



## LEAGUE AND LEAGUE CUP COMPETITION RULES 2020

RULES OF THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE  
THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE CUP  
THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP  
THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP CUP



### INTRODUCTION

- (a) 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.
- (b) Unless the context otherwise requires, words importing the singular only shall include the plural and vice versa.
- (c) The headings are inserted for convenience only and shall not affect the construction of the Rules.
- (d) All references to a ground shall mean a registered ground, unless otherwise specified, within the context of these Rules.
- (e) 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

The Leagues shall be called "The Scottish Building Society Scottish Women's Premier League" (the Premier League, comprising SWPL 1 and SWPL 2), and "The Scottish Women's Football Championship" (unless title sponsorship is achieved).

The League Cups shall be called "The Scottish Women's Premier League Cup" (the Premier League Cup) and "The Scottish Women's Football Championship Cup", unless title sponsorship is achieved.

The Scottish FA shall, on behalf of Scottish Women's Football, organise and administer the Leagues and the League Cups in accordance with the Rules and the Laws of the Game, and as directed by the League Management Committee in conjunction with the Girls'/Women's Policy Working Group.

#### 2. Management, Nomination and Election

- (a) The Leagues and the League Cups shall be governed, in accordance with the Rules and the standard procedures of the Scottish Women's Premier League and the Scottish Women's Championship, Scottish Women's Football and the Scottish FA, by a League Management Committee (the Management Committee).

The Management Committee shall comprise a total of seven representatives. The representative's period of tenure shall be for one year from the date of appointment, with the exception of the Chair whose period of tenure shall be three years.

One representative shall be nominated by the Scottish Women's Premier League, from members elected at its Annual General Meeting.

Two representatives shall be nominated by the Scottish Women's Football Championship from members elected at its Annual General Meeting.

The Scottish FA shall nominate a further four representatives including the Chairperson.

A League Administrator, employed by the Scottish FA, shall provide secretariat and administrative support to the Management Committee.

- (b) Management Committee members representing the Scottish Building Society Scottish Women's Premier League and the Scottish Women's Football Championship (retiring club representatives included) shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination.

Other club representatives seeking election to the Management Committee shall be nominated by forwarding to the League Administrator in writing their intention to stand for election, and shall be formally supported in writing by the individual's member club.

The names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Women's Premier League and Championship. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the terms aforesaid, nominations may be received at the Annual General Meetings.

If an election is required to determine the Management Committee representatives from the Scottish Women's Premier League and the Scottish Women's Football Championship, this will be conducted on the day of the Annual General Meetings by ballot.

- (c) The Management Committee shall meet as often as is necessary to deal with business as it arises.
- (d) Except where otherwise stated, all communications shall be addressed to the League Administrator who shall be responsible for all League and League Cup correspondence and the proceedings of the Management Committee.

Electronic mail (e-mail) shall be the primary method of communication used by clubs and the League Administrator in all correspondence.

- (e) Club communications and correspondence must be issued by the nominated Club Secretary.

### 3. Powers of Management

- (a) The Management Committee has responsibility for all matters relating to the Leagues and the League Cup Competitions. The Management Committee shall consider, review and implement, where appropriate, recommendations of the Girls'/Women's Policy Working Group.

- (b) Each member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all 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 Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Leagues and the League Cup Competitions, in consultation with the Girls'/Women's Policy Working Group, including any not provided for in the Rules.

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 Management Committee.

- (d) The decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with 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 in accordance with Article 44 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.

- (e) The quorum for any meeting of the Management Committee shall be five, provided that the Chairperson must be present for a meeting to be quorate.
- (f) The Management Committee have the authority to convene an Emergency Committee meeting where urgent attention or a decision is required.

The Emergency Committee shall comprise the Management Committee Chair and one Management Committee member representing the Scottish Women's Premier League and one Management Committee member representing the Scottish Women's Football Championship.

The Chair may nominate an alternative Management Committee member to attend an Emergency Committee meeting if a decision is required which involves the club that the Scottish Women's Premier League representative is associated with.

In the absence of the Chair, a Scottish FA nominated Management Committee representative will chair the Emergency Committee meeting.

The quorum for any meeting of the Emergency Committee shall be three.

