

RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION APPLICABLE TO COUNTY AND OTHER AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS, COMPETITIONS, CLUBS, PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS.

The following extracts from the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association are applicable to Participants (Associations, Competitions, Clubs, Players and Officials). In order to ensure that all Participants in the game are aware of their rights and duties, it is appropriate that these extracts are set out in the Handbooks of County and other Affiliated Football Associations. In particular, attention is drawn to a Participant's right of appeal as detailed in Section H of the Rules.

It is proposed that it be mandatory for the following Rules and Regulations to be published in the Handbooks of all County and other Affiliated Associations:

EXTRACT FROM THE RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION

SECTION A. CONSTITUTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE ASSOCIATION

Powers of the Association

6 Save as otherwise expressly provided by these Rules, resolutions and decisions of The Association shall be binding upon all Affiliated Associations and Clubs and all members thereof, until they are rescinded or varied.

2. In the interpretation of these Rules: any words and expressions, unless otherwise defined herein, shall be words and expressions as defined in the Articles:

"Affiliated Association" means an association which is either a County Association or an Other Football Association;

"Appeal Board" means any appeal board as established from time to time whose purpose is to hear appeals made by Participants pursuant to its terms of reference from time to time;

"Club" means any football club;

"Club Official" means any official, director, secretary, servant or representative of a Club;

"Competition" means any competition (whether a league or knock-out competition or otherwise) sanctioned by The Association and/or an Affiliated Association;

"Contract Player" means any player (other than a Player on a Scholarship) who is eligible to play under a written contract of employment with a Club;

"County Association" means an association which has been accorded the status of a County Association pursuant to Rule A4(a)(i);

"Manager" means the Official of a Club responsible for selecting a Club team;

"Match" means a football match sanctioned by The Association and/or an Affiliated Association;

"Match Officials" means referees and assistant referees and includes reserve officials and fourth officials;

"Non-Contract Player" means any Player (other than a Player on a Scholarship) who is eligible to play for a Club but has not entered into a written contract of employment;

"Official" means any official, director, secretary, servant or representative of an Affiliated Association or Competition;

"Other Football Association" means one or any of the following listed associations:

- (a) The University of Oxford Football Association;
- (b) The University of Cambridge Football Association;
- (c) The Army Football Association;

- (d) The Royal Navy Football Association;
- (e) The Royal Air Force Football Association;
- (f) The Amateur Football Alliance;
- (g) The Women's Football Conference;
- (h) The English Schools' Football Association; and
- (i) The Independent Schools' Football Association;

“Out of Contract Player” means a Contract Player whose contract has expired;

“Parent Association” means the Affiliated Association of which a Club, in membership of more than one Affiliated Association, was first a member;

“Participant” means an Affiliated Association, Authorised Agent, Competition, Club, Club Official, Licensed Agent, Player, Official, Match Official, Management Committee Member, Member or Employee if an affiliated Club and all such persons who are from time to time participating in any activity sanctioned either directly or indirectly by The Association;

“Player” means any Contract Player, Out of Contract Player, Non-Contract Player or other player who plays or is eligible to play for a Club or is subject to any suspension from playing;

“Regulatory Commission” means any regulatory commission as established from time to time whose purpose is to hear Participants' cases; and

“Scholarship” means a scholarship as set out in Rule C3(a)(i) of these Rules.

E. CONDUCT

General Behaviour

- 3
- (1) A Participant shall at all times act in the best interests of the game and shall not act in any manner which is improper or brings the game into disrepute or use any one, or a combination of, violent conduct, serious foul play, threatening, abusive, indecent or insulting words or behaviour.
 - (2) In the event of any breach of Rule E 3(1) including a reference to any one or more of a person's ethnic origin, colour, race, nationality, faith, gender, sexual orientation or disability (an “aggravating factor”), a Regulatory Commission shall consider the imposition of an increased sanction, taking into account the following entry points -
 - (i) For a first offence, a sanction that is double that which the Regulatory Commission would have applied had the aggravating factor not been present.
 - (ii) For a second offence, a sanction that is treble that which the Regulatory Commission would have applied had the aggravating factor not been present.
 - (iii) Any further such offence(s) shall give rise to consideration of a permanent suspension.

