



LEAGUE AND LEAGUE CUP RULES FOR THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S FOOTBALL NATIONAL PERFORMANCE LEAGUES 2018 – AGE GROUPS U15'S & U19'S ("THE RULES")

INTRODUCTION

Unless the context otherwise requires, words or expressions contained in the League and League Cup Competition Rules shall bear the same meaning as in the Articles of Scottish Women's Football.

Unless the context otherwise requires, words importing the singular only shall include the plural and vice versa.

The headings are inserted for convenience only and shall not affect the construction of the Rules.

All references to a ground shall mean a registered ground, unless otherwise specified, within the context of these Rules.

Disciplinary matters relating to field offences and club officials misconduct shall be dealt with in accordance with the relevant Disciplinary Procedures of the Scottish FA.

1. Name of Competitions

- (a) The League shall be called "The Scottish Women's Football Youth National Performance League" (the League(s)) unless title sponsorship is achieved.
- (b) The League Cup(s) shall be called "The Scottish Women's Football Youth National Performance League Cup" (the League Cup(s)) unless title sponsorship is achieved.
- (c) Scottish Women's Football will organise and administer the League(s) and the League Cup(s) in accordance with the Rules and the Laws of the Game, and as directed by the Strong Quality Growth Committee acting as the National Performance League Management Committee in conjunction with the Girls'/Women's Policy Working Group.

2. Management, Nomination and Election

- (a) The League(s) and the League Cup(s) shall be governed, in accordance with the Rules and the standard procedures of Scottish Women's Football (SWF) Youth National Performance Leagues, Scottish Women's Football and the Strong Quality Growth Committee who will act as the National League Management Committee for the Leagues.
- (b) The National Performance League Management Committee shall comprise a

total of seven representatives. The representative's period of tenure shall be for one year from date of appointment.

- (c) Within the National Performance League Management Committee, three representatives shall be nominated by the Scottish FA and three members nominated by SWF from clubs/regions. The Committee will be chaired by SWF's 'Strong Quality Growth Director'.
- (d) A National Performance League Administrator, employed by SWF, shall provide secretariat and administrative support to the National Performance League Management Committee.
- (e) National Performance League Management Committee members representing the Scottish FA shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination in accordance with the election process of the Strong Quality Growth Committee contained with SWF's Articles of Association.
- (f) National Performance League Management Committee members representing regions/clubs shall be nominated by SWF annually in accordance with the election process of the Strong Quality Growth Committee contained within SWF's Articles of Association.
- (g) The National Performance League Management Committee shall meet as often as is necessary to deal with business as it arises.
- (h) Except where otherwise stated, all communications shall be addressed to the National Performance League Administrator who shall be responsible for all League and League Cup correspondence and the proceedings of the National Performance League Management Committee.
- (i) Electronic mail (e-mail) shall be the primary method of communication used by clubs and the National Performance League Administrator in all correspondence.
- (j) Club communications and correspondence must be issued by the nominated Club Secretary and/or another nominated club official.

3. Powers of Management

(a) The National Performance League Management Committee has responsibility for all matters relating to the National Performance League(s) and the League Cup Competition(s). The National Performance League Management Committee shall consider, review and implement, where appropriate, recommendations of SWF's Policy Working Group.

(b) Each member of the National Performance League Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all National Performance League Management Committee meetings and have one vote thereat. No member shall be allowed to vote on any matter directly appertaining to themselves or the club which they represent.

In the event of voting being equal on any matter, the Chairperson shall have a second and casting vote.

(c) The National Performance League Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters

affecting the League(s) and the League Cup Competition(s) in consultation with SWF's Policy Working Group, including any not provided for in the Rules.

(d) Except where the Rules provide for the imposition of a set penalty, any Club, Official or Player alleged to be in breach of a Competition Rule must be formally notified in writing and given the opportunity to present their case before the National Performance League Management Committee.

(e) The decisions of the National Performance League Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Article 43 of the Scottish Women's Football Appeals Procedure and Guidelines.

(f) Decisions of the National Performance League Management Committee (Rule 29 (c) excluded) must be notified in writing to those concerned within seven days.

