

## ("SWPL League Cup Rules") (5 June 2024)

**1 Introduction**

- 1.1** Any word or phrase used in these Rules which is defined in the Articles or Definitions or Competition Rules and which is not defined in these Rules has, unless the context requires otherwise, the defined meaning ascribed to it in the Articles failing which the Definitions or Competition Rules.
- 1.2** Where, in these Rules, reference is made to a Rule by number the reference is to a Rule of these Rules.
- 1.3** A reference to a Club in these Rules includes, unless the context requires otherwise, the owner and operator of such Club.
- 1.4** In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires:
- 1.4.1** "**Competition**" means The Scottish Women's Premier League, Football League Cup Competition for the relevant Season;
- 1.4.2** "**Extra Time**" has the meaning given to it in Clause 4.5;
- 1.4.3** "**Home Club**", means the Club on and at whose ground the Match should be or should have been played, or where ground sharing is in operation or the Clubs play at a neutral venue, the Club whose name is drawn first;
- 1.4.4** "**Matches**" means matches and ties played or to be played in the Competition;
- 1.4.5** "**Match Ground**" means (a) the Home Club's Registered Ground; or (b) such other ground and/or stadia for which the Home Club obtains the approval of the Board to play Home Matches or a Home Match, subject that the Board may give such approval to a ground and/or stadia without application by the Home Club and/or require that any Match be played at such approved ground and/or stadia if and when it considers it appropriate so to do. If the basis for such additional approval given or imposed by the Board concerns the safety or suitability of the Registered Ground of the Home Club for Competition Matches/a Competition Match, approval of another ground and/or stadia, i.e. other than the Home Club's Registered Ground, must be applied for in writing to the Company, unless the Board is satisfied that it was not reasonably practicable to make such application within the period specified, not less than seven days in advance of a Match in relation to which such approval is sought;
- 1.4.6** "**Penalty Kicks**" means kicks taken from the penalty mark in accordance with the current procedures laid down from time to time by the International Football Association Board's Laws of the Game;
- 1.4.7** "**Rules**" means the Rules of the Scottish Women's Premier League, as amended from time to time; and

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- 1.4.8** "Visiting Club", means the Club which should play or should have played any Match on and at the ground of the Home Club or Home club and where ground sharing is in operation or the Match is to be played or is played at a neutral venue, the Club whose name is drawn second.
- 1.5** Any notice required to be given to any person or party shall be sufficiently given if it is communicated by email or any other form of electronic communication sent to the relevant person or party and/or by being posted onto the website of the Scottish Women's Premier League.
- 1.6** Any Club in breach of or failing to fulfil these Rules and which participates in the Competition shall be liable to be dealt with and sanctioned in accordance with the terms of the Disciplinary etc. Rules.

**2 Competition Title**

The Competition shall be known as "The Scottish Women's Premier League Cup" ("the Competition") or by any other title, including by branding, naming, sponsorship or the like, given to it from time to time by the Board.

**3 Board Powers**

- 3.1** The Board shall have full power to conduct, operate and control the Competition in terms of these Rules including the power to depart from, amend, suspend and/or supplement all or any part of these Rules if, in its sole discretion, it considers it expedient so to do.
- 3.2** In respect of the Final tie and pursuant to Rule 10.7, the Board shall have full power to determine the venue, ticket pricing and number of tickets to be allocated to each participating Club in each of such tie.
- 3.3** In the event that any matter or thing shall arise in relation to the Competition which is not provided for in these Rules or if any conflict shall arise between a matter provided for in the Rules and these Rules then the Board shall be entitled to make whatever arrangements and determinations and give such directions to Clubs and others as the Board shall, in its sole discretion, consider appropriate in order to ensure the efficient operation, conduct and completion of the Competition.
- 3.4** Where the Board considers it appropriate, the Board may, in its sole discretion, for any one or more Seasons or during a Season and/or during or for the operation of any one or more rounds of the Competition during a Season, modify, supplement or otherwise vary any provision(s) in these Rules relating to or concerning the structure, organisation and/or operation of the Competition or other matter relating to or concerning the Competition, and may, by written notice to Clubs and clubs with an interest in same, notify to Clubs and clubs of any such modification, supplement or other variation.

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**4 Competition Format and Participants****General**

- 4.1** The Competition shall take place and be governed by these Rules and by the Rules and Rules of the Scottish Women's Premier League and shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game. All Clubs and clubs, Officials, Players and Match Officials participating in the Competition, shall be bound by and comply with these Rules (and any rule, Rule, direction, decision or determination issued pursuant to these Rules).

**Participants**

- 4.2** The Competition shall be contested by:

**4.2.1** all Clubs in the League in the relevant Season; and

**4.2.3** such other club(s), if any, identified by the Board.

The Board may, if it considers appropriate in any Season or Seasons, alter/vary whether any of the classes of participant Clubs identified in this Rule shall be invited to and shall participate in the Competition in any one or more Seasons and to make such changes to the rounds of the Competition and the balloting for such rounds as it shall consider appropriate. If the structure and/or participants in rounds and/or categories or numbers of participants in the Competition and/or rounds of the Competition shall be altered by the Board then the Board shall give written notice of such change(s) to all Clubs and any other person or club with an interest therein.

