GWENT COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

OFFICIAL HANDBOOK 2026/2027

Mr M. Jenkins
Chair 2025-2027

CONTENTS

Section A	**Page 1**	**Constitution**
Section B	**Page 5**	**Association Rules**
Section C	**Page 36**	**Standard Rules of the Area Associations**
Section D	**Page 52**	**Disciplinary Procedures Concerning On-Field Offences**
Section E	**Page 68**	**Assaults on Match Officials**
Section F	**Page 72**	**Reduced Penalty Procedures**
Section G	**Page 75**	**Cup Competitions**

THE COUNCIL OF THE ASSOCIATION
2026/2027

PRESIDENT:
Mr K.R. Jones (1994)

DEPUTY PRESIDENT:
Mr B. Reynolds (1994)

****

CHAIR OF COUNCIL:
Mr M. Jenkins (2015)

VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL:
Mr D. Harris (2008)

****

LIFE PAST PRESIDENTS:
Mr A.R. Jenkins (1974) / Mr G. Jones (1975) /
Mr P.W. Aston (1974-1981/1984) / Mr S.J. Brooks KSS JP (1978)

****

LIFE MEMBERS:
Mr L.C. Mort (1980) / Mr H. Wills (1978-1986/1989) / Mr A. Watkins (1987)
Mr S. Matthews (1990-2005/2009) / Mr B. Reynolds (1994) Mr K.R. Jones (1994)
Mr R. Willis (1995) / Mr J.B. Barnett (1997-2015 / 2017) / G. Phillips (2005)

****

APPOINTED MEMBERS

SECRETARY:
Mr A. Watkins (1987)
Tel: 01495 214 388 / Mobile: 07812 214 388
email: alanwatkins@gwentfa.co.uk

DISCIPLINARY SECRETARY:
Mr K.R. Jones (1994)
Tel: 01685 388 837 /
email: kevin.jones@gwentfa.co.uk

COMPETITIONS SECRETARY:
Mr G. Phillips (2005)
Tel: 01495 247 394 / Mobile 07779 247 958
email: geoffphillips1709@gmail.com

TREASURER:
Mr A. Watkins (1987)

REFEREES' OFFICER:
Mr M. Roberts (2020)
Tel: 07855 406923 /
email: mark.roberts@gwentfa.co.uk

SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS:
Mr D. Thomas (2024)
Mrs C. Williams (2022)
email: safeguarding@gwentfa.co.uk

SOCIAL MEDIA OFFICER:
Mr M. Jenkins (2015)

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION CHAMPION:
Mr M. Iqbal (2015)

ACCREDITATION OFFICER
Mr G. Williams (2006)

REPRESENTATIVE FROM THIS ASSOCIATION ON THE COUNCIL OF THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES:
Mr. A. Watkins (1987)

REPRESENTATIVE FROM THIS ASSOCIATION ON THE GWENT COUNTY REFEREES ASSOCIATION:
Mr M. Roberts (2020)

****

ELECTED MEMBERS

Gwent Premier League:
Mr M. Richards (2020)

North Gwent League
Mr D. Mott (2025)

Newport Junior League
Mr A. Bird (2025)

East Gwent League
Mr R. Morley (2025)

Gwent Premier Youth League
Vacant

Torfaen Junior League
Mr K. Sims (2023)

Gwent Central League
Mr I. Pinney (2024)

Islwyn Junior League
Mr M. Wilkins (2025)

Gwent County Girls League
Mr W. Brinkley (2026)

Newport & District League
Mr I. Collier (2025)

Monmouthshire Junior League
Mr D. Harris (2008)

Gwent County Referees Association
Mr A. Dack (2023)

****

MANAGEMENT BOARD:

Officers
Life Past Presidents
Mr G. Phillips

Mr J.B. Barnett
Mr H. Wills
Mr M. Richards

Mr M. Roberts

COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE:

Officers
Mr G. Phillips
Mr A.R. Jenkins
Mr P.W. Aston

Mrs C. Williams
Mr Mo. Iqbal
Mr G. Williams
Mr M. Richards

Mr J.B. Barnett
Mr S. Matthews

REFEREES COMMITTEE:

Officers
Mr M. Roberts
Mr D. Thomas
Mr A. Dack
Mr Mo Iqbal

Mr P.W. Aston
Mr H. Wills
Mr A.R. Jenkins
Mr G. Williams

Mr G. Phillips
Mr J.B. Barnett
Vacant

JUNIOR/YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Officers
Mr A. Bird
Mr M. Wilkins

Mrs C. Williams
Mr K. Sims
Mr D. Harris

Mr W. Brinkley

REFEREES OBSERVERS/ASSESSORS:

Mr. A. Dack
Mr S. Type

Mr D. Thomas
Mr P. Williams

Mr S. Foster

AFFILIATED LEAGUES:

SENIOR LEAGUES

THE GWENT PREMIER LEAGUE
Mr K.R. JONES
Email: kevin@kjones.org.uk
Tel: 01685 379 719

NEWPORT AND DISTRICT LEAGUE
Mr P.W. ASTON
Email: paston@btinternet.com
Tel: 01633 412 780.

EAST GWENT LEAGUE
Mr R. MORLEY
Email: rmorley.egfl@hotmail.com
Tel: 07484 617 889

NORTH GWENT LEAGUE
Mr D. MOTT
Email: mott174@btinternet.com
Tel. 07506 481 311

GWENT CENTRAL LEAGUE
Mr L. RICHARDS
Email: Gwentcentralleague@hotmail.com
Tel: 07940 281 117

JUNIOR AND YOUTH LEAGUES:

THE GWENT PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE
Mr K.R. JONES
Email: kevin@kjones.org.uk
Tel: 01685 379 719

MONMOUTHSHIRE JUNIOR LEAGUE
D. HARRIS
Email: derekharris1927@btinternet.com
Tel: 01291 625 650

ISLWYN JUNIOR LEAGUE
Mr S. NEEDS
Email: shane@islwynjfl.co.uk
Tel: 07584 036 112

NEWPORT JUNIOR LEAGUE
Mrs C. WILLIAMS
Email: njflsec@gmail.com
Tel: 01633 253 806

TORFAEN JUNIOR LEAGUE
Mr K. SIMS
Email: torfaenleague@gmail.com
Tel: 0163 870 121

GWENT COUNTY GIRLS LEAGUE
Mrs C. WILLIAMS
Email: gcglseccw@gmail.com
Tel: 01633 253 806

REFEREES' ASSOCIATIONS:

THE GWENT COUNTY REFEREES' ASSOCIATION:
Mr A. DACK
Email: alandack@live.co.uk
Tel: 07717 774 570

EAST GWENT REFEREES' ASSOCIATION:
Mr M. GARDINER
Email: markjgardiner1987@gmail.com
Tel: 07397 886 568

MONMOUTHSHIRE REFEREES' ASSOCIATION:
Mr A. DACK
Email: alandack@live.co.uk
Tel: 07717 774 570

NORTH GWENT REFEREES' ASSOCIATION:
Mr R.G. Thomas
Email: Robert.g.thomas@tatasteeleurope.com
Tel: 07717 947 802

PAST OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

President:

1911-1920 Mr A.G. E. Fudge
1920-1933 Mr A.E. Moss
1933-1946 Mr F.E. Powell
1946-1968 Mr C.M. Rabbitt
1968-1982 Mr R.T. Fyfe
1982-1985 Mr A.J. Hapgood
1985-1988 Mr J.W.T. Smith
1988-1991 Mr D.J. Herbert
1991-1994 Mr C.W. Kingston
1994-1997 Mr C.C. Watkins
1997-2000 Mr A.R. Jenkins
2000-2001 Mr B.G. Turner
2001-2004 Mr G. Jones
2004-2007 Mr P.W. Aston
2007-2008 Mr G.E.A. Reynolds
2008-2011 Mr T.V. Harris
2011-2014 Mr S.J. Brooks
2014-2017 Mr L.C. Mort
2017-2020 Mr H. Wills
2020-2023 Mr D. Piper
2023-2026 Mr S. Matthews

Chair:

1911-1912 Mr A. Rogers
1912-1914 Mr T. Oakley
1914-1916 Mr J. Evans
1917-1920 Mr A.H. Hynam
1920-1922 Mr H. Swinney
1922-1924 Mr R.C. Berry
1924-1926 Mr F.E. Powell
1926-1928 Mr Jas. Thomas
1928-1930 Mr Chas. M. Rabbitt
1930-1931 Mr W. Williams
1931-1933 Mr J.G. Cale
1933-1935 Mr E.C. Gosney
1935-1937 Mr E.H. Garland
1937-1939 Mr A.T. Weaver
1939-1946 Mr G.H. Baker
1946-1948 Mr B. Savage
1948-1950 Mr D. Warren
1950-1952 Mr C. Tovey
1952-1954 Mr B. Williams
1954-1956 Mr A.S. Baker
1956-1958 Mr R.T. Fyfe
1958-1960 Mr A.J. Hapgood
1960-1961 Mr G.C. Davies
1962-1964 Mr B.A. Smith
1964-1966 Mr S.J. Plaisted
1966-1968 Mr D.J. Herbert
1968-1970 Mr T.H. Whitfield
1970-1972 Mr T.H. White
1972-1974 Mr H. Williams
1974-1976 Mr C.W. Kingston
1976-1978 Mr J. Jenkins
1978-1980 Mr J.W.T. Smith
1980-1982 Mr K.H. Phelps
1982-1984 Mr C. Sutton
1984-1986 Mr G. Jones
1986-1988 Mr F. Williams
1988-1990 Mr P.W. Aston
1990-1992 Mr S.J. Brooks
1992-1994 Mr G.E.A. Reynolds
1994-1995 Mr W. Macdonald
1995-1997 Mr L. Blakemore
1997-1999 Mr B.G. Turner
1999-2001 Mr H. Wills
2001-2003 Mr A.R. Jenkins
2003-2005 Mr D. Felkin
2005-2007 Mr D. Piper
2007-2009 Mr T. Challenger
2009-2011 Mr K.R. Jones
2011-2013 Mr B. Reynolds
2013-2015 Mr R. Willis
2015-2017 Mr S. Matthews
2017-2019 Mr G. Phillips
2019-2021 Mr J.B. Barnett
2021-2023 Mr G. Williams
2023-2025 Mr Mo. Iqbal

Hon. Secretary:

1911-1913 Mr A.J. Morris
1913-1914 Mr T. Ablart
1914-1919 Mr W.H. Tripp
1919-1943 Mr P.T. Sockett
1943-1946 Mr R.T. Fyfe
1946-1948 Mr A.H. Thomas
1948-1952 Mr F. Eglinton
1952-1967 Mr Cecil Tovey
1967-1973 Mr J.W.T. Smith
1973-1988 Mr B.G. Turner
1988-2009 Mr T.V. Harris

Hon. Assistant Secretary:

1979-1988 Mr T.V. Harris
1988-1995 Mr G.C. James
1995-2009 Mr A. Watkins

Hon. Treasurer:

1911-1915 Mr A.J. Morris
1915-1919 Mr W.H. Tripp
1919-1937 Mr J.T. Davies
1937-1954 Mr James Thomas
1954-1968 Mr John Smith
1968-1969 Mr Gwyn Forest
1969-1970 Mr G.C. Davies
1970-1979 Mr L.A. Jones
1979-1988 Mr B.G. Turner

SECTION "A"

CONSTITUTION

1. TITLE OF ASSOCIATION AND AREA:

The Association shall be called "The Gwent County Football Association Ltd", (thereinafter called The Association) and shall be affiliated to the Football Association of Wales Ltd.

The Area of the Association shall be the Areas of the Monmouthshire County Council, Torfaen Borough Council, Blaenau Gwent Borough Council, Newport City Council & parts of Caerphilly County Council on the Gwent side of the River Rhymney, which separates the GCFA from the SWFA.

THE AREA OF GWENT FOR THE REGISTRATION OF JUNIOR PLAYERS.

Junior Players can only be registered if they live in the following post code areas, for any post code not listed, please contact the Association Secretary:

NP4 // NP7 / NP10 // NP11 // NP12 // NP13 // NP15 // NP18 // NP19 // NP20 // NP22 // NP23 // NP24 // NP26 // NP44.

The following Post Codes, when used by Gwent Clubs, have conditions attached to them:

NP16 (Monmouthshire County Council addresses only)
NP25 (Monmouthshire County Council addresses only)
NP 8 (Monmouthshire County Council addresses only)
CF81 (Applications to the Association Secretary before registration is submitted)
CF82 (Applications to the Association Secretary before registration is submitted)

2. HEADQUARTERS:

The headquarters of The Association is the Civic Centre Newport Gwent.

3. CONTROL OF ASSOCIATION:

The affairs of The Association shall be governed by the Council: -

- Chair
- Vice-Chair
- President
- Deputy President
- Life Past Presidents
- Life Members
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Disciplinary Secretary
- Competitions Secretary
- Safeguarding Officer/s
- Social Media Officer
- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Champion
- Referees Officer
- Accreditation Officer

All to be elected/appointed in accordance with Rule 4.

The Officers of this Association shall be.

- President
- Deputy President
- Chair
- Vice-Chair

4. ELECTION OF COUNCIL:

4.1 The Chair shall be appointed biennially by the Council and no Chair shall remain in office for more than two years.

4.2 The Vice-Chair shall be appointed biennially by the Council.

4.3 The President shall be appointed by the Council. The President must be an active Life Member and will only serve for a period of three years.

4.4 The Deputy President shall be appointed by the Council. The Deputy President must be an active Life Member and will only serve for a period of three years.

4.5 The Life Past Presidents shall be Life Members having achieved twenty-one (21) years' service and at the time of appointment has served the Association as President. At no time shall the number of Life Past Presidents exceed four (4).

4.6 The Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Competitions Secretary & Disciplinary Secretary shall be appointed biennially by the Council.

4.7 The Referee's Officer shall be appointed biennially by the Council.

4.8 The Safeguarding Officer/s shall be appointed bienally by the Council.

4.9 The Social Media Officer shall be appointed biennaly by the Council.

4.10 The Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Champion shall be appointed biennially by the Council.

4.11 The Accreditation Officer shall be appointed biennaly by the Council.

4.12 The Council shall be elected as follows:

4.12.1 Each League shall biennially elect one member to represent the League on the Council of the Association.

4.12.2 Qualifications for 4.11.1 is that each League seeking representation on the Gwent County Football Association Council must have a minimum of ten affiliated clubs.

4.12.3 One member to be invited biennially to represent The Gwent County Referees Association.

4.12.4 Life Members: Members of the Council who have served twenty-one (21) years on the Council not necessarily continuous shall be eligible for election as Life Members of the Association with full voting powers. At no time shall the number of Life Members exceed twelve (12).

4.12.5 When deciding on appointments of Officers of the Association, seniority shall be determined by actual years of service on the Council of The Association, not necessarily continuous.

4.12.6 The Council shall have power to fill any vacancies arising among the Officers or Appointed/Elected Members during the year and to appoint Sub-Committees.

5. DISQUALIFICATIONS:

5.1 No referee on the active list of the Association shall be eligible for a seat on the Council or to be an Officer of this Association.

5.2 No player shall be eligible for a seat on the Council or to be an Officer of this Association.

5.3 No player under contract shall be allowed to serve on the Council of this Association.

5.4 A two-thirds majority can remove any member or Officer of the Council guilty of misconduct in any form from the Council immediately and any vacancy may be filled immediately.

5.5 Any member of the Council who has been absent from two consecutive Council Meetings without (in the opinion of the Council) a sufficient reason shall be considered to have resigned.

5.6 Any member of the Council who has been absent from two consecutive Sub-Committee Meetings without (in the opinion of the Council) a sufficient reason shall be considered to have resigned from the Sub-Committee.

6. CONSTITUTION CHANGES:

Only the Council of The Association can change the Constitution of The Association. Any changes must have a two thirds majority of those eligible to vote.

7. COMMITTEE STRUCTURES:

7.1. Management Board:

Officers, Life Past Presidents, Competitions Secretary, Disciplinary Secretary, the retiring Chair, two (2) Life Members and two (2) Council Members.

7.2. Competitions Committee:

Officers, Competitions Secretary and eight (8) Members.

7.3. Referees Committee:

Officers, The Referees Officer, The Referees Officers Assistant, Gwent County Referees Association Representative, Competitions Secretary, and eight (8) Members.

7.4. Junior/Youth Football & Development Committee:

Officers, One member from each of the Junior Leagues. One Member from the Youth League. A Member from the Football Association of Wales and one member from the Gwent Schools Football Association maybe co-opted on the Committee without voting rights. The Secretary of Junior and Youth Leagues, not on the Council of the Association, may be invited to meetings.

8. FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT:

All Finance & Management of the Association shall be dealt with by the Management Board of the Association.

9. ACCOUNTS:

The accounts for each year shall be certified by a Chartered Accountant and a cash statement and balance sheet to be available at the Annual General Meeting of the Association. The Chartered Accountants to be appointed at the previous Annual General Meeting by the members present. The Secretary and Treasurer of The Association or in the absence of one of the foregoing signatures the Chair shall sign all cheques. Any cheque submitted to this Association and subsequently not honoured by the bank will incur a £25.00 administrative fee.

10. COMPETITION CUP FEES:

The Council shall decide all fees annually for all competitions.

11. AFFILIATION FEES FOR CLUBS LEAGUES COMPETITIONS & EVENTS:

All Leagues Competitions Events and Clubs in the area of Gwent must affiliate to the Gwent County Football Association. The fees are:

League Affiliation	£30.00	Under 16 Boys/Mixed Cup	£10.00
Club Affiliation	£30.00	Under 14 Girls Cup	£10.00
Senior Cup	£20.00	Under 15 Girls Cup	£10.00
Amateur Cup	£20.00	Under 16 Girls Cup	
Intermediate Cup	Free	All other Competitions/Events	£25.00
Under 14 Boys/Mixed Cup	£10.00		
Under 15 Boys/Mixed Cup	£10.00		

12. CUP COMPETITION PRIZE MONEY:

Each season the Management Committee will decide if prize money is paid to Winners and Runners Up of Association Cup Competitions: In the event of prize money being awarded it will be presented at either a Presentation Evening or the AGM of the Association. Clubs failing to attend to collect their awards will forfeit their prize money.

13. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

13.1. At any meeting held by the Council or any sub-committee of the Council to discuss a matter relating to any club or league, Councillors having an interest in such club or league shall declare the nature and extent of that interest to the other Councillors and shall: -

13.1.1. not be counted in the quorum present at the meeting to consider the matter;

13.1.2. have no vote on such matter; and

13.1.3. leave the room and take no further part in the discussion on such matter.

13.2 the provisions of Rule 13 shall not apply to a conflict of interest which arises solely because the Councillor is appointed, nominated or elected a Councillor as the representative of any league.

13.3 at any meeting held by the Council or any sub-committee of the Council at which a declaration of interest under Rule 13 is made, the other Councillors at that meeting may direct that the provisions of Rule 13 be suspended or relaxed in respect of that specific matter for any Councillor who has made the necessary declaration of a conflict of interest.

13.4 each Member and every Subordinate of that Member shall respond promptly to any request for information (including, without limitation, a request for the production of documentation) reasonably made by the Association from time to time.

SECTION "B"

ASSOCIATION RULES & REGULATIONS

1. COUNCIL MEETINGS:

A monthly meeting may be held during the football season the Secretary being empowered to call a Special Meeting at any time it may be deemed necessary on giving seven days' notice. An agenda to be forwarded with the notice of each meeting; this agenda to show all matters separately that are likely to require discussion or voting.

2. ANNUAL MEETING:

The Annual General Meeting shall be held during July. Each Club or League having paid its subscription for the season shall be entitled to send one representative. No representative shall represent more than one League or Club.

3. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS:

The Secretary shall convene a Special General Meeting at any time by order of the Council or on receiving a requisition to that effect signed by the Secretaries of not less than twenty Clubs belonging to The Association but no General Meeting shall have the power to alter the decision of the Council.

4. ALTERATION OF CUP RULES:

In the event of any alteration being deemed necessary in the Cup Rules of this Association notice of the proposed alteration or amendment shall be sent to the Secretary in writing with the name of the proposer of every such alteration or amendment this to be in the hands of the Secretary of the Association by the 10th February and the Secretary shall inform every Club and League of the proposed alteration or amendment at least seven days before a General Meeting to be held in the third week in March for that purpose. Any changes must have a two thirds majority of those eligible to vote. Any such alterations or amendments will come in force at the next Annual General Meeting.

5. ADMISSION TO GROUNDS:

Any Officer or Member of the Council of The Association shall be admitted to the reserved or stand accommodation of any ground belonging to a club affiliated to this Association upon production of his official card for the current season.

NOTE: Formal Notice must be given to the respective club by the Secretary of The Association.

6. COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE:

The Committee shall be responsible for all Cup matters and to arrange and organise games for the selected representative squads of The Association.