- (g) Management Committee representatives may be removed from office if they are absent from three consecutive meetings without the consent of the Chairperson and the Management Committee and / or if there is a violation of SWF polices, by simple majority, resolve that they should cease to hold office
- (h) The 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 the Girls'/Women's Policy Working Group.

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

- (a) The trophies, including any replicas, are the property of Scottish Women's Football.
- (b) The League trophies shall be presented to the team which win each of the Scottish Women's Premier Leagues and each of the Scottish Women's Football Championships. The League Cup trophies shall be presented to the team which wins the Scottish Women's Premier League Cup and each of the Scottish Women's Football Championship Cups.
- (c) The League Cup trophies shall be engraved and returned to the Management Committee before the end of April at the request of the League Administrator in the year following presentation, in good order and condition.
- (d) The League trophies shall be engraved and returned to the Management Committee before the end of September in the year following presentation, in good order and condition

5. Awards to Players and Officials

The Management Committee shall present a medal, 22 in total, in such form as the Management Committee may decide to the winners and the runners up of each of the Leagues.

The Management Committee shall present a medal, 22 in total, in such form as the Management Committee may decide to the winners and the runners up of each of the League Cup Competitions.

6. Eligible Clubs

The clubs competing in the Leagues and the League Cup Competitions must be in membership of Scottish Women's Football.

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

The clubs eligible to compete in the Competitions shall be subject to both the Articles of Scottish Women's Football, the Scottish FA and the Rules, as amended from time to time.

## 8. Season

The Competitions shall run as decided by the Management Committee following recommendation by the Girls'/Women's Policy Working Group

## 9. Confirmation of Clubs Competing in the Leagues

- (a) The Management Committee shall confirm which 8 teams shall compete in SWPL 1, which 10 teams will compete in SWPL 2, and which teams will compete in each of the leagues at Championship level.

The Management Committee shall, following the end of the season's Competitions, declare the teams in the Leagues. The Management Committee shall confirm the teams from each of the Leagues to be promoted, and the teams to be relegated, in accordance with the terms of Rule 11.

- (b) All Clubs shall complete the annual affiliation process to Scottish Women's Football which includes:
- i) payment of the Club Annual Affiliation Fee and any outstanding fines, fees and monies from the previous season; and
  - ii) agreement to adhere to the Laws of the Game, these Rules, the Articles, the Code of Ethics and all SWF policies

A club shall not participate in these Competitions until the Affiliation Fee and has been paid.

## 10. League Fixtures

- (a) The Premier League (SWPL 1 and SWPL 2) shall consist of each team playing each of the other teams in their League three times, unless otherwise directed by the Management Committee.

The fixture schedule of The Championship shall consist of each team playing one match at home and one match away from home with each of the other teams in their respective Leagues, unless otherwise directed by the Management Committee.

The fixtures shall be arranged in the manner directed by the 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 League Administrator shall issue to the clubs in the SWPL 1 and SWPL 2 the fixtures not later than 15th January prior to the commencement of each season. Receipt of fixtures shall be acknowledged in writing by each club.

The League Administrator shall issue to the clubs in The Championship, the fixtures not later than 30<sup>th</sup> January prior to the commencement of each season. Receipt of fixtures shall be acknowledged in writing by each club.

Clubs in the Premier League will be required to advise the League Administrator of the provisional dates (for midweek fixtures only), venues and kick-off details for each home

fixture (half a season at a time) prior to the commencement of each half of the fixture schedule , in accordance with the guidelines and provisions approved and circulated by the Management Committee.

The home club shall, by 6pm at least five 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 and the League Administrator. It is the responsibility of the home team to advise the match official(s) once appointed of the match arrangements as outlined above. The away club shall seek and acknowledge receipt of such notification. All kick off times should be between 12pm and 4pm unless a scheduled midweek fixture or otherwise agreed by the clubs and sought approval given by the League Administrator. All Clubs should be prepared for kick offs in this window.

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 Management Committee.

- (b) Any dispute between two or more clubs as to the arrangement of fixtures shall be referred to, and decided by, the Management Committee.
- (c) If a club wishes to apply for a postponement of a fixture date such notification must be made to the League Administrator at least 7 working days prior to the date of the originally scheduled fixture. Such application must be made in writing, containing the reason for the application, the opposing club's approval and the newly agreed fixture date from the list of approved Reserve Fixture dates for each League.