The decision against which any appeal is made will only be set aside when the appeal is received by Scottish Women's Football and agreed to be in order, and confirmation is received in writing by the parties concerned in accordance with Article 43 of the Scottish Women's Football Appeals Procedure and Guidelines.

Any decision taken by Scottish Women's Football is subject to appeal to the Judicial Panel of the Scottish FA in accordance with the Scottish FA Articles of Association and Judicial Panel Protocol.

(g) The quorum for any meeting of the National Performance League Committee shall be four.

(h) The National Performance League Management Committee shall, as it may deem necessary, have the power to fill in an acting capacity, any vacancies that may occur on the committee after consultation with SWF's Policy Working Group.

4. The League Trophy and the League Cup Trophy – Ownership and Presentation

(a) The trophies, including any replicas, are the property of SWF.

(b) The League trophies shall be presented to the team which wins each of the Leagues. The League Cup trophies shall be presented to the team which wins each of the League Cups.

(c) The League Cup trophies shall be returned to the National Performance League Management Committee at the request of the National Performance League Administrator in the year following presentation, in good order and condition.

(d) The League trophies shall be returned to the National Performance League Management Committee at the request of the National Performance League Administrator before the end of September in the following year, in good order and condition.

5. Awards to Players and Officials

The National Performance League Management Committee shall present a medal, 20 for 11-a-side competitions, in such form as the National Performance League Management Committee may decide to the winners and the runners up of each of the Leagues.

The National Performance League Management Committee shall present a medal, 20 for 11-a-side competitions, in such form as the National Performance League Management Committee may decide to the winners and the runners up of each of the League Cup Competitions.

6. Eligible Clubs

- (a) The clubs competing in the League(s) and the League Cup Competition(s) must be in membership of Scottish Women's Football and the appropriate SWF Youth National Performance League.
- (b) In addition, the clubs competing in the League(s) and the League Cup Competition(s) must meet all criteria set out in the SWF Youth National Performance League Entry Criteria document as prescribed by the Policy Working Group and SWF Board

7. Compliance with Articles, League and League Cup Competition Rules

The clubs eligible to participate in the Competitions shall be subject to both the Articles of Scottish Women's Football; the Articles of the Scottish FA; the Rules and league entry criteria as amended and prescribed from time to time.

8. Season

The Competitions shall run as decided by the National Performance League Management Committee following recommendation by SWF's Policy Working Group in accordance with the Scottish FA's Annual Programme for Girls'/Women's Football.

9. Confirmation of Clubs Competing in the League

(a) The National Performance League Management Committee shall confirm which clubs shall compete in the League(s) in consultation with SWF and SWF's Policy Working Group.

(b) All League Clubs shall complete the annual affiliation process to Scottish Women's Football.

Clubs admitted to the League(s) shall pay an Affiliation Fee paid to Scottish Women's Football as part of the annual affiliation process.

A club shall not participate in these Competitions until the affiliation process has been completed and approved by SWF. This includes the payment of affiliation fee, provision of insurance documentation and completion of all safeguarding measures as outlined in SWF's Child Wellbeing and Protection policy.

10. League Fixtures

(a) The League Competition shall consist of each team playing two matches against each of the other teams in the League at U15 level and three matches against each of the other teams in the league at U19 level, unless otherwise directed by the National Performance League Management Committee in consultation with SWF's Policy Working Group.

The fixtures shall be arranged in the manner directed by the National Performance League Management Committee and shall be played on the dates arranged.

Three points shall be awarded to a team for a win, one point for a draw and no points for a loss.

The National Performance League Administrator shall issue the fixtures not later than 20 February prior to the commencement of each season. Receipt of fixtures shall be acknowledged in writing by each club.

The home club shall, at least five working days prior to a fixture date, confirm the venue (including travel directions), kick-off time and the colour(s) they are intending to play in, in writing to the opposing club, the National Performance League Administrator and the appointed match official(s). The away club shall seek and acknowledge receipt of such notification.

The final round of League fixtures, in each season, shall have all matches scheduled with the same time of kick-off, unless otherwise agreed by the National Performance League Management Committee.

(b) Any dispute between two or more clubs' as to the arrangement of fixtures shall be referred to, and decided by the National Performance League Management Committee.