**Draws and Ballots**

- 4.3** The Board shall, in its sole discretion, determine the arrangements and methodology of the balloting to be held in respect of each round of the Competition with a view to fulfilling the Competition principles set out in these Rules.

**Rounds**

- 4.4** The Competition shall be played in numbered rounds designated as follows "[Number] Round" and "[Quarter Final/Semi Final/Final] Round".

**Basis of Competition**

- 4.5** In all rounds the Competition shall be conducted on a 'knockout' basis with the winner being the Club with the greater number of goals at full-time. If the scores are equal at full time or no goals have been scored, an extra thirty minutes (15 minutes each way) of extra time will be played ("**Extra Time**") and, if the scores are still equal or still no goals have been scored at the end of Extra Time, the winner shall be determined by taking Penalty Kicks.
- 4.6** If Penalty Kicks are required, the Match referee determines which goal will be used as follows:

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- 4.6.1** if the Match referee determines that either goal could be used for the Penalty Kicks, then, in the presence of the two captains, the referee shall toss a coin to decide which goal will be used; or
- 4.6.2** if for reasons of safety/security, condition of the field of play, lighting or other reason, the Match referee determines that a particular goal shall be used for the Penalty Kicks, such decision shall be final and require no justification.
- 4.7** Following the procedure set out in Rule 4.6, the Match referee shall toss a coin and the Club that wins the toss shall decide whether to take the first or second Penalty Kick.

**First Round**

- 4.8** The Clubs and clubs participating in the First Round shall be the eight Clubs entitled to participate in SWPL2 in the relevant Season in which the Competition takes place.
- 4.9** In the First Round of the Competition, the 8 Clubs qualified and eligible to participate in this First Round shall be included in an 'unseeded' ballot to determine which two Clubs will play against each other in each of the 4 First Round Matches.
- 4.10** The ballot shall be organised by the Board on the basis that in each of the 4 Matches in the First Round a Club for the time being eligible to participate in SWPL2 will play against another Club for the time being eligible to participate in SWPL2 and the ballot shall determine which shall be the Home Club and which the Away Club. In the case of each Match in the Second Round of the Competition the Club drawn in the ballot first shall be the Home Club. The Clubs will play a single Match at the Match Ground of the Home Club. The 4 winners from the First Round will qualify to play in the Second Round.

**Second Round**

- 4.11** The 4 First Round winners and 12 Clubs for the time being eligible to participate in SWPL1, shall qualify for and be eligible to play in the Second Round of the Competition in the relevant Season.
- 4.12** In the Second Round of the Competition, the 16 Clubs and clubs qualified and eligible to participate in this Second Round shall be included in an 'unseeded' ballot to determine which two Clubs will play against each other in each of the 8 Second Round Matches.
- 4.13** The ballot shall be organised by the Board on the basis that in each of the 8 Matches in the Second Round one Club will play against another Club and the ballot shall determine which shall be the Home Club and which the Away Club. In the case of each Match in the Second Round of the Competition the Club drawn in the ballot first shall be the Home Club. The Clubs will play a single Match at the Match Ground of the Home Club. The 8 winners from the Second Round will qualify to play in the Quarter Final Round.

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- 4.14** In the Quarter Final Round of the Competition, the 8 Clubs qualified and eligible to participate in this Quarter Final Round shall be included in an 'unseeded' ballot to determine which two Clubs will play against each other in each of the 4 Quarter Final Round Matches. In the case of each such Match the Club drawn first shall be the Home Club. The Clubs will play a single Match at the Match Ground of the Home Club. The 4 winners from the Quarter Final Round will qualify to play in the Semi Final Round.

**Semi Finals**

- 4.15** In the Semi Final Round of the Competition, the 4 Clubs qualified and eligible to participate in this Semi Final Round shall be included in an 'unseeded' ballot to determine which two Clubs will play against each other in each of the 2 Semi Final Round Matches. In the case of each such Match the Club drawn first shall be the Home Club. The Clubs will each play a single Match at the Match Ground of the Home Club. The 2 winners from the Semi Final Round will qualify to play in the Final Round.

**Final**

- 4.16** The winner of each of the Semi Finals shall contest the Final. The Final shall be played at a neutral venue determined by the Board.

**5 Matches**

- 5.1** The half time interval in all Matches shall be of fifteen minutes' duration.
- 5.2** All Matches, including any re-scheduled Match, will be played on a date and at a time and venue determined by the Board.
- 5.3** In the event that the Board considers it appropriate, the Board shall be entitled to schedule and/or re-schedule the date and time of any Match and to determine the venue and/or change the venue for any Match.
- 5.4** Both teams shall enter the field of play together in Matches along with the Match Officials no later than five minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time.
- 5.5** All kick-offs must adhere to the time fixed by the Board. Clubs and Match referees must report any delays to the Board. 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 up to a maximum of £250 for a first offence and for a second or subsequent offence occurring within two years of the first offence shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of Section G of the Rules.
- 5.6** No Match shall be postponed except on the instructions of the appointed Match referee, the pitch inspector or the Board.