7. GROUND CRITERIA FOR ALL CLUBS AND NEW CLUBS ENTERING THE GWENT PREMIER ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL LEAGUE

OWNERSHIP OF THE GROUND	All matches to be played on private grounds or on grounds deemed suitable by the League Management Committee
PLAYING AREA	In accordance with the Laws of the game, the touchline must be longer than the goal-line. The minimum length is 90m (100 yds.) the maximum length is 120m (130 yds.). The minimum length of the goal-line is 45m (50 yds.) the maximum length of the goal-line is 90m (100 yds.).
PLAYING SURFACE	The field of play must either be a wholly natural or a wholly artificial surface and must be maintained in good condition
FIELD MARKINGS	The field of play must be marked in accordance with the Laws of the Game. Field markings shall be white in colour and clearly visible to match officials and players.

GOAL POSTS AND NETS	Goal posts and goal nets must be maintained in good condition and meet the requirements of the Laws of the Game.
DUGOUTS	Covered dugouts must be provided for both teams, each with seating room for at least 8 people. Only the team managers, substitutes, coaches and medical staff are allowed in the dugouts.
TECHNICAL AREA	The technical area should be marked in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
BOUNDARY FENCING	The playing area must be fenced to a good standard on all four sides at least two yards from the touch and goal lines
CHANGING ROOMS	Separate and secure accommodation must be provided for both teams and the match officials. It must be located within a proximity of the playing area acceptable to the League Management Committee.
SHOWER FACILITIES	Separate showering facilities must be provided for both teams which need to contain a minimum of four showers.
MATCH OFFICIALS	A separate dressing room must be provided for the match officials and include showering facilities. Separate toilet facilities for match officials must be provided by season 2024/2025.
EMERGENCY AID	All clubs must have First Aid equipment, which must include a stretcher. The location must be clearly marked in all dressing rooms.
EMERGENCY VEHICLES	Emergency vehicles must be able to drive into the stadium. The access and egress point(s) must not be blocked. A parking space must be identified for an emergency vehicle to park, which must not be occupied by any other vehicle or used for any other purpose. Unobstructed access leading from a spectator area in the stadium to the playing area must be provided to allow access and egress for a stretcher. It is recommended that this access is located as close as possible to the area designated for the access/egress of the emergency vehicle(s).
GROUND SHARING	Any member Club who intends entering a ground sharing agreement either by sharing its own ground irrespective of whether the other Club is from within or outside the Area Association, must initially submit in writing to the League full details of the agreement which must then be approved by the League Executive Committee before it can be accepted. Details of ground sharing agreements must be submitted to the League by 1st April to be effective for the following Season and must be for a minimum of one Season. This condition also applies to new member Clubs entering or promoted to the League. Any Club entering into a ground sharing agreement for one Season and being promoted on this basis, will automatically be relegated after one Season if they are unable to continue the arrangement and are unable to confirm their facilities for the following Season by 1st April.

8. REGULATIONS FOR THE PYRAMID STRUCTURE:

Definition

In these Regulations, the following words and expressions have the following meaning:-

Area Association: Any regional football association defined pursuant to Rule 11.1.2.

Directors:	Shall have the meaning defined in the Preamble to the Rules.
National League:	Any men's league defined pursuant to Rule 11.1.3.
FAW:	Football Association of Wales Limited.
Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations:	The quality standards and procedures set by the FAW from time to time to which all existing members of the Cymru Premier League and those seeking promotion to the Cymru Premier League must adhere.
Tier 2 Compliance Regulations:	The quality standards and procedures set by the FAW from time to time which all existing members of Tier 2 and those seeking promotion to Tier 2 must adhere.
Tier 3 Ground Criteria Regulations:	The ground facilities set by the FAW from time to time which all existing members of Tier 3 and those seeking promotion to Tier 3 must adhere at their registered home ground.
Football Related Liabilities:	Shall have the meaning defined in the Preamble to the Rules.
Club Licensing Criteria:	Shall mean the Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations, the Tier 2 Compliance Regulations or the Tier 3 Ground Criteria Regulations, as the case may be.
National Level:	Tiers 1 and 2 of the Pyramid League System.
Playing Season:	Shall have the meaning defined in the Preamble to the Rules.
Play-Off Matches:	The matches played in accordance with 3(f)(ii) of these Regulations.
Pyramid League System:	The pyramid league system for the playing of competitive league men's football in Wales at various levels ("Tiers"), as approved by the FAW from time to time.
Pyramid Tiers 1 – 3:	The top Tiers 1 - 3 inclusive of the Pyramid League System the structure of which from the commencement of Playing Season 2020/2021 is attached as Appendix 1 to these Regulations.
Qualifying Club:	Any club, being a full Member of the FAW, defined pursuant to Rule 11.1.1.
Regional Level:	Tier 3 of the Pyramid League System.
Rules:	The rules of the FAW as passed by the Members of the FAW from time to time.
Tier 1:	The Cymru Premier League comprising Qualifying Clubs who have obtained the Tier 1 licence pursuant to the Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations playing at National Level, aspiring to play in European football. The Cymru Premier League is administered by the FAW.
Tier 2:	The two divisions, currently known as "Cymru North" and "Cymru South", comprising Qualifying Clubs who have met the Tier 2 Compliance Regulations and playing at National Level, aspiring to play at Tier 1 level. The divisions are administered by the FAW.
Tier 3:	The four divisions, currently known as the "Ardal Leagues", comprising Qualifying Clubs who have met the Tier 3 Ground Criteria Regulations playing at Regional Level, aspiring to play at National Level. The divisions are administered by one or more National League(s) on behalf of the FAW.
Cymru Premier League:	The premier league (Tier 1), being the top division in the Pyramid League System, for the playing of association football by men in Wales.

8.1 Responsibilities and Objectives

(a) The Pyramid League System provides football clubs throughout Wales with a framework of competitive men's football appropriate to their playing standards, ground facilities, geographical location and economic means and permits the seasonal promotion, relegation or lateral movement of clubs between the Tiers and the divisions of the Tiers in an orderly manner.

(b) The FAW has responsibility for Pyramid Tiers 1 – 3 which form the National Leagues in the Pyramid League System and the Area Associations have responsibility for those leagues in the Pyramid League System below the National Leagues (Tier 4 and below).

(c) Except where otherwise stated, these Regulations apply to Pyramid Tiers 1 – 3.

8.2 League Structure

(a) The Pyramid Tiers 1 - 3 for National Leagues shall be determined by the FAW. Each National League (and its divisions in Tiers 2 and 3) will be placed at a given Tier in the system, with the Cymru Premier League at the head.

(b) No National League or Area Association shall incorporate any changes in the structure of any part of the Pyramid League System except at the direction, and with the approval, of the FAW.

(c) The FAW will control these Regulations. No National League in the Pyramid Tiers 1 - 3 shall change the number of its divisions or number of teams playing in a division without the written permission of the FAW.

(d) Divisions in Pyramid Tiers 1 - 3 shall contain no more than 16 teams, unless with the written permission of the FAW.

(e) Every National League in the Pyramid Tiers 1 - 3 shall conform with the decisions of the FAW as laid down from time to time.

(f) All clubs in the Cymru Premier League must hold a current annual Tier 1 licence under the Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations to play in the Cymru Premier League. Any club playing in the Cymru Premier League that fails to obtain renewal of its licence for the next Playing Season shall be relegated one Tier from the Cymru Premier League to Tier 2 at the end of the Playing Season in which the unsuccessful application was made.

(g) All Tier 2 clubs must satisfy the Tier 2 Compliance Regulations to play in Tier 2. Any club playing in Tier 2 that fails to satisfy the Tier 2 Compliance Regulations for the next Playing Season shall be relegated one Tier to Tier 3 at the end of the Playing Season in which the unsuccessful application was made.

(h) All Tier 3 clubs must satisfy the Tier 3 Ground Criteria Regulations to play in Tier 3. Any club playing in Tier 3 that fails to satisfy the Tier 3 Ground Criteria Regulations for the next Playing Season shall be relegated one Tier to Tier 4 at the end of the Playing Season in which the unsuccessful application was made.

8.3 Promotion / Relegation

(a) Save where the FAW otherwise directs under Regulation 3(g), there shall be automatic promotion and relegation between the Tiers of the Pyramid Tiers 1 – 3 (and promoted/relegated into and out of Tier 3), provided the promoted club meets the necessary Club Licensing Criteria. A Qualifying Club (and a club otherwise promoted into Tier 3 from Tier 4) will not be promoted if it is not successful in its application.

(b) No National League or Area Association will be allowed to operate a Club Licensing Criteria for promotion which is more stringent than the level of the Pyramid Tiers 1 - 3 they feed into.

(c) The Club Licensing Criteria application process shall be as follows:-

(i) Clubs must apply to the FAW in writing as per the Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations if they wish to be assessed against the criteria in the FAW Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations for playing in the Cymru Premier League;

(ii) Clubs must apply to the FAW in writing as per the Tier 2 Compliance Regulations if they wish to be assessed against the criteria in the FAW Tier 2 Compliance Regulations for playing in Tier 2; and

(iii) Clubs must apply to the FAW in writing as per the relevant Tier 3 Ground Criteria Regulations if they wish to be assessed against the Tier 3 Ground Criteria Regulations for playing in Tier 3.

(d) A Qualifying Club in any division of Pyramid Tiers 2 and 3 that applies for and meets the relevant Club Licensing Criteria and achieves a promotional place in its division of a Tier and a club from Tier 4 that achieves a promotional place to Tier 3 and meets the Tier 3 Ground Criteria Regulations must take up the promotion to the higher Tier in the next Playing Season.

(e) No reserve team shall be permitted to play in the Pyramid Tiers 1 - 3, except in a dedicated reserves division which operates outside of the Pyramid League System.

(f) Subject to the overriding provisions of Regulations 21.2(d), 21.2(f), 21.2(g) and 21.2(h) and the FAW's right to prescribe the number of clubs to be promoted and relegated within the Pyramid Tiers 1 – 3 under Regulation 21.3(g), promotion and relegation at the end of the Playing Season shall be as follows:-

i. between Tiers 1 and 2 – the clubs finishing the bottom two places of the Cymru Premier League shall be relegated to Tier 2 and placed by the FAW (using its power under Regulation 3(g)) in the most geographically appropriate division of Tier 2. These clubs will be replaced in the Cymru Premier League by the clubs finishing in first position in each of the divisions of Tier 2 but where a club finishing in first position does not meet the Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations the club finishing in second position in that division shall be promoted provided it meets the Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations;

ii. between Tiers 2 and 3:-

a. the clubs finishing in the bottom three places of each of the two divisions in Tier 2 will be relegated to a division of Tier 3 and placed in the most geographically appropriate division of Tier 3 by the FAW using its power under Regulation 21.3(g);

b. clubs finishing in first position in each of the four divisions of Tier 3 shall be promoted to Tier 2 but where a club finishing in first position does not meet the Tier 2 Compliance Regulations the club finishing in second position in that division shall be promoted provided it meets the Tier 2 Compliance Regulations;

c. the clubs finishing in second position in each of the four divisions of Tier 3 shall take part in Play-Off Matches. Where a club finishing in second position does not meet the Tier 2 Compliance Regulations, or if the club finishing second has already been promoted pursuant to Regulation 21.3(f)(ii)(a) above, the club finishing in third position in that division shall take part in the relevant Play-Off Match provided it meets the Tier 2 Compliance Regulations but no club below third position in a division shall take part in a Play-Off Match;

d. there will be two Play-Off Matches featuring those four clubs arranged on a regional basis at the absolute discretion of the FAW. Each match will be played over a single leg and staged at a neutral ground selected and organised by the FAW; and

e. in the event of the scores being level at the end of 90 minutes play, extra time will be played in two equal periods of 15 minutes. The team which has scored the most goals will be declared the winner at the end of the two periods of extra time. If the tie is still undecided after extra time the winners will be determined by the taking of Kicks from the Penalty Mark in accordance with the International Board Decision in the Laws of the Game; and

iii. between Tiers 3 and 4:-

a. clubs finishing in the bottom three places in each of the four divisions of Tier 3 will be relegated to Tier 4 and (after considering the representations made at the joint liaison committee meeting held under Regulation 21.5(b)) placed in a division of Tier 4 by the FAW in the most geographically appropriate

division of Tier 4; and

b. twelve clubs will be promoted from Tier 4, two from each of the six Area Associations. The promoted clubs will be determined by the Area Association concerned subject to the agreement of the FAW and placed in the most geographically appropriate division of Tier 3 as stipulated by the FAW (after considering the representations made at the joint liaison committee meeting held under Regulation 21.5(b)).

(g) The number of clubs promoted to a Tier must equate to the number of clubs relegated from the Tier, unless this would result in the Cymru Premier League or a division of Tiers 2 – 3 (as the case may be) having more or less than 16 teams in the next Playing Season or, in the case of Tiers 2 and 3, any club playing in a division inappropriate to its geographical location. In such circumstances, the FAW may consider:-

i. reducing the number of clubs relegated from the higher Tier;

ii. increasing the number of clubs relegated from the lower Tier;

iii. increasing or decreasing the number of clubs promoted into or out of any Tier; or

iv. placing a club promoted or relegated to or from a Tier, or a club in a Tier that has not been promoted or relegated, in a different division of the relevant Tier to that which it would otherwise be promoted or relegated, or would have remained.

(h) Except in the case of Play-Off Matches, no National League shall promote a club which does not finish as champions, or runners up.

(i) National Leagues must inform both the FAW and the relevant Area Associations by 1st February each year of clubs that have made application to be assessed against the Tier 3 Ground Criteria Regulations and therefore who, if successful, will be eligible to be promoted to Tier 3 of the Pyramid League System at the end of the Playing Season, irrespective of league positions at that date.

(j) All clubs who wish to make an application to be assessed against the relevant Club Licensing Criteria and therefore who, if successful, will be eligible to be promoted to or within the Pyramid Tiers 1 – 3 in the following Playing Season must do so in writing to the higher National League between the start of the Playing Season and 31st December, except for the Cymru Premier League where applications must be made by 30th September. A first ground inspection will be made before 1st February to inform clubs what work they are required to do to meet the ground-related Club Licensing Criteria but (subject to anything to the contrary in the Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations, Tier 2 Compliance Regulations or Tier 3 Ground Criteria Regulations, as applicable) they must complete all work to comply in full with the Club Licensing Criteria of the higher National League by 30th April to be eligible for promotion. Save as permitted in the Tier 2 Compliance Regulations and Tier 3 Ground Criteria Regulations, under no circumstances will a club be promoted if they do not meet the Club Licensing Criteria by the 30th April deadline. Time shall be of the essence in respect of all deadlines contained or referred to in this sub-clause of the Regulations.

(k) Any club proposing ground sharing arrangements for matches in the next Playing Season in the Pyramid Tiers 1 – 3 must ensure written confirmation is provided to the FAW by 1st March. This arrangement must satisfy the FAW and must be for a minimum of one Playing Season. Any club entering into a ground sharing arrangement for one Playing Season and being promoted on this basis, will automatically be relegated after one Playing Season if they are unable to continue the arrangement and are unable to confirm their facilities for the following Playing Season by 1st March. Time shall be of the essence in respect of all deadlines in this sub-clause of the Regulations.

(l) The inspection of clubs' facilities for matches in the Cymru Premier League shall be the responsibility of the FAW as per the FAW Tier 1 Club Licensing Regulations. The inspection of clubs' facilities for matches in Tiers 2 and 3 shall be the responsibility of the FAW as per the Tier 2 Compliance Regulations and Tier 3 Ground Criteria Regulations respectively. The inspection of clubs' facilities for matches in Tier 4 of the Pyramid League System, in respect of those clubs in Tier 4 who have made application to be assessed against the Tier 3 Ground Criteria Regulations, shall be the responsibility of the FAW. The FAW shall be solely responsible for determining whether the applicant complies with the Club Licensing Criteria of the relevant

National League.

Applicant clubs must pay one ground inspection fee and the highest Tier of the pyramid to which the Club applies, is the applicable fee.

Application for Tier 1 Licence Ground Inspection = £200
Application for Tier 2 Licence Ground Inspection = £150
Application for Tier 3 Licence Ground Inspection = £100

(m) In respect of the Pyramid Tiers 1 – 3, National Leagues and Area Associations must advise the FAW and each other within seven days of end of the Playing Season of the clubs who, subject to these Regulations, will be relegated or, having satisfied the Club Licensing Criteria, will be eligible for promotion.

8.4 The Movement of Clubs within the Pyramid Tiers 1 - 3 other than by Promotion or Relegation

(a) Whenever a club applies pursuant to Rule 11.1.1.3 for admission to Membership of the FAW as a Qualifying Club playing in a National League, the following will apply:-

i. The application by the club should be submitted as soon as possible and, in any event, must be received by the Chief Executive of the FAW by 1st June.

ii. The application should include details of:-

a. the reason for the application;

b. the proposed playing name;

c. a description of the ground facilities and evidence of security of tenure that meets the relevant Club Licensing Criteria; and

d. the management structure of the club.

iii. The application will be determined by the Directors in their absolute discretion. Without limiting such discretion, the Directors shall have the power to:-

a. grant consent as applied for; or

b. grant consent in principle but order the applicant club play at a different Tier in Pyramid Tiers 1 - 3 to that applied for; or

c. refuse consent for the applicant club to play in Pyramid Tiers 1 – 3 but order the applicant club play in a league at a Tier in the Pyramid League System below Tier 3; or

d. in any of the above cases where consent is granted or an order made, impose such conditions as the Directors think necessary including, without limitation, the playing name of the applicant club or, where there is a strong connection between the applicant club and the club that has, for example, (1) been wound up or (2) is being taken over as a going concern by the applicant club, the Directors will have the power to impose a condition requiring the applicant club to make a contribution (in whole or in part in the Directors' absolute discretion) to the Football Related Liabilities of the club that has been wound up or is being taken over; or

e. refuse the application.

Solely as guidance to any potential applicant under this Regulation 21.4(a) that has a strong connection to a club that has been wound up, and without limiting the absolute discretion of the Directors, the FAW will ordinarily expect the applicant club to apply to join the Pyramid League System either at Tier 3 or two Tiers below the level at which the other (connected) club competed prior to being wound up, whichever is the lower.

(b) If a Qualifying Club ceases to compete in a National League during a Playing Season but that Qualifying Club wishes to apply to continue playing in the Pyramid Tiers 1 - 3 in the following Playing Season, the following will apply:-

i. An application by the Qualifying Club should be submitted as soon as possible and, in any event, must be received by the Chief Executive of the FAW by 1st June.

ii. The application should include details of:-

a. the reason for the application, including the reason the Qualifying Club ceased to compete in the National League;

b. a description of the ground facilities and evidence of security of tenure that meets the relevant Club Licensing Criteria; and

c. the management structure of the applicant.

iii. The application will be determined by the Directors in their absolute discretion. Without limiting such discretion, the Directors shall have the power to:-

a. grant consent as applied for; or

b. grant consent in principle but order the Qualifying Club play at a different Tier in Pyramid Tiers 1 -3 to that applied for; or

c. refuse consent for the Qualifying Club to play in Pyramid Tiers 1 – 3 but order the Qualifying Club play in a league at a Tier in the Pyramid League System below Tier 3; or

d. in any of the above cases where consent is granted or an order made, impose such conditions as the Directors think necessary including, without limitation, a condition requiring the applicant club to discharge (in whole or in part in the Directors' absolute discretion) the Football Related Liabilities of the club before the commencement of the next Playing Season; or

e. refuse the application.

Solely as guidance to Qualifying Clubs making an application under this Regulation 21.4(b) and without limiting the absolute discretion of Directors, the FAW will ordinarily expect a Qualifying Club to play in Tier 3 of the Pyramid League System or two levels below the level at which it competed prior to ceasing to compete, whichever is the lower.

(c) If two or more Qualifying Clubs or one Qualifying Club and another club propose a transaction or series of transactions which result in the merging or consolidation of those two clubs into one club ("the Proposed Merged Club") and wish to apply for consent to play in Pyramid Tiers 1 – 3 in the following Playing Season, the following will apply:-

i. A joint application by the two clubs must be received by the Chief Executive of the FAW by no later than 1st June.

ii. The application should include details of:-

a. the reason for the application;

b. the proposed playing name;

c. a description of the ground facilities and evidence of security of tenure that meets the relevant Club Licensing Criteria;

d. identification of all Football Related Liabilities;

e. a declaration that the Proposed Merged Club will adopt and, in the ordinary course of business, discharge all the Football Related Liabilities of the two clubs; and

f. a declaration that each applicant club is compliant with the Rules and rules of membership of its relevant National League or Area Association.

iii. The application will be determined by the Directors in their absolute discretion. Without limiting such discretion, the Directors shall have the power to:-

a. grant consent as applied for; or

b. grant consent in principle but order the Proposed Merged Club play at a different Tier in Pyramid Tiers 1 - 3 to that applied for; or

c. refuse consent for the Proposed Merged Club to play in Pyramid Tiers 1 – 3 but order the Proposed Merged Club play in a league at a Tier in the Pyramid League System below Tier 3; or

d. in any of the above cases where consent is granted or an order made, impose such conditions as the Directors think necessary including, without limitation, a condition requiring the Proposed Merged Club to discharge (in whole or in part in the Directors' absolute discretion) the Football Related Liabilities of both applicant clubs before the commencement of the next Playing Season; or

e. refuse the application.

