

As at 26 November 2025

Scottish Women's Premier League – Definitions and Interpretation Rules

Definitions and Interpretation Rules (“Definitions etc. Rules”)

N1 These Definitions etc. Rules are Part of the Schedule to each of the Participation Agreements. The following words, terms and phrases shall (unless the context otherwise requires) where used in a Participation Agreement, including in the Schedule and in any amendment revision, addition and/or supplement thereto, have the following meanings. Where a word, term or phrase is used in the Articles but is not herein defined the relevant word term or phrase has the meaning, if any, provided for in the Articles:

2006 Act means the Companies Act 2006 including any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force;

Amateur Player means a player of a Club who is not a party to a Contract of Service with that Club;

Amateur League Registration means the League Registration of an Amateur Player with a Club;

Appeal means an appeal to be determined by the Board, provided for in the Rules, by a Player to the Company against the decision of a Club;

Appear means entering the field of play for a Club in an Official Match, whether in the starting 11 or as a substitute and “**Appears**”, “**Appeared**” and “**Appearing**” shall be construed accordingly;

Appendix means an appendix to any of the Rules;

Articles mean the articles of association for the time being of the Company;

Appeal Tribunal is an appeal tribunal appointed by the Board to determine, in accordance with the Rules and/or such Player's Contract of Service, an appeal by a Player against a decision of a Club as concerns such Player;

Away Ground means the Home Ground of the Home Club at which the Visiting Club is to play an Official Match against the Home Club and “**Away**”, “**Away Club**” and “**Away Match**” shall be construed accordingly;

Board means the board of Directors of the Company, or where the board of Directors of the Company has made a delegation in accordance with the Articles, a Committee of the Board;

British Isles means the United Kingdom of Britain and Northern Ireland and Ireland;

Candidate Club means a Football club, in accordance with these Rules, who

- i. finishes in the top position of Scottish Women's Football's top division at the end of the immediately preceding season and is therefore eligible for automatic promotion to SWPL2; or
- ii. is eligible to participate after the end of a relevant Season in a Play-Off Competition and, if successful in winning the relevant Play-Off Competition, eligible for promotion and admission to participate in the League and, except where the context otherwise requires, includes the owner and operator of that club.;

Chair means the person appointed from time to time by the Board in accordance with the Articles, as the Chair for the time being of the Company;

Chief Executive means the Chief Executive for the time being of SPFL Limited;

Close Season means the period of the year outside of any Season;

Club means a Football club, other than a Candidate Club, which is, for the time being, entitled to participate in the League and, except where the context otherwise requires, includes the owner and operator of such Club;

Committee means the Audit Committee and the Remuneration and Appointments Committee, to be established and maintained by SPFL Limited and the Company respectively, and any other Committee, sub-committee, working party or like body or group of persons or person established or appointed by the Board from time to time;

Communicated means, as regards the Scottish FA, such method and format of communication as may from time to time be specified in and required by the articles of association, protocols, procedures, rules, decisions and/or regulations of the Scottish FA;

Company means The Scottish Women's Premier League Limited;

Competition means a Football competition owned and operated by the Company and played in accordance with the Rules;

Confidential Information means all information, data, communications, reports, advice, decisions and/or opinions or like or similar material of any kind in any format and media in connection with or relating to the meetings, procedures, policies, business and/or finances of SPFL Limited, the Company, League, Board, Committee or any Member or Club which is stated to be confidential or equivalent or which might reasonably be regarded as being confidential or equivalent to the SPFL Limited, Company, League, Board, Committee or any Member or Club, including in the case of the Company and/or Board or Committee, any information, data, communications, reports, advice, decisions and/or opinions or like or similar material

which a Director or appointee shall have gained knowledge of in the course of or in connection with their Directorship of the Company and/or appointment to a Committee and any information, data, communications, reports, advice, decisions and/or opinions or like or similar material communicated to or by SPFL Limited, the Company, League, Board, Committee or any Member or Club or any officer, director or employee of the Company or appointee to such Committee, which is not already in the public domain, except by the actions of the party or person under consideration of breach of this provision, shall be treated as Confidential Information unless or until specified in writing not to be such, by an appropriate officer, Director or employee of the Company;