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- 5.7** If a Match is postponed other than by the Board, such postponement shall be reported to the Secretary immediately by the appointed Match referee.
- 5.8** If a Match is postponed by the Board (other than the Final Round), it shall be the obligation of the Home Club to immediately notify the appointed Match Officials of such postponement. In the case of the Final, it shall be the Company's obligation.
- 5.9** Each Club shall play in all Matches in the Competition in which it is scheduled to play by the Board and at any rescheduled date, time and/or venue as determined from time to time by the Board.
- 5.10** The Board shall have power to waive or allow with conditions the use either in advance or retrospectively of any stadium for a Match where a Club is the Home Club notwithstanding any inability or failure of such Club to comply with any provision of the otherwise applying Rules.
- 5.11** Any Club without just cause failing to fulfil its fixture obligations in respect of a Match on the appointed date or dates shall be liable to be disqualified and/or subject to such other or further punishment as the Board may determine.
- 5.12** Without prejudice to any sanctions which may be imposed for a breach of these Rules, a Club failing to fulfil a fixture obligation shall be liable to pay compensation for any expenses reasonably incurred by the opposing Club as a result of the failure. The amount of such compensation will be at the discretion of the Board which will consider every such case on its merits.
- 5.13** It is the responsibility of the Home Club to ensure that a medically qualified doctor, Health and Care Professions Council ("HCPC") paramedic or HCPC Physiotherapist with approved Sports First Aid qualification, is in attendance throughout any Match in the Competition. In the case of Matches at neutral venues and the Final Round, it shall be the responsibility of the venue organiser in consultation with the Company to so ensure.
- 5.14** It is the responsibility of each of the Clubs participating in a Match in the Competition to ensure that a HCPC physiotherapist is present throughout each such Match to attend to their respective Players and, if necessary, Match Officials.
- 5.15** It is the responsibility of the Home Club in any Match in the Competition 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.

**6 Players**

- 6.1** Only up to five nominated substitutes for any one Club may Play in a Match, except in the event that Extra Time is played in any Match, where in such case a Club shall be permitted to use an additional substitute, a sixth in total, during such period of Extra

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Time. A Player who has been substituted may not Play in that Match again. Rule 6.10 shall not apply to substitutions made during or in the break period after full-time and immediately prior to Extra Time.

**6.2** An authorised Official of each Club participating in a Match, must deliver to the Match referee, with a copy to an appropriate Official of the opposing Club, a 'Scottish Women's Premier League - Match Information Form', in a 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 twenty such Players on such form. The completed form delivered to the referee and copied to the opposing Club shall state:

**6.2.1** 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;

**6.2.2** the full names of the Players, each of whom must be eligible to Play for the Club in the Match, who may Play for the Club in the Match, their squad numbers, if any, their dates of birth and the designated team captain; and

**6.2.3** as the first Player listed, the Player who will fulfil the role of goalkeeper in the starting 11.

**6.3** The completed form shall also state:-

**6.3.1** 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 such Match;

**6.3.2** the colour(s) of shirts which will be worn by all outfield Players who will Play for that Club in the relevant Match; and

**6.3.3** 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.

**6.4** Any Club failing to carry out these provisions will be dealt with at the discretion of the Board.

**6.5** Any substitutions during the Match must be recorded by the Club on 'substitution slips' and handed to a Match Official prior to each substitution taking place.

**6.6** If any Player (or substitute Player) named in a Match Information Form referred to in Rule 6.2 ("**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 Player, eligible to Play



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for the Club in the Match, to the Match Information Form as a Player or a substitute Player provided that:

- 6.6.1** the Club's doctor (or, if unavailable, another medically qualified doctor, /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;
- 6.6.2** if the Player in question has been named in the starting eleven they may only be replaced by any of the nine substitutes listed on the initial Match Information Form. The substitute in question may only then be replaced, prior to the Match commencing, by a Player eligible to Play in the Match for the relevant Club, not listed on the initial Match Information Form, so that the quota of substitutes is not reduced;
- 6.6.3** if the Player in question has been named as one of the nine substitutes, they may only be replaced by a Player eligible to Play in the Match for the relevant Club, not listed on the initial Match Information Form; and
- 6.6.4** 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 Player eligible to Play in the Match for the relevant Club, not listed on the initial Match Information Form.

Any amendment to the Match Information Form pursuant to this Rule 6.6 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 Company with the relevant medical certification.

- 6.7** Six team Officials plus the Club Doctor (or medically qualified doctor/HCPC paramedic/ HCPC Physiotherapist with approved Sports First Aid qualification), and up to nine substitute Players are allowed to occupy positions in the technical area allocated for their Club. i.e. a total of sixteen persons. The names of all such persons and their functions must be listed on the Match Information Form pursuant to Rule 6.2.
- 6.8** No more than five substitutes from each team 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.
- 6.9** Substitutes who are warming up in the area designated pursuant to Rule 6.8 shall wear colours sufficient to distinguish them from those worn by the Players participating in the Match. the provisions of the Rules so far as concerning and relating to 'warming up areas' and their use shall apply to and be adhered to by Clubs and clubs participating in Competition Matches, except in so far as inconsistent with these Rules.