(d) Any application to fill a vacancy or otherwise compete in the Pyramid Tiers 1 – 3 in any other circumstances (including, without limitation, following incorporation or de- incorporation of a Qualifying Club under Rule 134) shall be determined by the Directors in their absolute discretion. The Directors shall only consider an application from a club playing at the immediate Tier below the Tier to which it applies to join.

8.5 Joint Liaison Committee

(a) A joint liaison committee ("JLC") shall discuss matters of policy relating to Club Licensing Criteria and promotion and relegation issues which are common to the leagues in the Pyramid League System.

(b) The JLC shall meet annually no sooner than 1st February and no later than 31st May each year and will be arranged by the FAW's National League Board ("NLB") who will provide 14 days' notice of the date and venue of the meeting along with a copy of the agenda specifying the business to be considered. Representatives of all National Leagues must attend. Area Associations should also be invited to attend to discuss relevant matters concerning promotion and relegation between Tiers 3 and 4 but the final decision will be made by the FAW using its power under Regulation 21.3(f)(iii).

(c) Any other meetings of the JLC that are deemed necessary can be called at any time by the NLB upon giving the notice referred to in Regulation 21.5(b) above.

(d) Meetings of the JLC shall be chaired by a FAW representative from the NLB.

(e) The expense of holding meetings of the JLC shall be borne by the FAW. The expenses of the relevant representatives attending JLC meetings shall be met by the National League or the Area Association the delegate is representing.

(f) JLCs shall have no jurisdiction over, or responsibility for, boundary adjustments for clubs playing in any National League or Area Association. Such jurisdiction and responsibility shall rest solely with the FAW.

8.6 District League to Gwent Premier Association Football League:

8.6.1 The Football Association of Wales has given approval for the Gwent County Football Association Ltd to retain control of the Gwent Leagues in membership of the pyramid structure.

8.6.2 The two lowest clubs in Division Two of the Gwent Premier League may be relegated to the District Feeder League immediately below within the Pyramid System. Two Clubs from the four District Feeder Leagues will be eligible for promotion to replace the bottom two teams in the Gwent Premier League Division Two. If there are more than two clubs eligible for promotion from the District League, there will be a Play Off; the format of the Play Offs will be dependent on the number of teams eligible for promotion and will be decided by the Competitions Committee. If there are 2 clubs or less eligible for promotion there will be automatic promotion. If there are vacancies in the Gwent Premier League Division Two a maximum of a further two clubs will be promoted. In all circumstances a maximum of one club from each League can be promoted.

8.6.3 Clubs will be considered for promotion from the Feeder Leagues if:

i. The Club has completed three (3) full seasons.

ii. Finished the season as Champions of their League

iii. Have the required ground criteria and the necessary facilities required by the Gwent Premier League.

The runner up can be accepted if the champion club does not want promotion or does not meet the criteria as laid down in Rule 8.6.3. This will then be subject to Rule 8.6.2.

8.6.4 All clubs who wish to make an application to be assessed against the relevant Ground Criteria and therefore who, if successful, will be eligible to be considered for promotion to Pyramid Level 6 in the following season, subject to Rule 8.6.2 & 8.6.3, must do so in writing to the Secretary of the Gwent County Football Association by Recorded Delivery/Registered Post or email, with a copy to the Secretary of the Gwent Premier League and their respective League Secretary, between the start of the season and 31st December. The inspection fee of £50.00 (cheque to be made payable to the Gwent County Football Association) must accompany the application; the payment can also be made by cheque or Bank Transfer. A first ground inspection will be made by the Gwent Premier League before the 1st February and clubs will be informed what work they require to do to meet the Ground Criteria. All work as detailed by the Gwent Premier League must be completed to comply in full with the Ground Criteria of the Gwent Premier League by the 30th April to be eligible for promotion. Under no circumstances will a club be promoted if they do not meet the Ground Criteria by the 30th April deadline. **Time shall be of the essence in respect of all deadlines in this Rule**.

8.7 Tier 3 relegation:

It must be noted that in addition to the bottom two clubs in each Division of the Gwent Premier League further teams may be relegated from each Division if the number of teams being relegated from Level 3 of the Pyramid System does not equate to the number of teams being promoted to Level 3 from the Gwent Premier League. This is to ensure there are no more than 16 teams in each division of the Gwent Premier League.

9. AFFILIATIONS:

9.1 AFFILIATION OF LEAGUES:

Any League whose headquarters are situated in the area of The Association (as defined in Constitution Rule 1) must be affiliated to The Association by competing the affiliation on the Comet System. Leagues shall consist of properly qualified and affiliated clubs. The Council of this Association will have power to use discretion in exceptional cases in dealing with junior sections of Junior Leagues.

Each League affiliated to and sanctioned by this Association shall be confined to a specific area and shall neither extend nor alter such area nor alter its constitution or rules without the sanction of this Association. Any League wishing to participate in competitions outside the playing area of The Association must first apply to the Secretary of The Association for permission to play in such competitions. Twenty-eight days' notice must be given.

The Secretary for each League in membership of this Association, shall be appointed by the League Executive Committee. Such an Official shall be an Officer of the League, and not directly or indirectly, connected with any Club in membership with the League, nor shall they be allowed to exercise voting power at any meeting held under its jurisdiction.

Each affiliated League must send to this Association, a copy of all minutes relating to every Meeting.

9.1.1 NON-AFFILIATED LEAGUES:

No affiliated Club shall be a member of any League which has not been sanctioned and which is not also affiliated.

9.1.2 CERTIFIED LEAGUE ACCOUNTS:

Every affiliated league shall forward before the 1st September a certified balance sheet signed by the auditor, Chair, Secretary and Treasurer of such League.

9.1.3 LEAGUE TITLE:

All Leagues shall forward to the Secretary of this Association on or before the 1st July a return in accordance with Form 'D'.

(a) Year of Formation

(b) Name and Address of Secretary

(c) List of Clubs

(d) Two copies of Rules and Competitions which shall be subject to ratication by the Council of the Association at the first meeting after the Association's Annual General Meeting.

9.2 CLUB COMPETITIONS TOURNAMENTS & EVENTS

Before any Competition/Tournament/Event can take place, the organising Club must apply to the Secretary of the Gwent County Football Association for permission to stage the Competition/Tournament/Event giving 14 days' notice. Form 'E' must be completed and the appropriate fee paid. A list of clubs playing in the Competition/Tournament/Event must be provided. All teams that enter the Competition must have a current affiliation number and any team from outside of Wales must also produce a letter of authority to enter from their respective National Association. Copy of such letters must accompany the Form "E".

Any Club failing to observe the above procedure will be liable to be fined and sanctions on the Club may be imposed. Competitions/Tournaments/Events must not interfere with League/Cup commitments.

Any Club wishing to play in Competitions/Tournaments/Events must ensure it does not affect League/Cup commitments.

9.3 TOURNAMENTS OUTSIDE OF GWENT:

Any Club wishing to play in a Competition/Tournament outside the area of Gwent must apply for permission to the Secretary of the Gwent County Football Association giving 14 days' notice. Competitions outside of Wales will also require sanction from the Football Association of Wales giving 14 days' notice. This sanction will be obtained for the club by the Gwent County Football Association Secretary.

Any Club failing to observe the above procedure will be liable to be fined and sanctions on the Club may be imposed. Competitions/Tournaments/Events must not interfere with League/Cup commitments.

9.4 AFFILIATION OF CLUBS:

All clubs whose playing grounds are situated within the area of The Association (as defined in Constitution Rule 1) shall be eligible for membership subject to the approval of the Council of the Association.

Any Club whose headquarters are situated in the said area must be affiliated to The Association. All Affiliations must be completed on the Comet System before playing competitive football or the 31st July each year. The affiliation fee will increase by £10.00 after this date.

Each affiliated Club must play in the League in whose area such club is situated and must fulfil its obligations to such League.

9.4.1 CONSTITUTION OF CLUBS:

All clubs under the jurisdiction of this Association shall satisfy the Council they are properly constituted. Newly formed Clubs cannot be considered for promotion to the Gwent County League until the end of the season in which it completes three full seasons in their respective District Senior League.

9.4.2 CLUB TITLE:

Any Club wishing to change its title must apply in writing to this Association before the 1st July for the following season. No Club will be allowed to change its name if there are any monies outstanding. Any Club found guilty of breaking this rule will be fined the minimum of £25.00 and may be instructed to change the Clubs' name back to the original name.
NO CLUB SHALL CHANGE ITS TITLE AFTER THE 1st JULY.

9.4.3 CLUB SECRETARY:

The name of the Club Secretary, as registered on the Comet System, is the person responsible for all correspondence relating to the club. Any change in the details must be forwarded to the Secretary of this Association. Clubs failing to notify this Association of any change shall be liable to be fined.

9.4.4 NON-AFFILIATED CLUBS:

No club belonging to this Association shall play matches with any Club not affiliated to a recognised Association.

9.4.5 FRIENDLY GAMES:

All friendly games must receive sanction from this Association; this is to ensure Public Liability cover is not compromised. Games within Wales require 7 days' notice. Applications to play a friendly game outside of Wales or against a team from outside of Wales at home, require 14 days' notice; this is because sanction will also have to be obtained from the Football Association of Wales on completion of the relevant form which can be obtained from the Secretary of the Gwent County Football Association. Games played without the necessary sanction will result in a charge of misconduct.

9.4.6 PRODUCTION OF BOOKS:

Any League or Club required to do so by this Association shall produce to a commission or to the Management Committee (provided that no member of such commission or committee is directly connected with any Affiliated Club) any or all of its books' records receipts etc. as may be specified.

9.4.7 INFORMATION:

Each Member and every Subordinate of that Member shall respond promptly to any request for information (including without limitation a request for the production of documentation) reasonably made by the Association from time to time.

9.5 TOURING TEAMS:

Any Club entertaining Clubs from outside of Gwent must seek permission from the Secretary of the Gwent County Football Association. When an application is made the affiliation number of the Club being entertained must be provided. Any Club found guilty of contravening this rule will be charged with misconduct.

9.6 CLUBS WISHING TO PLAY OUTSIDE LEAGUE BOUNDARIES:

Any Club wishing to play in a League other than the League in the Clubs' domiciled area must have permission from both Leagues and this Association.

9.7 CLUBS WITH OUTSTANDING DEBTS:

9.7.1 CLUBS STILL OPERATING

Clubs who owe debts to this Association will not be allowed to affiliate to The Association until all fines have been paid. The Secretary of The Association is the only person allowed to lift the suspension.

9.7.2 CLUBS REPORTED BY LEAGUES FOR OWING MONEY

When an affiliated League informs this Association that a particular Club has outstanding debts the entire Club will be suspended by the Association until the debt has been settled.

10. ALCOHOL:

See Section "C" Rule 24.1.11.

11. INDUCING A PLAYER TO LEAVE A CLUB:

A Club or an Official of a Club shall not induce or attempt to induce a player of another Club to leave the Club for which he is registered until after the period of his registration has expired. The Council shall the power to deal with any offending Club or Official under this Rule as it thinks fit.

12. INELIGIBLE PLAYERS:

A Player shall only play Official Matches for the Club at which he/she is registered at the Association PROVIDED THAT with the permission of his/her Club or with the permission of the Association a Professional may play in a benefit testimonial or charity match for another Club or up to two (2) trial matches for another Club in a Closed Friendly Match or Open Friendly Match provided that such trial matches are not for the first team of the other Club in an Official Match and both trial matches are within a period of one (1) month from the date of such permission. Permission to participate in a trial match shall not be given twice in the same Playing Season for the same Professional to trial for the same Club.

13. MISCONDUCT DISPUTES & APPEALS:

13.1 MISCONDUCT

See Section "C" Rule 24.1.

13.2 DISPUTES

See Section "C" Rule 24.1.

13.3 APPEALS TO THIS ASSOCIATION

In an appeal against a decision of a Member the request Notice will be served on the Association not more than seven (7) Business Days in the case of an appeal arising out of a decision relating to anything other than a cup or play-off match or three (3) Business Days in the case of an appeal arising out of a decision relating to a cup or play-off match after the earlier of (a) the Member announcing its decision at the time of its hearing (if any) or (b) receipt by the Party appealing of written notification of the Member's decision. For the purposes of (b) above the provisions of **Section B Rule 20** (as to the services or notices etc) shall apply to the said written notification issued by the Member. All appeals must be accompanied with the appropriate fee as set out from time to time by the GCFA. Any Request Notice lodged after seven (7) Business Days or three (3) Business Days as in the case may be will be rejected unless the Party lodging the same can demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the Association that it was not reasonably practicable to lodge the Request Notice within the time limit;

13.4 APPEAL TO THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES

Anyone not satisfied with a decision of this Association has a right of appeal against any part of the decision or the decision as a whole and any such appeal must be served on the Football Association of Wales (the "FAW") not more than seven (7) Business Days in the case of an appeal arising out of a decision relating to anything other than a cup or play-off match or three (3) Business Days in the case of an appeal arising out of a decision relating to a cup or play-off match after the earlier of (a) the Member announcing its decision at the time of its hearing (if any) or (b) receipt by the Party appealing of written notification of the Member's decision. For the purposes of (b) above the provisions of **Section B Rule 20** (as to the services or notices etc) shall apply to the said written notification issued by the Member. Any Request Notice lodged after seven (7) Business Days or three (3) Business Days as in the case may be will be rejected unless the Party lodging the same can demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the Association that it was not reasonably practicable to lodge the Request Notice within the time limit; All appeals must be accompanied with the appropriate fee as set out from time to time by FAW (made payable to the FAW)

and be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer at The Football Association of Wales, Hensol, Pontyclun, CF72 8JY. Please note a business day is any day of the week except a Saturday or Sunday or public bank holiday in Wales.

14. REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES:

14.1 The Competitions Committee will be responsible for choosing the squad for all Gwent County Football Association representative games. The Committee may delegate the responsibility as they deem fit. All Clubs members of this Association shall be bound to place their players at the disposal of this Association for representative matches each season. Any player selected to play in any match arranged by this Association and failing or refusing to play shall in the absence of any good and sufficient reason be judged to be guilty of misconduct.

14.2 No Club shall play any such player on the day in question or the previous day under any circumstances whatsoever unless the Club first obtains the permission of this Association to do so. Clubs having two or more outfield players selected for a squad may make an application to their League to have any scheduled League/Cup game postponed. Leagues **MUST** grant the request. Any club having their goalkeeper selected for a squad may make an application to their League to have any scheduled League/Cup game postponed. Leagues **MUST** grant the request. Non-compliance of this Rule will be deemed as misconduct by League/Club/ Player and will be dealt with as directed by this Association

15. PRESS REPORTS:

All press reports of Meetings shall be furnished officially by The Association Secretary or Press Secretary immediately following each Meeting and no member of the Council shall make any comment in the press upon the business transacted at any of its Meetings unless sanction has been given by Council.

The Association shall be entitled to publish in the public press or in any manner it shall deem fit reports on its proceedings acts and resolutions whatever the same shall or shall not reflect on the character or conduct of any Club Official Player or Spectator and every Club Official Player or Spectator shall be deemed to such publication.

16. BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF WALES:

Any Youth or Junior Clubs wishing to compete in the Boys and Girls Club of Football Competitions must write to this Association Secretary for authorisation once they have affiliated.

Clubs authorised to enter any Association Football Competition of the Boys and Girls Club of Wales approved by the Football Association of Wales shall be correctly constituted Boys' and Girls Club in full membership of the Federation and operating from premises under the control of the Club and that the Club shall be involved in all activities of the Federation Clubs under the jurisdiction of the local authority or will not be permitted to enter the competition.

The first loyalty of a Club is its League. If there is a clash of fixtures then the League fixture must take precedence.

17. REFEREES AND OTHER MATCH OFFICIALS:

17.1 CONTROL OF REFEREES ETC.

The authority over and control of referees and refereeing shall be vested in The Association. The Committee of this Association shall have power to delegate such duties as may be thought fit to a Sub-Committee to be called the "Referees' Committee".

17.2 EXAMINATION

The Examination for Referees is controlled by the Football Association of Wales by means of an On-Line Course.

17.3 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Referees must register through the FAW Comet Portal before the 1st July. The cost of registration is £20.00.

17.4 CATEGORY OF REFEREE

REFEREE CATAGORIES

International (FIFA List)
Cymru Premier & Below
All National Cup Competitions

Elite Group One
Cymru Premier & Below
All National Cup Competitions

Elite Group Two
Cymru Premier & Below
All National Cup Competitions

Category 2
Cymru North & South and Below. 4th Official Cymru Premier League.
All National Cup Competitions

Category 3a
Ardel Leagues Referee
All National Cup Competitions Referee
Permitted to act as AR at Tier 2 & below

Category 3b
Area Association (Tier 4 & Below) Referee
All National Cup Competitions Referee
Permitted to act as AR at Tier 2 & Below

Category 4A

Minmum 3rd Season Referees (& longer). Referee at Area Association Level. Permitted to referee in National Leagues Reserve matches. Permitted to act as Assistant Referees at Tier 2 and below subject to attending an Assistant Referees Course.

Category 4B

Minimum 2nd Season Referees (& longer) aged 16 or older. Referee at Area Association Level. Permitted to referee in National Leagues Reserve matches. Permitted to act as Assistant Referees at Tier 2 and below subject to attending an Assistant Referees Course.

Category 4C

Minimum 1st Season Referees (& longer) aged 16 or older. Referee at Area Association Level. Permitted to referee in National Leagues Reserve matches. Permitted to act as Assistant Referees at Tier 3 and below subject to attending an Assistant Referees Course

Category 4D

Qualified & Registered Referees aged 14-15.

Category 4E

Qualified & Registered Referees who are not actively officiating.

Club Referee

Qualified & Registered Referee officiating matches for one Club on the occasions a neutral Referee is unavailable.

ASSISTANT REFEREE CATAGORIES

International (FIFA List)
Cymru Premier & Below
All National Cup Competitions

Category 1AR
Cymru Premier & Below
All National Cup Competitions

Category 1 ART
Cymru Premier & Below
All National Cup Competitions

Category 2AR
Cymru North & South and Below
All National Cup Competitions

Category 3AR
Match Official who has attended and passed an Assistant Referees Course. Permitted to act as Assistant Referee at Tier 3 & Below.
All National Cup Competitions.

WOMEN REFEREE AND WOMEN ASSISTANT REFEREE CATAGORIES

International (FIFA List)
Referee & Assistant Referee
Adran Premier and below
Women's National Cup Competitions

F-1A Referee
F-1AR Assistant Referee
Adran Premier and below
Women's National Cup Competitions

F-1B Referee
Adran Premier Talent Referee
Adran Premier and below
Women's National Cup Competitions

F-2A Referee
2nd Year Referee in Feeder Leagues to Adran Premier
Women's National Cup Competitions
Assistant Referee in Adran Premier

F-2B Referee
1st Year Referee in Feeder Leagues to Adran Premier Assistant Referee in Adran Premier
having attended an Assistant Referee Course

Should women match officials wish to progress in women's football as well as men's football, they will require 2 categories (1 men's category and 1 women's category).

JUNIOR REFEREE CATAGORIES

AJR
Adult Referee officiating junior football with FAW Intro to Refereeing Award Qualification only.

CJR
Child junior Referee officiating junior football with FAW Intro to Refereeing Award Qualification only.
(CJR Referee's must only referee football matches of an age range below their academic year).

FUTSAL REFEREE CATEGORY

Futsal Referee
Qualified Futsal Referee

WALKING FOOTBALL REFEREE CATEGORY

Walking Football Referee
qualified via a Walking Football Wales Referee Course.

DISABILITY FOOTBALL REFEREE CATEGORY

Disability Football Referee
qualified via a Referee Course with FAW Disability Football.

17.5 APPLICATIONS BY CLUBS ETC.

Requests for Match Officials must be made to the Secretary of The Association 14 days prior to the date when they are required; otherwise, the request cannot be entertained.

NOTE: This shall apply to any friendly match between affiliated Clubs. Clubs shall make every endeavour to see that only registered referees officiate on their grounds.

17.6 DISCIPLINARY COMMISSIONS F.A.W. INSTRUCTION

When a player requests a personal hearing, the Match Official must be present at such hearing. This is an extension of his duties when accepting the match appointment.

17.7 ATTENDENCE AT DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS

Match Officials attending a Disciplinary Meeting of this Association shall be paid the sum of Half-Fee plus 45p per mile travelling expenses. When a Match Official is requested to attend a Disciplinary Meeting and fails to do so without reasonable prior notice will be asked for an explanation of his failure to attend. This will be dealt with by the Referees Committee of the Association and any decision made may be taken into account when promotion is to be considered.