(c) If a club wishes to apply for a postponement of a fixture date such notification must be made to the National Performance League Administrator at least seven working days prior to the date of the originally scheduled fixture. Such application must be made in writing on a form supplied by the National Performance League Management Committee containing the reason for the application, the opposing club's approval and an agreed proposed new fixture date.

(d) A fee for application of postponement may be charged to the club(s) in question.

(e) If, for unforeseen reasons, the home club is forced to change ground, the club must notify the National Performance League Administrator, the visiting club and the appointed match official(s) immediately.

(f) Where a club's ground (or standby ground) is unplayable or unavailable on the day set for the playing of the match, both clubs can agree to reverse the venue.

(g) No alterations of fixtures, dates, kick-off times, grounds can be made without the prior confirmation of the National Performance League Administrator.

(h) Notice of the postponement of any match due to an unplayable ground, or other causes over which neither club has control, must be given immediately by the home club to the visiting club, the appointed match official(s) and the National Performance League Administrator. Any club failing to comply with instructions in this regard shall be referred to the National Performance League Management Committee.

The home club should, upon request, be able to provide the National Performance League Administrator / National Performance League Management Committee with a written confirmation of a decision to postpone a match due to an unplayable ground, signed by the ground owner or the match official.

It is the responsibility of both competing clubs to agree upon a re-scheduled fixture date

and advise the National Performance League Administrator, in writing, within seven working days from the original fixture date. Failing such agreement and notification to the National Performance League Administrator, the National Performance League Management Committee shall have power to determine the re-scheduled fixture date.

(i) The postponement or abandonment of League fixtures requires to be immediately reported in writing to the National Performance League Administrator by the club(s) concerned.

In the event of a late arrival of a team, the match official shall delay the kick-off of the match up to a maximum of 30 minutes. The match official shall report the circumstances of a late kick-off or postponement of the match, as applicable, to the National Performance League Administrator.

(j) Any match not completed, except as provided for in Rule 29 "Infringements of Rules", may be ordered to stand as a played match, or may be replayed in its entirety as the National Performance League Management Committee may determine.

(k) In extenuating circumstances, the National Performance League Management Committee shall have the power to re-schedule matches, other than those prescribed in this Rule, to facilitate the smooth running of the Competition.

(l) Any club without just cause failing to fulfill its fixture obligations in respect of any such match in the League on the appointed date or dates shall be liable to such sanctions as the National Performance League Management Committee may determine, but not limited to including the deduction of points, fine or expulsion.

(m) Any club failing to fulfill its fixture obligations shall be liable to pay compensation for any actual expenses incurred as a direct result of its failure. The amount of compensation payable in these circumstances will be determined by the National Performance League Management Committee, and shall be based upon the current tariff approved by the National Performance League Management Committee.

Applications for reimbursement shall be lodged in writing with the National Performance League Administrator not later than five working days following the match.

(m) In the event of a team withdrawing during the course of the playing season, all points gained by teams winning or drawing against the team withdrawing from a League shall be deducted. Similarly, goals for and against shall be declared null and void.

(n) It is the responsibility of the home club to notify the match result and related information to the National Performance League Administrator in accordance with the guidelines agreed by the National Performance League Management Committee.

(o) A team which has a player(s) selected for the Scottish FA's National Youth teams, Regional Squad activities, Scottish Schools National Youth team or Scottish Schools Cup tie is entitled to have a League or League Cup match postponed, if application is made within three days of the date of the relevant player selection notice.

(p) The home club must ensure that the visiting club and the match official(s) have access to the changing facilities a minimum of 60 minutes prior to a League and League Cup match.

11. League Positions

(a) At the end of the season's League Competition, the team in each League securing the highest number of points shall be declared the Champion team of the League.

(b) For the purpose of clarification, if two or more teams are equal on points upon completion of the League, the following criteria are applied to determine the final League champion:-

(i) higher number of points obtained in the matches played among the teams in question.

(ii) higher number of goals scored away from home in the matches played among the teams in question.

(iii) If, following the application of the criteria aforesaid, the teams are still level, the determination of a League Championship, shall be determined by the teams playing a deciding game, or games, in such manner and under such conditions as the Management Committee may decide.

For all circumstances not covered in the paragraphs above, the National Performance League Management Committee will have full powers to deal with the situation as it deems appropriate in consultation with the Girls'/Women's Policy Working Group.