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- 6.10** There shall be no more than three, plus at half-time and immediately preceding any period of extra time, occasions for each Club in which each Club shall be entitled to make substitutions during a Match. If on any one occasion during a Match each Club shall make substitution(s) then that shall count as one occasion for each Club.
- 6.11** If, and only if, space so permits, up to eight additional technical seats are allowed for Officials providing technical support to the team during the Match (kit manager, assistant physiotherapist, etc.). Such seats must be outside of the technical area and positioned at least five 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.
- 6.12** Without prejudice to the substitutes permitted during League Cup Matches by Rules 6.1 and 6.10 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 6.12 and Rule 6.13, 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 Cup Match..
- 6.13** 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 Cup Match by and in terms of Rule 6.12 and this Rule 6.13, is intended to be and shall be construed as being permitted in terms of the Protocol, as referred to and described in this Rule 6.13 and as set out and described in the Protocol:
- 6.13.1** 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 Cup Match and in respect of the Seasons described in Rule 6.12, to make such substitutions as are provided for in Rules 6.1 and 6.10 and generally within the Rules;
- 6.13.2** 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;

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- 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?

**6.14** 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 6.14, 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 Cup Match and by whom they should be substituted:

**Principles**

- 6.14.1** Each Club is permitted to use a maximum of one "concussion substitute" in a League Cup if one of their Players suffers or is suspected to have suffered a concussion.
- 6.14.2** A "concussion substitution" may be made regardless of the number of substitutes already used.
- 6.14.3** 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.
- 6.14.4** When a "concussion substitute" is used, the opposing Club then has the option to use an "additional" substitute for any reason.

**Procedure**

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

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- 6.14.6** A "concussion substitution" may be made:
- 6.14.6.1** immediately after a concussion occurs or is suspected;
  - 6.14.6.2** after an on-field assessment, and/or after an off-field assessment;  
or
  - 6.14.6.3** at any other time when a concussion occurs, has occurred or is suspected to have occurred, including when a Player has previously been assessed and has returned to the field of play.
- 6.14.7** If a Club decides to make a "concussion substitution", the referee/fourth official shall be informed.
- 6.14.8** The injured Player with concussion or suspected concussion is not permitted to take any further part in the relevant League Cup Match (including kicks from the penalty mark) and should, where possible, be accompanied to the changing room and/or a medical facility.
- 6.14.9** The opposing Club team shall be informed by the referee/fourth official that it now has the option of using an "additional" substitute and an additional substitution opportunity.
- 6.14.10** This option may be used concurrently with the "concussion substitution" made by the opposing Club team or at any time thereafter (except as provided otherwise in by the Laws of the Game).

**Substitution opportunities**

- 6.14.11** Making a "concussion substitution" is separate from any limit on the number of 'normal' substitution opportunities.
- 6.14.12** 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.
- 6.14.13** Once a Club has used all its 'normal' substitution opportunities, it cannot use a "concussion substitution" opportunity to make a "normal" substitution.
- 6.14.14** Where a Club makes a "concussion substitution", the opposing Club can use receives 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.
- 6.15** The Match Officials, in any League Cup Match in respect of which the additional permanent concussion substitution procedure permitted by the Protocol Notice is in operation, are required to operate in accordance with and comply with the

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principles, procedure and substitution opportunities set out below, in this Rule 6.15:

**Match officials**

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

- 6.15.1** 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";
- 6.15.2** must not decide whether an actual or suspected injury qualifies for a "concussion substitute" to be used;
- 6.15.3** 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 ;
- 6.15.4** 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
- 6.15.5** 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 6.14, the Protocol or otherwise inappropriately.

**7 Player Colours and Numbers**

- 7.1** At least 14 days prior to all Matches, excluding the Final, the competing Clubs shall notify each other and the Secretary of the kit it intends its Players to wear in the Match. Such notification shall be made using the SWPL Match Kit Form and include the kit to be worn by the goalkeeper.
- 7.2** 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 this Rule 7.2, which colours should be worn by the Clubs scheduled to compete in the 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.
- 7.3** Notwithstanding Rules 7.1 and 7.2, 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 shall be final.

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- 7.4** When two competing Clubs having the same or similar first choice colours engage in a 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.
- 7.5** 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.
- 7.6** In the event of a clash of colours on a Match day when Clubs are playing at a neutral venue including the Final, 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.
- 7.7** 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.
- 7.8** 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 Cup Match. Any such numbers and letter 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.
- 7.9** Prior to the start of the Season each Club entitled to participate in the SWPL League Cup 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.
- 7.10** 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.
- 7.11** A Player's squad and shirt number with any Club must remain with them for the duration of the Season unless either:
- 7.11.1** 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
  - 7.11.2** for other reasons satisfactory to the Board in its absolute discretion.
- 7.12** A Player's name must appear on the back of their shirt above the shirt number where the Player is Playing in a League Cup Match for a Club in the SWPL1.
- 7.13** Players participating in a Match and substitutes shall be numbered in accordance with the Match Information Form delivered to the Match referee pursuant to Rule 6.2. There must be no change of numbers of or by Players during a Match.