17.8 REPORTS OF MISCONDUCT BY PLAYERS

Match Official are hereby instructed that:

17.8.1 All reports must be sent direct to this Association; which body alone shall deal with such reports. Reports are **PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL** and copies must not be sent to any other person including League Secretaries.

17.8.2 When neutral Match Officials are appointed, they must also send reports to this Association.

17.9 REFEREES UNIFORM

It is an F.A.W. instruction that all referees must wear a black uniform trimmed with white.

17.10 REFEREES' FEES AND EXPENSES

Gwent Premier League	£40.00
District Leagues	£30.00
Junior Leagues	£25.00
Youth Leagues	£35.00

Assistant referees, where appointed, to receive fifty per cent of the referee's rate.

In addition, officials will be paid second-class train bus fare or 45p per mile car travelling allowance. Fees and expenses will be paid by home Club in rounds and by the Association in the Finals.

17.11 ZERO TOLERANCE:

Referees are advised to show ZERO TOLERANCE to all incidents of violent conduct and offensive and/or abusive language or gestures.

17.12 DBS:

Referees officiating in Youth & Junior games must have completed a DBS check with the Football Association of Wales and subsequent FAW and subsequent FAW Number.

17.13 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE TO BE CARRIED OUT AFTER A PLAYER HAS BEEN SENT FROM THE FIELD OF PLAY:

See Section "D"

17.14 ASSAULTS ON MATCH OFFICIALS:

See Section "E".

17.15 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

17.15.1 When an FAW Registered Referee/Assistant Referee is performing as an appointed official for the Area Association a referee/assistant referee being appointed shall disclose any personal interests that could be linked with their prospective activities.

17.15.2 FAW Registered Referees/Assistant Referees bound by this Rule shall avoid any situation that could lead to conflicts of interest. Conflicts of interest arise if persons bound by this Rule have or appear to have private or personal interests that detract from their ability to perform their duties with integrity in an independent and purposeful manner. Private and personal interests include gaining any possible advantage for the persons bound by this Rule themselves their family relatives' friends and acquaintances.

17.15.3 FAW Registered Referees/Assistant Referees bound by this Rule may not perform their duties in cases with an existing or potential conflict of interest. Any such conflict shall be immediately disclosed and notified to the Association for which the person bound by this Rule performs their duties.

If an objection is made concerning an existing or potential conflict of interest of an FAW Registered Referee/Assistant Referee bound by this Rule it shall be reported immediately to the FAW/Area Association for which the person bound**.**

17.15.4 Every referee and/or assistant referee under the age of 18 must wear a yellow arm band to indicate that they are under the age of 18. The yellow arm band must be supplied by the referee and/or assistant referee's Area Association.

17.15.5 Match Officials must wear the official badge of the Football Association of Wales. Match Officials may also wear the official badge of the Area Association and/ or any league in which they officiate.

18. INSURANCE:

Public Liability Insurance is provided for all League and Clubs. Any claims against a League or Club must be forwarded to the Secretary of the Association immediately. Correspondence should not be answered by Leagues or Clubs. Cover is not provided for claims made by a player against another player. All clubs are advised to insure players for Personal Accident.

19. CONSTITUTION RULES AND BYE LAWS:

Rules and Bye Laws will remain effective until amended according to Rule.

20. NOTICES:

20.1 Any notice or other communication given under these Rules or the Regulations shall be in writing and signed by or on behalf of the party giving it and shall be served by delivering it personally or sending it by pre-paid first-class post or by email to the address and for the attention of the relevant party set out in Rule 35.4. In the case of email service, the terms of Rule 35.2 apply. In the case of the other forms of service such notice or communication shall be deemed to have been received:-

20.1.1 if delivered personally at the time of delivery;

20.1.2 in the case of pre-paid first-class post twenty-four (24) hours from the date of posting; and

20.2 Any notice or other communication given under these Rules or the Regulations by email shall be validly served if the relevant notification or communication is sent as an attachment to an email correctly sent to the Association and such notice or communication shall be deemed to have been received at the time of transmission. For the avoidance of doubt the notice or communication must be sent as an attachment and an email alone (even if containing the relevant information) will not constitute valid service under Rule 35.3 & 35.4.

20.3 If deemed receipt occurs before 9.00am on a Business Day the notice or communication shall be deemed to have been received at 9.00am on that day and if deemed receipt occurs after 4.30pm on a Business Day or on a day which is not a Business Day the notice shall be deemed to have been received at 9.00am on the next Business Day.

20.4 Any notice or other communication to be served on the Association shall be addressed to the Association at 1 Ashtree Cottages Aberbeeg Abertillery Blaenau Gwent. NP13 2AT or by email to such email address issued for such purpose by the Association from time to time. In all cases the notice or communication shall be marked for the attention of the Association Secretary. Any notice or other communication served by the Association on a Member or other party shall be served on the address or facsimile number of that Member or other party last known to the Association. The Association shall notify Members in writing from time to time of any change to its address or facsimile number or email address and each Member shall notify the Association in writing of any change in the Member's address or facsimile number.

20.5 In proving service it shall be sufficient to (a) prove that the envelope containing such notice or other communication was addressed to the address of the relevant party set out or referred to in Rule 20.4 and delivered either to that address or into the custody of the postal authorities as a pre-paid first class letter or (b) that the notice or other communication was transmitted by facsimile to the facsimile number of the relevant party set out or referred to in Rule 35.4 or (c) the notice or other communication was sent to the Association by email to the email address set out or referred to in Rule 35.4.

20.6 For the purpose of any time limit under these Rules or the Regulations the date of receipt (or deemed receipt under this Rule 35) of the decision notice or other relevant correspondence (as the case may be) shall count as the first day of such time limit.

21. KIT REGULATIONS

Scope of Application

21.1 These Regulations apply at all levels of the game.

21.2 These Regulations govern the authorisation of kit worn by the players and officials of a team, by a referee team, as well as other persons in and around the field of play and cover all references to the club, the sponsor, the manufacturer or any other third party appearing on any kit item.

21.3 Where no provision of these regulations is applicable, the corresponding competition regulations shall apply and the FAW may take the relevant Laws of the Game and the FIFA Equipment Regulations into account before taking a decision.

21.4 In the event that any of these Regulations conflict with UEFA and/or FIFA Rules or Regulations the UEFA and/or FIFA Rules or Regulations shall prevail.

22. Kit (Sports Equipment)

22.1 Kit includes all garments and equipment worn by the following persons;

22.1.1 outfield players
22.1.2 goalkeepers
22.1.3 substitutes
22.1.4 coaching team
22.1.5 medical staff
22.1.6 other officials in the technical area

22.2 The aforementioned persons are subject to the provisions of these Regulations at all times.

22.3 The provisions of these Regulations apply on a match day in and around the field of play.

22.4 Football boots and shin guards are excluded from these Regulations.

23. Principle

23.1 No item falling under the scope of these Regulations may offend common decency or transmit political, religious or racial messages. Commercial messages are only allowed in the form of sponsor advertising.

23.2 As regards choice of colour, kit worn on the field of play is subject to the provisions of these Regulations and where necessary the referee's authority, as stipulated in the relevant Laws of the Game.

24. Approval

24.1 The club is responsible for the compliance of these Regulations.

24.2 The club is solely responsible for the conduct of its players, coaches, officials, etc. as far as the correct implementation of these provisions is concerned.

25. Kit Material

No item of the playing attire, numbers, players' names, badges or material used may be reflective or change its colour or appearance due to external influence.

26. Colours

26.1 No item of the playing attire worn by outfield players (shirts, shorts and socks) may consist of more than four colours. This provision does not apply to the colours used for lettering (number, player's name, sponsor, etc.). If three or more colours are used, one must be clearly dominant on the surface of the shirt, shorts and socks respectively, and the remaining colours must clearly be minor colours. For hooped, banded, stripes or checked socks, a further colour is considered as a decorative colour and may not be dominant or affect the distinctiveness of the socks.

26.2 Players may wear items such as underwear, T-Shirts, long sleeved T- shirts, and thermal shorts under their playing attire. Such items worn under the playing attire may be separate from, or permanently attached to, the shirts or shorts. Any such visible item worn under the playing attire must be of the same colour group as the corresponding part (e.g. sleeves or legs) of the playing attire.

26.3 Tape used to fix socks and/or shin guards must be of the same dominant colour as the socks.

26.4 In order to minimise colour clashes, a team's first choice and second choice kit must differ visibly and contrast with each other and with the colours of its goalkeeper's kits, so that they could be worn by opposite teams in a match. Teams may be requested to mix the first and second- choice kits (shirt, shorts, socks) in order to create a visible contrast with the other team.

26.5 If the referee decides on the spot that the colours of the two teams could lead to confusion, the home team must wear other colours for practical reasons.

26.6 For a final, both teams may wear the first-choice kits. However, if there is a colour clash, the designated 'away team' must wear its second- choice kit. If a colour clash still exists and the team officials are unable

to agree on the colours to be worn by their teams, the competition administration will decide in consultation with the referee.

26.7 Only Cymru Premier League clubs are permitted to have black and/or navy as the dominant colour on the shirt.

27. Numbers

27.1 A number must appear on the back of the shirt. It must be centred.

27.2 The number must be of a single colour with the required minimum contrast with the background colour.

27.3 When the shirt is striped, around the figure, there must be a zone comprising a single-coloured background.

27.4 The number must be clearly legible and 25-35cm high (20-35cm for women's competitions) with a stroke width of the figure being 2-5cm.

27.5 Numbers must be individual whole numbers from 1-99. The number 1 can only be used by a goalkeeper.

28. Shirt Names

28.1 Players may also be identified on their shirts by means of their surname and/or first name. A nickname may only be used if approved by the relevant competition.

28.2 The player's shirt name must correspond with the name submitted on the match team sheet.

28.3 The competition regulations may stipulate the use of the player's name as mandatory.

28.4 If a player's name is used, it must be placed on the back of the shirt, above the number.

28.5 The letters must be in Latin alphabet and in one single colour.

28.6 The height of the letters must not exceed 7.5cm.

28.7 Players' names must be clearly distinguishable from the colours of the kit.

29. Club Identification

29.1 The club may use the following types of identification on playing attire;

a. Club emblem;
b. Club name;
c. Competition emblem;
d. Competition name;
e. National flag;
f. Anniversary emblem or name;
g. Coat of arms or flag of town or region.

29.2 Emblems listed in 44.1 may only appear once on the shirt, shorts and each sock.

29.3 The maximum sizes are; shirt maximum of 100cm2, short maximum of 50cm2 and socks maximum of 50cm2.

30. Sponsor Advertising

30.1 Sponsor advertising is permitted on the shirts, shorts and socks.

30.2 The advertising of tobacco, e-cigarettes, strong alcoholic beverages (i.e. any beverage with an alcohol content of more than 15% abv), as well as slogans of a political, religious or racial nature, or for other causes that offend common decency, are prohibited.

31. Number of Sponsors

31.1 One club sponsor is permitted on the front of the shirt, which must be centrally located and not exceed 200cm2.

31.2 Up to two club sponsors are permitted on the back of the shirt. One sponsor may be located above the number if the player's name is not used and it must not exceed 200cm2. One sponsor may be located below the number and must not exceed 200cm2.

31.3 One club sponsor may be used on each shirt sleeve and not exceed 50cm2.

31.4 The aggregate number of sponsors and Manufacturer Identifications on the shirt shall not exceed 4, excluding banding (see Paragraph 37).

31.5 One club sponsor may be used on the shorts and not exceed 100cm2.

31.6 One club sponsor may be used on the socks and not exceed 50cm2

32. Manufacturer Identification

32.1 The manufacturer may use up to three registered trademarks on the shirt, which must not exceed 20cm2. This regulation 46.1 shall be read in accordance with 45.4 above.

32.2 The manufacturer may use one registered trademark on the shorts, which must not exceed 20cm2.

32.3 The manufacturer may use up to two registered trademarks on each sock, which must not exceed 20cm2 for one single item or 10cm2 for each of two items.

33. Manufacturer playing attire bands

33.1 A manufacturer design mark may be displayed once or repeatedly on one or more items of playing attire in the form of a band (a "playing attire band"). The playing attire band must be identical on all items on which it is displayed, and must be positioned symmetrically on each item as follows:

On shirts:
around the end of each sleeve (right and left); or centred down the outer seam of each sleeve (right and left, from the collar to the bottom of the sleeve, excluding the sleeve free zone); or centred down the outer seam on both sides of the shirt (armhole to the bottom of the shirt).

On shorts:
across the hem (right and left legs); or centred down the outer seam (right and left legs).

On socks:
across the top edge of each sock.

A playing attire band must not exceed the following widths: On shirts: 8cm, On shorts: 8cm, On socks: 5cm on brand-new (unworn) socks.

Subject to the same criteria as UEFA Equipment Regulations Article 12, playing attire bands may include decorative elements.

Only one version of the relevant manufacturer design mark may be used in the playing attire band, and these marks must not exceed the width of the playing attire band.

34. Domestic titles and stars

34.1 A current or former holder of a domestic title is entitled to wear the corresponding representation approved by the relevant competition administration(s). This is permitted at chest height on the shirt.

34.2 This representation must not exceed 10cm2.

34.3 Stars for multiple winners of a domestic championship may be used immediately adjacent to the club emblem. The height of each star must not exceed 2cm2.

35. Respect Badge

A Respect badge or any equivalent is permitted on the left sleeve of the shirt.

36. Competition Logo

The Competition logo and the competition sponsor, may be used on the right and/or left sleeve of the shirt. This must not exceed 50cm2.

37. Charity Logos

37.1 A team participating in a FAW club competition may display one single logo of a charitable organisation on its playing shirts and/or non-playing attire tops.

37.2 The club must provide a duly signed declaration in which the charitable organisation concerned confirms that it:

a. is a not-for-profit organisation duly registered in any country;

b. is an apolitical organisation and does not openly take any political stance;

c. pursues its objectives without any discrimination on account of politics, gender, religion, race or any other reason;

d. has a financial report audited and published in accordance with international standards;

e. will not offer or give to the club any financial or other form of compensation or recompense for allowing its charity logo to appear on the playing shirts;

f. has duly registered its charity logo in an official state register and allows the club to use it;

g. has concluded a written agreement with the club defining the rights and duties of each party;

h. agrees to provide relevant information to the FAW upon request.

37.3 The same declaration must contain a confirmation by the club that it:

a. has assessed the charitable organisation concerned and come to the conclusion that it fulfils the requirements of Paragraph 37.2 a to d);

b. will not receive any financial or other form of compensation or recompense for allowing the registered logo of the charitable organisation to appear on its playing shirts;

c. has concluded a written agreement with the charitable organisation defining the rights and duties of each party;

d. will immediately update the FAW about any change to the written agreement with the charitable organisation.

37.4 The FAW may, at any time, ask the club to provide it with the statutes of the charitable organisation and/or a copy of its written agreement with the charitable organisation in order to assess for itself whether the aforementioned criteria are met. Should such an assessment reveal that one or more of these criteria is not met, the FAW may decide at any time that the charity logo may no longer appear on the playing shirts of the club concerned.

37.5 Charity logos may be used on the playing shirt in one of the following positions only:

a. as an alternative to the team's name within the collar zone on the back of the shirt (maximum size of 20cm²);

b. as an alternative to the team's name below the number on the back of the shirt (maximum size of 100cm²);

c. in the space reserved for the shirt sponsor, alone or in combination with a shirt sponsor logo (maximum cumulative size of 200cm²).

37.6 Charity logos may be used on non-playing attire tops as an alternative to a sponsor logo on all other playing attire tops (maximum size of 200cm²).

38. Measurement Procedure

The measurement procedure is in accordance with the UEFA Kit Regulations.

39. Closing Provisions

Any cases not provided for in these Regulations will be dealt with by the Chief Executive Officer and such decisions are final.

40 ABANDONED GAMES

40.1 CAUSED BY LATE START:

In the event that a late start is the cause of a match being left unfinished the League Management Committee shall determine if the result at the time the match finished shall stand.

40.2 CAUSED BY INCLEMENT WEATHER:

When a match is abandoned due to inclement weather the League Management Committee shall determine if the result at the time the match finished shall stand.

40.3 CAUSED BY MISCONDUCT OF A CLUB/S:

Any match abandoned by the Match Official due to indiscipline of a Club or Clubs must be reported by the match Official to the Gwent County Football Association with a copy of the report sent to the League Secretary. A charge of misconduct shall be issued to the offending club/s by the Gwent County Football Association. The Gwent County Football Association shall inform the League of the outcome of the Disciplinary Hearing. Any Club found guilty by the Area Football Association of having caused the abandonment of a match may have up to three (3) points deducted from its League record by the League Management Committee. Furthermore, the League Management Committee shall determine the result of the match as they deem fit or have the match replayed. In the event that both Clubs are found guilty by the Area Association the League Management Committee may at its absolute discretion declare the match VOID and order that it be replayed.

40.4 CAUSED BY TEAM LEAVING THE FIELD OF PLAY:

In the event of any club leaving the field of play without the permission of the referee the Match Official must send a report to the Gwent County Football Association with a copy of the report sent to the League Secretary. A charge of misconduct shall be issued to the offending club/s by the Gwent County Football Association. The Gwent County Football Association will inform the League of the outcome of the Disciplinary Hearing and the result of the match shall be decided at the discretion of the League Management Committee irrespective of the time played. The offending club may have up to three (3) points deducted from its League record.

40.5 CAUSED BY AN INJURY TO A PLAYER ON THE FIELD OF PLAY:

When a match is abandoned due to an injury to a player the League Management Committee shall determine if the result at the time the match finished shall stand or the game is replayed.

41. STANDING ORDERS FOR COUNCIL AND GENERAL MEETINGS:
(Adopted by the Council - 8th September 1954)

41.1 Control of Meeting.

The Chair of the Council shall have control of the business of the Meeting and in the case of a tie in voting on any motion or amendment; he shall have power to give a second or casting vote.

41.2 Movement of Resolutions Etc.

Every motion or amendment shall be moved and seconded (and if so required shall be reduced to writing) before it is discussed or put to the Meeting.

41.3 Members to Stand When Speaking.

A member shall stand when speaking and shall address the chair and the Chair shall have power to check or call to order a speaker. When the Chair rises no one else shall continue standing nor shall anyone else rise until the Chair has resumed his seat.

41.4 Matters Not Before Meeting.

No member shall speak on any matter not before the Meeting.

41.5 Members to Speak Once Only.

No member shall speak twice on any motion unless permission be given to explain except the mover of the original resolution or an amendment that displaces an original resolution.

41.6 Resolutions Etc.

Not to be withdrawn. A motion or amendment once made and seconded shall not be withdrawn without the consent of the Meeting.

41.7 Amendments to be Relevant.

Any amendment must be relevant to the motion on which is moved.

41.8 Rejected Amendments.

If any amendment be rejected other amendments may be moved on the original motion providing notice has been given.

41.9 Amendments Carried.

If any amendment be carried the original motion as thereby amended shall become the question upon which any further amendments may be moved.

41.10 Notice to Rescind Resolution.

Notice of motion must be given and appear on the agenda before any decision arrived at can be varied or rescinded. Any motion having been passed by a Council Meeting shall not be rescinded without the consent of at least two-thirds of those present. No motion to alter or rescind any resolution passed within the preceding six months any no motion or amendment to the same effect as one that has been rejected within the preceding six months shall be proposed. When any such motion or amendment has been disposed of by Council it shall not be open to any member to propose a similar motion within a further period of six months.

41.11 Urgent Matters.

Any matters of pressing importance not on the agenda may be dealt with at once under a motion of "Urgency" being duly moved seconded and carried by two-thirds majority of the members present.

41.12 Time Limit for Speeches.

No member shall address the Council for a longer period than five minutes on any one question except the mover of the resolution who may speak on bringing forward his proposition for a period of not exceeding ten minutes.

41.13 Priority of Speaking.

When two or more members rise at one time the Chair shall decide who shall have priority of speaking.

41.14 Objectionable Matters.

If the Chair shall be of the opinion that any one motion proposed to be made is of an objectionable character he may at once put it to a vote (on which there shall be no discussion) whether it shall be entertained or not and if two-thirds of the members present decide not to entertain such motion the matter is disposed for that meeting.

41.15 Quorum.

Ten members shall form a quorum of the Council and without a quorum no business shall be transacted. This does not refer to Sub-Committees.

41.16 Conduct of Members.

Should there be any dispute which involves the conduct or otherwise of any member or members of the Council the said member or members shall retire during its consideration.

41.17 Resolving into Committees.

The Council may by vote resolve itself into a Committee and whilst in Committee there shall be no restriction as to the number of times a member may speak.

41.18 Privilege.

The evidence of witness's statements of members general discussion and other matters within and before the Council and Committees shall be deemed to be privileged and private. The Council shall have the power to censure or suspend from service on the Council any member proved to be guilty of a breach of this Rule.

41.19 Meeting Times.

All Council Meetings will terminate at 21.00 hours.

41.20 Dress.

All members carrying out duties for the Association including attendance at meetings should be suitably dressed to include the wearing of the Association tie.