(c) If any team(s) in the Leagues is expelled, resigns, or retires for any reason before the commencement of the playing season, the National Performance League Management Committee will have full powers to deal with the situation as it deems appropriate in consultation with the Girls'/Women's Policy Working Group.

12. League Cup Ties

(a) All clubs participating in the National Performance League must enter the National League Cup Competition at their recognized age-group

(b) The League Cup draw will be an all-in draw, or such other format as directed by the National Performance League Management Committee in consultation with the Girls'/Women's Policy Working Group, and ties shall be arranged in the manner approved by the National Performance League Management Committee and shall be played on the dates arranged.

(c) The home club shall, at least five working days prior to a fixture date, confirm the venue (including travel directions), kick-off time and the colour(s) they are intending to play in to the opposing club, the National Performance League Administrator and match official(s) in writing. The away club shall seek and acknowledge receipt of such notification.

(d) Any dispute between two or more clubs as to the arrangement of League Cup ties shall be referred to, and decided by, the National Performance League Management Committee.

(e) In each round except the final all ties will be played on the ground of the club first drawn in the ballot.

Where a club's ground (or standby ground) is unavailable or unplayable, on the day(s)

set for playing the tie, the competing clubs may agree to reverse the venue subject to the permission of the National Performance League Administrator.

The home club should, upon request, be able to provide the National Performance League Administrator / National Performance League Management Committee with a written confirmation of a decision to postpone a League Cup tie due to an unplayable ground, signed by the ground owner or match official.

- (f) The Final of the League Cup Competition(s) will be played at a neutral venue, unless otherwise decided by the National Performance League Management Committee.
- (g) If a knock-out League Cup tie is drawn at the end of normal play, extra time shall be played as set out below. Thereafter, if the tie is still undecided the winner shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the rules laid down by the IFAB.

15's - Two halves of ten minutes duration.

19's – Two halves of fifteen minutes

13. Grounds for League Fixtures and League Cup Ties

All clubs in the Leagues shall have a registered ground, the specific details of which will be provided to the National Performance League Administrator during the affiliation process and prior to the commencement of the season.

14. Number of Players, Substitutes and Club Officials

For the 15s age groups a team shall consist of eleven players and is permitted to list up to 7 substitutes of whom all may take part in the match.

For the 19s age groups a team shall consist of eleven players and is permitted to list up to 7 substitutes of whom 5 may take part in the match.

Up to a maximum of six officials may be listed on the official Team Line.

In League Cup ties, the players in a team may be changed from match to match, but a club or team, may not play, or list as a named substitute, any player who, in the same season, has already played, or been a named substitute, for another club or team, in any other League Cup Competition irrespective of age group.

Rolling substitutes are not permitted at either the 15's or 19's age-group

15. Dimensions of the Field of Play

(a) For both 15's and 19's age groups the length of the field of play shall not be more than 130 yards (120 metres) and not less than 104 yards (95 metres). The breadth shall not be more than 100 yards (90 metres) and not less than 60 yards (55 metres).

(b) Where possible spectators should be separated from the field of play by a wall, a rope, a railing or a fence (the distance from the touchline should be a minimum of 1m).

(c) Spectators shall be positioned on the opposite side of the field of play from the technical areas.

(d) Technical areas, on the same side of the field of play, marked by lines/markers etc., shall be provided at each ground (the distance from the touchline should be 1m).

16 Playing Field

Matches in the League(s) and the League Cup Competition(s) shall be played on a natural grass surface or on an artificial turf surface. Artificial turf surfaces must comply with quality standards set for football by FIFA.

Home clubs with artificial turf surfaces will be required to provide a letter from the ground owner/local authority confirming the standard of the surface, as part of the Club affiliation process

The home club is responsible for ensuring that the ground is of a standard that will not compromise the safety of players or spectators.

17 Goals, Goal Nets, Corner Flags

Full size goals with goal nets and corner flags shall be used at all matches. These should comply with the size regulations and dimensions stated by IFAB.

18 Provision of Footballs

Five footballs of first grade quality shall be provided by the home club for each match played in the League and the League Cup.

For 19s size 5 balls will be used.

For 15s size 4 balls will be used.

