

**CENTRAL WALES FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

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RULES

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### RULES

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## **DEFINITIONS**

In these Rules the following words and expressions have the following meanings: -

- Annual Accounts:** the annual accounts of the Association prepared by accountants appointed by the Association
- Annual General Meeting:** an annual meeting of the Members of the Association convened in accordance with the Articles
- Area:** that part of Wales including the whole of the County of Ceredigion, that part of the County of Gwynedd to the south of the Mawddach estuary and the whole of the County of Powys except that part to the south of the A40
- Area Association:** any regional football Association defined under the FAW Rules
- Area Representative:** a Council Member appointed by the Council in accordance with the Articles to represent the Association on the FAW Council
- Articles:** The Articles of Association of the Central Wales Football Association Ltd
- Assistant Secretaries:** Officers of the Association with designated areas of specific responsibility including the Disciplinary Secretary, the Youth and Development Secretary, the Competitions Secretary and the Referees Secretary
- Association:** The Central Wales Football Association Ltd (company number 05579589) whose registered office is situate at Awelfor, Rhydyfelin, Aberystwyth SY90 4PU
- Association Cup**
- Competitions:** Cup competitions organised by the Association

Association Football:	the game controlled by FIFA and organised in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
Associate Member:	a person or organisation not being a full member but admitted into associate membership of the Association by the Council
Business Day:	any day of the week except a Saturday or Sunday or public bank holiday in Wales
Chief Executive Officer:	the senior employee of The Football Association of Wales Ltd.
Closed Friendly Match:	a game of Association Football which is not an Official Match which is played between two (2) teams (whether or not from different Clubs) but is not made open for the public to attend.
Club:	any club admitted into membership or associate membership of the Association
College Team:	a team of a further or higher education establishment (including, but not limited to, university teams) and during any relevant Playing Season only plays Association Football exclusively in matches organised for teams from such further or higher education establishments.
Comet:	the Football Management System used by the FAW
Comet Regulations:	the FAW's regulations for the use of Comet as amended from time to time
Competition	a football competition
Conference Date:	the designated date in each Playing Season set by the Council for the completion of each round of cup matches in Competitions organised by the Association
Council:	the supreme executive body of the Association appointed in accordance with the Articles
Councillor:	Each member of the Council appointed in accordance with the Articles

Disciplinary Notice:	a written notice from the Association stipulating the nature of the alleged Disciplinary Offence
Disciplinary Offence:	any breach of a Rule or any Regulation
Disciplinary Panel:	the panel of the Association empowered to hear Disciplinary matters and disputes pursuant to its Rules
FAW:	The Football Association of Wales Ltd (company number 00213349) whose registered office is at The Pavilion, Vale Resort, Hensol Vale of Glamorgan, Wales, CF72 8JY.
FAW Council:	The Council of the Football Association of Wales
FAW Rules:	The Rules and Regulations of the FAW as amended from time to time and all byelaws, orders, codes, policies, procedures and any other directive or instruction issued by the FAW from time to time.
FIFA:	Federation Internationale de Football Association
FIFA Rules:	the statutes of FIFA as amended from time to time and all rules, regulations, orders and other directives issued by FIFA from time to time.
Futsal:	a game controlled by FIFA and organised in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game.
Futsal Laws of the Game:	the laws and other rules for playing Futsal prescribed by FIFA from time to time.
General Meeting:	A meeting of the Members of the Association convened in accordance with these Rules and the Articles
IFAB:	The International Football Association Board
Junior Club:	a club playing football in a Junior League in the Area and affiliated to the Association
Junior Level	football played in junior leagues and affiliated to the Association

Junior Player	a player registered to a Junior Club in the Area
Laws of the Game:	the laws and other rules for playing Association Football as prescribed by IFAB from time to time
League:	Any league admitted into membership or associated membership of the Association
Life Member:	a person appointed to Life Membership of the Association in accordance with the Articles
Match Official;	A Referee, Assistant Referee or fourth official
Member:	A League or Club admitted into membership or associate membership of the Association by the Council
National Level:	football played in leagues which are in membership of and directly affiliated to the FAW
Officers:	The President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Secretaries of the Association
Official Match:	a game of Association Football played within the framework of organised football under the jurisdiction of the Association, in league, cup or other format but not including Open Friendly Matches or Closed Friendly Matches or matches played under the Association's Mini Football Regulations or Futsal matches or Walking Football.
Open Friendly Match:	a game of Association Football which is not an Official Match which is played between two (2) teams (whether or not from different Clubs) and is made open to the public to attend.
Player:	A player of Association Football registered with the FAW, the Association, an Area Association, League, Club or any other league or club.
Playing season:	The period in each year when Association Football may be played in Wales as determined by the FAW.
Principal Officers:	the President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and General Secretary

Pyramid League System:	The pyramid league system for the playing of competitive league men's football in Wales at various levels, as approved by the FAW from time to time.
Pyramid 1 – 3	The top levels 1 - 3 inclusive of the Pyramid League System
Recreational Level:	football played in leagues which are not in membership of and are not directly affiliated to the FAW
Regulations:	the regulations, byelaws, orders, codes, policies, procedures and any other directive or instruction issued by the Association from time to time.
Request Fee:	the appropriate sum pursuant to the Rules of the Association
Request Notice:	a written notice stipulating the nature of the matter complained of and requesting that such matter be referred to the Disciplinary Panel.
Rules:	these rules of the Association as amended from time to time
Subordinate:	shall mean: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• any director, member, representative, official, employee, all coaching and technical staff and any other playing official of a Club or League;</li> <li>• any referee, match observer, match assessor or match delegate;</li> <li>• any Player;</li> <li>• every spectator at a game of Association Football in which a team of a Club plays, or in which a representative team of the Association or League plays, and any person purporting to be a supporter or follower of such League, Club or the Association PROVIDED THAT the provisions of Rules, 91.1.3, 91.1.4, 91.1.4(A), 91.1.5(A), 91.1.6, 91.1.8, 91.1.10, 91.1.14, 46 and 47 shall not apply to such spectators, supporters or followers;</li> <li>• all other organisations, clubs, bodies, entities or persons who the Association exercises, or purports to exercise, control; and</li> </ul>
Trialist:	a Player who is not registered to play with a Club (with the exception of a Professional Player playing in a trial match pursuant to FAW Rule 70) who is under assessment and evaluation by a Club

	as to their ability and fitness to play Association Football for that Club.
UEFA:	Union des Association Européennes de Football.
UEFA Rules:	the statutes of UEFA as amended from time to time and all rules, regulations, orders and other directives issued by UEFA from time to time.
Walking Football:	a version of the game in which Players of all ages can participate and in which the Players must not run and/or jog and must have one foot on the ground at all times in accordance with the guidelines set by the FAW from time to time.