42. PLEASE READ THESE HINTS TO CLUB SECRETARIES:

- Make yourself conversant with the Rules of the Association.
- Reply to all communications the same day as received. It has to be done only once. The name of your club and your address should be given on all communications. Clubs are advised to obtain printed note paper and state under their name that they are (Affiliated to The Gwent County Football Association Ltd.).
- Remember the name of the Club Secretary on the affiliation form is the person responsible for all correspondence relating to the Club.
- All correspondence **must** be answered within the required number of Days.
- Attend all Meetings to which you are summoned or arrange for your Club to be represented.
- If ever in doubt please contact the Association Secretary or your League Secretary who can advise on most matters.
- No telephone calls will be accepted by the Officers of the Association after 9.00pm unless by prior arrangement.

- In suitable cases the penalty imposed on players proved guilty of misconduct may be suspension fine or both.
- Ladies' football matches may be played under the jurisdiction of the Association.
- Permission must be sought and granted for friendly games tours playing or non-playing and small-sided competitions.
- Bring to the notice of your committee any conduct on the part of members of your Club which is likely to bring the game into disrepute.
- Use all means in your power to stop players using bad language or addressing observations to or at Referees.
- A Club is responsible for the conduct of spectators at its own ground.
- A Club's duty to protect the Officials does not cease on the latter leaving the ground.
- Do all you can for the good of the game.
- The suspension of a player or Official means that he is ineligible to take part in football or football management of any kind.
- The suspension of a ground prohibits a Club from playing within a radius of six miles of its ground.
- When arranging fixtures with Club's care should be taken to ascertain that they are duly affiliated. Matches with unaffiliated Clubs are forbidden.
- Study the rules of the Competitions in which your Club participates and see that they complied with as all Clubs are held responsible for their proper observance.
- Be sure all your players are duly qualified. Failure to comply with the rules in this respect may mean losing a Championship.
- The captain of a team should be instructed that it is his duty to see that a player when requested gives his name promptly to the Referee for whatever purpose he may require it and that in no case is he permitted to withdraw his team from the field of play without the permission of the Referee.
- Registered official Referees only are permitted to officiate on your ground.
- Please use correct postage on your communications to save payments of postal surcharges. For a prompt reply insert a S.A.E.
- Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to **The Gwent County Football Association Ltd.**
- Early payment of affiliation and cup fees would greatly facilitate the work of the Association. The Treasurer would appreciate payments made early during the close season. Payment has to be made only once.
- All Clubs in a charity competition must be affiliated to a recognised Football Association.
- All charity and five or six-a-side competitions must be registered.
- Without permission of the Referee no person is allowed on the field of play during a match other than the Linesman and Players. Club Officials including trainers who do not observe this regulation are liable to be dealt with by the Council. The practice of kicking-off by persons other than the players competing in a match is prohibited except in charity matches.
- Any misconduct towards the Referee away from the field of play is dealt with as if the offence had been committed on the field.
- Each Club is responsible to the Council for the actions of its players officials and spectators and is required to take all precautions necessary to prevent spectators threatening or assaulting officials and players during or at the conclusion of matches.

- The football used in any match is considered the property of the Association or Club on whose ground the match is played and at the close of play it must be retained to the Referee.

- A private and enclosed ground is one at which gate money can be taken and does not refer to the playing pitch.

43. CODE OF ETHICS – AS DEFINED BY THE FAW

PREAMBLE

The purpose of this Code is to safeguard the integrity and reputation of Association Football in Wales and of the Football of Association of Wales ("FAW") and of all those who play officiate administer or in any other way organise Association Football in Wales. Where the context so requires capitalised or defined words or phrases used in this Code have the same definition and meaning set out in the FAW's Rules. The "persons bound by this Code" referred to below are all Members of the FAW and all Subordinates save that for the purpose of this Code only the definition and meaning of the term "Subordinate" shall not include the words "together with every spectator and any person purporting to be its supporter or follower".

44. REGULATIONS GOVERNING ETHICAL CONDUCT

44.1 General rules of conduct

44.1.1 Persons bound by this Code are expected to be aware of the importance of their duties and concomitant obligations and responsibilities.

44.1.2 Persons bound by this Code are obliged to respect all applicable laws and regulations as well as the FAW's regulatory framework including without limitation the FAW's Rules and Regulations to the extent applicable to them.

44.1.3 Persons bound by this Code shall show commitment to an ethical attitude. They shall behave in a dignified manner and act with complete credibility and integrity.

44.1.4 Persons bound by this Code may not abuse their position in any way specially to take advantage of their position for private aims or gains.

44.2 Duty of Neutrality

44.2.1 In dealings with government institutions national and international organisations associations and groupings persons bound by this Code shall remain politically neutral in accordance with the principles and objectives of the FAW and any Member or Subordinate they represent and generally act in a manner compatible with their function and integrity.

44.3 Loyalty

Persons bound by this Code shall have a fiduciary duty to the FAW and any Member or Subordinate they represent.

44.4 Confidentiality

44.4.1 Depending on their function information of a confidential nature divulged to person bound by this Code while performing their duties shall be treated as confidential or secret by them as an expression of loyalty if the information is given with the understanding or communication of confidentiality and is consistent with the principles of the FAW and any Member or Subordinate they represent.

44.4.2 The obligation to respect confidentiality survives the termination of any relationship which makes a person subject to this Code.

44.5 Forgery and falsification

44.5.1 Persons bound by this Code are forbidden from forging a document falsifying an authentic document or using a forged or falsified document.

44.6 Duty of disclosure cooperation and reporting

44.6.1 Persons bound by this Code including without limitation compliance with the FAW's Rules and Regulations shall immediately report any potential breach of this Code by themselves or any other person to the FAW.

44.6.2 At the request of the FAW persons bound by this Code are obliged to contribute to the clarification of the facts of the case and possible breaches by themselves and by any other person and in particular to declare details of their income and provide the evidence requested for inspection.

44.7 Conflicts of interest

44.7.1 When performing an activity for the FAW Member or Subordinate or before being elected or appointed persons bound by this Code shall disclose any personal interests that could be linked with their prospective activities.

44.7.2 Persons bound by this Code shall avoid any situation that could lead to conflicts of interest. Conflicts of interest arise if persons bound by this Code have or appear to have private or personal interests that detract from their ability to perform their duties with integrity in an independent and purposeful manner. Private and personal interests include gaining any possible advantage for the persons bound by this Code themselves their family relatives' friends and acquaintances.

44.7.3 Persons bound by this Code may not perform their duties in cases with an existing or potential conflict of interest. Any such conflict shall be immediately disclosed and notified to the organisation for which the person bound by this Code performs their duties.

44.7.4 If an objection is made concerning an existing or potential conflict of interest of a person bound by this Code it shall be reported immediately to the organisation for which the person bound by this Code performs his duties for appropriate measures.

44.8 Offering and accepting gifts and other benefits

44.8.1 Persons bound by this Code may only offer or accept gifts or other benefits to and from persons in connection with the affairs of the FAW Members or Subordinates which: -

44.8.1.1 have symbolic or trivial value;

44.8.1.2 exclude any influence for the execution or omission of an act that is related to their official activities or falls within their discretion;

44.8.1.3 are not contrary to their duties;

44.8.1.4 do not create any undue pecuniary or other advantage; and

44.8.1.5 do not create a conflict of interest.

Any gifts or other benefits not meeting all of these criteria are prohibited.

44.8.2 If in doubt gifts shall not be offered or accepted. In all cases persons bound by this Code shall not offer or accept from anyone in connection with the affairs of the FAW Members or Subordinates gifts of cash in any amount or form.

44.8.3 Persons bound by this Code may not be reimbursed by the FAW or any Member or Subordinate they represent for the costs associated with family members or associates accompanying them to official events unless expressly permitted to do so by the appropriate organisation. Any such permission will be documented.

44.8.4 Persons bound by this Code must refrain from any such activity or behaviour that might give rise to the appearance or suspicion of improper conduct as described in the foregoing sections or any attempt thereof.

44.9 Bribery and Corruption

44.9.1 Persons bound by this Code must not offer promise give or accept any personal or undue pecuniary or other advantage in order to obtain or retain business or any other improper advantage to or from anyone in connection with the affairs of the FAW or any Member or Subordinate. Such acts are prohibited regardless of whether carried out directly or indirectly through or in conjunction with intermediaries or related parties as defined in this Code. In particular persons bound by this Code must not offer promise give or accept any undue pecuniary or other advantage for the execution or omission of an act this is related to their official activities and is contrary to their duties or falls within their discretion. Any such offer must be reported to the FAW and any failure to do so shall be a Disciplinary Offence under the FAW Rules.

44.9.2 Persons bound by this Code are prohibited from misappropriating the assets of the FAW or any member or subordinate they represent regardless of whether carried out directly or indirectly through or in conjunction with intermediaries or related parties.

44.9.3 Persons bound by this Code must refrain from any activity or behaviour that might give rise to the appearance or suspicion of improper conduct as described in the foregoing sections or any attempt thereof.

44.10 Commission

44.10.1 Persons bound by this Code are forbidden from accepting commission or promises of such commission for themselves or intermediaries and related parties for negotiating deals of any kind while performing their duties unless expressly permitted to do so by the appropriate organisation. Any such permission will be documented.

44.11 Non-Discrimination

44.11.1 Persons bound by this Code shall not directly discriminate indirectly discriminate victimise or harass any other person or group of people through the use of any contemptuous discriminatory or denigratory words or actions on the grounds of:

- Age
- Disability;
- gender reassignment;
- marriage and civil partnership;
- pregnancy and maternity;
- race;
- religion or belief;
- sex;
- sexual orientation
- language; and
- origin

44.11.2 Persons bound by this code shall not offend the dignity or integrity of any person or group of people including for the avoidance of doubt any country through the use of contemptuous discriminatory or denigratory words or actions on the grounds of: any political or any other opinion;

- national or social origin;
- wealth;
- birth; and
- any other status or reason.

44.12 Protection of physical and mental integrity

44.12.1 Persons bound by this Code shall respect the integrity of others involved. They shall ensure that the personal rights of every individual whom they contact and who is affected by their actions is protected respected and safeguarded.

44.12.2 Harassment is forbidden. Harassment is defined as systematic hostile and repeated acts for a considerable duration intended to isolate or ostracise a person and affect the dignity of the person.

44.12.3 Sexual harassment is forbidden. Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances that are not solicited or invited. The assessment is based on whether a reasonable person would regard the conduct as undesirable or offensive. Threats the promise of advantages and coercion are particularly prohibited.

BREACH OF THIS CODE

Any breach of this Code will be a Disciplinary Offence under the FAW Rules and any charge or sanction against the person bound by this Code will be in accordance with the procedures set out in Section E of the Rules. Nothing in this Code will restrict or limit the scope of any Disciplinary Offence under Rule 38.1.

SECTION "C"

STANDARD RULES OF THE AREA ASSOCIATIONS

DEFINITIONS

Area Association:	any regional football association defined under the FAW Rules.
Association:	The Gwent County Football Association.
Association Football:	the game controlled by FIFA and organised in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
Business Day:	any day of the week except a Saturday or Sunday or public bank holiday in Wales.
Chief Executive Officer:	the senior employee of The Football Association of Wales Ltd.
Closed Friendly Match:	a game of Association Football (or a modified version of the game) which is not an Official Match which is played between two (2) teams (whether or not from different Clubs) but is not made open for the public to attend.
Club:	any club admitted into membership or associate membership of the Association.
College Team:	a team of a further or higher education establishment (including, but not limited to, university teams) and during any relevant Playing Season only plays Association Football exclusively in matches organised for teams from such further or higher education establishments.
Council:	the supreme executive body of the Association.
Councillor:	each member of the Council.
Disciplinary Notice:	a written notice from the Association stipulating the nature of the alleged Disciplinary Offence.
Disciplinary Offence:	any breach of a Rule or any Regulation.
Disciplinary Panel:	the panel of the Association empowered to hear disciplinary matters and disputes pursuant to these Rules.
FAW:	The Football Association of Wales Limited (company number 00213349) whose registered office is at The Pavilion, Hensol, Vale of Glamorgan, CF72 8JY
FAW Rules:	the Rules and Regulations of the FAW as amended from time to time and all byelaws, orders, codes, policies, procedures and any other directive or instruction issued by the FAW from time to time.
FIFA:	Fédération Internationale de Football Association.
FIFA Rules:	the statutes of FIFA as amended from time to time and all rules, regulations, orders and other directives issued by FIFA from time to time.
Futsal:	a game controlled by FIFA and organised in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game.
Futsal Laws of the Game:	the laws and other rules for playing Futsal prescribed by FIFA from time to time.
IFAB:	the International Football Association Board.
Laws of the Game:	the laws and other rules for playing Association Football as prescribed by IFAB from time to time.
League:	any league admitted into membership or associate membership of the Association.

Match Official: a referee, assistant referee, or fourth official for a match as prescribed in the Laws of the Game or the Futsal Laws of the Game (as applicable).

Member: a League or Club that has been admitted into membership or associate membership of the Association.

Official Match: a game of Association Football played within the framework of organised football under the jurisdiction of the Association, in league, cup or other format but not including Open Friendly Matches or Closed Friendly Matches or matches played under the FAW's Mini Football Regulations or Futsal matches or Walking Football.

Open Friendly Match: a game of Association Football which is not an Official Match which is played between two (2) teams (whether or not from different Clubs) and is made open to the public to attend.

Player: a player of Association Football registered with the FAW, the Association, an Area Association, League, Club or any other league or club.

Playing Season: the period in each year when Official Matches may be played in Wales as determined by the FAW.

Regulations: the regulations, byelaws, orders, codes, policies, procedures and any other directive or instruction issued by the Association from time to time.

Request Fee: the appropriate sum pursuant to the Rules of the Association.

Request Notice: a written notice stipulating the nature of the matter complained of and requesting that such matter be referred to the Disciplinary Panel.

Rules: these rules of the Association as amended from time to time.

Subordinate: shall mean:-

- any director, member, representative, official, employee, all coaching and technical staff and any other playing official of a Club or League;
- any Match Official, match observer, match assessor or match delegate;
- any Player;
- every spectator at a game of Association Football in which a team of a Club plays, or in which a representative team of the Association or League plays, and any person purporting to be a supporter or follower of such League, Club or the Association PROVIDED THAT the provisions of Rules 24.1.3, 24.1.4, 24.1.4(A), 24.1.5(A), 24.1.6, 24.1.8, 24.1.10, 24.1.14, 46 and 47 shall not apply to such spectators, supporters or followers;
- all other organisations, clubs, bodies, entities or persons over whom the Association exercises, or purports to exercise, control; save that this shall not include a committee of the Association.

Sunday Club: a Club which during any relevant Playing Season only plays Association Football on a Sunday.

Trialist: a Player who is under assessment and evaluation by a Club as to their ability and fitness to play Association Football for a Club but who is not registered with the Association to play for that Club.

UEFA: Union des Association Européennes de Football.

UEFA Rules: the statutes of UEFA as amended from time to time and all rules, regulations, orders and other directives issued by UEFA from time to time.

Veteran Club: a Club which during any relevant Playing Season only plays Association Football in matches organised exclusively for persons over thirty-five (35) years of age.

Walking Football: a version of Association Football in which Players of all ages can participate and in which the Players must not run and/or jog and must have one foot on the ground at all times in accordance with the guidelines set by the FAW from time to time.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. throughout Gwent County Football Association, to improve the game of Association Football constantly and promote, regulate and control it in accordance with the FAW Rules and in the light of fair play and its unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian values;

2. throughout Gwent County Football Association, to organise competitions, and authorise others to organise competitions, in Association Football in all its forms at all levels under its authority, by defining precisely, as required, the areas of authority of its various leagues and other affiliated bodies;

3. to draw up all necessary regulations to implement its rights, powers and objectives set out under the FAW Rules and such measures and procedures as may be necessary to ensure their enforcement;

4. to protect the interest of its Members;

5. to comply with and prevent any infringement of the FIFA Rules, UEFA Rules and the FAW Rules and all decisions of FIFA, UEFA and the FAW as well as the Laws of the Game and ensure compliance with these by its Members;

6. to support, promote and enforce the Football Association of Wales' Club Accreditation Programme.

7. throughout Gwent County Football Association, to prevent all methods or practices which might jeopardise the integrity of football matches or competitions or give rise to abuse of Association Football under its authority;

8. to manage the sporting relations of Gwent County Football Association connected with Association Football in all its forms;

9. to be neutral in matters of politics and religion and in discharging its functions, the Gwent County Football Association will not discriminate against a private person, or group of people, or other entity, on account of ethnic origin, gender, language, religion, politics, age or any other reason and will ensure compliance with these obligations by its Members;

10. to promote friendly relations between its Members, Subordinates and in society for humanitarian objectives.

OBLIGATIONS OF ATHE ASSOCIATION

11. to comply fully with the FIFA Rules, UEFA Rules and the FAW Rules at all times and to ensure that these are also complied with fully by its Members and Subordinates;

12. to ensure fairness in the election of its decision-making bodies;

13. to take part in competitions and other sports activities organised by the FAW;

14. to pay its membership subscriptions to the FAW;

15. to respect the Laws of the Game and to ensure that these are also respected by its Members and Subordinates through an appropriate provision in its own membership rules;

16. to adopt and enforce an appropriate provision in its own membership rules specifying that any dispute requiring resolution involving itself or one of its Members or Subordinates and relating to its Rules and Regulations or the FAW Rules and any decisions of the Association shall, at the appropriate stage in the dispute, come solely under the jurisdiction of the appropriate Disciplinary Body or the panel under FAW Rule 146, as the case may be;

17. not to make any change or any amendment of its own membership rules without the approval of the FAW;

18. to communicate to its own Members any amendment of its own membership rules and the FAW Rules;

19. not to maintain any relations of a sporting nature with entities that are not recognised by FIFA, UEFA or the FAW or with Members or Subordinates that have been suspended or expelled by the FAW;

20. to observe the principles of loyalty, integrity and good sporting behaviour as an expression of fair play through an appropriate provision in its own membership rules;

21. to keep and update regularly a register of its Members;

22. to comply fully with all other duties arising from the FIFA Rules, UEFA Rules and the FAW Rules, including the recommendations of the 2016 Area Associations Review Group and its Improvement Plan.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS, DISPUTES, APPEALS PANEL STRUCTURE, COMPOSITION AND JURISDICTION

23. The structure of the Association's mechanisms for dealing with disciplinary proceedings, disputes and appeals is as follows:-

23.1 the Disciplinary Panel

24. For the purpose of this section of the Rules:-

24.1 It shall be a breach of the Rules for any Councillor, Member or any Subordinate to do or permit or assist in the doing or permitting of any of the following whether in connection with the playing of Association Football or Futsal (or, where applicable, in connection with the playing of (a) Open Friendly Matches, (b) Closed Friendly Matches, (c) matches played under the FAW's Mini-Football Regulations, (d) Walking Football matches or (e) matches played by College Teams, Sunday Clubs or Veteran Clubs) or otherwise (where the context so requires):-

24.1.1 violate the Laws of the Game or the Futsal Laws of the Game or the Rules or any Regulation or violate the FIFA Rules, UEFA Rules or FAW Rules;

24.1.2 violate the rules or regulations (in whatever form) of any Member or any competition, sanctioned by a Member or sanctioned by the Association;

24.1.3 play with or against any club suspended by FIFA, UEFA, the FAW, the Association, any Area Association or league or any other national football association recognised by FIFA or appoint or allow to remain in office a director or official who has been suspended by any such body;

24.1.4 bet, to have any financial interest in a Bet, and/or to accept or stand a Bet on:

24.1.4.1 in respect of matches taking place within the jurisdiction of the Association, and/or

24.1.4.2 any match in any competition outside of Wales in which the Member or Subordinate is involved in any capacity, or on any other match in that competition.

24.1.4(A) provide any other person with Inside Information which:

24.1.4(A).1 may be used to Bet; and/or

24.1.4(A).2 will or may damage the integrity of any match within the jurisdiction of the Association, or any match involving any Member or Subordinate playing in any match of in a competition outside Wales, or any competition;

24.1.4(B) affect or attempt to affect the outcome of any event within or in relation to a match under the Association's jurisdiction or any match involving any Member or Subordinate playing in a match in a competition outside Wales for the purposes of any Bet and/or financial gain and/or to advantage an opponent, opposing team or competitor in a league or competition.

