

**LEAGUE AND LEAGUE CUP RULES
FOR THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S FOOTBALL
NATIONAL ACADEMY PROGRAMMES – 14s, 16s & 18s | SEASON 2022/23
("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 National Academy Programme" (the NAP unless title sponsorship is achieved).
- (b) The League Cup(s) shall be called "The Scottish Women's Football National Academy Programme Cup" (the NAP 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 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 Scottish Women's Football (SWF) Youth National Academy Programme, 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.

Four shall be represented by National Academy Programme clubs as elected at its Annual General Meeting.

Scottish Women's Football and the Scottish FA shall nominate a further three representatives with the Chairperson being a Director from Scottish Women's Football

A League Administrator, employed by Scottish Women's Football, shall provide secretariat and administrative support to the Management Committee.

- (b) Management Committee members representing NAP Clubs 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 National Academy Programme. 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 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 28 (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 four, 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 NAP clubs and one member representing either SWF or the Scottish FA.

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 representative is associated with.

In the absence of the Chair, Scottish Women's Football will appoint a chair for 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, 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 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 engraved and returned to the National Academy Programme Management Committee at the request of the National Academy Programme Administrator in the year following presentation, in good order and condition.
- (d) The League trophies shall be engraved and returned to the National Academy Programme Management Committee at the request of the National Academy Programme Administrator in the year following presentation, in good order and condition.

5. Awards to Players and Officials

The Management Committee shall present a medal, 25 for 11-a-side competitions, 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, 25 for 11-a-side competitions, 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

- (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 Academy Programme

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 Academy Programme 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 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 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 be directed by the Management Committee in consultation with SWF's Policy Working Group.

The fixtures shall be arranged in the manner directed by the 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 Academy Programme Administrator shall issue the fixtures not later than 14 July prior to the commencement of each season. Receipt of fixtures shall be acknowledged in writing by each club.

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, the League Administrator and the appointed match official(s) and/or the Regional Referee Co-ordinator. 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.

For Sunday matches, match details are to be supplied by 6pm on the Tuesday before.

If a club cancels or postpones a fixture after they receive notification of their match appointment, the club shall be liable to remunerate the referee with the full match fee.

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 National Academy Programme Administrator at least fourteen days prior to the date of the originally scheduled fixture. Such application must be made in writing on a form supplied by the 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 Academy Programme 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 Academy Programme Administrator. Failure to adhere shall result in a referral to the Management Committee.
- (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 Academy Programme 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 National Academy Programme Administrator / 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.

Postponed matches due to an unplayable ground, or other causes over which neither club has control, shall be automatically scheduled on the next Reserve Fixture (slip) date, with a minimum of 7 days' notice, or on an earlier date agreed by both clubs. Failing such agreement and confirmation notification to the League Administrator, the Management Committee shall have power to confirm the re-scheduled fixture date. In extenuating circumstances, the Management Committee have powers to reschedule fixtures as deemed appropriate.

- (i) The postponement or abandonment of League fixtures requires to be immediately reported in writing to the National Academy Programme 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 28 "Infringements of Rules", may be ordered to stand as a played match, or may be replayed in its entirety as the Management Committee may determine.
- (k) 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 Season must be concluded no later than 30th June

- (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 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 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 National Academy Programme Administrator not later than five days following the match.

- (n) 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, unless otherwise decided by the Management Committee. Similarly, goals for and against shall be declared null and void.
- (o) It is the responsibility of the home club to notify the match result and related information to the National Academy Programme Administrator in accordance with the guidelines agreed by the Management Committee.
- (p) 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.
- (q) 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.

All clubs must have access to the main pitch (half pitch each) for a minimum of 15 minutes before kick-off.

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.

The playoff will be played on the ground of the club first drawn in the ballot who shall pay for the facility hire. The away club shall pay for the match official fees.

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 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 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 Academy Programme 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 Management Committee in consultation with the Girls'/Women's Policy Working Group, 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, 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, the Cup Administrator and the appointed match official(s) and/or the Regional Referee Co-ordinator. 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.

For Sunday matches, match details are to be supplied by 6pm on the Tuesday before

- (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 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 Academy Programme Administrator.

The home club should, upon request, be able to provide the National Academy Programme 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 or match official.

- (f) The Final of the League Cup Competition(s) will be played at a neutral venue, unless otherwise decided by the 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.

14s - Two halves of ten minutes duration

16s - Two halves of ten minutes duration.

18s - 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 Academy Programme Administrator during the affiliation process and prior to the commencement of the season.