Contract of Service means a contract of service (including of employment) of a Player with a Club for the playing and training for the playing of Football and who is reimbursed more than the expenses actually incurred by them in the playing of and training for the playing of Football and references to any particular Player's contract of service shall be construed accordingly;

Deductible Insolvency Event means an Insolvency Event, which is not a second or later Insolvency Event in the same Insolvency Process, and in the event that there shall be two or more Insolvency Events which are part of and occur on the first day of an Insolvency Process then both or, as the case may be, all such Insolvency Events on such date shall be treated for the purposes of the Rules as being a single Deductible Insolvency Event;

Determination means the determination of a dispute between parties by the Board or a Section J Tribunal where the Rules so provide and/or where the parties have agreed that the Board may or must determine such a dispute;

Director means a director of the Company and **Directorship** shall be construed accordingly;

Division means a division of the League;

document includes, unless otherwise specified in the Rules, any document sent or supplied in hard copy form or electronic form;

Due Date means the date upon which a Club is required to account to HMRC for any Tax Liability, as prescribed by relevant legislation, regulations or guidance in force from time to time;

electronic form shall have the meaning attributed to that phrase in section 1168 of the 2006 Act;

Extra-Time means an additional thirty minutes (fifteen minutes each way) of time to be played in an Official Match if the scores at full time are equal or no goals have been scored, all in accordance with the Laws of the Game, and Extra-Time shall be Played in an Official Match only where provision is made in the Rules for the playing

of Extra-Time;

Field Approval means the fourth of four steps to be undergone by a football turf field in order for it to be established that it is a FIFA recommended football turf field and that it meets the requirements of the quality programme for FIFA Quality Pro mark, “**Table 3 – Field Test Requirements**” and “**Figure 1 of Section 2. Field certification**” of the Handbook of Requirements for Football Turf;

FIFA means the International Federation of Football Associations;

FIFA Quality Concept Handbooks mean the FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf Handbook of Requirements and Handbook of Test Methods January 2012 Editions and any amendments thereto and/or any substitute such handbooks from time to time published by or on behalf of FIFA;

FIFA Quality Programme means FIFA Quality Programme for Football Turf, October 2015, and FIFA Quality Programme – Handbook of Requirements for Football Turf for FIFA Quality Pro mark, or, as the case may be, such higher standard as may from time to time be adopted by FIFA as the highest recommended standard for procurement, design, installation and performance for and of such pitches and, additionally, for turf manufacturers which are not FIFA licensees, those manufacturers whose artificial turf installations can be tested and perform to or in excess of the International Match Standard (IMS) which replicates the same quality criteria as the FIFA Quality standard;

FIFA Recommended 2 Star Standard means the artificial football turf and associated pitch design, specification, construction and performance laboratory and field-tested standard of that name provided for in the FIFA Quality Concept Handbooks and any amended, substituted or replacement standard as may, from time to time, be specified as the highest such standard by FIFA;

Financial Records and Information means records and information, whether in paper or in electronic form, including financial accounts and statements, management accounts, cash flow and other financial records, projections and outcomes, aged creditors, debtors and other financial data, projections and outcomes, such other financial records and information as may be specified in a Direction and, where specified in a Direction, like records and information of and relating to (a) the Group Holding Company of which the owner and operator of the Club and the Member of the Company is a subsidiary; (b) the owner and operator of the Club and the Member of the Company; (c) the consolidated Group of Companies, and/or (d) if there has been a failure for any accounting period to comply with the requirements of law in filing financial accounts and statements then draft(s) of same. Where such financial records and information are provided these will, in the case of forward looking materials, incorporate reasonable assumptions and the relevant Club’s best estimate of anticipated outcomes; all such assumptions used and any tolerances included in the materials provided must be clearly stated with the Financial Records and Information provided prior to or when it is provided;