24.1.4(C) request that a Member, Associate Member, or Subordinate affect the outcome of any event within a match under the Association's jurisdiction, or any match involving any Member or Subordinate playing in any match in a competition outside Wales for the purposes of any Bet

and/or financial gain and/or to advantage an opponent, opposing team or competitor in a league or competition;

24.1.4(D) agree with any other person to commit a breach of Rules 24.1.4(A) to 24.1.4(C);

24.1.4(E) assist any other person to commit a breach of Rules 38.1.4(A) to 24.1.4(C);

24.1.4(F) encourage, incite or request any other person to commit a breach of Rules 24.1.4(A) to 24.1.4(C);

24.1.4(G) fail to report to the Association at the first reasonable opportunity:

24.1.4(G).1 any breach, suspected breach, or anticipated breach known or suspected by a Member, Associate Member, or Subordinate of Rules 38.1.4(A) to 38.1.4(F); and

24.1.4(G).2 any approach, contact or invitation from any person to any Member, Associate Member or Subordinate to commit a breach of Rules 38.1.4(A) to 38.1.4(G);

24.1.5 *Not used.*

24.1.6 allow a director, official, Match Official, or Player under suspension to act as a Match Official or to perform any duties from the execution of which that person has been suspended, or fail to take all reasonable precautions to prevent such person from entering the ground of any club;

24.1.7 sell or offer for sale, either directly or indirectly, a ticket for any football match in excess of the face value of the ticket;

24.1.8 play a match with or against a club whose ground has been closed by the Association or the FAW on any ground within a radius of twelve (12) miles of the ground closed unless such match is an away fixture for the club whose ground has been so closed and is played at the ground of the home team which is within a radius of twelve (12) miles of the closed ground;

24.1.9 commit any act or make any statement either verbally or in writing , or be responsible for conduct, continuing misconduct or any other matter likely to bring the game of Association Football or the Association into disrepute including, without limitation, any incident on or around the field of play (including the changing room area) that occurs before, during or after a match;

24.1.10 receive a caution or conviction for any of the offences listed in Schedule 4 Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000, its revisions and amendments; or received any caution or conviction for any offences listed in the Sexual Offences Act 2003, its revisions and amendments; or received any caution or conviction for any of the offences listed in Schedule 1 Children and Young Persons Act 1933, its revisions and amendments; or is identified as a person presenting a risk or potential risk to children; or receive any caution or conviction for any offence against a vulnerable adult; or breach the FAW's Safeguarding/Welfare Policies and Procedures and Regulations, or any code of conduct and/or ethics established under any of them;

24.1.11 fail to act in an orderly fashion or fail to refrain from violence, threatening, abusive, obscene or provocative behaviour, conduct or language () whilst attending or taking part in a match including;

24.1.11(A) fail to hold a valid Premises Licence or Temporary Event Notice for the supply of any alcohol at a ground where any home matches are played and comply with all conditions of the Premises Licence or Temporary Event Notice (including, without limitation, any designation or restriction on where alcohol may be sold or consumed in the ground);

24.1.11(B) fail to prevent the consumption of alcohol in any outdoor area of a home ground when any form of football is being played or practised other than within an outdoor area designated as an area where alcohol supplied in accordance with

Rule 24.1.11(A) may be consumed PROVIDED THAT such outdoor area must not be within three metres of the touchline of the playing area at any point irrespective of any provision to the contrary in any Premises Licence or Temporary Event Notice and PROVIDED FURTHER THAT nothing in this Rule 24.1.11(B) shall alter or reduce the obligations on a person or organisation arising under the Sporting Events Act 1985, its revisions and amendments;

24.1.11(C) bring alcohol into a ground (or fail to prevent alcohol being brought into a ground where any home matches are played) other than in respect of use to be made pursuant to any Premises Licence or Temporary Event Notice;

24.1.12 encroach on the pitch area, save for authorised persons or for reasons of crowd safety;

24.1.13 whilst attending a match (a) have in their possession at any ground any firework, flare, smoke bomb or other pyrotechnic device or (b) ignite or otherwise set-off any firework, flare, smoke bomb or other pyrotechnic device or (c) throw any firework, flare, smoke bomb, other pyrotechnic device, missile, bottle or other potentially harmful or dangerous object (including, without limitation, at or on to the pitch or at any person on the pitch or elsewhere in the ground);

24.1.14 fail to ensure that a private way is provided for players and officials from the playing ground to the dressing room whenever this is practicable at every ground within the jurisdiction of that Member; or

24.2 Every Member (including, without limitation, a Club) will be responsible for the actions of its Subordinates (including, without limitation, its Players) and the Member will also be in breach of any Rule or any Regulation, if that Rule or Regulation is breached by its Subordinate.

25. The jurisdiction of the Regulations for Disciplinary Procedures Concerning Field Offences and of the Judicial Bodies is as follows:-

25.1 any Disciplinary Offence as prescribed by the Regulations for Disciplinary Procedures Concerning Field Offences shall be dealt with under such Regulations,

25.2 The Disciplinary Panel will hear the following matters:-

25.2.1 any charge of an alleged Disciplinary Offence brought by the Association against any Councillor, Member or any Subordinate. The Association and the said Councillor, Member or Subordinate will be the relevant “Party” or “Parties” to the proceedings for the purpose of this section of the Rules;

25.2.2 any appeal by a Subordinate or other third party against a decision of a Member, where the said decision was a decision by the Member in the first instance. The Member and the Subordinate or other third party will be the “Party” or “Parties” to the proceedings for the purpose of this section of the Rules;

25.2.3 any appeal by a Subordinate or other third party against a decision of a Member, where the said decision was a decision by the Member acting as an appellate body in hearing an appeal against a decision of a Subordinate. The said Subordinates and/ or other third party (but not the Member which acted as an appellate body) will be the relevant “Party” or “Parties” to the proceedings for the purpose of this section of the Rules;

25.2.4 any dispute or difference between two or more Members (not being an appeal covered by Rule 25.2.2) which one or more of the said Members refers to the Association for resolution. The said Members will be the relevant “Party” or “Parties” to the proceedings for the purpose of this section of the Rules; and

25.2.5 any disputes or differences between a Member and any Subordinate or other third party (not being covered by Rules 25.2.2 or 25.2.3) which one or more of the Member or the Subordinate or other third party refers to the Association for resolution. The Member of the Association and the Subordinate or other third party will be the relevant “Party” or “Parties” to the proceedings for the purpose of this section of the Rules.

26. The composition of the Disciplinary Panel will be as follows:-

26.1 only the Councillors as defined in these Rules will sit on the Disciplinary Panel. Each Disciplinary Panel will consist of three (3) members, including one from a list of four (4) chairpersons designate nominated by the Council from time to time. On a case-by-case basis, the General Secretary or the Discipline Secretary will appoint the Disciplinary Panel chairperson from the said list of chairpersons designate and the other two (2) members of the Disciplinary Panel provided that any Party to the proceedings may appeal against any such appointment decision by giving written notice to the Association, and with grounds, no more than three (3) Business Day following receipt of the notice of hearing. On receipt of such notice, the objection will be referred to the appointed Chair of the Panel to determine, except if the objection relates to the Chair, in which case the objection will be referred to one of the other chairpersons to determine.

27. No Member or Subordinate shall commence disciplinary proceedings under its own rules or regulations against a person, club or other entity which is under the jurisdiction of the Member or Subordinate, if (in respect of the relevant facts, circumstances or event) the Association has commenced, or indicated to the Member or Subordinate its intention to commence, disciplinary proceedings under these Rules against the person, club or other entity.

COMMENCEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS BEFORE A PANEL – NOTICES, FEES AND PROCEDURE

28. The following will apply if a Party wishes to refer a matter to the Disciplinary Panel:-

28.1 Where the Association brings a charge of an alleged Disciplinary Offence under Rule 25.2.1:-

28.1.1 the Association will give a Disciplinary Notice to the other Party together with the evidence on which the charge is based.

28.1.2 the Party charged will have seven (7) Business Days after service of the Disciplinary Notice to reply stipulating whether (a) they admit or deny the charge and (b) whether they wish the case to be dealt with by a Disciplinary Panel in their absence on written submissions, or if they wish to attend a private hearing before a Disciplinary Panel. The reply must also include:

28.1.2.1 a clear explanation setting out the details of the Party's admission or denial.

28.1.2.2 a signed written statement of each witness upon whom the Party intends to rely, setting out their evidence in full; and

28.1.2.3 copies of all the relevant evidence and material on which the party intends to rely. This includes material in mitigation where the Party charged admits the charge and requests the case is dealt with in their absence before a Disciplinary Panel.

28.1.3 The Association may provide to the Party and the Disciplinary Panel any further relevant evidence or relevant material on which it intends to rely. The Party charged may provide the Association with such further evidence or relevant material on which they intend to rely in response, no later than three (3) Business Days prior to the hearing.

28.1.3(A) A Disciplinary Chairperson may, in the interests of fairness and at his/her sole discretion, allow a Pary to rely on evidence or material submitted outside the stated timescales. A Disciplinary Chairperson may also require a Party to disclose any other relevant evidence or material outside the stated timescales.

28.1.4 if the Party charged fails to reply to the Disciplinary Notice within seven (7) Business Days, they will be deemed to have denied the charge and to have waived their right to a private hearing before the Disciplinary Panel. In such circumstances the Association will, without further notice to the Party charged, convene a Disciplinary Panel who will consider the alleged Disciplinary Offence in the absence of the Party charged and the provisions of Rules 28.1.5 to 28.1.11 inclusive shall not apply.

28.1.5 if the Party charged has replied to the Disciplinary Notice and requested a private hearing the Association will give the Party charged no less than seven (7) Business Days written notice of the date, time and place of the hearing and the provisions of Rules 28.1.6 to 28.1.11 inclusive shall apply.

28.1.6 where the Party charged is an individual person, they will be required to attend the hearing in

person. Where the Party charged is not an individual person, one or more duly authorised senior representatives of the Party will be required to attend the hearing in person, whether such representative are directors, officers or otherwise.

28.1.7 the Association and the Party charged will be entitled to make opening and closing remarks at the hearing and to call witnesses who will be expected to answer questions in cross-examination. Members of the Disciplinary Panel will be entitled to ask questions of any witness during the hearing. The Party charged will not be obliged to give evidence in person, but the Disciplinary Panel will be entitled to draw such inference as may be reasonably appropriate if the Party charged declines to do so. The chairman of the Disciplinary Panel will warn the Party charged of this fact.

28.1.8 the Disciplinary Panel hearing will proceed in the absence of the Party charged, unless the Party charged has requested an adjournment and the Disciplinary Panel reasonably considers that the Party charged has given an acceptable reason for such request, in which case the hearing may be adjourned. A Disciplinary Panel will also have discretion to adjourn a hearing if, in the reasonable opinion of the Panel, there is good reason to do so;

28.1.9 the Disciplinary Panel will retire to consider its findings in private. The decision of the Disciplinary Panel shall be determined unanimously or by majority. A decision may be announced on the day or reserved to a later date, in which case, the decision will be delivered in writing.

28.1.10 if the Disciplinary Panel finds the Party charged guilty of the Disciplinary Offence at a Disciplinary Panel hearing attended by the Party charged, no penalty or sanction will be imposed until: -

28.1.10.1 the Disciplinary Panel has been informed by the Association of any previous Disciplinary Offences recorded against the guilty Party; and

28.1.10.2 the guilty Party has been given the opportunity to make representations in mitigation of the Disciplinary Offence.

28.1.11 the Association and the Party charged shall be entitled to legal or other representation at the Disciplinary Panel hearing.

28.1.12 where the Party charged has waived the right to a private hearing or is deemed to have waived such right, or where the Party charged does not attend the private hearing, the Disciplinary Panel will consider such information as it considers reasonably necessary to decide the matter including, without limitation, any written representations made for or on behalf of the Party charged and representations (whether written or verbal) made for or on behalf of the Association. The Disciplinary Panel will be entitled to seek such further information or evidence as it deems necessary. If the Disciplinary Panel finds the Party charged guilty of the Disciplinary Offence, the Association will inform the Disciplinary Panel of any other Disciplinary Offences recorded against the guilty Party but the Disciplinary Panel will not be obliged to invite the guilty Party to make further representations in mitigation of the Disciplinary Offence before imposing a penalty;

28.1.13 where the Disciplinary Panel makes a decision on the alleged Disciplinary Offence, the Disciplinary Panel will also have absolute discretion whether to make a cost order for or against the Party charged; and

28.1.14 the Association will send written confirmation of the Disciplinary Panel's findings to the Party charged.

28.2 In the case of any other proceedings pursuant to Rule 25.2 under the jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Panel:-

28.2.1 the Party wishing to commence the proceedings will give a Request Notice to the Association (marked for the attention of the General Secretary of the Association) and the other Party or Parties; and will pay the Request Fee of £50.00 to the Association's nominated bank account by means of bank transfer.

28.2.1(A) in the case of an appeal under Rules 25.2.2 and 25.2.3, the Request Notice, and all evidence and material relied upon by the appellant as part of its case, must be submitted to the Association within the time limits set out in Rule 28.2.2. The Request Notice must:

28.2.1(A).1 identify the specific decision which is being appealed.

28.2.1(A).2 set out the grounds upon which the appeal is based;

28.2.1(B) On receipt of the Request Notice, the respondent to the appeal must submit all evidence and material relied upon as part of its case within 7 Business Days.

28.2.1(C) In the case of requests to the Association for resolution of any dispute or difference set out under Rules 28.2.4 or 28.2.5, the Request Notice should set out the nature of the dispute or difference and the resolution sought. The relevant Request Fee must be paid to the Association before the Association will take any further steps in respect of the Request Notice. The party lodging the request shall disclose to the Association, all evidence and material relied upon in respect of their case within 7 Business Days of lodging the Request Notice. The Party against whom the dispute is lodged shall disclose to the Association , all evidence and material relied upon in response within 14 Business Days of receipt of the Request Notice or supporting evidence, whichever is the later.

28.2.1(D) A Disciplinary Chairperson may, in the interests of fairness and at his/her sole discretion, allow a Party to rely on evidence or material submitted outside the stated timescales. A Disciplinary Chairperson may also require a Party to disclose any other relevant evidence or relevant material outside the stated timescales.

28.2.2 in an appeal under Rules 25.2.2 and 25.2.3 against a decision of a Member, the Request Notice and Request Fee must be submitted to the Association in accordance with the following time limits:

28.2.2.1 not more than three (3) Business Days in the case of an appeal arising out of a decision relating to a cup or play-off match; and

28.2.2.2 not more than seven (7) Business Days in the case of an appeal arising out of a decision relating to anything other than a cup or play-off match

These time limits run from the date of receipt of written notification of the decision being appealed against. In determining the date of receipt of the written notification of the decision, the provisions of the Football Association of Wales Rule 144 (as to the services or notices etc) shall apply to the said written notification issued by the Member.

28.2.3 Any Request Notice and/or Request Fee lodged outside of the specified time limit will be rejected unless the Party lodging the same can demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the Association that it was not reasonably practicable to lodge the Request Notice and/or pay the Request Fee within the time limit.

28.2.4 deliberately left blank

28.2.5 Wherever possible, the Association will within twenty (20) Business Days of actual receipt of the Request Notice send a written notice to the Parties confirming the date, time and place of the Disciplinary Panel hearing. In the case of an appeal under Rules 25.2.2 or 25.2.3, the Disciplinary Panel proceedings will be a re-hearing of the case and the Disciplinary Panel will decide the matter on the basis of the evidence produced to them. At any time prior to the Disciplinary Panel hearing, any Party will have the right to waive their right to a private hearing, but a hearing will take place unless all Parties agree in writing to waive their right to a private hearing.

28.2.6 where the Party involved is an individual person, they will be required to attend a hearing in person. Where the Party involved is not an individual person, one or more duly authorised senior representatives of the Party will be required to attend the hearing in person, whether such representatives are directors, officers or otherwise.

28.2.7 the Parties will be entitled to make opening and closing remarks at the hearing and to call witnesses who will be expected to answer questions in cross examination. Members of the Disciplinary Panel will be entitled to ask questions of any witnesses during the hearing. No Party will be obliged to give evidence in person, but the Disciplinary Panel will be entitled

to draw such inference as may be reasonably appropriate if the Party declines to do so. The chairman of the Disciplinary Panel will warn the Party concerned of this fact.

28.2.8 the Disciplinary Panel hearing will proceed in the absence of either Party, unless the Disciplinary Panel reasonably considers that the absent Party has given an acceptable reason for such non-attendance, in which case the hearing may be adjourned. A Disciplinary Panel will also have discretion to adjourn a hearing if, in the reasonable opinion of the Panel, there is good reason to do so;

28.2.9 the Disciplinary Panel will retire to consider its findings in private. The decision of the Disciplinary Panel shall be determined unanimously or by majority. A decision may be announced on the day or reserved to a later date in which case the decision will be delivered in writing.

28.2.10 the Parties will be entitled, at their own cost, to legal or other representation at the Disciplinary Panel hearing.

28.2.11 where the Parties to the appeal have all waived their rights to a private hearing, the Disciplinary Panel will consider such information as it considers reasonably necessary to decide the matter including, without limitation, any written representations made for or on behalf of the Parties. The Disciplinary Panel will be entitled to seek such further information or evidence as it deems necessary.

28.2.12 where the Disciplinary Panel makes a decision on the matter, the Disciplinary Panel will also have absolute discretion whether to make a cost order for or against a Party to the proceeding; and

28.2.13 the Association will send written confirmation of the Disciplinary Panel's findings to the Parties.

29. Subject to 29(A), a Party has a right of appeal to the Football Association of Wales against a decision or any part of a decision of a Disciplinary Panel made under any part of Rule 25.2. The Association will only have the right to appeal against the penalty or sanction imposed by the Disciplinary Panel made under Rule 25.2.1 and not against a finding of not guilty, save that the Association's right of appeal shall not be limited in respect of the following offences:-

29.1 any offence under the FAW Discrimination Regulations

29.2 any offence under the FAW Regulations Governing Assaults on Match Officials;

29.3 any offence under Rules 24.1.4 to 24.1.4(G) inclusive

29(A) In circumstances where a Party:

(i) has failed to respond to a Disciplinary Notice issued; or
(ii) has admitted a charge

an appeal to the Football Association of Wales may only be lodged in respect of a penalty or sanction imposed, and not against the charge being found proven; save that a Disciplinary Chairperson may, in exceptional circumstances, permit an appeal against a charge being found proven where it would otherwise be unjust not to do so;

30. The Party wishing to appeal will give a Request Notice to the Football Association of Wales, sent as an attachment to an email to the FAW's discipline department (discipline@FAW.co.uk),; and will pay the relevant Request Fee to the FAW, as set out under FAW Rule 43.2.3, payable to the FAW's nominated bank account, by means of a bank transfer.

30.1 The Request Notice and relevant Request Fee must be submitted to the FAW in accordance with the following time limits:

30.1.1 not more than three (3) Business Days in the case of an appeal arising out of a decision relating to a cup or play-off match.

30.1.2 not more than seven (7) Business Days in the case of an appeal arising out of a decision relating to anything other than a cup or play-off match.

.

A Business Day is any day of the week except a Saturday or Sunday or public bank holiday in Wales.

30.2 The Request Notice must:

30.2.1 identify the specific decision which is being appealed; and

30.2.2 set out the grounds upon which the appeal is based;

30.3 Within the same time limit as set out at 30.1, the Party submitting the appeal must also submit to the FAW all evidence and material relied upon as part of their case.

PENALTIES AND OTHER POWERS

31. Where: -

31.1 under any provision of Rule 25.2.1 the Disciplinary Panel finds the Party charged guilty of a Disciplinary Offence; the Disciplinary Panel shall apply the following penalties against the Party charged (or two or more concurrently): -

31.1.1 suspension from, or any involvement in Association Football either permanently or for an indefinite period or for a specific and stated period in accordance with the Football Association of Wales's Categories of Suspension Regulations;

31.1.2 a fine;

31.1.3 a censure;

31.1.4 the closure of a football ground either permanently or for an indefinite period or for a specific and stated period;

31.1.5 the guilty Party, if a club, to forfeit points awarded in one or more competitions;

31.1.6 the guilty Party, if a club, to be disqualified from playing in one or more competitions;

31.1.7 such other penalty as the Disciplinary Panel shall reasonably deem fit including, without limitation, (a) the forfeit of any trophy or other award under the jurisdiction of this Association or (b) a written undertaking from the guilty Party as to their future conduct;

31.1.8 the guilty Party, if a club, to make such publication in its match day programme, website or other publication medium as the Disciplinary Panel may direct;

31.1.9 a transfer embargo preventing the guilty Party, if a club, from signing new Players during such period as the Association shall stipulate; or

31.1.10 the guilty Party, if a Club, to be relegated to the league and/or division stipulated by the Disciplinary Panel,

and the Disciplinary Panel may apply any such penalty under Rules 31.1.5 and 31.1.6 to the current, next or previous Playing Season and under Rule 31.1.7(a) to the current or any previous Playing Season (in each case, as deemed appropriate).

31.2 under Rules 25.2.2 or 25.2.3 the Disciplinary Panel hears an appeal by a Subordinate or other third party against a decision of a Member, the Disciplinary Panel will have the power to grant or deny the appeal (in whole or in part) and the power to increase or decrease the penalty or sanction (if any) imposed by the Member or substitute such other penalty or sanction as the Disciplinary Panel shall deem fit; and

31.3 in the case of any other proceedings under the jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Panel pursuant to Rules 25.2.4 or 25.2.5, the Disciplinary Panel will have the power to make such order or ruling as it deems reasonable to resolve the dispute or difference,

Subject to any minimum penalty or sanction specified elsewhere in these Rules or in the relevant Regulations.