These entry points are intended to guide the Regulatory Commission and are not mandatory.

The Regulatory Commission shall have the discretion to impose a sanction greater or less than the entry point, according to the aggravating or mitigating factors present in each case.

Discrimination

- 4
- A Participant shall not carry out any act of discrimination by reason of ethnic origin, colour, race, nationality, faith, gender, sexual orientation or disability.

Gifts, Rewards or Other Matters in Relation to Matches

- 5 A Participant shall not, directly or indirectly, offer, agree to give, give, solicit, agree to accept or accept any gift or reward or consideration of any nature which is, or could appear to be related in any way to influencing the outcome or conduct of a Match.
- 6 As an exception to Rule E5 above, a Participant may enter into an arrangement or agreement for which the prior written approval of The Association has been sought and obtained. Bonuses agreed between a Club and its Players or Club Officials shall be deemed to be approved.

Tickets

- 7 A Participant shall not:
- (a) Sell a ticket for any football match;
 - Or
 - (b) Otherwise dispose of such a ticket to another person
- Unless he is authorised to do so in writing by the organisers of the match.

Betting

- 8 (a) A Participant shall not, either directly or indirectly, bet, or instruct, permit or enable any person to bet, on the result, progress or conduct of a Match or Competition in which the Participant is participating, or has participated in that season, or in which the Participant has any influence, either direct or indirect.
- (b) A Participant shall not use, or provide to any other person any information relating to football which the Participant has by virtue of his or her position within the game and which is not publicly available for, or in relation to, betting.
- It shall not be a breach of the above provisions of this Rule E8, if the Participant can prove that the bet was on authorised and registered football pools.

Attempts and Agreements to Breach

- 9 An attempt by a Participant or any agreement with any other person (whether or not a Participant) to act in breach of any provision contained in these Rules shall be treated for the purposes of these Rules as if a breach of the relevant provisions had been committed.

Compliance with Decisions, Including Suspensions

- 10 Each Participant shall comply with a decision made pursuant to the Rules and regulations of The Association.
- 11 A Participant shall not participate in any activity with another Participant suspended from carrying out such activity.
- 12 A Club shall do all things necessary to ensure that a Player associated with it complies with a penalty or order imposed pursuant to the Rules and regulations of The Association.
- 13 An Affiliated Association, Competition, or Club shall not appoint to any position, or allow to continue in such position, any individual who has been suspended from holding such position.

Reporting Misconduct

- 14 A Participant shall immediately report to The Association any incident, facts or matters which may constitute Misconduct. For the purposes of this Rule, a report to an Affiliated Association shall constitute a report to The Association.
- 15 A report to The Association of any incidents, facts or matters shall not be made for vexatious or frivolous reasons.

Suspension Pending Misconduct Hearing

- 16 The Association shall have the power to order that a Club Official or Player associated with a Club in The FA Premier League or The Football League shall be suspended from all or any specific football activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as The Association considers fit (an "Interim Suspension Order") where:
- (a) The Club Official or Player has been charged by The Association in relation to an alleged act of Misconduct, or with a criminal offence, or by The FA Premier League or The Football League in connection with disciplinary action pursuant to relevant regulations; and
 - (b) The Association, the Professional Footballers' Association (in the case of a Player) and The FA Premier League or The Football League (as appropriate) have each agreed the Interim Suspension Order.
- 17 The period of an Interim Suspension Order shall not be capable of lasting beyond the date upon which any charge of Misconduct or criminal offence or other disciplinary proceedings referred to in paragraph (a) above is decided or brought to an end.
- 18 Notification of an Interim Suspension Order shall be given as soon as reasonably practicable to the individual concerned and/or the Club with which the individual is associated.

