6** During the course of any one Season each Club shall, subject to these Rules, remain a Club of the Division of which it was a Club at the beginning of the relevant Season.

**League Ranking at the End of a Season**

- C(b)7** At the end of each Season, the Clubs shall be ranked in the League from 1 to 20 inclusive on the basis that the Clubs finishing the relevant Season in positions:
- C(b)7.1** 1 to 10 in SWPL1 shall be ranked in respectively positions 1 to 10 in the League for that Season;
- C(b)7.2** 1 to 10 in SWPL2 shall be ranked in respectively positions 11 to 20 in the League for that Season; and
- the outcome of any Play-Off Competition in which a Club may be involved at the end of a relevant Season shall have no effect on League ranking at the end of that Season.
- C(b)8** Subject to these Rules, the Clubs entitled to participate in SWPL1 in any Season shall be the:
- C(b)8.1** the Clubs in positions 1 to 8 inclusive in the League at the end of the immediately preceding Season;
- C(b)8.2** the Club which was the winner of the SWPL1/SWPL2 Play-Off Final Match

held at the end of the immediately preceding Season;

**C(b)8.3** the Club in position 11 in the League at the end of the immediately preceding Season.

**C(b)9** Subject to these Rules, the Clubs entitled to participate in SWPL2 in any Season shall be:

**C(b)9.1** except for any Club which participated in SWPL2 during the immediately preceding Season and which was the winner of the SWPL1/SWPL2 Play-Off Final Match held at the end of the immediately preceding Season, the Clubs which finished in positions 12 to 18 inclusive of the League at the end of the immediately preceding Season;

**C(b)9.2** any Club which was relegated to SWPL2 from SWPL1 by the SWPL1/SWPL2 Play-Off Final Match held at the end of the immediately preceding Season;

**C(b)9.3** the Club which finished in position 10 of the League at the end of the immediately preceding Season and which was, as a consequence, relegated to SWPL2;

**C(b)9.4** the Candidate Club which finished in the top position of Scottish Women's Football's top division at the end of the immediately preceding Season and which was promoted to the SWPL as a consequence in accordance with any Co-Operation Agreement; and

**C(b)9.5** the Club which finished in position 19 of the League at the end of the immediately preceding Season or the Candidate Club which was promoted to the SWPL into SWPL2 by the result of the League Play-Off Match held at the end of the immediately preceding Season.

#### **Entitlement to Participate in Divisions**

**C(b)10** Clubs shall, for each Season, subject to being relegated from, or otherwise ceasing to be entitled to participate in the League in terms of the Articles and/or Rules, as a consequence of Divisional and League ranking at the end of the immediately preceding Season and results in Play-Off Matches, held at the end of and immediately after the end of the immediately preceding Season, play and be entitled, subject to having first executed a Participation Agreement, to participate in one of the Divisions of the League, all as set out in these Rules.

#### **SWPL1**

**C(b)11** The 10 Clubs for the time being entitled in terms of these Rules to participate in SWPL1 shall, disregarding any abandoned or postponed Matches, play in 28 (positions 1 to 6 in the League after 18 League Matches) or 24 (positions 7 to 10 in the League after 18 League Matches) League Matches in any one Season.

**C(b)12** Each of such 10 Clubs shall play against each of the other 9 Clubs in SWPL1 on 18 occasions during such Season and on 9 of those 18 League Matches each Club shall be the Home Club. After all of such 10 Clubs have played such 18 League Matches, or if earlier, where Division positions can then be determined, before all such 18 Matches are played by all of such 10 Clubs, such Clubs shall be ranked by the Secretary on the basis of points earned in terms of Rule C(b)36 and which mathematically can be earned, by each such Club in such 18 Matches.

**C(b)13** The Clubs in positions 1 to 6 of SWPL1, immediately after the 18<sup>th</sup> League Match in any Season, shall play in a further 10 League Matches, 2 such Matches against each of such other Clubs in positions 1 to 6 of SWPL1. In 5 of such 10 League Matches each of such 6 Clubs shall be the Home Club. Irrespective of the points earned by the Clubs in positions 7 to 10 of SWPL1 after 18 League Matches played by each of such 10 Clubs during the relevant Season and their respective points after having played 28 or 24 League Matches during the relevant Season, such 1 to 6 Clubs shall be ranked by the Secretary in descending order by points earned and shall occupy positions 1 to 6 in SWPL1 and in the League at the end of the relevant Season.

**C(b)14** The Clubs in positions 7 to 10 of SWPL1, immediately after the 18<sup>th</sup> League Match in any Season, shall play in a further 6 League Matches, 2 such Matches against each of such other Clubs in positions 7 to 10 of SWPL1. Irrespective of the points earned by the Clubs in positions 7 to 10 of SWPL1 after 18 League Matches played by each of such 10 Clubs during the relevant Season and their respective points after having played 28 or 24 League Matches during the relevant Season, such 7 to 10 Clubs shall be ranked by the Secretary in descending order by points earned and shall occupy positions 7 to 10 in SWPL1 and in the League at the end of the relevant Season.

**C(b)15** In the event that any provision of these Rules is inconsistent with Rule C(b)13, or, as the case may be Rule C(b)14, and if any ambiguities and/or inconsistencies are created thereby, Rules C(b)13 and C(b)14 and their applications and outturns shall take precedence.

**C(b)16** The Clubs in SWPL1, after all League Matches in SWPL1 or exceptionally as directed by the Company, in any Season, shall occupy the first 10 places in the League at the end of that Season.

## **SWPL2**

**C(b)17** The 10 Clubs for the time being entitled in terms of these Rules to participate in SWPL2 shall, disregarding any abandoned or postponed Matches, play in 28 (positions 11 to 16 in the League after 18 League Matches) or 24 (positions 17 to 20 in the League after 18 League Matches) League Matches in any one Season.

**C(b)18** Each of such 10 Clubs shall play against each of the other 9 Clubs in SWPL2 on 18 occasions during such Season and on 9 of those 18 League Matches each Club shall be the Home Club. After all of such 10 Clubs have played such 18 League Matches, or if earlier, where Division positions can then be determined, before all such 18 Matches are played by all of such 10 Clubs, such Clubs shall be ranked by the

Secretary on the basis of points earned in terms of Rule C(b)36 and which mathematically can be earned, by such Club in such 18 Matches.

**C(b)19** The Clubs in positions 1 to 6 of SWPL2, immediately after the 18<sup>th</sup> League Match in any Season, shall play in a further 10 League Matches, 2 such Matches against each of such other Clubs in positions 1 to 6 of SWPL 2. In 5 of such 10 League Matches each of such 6 Clubs shall be the Home Club. Irrespective of the points earned by the Clubs in positions 7 to 10 of SWPL2 after 18 League Matches played by each of such 10 Clubs during the relevant Season and their respective points having played 28 or 24 League Matches during the relevant Season, such 1 to 6 Clubs in SWPL2 shall be ranked by the Secretary in descending order by points earned and shall occupy positions 1 to 6 in SWPL2 and positions 11 to 16 in the League at the end of the relevant Season.

**C(b)20** The Clubs in positions 7 to 10 of SWPL2, immediately after the 18<sup>th</sup> League Match in any Season, shall play in a further 6 League Matches, 2 such Matches against each of such other Clubs in positions 7 to 10 of SWPL 2. In 5 of such 10 League Matches each of such 6 Clubs shall be the Home Club. Irrespective of the points earned by the Clubs in positions 7 to 10 of SWPL2 after 18 League Matches played by each of such 10 Clubs during the relevant Season and their respective points having played 28 or 24 League Matches during the relevant Season, such 7 to 10 Clubs in SWPL2 shall be ranked by the Secretary in descending order by points earned and shall occupy positions 7 to 10 in SWPL2 and positions 17 to 20 in the League at the end of the relevant Season.

**C(b)21** In the event that any provision of these Rules is inconsistent with Rule C(b)19, or as the case may be Rule C(b)20, and if any ambiguities and/or inconsistencies are created thereby, Rules C(b)19 and C(b)20 and their applications and outturns shall take precedence.

**C(b)22** After each of such 10 Clubs shall have played 28 or 24 League Matches during a Season, such 10 Clubs shall be ranked by the Secretary in descending order by points earned in terms of Rule C(b)36 and shall occupy positions 1 to 10 in SWPL2 and 11 to 20 in the League at the end of the relevant Season.

#### **Promotion, Relegation, the SWPL1/SWPL2 Play-Off Match and the League Play-Off Match**

**C(b)23** At the end of each Season, following completion of all League Matches in SWPL1 in that Season or exceptionally as otherwise directed by the Company, the Club in position 10 in SWPL1 shall be relegated to play and be eligible to participate in SWPL2 for and during the next Season.

**C(b)24** At the end of each Season, following completion of all League Matches in SWPL1 in that Season or exceptionally as otherwise directed by the Company, the Club in position 9 in SWPL1 shall take part in the third tie of the SWPL1/SWPL2 Play-Off in accordance with Rule C(b)29.3 held immediately after the end of that Season.

**C(b)25** At the end of each Season, following completion of all League Matches in SWPL2 in that Season or exceptionally as otherwise directed by the Company, the Club in

position 10 in SWPL2, position 20 in the League, shall be relegated to play and be eligible to participate in the top division of Scottish Women's Football for and during the next Season.

**C(b)26** At the end of each Season, following completion of all League Matches in SWPL2 in that Season or exceptionally as otherwise directed by the Company, the Club in position 9 in SWPL2, position 19 in the League, shall, subject to fulfilling the Membership Criteria or securing a waiver, relaxation and/or period of grace in terms of Rules D5 and D6, take part in the League Play-Off Match held immediately after the end of that Season. The format of the League Play-Off Match shall be as set out in Rules C(b)32, C(b)34 and C(b)35.

**C(b)27** The SWPL1/SWPL2 Play-Off Matches shall be operated in accordance with Rules C(b)28, C(b)29, C(b)30 and C(b)31.

**C(b)28** At the end of each Season the Club occupying position 9 in SWPL1 (9 in the League) and the Clubs occupying positions 2, 3 and 4 in SWPL2 (12, 13 and 14 in the League) shall take part in the SWPL1/SWPL2 Play-Off Competition to determine which further Clubs, if any are promoted and relegated to and from SWPL1 and SWPL2.

**C(b)29** The format of the SWPL1/SWPL2 Play-Off Competition shall be:-

**C(b)29.1** in the first tie the Club occupying position 3 in SWPL2 will play the Club occupying position 4 in SWPL2 (13 and 14 in the League) at their Registered Ground and the result determined in accordance with Rule C(b)29.4;

**C(b)29.2** in the second tie the Club occupying position 2 in SWPL2 (12 in the League) will play the winning Club in the first tie. The Club occupying position 2 in SWPL2 will play the Match at their Registered Ground on a single game knock-out basis;

**C(b)29.3** in the third tie, the Club occupying position 9 in SWPL1 (position 9 in the League) will play the winning Club in the second tie on a single game knock-out basis. This Match shall be played at a venue as determined by the Company.

**C(b)29.4** the winning Club in each tie will be the Club to score the greatest number of goals. In the event that the score is equal at what would be full-time, an extra-time of 30 minutes (i.e. 15 minutes each way) will take place and thereafter if necessary kicks from the penalty mark will be taken in accordance with the rules laid down by the International Football Association Board which will determine the winner;

**C(b)29.5** the winning Club in the third and final tie will play and be entitled to participate in SWPL1 in the immediately succeeding Season;

**C(b)29.6** the losers of each of the three ties will play and be entitled to participate in SWPL2 in the immediately succeeding Season; and

**C(b)29.7** the third and final tie will be played in respect of each Season on a date and at a time determined by and shall be organised by the Company.

**C(b)30** No Club in SWPL2 shall be entitled to participate in the SWPL1/SWPL2 Play-Off Competition if it would in respect of the immediately succeeding Season, fail to fully comply with the Membership Criteria applicable to a Club in SWPL1 and no waiver, relaxation or period of grace is or has been granted to the relevant Club in terms of Rule D6. In the event that any Club which would otherwise be entitled to participate in the SWPL1/SWPL2 Play-Off Competition would in respect of the immediately succeeding Season fail to fully comply with the Membership Criteria applicable to a Club in SWPL1 and no waiver, relaxation or period of grace is or has been granted to that Club in terms of Rule D6 then the position of such Club in the SWPL1/SWPL2 Play-Off Competition shall be substituted with the next Club in reducing League position order at the end of the immediately preceding Season which would so comply or which has such a waiver, relaxation or period of grace.

**C(b)31** The gross gate receipts and all other revenue (including VAT) from any and all other activities during or at the third and final SWPL1/SWPL2 Play-Off Match shall be collected by and retained by the Company to be applied first against the costs of staging each of such Play-Off Match in respect of a Season and with any balance being credited to Commercial Revenue.

**C(b)32** The format of the League Play-Off Match shall be:-

**C(b)32.1** the Club occupying position 9 in SWPL2 (19 in the League) will play-off against the Candidate Club which finished in position 2 of Scottish Women's Football's top division in that Season and the result determined in accordance with Rule C(b)32.2;

**C(b)32.2** the winning Club in the League Play-Off Match will be the Club which scores the greatest number of goals in that Match. In the event that the score is equal at what would be full-time, an extra-time of 30 minutes (i.e. 15 minutes each way) will take place and thereafter if necessary kicks from the penalty mark will be taken in accordance with the rules laid down by the International Football Association Board which will determine the winner;

**C(b)32.3** the winning Club in the League Play-Off Match will play and be entitled to participate in SWPL2 in the immediately succeeding Season;

**C(b)32.4** the losing Club in the League Play-Off Match will play and be entitled to participate in the top division of Scottish Women's Football in the immediately succeeding Season; and

**C(b)32.5** the League Play-Off Match will be played in respect of each Season on a date and at a time determined by and shall be organised by the Company.

**C(b)33** No Club in the top division of Scottish Women's Football shall be entitled to participate in the League Play-Off Match if it would, in respect of the immediately succeeding Season, fail to fully comply with the Membership Criteria applicable to a

Club in SWPL2 and no waiver, relaxation or period of grace is or has been granted to the relevant Club in terms of Rule D6.

**C(b)34** The gross gate receipts and all other revenue (including VAT) from any and all other activities during or at a League Play-Off Match shall be collected by and retained by the Company to be applied first against the costs of staging such Play-Off Match in respect of a Season and with any balance being credited to Commercial Revenue.

**C(b)35** Clubs shall not include or provide for admission to a SWPL1/SWPL2 Play-Off Match or a League Play-Off Match in any 'season ticket', 'season book' or like or equivalent arrangement sold or otherwise issued by any Club in relation to any Season, part of any Season or other series of matches. All spectator admissions to a SWPL1/SWPL2 Play-Off Match or to a League Play-Off Match, whether ticketed or not, must be individually charged for at the prices determined from time to time by the Company.

#### **Allocation of Points in League Matches**

**C(b)36** Three points shall be awarded to the winning Club participating in a League Match which is won, and one point awarded to each Club participating in a League Match which is drawn.