Financial Systems mean any method of recording receipts or expenditure including cash books, wages records and accounting systems;

First Team Squad means the list, for each Season, of Players of a Club and any additional Players which are given to the Secretary;

Football means association football played in accordance with the Laws of the Game;

Force Majeure Event is an event, which is determined by an Appeal Tribunal to have been unforeseeable and unavoidable;

General Meeting means a general meeting of the Company;

Group Undertaking means a “group undertaking” as defined in section 1161(5) of the 2006 Act;

Guidance for Clubs means guidance on Unacceptable Conduct issued from time to time by the Board to Clubs;

Handbook of Requirements for Football Turf means the handbook of requirements for football turf (October 2015) (V.3.0, 01.10.2019) for FIFA Quality Pro mark, or, as the case may be, such higher standard as may from time to time be adopted by FIFA as the highest recommended standard for procurement, design, installation and performance for and of such pitches and, additionally, for turf manufacturers which are not FIFA licensees those manufacturers whose artificial turf installations can be tested and perform to or in excess of the International Match Standard (IMS) which replicates the same quality criteria as the FIFA Quality standard;

hard copy form shall have the meaning attributed to that phrase in section 1168 of the 2006 Act;

Home Club means the Club at whose Home Ground the relevant Official Match against the Visiting Club should be, has been or should have been played and “**Home**” and “**Home Match**” shall be construed accordingly;

Home Ground means the Registered Ground of the Home Club or other ground at which, with the approval of the Board, an Official Match is to be played;

HMRC means Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs or such other United Kingdom Government or Scottish Government department or agency that may replace, supplement or substitute for the same, responsible from time to time for accounting to and/or the collection of any Tax Liabilities by and/or from any Club;

Insolvency Act means the Insolvency Act 1986 and any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force;

Insolvency Event means:-

- (i)** entering into a company voluntary arrangement pursuant to Part 1 of the Insolvency Act, any moratorium procedure for the purposes of the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020 (“the 2020 Act”) or equivalent, a scheme of arrangement with creditors under Part 26 of the 2006 Act, making any proposal for a restructuring plan in Terms of the 2020 Act or equivalent, and/or any compromise agreement with its creditors as a whole;
- (ii)** the lodging of a notice of intention to appoint an Administrator by the directors of the company concerned and/or floating charge holder(s) thereof or notice of appointment of an Administrator at the Court in accordance with the Insolvency Act, an application to the Court for an Administration Order under paragraph 12 of Schedule B1 to the Insolvency Act or where an Administrator is appointed or an Administration Order is made (“Administrator” and “Administration Order” having the meaning attributed to them respectively by paragraphs 1 and 10 of Schedule B1 to the Insolvency Act) or an interim manager or equivalent is appointed by any court as a step in any proceedings or process which includes notice to appoint (or intention to appoint) an Administrator or an application for the making of an Administration Order;
- (iii)** an Administrative Receiver (as defined by the Insolvency Act) or any other Receiver is appointed over any assets which, in the opinion of the Board is material to the Club’s ability to fulfil its obligations as a Club or a Judicial Factor is appointed;
- (iv)** shareholders passing a resolution pursuant to section 84(1) of the Insolvency Act to voluntarily wind up;
- (v)** a meeting of creditors is convened pursuant to section 95 or section 98 of the Insolvency Act;
- (vi)** a winding up order is made by the Court under section 122 of the Insolvency Act or a provisional liquidator is appointed under section 135 of the Insolvency Act;
- (vii)** ceasing or forming an intention to cease wholly or substantially to carry on business save for the purpose of reconstruction or amalgamation or otherwise in accordance with a scheme or proposals which have previously been submitted to and approved in writing by the Board;
- (viii)** in the case of an individual person, partnership or unincorporated association an award of sequestration, appointment of a trustee, entering into a trust deed for creditors, appointment of an interim judicial factor, appointment of a judicial factor or an equivalent or analogous appointment;
- (ix)** being subject to an insolvency regime in any jurisdiction outside Scotland which is analogous to the insolvency regimes detailed in paragraphs (i) to (viii) above;

and/or

- (x) have any proceedings or step taken or any court order in any jurisdiction made which has a substantially similar effect to any of the foregoing.