Attendance at and Participation in Matches

- 19 An individual may take part in or attend at a Match only on condition that such individual observes the Rules, and each Affiliated Association, Competition and Club is required to observe and enforce such Rules.
- 20 Each Affiliated Association, Competition and Club shall be responsible for ensuring:
- (a) that its directors, players, officials, employees, servants, representatives, spectators, and all persons purporting to be its supporters or followers, conduct themselves in an orderly fashion and refrain from any one or combination of the following: racist, violent, threatening, abusive, obscene or provocative behaviour, conduct or language whilst attending at or taking part in a Match in which it is involved, whether on its own ground or elsewhere; and
 - (b) that no spectators or unauthorised persons are permitted to encroach onto the pitch area, save for reasons of crowd safety, or to throw missiles, bottles or other potentially harmful or dangerous objects at or on to the pitch.
- 21 Each Club is expected to provide a private way from the playing area to dressing room wherever this is practicable.
- 22 Any Affiliated Association, Competition or Club which fails effectively to discharge its said responsibility in any respect whatsoever shall be guilty of Misconduct. It shall be a defence in respect of charges against a Club for Misconduct by spectators and all persons purporting to be supporters or followers of the Club, if it can show that all events, incidents or occurrences complained of were the result of circumstances over which it had no control, or for reasons of crowd safety, and that its responsible officers or agents had used all due diligence to ensure that its said responsibility was discharged.
- 23 Any individual referred to in Rule E20 above may be removed from any ground, and such force used as may be necessary for the purpose of effecting such removal.
- 24 Each Club shall have bills printed and posted in their grounds, threatening with expulsion anyone responsible for any insulting or improper conduct towards a Match Official.

Doping Control

- 25 A Participant shall comply with the provisions of any doping control regulations of The Association from time to time in force.

Suspension for Serious Criminal Offences

- 26 Council shall have the power to order that a Participant be suspended from all or any specific football activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as it considers fit where the Participant has been convicted of a criminal offence and where Council considers there to be a risk of physical harm to another Participant or Participants through the convicted Participant's continuing participation in the game.

G. DISCIPLINARY POWERS**Jurisdictional Arrangements**

- 1 Misconduct under Rule E1(a) above shall be dealt with only by The Association, or an Affiliated Association on its behalf, notwithstanding that the alleged breach may constitute misconduct under the rules and regulations of an Affiliated Association or Competition.
- 2 The Association shall have the power to take disciplinary action in all cases where facts or matters give rise to alleged Misconduct under Rule E1(b) to (f) inclusive above and these powers of The Association shall be exercised on the authority of Council as it sees fit.
- 3 Facts or matters giving rise to alleged Misconduct under Rule E1(b) to (f) inclusive, which also give rise to an alleged breach of the rules and/or regulations of The FA Premier League or The Football League, may be dealt with by The Association under the Rules and regulations of The Association, unless The Association and either The FA Premier League or The Football League as appropriate, agree that either league shall act.
- 4 Facts or matters giving rise to alleged Misconduct under Rule E1(b) to (f) inclusive, which also give rise to an alleged breach of the rules and/or regulations of a Competition other than those referred to at Rule G3 above, shall be dealt with by the Competition having jurisdiction under its rules and regulations, unless The Association and/or an Affiliated Association acts. A Competition shall not act before The Association or Affiliated Association acts.
- 5 The power to impose a penalty or other order for Misconduct shall be exercised on the authority of Council as it sees fit.

Procedures for Dealing with Alleged Misconduct Under Rule E1(a)

- 6 Misconduct under Rule E1(a) above shall be dealt with under Rules G7 to G8 (inclusive).
- 7 Any breach of the Laws of the Game involving a Player associated with a Club in The FA Premier League, The Football League, The Football Conference, the Isthmian League, the Northern Premier League and the Southern League shall be dealt with by The Association in accordance with the relevant "Memorandum of Disciplinary Procedures concerning a breach of the Laws of the Game".
- 8 Any breach of the Laws of the Game involving a Player associated with a Club other than referred to above shall be dealt with on behalf of The Association by the Affiliated Association having jurisdiction over the Club in relation to the Match concerned. The matter shall be dealt with by the Affiliated Association in accordance with the relevant "Memorandum of Disciplinary Procedures" concerning a breach of the Laws of the Game.