31.4 where a Party has been sanctioned by way of a sine die suspension, any request for review of the suspension, on completion of the relevant stated period, must be made to the Football Association of Wales to be heard in accordance with FAW Rule 39.3.8 & 44.5.

32. If a Party fails to pay or carry out any penalty, sanction, order or ruling made under the Reduced Penalty Regulations, where applicable, the Regulations for Disciplinary Procedures Concerning Field Offences or by the Disciplinary Panel, within thirty-one (31) calendar days of notification of the penalty, sanction, order or ruling, or within such other time period as ordered by the Disciplinary Panel:

32.1 the Party will automatically be suspended in relation to both Association Football and Futsal from all football related activity under the jurisdiction of the ***[name of AA]*** as defined in the Football Association of Wales's Categories of Suspension Regulations, which for the purpose of this Rule 32 shall be read as applying to any person or other legal entity, until the penalty, sanction, order or ruling has been paid or complied with in full; and

32.2 the Association shall have the right to refer the non-compliance back to the Disciplinary Panel which made the relevant decision (or in the case of non-compliance with a penalty imposed under the Regulations for Disciplinary Procedures Concerning Field Offences, to the Disciplinary Panel) and that Panel shall have the power to impose further penalties, sanctions, orders or rulings as a result of a non-compliance.

MISCELLANEOUS

33. The law governing the Reduced Penalty Regulations, Regulations for Disciplinary Procedures Concerning Field Offences and any proceedings before the Disciplinary Panel shall be the law of England and Wales. The standard of proof applied shall be the balance of probabilities, except that under Rule 24.1.4(B) to 24.1.4(G) inclusive the standard of proof applied shall be whether the Disciplinary Offence has been established to the comfortable satisfaction of the Disciplinary Panel.

34. The rules of service set out in the Football Association of Wales Rule 144 shall apply to all notices and any other communications whatsoever sent in connection with the proceedings of a Disciplinary Panel.

35. These Rules are sufficient to enable the Association, Members and Subordinates to resolve all Disciplinary Offences and disputes or differences. The Parties must exhaust all procedures and processes of appeal in these Rules and the FAW Rules before taking legal proceedings in a court of law and then only as a last resort.

36. Notwithstanding any rule or regulation (in whatever form) of any Member or Subordinate to the contrary, it shall be a condition of the Association sanctioning any competition organised by the Member or any Subordinate that any appellant may lodge an appeal with the Disciplinary Panel (under Rules 25.2.2 or 25.2.3) against any decision of the Member or a Subordinate.

37. Subject to an appeal lodged with the FAW by any of the Parties, any decision of the Disciplinary Panel shall be a decision of the Association and all Members will comply with the same and will ensure that all Subordinates comply with the same.

38. The Association shall be permitted (but not obliged) to publish summaries of the decisions of its Disciplinary Panel in whatever form and forum it considers appropriate from time to time.

REGISTRATION AND TRANSFER OF PLAYERS

39. The registration and transfer of players shall be in accordance with the current Rules (Section H) and Regulations of the Football Association of Wales (as amended from time to time).

LEAGUES AND OTHER COMPETITIONS

40. All Official Matches in all leagues or competitions of any description and at any level (including, without limitation, a charity or benefit league or competition) must be sanctioned by the FAW.

41. The sanction for each league or competition must be renewed annually by the FAW.

42. Subject to Rule 45, no league or competition will be sanctioned by the FAW unless each team taking part in such league or competition fields a side consisting of eleven (11) players, from which number there shall be no deviation, unless it be occasioned through injury or some such other and proper cause during the course of any game in such league or competition.

43. Application for sanction of a league or competition shall be made, and thereafter renewed annually, with the FAW on or before 20th July immediately preceding the Playing Season during which Playing Season the league or competition is intended to be played. Such application must be made in every case using the systems and procedures set out by the FAW from time to time. Every such application must be accompanied by two copies of the rules of the league or competition concerned. Every such application must also be accompanied by a list of the names of all the clubs which have consented to join and take part in the league or competition. All such leagues or competitions shall observe the Rules and Regulations of the FAW. All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

44. All applications for sanction under Rule 40 shall be made direct to the FAW. All other applications for annual renewal of the sanction under Rule 41 shall, in the first instance, be lodged with the Association. The Association will vet the application for renewal, and the supporting documents referred to in Rule 43, and will forward the application to the FAW with its recommendation for acceptance or rejection but the final decision on the application will rest solely with the FAW.

45. Notwithstanding anything contained in Rule 42 or in any other Rule, the FAW may give permission for small-sided leagues or competitions (including, without limitation, Futsal) to be played, provided that:-

45.1 the league or competition has been sanctioned by the FAW in accordance with the requirements of Rules 40 or 41. Clubs seeking affiliation to this Association in order to participate in a small side league or competition must pay the Association an affiliation fee;

45.2 in the case of single matches, and one-day competitions (e.g. garden fetes or work's sports' days), they must be sanctioned by the FAW in accordance with the requirements of Rule 40;

45.3 the rules governing the eligibility and conduct of the players in the sanctioned match or competition shall be administered by the management committee of the sanctioned game or competition subject always to the authority of the Association and shall be in conformity with the FAW Rules and Regulations;

45.4 the playing of non-sanctioned matches arranged by private individuals for speculative purposes shall not be permitted;

45.5 for small side leagues or competitions played for charitable objectives a statement of accounts of the event shall be supplied to the Association (and other Area Association(s) if the league or competition falls within the geographical area of more than one Area Association) within twenty-one days (21) of the last match in the event; and

45.6 the laws applicable to the playing of small-side games shall be as set by the FAW from time to time.

46. No Subordinate or club under the jurisdiction of the Association, nor player, nor Match Official or any other body or individual in any way within the jurisdiction of this Association, shall play in or take part in any league or competition (including, without limitation, charity or benefit league or competition) within the boundaries of Wales unless such league or competition has been sanctioned by the FAW.

47. No Subordinate or club under the jurisdiction of the Association, nor player, nor Match Official or any other body or individual in any way within the jurisdiction of this Association, shall play, or take part in any league or competition (including, without limitation, charity or benefit league or competition) outside the boundaries of Wales unless such participation shall have first been sanctioned by the FAW. The application for such sanction shall be made, and renewed annually, on or before 1st April immediately preceding the Playing Season in which the said applicant wishes to participate in the said league or competition. Such application must be made in every case using the systems and procedures set out by the FAW from time to time.

48. Any league or competition of whatever kind within the jurisdiction of this Association shall only be played within a geographical area approved and sanctioned by the FAW.

49. Any club which is within the jurisdiction of the FAW and which has received sanction from the FAW to compete

in a league or competition outside the boundaries of Wales, shall carry out in full its obligations to those Welsh Association Football competitions of which it may be expected reasonably to take part, as defined by the FAW from time to time.

50. The name of any sponsor or the donor of a cup or trophy or any other person may form part of the title of a league or competition subject to the prior written approval of the FAW.

51. All kits must comply with the Football Association of Wales's Kit Regulations.

52. Subject to Rule 53 and subject to any special sanction granted by the FAW in accordance with FAW Rule 106, no league or competition which has been played during the Playing Season shall be allowed extended time outside the Playing Season to play all matches in the league or competition, including, without limitation, any league or competition played for charitable purposes. The FAW may specially sanction a match to be played after the end of the Playing Season if the match is arranged between two distinct clubs, or leagues, or Area Associations or between any two of them. In granting any such sanction, the FAW shall be entitled to stipulate to whom the whole or any part of the income generated from any such match is to be paid including, without limitation, payment to a registered charity nominated by the FAW.

53. Notwithstanding anything contained in the FAW Rules:-

53.1 semi-final or final matches of cup competitions of the FAW or this Association may be played not later than Saturday or Sunday following the end of the Playing Season in any year;

53.2 small sided leagues or competitions as specified in Rule 45 may be played at any time, including outside the Playing Season; and

53.3 matches may be played for charity, or some other object approved by the FAW, not later than the Saturday or Sunday following the end of the Playing Season and application for permission to play any such match must be made in writing and be forwarded to the FAW's Chief Executive Officer not later than the 1st April in the year concerned.

PRACTICE MATCHES

54. Subject at all times to the overriding responsibility of all Clubs to fulfil their obligations to participate in Official Matches, Clubs shall be permitted to play Closed Friendly Matches at any time, whether inside or outside the Playing Season.

55. Clubs shall not require permission to play Closed Friendly Matches; there shall be no requirement to play the match in accordance with the Laws of the Game or for the match to be officiated by a qualified and registered Match Official and the Association's Disciplinary Procedures Concerning Field Offences Regulations shall not apply to Closed Friendly Matches. The result or outcome of the Closed Friendly Match shall not be published by the Clubs.

56. Subject at all times to the overriding responsibility of all Clubs to fulfil their obligations to participate in Official Matches, Clubs shall be permitted to play Open Friendly Matches at any time, whether inside or outside the Playing Season. If the Open Friendly Match is to be played during the Playing Season, it shall be subject to the prior permission of the FAW or the Association (as the case may be). If the Open Friendly Match is to be played outside of the Playing Season, it shall only be subject to the prior notice to the FAW or the Association (as the case may be) unless otherwise required by the FAW. For the avoidance of doubt, the prior permission of the FAW or relevant Area Association (as the case may be) must be obtained where a Club wishes to play such an Open Friendly Match as an away game at a club not under the jurisdiction of the FAW.

57. Where the proposed Open Friendly Match is to be played at a Club under the jurisdiction of the FAW, that Club shall make the application for permission to play or give prior notice of the Open Friendly Match at least seven (7) days prior to the proposed date of the Open Friendly Match, unless a shorter period is accepted by the FAW in its absolute discretion. The application or notice must state whether a match-agent or other third party or Football Agent has had, or will have, any involvement in the organisation of the match. Qualifying Clubs shall apply to the FAW for permission or give notice to the FAW, using the systems and procedures as set by the Association from time to time. All other Clubs shall apply or give notice to the Association. Any such application or notice by a Club to the Association which involves playing a team from another national football association shall be vetted by the Association and forwarded to the FAW and the FAW shall have absolute discretion to decide whether its permission is required and, if so, whether to grant permission.

58. An Open Friendly Match must be officiated by a qualified and registered Match Official and the Association's

Disciplinary Procedures Concerning Field Offences Regulations shall apply to Open Friendly Matches. The result of an Open Friendly Match shall be published by the Clubs.

58(A) Tours outside Wales: -

58(A).1 No Member or other person or entity subject to the jurisdiction of the Association shall take Players on tour to England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, or to any country outside the United Kingdom under a designation that expressly or impliedly suggests such Players are representing the Association or the FAW in any way.

58(A).2 All intended tours of Players outside Wales must first receive the written permission of the FAW. All applications for such permission by clubs, leagues or Area Associations shall be made direct to the FAW. All other applications for permission shall, in the first instance, be lodged with the Association in which the organiser is situated and in these cases the Association will vet the application and will forward the application to the FAW with its recommendation for acceptance or rejection but the final decision on the application will rest solely with the FAW.

REFEREES AND OTHER MATCH OFFICIALS

59. On the field of play, any decision by the Match Official in charge of any match on questions of fact or the interpretation of the Laws of the Game shall be final and conclusive. The Association's Disciplinary Procedures Concerning Field Offences Regulations shall stipulate the penalties automatically imposed on Players and team officials in consequence of any offence committed during a match, as reported by the Match Official of that match. The said Regulations shall also specify any rights of appeal which may be permitted by the Association from time to time against any such automatically imposed penalty. In addition, the Association shall always have the right to bring a charge of a Disciplinary Offence against a Player or team official where it receives evidence of misconduct during a match where the Match Official of the match confirms to the Association that he/she did not witness the said event.

60. When a Match Official is appointed for any match by the FAW, this Association or the organisers of a competition sanctioned by the FAW, the Match Official shall using the systems and procedures set by the FAW or the Association (as the case may be) from time to time, within three (3) days of receipt by him/her of the notice of appointment, inform such appointing body whether he/she accepts or declines the appointment. Unless directed by the FAW, having accepted an appointment to officiate a match, the Match Official shall not cancel such engagement in order to officiate in some other match.

61. It shall be a breach of these Rules, if any Match Official fails to report any instance of misconduct during or relating to a match which comes to his/her notice, and if it is proved to the satisfaction of the Association that such instance of misconduct was of a nature that required reporting.

62.. The promotion and demotion of Match Officials to and from leagues under the jurisdiction of the Association shall be at the discretion of the Association.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

63. At any meeting held by the Council or any sub-committee of the Council to discuss a matter relating to any club or league, Councillors having an interest in such club or league shall declare the nature and extent of that interest to the other Councillors and shall: -

63.1 not be counted in the quorum present at the meeting to consider the matter;

63.2 have no vote on such matter; and

63.3 leave the room and take no further part in the discussion on such matter.

64. The provisions of Rule 64 shall not apply to a conflict of interest which arises solely because the Councillor is appointed, nominated or elected a Councillor as the representative of any league.

65. At any meeting held by the Council or any sub-committee of the Council at which a declaration of interest under Rule 64 is made, the other Councillors at that meeting may direct that the provisions of Rule 64 be suspended or relaxed in respect of that specific matter for any Councillor who has made the necessary declaration of a conflict of interest.

66. Each Member and every Subordinate of that Member shall respond promptly to any request for information (including, without limitation, a request for the production of documentation) reasonably made by the Association from time to time.

MISCELLANEOUS

67. Members and Subordinates shall use such systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time to comply with any provision of the FAW Rules or the FAW Regulations.

68. The Association shall be entitled to publish in the public press, or in any other manner which to it shall seem fit, the reports of its proceedings, act or resolutions or any part thereof, without having any regard as to whether such publication shall or shall not reflect upon the character or conduct of any Member or any other party involved at the time in question within the jurisdiction of the Association. Every such party shall be deemed hereby to have assented to any such said publication.

AREA ASSOCIATION ADULT (SENIOR & RESERVE)/YOUTH/JUNIOR FOOTBALL DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES CONCERNING FIELD OFFENCES IN MATCHES FOR PLAYERS AND TEAM OFFICIALS

For Players and Team Officials associated with Clubs playing in Senior & Reserve, Youth and Junior League and Cup Competitions under the jurisdiction of the Gwent County Football Association

SEASON 2026/2027

1. REPORTING OF OFFENCES BY MATCH OFFICIALS

(a) **Caution Offences**

Referees must submit to the Gwent County Football Association within 2 (two) hours after the completion of the match, stating the offence(s) and giving a description of the incident(s) using the procedures set by the Association from time to time.

(b) **Sending-off Offences**

Referees must submit a report to the Gwent County Football Association within 2 (two) hours after the completion of the match, stating the offence(s) and giving a description of the incident(s) using the procedures set by the Association from time to time.

(c) If a referee omits to show the appropriate card when taking action against a player or team official, or if the report is submitted more than 2 (two) hours after the completion of the match, this will not nullify the caution or sending-off offence. However, the attention of the referee will be drawn to the correct procedure.

(d) Referees should submit any additional misconduct report to the Gwent County Football Association within 48 hours of completion of the match, If the report is submitted after this time, this will not in any way restrict the Association's powers to action the report. However, the attention of the Referee will be drawn to the correct procedure.

2. CAUTION OFFENCES

A player or team official who has been cautioned in any match will be notified through their club by this Association using the systems and procedures set by the Association from time to time of:-

(a) the offence reported by the Referee;

(b) the total number of cautions recorded against the player or team official under these procedures during the current Season; and

(c) any punishment resulting from the accumulation of these cautions. Accumulation of cautions for a player will include any caution for which a player was subject to a temporary dismissal. Any such punishment will take effect regardless of whether or not the notification of it from this Association is received before it is due to take effect in accordance with these Disciplinary Procedures and **clubs must therefore maintain their own records**.

An administration fee of **£12.00** will be charged to the player or team official through the club for the cost of processing each report. The fee for players in junior competitions will be **£4.00.**

3. SENDING-OFF OFFENCES

A player or team official who has been sent-off in a match under the provisions of Law 12 will be notified through their club by this Association using the systems and procedures set by the Association from time to time of:-

(a) the offence reported by the referee;

(b) That the player or team official will be subject to the agreed standard punishment (see Section 6 for players and Section 7 for team officials). Any such punishment will take effect regardless of whether or not the

notification of it from this Association is received before it is due to take effect in accordance with these Disciplinary Procedures and **clubs must therefore maintain their own records**.

An administration fee of **£12.00** will be charged to the player or team official through the club for the cost of processing each report. The fee for players in junior competitions will be **£4.00**.

4. CLAIMS OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY

(a) In the case of a claim of alleged mistaken identity concerning a player or team official cautioned or sent-off in a match, the club, on behalf of the individual, must: -

(i) By 2.00pm of the next Business Day following the day of the match, submit in writing via e-mail (kevin.jones@gwentfa.co.uk) to the Gwent County Football Association their intention to submit a claim and the particulars upon which the claim is founded.

(ii) By 2.00pm on the second Business Day following the day of the match, submit to the Gwent County Football Association written statements and evidence (including video/DVD where available) in support of the claim together with the relevant fee as set out in Appendix 1. A signed statement by the player or team official reported by the referee that they were not responsible for the offence reported and identifying specifically the name of the person responsible must be included. Where possible a written statement from the player or team official responsible for the offence should also be supplied.

(b) Should a club have two matches with no, or insufficient Business Days in between, a Claim of Mistaken Identity shall be notified and lodged with the Gwent County Football Association in accordance with the following procedure: -

(i) Where there are no Business Days between two matches, written notification of the club's intent to make a claim must be e-mailed (kevin.jones@gwentfa.co.uk) to the Gwent County Football Association prior to the commencement of the second match.

(ii) Where there is just one Business Day between two matches, the timetable for notification as set out in 4(a)(i) hereabove, will still apply.

(iii) The submission of statements, evidence and the applicable fee must be lodged with the Gwent County Football Association by 2.00pm on the second Business Day as set out in 4(a)(ii) hereabove.

In respect of these specific circumstances, a player or team official will be eligible to play and/or participate in the second match, if, and only if, notification as set out in 4(b)(i) or 4(b)(ii) hereabove is appropriately submitted. A club will not be permitted to withdraw a claim once written notice to do so has been sent via e-mail to the Gwent County Football Association and therefore attention should be paid to 4(d)(ii) here below, in respect of claims which are believed to be frivolous or an abuse of process.

(c) Should a player or team official play and/or participate in a match without the appropriate notification having being lodged as set out here above, the Gwent County Football Association will prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the club and player or team official concerned for playing and/or participating whilst under suspension.

(d) The decisions available to the Disciplinary Panel considering a Claim of Mistaken Identity are as follows:-

(i) The claim is rejected - the player or team official reported by the referee serves the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum.

(ii) The claim is rejected and considered frivolous and/or an abuse of process - the Disciplinary Panel will have the discretion to increase the match suspension to up to twice that of the standard punishment.

(iii) The claim is successful - the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum is transferred from the record of the player or team official reported by the referee to the appropriate identified offender.

(e) Irrespective of the decision reached, the Disciplinary Panel shall have the discretion to either retain or return the fee submitted and if considered appropriate, make an order of costs against the claimant(s).

(f) A club failing to lodge a claim for mistaken identity may be charged with misconduct by the Gwent County Football Association if there is evidence that the club sought to gain an advantage by remaining silent on the matter.

(g) It is important to note that the time limits set out above are strict. Only complete claims submitted before the relevant deadlines will be considered by the Gwent County Football Association.

(h) The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to a Claim of Mistaken Identity is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

5. CLAIMS OF WRONGFUL DISMISSAL

(a) A player or team official and their club may seek to limit the disciplinary consequences of the dismissal of a player or team official from the Field-of-Play by demonstrating to this Association that the dismissal was wrongful.

(b) A Claim of Wrongful Dismissal may be lodged only for on-field offences which result in a sending-off, except for two cautions leading to a dismissal.

(c) The club, on behalf of the player or team official, must: -

(i) By 2.00pm of the next Business Day following the day of the match submit in writing via e-mail (kevin.jones@gwentfa.co.uk) to the Gwent County Football Association their intention to submit a claim and the particulars upon which the claim is founded.

(ii) By 2.00pm of the second Business Day following the day of the match submit written statements and evidence (including a video/DVD of the incident where available) in support of the claim together with the relevant fee as set out in Appendix 1.

(d) A Disciplinary Panel will be convened as soon as is practically possible to decide the matter on any relevant documentary and video/DVD evidence submitted. The Disciplinary Panel considering a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal is concerned with only the question of whether any sanction of a suspension from play is one which should be imposed in view of the facts of the case. A claim will only be successful if the Panel is satisfied that the Referee made an obvious error in dismissing the player or team official. It must be noted that in accordance with the Laws of the Game, the match referee's decision is final and the player's or team official's dismissal from the field of play will remain on the record of the player or team official and the club. The offence will remain the subject of the administration fee and the club will accrue the appropriate number of penalty points for the sending-off. Consequently, the club, player or team official and match official(s) will not attend the meeting of the Disciplinary Panel when the matter is considered.