Insolvency Process means a process or procedure comprising two or more Insolvency Events which occur either concurrently or consecutively;

Judicial Panel means the body with that name formed by the board of the Scottish FA in terms of the articles of association of the Scottish FA;

Judicial Panel Protocol means the protocol relating to the operation of the Judicial Panel promulgated by the board of the Scottish FA from time to time in accordance with the articles of association of the Scottish FA;

Laws of the Game mean the laws of the game promulgated by the International Football Association Board from time to time;

League or **The Scottish Women's Premier League** means the combination of association football clubs comprising the Clubs known as **The Scottish Women's Premier League** or **SWPL**;

League Cup means The Scottish Women's Premier League Cup Competition owned and operated by the Company in accordance with the League Cup Rules;

League Cup Match means a match in the League Cup;

League Cup Rules means Rules made from time to time by the Company governing the League Cup;

League Match means a match designated as such by the Company and played in the League;

League Office means the Registered Office, for the time being, of the Company;

League Play-Off means the Competition to be operated by the Company in accordance with the Competition Rules immediately after the end of each Season to determine, in addition to the Club automatically relegated, which additional Club and Candidate Club, if any, may be relegated from the League to the top division(s) of SWF and promoted to the League from SWF for the immediately succeeding Season;

League Registration means the registration, in accordance with the Player Rules, of a Player at the League (or, for the purposes of the League Play-Off Match, a player of a Candidate Club), who is Scottish FA Registered and the words "**League Register**", "**League Registered**", "**Registration**", "**Register**" and "**Registered**" shall, where the context so admits, be construed accordingly;

Match means an association football Official Match played in a Competition under the control and authority of the Company;

Match Information Form means the form submitted by each participating Club in advance of each Official Match containing the particulars of their Players, kit colour, team captain, and technical area occupants for the relevant Official Match;

Match Officials means the referee and assistant referees and fourth official, if appropriate, in respect of any Match;

Media Co-Operation Requirements means an Appendix of the Competition Rules entitled as such;

Membership Criteria means the criteria specified in the Competition Rules applying to entitlement to participate in the League or as the case may be a Division;

Neutral Venue means a ground selected by the Company for an Official Match which is to be played at a ground which is not, for each of the Club(s)/Football club(s) participating in the relevant Match, for the time being, their Home Ground;

Official means any director, secretary, official, representative, manager, agent or employee of a Club and any person having a function or duty or position involving authority or trust within a Club and includes, without prejudice to the foregoing generality, any person who is able to exercise control, whether directly or indirectly, over the Club and/or the majority of the board of directors of any such Club (whether or not such person is themselves notified to the Registrar of Companies as holding the office of director of such Club) or is otherwise held out to be a member of the Committee of management of such a Club if not incorporated;

Official Match means a Football match played within the framework of Organised Football under the auspices of and organised by the Company and includes, without limitation, all League Matches, Play-Off Matches, League Cup Matches, Reserve League Matches and a Match in any other Competitions;

Organised Football means Football organised under the auspices of FIFA, the confederations of FIFA and national associations which are members of FIFA, but excluding friendly and trial Football matches;

PAYE & NIC means any and all payments required to be made by any Club/Candidate Club in respect of income tax and national insurance contributions;

Play means taking part as a Player in an Official Match either in the starting eleven or being named as a substitute on a Match Information Form in an Official Match and “Plays”, “Played” and “Playing” shall be construed accordingly;

Play-Off Competition means each of the SWPL1/SWPL2 Play-Off Competition and the League Play-Off Competition;

Play-Off Match means a match played in a Play-Off Competition;

Player means a player who is or has been a Professional Player or Amateur Player of a Club;

Player Passport means a player passport issued to a Player in accordance with FIFA regulations;