Procedures for Dealing with Alleged Misconduct Under Rule E1(b)-(f)

- 9 Misconduct under Rule E1(b) to (f) inclusive shall be dealt with under the "Regulations for Football Association Disciplinary Action".

H. APPEALS TO AN APPEAL BOARD

- 1 Subject to Rule H2 below, an appeal shall lie to an Appeal Board under these Rules and regulations of The Association only where the Rules and regulations of The Association expressly give a right of appeal to an Appeal Board, or in any other case where The Association, acting by the Chief Executive (or his nominee), agrees to an appeal taking place.
- 2 No appeal shall lie to an Appeal Board under these Rules and regulations of The Association where an appeal has been heard by an Affiliated Association in respect of a decision of a Competition, or in respect of decisions arising out of competitions of Affiliated Associations where the rules and regulations provide that such decisions are final.
- 3 An appeal may be made only by either the person or body who is the subject of the original decision appealed against or The Association.
- 4 An appeal shall be dealt with under the relevant regulations of The Association from time to time in force.

C. RULES RELATING TO PLAYERS

Age Ranges and Provisions Relating to Players Under 16 Years of Age

- 4 (a) ***Children Not Registered in the Programme for Excellence***

The following provisions apply to children not registered in the "Programme for Excellence":

Children Under 6 Years Old

 - (i) A child who has not attained nor will have attained the age of six as at midnight on 31st August in a playing season shall not play, and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play, in a match of any kind in that playing season.

Children permitted to play Mini-Soccer only

 - (ii) A child who has not attained nor will have attained the age of ten as at midnight on 31st August in a playing season shall not play, and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play, in a match between sides of more than seven players in that playing season. Such children shall only play in a match according to the 'Laws of the Game - Mini-Soccer' or in other formats of small-sided football expressly approved by The Association from time to time. The particular age ranges for such activity are subject to amendment by the Council from time to time.

Children permitted to play Futsal

 - (iii) Any child who has attained the age of six as at midnight on 31st August in a playing season may play Futsal according to the "Laws of the Game – Futsal". The particular age ranges for such activity are subject to amendment by the Council from time to time.

Children permitted to play Eleven-a-Side or Nine-a-Side

 - (iv) Any child may play in a match between sides of eleven players according to the Laws of the Game or between sides of nine players according to the "Laws of the Game – 9 v 9", save for those specifically prohibited from doing so pursuant to this Rule.

Sanction Provisions

 - (v) The written consent of The Association or of the relevant Affiliated Association or Associations shall be required pursuant to Rules B1 and/or B7 as appropriate for any Competition involving children who have not attained nor will have attained the age of 14 as at midnight on 31st August in that playing season. Such Competitions (whether for Mini-Soccer, nine-a-side or eleven-a-side matches)

shall only be allowed where participants are restricted by age range, such age ranges being “Under 7”, “Under 8”, “Under 9”, “Under 10”, “Under 11”, “Under 12”, “Under 13” and “Under 14”. The age ranges shall be defined to include all children (subject to Rule C5(i) above) who have not attained nor will have attained the ages of 7,8,9,10,11,12,13 or 14 respectively as at midnight on 31st August in the relevant playing season.

Age Brackets

- (vi) (A) A child in the age ranges Under 7, Under 8, Under 9, Under 10, Under 11, Under 12, Under 13, Under 14 and Under 15 must not play and shall not be permitted, or encouraged to play, in a match where any other player is older or younger by 2 years or more than that person (for disability football the two year age band may be varied at the discretion of The Association).
- (B) To play in an Under 18 age bracket competition the player must have achieved the age of 15 by midnight on 31st August of the playing season.
- (C) To play in an open age competition a player must have achieved the age 16, (to come in to effect from the 2007-08 season).