If, for unforeseen reasons, the home club is forced to change ground, the club must notify the League Administrator, the visiting club and the appointed match officials immediately. For SWPL 1 teams, the alternative ground must be a minimum SWPL 2 standard.

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 subject to the permission of the League Administrator.

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

- (d) 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 officials and the League Administrator. Any club failing to comply with instructions in this regard shall be referred to the Management Committee.

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

It is the responsibility of both competing clubs to agree upon a re-scheduled fixture date from the list of Reserve Fixture dates and advise the League Administrator, in writing, within 7 working days from the original fixture date. Failing such agreement and notification to the League Administrator, the Management Committee shall have power to determine the re-scheduled fixture date.

- (e) The postponement or abandonment of League fixtures requires to be immediately reported in writing to the League Administrator by the club(s) concerned.
- (f) Any match not completed, except as provided for in Rule 29 “Infringement of Rules”, may be ordered to stand as a played match, or may be replayed in its entirety as the Management Committee may determine.
- (g) In extenuating circumstances, the 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.
- (h) Any club without just cause failing to fulfil 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 Management Committee may determine, but not limited to including the deduction of points, fine or expulsion.
- (i) Any club failing to fulfil 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 Management Committee, and shall be based upon the current tariff approved by the Management Committee.

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

- (j) In the event of a club withdrawing during the course of the playing season, all points gained by clubs winning or drawing against the club withdrawing from a League shall be deducted. Similarly, goals for and against shall be declared null and void.
- (k) It is the responsibility of the home club to notify the match result and related information to the League Administrator in accordance with the guidelines agreed by the Management Committee.
- (l) A club in The Championship which has a player(s) selected for the Scottish FA’s National Team activity at U19 and U17 age levels is entitled to have a League or League Cup match postponed, if application is made within 3 days of the date of the relevant player selection notice.
- (m) The home club must ensure that the visiting club and the match officials have access to the changing facilities a minimum of 75 minutes prior to a Premier League and League Cup match and 60 minutes prior to a Championship or Championship Cup match. All clubs must have access to the main pitch (half pitch each) for a minimum of 30 minutes before kick-off time. In the event that this is not feasible, the home clubs must advise their opponent in

advance of the fixture of the specific warm up arrangements in place (dimensions of area, surface, access time and distance from the main pitch) as part of their confirmation of details communication in the week prior to the match.

#### 11. Promotion and Relegation

- (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.

##### SWPL 1 (8 teams)

The team securing the lowest number of points in SWPL 1, and finishing in League position 8, shall be relegated to SWPL 2. A standalone playoff match shall be played between position 7 of SWPL 1 and position 2 of SWPL 2. This match will be played at a neutral venue appointed by Scottish Women's Football. The winner of this fixture shall be promoted to/retain their place the SWPL 1.

##### SWPL 2 (10 teams)

The Champion team of SWPL 2 shall be promoted to SWPL1, with position 2 to play a standalone playoff match against position 7 of SWPL 1 as outlined above. Position Number 9 and 10 of the SWPL 2 will be relegated automatically to The Championship. A standalone playoff match shall be played between position 8 and the winner of the Championship Play Off game (position 2 of each Championship.) The winner of this match will be promoted to/retain their place in SWPL 2. This match will be played at a neutral venue appointed by Scottish Women's Football.

##### The Championship

The structure of The Championship will be confirmed, after receiving notification of the number of registered teams. The champion team of each Championship will be automatically promoted into SWPL 2. The 2 teams which finish in position 2 of each Championship will play a standalone playoff match to determine which team progresses to play position 8 of the SWPL 2. This match will be played at a neutral venue appointed by Scottish Women's Football.

If a playoff tie is drawn after 90 minutes, an extra thirty minutes shall be played. 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.

- (b) For the purpose of clarification, if two or more teams are equal on points upon completion of a League, the following criteria are applied to determine the final League positions:-
- (i) Superior goal difference in all matches played.
  - (ii) higher number of goals scored in all matches played.
  - (iii) higher number of points obtained in the matches played among the teams in question.