#### **Determination of League etc. Position in Case of Equality of Points**

**C(b)37** If any two or more Clubs are equal in points in either Division at the end of the Season the higher/highest placed Club shall, in descending order of precedence, be

**C(b)37.1** the Club with the larger or largest positive goal difference (or the lower or lowest negative goal difference where appropriate). Goal difference for a Club shall be determined by deducting the goals conceded by such Club from the goals scored by such Club in all League Matches played by such Club during the relevant Season and in the event of the goal difference as between two or more such Clubs being equal;

**C(b)37.2** the higher/highest placed Club shall be the Club, which has scored the most goals in League Matches during the relevant Season and in the event of each/all of the Clubs having the scored the same number of goals in League Matches during the Season;

**C(b)37.3** the higher/highest placed Club shall be the Club, having the greater/greatest number of points in League Matches between the relevant Club(s) in the Season in question; and

**C(b)37.4** in the event of the number of such points referenced in C(b)37.3 being equal the higher/highest placed Club shall be the Club with the larger or largest positive goal difference (or the lower or lowest negative goal difference where appropriate) in League Matches as between each of the relevant Clubs during the relevant Season.

**C(b)38** Where in relation to any Season three or more Clubs are equal in points in either Division at the end of that Season the provisions of Rule C(b)37 shall first be applied to determine the highest placed of the relevant Clubs and thereafter applied to determine the respective rankings of the next two Clubs and so on until the respective rankings of each of such Clubs are determined.

**C(b)39** If the League position between any two or more clubs cannot be determined by application of Rules C(b)37 and C(b)38 and their positions in the League at the relevant time have a bearing on deciding which Club is the Champion Club of the League and/or a Division, whether a Club is promoted or a Club is relegated to or from a Division, participation in a Play-Off Match or qualification (or consideration for qualification) for any other competition, including for UEFA Competitions, then the Clubs concerned shall play-off a single deciding Match to determine League position on a date and time and at a Neutral Venue as determined and organised by the Company in each case. Such deciding Matches shall be of 90 minutes duration with 30 minutes of extra time and kicks from the penalty mark if necessary to decide the winning Club, in accordance with the rules laid down by the International Football Association Board which will determine the winner of each such Match. Rule C(b)34 shall apply to any and all such deciding Matches. The Company shall determine all scheduling and all other arrangements in relation to or in connection with such deciding Matches.

**C(b)40** If the League position between any two or more clubs cannot be determined by application of Rules C(b)37 and C(b)38 and their positions in the League at the relevant time do not have a bearing on deciding which Club is the Champion Club of the League and/or a Division, whether they are promoted or relegated to or from a Division, participation in a Play-Off Match or qualification (or consideration for qualification) for any other competitions, including UEFA Competitions, then the Clubs concerned shall not play-off a deciding Match and shall be deemed to have finished in an equal position for all purposes.

### **Champion Clubs**

**C(b)41** The Club occupying position one in the League at the end of a Season shall be declared the Champion Club of the League and shall hold the "The Scottish Women's Premier League Trophy" until the next Season's League Competition is concluded. When the winner of The Scottish Women's Premier League trophy has been ascertained, the Trophy shall be handed over to the winner who shall return the same to the Company at the League Office not later than 3 weeks prior to the end of the next following Season, in good order and condition and in any event as soon as reasonably practicable following a request from the Company.

**C(b)42** It shall be the responsibility of the winning Club in each Division to arrange appropriate insurance cover for each relevant trophy held by and awarded to it throughout the period when it is held by the Club.

**C(b)43** The Company shall present to the Champion Club of the League 30 Medals for Players, other staff and Officials. Additional League Champion Medals may be

purchased from the Company with the prior consent of the Company.

**C(b)44** The Club occupying position 11 in the League at the end of a Season shall be declared the Champion Club of the SWPL2, shall hold the "The Scottish Women's Premier League Division 2 Trophy" until the next Season's SWPL2 Competition is concluded. When the winner of a Scottish Women's Premier League Division 2 trophy has been ascertained, the relevant trophy shall be handed over to the winner who shall return the same to the Company at the League Office not later than 3 weeks prior to the end of the next following Season, in good order and condition and in any event as soon as reasonably practicable following a request from the Company.

**C(b)45** Intentionally not used.

**C(b)46** The Company shall present to the Champion Club of SWPL2 in each Season, 30 Division 2 Champion Club medals for Players, other staff and Officials. Additional Champion Division 2 medals may be purchased from the Company by a Division 2 Champion Club with the prior consent of the Company.

#### **League Cup Competition**

**C(b)47** The Company shall organise a League Cup Competition for each Season in which it shall be mandatory for all Clubs to participate.

**C(b)48** The Scottish Women's League Cup shall be operated in accordance with the Scottish Women's League Cup Rules.

#### **Other Competitions**

**C(b)49** Competitions other than the League shall be operated in accordance with their respective Rules.

#### **Other Competition Rules**

**C(b)50** The Company may specify in the Rules of other Competitions which of these League and Play-Off Competition Rules, including any amendments thereto for the purposes of such other Competitions, shall apply to Competitions other than the League and Play-Off Competitions, the extent of such application and, except insofar as provided in these Rules, generally determine the arrangements for the operation of each of such Other Competitions.

#### **UEFA Competitions**

**C(b)51** The relevant SWPL1 Clubs shall participate in UEFA competitions based on League position at the end of the preceding Season. It is acknowledged that the Scottish FA shall determine and nominate to UEFA the Clubs to compete in the UEFA Competitions each Season in accordance with the Scottish FA Articles and the Regulations of the UEFA Competitions.

**C(b)52** The Company will procure that all fixtures for League Matches shall be arranged or rearranged to allow for any Club's fixtures in UEFA Competitions to be played on and at the due date and time.

**Club Ceasing to Operate, Participate in and/or be a Club of the League**

**C(b)53** If, for any reason and during or after any Season, any Club ceases to operate or participate in or to be a Club of the League, its playing record in the League may be expunged by the Company and/or the Company may determine the deemed score in the remainder of its Official Matches and/or the Company may take such steps and make such determinations as to League and Divisional position and/or promotion and/or relegation and participation and/or results in and outcome of any Play-Off Competition and/or any other Competition operated by the Company and any and all such further or other steps or measures as the Company shall consider appropriate in the circumstances.

## **D Clubs**

### **Membership Criteria**

- D1** Subject to Rule D2, a Candidate Club for any Season, if it is to be promoted to and admitted entry to the League, and the Clubs participating in the League, must satisfy the Membership Criteria.
- D2** In the event that a Candidate Club if promoted to and admitted entry to the League, would, in the opinion of the Company in its absolute discretion, fail to fully comply with the Membership Criteria and no continuing waiver, relaxation or period of grace is or has been granted to the Candidate Club concerned, then the Candidate Club concerned shall not be promoted to and admitted entry to the League and a Club which would otherwise have been relegated from the League in accordance with these Rules shall be determined by the Company to retain its place in the League.
- D3** In the event that any Club, in the opinion of the Company in its absolute discretion, shall or if it were to participate in the League would, fail to comply with the Membership Criteria and no continuing waiver, relaxation or period of grace is or has been granted to that Club, such Club shall be subject to such sanction or sanctions and such action may be taken, as the Company, may, in its absolute discretion, determine.
- D4** The Membership Criteria are:-.
- D4.1** a Club participating in the League must be a member of the Scottish FA;
- D4.2** a Club participating in the League must have registered or be deemed to have registered its ground in accordance with Rule H13;
- D4.3** a Club participating in the League must have entered into and be entitled for the time being to so participate, in terms of a Participation Agreement with the Company;
- D4.4** a Club participating in the League must:-
- D4.4.1** itself, or through a subsidiary or holding company of such Club, own its Registered Ground; or
- D4.4.2** have such other rights of occupation or tenure in its Registered Ground as may be approved by the Company;
- D4.5** any ground which a Club or the Candidate Club registers or is deemed to have registered as its Registered Ground, must, by not later than 31st March preceding any Season, and for the whole of that Season:
- D4.5.1** have achieved and maintained with respect to its Home Ground at least the Entry Level Standard as determined and specified by the

Scottish FA; and

**D4.5.2** comply with Rules H18 and H19.

**D4.6** Clubs shall take all steps determined necessary by the Company to implement the development of youth and young professionals football in Scotland in line with the requirements, philosophy and recommendations of the Company;

**D4.7** where a Club or the Candidate Club registers or is deemed to have registered as its Registered Ground for any Season a ground at which it is intended to play Official Matches on a pitch utilising a synthetic or artificial playing surface then such Club or Candidate Club must have made an application to the Company in accordance with Rule H4.3 by not later than 31st March and must have been granted an approval by the Company in terms of that Rule by not later than 1<sup>st</sup> June, both preceding such Season;

**D4.8** Clubs and Candidate Clubs shall comply with Rule E31.7.

**D5** Any application for approval for the purposes of Rule D4.4.2 or application for a waiver, relaxation or period of grace for the purposes of Rule D6, must be made in writing to the Secretary not later than 31<sup>st</sup> March preceding any Season or, as the case may be, first Season, in relation to which the ground for which such approval, waiver, relaxation or, as the case may be, period of grace is sought, is to be registered or deemed to be registered in accordance with Rule H13, as the Registered Ground of the Club or Candidate Club concerned.

**D6** The Company may in its absolute discretion waive, relax or grant a period of grace in respect of any Club's or Candidate Club's requirement to comply with any part of the Membership Criteria and/or Rules D5, H4, H13, H14, H18, H19, H20, H23 and H24.

**D7** The Company may undertake or instruct to be undertaken such inspection and may require such verification to be exhibited by a Club or Candidate Club as the Company considers appropriate to satisfy the Company that there is, has been and will be compliance by each Club and a Candidate Club with the Membership Criteria during a relevant Season.

**D8** The implementation of the Membership Criteria shall be capable of appeal in accordance with the provisions of the Disciplinary etc. Rules.

### **Employee Contracts**

**D9** No Club shall directly or indirectly induce or attempt to induce any employee of another Club to terminate a contract of employment with that other Club (whether or not by breach of that contract) or directly or indirectly approach any such employee with a view to offering employment, without the consent of that other Club. For the purpose of this Rule D9, "Club" means any club which is a member of the Scottish FA.

## **Inducement to breach Contracts**

- D10** No Club shall either directly or indirectly induce or attempt to induce any manager, coach, trainer or other person involved in the training or management of the team of another Club or a club in membership of the Scottish FA and/or Scottish Women's Football to breach a written contract of employment. A Clubs/club may notify the Company in writing, of the period of all or any such persons' contracts of employment.
- D11** Any Club either directly or indirectly inducing or attempting to induce any manager, coach, trainer or other person involved in the training or management of the team of another Club or a club in membership of the Scottish FA and/or Scottish Women's Football to breach a contract of employment shall be in breach of these Rules.

## **E Club Financial Arrangements**

### **Insolvency**

- E1** Where a Club takes, suffers or is subject to a Deductible Insolvency Event that Club shall, subject to Rule E4, be deducted 15 points and 5 points in the League in consecutive Seasons in terms of Rule E2 or Rule E3.
- E2** Where a Club takes, suffers or is subject to a Deductible Insolvency Event during a Season the 15 points deduction shall be applied immediately to take effect in that Season, with the 5 points deduction being applied in the immediately following Season such that the relevant Club shall commence that immediately following Season in the relevant Division on minus 5 points.
- E3** Where a Club takes, suffers or is subject to a Deductible Insolvency Event during a Close Season, the 15 points deduction shall be applied in the immediately following Season, such that the relevant Club shall commence that immediately following Season in the relevant Division on minus 15 points, with the 5 points deduction being applied in the Season next following the immediately following Season, such that the relevant Club shall commence that next following Season in the relevant Division on minus 5 points.
- E4** Where a Club, whether owned and operated by the same or a different person and whether such person or persons is or was a Club, has taken, suffered or been subject to an Insolvency Event which resulted in a deduction of points in terms of these Rules, whether a Deductible Insolvency Event or not, or in terms of the Scottish Women's Football Rules and within 5 years of the date of such Insolvency Event which resulted in a deduction of points takes, suffers or is subject to a Deductible Insolvency Event, the 15 and 5 points deductions applicable in terms of Rules E2 or E3, in respect of such a Deductible Insolvency Event shall instead be 25 and 15 points respectively.
- E5** For the purposes of Rules E1 to E4 (inclusive) and Rule E16, all references to a Club taking, suffering or being subject to an Insolvency Event, Deductible Insolvency Event and/or an Insolvency Process include the owner and operator of that Club taking, suffering or being subject to an Insolvency Event, Deductible Insolvency Event and/or an Insolvency Process as the case may be and shall, if the Company so determines having regard to (i) the need to protect the integrity and continuity of the League; (ii) the reputation of the League; and (iii) the relationship between such owner and operator and the Group Undertaking concerned, include any Group Undertaking of such an owner and operator taking, suffering or being subject to an Insolvency Event, Deductible Insolvency Event and/or an Insolvency Process.
- E6** The Secretary shall give written notice to a Club which is subject to a points deduction in terms of Rules E1 to E5 (inclusive) of each such points deduction.
- E7** A Club may, on the grounds set out in Rule E8, appeal to an Appeal Tribunal against a deduction of points in terms of Rules E1 to E4 (inclusive).

- E8** The only grounds on which a Club may appeal in terms of Rule E7 are that:
- E8.1** it, or, as the case may be, its owner and operator and/or a Group Undertaking of such owner and operator, has not taken, suffered or been subject to a Deductible Insolvency Event;
  - E8.2** Rule E4 did not apply and any deductions of points in terms of Rules E2 or E3 should be 15 points and 5 points and not 25 points and 15 points respectively; and/or
  - E8.3** the Deductible Insolvency Event, which resulted in the points deduction or deductions against which the appeal is made, arose as a result of a Force Majeure Event.
- E9** Any appeal under Rule E7, in order for it to be valid, must be by notice in writing and be received by or on behalf of the Secretary not later than 7 days after receipt by the Club of the notice from the Secretary in terms of Rule E6.
- E10** A written notice of appeal in terms of Rule E9, in order for it to be valid, must: (i) specify which of the grounds specified in Rule E8 is/are relied on and why it is considered that such may be made out; (ii) where an appeal is made on the ground set out in Rule E8.3, specify on what basis it is considered that a Force Majeure Event has occurred and that the Deductible Insolvency Event resulted from it; and (iii) be accompanied by copies of any documentation referred to in such written notice.
- E11** The appeal will be determined by an Appeal Tribunal, the members of which shall be appointed by the Company. An Appeal Tribunal shall comprise:
- E11.1** A legally qualified chair who is independent of the Club which is appealing; and,
  - E11.2** Two persons, neither of whom shall be an Official.
- E12** The Appeal Tribunal shall have all the powers of a Committee appointed to investigate and determine a disciplinary matter and may require the attendance of any Club or Official at any relevant hearing. The Rules of Procedure shall apply to any appeal under Rule E7. The secretary to the Appeal Tribunal shall be the Secretary or their appointed deputy. The Club making the appeal and the Company shall have the right to a personal hearing at an appeal hearing and may be legally represented at any such hearing. The decision of the Appeal Tribunal on the appeal shall be final and binding.
- E13** The Company may, upon receipt of an appeal under Rule E7, and shall on being requested so to do by an Appeal Tribunal, instruct a firm or firms of independent accountants and/or solicitors to carry out a review or reviews of the relevant Club's and/or its owner and operator and/or in a relevant case a Group Undertaking of such owner and operator's, financial and business activities, affairs and/or operations for the purposes of preparing an independent report or reports generally into the circumstances surrounding and leading up to the Deductible Insolvency Event and/or

into specific matters relating to the Deductible Insolvency Event. The Club and its owner and operator and/or in a relevant case a Group Undertaking of such owner and operator, shall, as a condition of being permitted to pursue an appeal under Rule E7, cooperate fully with such independent firm or firms in the preparation of and meet the costs of the preparation of such report(s) and must, at the request of the Company make such payment to account and, if required by the Company, interim payments towards the costs of such report(s) as the Company may in its sole discretion determine. The report(s) shall be addressed to the Company and copies shall be provided to the Club and to the Appeal Tribunal. The Appeal Tribunal shall take into account the contents of such report(s) when determining whether the Deductible Insolvency Event arose as a result of a Force Majeure Event and in exercising the powers available to it in terms of Rule E14.