## INTERPRETATION

1. Headings do not affect the interpretation of the Rules
2. Unless the context otherwise requires, a reference to one gender shall include a reference to the other genders.
3. A **person** includes a natural person, corporate or unincorporated body (whether or not having separate legal personality).
4. A reference to **writing** or **written** includes fax and e-mail
5. In the event of any conflict between these Rules and the rules and regulations of the FAW the rules and regulations of the FAW shall prevail
6. In the event of any Rule being interpreted as more stringent than a similar rule or regulation of the FAW the rule or regulation of the FAW shall prevail
7. In the event of the Association not having a Rule on a particular issue any FAW rule or regulation upon that issue will apply
8. In the event of any conflict between these Rules and the Articles, the Articles shall prevail

## OBJECTIVES



9. Throughout the Association to improve the game of Association Football constantly and promote, regulate and control it in accordance with the FAW Rules and in the light of fair play and its unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian values;
10. throughout the Association, to organise competitions, and authorise others to organise competitions, in Association Football in all its forms at all levels under its authority, by defining precisely, as required, the areas of authority of its various leagues and other affiliated bodies;
11. to draw up all necessary regulations to implement its rights, powers and objectives set out under the FAW Rules and such measures and procedures as may be necessary to ensure their enforcement;
12. to protect the interest of its Members;
13. to comply with and prevent any infringement of the FIFA Rules, UEFA Rules and the FAW Rules and all decisions of FIFA, UEFA and the FAW as well as the Laws of the Game and ensure compliance with these by its Members;
14. to support, promote and enforce the Football Association of Wales' Club Accreditation Programme;
15. throughout the Association to prevent all methods or practices which might jeopardise the integrity of football matches or competitions or give rise to abuse of Association Football under its authority;
16. to manage the sporting relations of the Association connected with Association Football in all its forms;
17. to be neutral in matters of politics and religion and in discharging its functions, the Association will not discriminate against a private person, or group of people, or other entity, on account of ethnic origin, gender, language, religion, politics, age or any other reason and will ensure compliance with these obligations by its Members;

18. to promote friendly relations between its Members, Subordinates and in society for humanitarian objectives.

## **OBLIGATIONS**

19. to comply fully with the FIFA Rules, UEFA Rules and the FAW Rules at all times and to ensure that these are also complied with fully by its Members and Subordinates;
20. to ensure fairness in the election of its decision-making bodies;
21. to take part in competitions and other sports activities organised by the FAW;
22. to pay its membership subscriptions to the FAW;
23. to respect the Laws of the Game and to ensure that these are also respected by its Members and Subordinates through an appropriate provision in its own membership rules;
24. to adopt and enforce an appropriate provision in its own membership rules specifying that any dispute requiring resolution involving itself or one of its Members or Subordinates and relating to its Rules and Regulations or the FAW Rules and any decisions of the Association shall, at the appropriate stage in the dispute, come solely under the jurisdiction of the appropriate Disciplinary Body or the panel under FAW Rule 146, as the case may be;
25. not to make any change or any amendment of its own membership rules without the approval of the FAW;
26. to communicate to its own Members any amendment of its own membership rules and the FAW Rules;

27. not to maintain any relations of a sporting nature with entities that are not recognised by FIFA, UEFA or the FAW or with Members or Subordinates that have been suspended or expelled by the FAW;
28. to observe the principles of loyalty, integrity and good sporting behaviour as an expression of fair play through an appropriate provision in its own membership rules;
29. to keep and update regularly a register of its Members;
30. to comply fully with all other duties arising from the FIFA Rules, UEFA Rules and the FAW Rules.

#### **AREA OF GOVERNANCE**

31. All organised Association Football in the Area shall be subject to the governance and control of the FAW and the Association.
32. Subject to rule 33, all Clubs whose playing grounds are situated within the Area shall affiliate to the Association and all teams of a Club not competing in a National Level league shall, unless permission is granted by the Council of the Association in writing, compete in sanctioned and affiliated leagues and competitions within the Area
33. No Club from within the Area shall be affiliated to the FAW unless such Club is also directly affiliated to the Association or competing in a National Level league.
34. Any Club under the governance and control of the Association shall satisfy the Council that it is a properly constituted Club playing Association Football according to the Laws of the Game and the rules and regulations of the FAW

#### **AFFILIATION**

35. All Leagues shall consist of properly constituted and affiliated Clubs and must pay an annual subscription fee as determined by FAW.

36. All Leagues and their associated cup Competitions must be affiliated and sanctioned by this Association. No affiliated Club shall be a member of any League or take part in any Competition which has not been sanctioned and which is not affiliated. All matches in any such sanctioned League and associated cup Competitions shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
37. All matches in Sunday leagues will be played on Sundays. It is on this understanding Sunday leagues are accepted into affiliation with the Association. The Sunday leagues must plan their league and cup(s) programme accordingly and in so doing must make allowances for inclement weather. No Sunday league matches can be played during the week – Monday to Saturday inclusive – at any time.
38. Any club instituting a charity or benefit Competition must apply in writing to this Association for sanction by the Council.
39. No Competition will be sanctioned by this Association unless each team taking part in such Competition fields a side consisting of eleven players, from which number there shall be no deviation unless it be occasioned through injury or some other and proper cause during the course of any game in such Competition.
40. Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing sections or in any other Rule, the Council may give permission for six-a-side and five-a-side Competitions to be played subject to such conditions as the Council shall from time to time determine.

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

41. The annual subscription for each Club enjoying full membership, Clubs designated as Associate Members, Youth Clubs, and all Leagues and Competitions sanctioned by the Association shall be determined by the FAW annually. In addition, entry fees to Association Cup Competitions shall be paid as determined annually by FAW.
42. All Clubs including Associate Member clubs must enter at least one of the Association Cup Competitions.

43. All subscriptions, cup entry fees fines and administration charges are payable to the Association via Comet in accordance with the Comet Regulations and any Club failing to make such payments in accordance with the Comet Regulations shall be ineligible to take part in any competition and shall not be entitled to vote at any general meeting of the Association during the year concerned until the subscriptions and entry fees are paid.

#### **FUNDS**

44. The funds of the Association shall be lodged in a bank approved by the Council. All payments shall be made by cheque and shall be signed by the Treasurer, and countersigned by one other of the Principal Officers. The Accounts of the Association shall be audited by a Certified Accountant.

#### **THE COUNCIL**

45. The Officers of the Association shall be elected triennially in accordance with the Articles.
46. The Association shall be managed by the Council which shall be comprised of the Officers, Council Members, Assistant Secretaries and an Area Referee Officer appointed in accordance with the Articles.
47. No registered Referee or registered Player shall be eligible to be a Council Member.
48. The appointment of the Officers shall be vested in the Council in accordance with the Articles. The appointment of the Area Representative shall also be vested in the Council in accordance with the Articles. The Area Representative shall sit on the FAW Council.
49. Council Members must reside within the Area.
50. Any Council Member who has been absent from three consecutive meetings of the Council without a valid reason shall be considered to have resigned as a Council Member.

51. The Council shall have power to fill vacancies arising among the Officers and to appoint Sub-Committees.
52. At any time the Council shall have power to appoint Life Members. Life Members shall be entitled to the same privileges enjoyed by other Council Members.
53. Each Council Member shall be furnished with a special ticket, which shall not be transferable. All Clubs shall admit the holder of such special ticket to their grounds and stands upon production by the holder without requiring any further authority.
54. All Council meetings shall be held at a venue to be chosen by the Council in office at the time concerned.
55. No member of the Council of the Association shall sit upon a Disciplinary Panel or sub-committee of the Association when any matter is under discussion respecting a League, Competition, or Club, in which he has an interest.

#### **ANNUAL AND GENERAL MEETINGS**

56. A General Meeting shall be held annually not later than 30<sup>th</sup> June (or on a date to be decided upon by the Council) for the consideration of Council reports and the Annual Accounts.
57. The General Secretary shall convene a General Meeting at any time by order of the Council, or upon receiving a request to that effect, signed by the Secretaries of not less than fifteen Clubs.
58. Each Club shall be entitled to send one representative to any General Meeting.
59. No representative shall represent more than one Club at any General Meeting
60. The Officers and other Council Members shall be entitled to sit and vote ex-officio at any General Meeting.