19 First Aid Provisions

- (a) It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that a club official in possession of a current Sports First Aid Certificate or equivalent qualification recognized by the Scottish FA is available at matches played at its registered ground.
- (b) It is best practice that an appointed club medical officer and club physiotherapist are in attendance. Failing this, a club representative in possession of a current Sports First Aid Certificate or equivalent qualification recognised by the Scottish FA shall be in attendance.

20 Player Registration and Eligibility

(a) To be eligible to participate in League and League Cup Competition football, players must be registered with the Scottish FA through Scottish Women's Football, in accordance with the terms of the Scottish Women's Football Registration Procedures.

(b) To be eligible to participate in the League and League Cup Competitions, players must comply with the following Age Eligibility;

Age eligibility for season 2018:

19's must be born on or after 1st January 1999

15's must be born on or after 1st January 2003

Minimum age eligibility in respective age groups:

19's must be born on or before 31st December 2003

15's must be born on or before 31st December 2006

(c) Players can play in any team in their club, in their own age group or one age group above (as per above) in all League and League Cup matches (note Cup-tied for a team if a player has already played, or been a named substitute, for another club or team, in any other League Cup Competition, irrespective of age group.)

(d) To play up two age-groups approval is required from the National Performance League Administrator, in consultation with the National Performance League Management Committee.

(e) To be eligible to participate in the final of a League Cup Competition, a player must have been registered to play on the date the semi-final tie was played. Goalkeepers may gain exemption from this rule, only on the written agreement of the National Performance League Management Committee

(f) Clubs with more than one team participating in different youth leagues, will be permitted to move their players with the following restrictions:

- i) A player listed as one of the eleven players starting the match in the youth national performance team will not be permitted to be listed for the following youth regional team's match at any age-group, the following match being the next scheduled competitive match.
- ii) For the avoidance of doubt, a player listed in such circumstances will not be permitted to be listed for the youth regional team's match(es) at any age-group on the same date and on the next (youth regional team at any age-group) match date thereafter
- iii) A player listed as a substitute in a match for a club's national performance team will be permitted to be listed for the youth regional team's next competitive match, excluding matches scheduled on the same date, up to and including the 15th October.

(g) If the youth regional team at any age-group starts its season before the national performance team's season commences, a maximum number of 7 players from the youth regional team can be listed for the national performance team's first league match.

(h) Please note the following regarding player eligibility:

- i) A club's youth players can also, in accordance with the Rules of the Scottish Women's Premier League and Scottish Women's Football Leagues, play in their club's U21 and or senior team(s) providing they have attained 15 years of age in the year in which the season commences and that these teams are formally registered within their club.
- ii) It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that its players are eligible to play in League and League Cup Competition matches.
- iii) Any team fielding an ineligible player in a League fixture or a League Cup tie may have points deducted from its points total in the League, or

- the result being awarded 3-0 in favour of the opposing team, and/or be liable to other such penalties as the National Performance League Management Committee may decide
- iv) If a player participates in a League fixture or a League Cup tie whilst being ineligible to play in the match as a result of a suspension imposed by the National Performance League Management Committee, the team for which the player has participated may have points deducted from its points total in the League, or the result being awarded 3-0 in favour of the opposing team, and/or be liable to other such penalties as the National Performance League Management Committee may decide
 - v) Pending suspensions can only be served by registered players

(ii) SWF can give dispensation to goalkeepers (one year too old for an identified age group) to play at the age level immediately below their age for a period of one season at the Under 15 age-group in accordance with the dispensation guidelines. For the avoidance of doubt, no such dispensations will be granted at the Under 19 age-group.

Applications in this regard must be submitted to the Strong Quality Growth Committee in writing and in accordance with timelines outlined in dispensation guidelines

21 Playing of Players without Registration (Trialists)

- (a) No more than three unregistered players (“Trialists”) may be allowed to play, or be listed as a substitute for a club in any League match.
- (b) Each Trialist may be allowed to play in, or be listed as a substitute for, a maximum of three games (including any match not completed) for any one club, provided she is otherwise eligible to do so. Clubs playing a player in these circumstances must indicate the fact by adding the letter “T” or “X” after the player’s name and date of birth on the official Team Line.
- (c) A Trialist may not be used in any League Matches after the 15th October in the current season.
- (d) A player shall not be eligible to play for a club in a League Cup tie unless registered for the club.