Player Rules means rules made from time to time by the Board to regulate matters relating to Players, including the League Registration, transfer and Contracts of Service of Players;

SWPL1/SWPL2 Play-Off means the Competition to be operated by the Company in terms of the Competition Rules immediately after the end of each Season to determine, other than the Clubs automatically promoted and relegated, which Club, if any, shall be relegated from SWPL1 to SWPL2 and promoted to SWPL1 from SWPL2 for the immediately succeeding Season;

Professional Player means a Player of a Club who is party to a Contract of Service with that Club;

Professional League Registration means the League Registration of a Professional Player with a Club;

Radio Transmission means any terrestrial or satellite, analogue, digital or otherwise radio broadcast or transmission of sounds and/or commentary upon any League Match or Play-Off Match not consisting solely of storage and distribution of recorded sounds in tangible form whether such radio transmission is on a live or recorded basis in whole or as excerpts or clips;

Registered Ground means the Home Ground of a Club or Candidate Club registered or deemed to have been registered in accordance with the Competition Rules;

Registration Period means a fixed period of time determined by the Scottish FA for the Scottish FA Registration of Players;

Rules mean the of rules, including any Appendices thereto, which are Schedules to the Participation Agreements, the current versions of which, as duly adopted, amended, supplemented and/or added to or deleted from by the Company in terms of the Articles, shall be published by the Company;

Rules of Procedure mean rules of procedures made from time to time by the Board in accordance with the Disciplinary etc. Rules;

Sanction Agreement means an agreement in writing between the Board and the relevant Club, Official or Player in which it accepts a sanction (which may include any

one or more of the sanctions referred to in Rule J4 and/or Rule J5 proposed by the Board);

Scottish Women's Cup means the Scottish Women's Football Challenge Cup Competition or other women's national cup competition with a similar or equivalent name, confirmed as such by the Board;

Scottish Women's Cup Match means a match in the Scottish Women's Cup;

Scottish FA Registration means the registration of a Player with a Club at the Scottish FA and the words "**Scottish FA Register**" and "**Scottish FA Registered**" shall, where the context so admits, be construed accordingly;

Season means the period commencing on the date of the first League Match in a Season and ending on the date of the last League Match in the same Season or otherwise as determined by the Board, and which excludes the Close Season;

Secretary means the Secretary of the Company;

Section means a section of the Rules;

Section J Tribunal means any person or persons appointed by the Board to make a Determination in terms of Section J of the Rules;

Scottish FA means The Scottish Football Association Limited;

Scottish FA Articles means the articles of association for the time being of the Scottish FA;

Scottish Women's Football means the affiliated national association responsible, amongst other matters, for organising women's football league competitions below the League and which is regulated by the Scottish FA and "**SWF**" shall be construed accordingly;

Social Media and Digital Transmission means any broadcast or transmission of sounds and/or moving pictures and/or commentary upon any League Match or Play-Off Match which is not Radio Transmission and/or Television Transmission, not consisting solely of the storage and distribution of recorded sounds and/or pictures in tangible form, whether such broadcasting or transmission is on a live or recorded basis in whole or as excerpts or clips and in the event of any dispute as to which of the three categories a transmission and/or broadcast falls shall be determined by the Board;

SPFL means The Scottish Professional Football League owned and operated by the SPFL Limited;

SPFL Limited means The Scottish Professional Football League Limited (Registered in Scotland No **175364**);

Status means being either a Professional Player or an Amateur Player;

SWPL1 means the first or top Division of the League;

SWPL2 means the second or lower Division of the League;

Tax Liability/Tax Liabilities means any and all tax, duty and related or similar obligations of whatsoever nature in respect of which a Club is required to make payment, account and/or return to HMRC including, without limitation, any and all liabilities for payment of sums deducted or required to be deducted and paid by a Club to HMRC from employees' remuneration in respect of employees' income tax liabilities ("PAYE") and employees' National Insurance Contributions ("NIC"), employer's NIC, Value Added Tax ("VAT"), Income Tax, Corporation Tax and any interest and/or penalties due or becoming due in connection with such tax, duty and related or similar obligations;