## **ALTERATION OF THE RULES**

61. Written notice of any proposed alteration or amendment to the Rules shall be sent to the General Secretary with the name of the proposer of every such alteration or amendment, on or before 1<sup>st</sup> March, and the General Secretary shall convene a General meeting for consideration of the proposed alteration or amendment on a date to be determined by the Officers.
62. No new Rule shall be made or any of the Rules altered or amended unless fourteen days' notice of the General Meeting specifying such alteration or addition, has been given to all Members, and then only by the vote of not less than two-thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote.
63. All suggested alterations to the rules of Recreational Level or Junior level leagues must reach the General Secretary not later than the **1st May**, for consideration by the Council at its May meeting and the Council shall have the power either to approve or reject each proposed alteration.
64. Any alterations to the Rules as passed by the Members at a General Meeting and any approved alterations to the rules of Recreational Level or Junior Level leagues by the Council shall come into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> July of the same year.
65. Amendments to the Rules shall be sent annually to each sanctioned Competition.

## **REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES**

66. In all matches representing this Association, the side shall be chosen by the Council, or a sub-committee appointed by it for that purpose. All Clubs must place all their Players at the disposal of the Association for all representative matches each season. Any Player selected to play in any representative match arranged by the Association and failing or refusing to play, shall in the absence of any good and sufficient cause, be judged guilty of misconduct, and any Club which shall be found to have encouraged or instigated such conduct on the part of a Player shall also be deemed

guilty of misconduct. Any Club or any organisation within the governance and control of the Association shall not select or play a Player chosen to play for the Association in any match conflicting with the representative match unless the written consent of this Association shall have first been obtained.

#### **ASSOCIATIONS, LEAGUES, CLUBS AND PLAYERS**

67. All Clubs including Associate Member Clubs shall affiliate to the Association in such manner as shall be prescribed by the Association and/or the FAW from time to time.
68. It is the responsibility of each Club to have adequate insurance cover in respect of public liability and Players' liability.
69. Clubs are encouraged to obtain the services of a person who has First Aid qualifications at their matches.
70. No Club shall play a match with any club not affiliated to a recognised football association.
71. All Junior Clubs participating at Junior Level must hold at least the minimum standard of accreditation as defined by the FAW from time to time.
72. Any new Junior Club must attain the minimum standard of accreditation within the first three months of participating in Junior Level football
73. Junior Clubs including new Junior Clubs must not allow a volunteer or coach to work with any of its junior players at any time unless or until that volunteer or coach has a current DBS certificate and a valid unexpired FAW number. Failure to abide by this Rule will lead to disciplinary action being taken by the Association against the Club and/or the volunteer or coach.
74. Subject to any exceptions permitted by the FAW Rules a Junior Player shall only register for one Junior Club at a time provided that this shall not prevent a Junior Player also being registered with a Football Association of Wales authorised academy.



75. Unless permission is granted by this Association a Junior Player having his only or main residence within the Area shall only play for a Junior Club located within the Area.
76. Age groups and fixtures of Junior Level competitions shall be arranged and organised in compliance with any FAW Rules and/or Regulations in force from time to time
- 76A. A Junior Player may not participate in adult male football at Level 4 of the Pyramid or below or in any male Association Cup competition until that player has attained the age of 16.

#### **REDUCED PENALTIES**

77. The Association adopts the FAW's Regulations Governing the Application of the Reduced Penalty Procedures for Disciplinary Offences as set out in Schedule 2
78. When a Disciplinary charge is brought under the Rules it may include an offer of a reduced penalty on the Associations minimum standard penalty for the Disciplinary Offence as set out in Schedule 2.

#### **PRESS**

79. All Press Reports of meetings shall be furnished officially by the General Secretary immediately following such meeting, and no member of the Council shall make any comment in the Press upon the business transacted at any of its meetings, unless sanction has been given by the Council. The Association shall be entitled to publish in the public Press or in any manner it shall deem fit, reports of its proceedings, acts and resolutions, whether the same shall or shall not reflect on the character or conduct of any Club, Club official, Player or spectator whom shall be deemed to have consented to such publication.

#### **CLUBS WITH OUTSTANDING DEBTS WHEN THEY DISBAND**

80. Whenever a Club disbands owing money to FAW, the Club shall not be entitled to be admitted to Association competitions as a reformed club until the debt to FAW has been paid.

#### **PYRAMID LEAGUE SYSTEM**

81. The Pyramid League System will operate in the Area.
- 81.1 The Mid Wales League is designated as the Area's Senior League with either a single division or an east and west division at level 4 of the Pyramid
- 81.2 At the end of a season and subject to sub-clause 81.4.4 below, the champions of the Senior League (level 4) shall be eligible to be promoted to level 3 of the Pyramid subject to meeting the ground criteria for level 3
- 81.3 Subject to sub-clause 81.4.4 below, at the end of a season the champions of the first division of each of the Leagues at level 5 of the Pyramid in the Area shall be eligible to apply for promotion to the Senior League subject to meeting the ground criteria for the Senior League
- 81.4 To facilitate the operation of the Pyramid League System in the Area: -
- 81.4.1 The criteria for admission to the Senior League is to be circulated to all Level 5 leagues in the Area;
- 81.4.2 All Level 5 leagues in the Area shall amend their rules so that any Club relegated from the Senior League to a Level 5 league can be accommodated in their respective top division;
- 81.4.3 Any Club withdrawing from the Senior League may only re-enter a Level 5 league at the lowest division of the Level 5 league.
- 81.4.4 Promotion to the Senior League will depend on Clubs attaining the necessary criteria for admission to the higher league.
- 81.4.5 A Club wishing to make an application to be assessed against the relevant ground criteria of the Senior league in order to be eligible to be promoted to the Senior League in the following season, must

make application in writing to the Senior league in accordance with the rules of the Senior league

81.4.6 Promotion within the Pyramid League System is purely voluntary on the part of any Club.

81A. Whenever a Club competing in the Association's Senior League at level 4 of the Pyramid, also has a reserve team playing at Level 5 or below and, for whatever reason, the Club is unable to field both a first team at level 4 and a reserve team to meet scheduled fixtures on the same day, the Club must postpone the reserve team fixture and play the first team fixture at level 4.

82. The Association shall have first claim to the use of all football grounds and facilities of Clubs within the Area, provided they are not required by the FAW or National Level leagues. The Council alone shall determine whether any payment shall be made for the use of such grounds by the Association and the amount of any payment in such particular instance.

#### **ASSOCIATION CUP COMPETITIONS**

83. Clubs other than Junior Clubs in the Area must enter at least one of the Association Cup Competitions for which it is eligible to enter

84. The Association Cup Competitions will have priority over all league and cup Competitions in the Area, with the exception of FAW Competitions, and National Level league and cup Competitions. Clubs which enter for any or all of the Association Cup Competitions must play off all their ties in any round concerned in any such Competition concerned, on or before the Conference Date fixed by this Association in respect of such round or on or before such other date as fixed by the Council

85. The Council reserves the right to reverse fixtures in the Association's four Cup Competitions should the circumstances warrant such a reversal when, for example, the ground of the home Club is declared unfit on the first Saturday (the first Saturday being the Conference Date). On the second Saturday an early inspection of the ground to be undertaken by 9.00a.m at the latest, so that the match can be

reversed provided that the Away Club's ground is available. In the event of such a reversed match ending in a draw the replay will take place on the same ground.

86. Any Club withdrawing from an Association Cup Competition shall be liable to a fine determined by the Council of the Association
87. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in the rules of any Recreational Level league or cup competition return substitutions are permitted in all leagues and cup competitions played exclusively at Recreational Level within the Area.
88. Return substitutions are permitted in all Association Cup Competitions provided that all Clubs permitted entry to the competition play exclusively at Recreational Level.
89. Whenever return substitutions are permitted, Clubs may at their discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game name and use five substitutes and any player who has been substituted shall become a substitute and may replace a player at any time during the game provided the substitution is carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of the Game.