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

If, following the application of the criteria aforesaid, the teams are still level, the determination of a League Championship, relegation from a league, or qualification for other competitions 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.

- (c) A club which operates more than one team in the senior Leagues can only have one team in the performance pathway. For the avoidance of doubt, the performance pathway is the SWPL and the Championship

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- (d) If any team(s) in the Leagues is expelled, resigns, or retires for any reason before the commencement of the playing season, the Management Committee will have full powers to deal with the situation as it deems appropriate.
- (e) For all circumstances not covered in the paragraphs above, the Management Committee will have full powers to deal with the situation as it deems appropriate.

## 12. League Cup Ties

- (a) All clubs participating in the Premier League must enter the Scottish Women's Premier League Cup.

All clubs participating in the Championship must enter the Scottish Women's Football Championship Cup.

- (b) The Scottish Women's Premier League Cup will consist of a group stage with the champion and runner up of the SWPL 1 from the previous season automatically progressing to the Quarter Final stage. Each group will consist of 2 seeded teams and 2 unseeded sides. The 8 seeded teams will be the 6 remaining SWPL 1 teams, the team relegated from SWPL 1 in the previous season and the team finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in SWPL 2 in the previous season. The format of fixtures and each group's participants will be confirmed by a draw.

Within the group stage of the SWPL Cup the winner of each tie shall be awarded 3 points. If the tie finishes in a draw after 90 minutes has been played each team shall be awarded 1 point. The loser of each tie will receive no points.

- i) Clubs that finish in position 1 of their group will qualify for the Quarter Final. In the event of more than one team in the same group finishes the group stage with the same number of points the criteria listed below will determine which team shall progress and the final positions within the group:
- Superior goal difference in all group matches played

- Higher number of goals scored in all group matches played
  - Higher number of points obtained in the matches played among the teams in question.
  - Superior goal difference in the matches played amongst the teams in question
  - Higher number of goals scored in the matches played amongst the teams in question
  - If in such circumstances the teams are still tied in such manner progression to the Quarter Final shall be determined by the Management Committee
- ii) 2 best placed 2<sup>nd</sup> teams will progress to the Quarter Final. Best placed teams are determined by the following:
- Highest number of points obtained from all matches
  - Superior goal difference in all group matches played
  - Higher number of goals scored in all group matches played
  - If in such circumstances the teams are still tied in such manner progression to the Quarter Final shall be determined by the Management Committee
- iii) The 2 teams who finish in 4<sup>th</sup> position with the least amount of points across all 4 groups will be eliminated from the competition. In the event that more than 2 teams finishing in 4<sup>th</sup> position have the same number of points, the following criteria will be used to determine who will progress to the quarter finals of the plate competition:
- Superior goal difference in all group matches played
  - Higher number of goals scored in all group matches played
  - If in such circumstances the teams are still tied in such manner progression to the Quarter Final shall be determined by the Management Committee

The remaining 8 teams will then enter the quarter final of the plate competition. The format of fixtures will be confirmed by draw.

The Scottish Women's Football Championship Cup draw will be an all-in draw and ties shall be arranged in the manner approved by the 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 League Administrator and match officials 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 Management Committee.

- (e) In each knockout round of the League Cup Competitions, with the exception of the Semi-final and Final for SWPL Cup and the Final of the Championship Cup, 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 League Administrator.

The home club should, upon request, be able to provide the League Administrator / 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.

- (f) The Semi-Final and Final ties of the SWPL League Cup Competition and Final of the Championship Competition will be played at neutral venues, unless otherwise decided by the Management Committee.
- (g) If a League Cup tie is drawn after 90 minutes, with the exception of the group stages, an extra thirty minutes shall be played. 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.