**E14** An Appeal Tribunal shall have power to:-

**E14.1** confirm any deduction of points in terms of Rules E1 to E4 inclusive;

**E14.2** set aside any deduction of points in terms of Rules E1 to E4 inclusive and, where it determines that there has been a Force Majeure Event, substitute a deduction of such lower number of points as it shall consider appropriate; or

**E14.3** set aside any deduction of points in terms of Rules E1 to E4 inclusive.

**E15** The whole costs incurred by the Company in connection with an appeal in terms of Rule E7, including the costs of the Appeal Tribunal, all as determined by the Company, shall be met by the Club concerned and shall constitute a debt due to the Company by the Club.

**E16** Where:

**A.** a Club has taken, suffered or has been subject to an Insolvency Event or Events; or

**B.** a Group Undertaking of a Club has taken, suffered or has been subject to an Insolvency Event or Events and the Company has determined that Rule E5 shall apply,

then, except with the consent of the Company, to be given by it in the event and only in the event that:

**(a)** the term of a Professional Player's Contract of Service with their Club has expired and such contract has not been renewed or extended or such a Contract of Service has terminated with the mutual consent in writing of the Club and the Player concerned and, in either case, the Scottish FA Registration of such Player has been cancelled and a replacement Professional Player is sought to be Scottish FA Registered to replace the Player whose contract has so expired or been terminated; or

- (b) where the Player sought to be Scottish FA Registered is a temporary replacement for a goalkeeper who is unable by reason of injury or illness to play and that only where written confirmation of such inability shall have been obtained by the Club from a qualified medical practitioner and submitted to the Company and the Company is satisfied that the Club concerned has no other goalkeeper who is Scottish FA Registered and able to play; and
- (c) in either case, the Company is satisfied in its absolute discretion that notwithstanding such Insolvency Event it is appropriate that the Player concerned be League Registered and permitted to Play in Official Matches,

that Club shall not apply to have Scottish FA Registered with it and there shall not be League Registered with it any Professional Player who:

1. is not an Under 20 Player; or
2. was not already Scottish FA Registered with that Club at the date of the relevant Insolvency Event or earliest relevant Insolvency Event which is part of an Insolvency Process,

until such Insolvency Event or Insolvency Process, as the case may be, shall no longer continue or subsist or the Company shall, in its sole discretion, determine that the prohibition on application for Scottish FA Registration and on League Registration of Players in terms of this Rule E16 by such a Club without such consent is no longer appropriate having regard to:

- i. the need to protect the integrity and continuity of the League;
- ii. the reputation of the League;
- iii. the stage that such Insolvency Event or, as the case may be, Insolvency Process has reached; and
- iv. that such Insolvency Event or, as the case may be, Insolvency Process is no longer having any substantive effect on or advantage to the business and operations of the Club and its owner and operator and, in a relevant case, a Group Undertaking of such owner and operator, and

any failure by a Club to observe and/or comply with the provisions of this Rule E16 shall constitute a breach of the Rules.

**E16A** If a Club shall take, suffer or be subject to an Insolvency Event that Club shall, on receiving notice in writing from the Secretary following the Board determining that such notice should be issued by the Board on behalf of the Company, such Club shall, on the giving of such notice, cease to be a member of the League or, on such conditions as the Board shall consider appropriate, participate with effect from such date as may be specified in such notice, in such Division as the Board may, in its absolute discretion, think appropriate. The provisions of this Rule E16A, the giving of

such notice and its terms are and shall be without prejudice to any other effects of a Deductible Insolvency Event under and in terms of these Rules.

### **Default in Player and Football Manager/Coaching Staff Remuneration**

**E17** Except in circumstances where there is:

- i. a *bona fide* dispute: as to liability for payment; to afford a benefit; and/or discharge of an obligation in relation to pensions, by a Club;
- ii. where a Club is entitled to deduct or otherwise withhold payment of a sum otherwise due; and/or
- iii. where a Club takes, suffers or is subject to an Insolvency Event, any Club which shall:
  - a) fail to pay any sum due by it to and/or give any benefit in kind to or for a Player under and in terms of that Player's Contract of Service;
  - b) fail to pay any sum due by and/or give any benefit in kind under a contract of employment to any Official engaged in football management and/or football coaching; and/or
  - c) fail to discharge a pension obligation arising in terms of contract, statute and/or regulation in relation to any one or more of any such employees

(each of which a "**Remuneration Default**") shall be in breach of these Rules.

**E18** Any Club which suffers or is subject to a Remuneration Default shall within 2 days of such default notify the Secretary in writing of any such default with details of the amount(s) and Player(s) and/or Official(s) concerned and if it fails to so notify the Secretary it shall be in breach of these Rules.

**E19** Any Club which commits a Remuneration Default shall not, except with the consent of the Board, to be given in the Board's absolute discretion, apply to have Scottish FA Registered with it or Play any Professional Player who is not an Under 20 Player and/or who was not Scottish FA Registered with that Club at the date of the relevant Remuneration Default until the Board notifies the Club in writing that it is satisfied that such Remuneration Default shall no longer continue or subsist.

### **HMRC Obligations and Reporting**

**E20** Subject to Rules E21 and E28, any Club which:

**E20.1** does not by 1 January during the relevant calendar year pay in full to HMRC the amount due to be paid to HMRC to discharge the Club's Tax Liabilities due prior to and remaining outstanding on 1 January during the relevant calendar year;

**E20.2** does not within twenty-eight days of a Tax Liability becoming due by the

Club on or after 1 January during the relevant calendar year pay to HMRC the full amount of that Tax Liability;

**E20.3** does not by 1 January during the relevant calendar year pay to HMRC the full amount due to discharge the Club's Tax Liabilities arising as a result of an assessment issued by HMRC prior to 1 January during the relevant calendar year;

**E20.4** does not within twenty-eight days of the date of an assessment issued by HMRC on or after 1 January during the relevant calendar year pay to HMRC the full amount of the Club's Tax Liabilities arising as a result of that assessment; and/or

**E20.5** defaults on the terms of any Time to Pay Agreement;

(each a "**Default Event**") shall report each such Default Event in writing to the Secretary within 2 days of the Default Event arising.

**E21** Rules E20.1 to E20.4 (inclusive) shall not, for so long as the Club concerned complies with its obligations in terms of the relevant Time to Pay Agreement, apply to any arrears of Tax Liabilities ("**Arrears**") which are or become included as part of a Time to Pay Agreement. However, any failure by a Club to comply with its obligations in terms of a Time to Pay Agreement shall be a Default Event in terms of Rule E20.5.

**E22** Notwithstanding Rule E20 and subject to Rules E23 and E28, where a Club has any Arrears as of 31 March during the relevant calendar year that Club shall:

**E22.1** by not later than 3 April during the relevant calendar year provide the Secretary with full written details of the Arrears, together with the periods to which they relate and a copy of any Time to Pay Agreement in force in relation to such Arrears; and

**E22.2** subject to Rule E24, conclude by 1 June during the relevant calendar year with HMRC, and lodge a copy with the Secretary, a Time to Pay Agreement in relation to any of those Arrears which were not the subject of a Time to Pay Agreement as of 1 March during the relevant calendar year and which are not discharged in full by 1 August during the relevant calendar year;

and any failure by a Club to comply with Rules E22.1 and/or E22.2 shall also be a Default Event.

**E23** A Club may apply to the Board for an extension of time to conclude a Time to Pay Agreement in terms of Rule E22.2. The Board shall have absolute discretion as to whether to refuse or approve such an application, and if the Board chooses to approve an application it may impose such conditions as it determines are appropriate. The Board may subsequently withdraw any such approval and/or amend, withdraw and/or impose new such conditions at any time.

**E24** Where a Club defaults on or after 1 August during the relevant calendar year on the

terms of a Time to Pay Agreement, and such default results in amounts becoming due to HMRC on such default, the provisions of Rule E22 (which provides the Club with a time period in which to agree a Time to Pay Agreement) shall not apply, and the Club shall remain subject to a Default Event until such times as the outstanding amounts are paid in full.

- E25** When a Club reports a Default Event to the Secretary it shall at the same time provide in writing to the Secretary details of any and all amounts of Tax Liabilities then due by that Club together with the period(s) to which they relate and if the Default Event shall occur by reason of Rule E20.5 the Club shall at the same time as reporting the Default Event provide a written explanation of the circumstances of the Default Event and copies of the Time to Pay Agreement and all relevant correspondence with HMRC.
- E26** A Club which fails to report a Default Event to the Secretary in accordance with Rule E25 within 2 days of the Default Event occurring and/or fails to provide a non-time constrained original irrevocable authority in accordance with Rule E27 shall be in breach of these Rules.
- E27** Except where a Club has previously provided a non-time constrained original irrevocable authority in accordance with this Rule E27, each Club shall provide to the Secretary, not later than 31 March prior to the commencement of the next following Season (and within 7 days of any request for a further authority from the Secretary), an original, irrevocable authority (which shall not be time constrained) in the form prescribed by the Secretary on Club letterhead notepaper and signed by a director or in the case of a Club which does not have an owner and operator which is incorporated an office bearer of the Club duly authorised for the purpose and the Club secretary or equivalent, of the Club, addressed to HMRC authorising HMRC to provide to the Board, if a Club suffers or has suffered a Default Event, information relating to amounts of Tax Liabilities payable, paid and overdue by the Club to HMRC from time to time including, by way of example and without limitation, the amount of Arrears (if any), the existence, terms and current position in respect of any Time to Pay Agreement and the Club's Tax Liabilities generally. The Board shall be entitled to forward such authority to HMRC without having to seek the consent of the Club concerned.
- E28** Any amounts which HMRC claims to be due to it in respect of Tax Liabilities by a Club, for example by way of an assessment, but which have been formally contested in appropriate notices and/or proceedings by the Club shall not be considered as due to HMRC by the relevant Club for the purposes of Rules E20 and E22 until such time as a final determination is made on HMRC's claim.
- E29** Except with the consent of the Board, to be given in the Board's absolute discretion, any Club which takes, suffers or is subject to a Default Event or Events shall not apply to have Scottish FA Registered with it or Play any Professional Player who is not an Under 20 Player and/or who was not Scottish FA Registered with that Club at the date of the Default Event or earliest relevant Default Event, until the Board notifies the Club in writing that it is satisfied that such Default Event(s) shall no longer

continue or subsist.

### **Inspection of Financial Records**

**E30.1** Every Club shall keep detailed and materially accurate Financial Records and the Board shall be entitled to inspect such records and to require Clubs to provide copies of any Financial Records and Information, or other records and/or information which may be required by the Board in order to enable the Board to investigate whether the relevant Club:

**E30.1.1** has complied and is complying with, is in breach of, has been in breach of, has not fulfilled, is not fulfilling and/or will be in breach of or not fulfil one or more of these Rules, the Articles and/or the Regulations: and/or

**E30.1.2** in the last 12 months and/or during the next 12 months:

- (i) has committed and/or is likely to commit a Remuneration Default;
- (ii) has been and/or is likely will be the subject of a Default Event;
- (iii) has taken, suffered or been subject to an Insolvency Event and/or is likely to so take, suffer or be subject to such an event;
- (iv) has failed to correctly certify to the Company in terms of Rule E31.7, compliance with each of Rules E31.1, E31.2, E31.3 and E31.6 and/or is likely to be unable to certify to the Company, in terms of Rule E31.7, compliance with any one or more of Rules E31.1, E31.2, E31.3 and E31.6;
- (v) should have been and/or is likely to be the subject of a withholding, retention and/or deferment in terms of the Commercial etc. Rules or otherwise; and/or
- (vi) should have been and/or should be, the subject of an application under and in terms of the Commercial etc. Rules and, if so, the amount of such application and whether the Company and/or another Club should be the beneficiary of such an application and, if so, the amount in respect of which such an application should be made;

**E30.2** In the event that the Board shall consider it expedient that the Board inspects and/or Club provides to the Board copies of Financial Records and Information and/or other records and/or information (together "**Material**"), to enable the Board to investigate whether a Club should be, is and/or may be the subject of any one or more of the circumstances set out in Rules E30.1.1 and/or E30.1.2(i) to (vi) (inclusive) the Board may make a Direction.

**E30.3** In the event that the Board shall consider it expedient that a Club shall provide Material to the Board in terms of Rules E30.1 and E30.2, the Secretary shall send to the Club concerned a written direction ("**Direction**") specifying:

- E30.3.1** which one or more of the circumstances provided in Rule E30.1.2(i) to (vi) (inclusive) is the subject of investigation in relation to the relevant Club;
- E30.3.2** the Material which the relevant Club is required to provide copies of and/or to disclose to the Board;
- E30.3.3** the period or periods within which the Material is/are to be provided to the Board by the relevant Club or where required and with an explanation why, the original(s) of same;
- E30.3.4** that if the relevant club is unable to provide any element of the Material, either because it would be unlawful of the Club to do so and/or that it does not have all or any part of the Material specified and/or that for a specified reason it should not have to provide same, and/or that more time should be afforded for provision of the relevant Material to the Board, it should apply in writing, with reasons, for a cancellation or modification of the Direction to the person who issued the Direction within 3 Working Days of the date of sending the Direction to the relevant club; and
- E30.3.5** if it is the case, the person, persons or agency appointed by the Board to carry out the investigation and to report.

**E30.4** In the event that a Club shall fail to:

- (a)** comply with all or any part of a Direction;
- (b)** comply within the period specified or, where one is given, extended period afforded to it for the compliance with a Direction;
- (c)** have maintained detailed and materially accurate Financial Records; and/or
- (d)** provide a materially accurate, genuine and complete response to a Direction;

it shall, in any one or more of such circumstances, be in breach of the Rules.