Gender of Players in Under 11 Matches

- (vii) A child in the age ranges Under 7, Under 8, Under 9, Under 10 and Under 11 may play in a match involving boys and girls.

Priority for School Activities

- (viii) Priority must at all times be given to school or school organisation’s activities in accordance with the recommendations of the “Memorandum: Children of School Age and School Games” whilst a pupil is receiving full-time education.
- (ix) All Clubs and Competitions, excluding those whose matches are played on Sundays, shall include in their rules a provision to the effect that the availability of a pupil must be consented to by the head teacher.

(b) Players of School Age Registered in the Programme for Excellence

- (i) Players who reach the age of nine years during the academic year and who are in full-time education may register with a recognised and licensed Centre of Excellence through the procedures established by The Association’s regulations.
- (ii) It shall be a breach of the Rule for a Centre of Excellence without a valid licence to coach and train players of school age who are in full-time education, and registered through the registration scheme or for a licensed Centre of Excellence to play against any centre which is not licensed apart from a school. The licensing authority for Centres of Excellence shall comprise representatives as determined by The Association and which shall lay down regulations and guidelines by which the Programme for Excellence is run.
- (iii) It shall be deemed to be Misconduct for any Club or Club Official to induce any player of school age registered with a separate Club or Centre of Excellence to leave school for the purpose of signing a contract of employment.

F. POWERS OF INQUIRY

Powers of Inquiry of The Association

- 1 The Association shall have the power to monitor the compliance by each Participant with the Rules, the Laws of the Game, the statutes and regulations of FIFA and UEFA and the rules and regulations of each Affiliated Association and Competition to which a Participant is subject and/or inquire into any incident, facts or matters which may constitute misconduct under these Rules.

- 2 In carrying out its functions under Rule F1, The Association shall have the power to require of any Participant upon reasonable notice:
- (a) his or her attendance to answer questions and provide information; and
 - (b) the production of documents, information or other material in whatever form held.
- Where a Participant is interviewed by The Association pursuant to sub-paragraph (a) above, such interview may be recorded by any method determined by The Association in its absolute discretion to be appropriate, including tape-recording.
- A copy of any such recording shall be provided to the Participant as soon as practicable after the interview.
- 3 Any failure by a Participant to comply with any requirement under Rule F2 may constitute Misconduct under the Rules and The Association may bring a charge or such charges as it sees fit.
- 4 Each Affiliated Association, Competition, or Club shall ensure the compliance by its officials, directors, players, representatives or servants with a requirement to answer questions and provide information and/or produce any one or a combination of documents, information or other material in whatever form held.

G. DISCIPLINARY POWERS

- 8 Any breach of the Laws of the Game involving a Player associated with a Club other than referred to above shall be dealt with on behalf of The Association by the Affiliated Association having jurisdiction over the Club in relation to the Match concerned. The matter shall be dealt with by the Affiliated Association in accordance with the relevant "Memorandum of Disciplinary Procedures" concerning a breach of the Laws of the Game.

J. RULES, REGULATIONS AND LAWS OF THE GAME

- 1 (c) ***Rules and Regulations***
- (i) The Association shall have the power to make or alter such regulations as are deemed necessary to provide for matters arising from or to implement these Rules in so far as any such regulation is not in conflict with any Rule.
 - (ii) Affiliated Associations and Clubs in membership with The Association and/or an Affiliated Association shall be deemed to have knowledge of and be bound by the said Rule or regulation if the same shall have been published by The Association, the production of which shall constitute at all times undisputed proof of the validity of such Rule or regulation.

Mixed Football

- 3 Save for matches in a playing season in the age ranges Under 7, Under 8, Under 9, Under 10 and Under 11 (as defined at Rule C), Players in a Match must be of the same gender.

L. FAIR PLAY IN FOOTBALL

Fair play in football means that EVERYONE connected with football:

- (a) shows understanding of and respect for the Laws of the Game;
- (b) supports the belief that the game should be played in an entertaining and positive way; and
- (c) behaves on and off the field in a sporting manner towards all others involved, be they players, officials or spectators, irrespective of results