Temporary Transfer means the transfer of a Player in terms of the Player Regulations, known as a 'loan', where at the end of the term or other termination of the transfer, the Player returns to and becomes Scottish FA Registered and League Registered with their transferor Club or Football club, and the transferee Club or Football club is, during the term of the temporary transfer, not entitled to transfer the Player to a third party without the written authorisation of the transferor Club or Football club;

Time to Pay Agreement means an agreement in writing between the Club and HMRC in relation to the payment of arrears of Tax Liabilities to HMRC;

Television Transmission means any terrestrial or satellite broadcast of television or other moving pictures with or without sound or transmission by cable of moving pictures with or without sound or inclusion of moving pictures with or without sound in a cable programme service and/or on the Internet and/or relay of moving pictures with or without sound, including so called 'internet protocol television', 'smart television' and/or 'streaming' where the programming is part of a wider selection of sports and/or other entertainment broadcasting on the same or connected channel and at the same or at a different time or the same or similar to any of these inclusive examples, and whether to an open or closed user group by any means now existing or hereafter invented not consisting solely of the storage and distribution of recorded pictures with or without sound in tangible form whether the said transmission is on a live or recorded basis in whole or as excerpts and "**Television Transmitted**" shall be construed accordingly;

Trialist means a player who is under assessment and evaluation by a Club as to their ability, fitness and/or the like to play Football for that Club in Official Matches and who is not Registered to that Club;

UEFA means the Union of European Football Associations;

UEFA Competitions means such women's football competitions as may be organised and operated by UEFA from time to time;

Unacceptable Conduct has the meaning given in the Competition Rules;

Under followed by a number see Rules N20 & N21; and

VAT means value added tax or any replacement, substitute or equivalent such tax.

Alterations to Rules

N2 Any supplement, amendment, deletion or addition shall be made in or to the Rules in accordance with the Articles.

Severability

N3 Each Rule shall be construed separately and, if any Rule or provision in the Rules may prove to be illegal, invalid or unenforceable for any reason, such illegality, invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect the remaining Rules which shall continue in full force and effect.

Further Interpretation

N4 Any capitalised word or phrase used in the Rules which is defined in the Articles and which is not defined in the Rules has the meaning in the Rules ascribed to it in the Articles.

N5 Wherever in the Rules the computation of a period of time or a number of days is involved, each of Saturday and Sunday is to be reckoned as a day.

N6 Headings in the Rules are used for convenience only and shall not affect the construction or interpretation of the Rules.

N7 A reference in the Rules to an "**Article**" is a reference to the relevant Article of the Articles unless expressly provided otherwise.

N8 A reference in these Rules to a "**Rule**" is a reference to the relevant Rule of the Rules, reference to a "**Section**" is to one of the Sections of the Rules unless expressly provided otherwise and each part of the Rules is a Part of the Schedule to the Participation Agreements.

N9 The Appendices to the Rules are each part of the relevant Rules and a reference to a paragraph is to a paragraph of an Appendix.

N10 The Appendices are printed along with the Rules and are part of the Rules.