22 Team Lines

(a) Not later than 30 minutes before the start of a match, each club shall hand to the referee, a list, and to its opponent, a copy, both of which shall be signed by the Secretary or other accredited club official, of the proper names of the players in its team, of such substitutes as are permitted, and of the club officials on forms provided by the National Performance League Management Committee.

Should any nominated player or substitute sustain an injury or due to extenuating circumstances be unable to participate after the submission of the list of players to the referee and prior to kick-off, the following provisions shall apply:-

- (i) If any of the first 11 players listed on the Team Line are not able to start the match for any reason, they may be replaced by any of the 7 substitutes. Such replacements will reduce the quota of substitute players accordingly.
- (ii) If any of the 7 substitutes listed on the Team Line are not able to be fielded for any

reason, they may not be replaced, which means that the quota of substitute players will be reduced accordingly.

(iii) If a goalkeeper listed on the Team Line cannot be fielded for any reason, she may be replaced by another goalkeeper not previously listed on the Team Line.

(b) Within three working days thereafter the referee shall send to the National Performance League Administrator, the lists which were handed to him/her, which he/she shall also sign, and on which he/she shall intimate the result, the goal scorers, time of goals and which substitute or substitutes played in the match. The referee shall also complete this report on the Referee Extranet.

(c) The National Performance League Administrator shall keep a register of the names of all of the players who take part in the League and League Cup Competitions. The register shall be open for inspection.

23 Registered Colours

(a) Each year a club shall register, by means of SWF's club affiliation process the colour of shirts, shorts and stockings comprising its first and second choice playing kits. Subject to the terms of the paragraphs (b) (c) and (d) below, a club shall play in its registered colours, failing which it shall be liable to disciplinary action. Exceptionally, a club may, with the approval of the National Performance League Management Committee, play in colours which are modified from those which have been registered.

(b) When the first choice colours of two competing clubs are the same, or similar, the away club shall change and play in distinctive colours.

(c) A club may play in its second colours provided that this does not prevent its opponent from observing the terms of paragraph (b) or from playing in its first choice registered colours if it chooses to do so.

(d) If there is any dispute as to whether the colours of the teams are the same, or similar, the referee shall decide the issue.

(e) Goalkeepers shall wear colours which distinguish them from the other players and from the match official(s).

(f) Every player and substitute of each team shall wear a distinguishing number on her shirt or shorts. Such number shall be clearly distinct from the colours of the shirt and shorts in order that it is clearly visible. Numbers on shirts shall be a minimum of 25 cm and maximum of 35 cm in height, and those on shorts a minimum of 10 cm and a maximum of 15 cm.

24 Duration of League Matches

For 19s a match will consist of two halves each of 45 minutes in duration.
For 15s a match will consist of two halves each of 40 minutes in duration.

(b) A match which has started and which for any reason is abandoned, may not be continued as a "friendly" match.

(c) The half time interval shall be of 10 minutes duration, or as otherwise determined by the referee.

25 Appointment of Match Officials

- (a) Match Officials shall be appointed by Regional Referee Associations. The appointment of assistant referees may be made on behalf of the Scottish FA by a Referees' Association as deemed appropriate
- (b) A club may not refuse the services of any match official appointed by, or on behalf of, the Scottish FA.
- (c) The home club is responsible for the payment of the match officials' fees for League matches and for all League Cup ties up to, and including, the Semi-Final Round.
- (d) Should a match official not be notified of the postponement of a match before travelling, he/she shall be entitled to payment of one half of the match fee from the home club.
- (e) A match fee is deemed to be inclusive of expenses.

26 Protests

(a) When a club intends to lodge a protest in connection with events during a match, the Secretary of the club or other accredited official shall inform a match official and a club official of the opposing team within 30 minutes of the end of the match, and shall, at the same time, inform them of the grounds of protest.

The Secretary or other accredited club official shall be required to confirm the protest in writing by recorded delivery letter, to the National Performance League Administrator within Three days of the end of the match (Sunday excluded)

The National Performance League Administrator will confirm receipt of the protest to both clubs and the match officials and the nature of the protest(s). A deposit of £50 will be lodged at the same time.