**E30.5** Whenever Financial Records and Information is referred to as being required to be “materially” accurate for the purposes of any provision of Rule H30 then materiality shall be determined by the Board having regard to the economic size, turnover, assets and liabilities of the owner and operator of the Club concerned, except where the annual financial statements and accounts of the owning Club shall incorporate a statement approved by the Club’s auditors, or independent accountant responsible for the preparation or review of the financial accounts, of what constitutes materiality for the purposes of the financial accounts of the Club then such description shall determine what constitutes materiality for the purposes of Rule E30.

## **E30.6**

- E30.6.1** All financial Records and Information required to be submitted to the Board pursuant to this Rule E30 shall, unless the Board determines otherwise, be given by or on behalf of a Club to the Secretary. The Board may determine that it will not be necessary for a Club to give Financial Records and Information to the Secretary but instead to make same or any part of same available for inspection at a specified place in Scotland. In the event that the Board determines that copies, documentation, certification or information is to be made available at a specified place then same shall be made available to such person or persons as may be designated by the Board or the Secretary on behalf of the Board by or on such date or dates and in such form as the Board or the Secretary on behalf of the Board may specify.
- E30.6.2** Notwithstanding that the Board or the Secretary on behalf of the Board may have required copies, documentation, verification or information to be available for inspection at a specified place it shall be open to the Board or the Secretary on behalf of the Board, at any time and any circumstances, to require that such copies, documentation, verification or information shall be sent in such form as the Board or the Secretary on behalf of the Board may specify, to the Secretary.
- E30.6.3** Any forecasts comprised in Financial Records and Information will, subject to Rule E30.6.4, be reviewed only by the Secretary and/or his nominated accounting and/or legal advisers and/or such other Club(s) of the Board's executive as shall have been appointed by the Board to have responsibility for the carrying out of any investigation related to the Financial Records and Information provided and to be provided.
- E30.6.4** Where any forecast provided to the Board as part of Financial Records and Information for the purposes of the Rule E30 shall be required for the making of any decision as to whether a complaint is to be brought and/or is required as evidence during the course of disciplinary or like or related proceedings, then all reasonable endeavours shall be made to keep to a minimum the number of persons at the Board who shall have access to and/or view same and all copies or extracts provided shall be gathered in and retained by the Secretary and all persons having such or equivalent access to the same shall be under obligation of confidentiality in relation to same.
- E30.6.5** All forecasts provided to the Board as part of Financial Records and Information for the purposes of this Rule E30 will remain under the control of the Secretary. Hard copies of such forecasts will be held in a locked box within the Company safe. The Secretary will be the only person with access to the locked box. Clubs are entitled, on giving reasonable notice, to inspect the secure method of retention of any forecast provided by them in accordance with this Rule E30.

**E30.6.6** All forecasts provided to the Board as part of Financial Records and Information for the purposes of this Rule E30 will, unless required for ongoing matters in relation to this Rule E30, be destroyed within two years of receipt of such forecast by the Secretary. The Secretary will advise the relevant Club in writing of the destruction of a forecast so provided to the Secretary.

**E30.6.7** A Club shall be entitled to notify the Secretary in writing that where it has been required in terms of this Rule E30 to provide a forecast as part of Financial Records and Information that such provision will take place at the offices of the Club concerned. Such written notification, in order for it to be effective, must be given to the Secretary before the date on which the Club concerned has been required to provide such a forecast. In such circumstances the Secretary and/or his accounting and/or his legal advisers will attend at the premises of such Club to review the forecast at the Club's premises. Where a Club has exercised such option, it is subject to a requirement by the Board or Secretary in terms of Rule E30.6.2 and if no such requirement is notified the Club must confirm in writing to the Secretary, at or prior to the inspection of same, that the Club will retain the forecast and make it available for future inspection by the Secretary and/or his nominated accounting and/or legal advisors until the Club receives notification in writing from the Secretary that the forecast may be destroyed by the Club.

#### **No Overdue Payables and Compliance with Employee Remuneration Requirements**

**E31.1** As of 31 January in each calendar year a Club and the Candidate Club must not have any Overdue Payables; see description of meaning of Overdue Payables in Rules E31.4 and E31.5, to other Football clubs and Football authorities as described in Rule E31.1.1, including, as a result of transfers undertaken up to and including that 31 January.

**E31.1.1** Overdue Payables to other Football clubs and/or Football authorities are those amounts due to: (i) Football clubs as a result of transfer activities, including training compensation and solidarity contributions as defined in the *FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players*, as well as any amount due upon fulfilment of certain conditions and any amounts due in respect of compensation for training and development, or the like or equivalent in terms of the Articles or Rules of the Company and/or Scottish FA; (ii) any amounts due in respect of tickets sold as the Visiting Club in respect of any Official Match; (iii) any amount payable to a Home Club arising in terms of these Rules and resulting from damage caused to the stadium of a Home Club by supporters of a Visiting Club at an Official Match; and (iv) any Football authority, howsoever arising, including to the Company and/or the Scottish FA and/or Scottish Women's Football.

**E31.2** As of 31 January in each calendar year a Club and a Candidate Club must not have any Overdue Payables, see description of Overdue Payables in Rules E31.4 and E31.5,

towards any of its Players, coaching or football management staff, including those formerly employed by the Club and the Candidate Club in such roles.

**E31.3** As of 31 January in each calendar year a Club and a Candidate Club must not have any Overdue Payables, see description of Overdue Payables in Rules E31.4 and E31.4, in respect of Tax Liabilities to HMRC as a result of contractual or legal obligations in respect of, related to or concerning that Club's and the Candidate Club's employees.

**E31.4** Payables are considered as overdue if they are not paid according to the agreed terms and where a payable arises by statutory or regulatory provision when overdue in terms of such provision.

**E31.5** Payables are not considered overdue, within the meaning of this Rule 31, if the Club or the Candidate Club concerned is able to satisfy the Board that by and/or as of 31 January in the relevant calendar year, the Club or the Candidate Club has:

**E31.5.1** paid the relevant amount in full;

**E31.5.2** concluded an agreement which has been accepted in writing by the creditor, to extend the due date for payment beyond the applicable due date and later than the relevant 31 January (NB: the fact that a creditor may not have requested payment of an amount due does not constitute an of extension of the due date);

**E31.5.3** commenced on or prior to the relevant 31 January a legal claim to or at a competent court, tribunal, authority, the national or international football authorities or relevant arbitration tribunal contesting liability in relation to each relevant overdue payable. However, if the Board is satisfied, acting reasonably, that such claim has been brought or such proceedings have been opened for the sole or principal purpose of avoiding the time limits set out in this Rule E31 (i.e. in order to 'buy time') and/or that the Club or Candidate Club concerned is not otherwise acting in good faith and, in the case of a tax assessment and the like which the Club or Candidate Club concerned is obliged by law to pay whilst contesting same, on or prior to the relevant 31 January, the due amount has been so paid on or before the relevant 31 January, the relevant amount will still be considered an overdue payable;

**E31.5.4** has contested, on or prior to the relevant 31 January at or to a competent court, tribunal, authority, the national or international football authorities or relevant arbitration tribunal, a claim and/or assessment or the like which has been brought or proceedings which have been commenced, brought, raised or the equivalent against it by a creditor in respect of overdue payables and is able to demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the Board that it has established reasons for contesting the claims or proceedings which have been opened. However, if the Board consider the reasons for contesting the claim or proceedings which have been opened as manifestly unfounded and that the Club or Candidate Club concerned is

otherwise acting in good faith, the amount will be considered as an overdue payable; and/or

- E31.5.5** is able to demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the Board that it has taken all reasonable measures to identify and pay the creditor club(s) in respect of training compensation and solidarity payments as defined by the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, and the Rules, Articles and Regulations of the Company, League and Scottish FA, in force from time to time.
- E31.6** Throughout each calendar year a Club and a Candidate Club must be, as regards all of its employees, in compliance with all applicable law in relation to PAYE, tax, expenses and benefits and the National Minimum Wage Regulations 2015 and/or any supplementary, variation or replacement regulations or other provisions in force from time to time. As at 31 January in each calendar year the Club and the Candidate Club must have no sums due to or in respect of any of its employees and former employees arising out of or connected with said the applicable PAYE, tax, expenses and benefits requirements and the relevant national minimum wage requirements except where such payment is not obliged to be paid on or before the relevant 31 January.
- E31.7** By not later than 31 March in each year (commencing 31 March 2023) a Club and the Candidate Club must have sent to and had received by the Secretary, a fully completed declaration and certificate in a form specified by the Company, approved by the board of directors or equivalent, in the case of a body which is not an incorporated company, and signed by at least one director or the equivalent, of the owner and operator of the Club or Candidate Club concerned, certifying that the Club or the Candidate Club, including its owner and operator, are in full compliance with each and all of the requirements of Rules E31.1, E31.2, E31.3 and E31.6 or, if not in such full compliance, the full details of such non-compliance, full documentary explanation for and verification of and value, over a one year period up to the relevant 31 January, of each such non-compliance, and the date or dates on such non-compliance is anticipated to be resolved and compliance achieved by the Club or the Candidate Club, as regards each such non-compliance.
- E31.8** Where, in order for the Club or Candidate Club concerned, to certify full compliance in terms of each of Rules E31.1, E31.2, E31.3 and E31.6, it is necessary for a Club or the Candidate Club to rely on Rule E31.5, the Club or Candidate Club concerned must provide to the Secretary, along with any declaration and certificate given by it in terms of Rule E31.7, a full written explanation of the nature and extent of such reliance, together with copies of any and all documents supporting and/or explaining such reliance.
- E31.9** In considering any declaration and certificate in terms of Rule E31.7 or explanation and/or material provided in support of and/or in explanation for same and/or for the purposes of Rule E31.8 and/or for the purposes of any application made by a Club or Candidate Club to the Company, the Board may require the Club or Candidate Club concerned to provide such further information, explanation, documentation,

personal appearance ("Material") as the Board may in its sole discretion consider appropriate.

- E31.10** Except with the consent of the Board, to be given in the Board's absolute discretion, any Club which fails to provide to the Secretary the declaration and certificate by the due date or by such later date as may be agreed to by the Board in writing in its sole discretion, all as required in terms of Rule E31.7, shall not apply to have Scottish FA Registered with it or Play any Player who is not an Under 20 Player and/or who was not Scottish FA Registered with that Club at such due date, unless and until the Board notifies the Club in writing that it is satisfied that such declaration and certificate has been received by the Secretary in terms and with such explanatory and/or supporting documents, as are acceptable to the Board in its sole discretion.
- E31.11** Without prejudice to the terms of any of the other provisions of these Rules, the Articles and/or the Rules, where a Club or Candidate Club: (i) fails to provide the declaration and certificate required by Rule E31.7 to the Secretary by the required date or by any later date agreed to by the Board in its sole discretion; and/or (ii) provides such declaration and certificate and/or materials and/or Materials along with and/or in support or explanation of such declaration and certificate and/or in explanation for and/or reliance on any of the matters provided for in Rule E31.5 and/or for any other purpose connected with or related to this Rule E31, which contains untrue and/or incorrect information and/or which is misleading in its terms, (iv) fails or unreasonably delays in the provision of such Material as may be required by the Board in terms of Rule E31.9; and/or (v) fails to comply with Rule E31.10, such Club or Candidate Club shall, in each such case, be in breach of and shall fail to comply with these Rules.
- E31.12** Notwithstanding the terms of Rule E31.11 and without prejudice to the terms of any of the other provisions of these Rules, the Articles and/or the Rules, the failure of a Club or the Candidate Club at any time to comply only with the individual terms of each of Rules E31.1, E31.2, E31.3 and/or E31.6 shall not in and of itself constitute a breach of and/or a failure to comply with these Rules.

## **F        Players**

### **Registration and Eligibility**

- F1**        Subject to these Rules and the Player Rules, to be eligible to Play for a Club a Player must be League Registered with that Club in accordance with these Rules and the Player Rules.
  
- F2**        A breach of or failure to comply with the Player Rules shall constitute a breach of these Rules.

## **G Fixtures and Match Officials**

### **Fixtures**

- G1** League Match fixtures shall be specified by the Board in a fixture schedule prior to the commencement of each Season following consultation with the Scottish FA.
- G2** Subject to the terms of any Commercial Contract and any other consideration which the Board considers material, League Matches shall be played as determined by the Board, and Clubs so far as reasonably practicable shall be a Home Club one week and a Visiting Club the next.
- G3** The Board shall have discretion to schedule and to reschedule the date, time and/or venue of any Official Match as it shall consider appropriate.
- G4** Where reasonably practicable the Board shall consult with and shall take into account any representations made by participating Clubs before rescheduling the date, time and/or venue of an Official Match.
- G5** Each Club shall comply with and play in the relevant fixtures comprised in the fixture schedule determined by the Board and any rescheduled date, time and/or venue determined from time to time by the Board for Official Matches in which the Club is a participant.
- G6** So far as reasonably practicable the fixture schedule in the League and other league Competitions operated by the Company shall require Clubs in each Division to play equal numbers of Home and Away League Matches.

### **Postponement and International Selection**

- G7** A Club shall be entitled to apply to the Board for the postponement of any Official Match where two or more of its Players who would otherwise have participated in such match are unavailable through international selection and, following receipt of such an application, the Board may postpone and rearrange the relevant Official Match in accordance with Rule G3.

### **Match Officials**

- G8** The appointment of Match Officials at and for Official Matches shall be the responsibility of the Scottish FA in accordance with any agreement reached from time to time between the Company and the Scottish FA.

### **Kick-off Times**

- G9** The time of kick-off for all League Matches and Play-Off Matches shall be determined from time to time by the Board (having regard to UEFA and FIFA TV Regulations in the case of a live transmission and in consultation with relevant parties including, if appropriate, the Scottish FA and the relevant police force representatives).
- G10** Both teams shall enter the field of play no later than five minutes prior to the

scheduled kick-off time together in Official Matches along with the Match Officials.

- G11** All kick-offs must adhere to the time fixed by the Board. Clubs and Referees must report any delays to the Secretary or designee. Any Club causing a kick-off to be delayed by 15 minutes or more from the time advertised without sufficient reason (as determined by the Board in its absolute discretion) will be liable to a fine of (i) up to a maximum of £250 for a first offence; and (ii) for a second or subsequent offence occurring within two years of the first offence shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Disciplinary etc. Rules. For the avoidance of doubt, the amount of any fine imposed in accordance with this Rule G11 shall be capable of appeal to the Judicial Panel in terms of the Disciplinary etc. Rules.

### **Half-time Interval**

- G12** In all Official Matches the half-time interval shall be fifteen minutes.

### **Duration of Matches**

- G13** All Official Matches shall be of 90 minutes' duration, with two equal halves of 45 minutes, but any Official Match which, from any cause whatever, falls short of 90 minutes' duration may be ordered to count as a completed fixture or to be replayed in full as the Company may in its absolute discretion determine.