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**7.14** The provisions of the Rules so far as concerning and relating to 'strips' and what they must and/or may comprise of in terms of colours and style and which badges, advertising and insignia may appear thereon shall apply to and be adhered to by Clubs and clubs participating in Competition Matches, except in so far as inconsistent with these Rules.

**8 Eligibility of Players**

**8.1** To be eligible to Play in the Competition, Players must be League Registered with the Club for which they Play and/or propose to Play in the Competition.

**8.2** No Club ("A") shall Play, or list as a named substitute, any Player or player who, in the same Season, has already played in a Match by entering the field of play, whether in the starting eleven or by being used as a substitute by another Club ("B") in the Competition and any such Player or player shall not be eligible to Play, or be listed as a named substitute, for Club A.

**8.3** It is the responsibility of each Club participating in the Competition to ensure that its Players are eligible to Play in any Match.

**8.4** Trialists are not eligible to Play in any match/tie at any stage of the Competition.

**9 Trophy and Awards**

**9.1** The winners of the Competition shall hold the trophy and when it is handed over to the winner, that Club shall return same to the Secretary if and when required and in any case prior to the commencement of the next Season's Competition in the like good order and condition in which it was received.

**9.2** It shall be the responsibility of the winning Club to arrange appropriate insurance cover for the trophy throughout the period when it is held by the Club or club.

**9.3** The winners and runners-up in the Competition will receive such awards as the Board may decide.

**9.4** The Board has full discretion to refuse to present a Player of a participating Club with an award (including a medal, trophy, token or other form of prize), which represents their achievement as runner-up and which they would otherwise be entitled to receive, at any time after the official presentation of such award if the Player refused or failed to collect the award at the appropriate time of its presentation.

**10 Admission Charges and Shares of Gates**

**10.1** Subject to Rule 10.4, in all rounds of the Competition, excluding the Final Round, the Home Club shall charge Board Minimum Recommended Prices of Ground Admission or such higher admission prices as it chooses to charge, whichever is the greater, for each of (i) Adults; and (ii) Senior Citizens and Juveniles, and the aggregate sum received and to be received by the Home Club from such charges ("**Aggregate Sum**"),



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shall, after deducting the Match expenses and costs incurred by the Home Club, be divided equally between the two Clubs participating in each Match, and the Home Club shall, on receipt of a valid VAT invoice from the Visiting Club make payment of the sum so due by the Home Club to the Visiting Club. If the Aggregate Sum is not sufficient to cover the Match expenses and costs incurred by the Home Club, any deficit shall be paid by the Home Club. Prior to the commencement of the Competition in each Season, the Board shall fix the Minimum Recommended Prices of Ground Admission or if the Board does not so fix the Minimum Recommended Prices of Ground Admission same shall be deemed to be those which applied in the immediately preceding Competition. Unless and until altered by the Board the Minimum Recommended Prices of Ground Admission shall be as stated below. The share of admission money in terms of this Rule must be paid to the Visiting Club within ten days of the date of the relevant Match. Any Club failing to pay, detail or return as before provided, or any Club failing immediately to report non-payment of any sum due to it in terms of this Rule, shall be deemed to be in breach of these Rules and shall be dealt with in accordance with Section J of the Rules.

- 10.2** Where Clubs in different Divisions are in opposition against each other, the applicable Board Minimum Recommended Prices of Ground Admission shall be the prices applicable to the Club in the higher Division.
- 10.3** Attendance statistics on forms provided by the League must be sent by the Home Club to the Secretary within three days of each Match. Clubs failing to comply or making any error therein or any omissions therefrom shall pay a fine of such amount as the Board may determine. In the case of the Final Round, it shall be the responsibility of the Company to record such information.
- 10.4** Any Home Club wishing to charge less than the Board Minimum Recommended Price of Ground Admission (including making no charge or a modified charge based on whatsoever criteria) to any person seeking admission to the relevant ground, must obtain the agreement in writing of the relevant Away Club prior to the Match taking place, subject that, under no circumstances may the amount charged for admission to a Match, directly or indirectly, and adversely to either category, discriminate between Home Supporters and Away Supporters for admission to broadly comparable accommodation at the same Match.
- 10.5** In all rounds of the Competition, excluding the Final Round, Clubs shall only be entitled to deduct a limit of 10% of the total number of spectators admitted to a Match subject to such limit not exceeding 1,000 persons. The numbers in excess of this figure must be returned in the gross gate and divided in the ratio of 75% adult, 25% juvenile and senior citizens of the Board Minimum Recommended Prices of Ground Admission. Each Home Club must return to the Company and to the opposing Club or club, within seven days of each such Match, the number of spectators admitted to the ground, in accordance with Rules 10.1 and 10.4, and the numbers of such spectators admitted as (i) adults; and as (ii) Senior Citizens and Juveniles, together with the receipts and admission price(s) in relation to each of (i) and (ii) received and to be received by the Home Club as a result of such admissions.