#### **DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS, DISPUTES, APPEALS PANEL STRUCTURE, COMPOSITION AND JURISDICTION**

90. The structure of the Association's mechanisms for dealing with disciplinary proceedings, disputes and appeals is as follows:-
  - 90.1 the Disciplinary Panel
91. For the purpose of this section of the Rules:-
  - 91.1 It shall be a breach of the Rules for any Councillor, Member or any Subordinate to do or permit or assist in the doing or permitting of any of the following whether in connection with the playing of Association Football or Futsal (or, where applicable, in connection with the playing of (a) Open Friendly Matches, (b) Closed Friendly Matches, (c) matches played under the FAW's Mini-Football Regulations, (d) Walking Football matches or (e) matches played by College Teams, Sunday Clubs or Veteran Clubs) or otherwise (where the context so requires):-

- 91.1.1 violate the Laws of the Game or the Futsal Laws of the Game or the Rules or any Regulation or violate the FIFA Rules, UEFA Rules or FAW Rules;
- 91.1.2 violate the rules or regulations (in whatever form) of any Member or any competition, sanctioned by a Member or sanctioned by the Association;
- 91.1.3 play with or against any club suspended by FIFA, UEFA, the FAW, the Association, any Area Association or league or any other national football association recognised by FIFA or appoint or allow to remain in office a director or official who has been suspended by any such body;
- 91.1.4 in respect of matches taking place within the jurisdiction of the Association, bet in any betting activity (authorised and registered football pools excepted) or accept any bets in any way related to any match;
- 91.1.4(A) in respect of matches involving any Member, Subordinate or the Association playing any match in a competition outside Wales, a Councillor, Member or Subordinate shall not bet in any betting activity (authorised and registered football pools excepted) or accept any bets in any way related to the said match or any other match in the competition in which the match involving the said Member, Subordinate or the Association takes place;
- 91.1.5 offer or attempt to offer, either directly or indirectly, any bribe or other reward whatsoever to a Member, Subordinate, any other club official, Player, Match Official or any other footballing body or individual with a view to influencing the result, progress, conduct or any other aspect of any match, or to accept any such bribe or other reward;
- 91.1.5(A) whilst participating in a match, whether as a Player or Match Official, for any person (for reward) to fail to perform their duties or responsibilities to the best of their ability during the match;
- 91.1.5(B) any act of commission or omission aimed at influencing the course and/or conduct of a match or competition (or any incident or event in a match) in an unlawful or undue manner;
- 91.1.5(C) fail to report to the Association immediately any approach from any person, organisation or other third party in respect of activities reasonably thought to be aimed at influencing the course and/or result of a match or competition in an unlawful or undue manner;

- 91.1.5(D) fail to report to the Association immediately any information or behaviour involving any person, organisation or third party in respect of activities reasonably thought to be aimed at influencing the course and/or result of a match or competition in an unlawful or undue manner;
- 91.1.6 allow a director, official, Match Official, or Player under suspension to act as a Match Official or to perform any duties from the execution of which that person has been suspended, or fail to take all reasonable precautions to prevent such person from entering the ground of any club;
- 91.1.7 sell or offer for sale, either directly or indirectly, a ticket for any football match in excess of the face value of the ticket;
- 91.1.8 play a match with or against a club whose ground has been closed by the Association or the FAW on any ground within a radius of twelve (12) miles of the ground closed unless such match is an away fixture for the club whose ground has been so closed and is played at the ground of the home team which is within a radius of twelve (12) miles of the closed ground;
- 91.1.9 commit any act or make any statement either verbally or in writing (including, without limitation, any racial or other discriminatory behaviour, conduct or language or comments made on social media), or be responsible for conduct, continuing misconduct or any other matter likely to bring the game of Association Football or the Association into disrepute including, without limitation, any incident on or around the field of play (including the changing room area) that occurs before, during or after a match;
- 91.1.10 receive a caution or conviction for any of the offences listed in Schedule 4 Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000, its revisions and amendments; or received any caution or conviction for any offences listed in the Sexual Offences Act 2003, its revisions and amendments; or received any caution or conviction for any of the offences listed in Schedule 1 Children and Young Persons Act 1933, its revisions and amendments; or is identified as a person presenting a risk or potential risk to children; or receive any caution or conviction for any offence against a vulnerable adult; or breach the FAW's Safeguarding/Welfare Policies and Procedures and Regulations, or any code of conduct and/or ethics established under any of them;
- 91.1.11 fail to act in an orderly fashion or fail to refrain from violence,

threatening, abusive, obscene or provocative behaviour, conduct or language (including, without limitation, whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs) whilst attending or taking part in a match including, without limitation, any racial or other discriminatory behaviour, conduct or language;

- 91.1.11(A) fail to hold a valid Premises Licence or Temporary Event Notice for the supply of any alcohol at a ground where any home matches are played and comply with all conditions of the Premises Licence or Temporary Event Notice (including, without limitation, any designation or restriction on where alcohol may be sold or consumed in the ground);
- 91.1.11(B) fail to prevent the consumption of alcohol in any outdoor area of a home ground when any form of football is being played or practised other than within an outdoor area designated as an area where alcohol supplied in accordance with Rule 91.1.11(A) may be consumed PROVIDED THAT such outdoor area must not be within three metres of the touchline of the playing area at any point irrespective of any provision to the contrary in any Premises Licence or Temporary Event Notice and PROVIDED FURTHER THAT nothing in this Rule 91.1.11(B) shall alter or reduce the obligations on a person or organisation arising under the Sporting Events Act 1985, its revisions and amendments;
- 91.1.11(C) bring alcohol into a ground (or fail to prevent alcohol being brought into a ground where any home matches are played) other than in respect of use to be made pursuant to any Premises Licence or Temporary Event Notice;
- 91.1.12 encroach on the pitch area, save for authorised persons or for reasons of crowd safety;
- 91.1.13 whilst attending a match (a) bring into the ground any firework, flare, smoke bomb or other pyrotechnic device or (b) ignite or otherwise set-off any firework, flare, smoke bomb or other pyrotechnic device or (c) throw any firework, flare, smoke bomb, other pyrotechnic device, missile, bottle or other potentially harmful or dangerous object (including, without limitation, at or on to the pitch or at any person on the pitch or elsewhere in the ground);
- 91.1.14 fail to ensure that a private way is provided for players and officials from the playing ground to the dressing room whenever this is practicable at every ground within the jurisdiction of that Member; or