- N11** Unless the context otherwise requires, words in the singular shall include the plural and the plural shall include the singular.
- N12** Unless the context otherwise requires, a reference to one gender shall include a reference to the other genders.
- N13** A “person” includes a natural person, corporate or unincorporated body (whether or not having separate legal personality) and in the case of a natural person that person’s personal representatives and successors.
- N14** A reference to a “company” shall include any company, corporation, or other body corporate, wherever and however incorporated or established.
- N15** Any words following the terms “including”, “include”, “in particular” or any similar expression shall be construed as illustrative and shall not limit the sense of the words, description, definition, phrase, or term preceding those terms.
- N16** Where the context permits, “other” and “otherwise” are illustrative and shall not limit the sense of the words preceding them.
- N17** A reference to a statute, statutory provision or subordinate legislation is a reference to it as it is in force from time to time and includes any statute, statutory provision or subordinate legislation which it amends or re-enacts and subordinate legislation for the time being in force made under it, provided that no such amendment, extension or re-enactment made after 25 May 2022 shall apply for the purposes of the Rules to the extent that it would impose any new or extended obligation, liability or restriction on, or otherwise adversely affect the rights of, any Club or the Company.
- N18** Wherever the terms “**moving pictures**” or “**moving images**” are used it means moving pictures/images with or without sound.
- N19** Wherever the term “**rights, facilities and properties**” is used this includes, but is not limited to, all contractual and property (whether tangible or intangible) rights, including all rights in and relating to intellectual property, including all rights held by way of license, all image and other similar rights held in respect of Players and all rights of access to databases and database rights generally.
- N20** Where the word “**Under**” appears immediately prior to the age of a Player this is a reference to a maximum age qualified category of Players who are considered at the beginning of a relevant Season to be under a specified age and who are qualified to Play in a particular age group of such Players during that Season. So, for example, where the term “**Under 16 Player**” appears, this means a Player who had not attained the age of **15 years on 31 December of the year before the year in which the relevant Season commences** and “**Under 18 Player**” means a Player who had not attained the age of **17 years on 31 December of the year before the year in which the relevant Season commences**. Like terms are to be so understood except that the age which is not to have been attained in order for a Player to be qualified for the purposes of the relevant age qualification criteria to be achieved shall, on the

relevant preceding 31 December, be one complete whole number less than the maximum age to which the relevant age criteria relates. For example, where the relevant qualifying age criteria is “**Under 16**”, the age which a relevant Player, to be qualified to Play in the relevant age group during the relevant Season, is not to have attained, is the age of 15 years on or before the immediately preceding 31 December. The outcome being that a Player whose 15th birthday falls **after** the relevant 31 December shall be age qualified to Play in the Under 21 age group during the immediately succeeding Season and a Player whose 20th birthday falls **on or before** the relevant 31 December shall not be so age qualified to so Play.

- N21** Where such a term beginning with “**Under**” is used in respect of the age qualification of a Player other than in respect of Playing and where Playing is being considered but the relevant match or matches are outside of a Season and not part of a Competition principally taking place during a Season, then the term is to be applied to both a Season and to the immediately succeeding Close Season of that Season. So, for example, where what is being considered in relation to Player, is the position as at 31 November year 01 or 31 March year 02, each in the same Season, or is as at 1 July in year 02, then, in each of these 3 cases, the relevant Season is that commencing in August of year 01 and ending in May of year 02, with its immediately succeeding Close Season commencing in May of year 02, and the 31 December in year 00 is the requisite date to be used to identify if the Player has attained the requisite age. So, in this example, a Player who has not attained the age of 20 years on or before 31 December in year 00 is an **Under 20 Player** during all of Season 01/02 and during the immediately succeeding Close Season in year 02. It is not until the first day of Season 02/03 that the requisite date for **Under age** determination purposes becomes 31 December in year 01.

Designation of Rules by Numbering and Lettering

- N22** Rules shall be designated or referred to by a letter and a number. The letter, if any, identifies which of the relevant Rules is being referred, see Rule N22, to and the number identifies the numbered Rule within the relevant Rules.
- N23** References to a "Rule" shall, unless the context otherwise requires, mean, other than in the Player Rules, a reference to the Rule so designated by Section and number and, in the case of the Player Rules a reference is only to the Rule number within Part 4 of the Schedule.
- N24** The relevant Sections of the Rules refers to the relevant sections within the Parts of the Schedule to the Participation Agreements, so that, as at 25 May 2022;
- **Competition Rules** – Schedule Part 1 – Letter References **A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H & K**
 - **Commercial etc. Rules** – Schedule Part 2 – Letter Reference **I**
 - **Disciplinary etc. Rules** – Schedule Part 3 – Letter Reference **J**
 - **Player Rules** - Schedule Part 4 – No Letter Reference

- **Definitions etc. Rules** - Schedule Part 5 - Letter Reference **N**