### **Teams for League Matches and Play-Off Matches**

- G14** Each Club shall play its full-strength team in all League Matches and Play-Off Matches.

### **Laws of the Game**

- G15** All League Matches and Play-Off Matches shall be played in compliance with these Rules and the Laws of the Game.

### **List of Players**

- G16** An authorised Official of each Club participating in a League Match and in a Play-Off Match, must deliver to the Referee, with a copy to an appropriate Official of the opposing Club, a 'Scottish Women's Premier League - Match Information Form', conform to the style of form as set out at Appendix 6 or such amended form from time to time approved for use by the Board, with the match details and match commencement team information sections completed which specifies the Players who will Play in that Match for that Club, including the name(s) of the Club's nominated substitute(s), not less than 75 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time. Clubs shall be entitled to specify up to 20 such Players on such form. The completed form delivered to the referee and copied to the opposing Club shall state: (a) the Competition in which the match is to be played, the Clubs which will participate in the match and the date, time and place of the scheduled kick-off (b) the full names of the Players who may Play for the Club in the match, their squad numbers, if any, their dates of birth and the designated team captain; (c) which of the listed Players

who will comprise the starting 11; and (d) as the first Player listed, the Player who will fulfil the role of goalkeeper in the starting 11. The completed form shall also state:- (i) the colour of the goalkeeper shirt which will be worn by any Player who will Play as the goalkeeper for that Club at any stage during the match; (ii) the colour(s) of shirts which will be worn by all outfield Players who will Play for that Club in the relevant match; and (iii) the names and, in each case, the position held at the Club of the up to six persons who may, in addition to the substitutes, occupy positions in the Technical Area of the relevant Club during the match.

**G17** If any Player (or substitute Player) named in a Match Information Form referred to in Rule G16 (“**Match Information Form**”) is injured or otherwise incapacitated after the delivery of that Match Information Form to the Match referee but before the scheduled kick-off time, the Club may add the name of another League Registered Player to the Match Information Form as a Player or a substitute Player provided that:

- (i) the Club’s doctor (or if unavailable, another medically qualified doctor/ Health and Care Professions Council (“HCPC”) paramedic/ HCPC Physiotherapist with approved Sports First Aid qualification), has certified that the injury or incapacity is such that the Player in question cannot reasonably be expected to play;
- (ii) if the Player in question has been named in the starting 11 they may only be replaced by any of the 9 substitutes listed on the initial Match Information Form. The substitute in question may only then be replaced by a League Registered Player not listed on the initial Match Information Form, so that the quota of substitutes is not reduced;
- (iii) if the Player in question has been named as one of the 9 substitutes, they may only be replaced by a League Registered Player not listed on the initial Match Information Form; and
- (iv) if the Player in question is a goalkeeper and no substitute goalkeeper has been named on the initial Match Information Form, the Player may be replaced by a League Registered player not listed on the initial Match Information Form.

Any amendment to the Match Information Form pursuant to this Rule G17 shall be immediately communicated by the relevant Club to the Match referee, an appropriate Official of the opposing Club and to the media. The Club concerned must, upon request, provide the Board with the necessary medical certificates.

**G18** Any Club failing to carry out the provisions of Rule G16 as regards the time of delivery to the referee and notification to its opponent Club, at a League Match or Play-Off Match will be liable to a fine of (i) up to a maximum of £250 for a first offence; and (ii) for a second or subsequent offence occurring within two years of the first offence shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Disciplinary etc. Rules. For the avoidance of doubt, the amount of any fine imposed in accordance with this Rule G18 shall be capable of appeal to the Judicial Panel in terms of Section J of these Rules.

## **Substitution and Extra-Time**

- G19** Subject to the whole provisions of this Rule G19, only up to 5 nominated substitutes for any one Club may Play in an Official Match, except, that in the event that Extra-Time is played the League Match or Play-Off Match in question, a Club may Play an additional substitute, a 6th substitute in total, who may only Play during Extra Time. A Player who has been substituted may not Play in the same Match again. Any substitution during a Match must be recorded by the Club on a completed substitution slip and handed to the relevant Match Official prior to such substitution taking place.
- G20** Subject to Rules G22C, D, E & F no more than five substitutes from each Club shall warm up at any one time in the area designated by the Match referee. The team fitness coach (as indicated on the Match Information Form) may join the Players warming up and is responsible for the implementation of any instructions from the Match referee.
- G21** Substitutes who are warming up on the pitch perimeter shall wear colours sufficient to distinguish them from those worn by the players (including goalkeepers) participating in the League Match or Play-Off Match in question.
- G22A** Subject to Rules G22C, D, E & F, only, 6 team Officials and up to 9 substitute Players are allowed to occupy positions in the technical area allocated for their Club. i.e. a total of 15 persons. For up to 15 such persons to be able to so occupy the allocated technical Area there must be space for such occupation. The names of all such allocated persons and their functions must be listed on the Match Information Form pursuant to Rule G16. Where there is insufficient space for such occupation the Home Club must allocate additional space as close as reasonably practicable to the technical area for the occupation of persons who are unable to occupy part of the technical area.
- G22B** If space so permits, up to 8 additional technical seats are allowed for Officials providing technical support to the team during the Match (e.g., kit manager, assistant physiotherapist, etc.). Such seats must be outside of the technical area and positioned at least 5 metres behind or to the side of the benches but with access to the dressing rooms. The names of all these persons and their functions must be listed on the Match Information Form or such other form as approved from time to time by the Board. In respect of SWPL1 Matches only, the additional technical seats must be made available by the Home Club only on written request by the Away Club provided that such request is made in advance of the day of the Match.
- G22C** There shall be no more than 3, plus at half-time (4 in total), occasions for each participating Club in the League Match or Play-Off Match in question in which each such Club shall be entitled to make substitutions during such Match. If, on any one occasion during such Match both Clubs shall make substitution(s), that shall count as one occasion for each Club.
- G22C.1** In the event that Extra Time is played in any Play-Off Match, a Club shall be

permitted to use an additional substitute (up to 6 in total during the whole of each such Play-Off Match)

**G22C.2** Rule G22C.1 shall not apply to substitutions made during Extra Time which is played in a Play-Off Match or in the break period after full-time and immediately prior to Extra Time in such Play-Off Match.

**G22D** Without prejudice to the substitutes permitted during League and Play-Off Matches by Rules G19 and G22C there shall, in addition, in accordance with the Laws of the Game and the International Football Association Board additional permanent concussion substitutions protocol (“the Protocol”) and any subsequent replacement or amended versions thereof, in force and effect from time to time, , subject to the whole provisions of this Rule G22D and Rule G22E, be up to one additional substitute, known as a “concussion substitute”, permitted to the team of a Club whose Player suffers or is suspected to have suffered a concussion participating in a League Match and in a Play-Off Match.

**G22E** The additional permanent substitute, known as a concussion substitute, permitted to the team of the Club whose Player suffers or is suspected to have suffered a concussion participating in a League Match and in a Play-Off Match by and in terms of Rule G22D and this Rule G22E, is intended to be and shall be construed as being permitted in terms of the Protocol, as referred to and described in this Rule G22E and as set out and described in the Protocol :

**G22E.1** permanent concussion substitutes shall have all of the features of ‘normal’ substitutes, as provided for and described in these Rules, except that they shall be in addition to all other such substitutes and shall not prejudice the rights of each Club participating in a League Match and in a Play-Off Match during and in respect of the Seasons described in Rule G22D, to make such substitutions as are provided for in Rules G19 and G22C and generally within the Rules;

**G22E.2** Clubs must record, collect, retain and provide to the Company or to a person or party notified by the Board, forthwith on being required so to do, the following information for each incident where a Club used a concussion substitute or where a concussion substitute could have been used by a Club but was not:

- Date of match;
- Team using the concussion substitute;
- Exact time in the match;
- Simple description of the incident;
- Number of unused substitutes available at the time of the incident;
- If a concussion substitute was used, whether the substitution was made:
  - Immediately;
  - After an on-field assessment (including time of on-field assessment);
  - After further off-field assessment (including time of off-

- field assessment; or
  - After returning to the field of play and later being withdrawn (including the time between their return and being withdrawn); and
- If a concussion substitute was used, did the other Club use an additional substitute under the Protocol?

**G22E.3** in the making of a concussion substitution the Club concerned must operate in accordance with and comply with the principles, procedure and substitution opportunities set out below, in this Rule G22E.3, in accordance with the Protocol and must not make a concussion substitution unless it is made on the basis of a *bona fide* belief or legitimate suspicion on the part of the relevant Official who makes the decision to effect a concussion substitution that the relevant Player is to be substituted, has suffered a concussion, should be permanently removed from the relevant League Match or Play-Off Match and by whom they should be substituted:

### **Principles**

**G22E.3.1** Each Club is permitted to use a maximum of one “concussion substitute” in a League Match and in a Play-Off Match if one of their Players suffers or is suspected to have suffered a concussion.

**G22E.3.2** A “concussion substitution” may be made regardless of the number of substitutes already used.

**G22E.3.3** Where the number of named substitutes is the same as the maximum number of substitutes that can be used, the “concussion substitute” can, notwithstanding any other provision of these Rules, be a Player who has previously been substituted and who may be used at any time, regardless of the number of substitutes already used.

**G22E.3.4** When a “concussion substitute” is used, the opposing Club then has the option to use an “additional” substitute for any reason.

### **Procedure**

**G22E.3.5** The concussion substitution procedure operates (except as outlined otherwise below) in accordance with Law 3 – The Players of the Laws of the Game.

**G22E.3.6** A “concussion substitution” may be made:

**G22E.3.6.1** immediately after a concussion occurs or is suspected;

- G22E.3.6.2** after an on-field assessment, and/or after an off-field assessment; or
- G22E.3.6.3** at any other time when a concussion occurs, or is suspected to have occurred, including when a Player has previously been assessed and has returned to the field of play.
- G22E.3.7** If a Club decides to make a “concussion substitution”, the referee/fourth official shall be informed.
- G22E.3.8** The Player with concussion or suspected concussion is not permitted to take any further part in the relevant League Match or Play-Off Match (including kicks from the penalty mark) and should, where possible, be accompanied to the changing room and/or a medical facility.
- G22E.3.9** The opposing Club shall be informed by the referee/fourth official that it has the option of using an “additional” substitute and an additional substitution opportunity.
- G22E.3.10** This option may be used concurrently with the “concussion substitution” made by the opposing Club or at any time thereafter (except as provided otherwise in the Laws of the Game).

#### **Substitution opportunities**

- G22E.3.11** Making a “concussion substitution” is separate from any limit on the number of ‘normal’ substitution opportunities.
- G22E.3.12** However, if a Club makes a ‘normal’ substitution at the same time as a “concussion substitution”, this will count as one of their ‘normal’ substitution opportunities.
- G22E.3.13** Once a Club has used all its ‘normal’ substitution opportunities, it cannot use a “concussion substitution” opportunity to make a “normal” substitution.
- G22E.3.14** Where a Club makes a “concussion substitution”, the opposing Club can use an “additional” substitute and receives an additional substitution opportunity. This additional opportunity can be used only for the “additional” substitute and not for a “normal” substitute.

**G22F** The Match Officials, in any League Match and any Play-Off Match in respect of which the additional permanent concussion substitution procedure permitted by the Protocol is in operation, are required to operate in accordance with and comply with the principles, procedure and substitution opportunities set out below, in this Rule G22F:

### **Match officials**

The referee (and the other Match Officials, particularly the fourth official):

**G22F.1** are not part of a Club's decision-making process as to whether a Player should be substituted or not, nor whether a Player should be replaced by a "normal" substitute or a "concussion substitute";

**G22F.2** must not decide whether an actual or suspected injury qualifies for a "concussion substitute" to be used;

**G22F.3** should give appropriate support where a Player has an actual or suspected injury, including informing the Club captain/coach/medical staff if they suspect a Player needs to be assessed and/or treated;

**G22F.4** should support a decision by the Club captain/coach/medical staff that an injured player cannot continue playing which may require the referee to delay the restart of play until after the Player has left the field of play; and

**G22F.5** must inform the Company and the Scottish FA if a concern is expressed and/or the Match Officials or any one or more of them have a concern and/or it is reported to them that a "concussion substitute" was potentially used other than in accordance with Rule G22E.3, the Protocol or otherwise inappropriately.

### **Player Identification**

**G23** The Players' shirts must be clearly numbered on the back and the players' shorts (if numbered) must be numbered clearly on the left-hand side at the front and in accordance with the list handed to the Referee before any League Match or Play-Off Match. Any such numbers and letters must be in compliance with the style and conditions approved by the Board and the Scottish FA. The numbers must be distinct in colour from the remainder of the Players' kit.

**G24** Prior to the start of the Season each Club entitled to participate in SWPL1 and SWPL2 must notify the Secretary of the shirt numbers allocated to each Player in their First Team Squad. Each Player must be allocated a different shirt number. The requirements of this Rule G24 and Rules G25 to G27 (inclusive) shall not apply to Clubs which are Candidate Clubs participating in the League Play-Off Competition.

**G25** If any Player is added to a Club's First Team Squad during the Season additional numbers may be allocated and notified to the Secretary as new Players join the

relevant First Team Squad.

- G26** A Player's squad and shirt number with any Club must remain with them for the duration of the Season unless either:
- G26.1** they cease to play for a Club in which case their shirt number will become available for allocation to new members of the relevant Club's First Team Squad; or
  - G26.2** for other reasons satisfactory to the Board in its absolute discretion.
- G27** A Player's name must appear on the back of their shirt above the shirt number where the Player is Playing in a League Match or in a Play-Off Match for a Club in the SWPL1.
- G28** One Player for each Club shall be nominated as captain for the League Match or Play-Off Match on the list provided to the Referee in accordance with Rule G16 and shall wear a distinguishing armband to indicate their status. If the captain for the time being ceases to participate in a League Match or Play-Off Match another player shall be designated as captain and they shall wear an armband as aforesaid.
- G29** Any Club failing to carry out the provisions of Rules G23 to G28 (inclusive) will be liable to a fine of (i) up to a maximum of £250 for a first offence; and (ii) for a second or subsequent offence occurring within two years of the first offence shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Disciplinary etc. Rules. For the avoidance of doubt, the amount of any fine imposed in accordance with this Rule G28 shall be capable of appeal to the Judicial Panel in terms of Section J of these Rules.

