

LEAGUE AND LEAGUE CUP COMPETITION SUPPLEMENTARY RULES 2020/21

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

The following supplementary section of SWF's competition rules have been prepared by the Perform & Win Committee to be implemented and governed, as deemed appropriate, in conjunction with the existing competition rules during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act up and enforce the supplementary rules, including any not provided for.

The following rules shall be applied as determined by the Management Committee, in conjunction with existing rules, within extenuating circumstances:

8. Season

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

The Competitions shall run as decided by the Management Committee following recommendation by the Girls'/Women's Policy Working Group, including, but not limited to competition curtailment or extension.

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.

For the avoidance of doubt, existing teams duly registered for season 2020 shall compete in season 2020/21 with no further amendments.

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

In extenuating circumstances, where a club's two registered grounds are unplayable, or other causes over which neither club has control, clubs may request to play at an alternative ground, which shall be considered by the Management Committee on a case by case basis.

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.

Should the Management Committee determine that the prescribed fixtures are unable to be fulfilled, the Management Committee shall have powers to amend the fixture schedule, as they deem appropriate, to facilitate the smooth running of the competition.

10. League Fixtures

- (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.

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.

The Management Committee have powers to apply the rules as deemed appropriate in the circumstances

10. League Fixtures

- (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.

The Management Committee have powers to re-schedule matches, other than those prescribed in this Rule, including but not limited to fixture curtailment to facilitate the smooth running of the Competition.

Season 2020/21 must be concluded no later than 30th June 2021.

10. League Fixtures

- (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.

The Management Committee shall fully consider extenuating circumstances and avoid, where reasonable, any such sanctions which may usually be applied.

10. League Fixtures

- (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.

The Management Committee shall have powers to determine the outcome accordingly, in the event of a club withdrawing during the course of the playing season, including but not limited to the deduction of all points gained by clubs winning or drawing against the club withdrawing from the League. Similarly, goals for and against may be declared null and void.

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)

At the end of season 2020/21's League Competition, no teams shall be relegated to SWPL 2.

SWPL 2 (10 teams)

At the end of the season 2020/21's League Competition, The Champion team and position 2 of SWPL 2 shall be promoted to SWPL 1, expanding SWPL 1 to 10 teams. A standalone playoff match shall be played between position 10 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. These matches 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 10 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.

- (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.

In extenuating circumstances, where the Management Committee determine that the scheduled season fixtures cannot be completed in full, the Management Committee shall have the power to declare the SWPL season final and binding by means of average points per game, provided always that at least two full fixture 'rounds' have been completed (i.e. every team has played each other at least once at home and once away from home). Further, the Management Committee shall have the power to declare the Championship season final and binding by means of average points per game, provided always that at least one full fixture 'round' has been completed (i.e. every team has played each other at least once).

In this regard, it is agreed that the Management Committee shall also have the power, in the event of country wide lockdown due to Covid-19 or otherwise, which prevents the playing of some or all individual scheduled fixture round(s) (the "**Postponed Fixture Round(s)**"), to amend the fixtures so as to recommence immediately following any such lockdown, with the Postponed Fixture Rounds. For the avoidance of doubt, all fixtures played by a team as at the date of the season being declared shall count towards the calculation of their points per game value.

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.

The Management Committee may declare the League Cup and Plate competitions in the Scottish Women's Premier League and Championship void, as deemed appropriate, to maintain the smooth running of the League competitions.

12. League Cup Ties

- (b) The number of rounds in the Scottish Women's Premier League Cup will be determined by the number of teams entered into the competition. No Plate competition shall be run.

The competition will be an open draw format, with the first team drawn in each tie playing at home and shall be arranged in the manner approved by the Management Committee. All rounds shall be drawn in advance to predetermine home and away draw.

If a League Cup 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. For the avoidance of doubt, the competition shall not require replays.

- (c) The number of rounds in the Scottish Women's Football Championship Cup will be determined by the number of teams entered into the competition.

The competition will be an open draw format, with the first team drawn in each tie playing at home and shall be arranged in the manner approved by the Management Committee. All rounds shall be drawn in advance to predetermine home and away draw.

If a League Cup 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. For the avoidance of doubt, the competition shall not require replays.

- (d) The number of rounds in the Scottish Women's Football Championship Plate will be determined by the number of teams entered into the competition.

The competition will be an open draw format, with the first team drawn in each tie playing at home and shall be arranged in the manner approved by the Management Committee. All rounds shall be drawn in advance to predetermine home and away draw.

If a League Plate 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. For the avoidance of doubt, the competition shall not require replays.

- (e) The Semi-Final and Final ties of the SWPL League Cup Competition and Final of the Championship Cup and Plate Competitions will be played at neutral venues, unless otherwise decided by the Management Committee.

- (f) The aforementioned rules shall be implemented, in conjunction with the contingency rules when deemed appropriate, for season 2020/21 only.

The Management Committee have powers to amend the format of the League Cup and Plate competitions as deemed appropriate

In addition to the above rules referencing extenuating circumstances, the Perform & Win Committee have prepared further rule modifications to ensure the smooth running of season 2020/21.

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 31st 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 31st December 2005.

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To be eligible to participate in the senior Leagues and League Cup Competitions, players must be born on or before 30th June 2006

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.

- (c) A team in the senior Leagues can list any player registered for their club, providing they have been born on or before 30th June 2006

21. (c) A Trialist may not be used in any League Matches after the 15th October in the current season

21. (c) A Trialist may not be used in any League Matches after the 5th April 2021 in the current season

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 returned to the League Administrator before the end of April in the year following presentation, in good order and condition. The League trophies shall be returned to the League Administrator before the end of September in the year following presentation, in good order and condition.

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 returned to the League Administrator before the end of November in the year following presentation, in good order and condition. The League trophies shall be returned to the League Administrator before the end of September in the year following presentation, in good order and condition.

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 30th January prior to the commencement of each season. Receipt of fixtures shall be acknowledged in writing by each club.

10. League Fixtures

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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 21st August 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 21st August prior to the commencement of each season. Receipt of fixtures shall be acknowledged in writing by each club.