- 91.1.15 use or provide others with information which is not publicly available and which is obtained through the Councillor's, Member's or Subordinate's position in football and which damages, or could damage, the integrity of a match or competition.
- 91.2 Every Member (including, without limitation, a Club) will be responsible for the actions of its Subordinates (including, without limitation, its Players) and the Member will also be in breach of any Rule or any Regulation, if that Rule or Regulation is breached by its Subordinate.
92. The jurisdiction of the Regulations for Disciplinary Procedures Concerning Field Offences and of the Judicial Bodies is as follows:-
- 92.1 any Disciplinary Offence as prescribed by the Regulations for Disciplinary Procedures Concerning Field Offences shall be dealt with under such Regulations,
- 92.2 The Disciplinary Panel will hear the following matters:-
- 92.2.1 any charge of an alleged Disciplinary Offence brought by the Association against any Councillor, Member or any Subordinate. The Association and the said Councillor, Member or Subordinate will be the relevant "Party" or "Parties" to the proceedings for the purpose of this section of the Rules;
- 92.2.2 any appeal by a Subordinate or other third party against a decision of a Member, where the said decision was a decision by the Member in the first instance. The Member and the Subordinate or other third party will be the "Party" or "Parties" to the proceedings for the purpose of this section of the Rules;
- 92.2.3 any appeal by a Subordinate or other third party against a decision of a Member, where the said decision was a decision by the Member acting as an appellate body in hearing an appeal against a decision of a Subordinate. The said Subordinates and/ or other third party (but not the Member which acted as an appellate body) will be the relevant "Party" or "Parties" to the proceedings for the purpose of this section of the Rules;
- 92.2.4 any dispute or difference between two or more Members (not being an appeal covered by Rule 92.2.2) which one or more of the said Members refers to the Association for resolution. The said Members will be the relevant "Party" or "Parties" to the proceedings for the purpose of this section of the Rules; and
- 92.2.5 any disputes or differences between a Member and any Subordinate or other third party (not being covered by Rules 92.2.2 or 92.2.3) which one or



more of the Member or the Subordinate or other third party refers to the Association for resolution. The Member of the Association and the Subordinate or other third party will be the relevant "Party" or "Parties" to the proceedings for the purpose of this section of the Rules.

93. The composition of the Disciplinary Panel will be as follows:-

93.1 only the Councillors as defined in these Rules will sit on the Disciplinary Panel. Each Disciplinary Panel will consist of three (3) members, including one from a list of four (4) chairpersons designate nominated by the Council from time to time. On a case by case basis, the General Secretary or the Discipline Secretary will appoint the Disciplinary Panel chairperson from the said list of chairpersons designate and the other two (2) members of the Disciplinary Panel provided that any Party to the proceedings may appeal against any such appointment decision by giving written notice to the Association, and with grounds, no more than three (3) Business Day following receipt of the notice of hearing. On receipt of such notice, the objection will be referred to the appointed Chair of the Panel to determine, except if the objection relates to the Chair, in which case the objection will be referred to one of the other chairpersons to determine.

94. No Member or Subordinate shall commence disciplinary proceedings under its own rules or regulations against a person, club or other entity which is under the jurisdiction of the Member or Subordinate, if (in respect of the relevant facts, circumstances or event) the Association has commenced, or indicated to the Member or Subordinate its intention to commence, disciplinary proceedings under these Rules against the person, club or other entity.

#### **COMMENCEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS BEFORE A PANEL – NOTICES, FEES AND PROCEDURE**

95. The following will apply if a Party wishes to refer a matter to the Disciplinary Panel:-

95.1 Where the Association brings a charge of an alleged Disciplinary Offence under Rule 92.2.1:-

95.1.1 the Association will give a Disciplinary Notice to the other Party together with the evidence on which the charge is based.

95.1.2 the Party charged will have seven (7) Business Days after service of the Disciplinary Notice to reply stipulating whether (a) they admit or deny the charge and (b) whether they wish the case to be dealt with by a Disciplinary Panel in their absence on written submissions, or if they wish to attend a private hearing before a Disciplinary Panel. The reply must also include:

- 95.1.2.1 a clear explanation setting out the details of the Party's admission or denial.
  - 95.1.2.2 a signed written statement of each witness upon whom the Party intends to rely, setting out their evidence in full; and
  - 95.1.2.3 copies of all the relevant evidence and material on which the party intends to rely. This includes material in mitigation where the Party charged admits the charge and requests the case is dealt with in their absence before a Disciplinary Panel.
- 95.1.3 Upon review of the reply, the Association may provide to the Party and the Disciplinary Panel any further relevant evidence or relevant material on which it intends to rely. The Party charged may provide the Association with such further evidence or relevant material on which they intend to rely in response, no later than three (3) Business Days prior to the hearing. A Disciplinary Chairperson may, in the interests of fairness and at his/her sole discretion, allow a Party to rely on evidence or material submitted outside the stated timescales. A Disciplinary Chairperson may also require a Party to disclose any other relevant evidence or material outside the stated timescales.
- 95.1.4 if the Party charged fails to reply to the Disciplinary Notice within seven (7) Business Days, they will be deemed to have denied the charge and to have waived their right to a private hearing before the Disciplinary Panel. In such circumstances the Association will, without further notice to the Party charged, convene a Disciplinary Panel who will consider the alleged Disciplinary Offence in the absence of the Party charged and the provisions of Rules 95.1.5 to 95.1.11 inclusive shall not apply.
- 95.1.5 if the Party charged has replied to the Disciplinary Notice and requested a private hearing the Association will give the Party charged no less than seven (7) Business Days written notice of the date, time and place of the hearing and the provisions of Rules 95.1.6 to 95.1.11 inclusive shall apply.
- 95.1.6 where the Party charged is an individual person, they will be required to attend the hearing in person. Where the Party charged is not an individual person, one or more duly authorised senior representatives of the Party will be required to attend the hearing in person, whether such representative are directors, officers or otherwise.
- 95.1.7 the Association and the Party charged will be entitled to make opening

and closing remarks at the hearing and to call witnesses who will be expected to answer questions in cross-examination. Members of the Disciplinary Panel will be entitled to ask questions of any witness during the hearing. The Party charged will not be obliged to give evidence in person, but the Disciplinary Panel will be entitled to draw such inference as may be reasonably appropriate if the Party charged declines to do so. The chairman of the Disciplinary Panel will warn the Party charged of this fact.

- 95.1.8 the Disciplinary Panel hearing will proceed in the absence of the Party charged, unless the Party charged has requested an adjournment and the Disciplinary Panel reasonably considers that the Party charged has given an acceptable reason for such request, in which case the hearing may be adjourned.
- 95.1.9 the Disciplinary Panel will retire to consider its findings in private. The decision of the Disciplinary Panel shall be determined unanimously or by majority. A decision may be announced on the day or reserved to a later date, in which case, the decision will be delivered in writing.
- 95.1.10 if the Disciplinary Panel finds the Party charged guilty of the Disciplinary Offence at a Disciplinary Panel hearing attended by the Party charged, no penalty or sanction will be imposed until: -
  - 95.1.10.1 the Disciplinary Panel has been informed by the Association of any previous Disciplinary Offences recorded against the guilty Party; and
  - 95.1.10.2 the guilty Party has been given the opportunity to make representations in mitigation of the Disciplinary Offence.
- 95.1.11 the Association and the Party charged shall be entitled to legal or other representation at the Disciplinary Panel hearing.
- 95.1.12 where the Party charged has waived the right to a private hearing or is deemed to have waived such right, or where the Party charged does not attend the private hearing, the Disciplinary Panel will consider such information as it considers reasonably necessary to decide the matter including, without limitation, any written representations made for or on behalf of the Party charged and representations (whether written or verbal) made for or on behalf of the Association. The Disciplinary Panel will be entitled to seek such further information or evidence as it deems necessary. If the Disciplinary Panel finds the Party charged guilty of the Disciplinary Offence, the Association will inform the Disciplinary Panel of

any other Disciplinary Offences recorded against the guilty Party but the Disciplinary Panel will not be obliged to invite the guilty Party to make further representations in mitigation of the Disciplinary Offence before imposing a penalty;

95.1.13 where the Disciplinary Panel makes a decision on the alleged Disciplinary Offence, the Disciplinary Panel will also have absolute discretion whether to make a cost order for or against the Party charged; and

95.1.14 the Association will send written confirmation of the Disciplinary Panel's findings to the Party charged.