### **Clubs to Register Colours**

- G30** By 1<sup>st</sup> June (or such other date as may be fixed from time to time by the Board) in each year, all Clubs shall submit to the Board written details of their first, second and, where applicable, third choice colours (of shirts, shorts and socks).
- G31** The first and second choice colours must be different and distinct.
- G32** The colours registered by each Club shall be worn during the following Season and no changes either in the colours or the combination of colours shall be permitted during the course of the season except in circumstances provided for in these Rules or with the prior approval of the Board.
- G33** A Club may, at its discretion, register third choice colours, which must be different and distinct from its then current first and second choices.
- G34** Subject to the provisions of these Rules, Clubs are required to wear their first choice colours in all League Matches and Play-Off Matches, save that a Club shall be permitted to play a maximum of four Home League Matches in any Season in colours which are not its first choice, provided that the Board, the opposing Club and the Referee appointed for such League Match have been advised in writing not less than

48 hours before such League Match and the Referee (whose responsibility shall relate to the match in question only in this regard) shall determine whether each Club can wear its first choice colours in any given League Match or Play-Off Match in order to ensure compliance with these Rules.

- G35** Each Club shall submit a sample of its registered colours to the Secretary by 30<sup>th</sup> June each year, such samples to be retained for the duration of the Season.
- G36** No Club shall be permitted to play in shirts the colour of which is likely to cause confusion with the outfit worn by the Match Officials.
- G37** The obligations regarding colours are additional to any obligations to submit club colours to the Scottish FA in accordance with the Scottish FA Articles.

### **Clashes of Colours**

- G38** At least 14 days prior to all League Matches and Play-Off Matches the competing Clubs shall notify each other and the Secretary of the kit it intends its Players to wear in the relevant match. Such notification shall be made using the SWPL Match Kit Form and include the kit to be worn by its goalkeeper.
- G39** If the Secretary determines that there is, or is likely to be, a clash of colours, the Secretary in consultation with the Scottish FA Head of Referee Operations (being the head of the Scottish FA refereeing department by whatever name called), will determine, in accordance with the provisions of these Rules, which colours should be worn by each of the Clubs scheduled to compete in the relevant Match. The Secretary will notify the competing Clubs of the colours to be worn in the match no later than 48 hours prior to the match.
- G40** Notwithstanding Rules G38 and G39, in the event of any dispute with regard to the playing kit to be worn by either Club the match referee's decision as to whether there is a clash of colours, if so determined which Club is required to change its colours for the relevant Match and whether any proposed changed colours clash with those to be worn by the Players of the other Club shall be final.
- G41** When two competing Clubs having the same or similar first choice colours engage in a League Match or Play-Off Match, the Visiting Club shall play in its second or third choice playing kit which must be different and distinct from the Home Club's first choice playing kit.
- G42** In the event of a clash of colours on match day and the Visiting Club not having with them an alternative registered playing kit, then the Visiting Club will require to play in the Home Club's alternative colours and/or shorts and/or socks or, in the event there is still a colour clash, a combination of the Visiting Club's alternative colours and the Home Club's alternative colours.
- G43** In the event of a clash of colours on a Match day when Clubs are playing at a Neutral Venue both or either competing Clubs may be required to change to second/third choice colours and/or shorts and/or socks, if directed by the Secretary failing whom

the Match referee.

- G44** The colour of the goalkeeper shirts must, in all cases, be clearly distinguishable from the colours of the shirts worn by all outfield Players of both competing Clubs and the Match Officials.
- G45** Any Club in breach of or failing to fulfil these Rules will be liable to a fine of (i) up to a maximum of £250 for a first offence; and (ii) for a second or subsequent offence occurring within two years of the first offence shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Disciplinary etc. Rules. For the avoidance of doubt, the amount of any fine imposed in accordance with this Rule G18 shall be capable of appeal to the Judicial Panel in terms of Section J of these Rules.

### **Shirts to Bear Logo(s)**

- G46** If so determined by the Board, the shirts of all Players in League Matches and Play-Off Matches shall carry the League logo and/or, the name/logo(s) of the title or other sponsor of the League, on one sleeve, as specified from time to time by the Board.

### **Match Balls**

- G47** A new ball of FIFA first grade quality shall be used for each Official Match. For so long as a ball or balls is/are provided by the League to any of the participating Clubs, each Home Club must ensure that the balls supplied are the balls used in Matches. In all League and Play-Off Matches, participating Clubs shall utilise a system of replacement balls (or multi-ball), in accordance with Law 2.3 of the Laws of the Game and any guidance issued by the Board, as amended or supplemented from time to time. At least one reserve ball shall be an orange or yellow coloured ball.

### **Match Report**

- G48** The Home Club shall send to the Secretary within six days of each League Match and Play-Off Match a document containing the attendance statistics for the match
- G49** Within two hours of the end of a League Match and of a Play-Off Match, the Referee of such match shall send in electronic form a Match Report to the Secretary and to the Scottish FA containing details of the result of the League Match or Play-Off Match, the participating Clubs' team lists, the substitutes used, cautions and orderings-off, if any, the name of any scorers and details of any misconduct or the like reported by them to the Scottish FA.

### **Postponement and Abandonment of Matches**

- G50** No League Match or Play-Off Match shall be postponed except on the instructions of the appointed Referee or pitch inspector or by the Company.
- G51** Where reasonably practicable, the Home Club, should, no later than 6 hours before the scheduled kick-off time, notify the Secretary that they request a pitch inspection.

- G52** If a League Match or Play-Off Match is postponed other than by the Board, such postponement shall be reported as soon as reasonably practicable to the Secretary by the Referee concerned and, where it has been postponed with the consent of the Board, it shall be the duty of the Home Club to immediately notify the appointed Match Officials of such postponement.
- G53** In the event of any League Match or Play-Off Match not being played or abandoned or being ordered to be played or replayed, it shall be played on a date and at a time as determined by the Board.

#### **Non-fulfilment of Fixture Obligations**

- G54** No Club shall, unless the circumstances of the failure are outside the control of the Club concerned and could not have been reasonably foreseen and reasonably anticipated and remedied prior to the match, fail to fulfil its fixture obligations in respect of any League Match or Play-Off Match on and at the appointed or, as the case may be, rescheduled date, time and venue.
- G55** For the purposes of these Rules a representation by a Club that it will not or intends not to fulfil a fixture obligation or that it will do so only subject to a condition or conditions which are or are found to be unacceptable to the Board shall constitute a breach of these Rules notwithstanding that the Board has or may have rescheduled or later reschedules the Match concerned.
- G56** Without prejudice to any other sanctions, which may be imposed for a breach of Rules, a Club failing to fulfil a fixture obligation shall be liable to pay compensation for any expenses necessarily incurred by the opposing Club as a result of such failure. The amount of such compensation will be at the discretion of the Board which will consider every such case on its merits.

#### **Attendance of Medical Practitioners and Others**

- G57** It is the responsibility of the Home Club in League Matches and Play-Off Matches to ensure that a medically qualified doctor, Health and Care Professions Council ("HCPC") paramedic or HCPC Physiotherapist, with approved Sports First Aid qualification is present to attend to Players and Match Officials during the periods of the pre-match warm up, during the match, at half time and for one hour after each League Match and Play-Off Match.
- G58** It is the responsibility of each of the Clubs participating in League Matches and Play-Off Matches to ensure that a HCPC physiotherapist is present throughout each such match to attend to their respective Players and, if necessary, Match Officials.
- G59** Only those qualified as above should treat Players and Match Officials on the field of play.
- G60** It is the responsibility of the Home Club in any League Match and Play-Off Match to ensure that a minimum of two stretchers and four stretcher bearers are readily available to remove Players and Match Officials from the field of play. Each member

of a team of stretcher bearers must be of comparable height and have received appropriate training.

### **Head Injuries**

**G61** Clubs shall ensure that any of its Players in a League Match having left the field with a head injury in a match played under the auspices of the Company shall not be allowed to resume playing or training without the clearance of a medically qualified doctor, HCPC paramedic or HCPC Physiotherapist, with approved Sports First Aid qualification. The same provision shall apply where a head injury is sustained in training.

### **Pre-Arranging Results**

**G62** Any Club, Official, Player or agent acting on any of their behalf's or the associate of any of them, offering or receiving, whether directly or indirectly, any payment, benefit, consideration, concession, bonus or any other inducement, to or from another Club, Official, Player or agent acting on any of their behalf's or the Associate of any of them or any other person or party other than, in the case of a Player employed by the Club concerned their Contract Of Service, to influence the result or any other aspect of an Official Match shall, subject to the terms of these Rules and the Articles, be liable to expulsion, suspension, fine or any other sanction(s) and/or condition(s) which the Board may impose in accordance with the provisions of the Disciplinary etc. Rules.

**G63** No Club, Player, Official or an associate of any of them shall offer or accept any payment or other inducement in respect of foregoing the right of promotion and the offering and/or making of any such payment or other inducement, whether directly or indirectly, shall be a breach of these Rules and be liable to expulsion, suspension, fine or any other sanction(s) and/or condition(s) which the Board may impose in accordance with the provisions of the Disciplinary etc. Rules.

### **Shirt Advertisements and Televised Matches**

**G64** The kit, comprising shirt, shorts, socks and any other item of visible clothing, in which Players Play in League Matches and Play-Off Matches is subject to the following rules concerning advertising:-

**G64.1** the dimensions, numbers and placing of advertisements on such kit to be in accordance with specifications approved by the Company ;

**G64.2** the maximum height of the letters and other characters to be as specified by the Board but shall not be less than 3 inches for principal shirt advertising;

**G64.3** provided that each Club shall be entitled, subject to Rule G64.4, to not less than one kit sponsor, each Club to be limited to such number of sponsors per Season, which may be advertised on such kit, as the Board may determine for the purpose of this Rule, and

- G64.4** each such sponsor to be notified to the Secretary for prior approval by the Company, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, each Season, not later than fourteen days before the first televised match in which the advertisement of such sponsor is to be displayed, unless special dispensation is given by the Board in respect of this requirement.

## **Match Officials**

### **List of Referees**

- G65** Referees for League Matches and Play-Off Matches shall be appointed from the List of Referees prepared annually by the Scottish FA (following a process of review with the Company)

### **List of Assistant Referees**

- G66** Assistant Referees for League Matches and Play-Off Matches shall be appointed from the List of Specialist Assistant Referees prepared annually by the Scottish FA (following a process of review with the Company).

### **Appointment of Referees and Assistant Referees**

- G67** The Referee, Assistant Referees and reserve official for League Matches and Play-Off Matches shall be appointed by the Scottish FA from the Lists of Match Officials.

### **Misconduct**

- G68** Match Officials must, in a timely fashion and in any event within 24 hours, report in writing to the Scottish FA and to the Secretary, all instances with details of misconduct and/or Unacceptable Conduct of Players, Officials or spectators in accordance with Scottish FA Rules and Regulations and the Rules relating to Unacceptable Conduct.

### **Retainers and Allowances for Referees and Assistant Referees**

- G69** The gross match fee for Referees and for Assistant Referees payable before any deductions shall be as determined by the Company.
- G70** In the case of postponed matches, half the above fee will be paid to Match Officials who report to the ground.
- G71** Match Officials shall be entitled to claim expenses as determined by the Company.
- G72** Match Officials who inspect grounds as directed by the Company shall be paid a fee as determined by the Company plus expenses.
- G73** The Company may, at its discretion, make annual payments to the Scottish FA for award or provision to Referees or Assistant Referees or any of them in recognition of satisfactory performance and commitment to training, education and development.

## **Illegal Payments to Referees and Assistant Referees**

- G74** No Club or Official or other person acting on behalf or in the presumed interests of a Club shall directly or indirectly pay or offer to pay a Referee or Assistant Referee more than their proper fee, allowances and railway fare as specified in the Rules or make or cause to be made any benefit available to them or any associate of theirs.

## **Referee to Visit Ground Early During Bad Weather or at Request of Home Club**

- G75** Match Officials shall use all reasonable endeavours to be present at the appropriate stadium at least one and a half hours prior to the advertised time of kick-off. The Referee shall decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and each Club must take every reasonable precaution to keep its ground in a playing condition and, where necessary, shall re-mark the ground during the half-time interval. The Home Club may, where weather or other conditions make it appropriate, require the Referee to visit the ground two hours or more before the scheduled time of kick-off of any League Match.

## **Pitch Report**

- G76** The Company may require the Referee to complete a report on the condition of the playing surface in a form specified by the Company and approved in writing by the Scottish FA from time to time.

## **Assistant Referees' Flags**

- G77** Home Clubs shall keep back up flags of a size and colour prescribed by the Company for use by Assistant Referees.

## **Choice of Football to be Used**

- G78** The football proposed to be used in an Official Match and the replacement balls must be submitted to and approved by the referee before the commencement of the match.
- G79** In addition to the normal type of ball, an orange or yellow ball which complies in every respect with the requirements of the Laws of the Game shall be available for League Matches and Play-Off Matches.
- G80** The selected ball must be used throughout the match unless otherwise determined by the Referee.

## **Referee Observer**

- G81** A referee observer may be appointed by the Scottish FA to attend each League Match and Play-Off Match.
- G82** The Home Club must ensure that the referee observer is given a prime seat in the main stand and is allowed free access to all areas of the ground.

## **Ball Attendants' Clothing**

- G83** The colours of clothing worn by ball attendants must not be likely to cause confusion with the colours of either of the competing Clubs or Match Officials.

## **Substitution and Time Remaining Boards**

- G83.1** The Company shall provide or shall procure that there is provided, for the use of each Club in such Division or Divisions as the Company may from time to time determine, a 'LED, or equivalent, programmable substitution and time remaining board' (board) to be used during each Official Match in such Competitions as the Company may from time to time direct, in which such Club is the Home Club. Each board so provided is and shall remain at all times the property of the Company or the property of such third party with whom the board may from time to time contract so as to regulate and provide for the ownership and the use thereof. Each such Club which has been issued with a board shall, on being required by the Company in writing so to do, forthwith or within such time as may be specified by the Company, return each such board to the Company.
- G83.2** Each such Club shall take all reasonable care for the safety, security and good condition of each board so provided to it. In the event that a board shall, for any reason, require repair or replacement, then the club concerned shall forthwith advise the Secretary in writing that such is required. In the event that the repair or replacement of a board shall be required, it shall be the responsibility of the Company to ensure that any repair or replacement of the board is carried out or undertaken, as the case may be. In the event that the Club to which the board was provided shall have failed to take all reasonable care for the safety, security and good condition of the relevant board, then the Club concerned shall bear the cost of such repair or, as the case may be, shall indemnify the Company in the cost of repair or replacement of the board.
- G83.3** Each such Club shall ensure that any board so provided to it is fully charged and available for the use of Match Officials prior to, during and at the end of each Official Match at which it is the Home Club and where such a board is directed by the Company to be used. Boards shall only be used by or under the direction of Match Officials during the course of an Official Match.
- G83.4** The Company may, from time to time, determine what, if any, writing, artwork/designs, symbols and/or advertising and/or marketing material of whatsoever form or type, shall be provided or procured to be provided to be affixed and appear on a board and in what position and with what prominence. Under no circumstances, shall any Club affix or allow to be affixed or otherwise appear on a board any other writing, artwork/designs, symbol and/or advertising and/or marketing material of whatsoever form or type save as shall have been expressly approved from time to time and for such period as may, in its sole discretion, be determined by the Company. The Board may, in its sole discretion, direct that any previously approved writing, art work/designs,

symbol and/or advertising and/or marketing material which appears or appeared on any board be forthwith or, within such time as the Board may stipulate, be removed by the Club concerned from a board so provided by the Company and the Club shall forthwith or within such stipulated time, remove from the board concerned the writing, art work/designs, symbol and/or advertising and/or marketing material concerned.