#### 13. Grounds for League Fixtures and League Cup Ties

- (a) All clubs in the Leagues shall have a registered ground, the specific details of which will be provided to the League Administrator, on a Club Registration Form, prior to the commencement of the season.
- (b) It is the responsibility of each Premier League club to ensure that a standby ground is available for all scheduled and reserve fixture dates. The alternative ground for SWPL 1 teams should be outlined at the start of the season and should be compliant with SWPL 2 standards, and provided to the League Administrator in advance of the season kicking off. All clubs must submit a formal request to the League Administrator in the event of them requiring to use their named alternative ground. No clubs shall be permitted to use their alternative ground for more than 4 SWPL fixtures per season, unless due to exceptional circumstances

#### 14. Number of Players, Substitutes and Club Officials

A team shall consist of eleven players and is permitted to list up to 7 substitutes of whom not more than 5 may take part in the match. Up to a maximum of 6 approved 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 a team, may not play, or list as a named substitute, any player who, in the same season, has already played (as one of the eleven first named players or as a fielded substitute) for another club or team, in any other League Cup Competition.

#### 15. Dimensions of the Field of Play

- (a) The field of play shall be compliant with the IFAB Laws of the Game.

- (b) In the Premier League and the Premier League Cup spectators must be separated from the field of play by a wall, a rope, a railing or a fence.  
In the Championship and Championship Cup Competition, where possible, spectators should be separated from the field of play by a wall, a rope, a railing or a fence.
- (c) Technical areas, on the same side of the field of play, marked by lines/markers etc., shall be provided at each ground.

#### 16. Playing Field

All League and League Cup Competition matches 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 Registration Form.

#### 17. Goals, Goal Nets, Corner Flags

Full size goals with goal nets and corner flags shall be used at all matches.

#### 18. Provision of Footballs

Five footballs of first grade quality shall be provided by the home club for each match played in the Premier League, the Scottish Women's Premier League Cup.

Two footballs of first grade quality shall be provided by the home club for each match played in The Championship, and all associated Scottish Women's Football Championship Cup Competitions.

#### 19. First Aid Provisions

It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure that first aid cover is available at matches played at its registered and standby grounds.

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 the Leagues and League Cup Competitions, 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.

To be eligible to participate in the senior Leagues and League Cup Competitions, players must be born on or before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2005.

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 League Management Committee.

A goalkeeper who gains exemption may not for any reason whatsoever play in any other position.

- (b) A team in the senior Leagues can list any player registered for their club, providing they have been born on or before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2005.
- (c) Clubs will not be permitted to move their players from the SWPL and/or Championship to the Scottish Women's Football League or vice versa without the written approval from the Management Committee
- (d) It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that its players are eligible to play in League and League Cup Competition matches.
- (e) 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 Management Committee may decide.
- (f) 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 Scottish FA, 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 Management Committee may decide.
- (g) Pending suspensions can only be served by registered players.

#### 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 45 minutes before the start of a Premier League and 30 minutes before the start of a Championship match, each club shall hand to the referee, a list, and to its opponent, a duplicate, 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 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 is 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. During the match, five players may still be substituted.

(ii) If any of the 7 substitutes listed on the Team Line is 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 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 League Administrator shall keep a register of the names of all of the players who take part in the League and League Cup Competitions via the Football Administration system. The register shall be open for inspection.

### 23. Registered Colours

- (a) In accordance with SWF Registration Procedures a club shall register, by means of the Club Registration Form, 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 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 officials.
- (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 Match

- (a) A match will consist of two halves each of 45 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 15 minutes duration, or as otherwise determined by the referee.

#### 25. Appointment of Match Officials

- (a) Match Officials shall be appointed by the Scottish FA. The appointment of assistant referees may be made on behalf of the Scottish FA by a Referees’ Association as deemed appropriate.

Appointments shall take precedence over all other appointments, except with the permission and consent of the Scottish FA.

- (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 Quarter 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. Expenses may, in certain circumstances in the Premier League, be paid by the Scottish FA.

#### 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 to the League Administrator within Three days of the end of the match (Sunday excluded)

The 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 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) All decisions of the 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 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 Management Committee while the matter is being determined.

#### 28. Disorderly Conduct

Clubs are responsible, where practically possible, 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 reparation of same. The 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 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 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 Management Committee in its absolute discretion.
- (c) In the event that the 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 Management Committee's written determination to the club.

#### 30. Alterations and Additions to Rules

- (a) Alterations or additions may only be made at the Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Women's Premier League and Championship
- (b) Notice of any proposed alteration or addition for consideration at the ensuing Annual General Meetings of both the Scottish Women's Premier League and Championship shall be submitted in writing and be in the League Administrator's hands not later than 31st August.