95.2 In the case of any other proceedings pursuant to Rule 92.2 under the jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Panel: -

95.2.1 the Party wishing to commence the proceedings will give a Request Notice to the Association (marked for the attention of the General Secretary of the Association) and the other Party or Parties; and will pay the Request Fee of £50.00 to the Association's nominated bank account by means of bank transfer.

95.2.1(A) in the case of an appeal under Rules 92.2.2 and 92.2.3, the Request Notice must be submitted within the time limits set out in Rule 95.2.2 and must:

95.2.1(A).1 identify the specific decision which is being appealed.

95.2.1(A).2 set out the grounds upon which the appeal is based; and

95.2.1(A).3 be accompanied by all evidence and material relied upon by the appellant as part of its case.

95.2.1(B) On receipt of the Request Notice, the respondent to the appeal must submit all evidence and material relied upon as part of its case within 7 Business Days.

95.2.1(C) In the case of requests to the Association for resolution of any dispute or difference set out under Rules 95.2.4 or 95.2.5, the Request Notice should set out the nature of the dispute or difference and the resolution sought. The relevant Request Fee must be paid to the Association before the Association will take any further steps in respect of the Request Notice. The party lodging the request shall disclose to the Association, and the other party, all evidence and material relied upon

in respect of their case within 7 Business Days of lodging the Request Notice. On receipt of such material, the Party against whom the dispute is lodged shall disclose to the Association and the other party, all evidence and material relied upon in response within 14 Business Days.

95.2.1(D) A Disciplinary Chairperson may, in the interests of fairness and at his/her sole discretion, allow a Party to rely on evidence or material submitted outside the stated timescales. A Disciplinary Chairperson may also require a Party to disclose any other relevant evidence or relevant material outside the stated timescales.

95.2.2 in an appeal under Rules 92.2.2 and 92.2.3 against a decision of a Member, the Request Notice and Request Fee must be submitted to the Association in accordance with the following time limits:

95.2.2.1 not more than three (3) Business Days in the case of an appeal arising out of a decision relating to a cup or play-off match; and

95.2.2.2 not more than seven (7) Business Days in the case of an appeal arising out of a decision relating to anything other than a cup or play-off match

These time limits run from the date of receipt of written notification of the decision being appealed against. In determining the date of receipt of the written notification of the decision, the provisions of the Football Association of Wales Rule 144 (as to the services or notices etc) shall apply to the said written notification issued by the Member.

95.2.3 Any Request Notice and/or Request Fee lodged outside of the specified time limit will be rejected unless the Party lodging the same can demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the Association that it was not reasonably practicable to lodge the Request Notice and/or pay the Request Fee within the time limit.

95.2.4 any Request Notice for which the appropriate Request Fee is not paid within the specified time limit will be rejected by the Association and any incorrect fee will be returned and, in the case of an appeal under Rules 92.2.2 or 92.2.3, time will continue to run for the service of the Request Notice within the original period stipulated in Rule 95.2.2;

- 95.2.5 the Association will within twenty (20) Business Days of actual receipt of the Request Notice send a written notice to the Parties confirming the date, time and place of the Disciplinary Panel hearing. In the case of an appeal under Rules 92.2.2 or 92.2.3, the Disciplinary Panel proceedings will be a re-hearing of the case and the Disciplinary Panel will decide the matter on the basis of the evidence produced to them. At any time prior to the Disciplinary Panel hearing, any Party will have the right to waive their right to a private hearing, but a hearing will take place unless all Parties agree in writing to waive their right to a private hearing.
- 95.2.6 where the Party involved is an individual person, they will be required to attend a hearing in person. Where the Party involved is not an individual person, one or more duly authorised senior representatives of the Party will be required to attend the hearing in person, whether such representatives are directors, officers or otherwise.
- 95.2.7 the Parties will be entitled to make opening and closing remarks at the hearing and to call witnesses who will be expected to answer questions in cross examination. Members of the Disciplinary Panel will be entitled to ask questions of any witnesses during the hearing. No Party will be obliged to give evidence in person, but the Disciplinary Panel will be entitled to draw such inference as may be reasonably appropriate if the Party declines to do so. The chairman of the Disciplinary Panel will warn the Party concerned of this fact.
- 95.2.8 the Disciplinary Panel hearing will proceed in the absence of either Party, unless the Disciplinary Panel reasonably considers that the absent Party has given an acceptable reason for such non-attendance, in which case the hearing will be adjourned.
- 95.2.9 the Disciplinary Panel will retire to consider its findings in private. The decision of the Disciplinary Panel shall be determined unanimously or by majority. A decision may be announced on the day or reserved to a later date in which case the decision will be delivered in writing.
- 95.2.10 the Parties will be entitled to legal or other representation at the Disciplinary Panel hearing.
- 95.2.11 where the Parties to the appeal have all waived their rights to a private hearing, the Disciplinary Panel will consider such information as it considers reasonably necessary to decide the matter including, without limitation, any written representations made for or on behalf of the Parties. The Disciplinary Panel will be entitled to seek such further

information or evidence as it deems necessary.

95.2.12 where the Disciplinary Panel makes a decision on the matter, the Disciplinary Panel will also have absolute discretion whether to make a cost order for or against a Party to the proceeding; and

95.2.13 the Association will send written confirmation of the Disciplinary Panel's findings to the Parties.

96. A Party has a right of appeal to the Football Association of Wales against a decision or any part of a decision of a Disciplinary Panel made under any part of Rule 92.2, except that the Association will only have the right to appeal against the penalty or sanction imposed by the Disciplinary Panel made under Rule 92.2.1 and not against a finding of not guilty.

97. The Party wishing to commence proceedings will give a Request Notice to the Football Association of Wales, sent as an attachment to an email to the FAW's discipline department ([discipline@FAW.co.uk](mailto:discipline@FAW.co.uk)), and to the other party or parties; and will pay the relevant Request Fee to the FAW, as set out under FAW Rule 43.2.3, payable to the FAW's nominated bank account, by means of a bank transfer.

98.1 The Request Notice and relevant Request Fee must be submitted to the FAW in accordance with the following time limits:

98.1.1 not more than three (3) Business Days in the case of an appeal arising out of a decision relating to a cup or play-off match.

98.1.2 not more than seven (7) Business Days in the case of an appeal arising out of a decision relating to anything other than a cup or play-off match.

A Business Day is any day of the week except a Saturday or Sunday or public bank holiday in Wales.

98.2 The Request Notice must:

98.2.1 identify the specific decision which is being appealed;

98.2.2 set out the grounds upon which the appeal is based; and

98.2.3 be accompanied by all evidence and material relied upon by the appellant as part of its case

## **PENALTIES AND OTHER POWERS**

99. Where: -

99.1 under any provision of Rule 92.2.1 the Disciplinary Panel finds the Party charged guilty of a Disciplinary Offence, the Disciplinary Panel shall apply the following

penalties against the Party charged (or two or more concurrently): -

- 99.1.1 suspension from, or any involvement in Association Football either permanently or for an indefinite period or for a specific and stated period in accordance with the Football Association of Wales's Categories of Suspension Regulations;
- 99.1.2 a fine;
- 99.1.3 a censure;
- 99.1.4 the closure of a football ground either permanently or for an indefinite period or for a specific and stated period;
- 99.1.5 the guilty Party, if a club, to forfeit points awarded in one or more competitions;
- 99.1.6 the guilty Party, if a club, to be disqualified from playing in one or more competitions;
- 99.1.7 such other penalty as the Disciplinary Panel shall reasonably deem fit including, without limitation, (a) the forfeit of any trophy or other award under the jurisdiction of this Association or (b) a written undertaking from the guilty Party as to their future conduct;
- 99.1.8 the guilty Party, if a club, to make such publication in its match day programme, website or other publication medium as the Disciplinary Panel may direct;
- 99.1.9 a transfer embargo preventing the guilty Party, if a club, from signing new Players during such period as the Association shall stipulate; or
- 99.1.10 the guilty Party, if a Club, to be relegated to the league and/or division stipulated by the Disciplinary Panel,

and the Disciplinary Panel may apply any such penalty under Rules 99.1.5 and 99.1.6 to the current, next or previous Playing Season and under Rule 99.1.7(a) to the current or any previous Playing Season (in each case, as deemed appropriate).