(b) The National Performance League Management Committee shall determine the outcome of a protest, properly constituted in accordance with the terms of paragraph (a) above, and shall have the power to retain the deposit, to order either club to pay such sum towards defraying the expenses incurred as may be considered desirable and to take such action as it deems fit.

(c) Any objection to the ground, goal posts, crossbars, or other appurtenances of the game shall be intimated to the referee before the start of the match. The club on whose ground the match is played shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with Rule 15, and Law I of the Laws of the Game - The Field of Play.

(d) Any club, on discovering an ineligible player has been listed on a team line should bring this to the immediate attention of the League Administrator, who shall conduct an investigation, in conjunction with the National Performance League Management Committee, and take any required action.

Should the National Performance League Administrator, during the course of checking the weekly team lines, find a club to have listed an ineligible player, they should immediately conduct an investigation, in conjunction with the National Performance League Management Committee, and take any required action.

(e) All decisions of the National Performance League Management Committee shall be

binding subject to the right of appeal to Scottish Women's Football in accordance with Article 44 of the Scottish Women's Football Appeals Procedure and Guidelines.

Decisions of the Management Committee (Rule 29 (c) excluded) must be notified in writing to those concerned within seven days.

The decision against which any appeal is made will only be set aside when the appeal is received by Scottish Women's Football and agreed to be in order, and confirmation is received in writing by the parties concerned.

Any decision taken by the Scottish Women's Football is subject to appeal to the Judicial Panel of the Scottish FA in accordance with the Scottish FA Articles of Association and Judicial Panel Protocol.

27 Protest – Interested Party

If a member of the National Performance League Management Committee is connected with a club which is involved in a protest, or in any disciplinary hearing where a penalty may be imposed on the club or an official or a player of the club, then he/she shall not sit in the National Performance League Management Committee while the matter is being determined.

28 Disorderly Conduct

Clubs are responsible for the behaviour of their players, officials, members, supporters and any person carrying out a function at a match on their behalf. In the event of damage being sustained to a ground where a League or League Cup Competition match is played as a consequence of misbehaviour by a player, official, member, supporters, or any other person acting on behalf of or associated with a club, then that club shall be responsible for any costs arising in the preparation of same. The National Performance League Management Committee shall have the power to request such reports as may be necessary in determining responsibility for restitution and may additionally impose upon any club a censure, fine, expulsion from the competition or suspension if, in the opinion of the National Performance League Management Committee, a ground is the subject of damage by that club's representatives or those associated with it.

29 Infringement of Rules

(a) Any club, official, player, or other person, who infringes any of these Rules, shall be liable to a fine or suspension, or both or such other sanction(s) as specified within these Rules. The National Performance League Management Committee has the power to investigate, consider and determine any allegations relative to the infringement of these Rules and to impose such sanction(s), as specified within these Rules, as it considers appropriate in order to deal justly with the case in question.

(b) A club which is found to have infringed these Rules, may be liable to replay a specific match in question, at a time, venue and other conditions as deemed appropriate by the National Performance League Management Committee in its absolute discretion.

(c) In the event that the National Performance League Management Committee decides to impose a replay or suspension on a club which is found to have infringed these Rules, an appeal from the club against such decision must be dispatched in writing to Scottish Women's Football within three days of the date of the National Performance League

Management Committee's written determination to the club.

30 Alterations and Additions to Rules

(a) All proposed alterations and additions must be submitted to the board of the SWF, in consultation with the Girls'/Women's Policy Working Group for approval prior to the Youth Regional End of Season Meetings. They will then be presented to the SWF AGM for ratification and acceptance. No alterations or additions shall be made to these Rules except at the Annual General Meeting or at a General Meeting convened for that purpose.

(b) Notice of any proposed alteration or addition for consideration at the ensuing Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Women's Football Youth National Performance Leagues shall be submitted in writing on the form provided by SWF and be received by the National Performance League Administrator no later than 31st August.

The National Performance League Administrator shall circulate a copy of any proposed amendment to all clubs not less than twenty one days in advance of the AGM

The board of the SWF, in consultation with the Girls'/Women's Policy Working Group shall be empowered itself to propose any amendments.