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- 10.6** Payment for tickets sold by a Visiting Club together with the details of tickets sold, and the return of unsold tickets, must be made to the Home Club within ten days of the date of the Match taking place. Any Club failing to pay, detail or return as before provided, or any Club failing at once to report non-payments of receipts due to it, shall be dealt with as the Board may think fit.
- 10.7** For the Final Match of the Competition:
- 10.7.1** the ticket pricing and number of tickets to be allocated to each participating Club shall be determined by the Board;
  - 10.7.2** 15% (or such other percentage as the Company may agree) of the net admission receipts after deduction of the applicable VAT shall be paid to the neutral venue owner and operator as payment for the hire of the stadium and associated services;
  - 10.7.3** following the payment specified at Rule 10.7.2, the Match expenses and costs incurred by the Company or for which the Company is liable shall then be deducted from the remaining balance and applied in the discharge and/or reimbursement of such expenses and costs;
  - 10.7.4** the Company shall retain 5% of the remaining balance following the payments specified at Rules 10.7.2 and 10.7.3; and
  - 10.7.5** following all payments specified in this Rule 10.7 the remaining net admission receipts after all such deductions, payments etc. shall have been made and/or allowed for shall be divided equally between and paid to the two competing Clubs which participated in the Final Round of the Competition.
- 10.8** In the Final Round, payments for tickets sold by each competing Club together with details of tickets sold, and the return of unsold tickets, must be made to the League within ten days of the date of the Match. The League shall be entitled to offset all TV and sponsorship revenues relating to the Matches due to the Club against all sums due by the Club to the League in terms of this Rule. Any Club failing to pay any balance due to the League or detail or return as before provided within 10 days of receipt by the Club of said revenues from the League shall pay a penalty of £1,000 to the League together with interest on all sums due to the League and such interest shall be calculated on a daily basis at a rate of 5% per annum over the Bank of Scotland base rate compounded monthly on the first day of each calendar month.
- 10.9** VAT shall be chargeable in addition to all sums provided for in this Rule 10 which are payable to the Company or to the Club or other stadium operator which provided the neutral venue.
- 11 Admission Arrangements for Visiting Clubs and clubs**
- 11.1** The Home Club shall forward to the Visiting Club 'without charge' tickets, in the numbers set out below, so that they will be in the hands of the Visiting Club on or

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before the fifth day before the Match (unless under circumstances which render this impracticable) - 5 for Directors' Box, 20 for the Stand.

- 11.2** No Official or Player of the Visiting Club shall be entitled to enter the Home Club's Ground without a ticket or equivalent.

**12 Division of Receipts in Abandoned and Replayed Matches**

- 12.1** In the event of any Match up to and including the Semi Final Round, being abandoned unfinished owing to causes over which neither competing Club has any control, or being ordered to be replayed, the entire gate receipts of the replayed Match, after deduction of the Match expenses and costs by the Home Club, will be divided equally between the two competing Clubs.

- 12.2** In the event of the Final being abandoned unfinished owing to causes over which neither competing Club has any control, or being ordered to be replayed, the entire receipts at the replayed Final, after deduction of the expenses of the Company in relation to the Match as determined by the Board will be divided equally between the two competing Clubs.

**13 Neutral Venues**

- 13.1** In the event of a neutral venue being used other than in the Final Round of the Competition, the Club or third party providing the stadium, unless otherwise mutually agreed between the Club or clubs taking part in the Match, the Company and Club or third party providing the stadium, will be entitled to such percentage of the Match revenue as agreed with the Company taking into account the entire receipts for the Stands, Enclosures and Ground admissions, less the expenses of the Company in relation to the Match as determined by the Board.

**14 Financial Records**

- 14.1** All Clubs shall keep detailed financial records and the Board may require an inspection on its behalf of all such records and/or require delivery of copies of such records within a time specified, with particular reference to ticketing, charging, admission and accommodation arrangements.

**15 Prohibited Conduct**

- 15.1** Any Club or 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 or 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 an Official or Player, their own Club under and in terms of their contract of service, to influence the result or any other aspect of a Match shall, subject to the terms of these Rules, be in breach of these Rules and be liable to such sanction(s) and/or condition(s)

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which the Board or a Commission shall determine in accordance with Section J of the Rules.

**16 Full Strength Teams**

- 16.1** Each Club shall play its full strength first team in all Matches, unless some explanation which is satisfactory to the Board is provided. In the event of the explanation not being deemed satisfactory, the Club concerned shall be deemed in breach of this Rule and shall be dealt with in accordance with the Disciplinary etc. Rules.