- 99.2 under Rules 92.2.2 or 92.2.3 the Disciplinary Panel hears an appeal by a Subordinate or other third party against a decision of a Member, the Disciplinary Panel will have the power to grant or deny the appeal (in whole or in part) and the power to increase or decrease the penalty or sanction (if any) imposed by the Member or



substitute such other penalty or sanction as the Disciplinary Panel shall deem fit; and

99.3 in the case of any other proceedings under the jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Panel pursuant to Rules 92.2.4 or 92.2.5, the Disciplinary Panel will have the power to make such order or ruling as it deems reasonable to resolve the dispute or difference,

Subject to any minimum penalty or sanction specified elsewhere in these Rules or in the relevant Regulations.

100. If a Party fails to pay or carry out any penalty, sanction, order or ruling made under the Reduced Penalty Regulations, where applicable, the Regulations for Disciplinary Procedures Concerning Field Offences or by the Disciplinary Panel, within thirty-one (31) calendar days of notification of the penalty, sanction, order or ruling, or within such other time period as ordered by the Disciplinary Panel:

100.1 the Party will automatically be suspended in relation to both Association Football and Futsal from all football related activity under the jurisdiction of the Central Wales FA as defined in the Football Association of Wales's Categories of Suspension Regulations, which for the purpose of this Rule 100 shall be read as applying to any person or other legal entity, until the penalty, sanction, order or ruling has been paid or complied with in full; and

100.2 the Association shall have the right to refer the non-compliance back to the Disciplinary Panel which made the relevant decision (or in the case of non-compliance with a penalty imposed under the Regulations for Disciplinary Procedures Concerning Field Offences, to the Disciplinary Panel) and that Panel shall have the power to impose further penalties, sanctions, orders or rulings as a result of a non-compliance.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

101. The law governing the Reduced Penalty Regulations, Regulations for Disciplinary Procedures Concerning Field Offences and any proceedings before the Disciplinary Panel shall be the law of England and Wales. The standard of proof applied shall be the balance of probabilities, except that under Rule 91.1.5 and 91.1.5(A) to (D) inclusive the standard of proof applied shall be whether the Disciplinary Offence has been established to the comfortable satisfaction of the Disciplinary Panel.

102. The rules of service set out in the Football Association of Wales Rule 144 shall apply to all notices and any other communications whatsoever sent in connection with the proceedings of a Disciplinary Panel.

103. These Rules are sufficient to enable the Association, Members and Subordinates to resolve all Disciplinary Offences and disputes or differences. The Parties must exhaust all procedures and processes of appeal in these Rules and the FAW Rules before taking legal proceedings in a court of law and then only as a last resort.

Notwithstanding any rule or regulation (in whatever form) of any Member or Subordinate to the contrary, it shall be a condition of the Association sanctioning any competition organised by the Member or any Subordinate that any appellant may lodge an appeal with the Disciplinary Panel (under Rules 92.2.2 or 92.2.3) against any decision of the Member or a Subordinate.

104. Subject to an appeal lodged with the FAW by any of the Parties, any decision of the Disciplinary Panel shall be a decision of the Association and all Members will comply with the same and will ensure that all Subordinates comply with the same.

105. The Association shall be permitted (but not obliged) to publish summaries of the decisions of its Disciplinary Panel in whatever form and forum it considers appropriate from time to time.

#### **REGISTRATION AND TRANSFER OF PLAYERS**

106. The registration and transfer of players shall be in accordance with the current Rules (Section H) and Regulations of the Football Association of Wales (as amended from time to time).

#### **LEAGUES AND OTHER COMPETITIONS**

107. All Official Matches in all leagues or competitions of any description and at any level (including, without limitation, a charity or benefit league or competition) must be sanctioned by the FAW.

108. The sanction for each league or competition must be renewed annually by the FAW.

109. Subject to Rule 112, no league or competition will be sanctioned by the FAW unless each team taking part in such league or competition fields a side consisting of eleven (11) players, from which number there shall be no deviation, unless it be occasioned through injury or some such other and proper cause during the course of any game in such league or competition.

110. Application for sanction of a league or competition shall be made, and thereafter renewed annually, with the FAW on or before 20<sup>th</sup> July immediately preceding the Playing Season during which Playing Season the league or competition is intended to be played. Such application must be made in every case using the systems and procedures set out by the FAW from time to time. Every such application must be accompanied by two copies of the

rules of the league or competition concerned. Every such application must also be accompanied by a list of the names of all the clubs which have consented to join and take part in the league or competition. All such leagues or competitions shall observe the Rules and Regulations of the FAW. All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

111. All applications for sanction under Rule 107 shall be made direct to the FAW. All other applications for annual renewal of the sanction under Rule 108 shall, in the first instance, be lodged with the Association. The Association will vet the application for renewal, and the supporting documents referred to in Rule 110, and will forward the application to the FAW with its recommendation for acceptance or rejection but the final decision on the application will rest solely with the FAW.
112. Notwithstanding anything contained in Rule 109 or in any other Rule, the FAW may give permission for small-sided leagues or competitions (including, without limitation, Futsal) to be played, provided that:-
  - 112.1 the league or competition has been sanctioned by the FAW in accordance with the requirements of Rules 107 or 108. Clubs seeking affiliation to this Association in order to participate in a small side league or competition must pay the Association an affiliation fee;
  - 112.2 in the case of single matches, and one-day competitions (e.g. garden fetes or work's sports' days), they must be sanctioned by the FAW in accordance with the requirements of Rule 107;
  - 112.3 the rules governing the eligibility and conduct of the players in the sanctioned match or competition shall be administered by the management committee of the sanctioned game or competition subject always to the authority of the Association and shall be in conformity with the FAW Rules and Regulations;
  - 112.4 the playing of non-sanctioned matches arranged by private individuals for speculative purposes shall not be permitted;
  - 112.5 for small side leagues or competitions played for charitable objectives a statement of accounts of the event shall be supplied to the Association (and other Area Association(s) if the league or competition falls within the geographical area of more than one Area Association) within twenty-one days (21) of the last match in the event; and
  - 112.6 the laws applicable to the playing of small-side games shall be as set by the FAW from time to time.
113. No Subordinate or club under the jurisdiction of the Association, nor player, nor Match

Official or any other body or individual in any way within the jurisdiction of this Association, shall play in or take part in any league or competition (including, without limitation, charity or benefit league or competition) within the boundaries of Wales unless such league or competition has been sanctioned by the FAW.