14. Number of Players, Substitutes and Club Officials

For the 14s age groups a team shall consist of eleven players and is permitted to list up to 7 substitutes all of whom can take part in the match. This age group will permit the use of rolling subs.

Within the 14s competition and providing both teams are in agreement, teams are enabled to enact the 'creative clause' whereby fixtures can be played with fewer than eleven players. This provision allows different challenges and stimulus to fixtures for the development of young players. Teams must inform the league administrator if they wish to enact this clause.

For the 16s age groups a team shall consist of eleven players and is permitted to list up to 7 substitutes all of whom may take part in the match.

For the 18s age groups a team shall consist of eleven players and is permitted to list up to 7 substitutes all of whom may take part in the match.

There shall be unlimited subs at half time but only three stoppages during the game for further substitutions in line with UEFA Youth National Team regulations. The LMC reserve the right to issue further guidance and amend approaches should the course of the NAP suggests it requires revision.

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 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 in any other League Cup Competition irrespective of age group.

Rolling substitutes are not permitted at either the 16s or 18s age-group

15. Dimensions of the Field of Play

For 14s, 16s and 18s age groups the length of the field of play shall be compliant with the dimensions provided in the IFAB Laws of the Game.

(a) 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).

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

(c) 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 all age groups: 14s, 16s and 18s size 5 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.

- (c) It is the responsibility of clubs to ensure that a COVID Officer is available at matches played. The appointed person must have completed the required COVID e-Learning course and relevant SWF Declarations to ensure full compliance with the Scottish FA directive and to be eligible to compete in any SWF competitions.

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 2022/23:

14s born on or after 1st January 2009

16s - Born on or after 1st January 2007

18s - Born on or after 1st January 2005

(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 is if a player has already played, or been a named substitute, for another club, in any other League Cup Competition, irrespective of age group.)

18s teams can play three overage players in a match. Two overage outfield players and a goalkeeper are eligible to be fielded at any one time. There are no limitations on the number of overage players listed on the team line.

(d) To play up two age-groups approval is required from the National Academy Programme Administrator, in consultation with either the League Management Committee or the Strong Quality Growth Committee. Clubs should demonstrate they have taken the appropriate wellbeing checks if playing a player up two age groups, this should also involve the input of parents/carers where practical. SWF/LMC reserves the right to do spot checks to ensure wellbeing processes are being followed. Cognisance should also be given to heading the ball guidance.

(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 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 registered to the National Academy Programme is not permitted to play in any youth regional team's matches. However, a

youth regional team player can be listed as one of the starting 11, or a substitute that participates in the game across the Academy Programme.

- ii) For the avoidance of doubt, a regional player who is listed to play within the National Academy Programme, will be permitted to play the following match for their youth regional team.
- iii) National Academy Programme players are not permitted to take part in the Youth Scottish Challenge Cup (which is reserved for regional teams/players). A regional player however, may be able participate in the Scottish Youth Cup and the Youth Scottish Challenge Cup but this will be determined by the LMC on a case by case basis.

(G) If the youth regional team at any age-group starts its season before the national performance team's season commences all previous regional players shall be permitted to play within the National Academy Programme as long as they are on the 2022/23 registration form for the League and Cup.

(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) For development purposes only, players will be permitted to play in cup matches for another age group within their club and will not be deemed cup-tied. For the avoidance of doubt a 14s player can play up to the 16s and a 16s player can play up in the 18s squad. Players, through prior approval of the LMC and through evidenced developmental purposes only, may move down an age group. Players will be cup tied if they move club and have played a cup fixture for their previous club.
- iv) 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
- v) 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 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 Management Committee may decide
- vi) 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 16's age-group in accordance with the dispensation guidelines. For the avoidance of doubt, no such dispensations will be granted at the 18s 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 18th April 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 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 days thereafter the referee shall send to the National Academy Program 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) 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 advise the

Management Committee, and take any required action.

(d) The National Academy Programme 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 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 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

(a) For 18s a match will consist of two halves each of 45 minutes in duration.
For 16s a match will consist of two halves each of 40 minutes in duration.
For 14s a match will consist of two halves each of 35 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.

Match official fees are as follows:

14s, 16s and 18s - £40

- (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 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.

27 Disorderly Conduct

Clubs are responsible, where practically possible, for the behavior 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 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.

28 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.

29 Alterations and Additions to Rules

- (a) Alterations or additions may only be made at the Annual General Meeting of the National Academy Programme
- (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 May