**17 Match Officials**

- 17.1** The Match Officials for all Matches shall be appointed by the Scottish FA.
- 17.2** By accepting the appointment for a Match, each Match Official shall be deemed to have given any consent which may be necessary for the purposes of Part II of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 or any statutory modification or re-enactment for the time being in force, for the recording and broadcasting of that Match by or on behalf of the League
- 17.3** The level and all other terms of payment for remuneration of Match Officials shall be determined by the Board.
- 17.4** The Company shall pay the Scottish FA in respect of the fees and expenses of the Match Officials in all Matches.
- 17.5** The Match referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground, its pitch and surrounds in all Matches and each Home Club in respect of any Match must take every reasonable precaution to keep its ground in a playable condition.
- 17.6** Referees shall, at the request of the Secretary, or with the consent of the Secretary at the request of either of the competing Clubs, visit the ground on a date and time before the advertised time of kick-off. Referees shall, in these circumstances, adjudicate on the fitness of the ground and take any appropriate decisions and the Home Club and Secretary shall be notified accordingly.
- 17.7** Match Officials shall normally be present at their appointment at least one and a half hours prior to the advertised time of kick-off, in the event of an earlier inspection being required.
- 17.8** By accepting the appointment for a Match, or to carry out a pitch inspection, each Match Official shall be deemed to accept that she or she is classified as self-employed with regard to accounting for payments due in respect of fees paid to her or her by the Company.
- 17.9** Except by decision of the Board, the consent of the Match referee must be obtained before the kick-off can be altered from the advertised time on the day of a Match.

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- 17.10** Referees must immediately report late starts of Matches and late arrivals of assistant referees and/or themselves to the Secretary.
- 17.11** The Match Officials shall have both teams prepared to enter the field of play together five minutes prior to the kick-off time.
- 17.12** The 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 Rules and the Rules relating to Unacceptable Conduct.
- 17.13** Within two hours of the end of a Match the referee of that Match shall send a Match Report by email and attachments, from the ground at which such Match was played to the Secretary and to the Scottish FA: (i) containing details of the result of the Match; (ii) electronic or photographed copies of the participating Clubs' Match Information Forms; (iii) the substitutes used; and (iv) the name(s) of any scorers.

**18 Footballs**

- 18.1** A new ball of FIFA first grade quality shall be used for each Match. For so long as a ball or balls is/are provided by the Company to any of the participating Clubs, each Home Club must ensure that (i) the ball(s) supplied is/are the ball(s) used in Matches
- 18.2** In all League Cup 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.

**19 Commercial Arrangements**

- 19.1** In connection with the Competition, the Company acting through the Board shall have power to conclude and administer contracts with commercial sponsors, broadcasters, publishers and others.
- 19.2** Such contracts shall include, but not be restricted to:
- 19.2.1** sponsorship of and/or affiliation to the Competition;
  - 19.2.2** Transmission, Radio Transmission, Other Transmission and recording by any means of the Matches;
  - 19.2.3** commercial exploitation of the League's and any Club's or club's name, badge, emblem, copyright, database right, trademark and/or other intellectual property in connection with the Competition; and
  - 19.2.4** publications including sound and video recordings relating to the history and fixtures of the Competition.

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- 19.3** The Clubs and the clubs participating in the Competition and each of them agree to centrally pool and market their rights, facilities and properties relating to and concerning, Radio Transmission and Transmission of Matches for exclusive exploitation by the Company of Radio Transmission and Transmission of Matches.
- 19.4** Subject that a Club shall not, other than in respect of contracts entered into by the Company relating to Radio Transmission or Transmission of Matches, be obliged to comply with this Rule 19.4 if to do so would result in that Club being in breach of a contractual obligation entered into prior to the Company determining to enter into the contract concerned, the Clubs and clubs and each of them shall license and otherwise provide to the Company the use of such of their other rights, facilities and properties as may be required by the Company to enable the Company to enter into and/or fulfil the Company's obligations under and in terms of contracts concerning or relating to the Competition.
- 19.5** The Company shall be entitled, for the purposes of contracts entered into or to be entered into by the Company in relation to the Competition, to sub-license, package or otherwise deal in or with any rights, facilities and properties licensed or otherwise provided to the Company by the Clubs and clubs and each of them.
- 19.6** The Company shall not grant or purport to grant any exclusive right or rights in relation to Other Transmission of Matches, which would have the object or effect, whether intentionally or otherwise, of preventing or inhibiting the Clubs or any of them from exercising any rights available to them, which they are not expressly prohibited from exercising in terms of these Rules.
- 19.7** Except pursuant to a contract entered into by the Company in relation to the Competition, each of the Clubs and clubs shall in respect of a Match played at their Home Ground procure that there shall not be any Radio Transmission and/or Transmission of all or any part of that Match without the approval of the Board.
- 19.8** The Clubs and clubs and each of them shall not by act or omission infringe any exclusive rights granted by the Company in a contract entered into by the Company in relation to Radio Transmission and/or Transmission of a Match or Matches or otherwise cause any breach thereof to occur.
- 19.9** The Clubs and clubs and each of them shall not grant or purport to grant any exclusive right or rights or generally enter into or accept any obligation in relation to Other Transmission of Matches which has or would have the effect, whether intended or otherwise, of preventing, restricting or inhibiting the Company from or disadvantaging the Company in competing with the Club or any third party in the Other Transmission of Matches.
- 19.10** Where a Club shall be involved in the broadcasting and/or transmitting by means of Other Transmission outwith the British Isles of moving pictures of all or any part of a Match, other than pursuant to a contract entered into by the Company in relation to the Competition, it shall use its best endeavours to procure, including by use of legal

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proceedings at its own instance, that no broadcasting and/or transmission which is or would be prohibited within the British Isles by these Rules shall be broadcast and/or transmitted by any person or party, whether with or without the permission of the Club concerned, within, to or which shall be capable of being received in the British Isles.