114. No Subordinate or club under the jurisdiction of the Association, nor player, nor Match Official or any other body or individual in any way within the jurisdiction of this Association, shall play, or take part in any league or competition (including, without limitation, charity or benefit league or competition) outside the boundaries of Wales unless such participation shall have first been sanctioned by the FAW. The application for such sanction shall be made, and renewed annually, on or before 1st April immediately preceding the Playing Season in which the said applicant wishes to participate in the said league or competition. Such application must be made in every case using the systems and procedures set out by the FAW from time to time.
115. Any league or competition of whatever kind within the jurisdiction of this Association shall only be played within a geographical area approved and sanctioned by the FAW.
116. Any club which is within the jurisdiction of the FAW and which has received sanction from the FAW to compete in a league or competition outside the boundaries of Wales, shall carry out in full its obligations to those Welsh Association Football competitions of which it may be expected reasonably to take part, as defined by the FAW from time to time.
117. The name of any sponsor or the donor of a cup or trophy or any other person may form part of the title of a league or competition subject to the prior written approval of the FAW.
118. All kits must comply with the Football Association of Wales's Kit Regulations.
119. Subject to Rule 120 and subject to any special sanction granted by the FAW in accordance with FAW Rule 106, no league or competition which has been played during the Playing Season shall be allowed extended time outside the Playing Season to play all matches in the league or competition, including, without limitation, any league or competition played for charitable purposes. The FAW may specially sanction a match to be played after the end of the Playing Season if the match is arranged between two distinct clubs, or leagues, or Area Associations or between any two of them. In granting any such sanction, the FAW shall be entitled to stipulate to whom the whole or any part of the income generated from any such match is to be paid including, without limitation, payment to a registered charity nominated by the FAW.
120. Notwithstanding anything contained in the FAW Rules:-
  - 120.1 semi-final or final matches of cup competitions of the FAW or this Association may be played not later than Saturday or Sunday following the end of the Playing Season in any year;

120.2 small sided leagues or competitions as specified in Rule 112 may be played at any time, including outside the Playing Season; and

120.3 matches may be played for charity, or some other object approved by the FAW, not later than the Saturday or Sunday following the end of the Playing Season and application for permission to play any such match must be made in writing and be forwarded to the FAW's Chief Executive Officer not later than the 1<sup>st</sup> April in the year concerned.

## **PRACTICE MATCHES**

121. Subject at all times to the overriding responsibility of all Clubs to fulfil their obligations to participate in Official Matches, Clubs shall be permitted to play Closed Friendly Matches at any time, whether inside or outside the Playing Season.

122. Clubs shall not require permission to play Closed Friendly Matches; there shall be no requirement to play the match in accordance with the Laws of the Game or for the match to be officiated by a qualified and registered Match Official and the Association's Disciplinary Procedures Concerning Field Offences Regulations shall not apply to Closed Friendly Matches. The result or outcome of the Closed Friendly Match shall not be published by the Clubs.

123. Subject at all times to the overriding responsibility of all Clubs to fulfil their obligations to participate in Official Matches, Clubs shall be permitted to play Open Friendly Matches at any time, whether inside or outside the Playing Season. If the Open Friendly Match is to be played during the Playing Season, it shall be subject to the prior permission of the FAW or the Association (as the case may be). If the Open Friendly Match is to be played outside of the Playing Season, it shall only be subject to the prior notice to the FAW or the Association (as the case may be) unless otherwise required by the FAW. For the avoidance of doubt, the prior permission of the FAW or relevant Area Association (as the case may be) must be obtained where a Club wishes to play such an Open Friendly Match as an away game at a club not under the jurisdiction of the FAW.

124. Where the proposed Open Friendly Match is to be played at a Club under the jurisdiction of the FAW, that Club shall make the application for permission to play or give prior notice of the Open Friendly Match at least seven (7) days prior to the proposed date of the Open Friendly Match, unless a shorter period is accepted by the FAW in its absolute discretion. The application or notice must state whether a match-agent or other third party or intermediary has had, or will have, any involvement in the organisation of the match. Qualifying Clubs shall apply to the FAW for permission or give notice to the FAW, using the systems and procedures as set by the Association from time to time. All other Clubs shall apply or give notice to the Association. Any such application or notice by a Club to the Association which involves playing a team from another national football association shall be vetted by the

Association and forwarded to the FAW and the FAW shall have absolute discretion to decide whether its permission is required and, if so, whether to grant permission.

125. An Open Friendly Match must be officiated by a qualified and registered Match Official and the Association's Disciplinary Procedures Concerning Field Offences Regulations shall apply to Open Friendly Matches. The result of an Open Friendly Match shall be published by the Clubs.

126(A) Tours outside Wales: -

126(A).1 No Member or other person or entity subject to the jurisdiction of the Association shall take Players on tour to England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, or to any country outside the United Kingdom under a designation that expressly or impliedly suggests such Players are representing the Association or the FAW in any way.

126(A).2 All intended tours of Players outside Wales must first receive the written permission of the FAW. All applications for such permission by clubs, leagues or Area Associations shall be made direct to the FAW. All other applications for permission shall, in the first instance, be lodged with the Association in which the organiser is situated and in these cases the Association will vet the application and will forward the application to the FAW with its recommendation for acceptance or rejection but the final decision on the application will rest solely with the FAW.

## **REFEREES AND OTHER MATCH OFFICIALS**

127. On the field of play, any decision by the Match Official in charge of any match on questions of fact or the interpretation of the Laws of the Game shall be final and conclusive. The Association's Disciplinary Procedures Concerning Field Offences Regulations shall stipulate the penalties automatically imposed on Players and team officials in consequence of any offence committed during a match, as reported by the Match Official of that match. The said Regulations shall also specify any rights of appeal which may be permitted by the Association from time to time against any such automatically imposed penalty. In addition, the Association shall always have the right to bring a charge of a Disciplinary Offence against a Player or team official where it receives evidence of misconduct during a match where the Match Official of the match confirms to the Association that he/she did not witness the said event.

128. When a Match Official is appointed for any match by the FAW, this Association or the organisers of a competition sanctioned by the FAW, the Match Official shall using the systems and procedures set by the FAW or the Association (as the case may be) from time to time, within three (3) days of receipt by him/her of the notice of appointment, inform such appointing body whether he/she accepts or declines the appointment. Unless directed by the FAW, having accepted an appointment to officiate a match, the Match Official shall not cancel such engagement in order to officiate in some other match.

129. It shall be a breach of these Rules, if any Match Official fails to report any instance of misconduct during or relating to a match which comes to his/her notice, and if it is proved to the satisfaction of the Association that such instance of misconduct was of a nature that required reporting.
130. The promotion and demotion of Match Officials to and from leagues under the jurisdiction of the Association shall be at the discretion of the Association.

#### **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

131. At any meeting held by the Council or any sub-committee of the Council to discuss a matter relating to any club or league, Councillors having an interest in such club or league shall declare the nature and extent of that interest to the other Councillors and shall: -
  - 131.1 not be counted in the quorum present at the meeting to consider the matter;
  - 131.2 have no vote on such matter; and
  - 131.3 leave the room and take no further part in the discussion on such matter.
132. The provisions of Rule 131 shall not apply to a conflict of interest which arises solely because the Councillor is appointed, nominated or elected a Councillor as the representative of any league.
133. At any meeting held by the Council or any sub-committee of the Council at which a declaration of interest under Rule 131 is made, the other Councillors at that meeting may direct that the provisions of Rule 131 be suspended or relaxed in respect of that specific matter for any Councillor who has made the necessary declaration of a conflict of interest.
134. Each Member and every Subordinate of that Member shall respond promptly to any request for information (including, without limitation, a request for the production of documentation) reasonably made by the Association from time to time.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

135. Members and Subordinates shall use such systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time to comply with any provision of the FAW Rules or the FAW Regulations.
136. The Association shall be entitled to publish in the public press, or in any other manner which to it shall seem fit, the reports of its proceedings, act or resolutions or any part thereof, without having any regard as to whether such publication shall or shall not reflect upon the character or conduct of any Member or any other party involved at the time in question

within the jurisdiction of the Association. Every such party shall be deemed hereby to have assented to any such said publication.