**G83.5** In the event that the Board shall, from time to time, determine that any, writing, artwork/designs, symbol and/or advertising and/or marketing material shall be provided or procured to be provided to a Club which has been provided with a board, to be affixed and appear during use on and of such a board pursuant to a Commercial Contract or a Limited Commercial Contract, then each such Club shall, subject that a Club shall not be obliged to comply with this Rule G86.5 if and to the extent that Rule 17.1 shall apply and have effect in the circumstances, or pursuant to a promotion of the League and/or Football and/or a campaign or promotion determined upon by the Board, affix to and cause to appear on its board any and all such writing, art work/designs, symbols and/or advertising and/or marketing materials and shall cause same to be removed and/or amended when so instructed by the Board.

#### **Access for Away Clubs**

**G84** Away Clubs shall be granted access to the Home Ground and its changing facilities no later than 90 minutes prior to kick-off, where reasonably practicable.

## **H Stadia**

### **Technical Area Facilities**

**H1** Each Club shall provide a Technical Area for each Club participating in a League Match or in a Play-Off Match in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

### **Covered Stadia**

**H2** No League Match or Play-Off Match shall take place at any stadium where the playing area is permanently covered or partially covered by a fixed or moveable roof without the prior written approval of the Company.

**H3** Any Club proposing to cover or partially cover its stadium with a fixed or moveable roof shall be required to submit outline plans to the Company and a copy of the planning application prior to such planning application being submitted to the appropriate authority.

### **Synthetic and Artificial Pitches and Surfaces**

**H4.1** No League Match or Play-Off Match shall be played on a pitch utilising a synthetic or artificial playing surface unless the underlying structure of the pitch has been constructed using synthetic fibres and other materials and in accordance with a design and specification which have been approved after laboratory and field testing in accordance with the then current FIFA Quality Pro mark or, as the case may be, such higher mark as may from time to time be adopted by FIFA as the recommended mark for such pitches.

**H4.2** No League Match or Play-Off Match shall be played on a pitch utilising a synthetic or artificial playing surface unless such a pitch performs for the time being in accordance with the then current FIFA Quality Pro mark or, as the case may be, such higher mark as may from time to time be adopted by FIFA as the recommended mark for such pitches. The relevant pitch shall be deemed to perform throughout the relevant Season, to the FIFA Quality Pro mark or, as the case may be, such higher mark as may from time to time be adopted by FIFA as the recommended mark for such pitches, where at the date of the first League Match played on that pitch in that Season the pitch had a then current Field Approval issued under the then current FIFA Quality Pro mark or, as the case may be, such higher mark as may from time to time be adopted by FIFA as the recommended mark for such a pitch and that it complies and continues to comply with any conditions imposed by the Board in terms of Rule H7.

**H4.3** No League Match or Play-Off Match shall be played on a pitch utilising a synthetic or artificial playing surface unless, subject to Rules H5, H6 and H7, the Board, following a written application made by the Club concerned or Candidate Club, to the Secretary not later than 31<sup>st</sup> March in any year, in respect of what is intended to be the Registered Ground of that Club for the immediately succeeding Season, has approved the use of the specified pitch concerned for the playing of League Matches and Play-Off Matches at that ground during that Season.

- H5** Where an approval is given in terms of Rule H4.3 and the Board is satisfied that such pitch, at the Registered Ground to which such approval relates, will comply and continues to comply with Rule H4.1 and Rule H4.2, then such approval shall apply to and be effective for, such number of complete Seasons immediately following such approval as the Board shall specify. If the Board does not so specify then any approval given by the Board in terms of Rule H4.3 shall be deemed to apply to and be effective for only the one complete Season immediately succeeding such approval being given.
- H6** An application for approval in terms of Rule H4.3 must specify or include specification of the pitch for which approval is sought, sufficient to identify that the pitch concerned is the same pitch in relation to which the surface, construction and design has been approved or will be before the application for approval by the Board is granted, be approved after laboratory and field testing under and in accordance with the FIFA Quality Concept Handbook as complying with the then current FIFA Quality Pro mark, or, as the case may be, such higher mark as may from time to time be adopted by FIFA as the highest recommended mark for pitches on which competitive senior Football matches will be played.
- H7** Where an approval is given by the Board in terms of Rule H4.3 the Board may attach such conditions to such approval as the Board may consider appropriate.
- H8** The Board may, in its absolute discretion, waive, relax or grant a period of grace in respect of any Club's or Candidate Club's requirement to comply with the time limit for an application for approval to be made in terms of Rule H4.3.

#### **Pitch Protection**

- H9** In order to protect the pitch and unless otherwise agreed between both participating Clubs, the following procedures shall be adopted by Players and Officials in the periods immediately before and after and at half time during a League Match or Play-Off Match:
- H9.1** the pitch shall only be used for warming up or warming down by Players named on the Scottish Professional Football League - Match Information Form;
- H9.2** pre-match warming up by either team shall not commence until at the earliest 45 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time, shall not last for more than 30 minutes, and shall end not later than 10 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time;
- H9.3** if portable goals are provided they shall be used for all goalkeeping drills other than crossing practice;
- H9.4** the goalmouth area shall be used by goalkeepers only if portable goals are not provided or for crossing practice and then only for not more than 20 minutes;

- H9.5** for the purposes of warming up and warming down each team shall use only part of the pitch between the edge of a penalty area and the halfway line or as otherwise directed by the groundsman;
- H9.6** all speed and stamina work shall be undertaken off the pitch parallel to the touchline opposite the side to be patrolled by the assistant referee or, in the absence of sufficient space at that location, in that part of the pitch described in Rule H9.5 or as otherwise directed by the groundsman;
- H9.7** Players using the pitch at half time shall give due consideration to any other activity or entertainment taking place on the pitch at the same time;
- H9.8** the Home Club may water the pitch at half time provided that it gives reasonable notice to the referee and the other Club that it intends to do so and that any such watering is carried out evenly over the entire length and width of the pitch; and
- H9.9** any warming down after the conclusion of the League Match or Play-Off Match shall last for no longer than 15 minutes and for that purpose neither penalty area shall be used.

#### **Pitch Condition**

- H10** Intentionally not used.
- H11** Each Club shall ensure that the field of play at its Registered Ground and at any other ground at which it is the Home Club for a League Match or Play-Off Match is:-
  - H11.1** smooth and in good condition and repair; and
  - H11.2** equipped with an efficient and effective drainage system so that it cannot become unplayable due to flooding.
- H12** The Board may, without prejudice to any sanction that might be imposed on a Club for failure to comply with Rule H11, require the Club concerned to take such steps within such time and on such conditions as the Board shall specify, if the Board is not satisfied that the Club concerned is complying or has complied in all respects with Rule H11.

#### **Registration of Ground**

- H13** Each Club and a Candidate Club must, subject to Rule D6, register or be deemed to have registered its ground with the Secretary by not later than 1<sup>st</sup> June immediately preceding each Season.
- H14** No Club shall play its Home matches at any ground other than its Registered Ground without first obtaining the written approval of the Board.
- H15** A Club's or Candidate Club's Registered Ground must be situated in Scotland unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Scottish FA and the Board.

- H16** Once a Club or Candidate Club has registered its ground with the Secretary it shall not be required to re-register that ground for each succeeding Season in which it is eligible to participate in the League but shall be deemed, on a continuing basis, to have registered same on 1<sup>st</sup> June immediately preceding each such Season.
- H17** A Club which changes its ground must register its replacement ground with the Secretary in accordance with Rule H13.
- H18** All registered grounds and grounds at which League Matches and Play-Off Matches are played must have floodlights. For Clubs entitled in any Season to participate in the SWPL1 and in any Play-Off Match by virtue of its position in SWPL1 at the end of such Season, such floodlights must be and operate at least to the Silver Standard with respect to floodlighting as set out in The Scottish Football Association Women’s National Club Licensing Manual in force and as amended or supplemented from time to time. For Clubs entitled in any Season to participate in the SWPL2 and in any Play-Off Match by virtue of its position in SWPL1 at the end of such Season, such floodlights must be and operate at least to the Bronze Standard with respect to floodlighting as set out in The Scottish Football Association National Club Licensing Manual in force and as amended or supplemented from time to time.

### **Pitch Dimensions**

- H19** The dimensions of the field of play for all League Matches and Play-Off Matches participated in by Clubs in SWPL1 or SWPL2 shall be as follows:-

	Minimum	Recommended	Maximum
Length	95 metres	105 metres	110 metres
Width	60 metres	68 metres	72 metres

- H20** Clubs must register their pitch dimensions with the Secretary not less than one month prior to the start of each Season. No Club shall alter its Home Ground pitch dimensions for any League Match or Play-Off Match during a Season unless with the prior written consent of the Board. The Board may at any time require a Club to submit a report from a qualified independent source certifying its Home Ground pitch dimensions.

### **Waiver, Relaxation and Period of Grace**

- H21** In the event of the Board granting a waiver, relaxation or period of grace for the purposes of Rule D6 in relation to compliance by a Club with Rules H4.3, H8, H11, H13, H18, H19, H20, H23 and/or H24 then for the period and to the extent of such a waiver, relaxation or period of grace the Club concerned shall not be in breach of the relevant Rule.

### **Ground Safety, Behaviour at Matches and Damage to Stadia**

- H22** All Clubs must, where required by law, have a valid and current safety certificate for its Registered Ground or if required by law for such part of its Registered Ground

where such a certificate is required, prior to the start of each Season and must maintain such certificate in full force and effect for the duration of each Season.

**H23** Each Club shall, unless a copy shall previously have been provided or is not required by law, provide a copy of its safety certificate as referred to in Rule H22 to the Secretary not less than one month prior to the start of each Season or as soon as available and shall thereafter provide to the Secretary a copy of any replacement, renewed, extended or amended certificate within one month of same being issued.

**H24** Intentionally not used.

### **Unacceptable Conduct**

**H25** A person present at or in a stadium where an Official Match is being played engages in Unacceptable Conduct where their conduct is violent and/or disorderly.

**H26** Conduct is violent where there is (i) actual, attempted or threatened physical violence against a person or persons; or (ii) intentional damage to property.

**H27** Disorderly conduct includes

**H27.1** conduct which stirs up or sustains or is likely or designed to stir up or sustain, hatred or ill will against or towards a group of persons based on their membership or presumed membership of a group defined by reference to a category mentioned in Rule H29 or against an individual who is or is presumed to be a member of such group;

**H27.2** using threatening, abusive or insulting words or conduct;

**H27.3** displaying any writing or other thing which is threatening, abusive or insulting; and

**H27.4** using words or conduct or displaying any writing or other thing which indicates support for, or affiliation to, or celebration of, or opposition to an organisation or group proscribed in terms of the Terrorism Act 2000.

**H28** Presumed in the context of Rule H27.1 means presumed by the person or persons engaged in the conduct.

**H29** The categories referred to in Rule H27 are:-

**H29.1** female or male gender;

**H29.2** colour, race, nationality (including citizenship) or ethnic or national origin;

**H29.3** membership of a religious group or of a social or cultural group with a perceived religious affiliation;

**H29.4** sexual orientation;

- H29.5** transgender identity; and
- H29.6** disability.
- H30** In Rule H29.3 religious group means a group of persons defined by reference to their religious belief or lack of religious belief, membership of or adherence to a church or religious organisation, support for the culture and traditions of a church or religious organisation and/or participation in activities associated with such a culture or such traditions. .
- H31** In Rule H29.5 transgender identity means any one or more of transvestism, transsexualism, inter-sexuality or change of gender.
- H32** In Rule H29.6 disability means physical or mental impairment of any kind.
- H33** The Home Club in any Official Match must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable,
- H33.1** good order and security;
- H33.2** that policies and procedures have been adopted and are implemented to prevent incidents of Unacceptable Conduct; and
- H33.3** that any incidents of Unacceptable Conduct are effectively dealt with, all at its Stadium on the occasion of an Official Match
- H34** Each Club must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that:
- H34.1** its Players, officials, supporters and any person exercising a function for or connected with the Club do not engage in Unacceptable Conduct at a Stadium on the occasion of an Official Match;
- H34.2** it identifies any of its supporters who engage in Unacceptable Conduct at an Official Match; and
- H34.3** it takes proportionate disciplinary measures in respect of supporters so identified in terms of Rule H34.2.
- H35** Any failure by a Club to discharge a requirement to which it is subject by virtue of Rules H33 and/or H34 shall constitute a breach of these Rules.
- H36** In any proceedings in terms of the Rules against a Club in which it is alleged that there has been a failure by that Club to discharge a requirement to which it is subject by virtue of Rules H33 and/or H34 it shall be for the Club concerned to prove that it was not reasonably practicable to do more than was in fact done or (as the case may be) that there was no better practicable means than was in fact used to discharge such requirement. Account shall be taken in such proceedings of the effect of decisions and actions of the local police, public authorities and other Club taking part in an Official Match, in determining whether the requirements of Rules H33 and/or H34 have been discharged.

**H37** The Company may from time to time issue and publish Guidance for Clubs on Unacceptable Conduct; any amendment to such approved guidance to be issued and published from time to time by the Company.

**H38** In any proceedings in terms of the Disciplinary etc. Rules against a Club in which it is alleged that there has been a failure by that Club to discharge a requirement to which it is subject by virtue of Rules H33 and/or H34 the Board shall, when deciding whether such a requirement has been discharged, take into account whether the Club concerned has complied with any Guidance for Clubs on Unacceptable Conduct.

**H39** Proceedings in terms of the Rules against a Club in which it is alleged that there has been a failure by that Club to discharge a requirement to which it is subject by virtue of Rules H33 and/or H34 may only be commenced where the Secretary has received from:-

**H39.1** the police;

**H39.2** the Scottish FA acting on information received by it from the relevant Official Match referee or other match official;

**H39.3** any representative of the Company attending the relevant Official Match on behalf of the Company;

**H39.4** the other Club which took part in the relevant Official Match;

a written complaint or other written communication which, in the opinion of the Board, provides grounds to believe that such a requirement may not have been discharged; and/or

**H39.5** the Secretary has received or has been apprised of information which in the opinion of the Board, provides grounds to believe that such a requirement may not have been discharged and that the information is such that such proceedings are appropriate notwithstanding that a written complaint or other written communication has not been received from a person or party listed in Rules H39.1 to H39.4 (inclusive).