- 19.11** Except pursuant to a contract entered into by the Company in relation to the Competition, there shall not, without the approval of the Board, be any Other Transmission, within the British Isles, of moving pictures of all or any part of a Match within any period provided for in a contract entered in to by the Company in relation to or in connection with the Competition and in any event not, without the agreement in writing of the Company, in the case of a Match played on a Saturday until midnight on the next day and on any other day until midnight on that day.
- 19.12** Clubs and clubs may enter into commercial arrangements or sponsorship agreements relating to their participation in the Competition provided always that Clubs and clubs ensure that such arrangements or agreements do not conflict with these Rules, the Rules and/or any commercial arrangements or sponsorship agreements of the Company in relation to or in connection with the Competition.
- 19.13** All commercial income received by the Company in terms of any contract referred to in this Rule shall be Other Revenue.
- 19.14** The Company shall not contract in a contract entered into by the Company in relation to the Competition so as to require any Home Club to provide, for central exploitation, more than 12 trackside advertising spaces or equivalent at a Match.
- 19.15** Without prejudice to the generality of this Rule 19 each Club and club must, if required by a/the sponsor of all or part of the Competition, make available the following rights, facilities and properties:
- (i)** admit the sponsor to its ground for the purpose of photographing any Match;
  - (ii)** subject to Rule 19.14 of these Rules, make available perimeter advertising boards in appropriate positions and/or such time and exposure on LED Perimeter Boards all as the Board may determine;
  - (iii)** acknowledge the sponsor on the cover of a Match day programme;
  - (iv)** acknowledge the sponsor in at least one public address announcement prior to the Match;
  - (v)** make available one page of advertising or editorial material in the Match day programme;
  - (vi)** provide 10 (or in the case of Semi Final and Final Rounds such greater number as the Board may determine) complimentary tickets and tickets at face value as directed by the Board in terms of any sponsorship agreement or agreements;



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- (vii)** provide suitable hospitality for the sponsors and their guests as directed by the Board in terms of the sponsorship agreement or agreements, and
- (viii)** provide any other rights, facilities and properties which the Board may require it to provide so as to enable the Company to comply with any sponsorship agreements concluded.

**20 Media Co-operation Requirements**

**20.1** At every 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, cameramen, interviewers and others working with or for television, radio and other broadcast media partners with which the Company has a commercial contract in relation to the Competition 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 and clubs for interviews during this period (N.B. the decision whether to speak to such media remains with the individuals themselves and Club 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 Company are suitably located for such interviews; and
- (ii)** make reasonable provision for the representatives of the Visiting Club's official website.

**20.2** At every Match which is televised or in respect of which moving pictures are to be recorded by or on behalf of the Company, Clubs and/or 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 Company;
- (ii)** ensure that its Players participate in the pre-Match "Handshake", if any, and for live televised Matches allow at least one cameraman 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 contract for the purposes of these Rules which is broadcasting live (N.B. the Company's media guidelines to Clubs and clubs provide that post-Match interviews should take place within 10 minutes of the final whistle).



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**21 Application of Rules**

- 21.1** Where provision is not made in there SWPL League Cup Rules for any matter or thing the Competition Rules shall apply to the Competition with Matches in the Competition substituted for League Matches and Play-Off Matches where applicable.
- 21.2** Each Club or Football club, Player, player, Trialist, Club or Football club Official, Match Official, and any other person participating in the Competition, and/or organisation and/or playing of a Competition Match, agrees to observe and be subject to, so far as concerning and/or relating to the Competition, the articles of association, protocols, procedures, rules, decisions and Rules of the Scottish FA, the Articles, Rules, these Rules and the other Rules and decisions of The Scottish Women's Premier League and the Charter and Rules, Rules etc. of UEFA and of FIFA, the rules, Rules and the like of any other organisation of which these bodies or the Club or Football club may be a member and each and all of them, except where they have already so submitted by agreement, agrees, including by such participation, that she, she or it submits to the jurisdiction and to the decision making authority of the Scottish FA, The Scottish Women's Premier League Limited, UEFA and of FIFA. In the case of any conflict between these Rules and such articles of association, protocols, procedures, rules, decisions Rules, Articles, Rules, Rules and Charters then, save in the case where these Rules confer additional rights, benefits, obligations or remedies on the person or party so submitting, such articles of association, protocols, procedures, rules, decisions Rules, Articles, Rules, Rules and Charters shall take precedence.
- 21.3** The provisions of Rules 21.2 are without prejudice to the provisions of the Rules which relate to or concern the same or similar matters and which Clubs, Players and Club Officials are obligated not to breach and/or to comply.

**Board Minimum Prices for Ground Admission for League Cup**

**All Rounds (excluding the Final) referable to the ground at which the relevant Match is played and the Division or league in which the Home Club respectively is entitled, for the time being, to participate:**

**SWPL1 Clubs** – Adult - £8.00; Juveniles and Senior Citizens - £1.00;

**SWPL2 Clubs** - Adult - £5.00; Juveniles and Senior Citizens - £1.00;