#### **Damage to Stadia**

**H40** In the event that any damage shall be caused to the fabric of a Home Ground or Neutral Venue, including any fixtures and fittings and/or the pitch, by the supporters of the Visiting Club or, in the case of such a Neutral Venue, the supporters of either Club participating in the relevant match, on the occasion of an Official Match then the Visiting Club in the case of such damage to the fabric of the ground, of a Home Club or, as the case may be, the Club whose supporters causing or who have caused any such damage to a Neutral Venue, shall, if and only if directed by the Board and subject to the relevant Maximum Aggregate Amounts Payable set out in Rule H42, be obliged to compensate the Home Club, Neutral Venue owner or, where the Company has to any extent compensated or be obliged to compensate a Neutral Venue owner, the Company, in the costs and/or expense and/or liability reasonably

incurred or to be incurred by the Home Club, Neutral Venue owner and/or Company in repairing and making good such damage.

**H41** If any dispute or difference shall arise between a Home Club and a Visiting Club or a Football club or between a Neutral Venue owner and either of the Clubs participating in the relevant match as regards any claim and/or liability for payment of compensation under and in terms of Rule H40 the Board shall, upon application to the Company made by a Home Club, Visiting Club, Neutral Venue owner, Football club participating in the relevant Match, consider and adjudicate upon the matter. The determination of such dispute or difference and any determination made by the Board, shall, subject to any appeal to the Judicial Panel in terms of the Disciplinary etc. Rules, be final and binding on each of the parties concerned. In the event that the Company is a party to a dispute arising out of or in connection with Rules H40 to H43 (inclusive) then it shall be determined by Scottish FA Arbitration under and in terms of Article 99 of the Scottish FA articles of association.

**H42** The financial limits referred to in Rule H40 are as set out below in this Rule H42.

The “**Maximum Amount Payable**” specified in section A is the maximum aggregate amount (excluding VAT) which may be required to be individually paid by a Club for any and all damage occasioned by its supporters in the case of a Neutral Venue, during or relating to an Official Match, notwithstanding the number and timing of the incidents in which such damage has been caused by its supporters, to the fabric of the relevant ground.

The “**Maximum Amount Payable**” list in section B. are the maximum aggregate amounts of compensation which may be required to be paid individually by an Away Club for damage occasioned by its supporters to the fabric of an Away Ground during or relating to an Official Match

<b>A. SPFL Organised Neutral Venues</b>	<b>Maximum Aggregate Amount Payable</b>
Competition Semi-Finals & Finals and Play-Off Matches at Neutral Venues etc.	£25,000
-----	
<b>B. Division</b>	<b>Maximum Aggregate Amounts Payable</b>
SWPL1	£15,000
SWPL2	£7,500

**H43** Nothing in Rules H40 to H42 (inclusive) shall prevent the Company from including within the costs of the relevant Competition prior to distribution to some or all participants or in the costs of the League before determination of Net Commercial Revenues and Fee payments to Clubs, the costs of any repairs, re-instatement, compensation or the like to any venue used for any Official Match in any Competition where the Board determines that such amounts should be so included and discharged by the Company.

## **Giant Screens and LED Perimeter Boards**

- H44** Except with the prior written consent of the Board, giant screens or the like at any Club's Home Ground shall not be used to relay to spectators closed circuit pictures of the Official Match at which they are present.
- H45** Any consent given hereunder shall be subject to the Code of Practice governing the use of giant screens in Official Matches forming Appendix 1 hereto.
- H46** The Clubs involved in an Official Match may arrange for the Match to be relayed by closed circuit television to other locations provided the arrangement is or is in accordance with a policy on such matters approved by the Company.
- H47** LED perimeter boards or other such boards having the same or similar features, positioned at the side or near to the side of the pitch, which are used, or which are capable of being used, to display electronically generated graphics and/or images, whether moving or otherwise, may only be used by a Home Club during an Official Match where their use is in accordance with the Code of Practice governing the use of LED perimeter boards forming Appendix 2.

## **Appendices**

- H48** Any failure to comply with an Appendix shall constitute a breach of these Rules.

## **K Miscellaneous**

### **Confidentiality**

- K1** Each Director shall not disclose (and shall use all reasonable efforts to prevent the publication or disclosure) in any way or form and at any time to any person, firm or company any Confidential Information save to employees or Directors and no Director shall use such Confidential Information for his or her/his own purposes nor for any purposes other than those of the Company.
- K2** Each Club and Director shall not, after ceasing, as the case may be, to be entitled to participate in the League or Director, without the authority of the Company, make or keep possession of copies of any documents memoranda or other media on which any Confidential Information is recorded or stored.
- K3** The restrictions contained in Rules K1 and K2 shall cease to apply to information or knowledge, which may come into the public domain otherwise than by way of breach of the Rules.
- K4** Each Director shall, without prejudice to any and all other duties and obligations thereby arising, on his or her/his being appointed a Director be deemed to have accepted to be bound by the whole terms of the Articles and the Rules and Rules K1 and K2 in particular.

### **Scottish FA Congress**

- K5** The Company shall be entitled to nominate representatives to serve as members of the Congress of the Scottish FA in accordance with the Articles and Scottish FA articles of association.

### **Dual Interests**

- K6** The provisions regarding dual interests in the Scottish FA articles shall apply to the Clubs and the Company.

### **Breach of and Failure to Comply with the Rules, Investigations etc**

- K7** Any breach of and/or failure to comply with these or any of the other Rules and/or any act or omission for which a sanction is provided for in these or any of the other Rules and/or any Appeal, Adjudication and/or determination of a judicial nature on the part of the Board for which provision is made in these or any of the other Rules and/or any Investigation by or on behalf of the Company, may, if determined to do so by the Company, be dealt with under and in terms of the Disciplinary etc. Rules.

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Code of Practice for Use of Giant Screens**

- 1** This Code of Practice is designed to guide and provide a framework within which clubs may use Giant Screens for the benefit of enhancing spectators' entertainment at football grounds in Scotland.
- 2** The aim of the Code is to ensure that such Screens are used in a responsible manner by the Home Club, do not impact on the playing of the match, do not undermine the authority or affect the role of the Match Officials in the Match and do not encourage or incite any form of crowd disorder.
- 3** This Code of Practice may only be amended with the approval of the Company in General Meeting.
- 4** The Screens may only be located in a position with a ground, which does not interfere with the playing of a match within the ground in question or cause any distraction or interference to players and/or Match Officials.
- 5** The Home Club shall appoint a competent person or persons who shall act on such club's behalf in editing the pictures and sound to be transmitted via the Screen(s) and the Home Club shall be responsible for all actions of the person(s) appointed for this purpose. It shall be incumbent on the Home Club to ensure that the competent appointed person(s) are made aware of the requirements of this Code of Practice and ensure compliance at all times.
- 6** The following provisions govern the actual use of the Giant Screens:-
  - (a)** "Live" action may be shown during the course of the match being played. Action replays are permitted during the course of play, and highlights, showing only the positive aspects of the match, may be shown at half-time and full-time.
  - (b)** A Club wishing to show "live" action from a match being played out with its stadium must seek the prior written consent of the Company, and such consent shall be given on such terms and conditions as the Company may decide.
  - (c)** No replays of any negative or controversial incidents may be shown, including actions of any player or official which may be capable of being considered as inciting the spectators or bringing the game into disrepute. Likewise, it shall not be permissible to replay pictures and/or sound of any incidents or matters which may highlight or bring into question the competence or judgment of any Match Officials.
  - (d)** No pictures or sound from those occupying the Technical Area may be shown.

- (e)** The Screens shall not be used for any purpose, which might be deemed to criticise, undermine or in any way damage the reputation, standing or authority of any Director, Official or Player of any Club, representative of the Scottish FA or League or of any Match Official. Clubs utilising such Screens shall do so in a responsible manner and shall not permit the transmission of any material via the Screen(s) which is capable of bringing the game into disrepute, offending public decency or is capable of inciting misbehaviour or disorder amongst spectators.
- (f)** No League copyright material may be transmitted without the prior written consent of the Company.
- (g)** In the event of the match within the stadium being the subject of title or Competition sponsorship, then no material relating to a competing brand or company within the same product category or its associates may be screened without the prior written consent of the Company.

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **Code of Practice for Use of LED Perimeter Boards**

#### **1. Introduction**

With the introduction of LED perimeter boards, the Company has developed this Code of Practice to enable clubs to develop their commercial activities whilst maintaining the integrity of the sport for the players and spectators. The aim of this Code of Practice is to ensure that the use of LED perimeter boards do not impact upon the playing of the match, do not undermine the match officials and do not encourage or incite Unacceptable Conduct.

#### **2. Awareness**

The Home Club should appoint a competent person or persons to edit the visuals displayed on the LED perimeter boards and shall be responsible for their actions. The Home Club should ensure that the appointed person(s) are aware of these guidelines.

#### **3. Offensive comments**

No comment/display of an offensive nature may be shown at any time either pre, during or post-match. This would include any graphics which may be deemed to criticise, undermine or damage the reputation of any Club, Player, Match Official, the Company, the League or the Scottish FA. No material should be transmitted which is capable of bringing the game into disrepute, offending public decency or is capable of inciting any form of Unacceptable Conduct.

#### **4. Unacceptable Perimeter Company Usage**

The key premise is that the advertising movement must not distract from the match.

The following examples of visuals should not be used during a match.

- Continuous horizontal movement
- Video footage – e.g. television footage/live action
- Comments related to the match action or decisions made by the match officials

In-game betting messages are however permitted during the game.

Non-confrontational goal flashes are also permitted during the match.

#### **5. Sporting Integrity**

##### *Penalty Kicks*

All perimeter boards must be frozen at the point the ball is placed in the penalty spot. The boards shall remain static until 10 seconds after the penalty is either scored or saved or until

the ball is out of play.

#### *Red/Yellow Cards*

Clubs may not use the issuing of red and yellow cards as commercial opportunity e.g. "This red card is sponsored by....."

#### *Free Kicks*

Where a wall of more than one man is erected for a free kick then the boards should be frozen.

#### *Incidents in the match*

Clubs/commercial partners may not refer to specific incidents in the match which may be viewed as contentious. For example, a "Goal" flash would be acceptable however a derogatory comment relating to players and/or match officials would be unacceptable.

#### *Opposition*

There shall be no deliberate attempt to distract the opposition at any time through the use of perimeter board displays. For example, altering brightness, speed, flash bursts during set pieces such as free kicks and corner kicks.

### **6. Safety Issues**

The perimeter board structure must be built and installed in such a way that complies with all the stadium safety regulations and the Laws of the Game.

### **7. Commercial Integrity**

#### *Brightness*

Brightness must only be altered for consistency, not effect. No brand can be advantaged or disadvantaged by the use of light.

## APPENDIX 3

### Code of Conduct for Under 18 Players (“the Code of Conduct”)

Name of Club.....(“the Club”). Address of Club.....

.....

Name of Player.....(“the Player”)

Date of Birth of Player.....

Address of Player.....

.....

Prior to signing this Code of Conduct and Scottish FA Registering the Player, full discussion has taken place and agreement has been reached between the Club, the Player and, for Players aged under 16 years, the Player’s parents/guardians as to the educational, technical and match programme to be provided by the Club.

The Player has the potential to become a footballer at the highest level in Scotland and will be Scottish FA Registered as a Player by the Club.

Both the Player and, for Players aged under 16 years, the Player’s parents/guardians understand that the Club is committed to the Player’s wellbeing, future development and realisation of potential, but that the level of achievement ultimately reached cannot be guaranteed.

In Scottish FA Registering the Player, the Club, the Player and the Player’s parents/guardians if appropriate agree to the following Code of Conduct.

#### The Club agrees to provide

- A safe environment in which the Player can learn and develop without fear of abuse
- Medical screening, monitoring and support for the Player
- A structured football learning programme, appropriate to the age, ability and growth of the Player
- Participation in football matches arranged or approved by the Company and/or Scottish FA
- Trained, screened and qualified coaching and other staff and facilities as determined by the Rules and / or the Scottish FA Youth Initiative Regulations from time to time
- Guidelines to the Player, and if appropriate his parents/guardians, on the best ways for them to contribute to the Player’s football and personal development
- Educational support (in conjunction with the Player’s school if they are still at school) to ensure the continued academic and personal development of the Player

- Regular communication and reports to the Player, and if appropriate their parents / guardians, on the Player’s progress
- A code of conduct and rules of the Club

**The Player agrees to**

- Attend the Club regularly and punctually, behave with self-discipline and give notice of and reason for any absence
- Practice the techniques and skills taught by the Club and attempt to apply them in matches
- Participate in matches away from the Club only as authorised in advance by the Club
- If still at school, attend school regularly and punctually, complete school assignments and behave at school as at the Club
- Follow a lifestyle appropriate to development – spending time positively; eating, drinking, relaxing and sleeping sensibly
- Adhere to the Club’s code of conduct and rules

**If appropriate (Players under 16 years of age), the parents/guardians agree to**

- Encourage and help the Player meet targets, including this Code of Conduct and the code of conduct and rules of the Club
- Support the Player without pressure, praise good work and refrain from criticising lapses
- Set a good example to the Player
- Respect the opportunity given to the Player and not approach or permit any other person to approach any other club about the Player during the currency of the Player’s Scottish FA Registration
- Communicate with Club staff, keeping them informed about matters affecting the Player
- Permit the Player to play only in football matches with the Club or authorised in advance by the Club
- Adhere to the Club’s code of conduct and rules

**We, the undersigned, agree to this Code of Conduct**

Name..... Signature.....  
 (on behalf of the Club)

Date.....

Name..... Signature.....  
 Player

Date.....

Name.....

Parent/Guardian, if appropriate.

Signature.....

Date.....

## APPENDIX 4

### Media Co-Operation Requirements

- A** At every League Match and Play-Off Match which is televised or in respect of which moving pictures are to be recorded by or on behalf of the Company, Home Clubs are required to:
- (i)** grant access to reporters, technicians, camera operators, interviewers and others working with or for television, radio and other broadcast media partners with which the Company has a Commercial Contract for the purposes of Section I of these Rules or who are working under a contract with and for the Company to the tunnel and trackside area prior to kick-off for the purpose of approaching Players and Club Officials on the football management and coaching staff of Clubs for interviews during this period (N.B. the decision whether to speak to such media remains with the individuals themselves and Clubs may require that any interview requests are directed through their PR or operations staff) and ensure that branded backdrop boards provided by or on behalf of the League are suitably located for such interviews; and
  - (ii)** make reasonable provision for the representatives of the Visiting Club's official website.
- B** At every League Match and Play-Off Match which is televised or in respect of which moving pictures are to be recorded by or on behalf of the Company, Clubs are required to:
- (i)** ensure that all television and other interviews in front of a camera recording moving images for broadcast take place in front of the branded backdrop boards provided by or on behalf of the League;
  - (ii)** ensure that its Players participate in the pre-match "League Handshake" and for live televised matches allow at least one camera operator pitch access for the duration of the handshake; and
  - (iii)** make available at least one Official on the football management or coaching staff of the Club and at least one Player who Played in the match for interview after the match within 30 minutes of the final whistle, giving priority to broadcast media partners of the Company with which the Company has a Commercial Contract (N.B. the League's media guidelines to Clubs that post-match interviews should take place within 10 minutes of the final whistle).