(e) Should a club have two matches with no, or insufficient Business Days in between, a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal shall be notified and lodged with the Gwent County Football Association in accordance with the following procedure: -

(i) Where there are no Business Days between two matches, written notification of the club's intent to make a claim must be e-mailed (kevin.jones@gwentfa.co.uk) to the Gwent County Football Association prior to the commencement of the second match.

(ii) Where there is just one Business Day between two matches, the timetable for notification as set out in 5(c)(i) hereabove, will still apply.

(iii) The submission of statements, evidence and the applicable fee must be lodged with the [name of AA] by 2.00pm on the second Business Day as set out in 5(c)(ii) hereabove.

In respect of these specific circumstances, a player or team official will be eligible to play in the second match, if, and only if, notification as set out in 5(e)(i) or 5(e)(ii) hereabove is appropriately submitted. A club will not be permitted to withdraw a claim once written notice to do so has been sent via e-mail to the Gwent County Football Association and therefore attention should be paid to 5(g)(ii) here below, in respect of claims which are believed to be frivolous or an abuse of process.

(f) Should a player or team official play and/or participate in a match without the appropriate notification having being lodged as set out hereabove, the Gwent County Football Association will prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the club and player or team official concerned for playing and/or participating whilst under suspension.

(g) The decisions available to a Disciplinary Panel when considering a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal are as follows:-

(i) The claim is rejected - the player or team official serves the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum.

(ii) The claim is rejected and considered frivolous and/or an abuse of process – the Panel will have the discretion to increase the match suspension beyond the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum.

(iii) The claim is successful - the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum is withdrawn and Section 6(d) or Section 7(d), as the case may be, will not be invoked in relation to this dismissal if the player or team official is sent-off again following the offence.

(h) Irrespective of the decision reached, the Disciplinary Panel shall have the discretion to either retain or return the fee submitted and if considered appropriate, make an order for costs against the claimant(s).

(i) It is important to note that the time limits set out above are strict. Only complete claims submitted before the relevant deadlines will be considered by the Gwent County Football Association.

(j) The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

6. PUNISHMENTS FOR PLAYERS

(a) **Caution Offences – League Matches**

(i) If a player accumulates five (5) recorded cautions in the same League Division Competition which is under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association any time during the season, the player will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same League Division Competition only, until such time as the player has missed his/her club's next ONE (1) recognised match in the same League Division Competition under the direct jurisdiction of the Gwent County Football Association (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2026/2027 Season**.**

(ii) If a player accumulates ten (10) recorded cautions in the same League Division Competition under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association anytime during the season, the player will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same League Division Competition only, until such time as the player has missed his/her club's next TWO (2) recognised matches in the same League Division Competition under the direct jurisdiction of the Gwent County Football Association (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2026/2027 Season.

(iii) If a player accumulates fifteen (15) recorded cautions in the same League Division Competition which is under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association any time during the season, the player will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same League Division Competition only, until such time as the player has missed his/her club's next THREE (3) recognised matches in the same League Competition (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2026/2027 Season**.** The player shall also be required to attend a meeting of a Disciplinary Panel to consider any additional sanctions. The same procedure will apply for every further five (5) cautions recorded against a player.

(iv) The terms of a suspension resulting from the accumulation of cautions will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see Section 10).

(v) The player must serve the suspension with the club at which the player holds a valid registration.

(vi) Any player found to have intentionally received a caution in a way to manipulate the commencement of any suspension will be charged under the Standard Rule 24.1.9 and be suspended for a minimum of two (2) matches and be subject to a fine.

(vii) Where a player is sent off for receiving a second caution in the same match, such cautions shall not be recorded against the player's accumulation of cautionable offences.

(viii) Any period of suspension arising from an accumulation of cautions which is outstanding at the end of the season will not be carried over to the next season.

(b) **Caution Offences – Cup Matches**

(i) If a player accumulates two (2) recorded cautions in the same Cup Competition (see Appendix 2) which is under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association any time during the season, the player will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same Cup Competition **only**, until such time as the player has missed his/her club's next ONE (1) recognised **match** in the same Cup Competition (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match in the Cup Competition and final match in the same Cup Competition of the 2026/2027 Season**.**

(ii) If a player accumulates four (4) recorded cautions in the same Cup Competition (see Appendix 2) which is under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association any time during the season, the player will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same Cup Competition **only**, until such time as the player has missed his/her club's next ONE (1) recognised **match** in the same Cup Competition (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2026/2027 Season.

(iii) If a player accumulates six (6) recorded cautions in the same Cup Competition (see Appendix 2) which is under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this association any time during the season, the player will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same Cup Competition **only,** until such time as the player has missed his/her club's next ONE (1) recognised **match** in the same Cup Competition (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2026/2027 Season**.**

(iv) If a player accumulates eight (8) recorded cautions in the same Cup Competition which is under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association any time during the season, the player will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same Cup Competition only, until such time as the player has missed his/her club's next ONE (1) recognised match in the same Cup Competition (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2026/2027 Season**.** The player shall also be required to attend a meeting of a Disciplinary Panel to consider any additional sanctions. The same procedure will apply for every further two (2) cautions recorded against a player.

(v) After the completion of the Preliminary Round in all Cup Competitions listed in Appendix 2, the caution count shall be reset with all players being regarded as having zero (0) cautions attributed to them. For the avoidance of doubt, the following will still apply:

- any player who receives a suspension resulting from an accumulation of cautions in the Preliminary Round **will** be suspended for the same Cup Competition in the First Round proper; and

- any administration fee accumulated in previous rounds for any caution **will** need to be paid within 31 days of the match (as set out in 6(m) of these Procedures).

(vi) After the completion of the Quarter Final Round in all Cup Competitions listed in Appendix 2, the caution count shall be reset with all players being regarded as having zero (0) cautions attributed to them. For the avoidance of doubt, the following will still apply:

- any player who receives a suspension resulting from an accumulation of cautions in the Quarter Final match **will** be suspended for the same Cup Competitions Semi-Final; and

- any administration fee accumulated in previous rounds for any caution **will** need to be paid within 31 days of the match (as set out in 6(m) of these Procedures).

(vi) The terms of a suspension resulting from the accumulation of cautions will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see Section 10).

(vii) The player must serve the suspension with the club at which the player holds a valid registration.

(viii) Any player found to have intentionally received a caution in a way to manipulate the commencement of any suspension will be charged under Standard Rule 24.1.9 and be suspended for a minimum of two (2) matches and be subject to a fine.

(ix) Where a player is sent off for receiving a second caution in the same match, such cautions shall not be recorded against the player's accumulation of cautionable offences.

(x) Any period of suspension arising from an accumulation of cautions which is outstanding at the end of the season will not be carried over to the next season.

(c) Sending-Off Offences

(i) A player who is dismissed from the field of play will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from all Area Association and FAW League and Cup competitions, and Open Friendlies, within the same age category as the competition where the sending-off occurred. The suspension will apply until such time as the player has missed the required number of matches played by the team where the sending off occurred, in an Area Association and/or FAW Approved Competition.

(ii) The relevant automatic suspension arising from the sending-off offence is set out in Appendix 3.

(iii) The terms of a suspension from a sending-off offence will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see Section 10).

(iv) A player must serve the suspension with the club at which they hold a valid registration.

(v) As set out in Law 10 of the IFAB Laws of the Game, if a player receives a second caution during kicks from the penalty mark to determine the outcome of the match, the player will not be dismissed from the field of play as the caution count from the match is reset before the shootout commences. For clarity, both cautions shall count towards the number of cautions that the player has accumulated in the league competition. The player will also be liable for the second administration fee as set out in Section 2.

(vi) If the player receives two (2) cautions during the kicks from the penalty mark, they will be dismissed and suspended automatically with immediate effect. The procedure as set out in 6(c) shall apply for the suspension and how it must be served. For the avoidance of doubt, the administration fee from the caution received during the match and the administration fee for the sending off in the kicks from the penalty mark will both be payable.

(vii) Where an automatic suspension arising from a sending-off offence remains outstanding at the end of a season it will be carried over to be served in the next season. In these circumstances, a player will be permitted to take part in any Open Friendly prior to the commencement of their team's first competitive match in the new season, at which point the suspension will recommence.

(viii) A club or player may make a written request to the Gwent County Football Association to transfer a player's suspension to be served by the competitive matches of another team within their Club, other than where the sending-off occurred. If it can be demonstrated that more than 50% of the player's matches have been played for that other team during the same season, the Gwent County Football Association will transfer the suspension. The number of matches played will be solely determined by Comet match reports. For the avoidance of doubt, the player must have played in those matches and not have been an unused substitute. The suspension, once transferred, cannot be transferred further.

(d) **Deliberately left blank**

(e) **Additional Sending's-off**

Players dismissed from the field of play for a second time in the same Season in an Area Association or FAW Approved competition of the same age category, in addition to the automatic suspension applicable to the offence, will be suspended for one extra match.

A player dismissed for a third time in the same Season in an Area Association or FAW Approved Competition of the same age category will be suspended for an extra two matches, and so on.

(f) **Measurement of Suspension**

The length of suspension is to be measured against the Team with which the player committed the offence. If a club has more than one Team that participates within League Competitions listed in Appendix 2, then the suspension will be measured against the Team with which the player committed the offence, subject 6(c)(viii) above.

Any player serving a suspension from a sending off will be suspended from **all** Area Association and FAW Approved Competitions, and Open Friendlies, within the same age category as that where they received their suspension, subject to 6(c)(vii).

Any player serving a suspension from an accumulation of cautions (as set out in section 6(a) & 6(b) of these Procedures) will only be suspended from playing in the same League Division or Cup Competition in which they received their accumulated cautions.

Where a player receives a suspension (as set out in these Procedures) from an Open Friendly match (see section 10), this must be measured by the team's next match(es) in Area Association or FAW Approved Competitions within the same age category as that where the suspension was imposed.

(g) **Outstanding Suspensions**

Where an automatic suspension arising from a sending-off offence remains outstanding at the end of a season, it will be carried over to be served in the next season with the club at which the player is registered and measured by the player's team's matches in Area Association or FAW Approved Competitions in the same age category as that where the suspension was imposed.

Should a player no longer be eligible, due to age restriction, to participate in competitions in the age category in which the suspension was imposed, the suspension will be transferred to be served in the relevant age category where the player is now eligible.

(h) **Deliberately left blank**

(i) **Deliberately left blank**

(j) **Rule 24**

In special cases where:-

(i) a match official's report indicates a serious breach of the Laws of the Game, or

(ii) a player commits an act of misconduct and/or a sending-off offence under Law 12 (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of the Laws of the Game whilst on the field of play which is not seen by the match officials but caught on video;

The Gwent County Football Association reserves the right to prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the player in accordance with one or more of the provisions under Rule 24.

When dealing with a case under 6(j)(i) hereabove, the Disciplinary Panel may take into account any automatic punishment imposed under the Procedures.

When dealing with a case under 6(j)(ii) hereabove, confirmation by the match officials that they did not see the incident in question shall be conclusive evidence of that fact.

(k) **Clubs Imposing Fines**

Clubs may fine players in Senior & Reserve and Youth Football for on-field offences but must notify the Gwent County Football Association, without delay, the details of the fine in each case.

(l) **Re-Arranged Matches**

A Disciplinary Panel shall have discretionary power to rule that a match shall not count towards the completion of a suspension if it is satisfied that the game has been arranged by the club with a view to enabling the player to complete their suspension and thus qualify them to play in a specific match. The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to re-arranged matches is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

(m) **Collection of Administration Fees**

It will be the responsibility of the club to collect the administration fees from the players concerned. Clubs will have 31 calendar days to make the payment for each player's **£12.00/£4.00** administration fee as and from the date of the match. Should the club fail to make the payment of the **£12.00/£4.00** administration fee within 31 calendar days, then the player will become ineligible from playing in all Association Football and Futsal matches until payment is received. The administration fee must be paid on the COMET system, or any other system as prescribed by the Association from time to time.

Any club experiencing difficulties in obtaining monies owed by players of the club may refer such matters to the Gwent County Football Association.

(n) **Abandoned Matches**

(i) any caution or sending-off issued in a match which is subsequently abandoned will remain on the record of the player/official irrespective of whether the match is replayed**.**

(ii) Abandoned matches will not count towards clearing a player/official of a suspension. All matches must be completed for a match to count down the suspension.

(o) **Team(s) Withdrawal from the League**

(i) Where a team withdraws from the League before completing all of its matches for the season, all disciplinary sanctions imposed upon any player of either side in the matches in that team's matches will remain on the record of the player sanctioned.

(ii) Where a player has served a suspension, any part of which has been counted down by a match against a Club who subsequently withdraw from the League, the match will still count for the purpose of serving the suspension.

7. PUNISHMENTS FOR TEAM OFFICIALS

(a) **Caution Offences – League Matches**

(i) If a team official accumulates three (3) recorded cautions in the same League Division Competition which is under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association any time during the season, the team official will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same League Division Competition only, until such time as the team official has missed his/her club's next ONE (1) recognised match in the same League Division Competition under the direct jurisdiction of the Gwent County Football Association (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2026/2027 Season**.**

(ii) If a team official accumulates six (6) recorded cautions in the same League Division Competition which is under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association any time during the season, the team official will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same League Division Competition only, until such time as the team official has missed his/her club's next TWO (2) recognised matches in the same League Division Competition under the direct jurisdiction of the Gwent County Football Association (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2026/2027 Season**.**

(iii) If a team official accumulates nine (9) recorded cautions in the same League Division Competition which is under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association any time during the season, the team official will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same League Division Competition only, until such time as the team official has missed his/her club's next THREE (3) recognised matches in the same League Division Competition under the direct jurisdiction of the Gwent County Football Association (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2026/2027 Season**.**

(iv) If a team official accumulates twelve (12) recorded cautions in the same League Competition which is under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association any time during the season, the team official will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same League Division Competition only, until such time as the team official has missed his/her club's next FOUR (4) recognised matches in the same League Division Competition under the direct jurisdiction of the Gwent County Football Association (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2026/2027 Season**.** The team official shall also be required to attend a meeting of a Disciplinary Panel to consider any additional sanctions. The same procedure will apply 5for every further three (3) cautions recorded against a team official.

(v) The terms of a suspension resulting from the accumulation of cautions will be as set out under the category of a TOUCHLINE SUSPENSION (see Section 10).

(vi) The team official must serve the suspension with the club at which the team official holds a valid registration.

(vii) Where a team official is sent off for receiving a second caution in the same match, such cautions shall not be recorded against the team official's accumulation of cautionable offences.

(viii) Any team official found to have intentionally received a caution in a way to manipulate the commencement of any suspension will be charged under Standard Rule 24.1.9 and be suspended for a minimum of two (2) matches and be subject to a fine.

(ix) Any period of suspension arising from an accumulation of cautions which is outstanding at the end of the season will not be carried over to the next season.

(b) **<u>Caution Offences – Cup Matches</u>**

(i) If a team official accumulates two (2) recorded cautions in the same Cup Competition (see Appendix 2) which is under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association any time during the season, the team official will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same Cup Competition only, until such time as the team official has missed his/her club's next ONE (1) recognised match in the same Cup Competition (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match in the Cup Competition and final match in the same Cup Competition of the 2026/2027 Season**.**

(ii) If a team official accumulates four (4) recorded cautions in the same Cup Competition (see Appendix 2) which is under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association any time during the season, the team official will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same Cup Competition only, until such time as the team official has missed his/her club's next ONE (1) recognised match in the same Cup Competition (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2026/2027 Season.

(iii) If a team official accumulates six (6) recorded cautions in the same Cup Competition (see Appendix 2) which is under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this association any time during the season, the team official will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same Cup Competition only, until such time as the team official has missed his/her club's next ONE (1) recognised match in the same Cup Competition (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2026/2027 Season**.**

(iv) If a team official accumulates eight (8) recorded cautions in the same Cup Competition which is under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association any time during the season, the team official will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from the same Cup Competition only, until such time as the team official has missed his/her club's next ONE (1) recognised match in the same Cup Competition (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match

and final match of the 2026/2027 Season**.** The team official shall also be required to attend a meeting of a Disciplinary Panel to consider any additional sanctions. The same procedure will apply for every further two (2) cautions recorded against a team official.

(v) After the completion of the Preliminary Round in all Cup Competitions listed in Appendix 2, the caution count shall be reset with all team officials being regarded as having zero (0) cautions attributed to them. For the avoidance of doubt, the following will still apply:

- any team official who receives a suspension resulting from an accumulation of cautions in the Preliminary Round **will** be suspended for the same Cup Competition in the First Round proper; and

- any administration fee accumulated in previous rounds for any caution **will** need to be paid within 31 days of the match (as set out in 7(m) of these Procedures).

(vi) After the completion of the Quarter Final Round in all Cup Competitions listed in Appendix 2, the caution count shall be reset with all team officials being regarded as having zero (0) cautions attributed to them. For the avoidance of doubt, the following will still apply:

- any team official who receives a suspension resulting from an accumulation of cautions in the Quarter Final match **will** be suspended for the same Cup Competitions Semi-Final; and

- any administration fee accumulated in previous rounds for any caution **will** need to be paid within 31 days of the match (as set out in 7(m) of these Procedures).

(vii) The terms of a suspension resulting from the accumulation of cautions will be as set out under the category of a TOUCHLINE SUSPENSION (see Section 10).

(viii) The team official must serve the suspension with the club at which the team official holds a valid registration.

(ix) Where a team official is sent off for receiving a second caution in the same match, such cautions shall not be recorded against the team official's accumulation of cautionable offences.

(x) Any team official found to have intentionally received a caution in a way to manipulate the commencement of any suspension will be charged under Standard Rule 24.1.9 and be suspended for a minimum of two (2) matches and be subject to a fine.

(xi) Any period of suspension arising from an accumulation of cautions which is outstanding at the end of the season will not be carried over to the next season.

(c) **Sending -Off Offences**

(i) A team official who is dismissed from the technical area will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from all League and Cup competitions and Open Friendlies, within the same age category as the competition where the sending-off occurred. The suspension will apply until such time as the team official has missed the required number of matches, played by the team where the sending-off occurred, in an Area Association and/or FAW Approved Competition(s).

(ii) The relevant automatic suspension arising from the sending-off offence is set out in Appendix 4.

(iii) The terms of the suspension arising from a sending-off offence will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see Section 10).

(iv) A team official must serve the suspension with the club at which they hold a valid registration.

(v) As set out in Law 10 of the IFAB Laws of the Game, if a team official receives a second caution during kicks from the penalty mark to determine the outcome of the match, the team official will not be dismissed from the field of play as the caution count from the match is reset before the shootout commences. Both cautions shall count towards the number of cautions that the team official has accumulated in the league competition. The team official will also be liable for the second administration fee of **£12.00**.

(vi) If the team official receives two (2) cautions during the kicks from the penalty mark, they will be dismissed and suspended automatically with immediate effect. The procedure as set out in 7(c) shall apply for the suspension and how it must be served. For the avoidance of doubt, the administration fee of **£12.00** from the caution received during the match and the administration fee of **£12.00** for the sending off in the kicks from the penalty mark will both be payable.

(vii) Where an automatic suspension arising from a sending-off offences remains outstanding at the end of a season it will be carried over to be served in the next season. In these circumstances, a team official will be permitted to take part in any Open Friendly prior to the commencement of their team's first competitive match in the new season, at which point the suspension will recommence.

(d) **Sending's Off not detailed**

(i) Where a team official is dismissed from the Technical Area for a reason not set out in Appendix 4, in addition to the specified one (1) match suspension, the dismissal will be subject for review by a Disciplinary Panel of Gwent County Football Association.

(ii) The Disciplinary Panel shall have the power to determine:

(a) A one Match Suspension shall suffice and there should be no further suspension; or

(b) That the standard one Match Suspension and the Panel will have the power to increase the Match Suspension.

(iii) The club or team official will not be permitted to submit any evidence for the Disciplinary Panel's considerations and the matter will be considered solely on the match official(s) sending off report. Should a club require a Disciplinary Panel to consider the validity of the suspension resulting from the sending off, then they must submit a Claim of Mistaken Identity and/or a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal as set out in Sections 4 and 5. In this procedure set out in 7(d), the Disciplinary Panel will only confine themselves to the level of sanction imposed from the dismissal.

(iv) Should a club lodge a Claim of Mistaken Identity then the same Disciplinary Panel will consider the sanction.

(v) Should a club lodge a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal and the claim is rejected as set out under section 5(g)(i) & (ii) and the sending off is subject to section 7(d), then the same Disciplinary Panel will consider the sanction.

(vi) The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to this procedure is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

(e) **Additional Sending's-off**

Team officials dismissed from the Technical Area for a second time in the same Season in an Area Association or FAW Approved Competition of the same age category, in addition to the automatic suspension applicable to the offence, will be suspended for one extra match.

A team official dismissed for a third time in the same Season in an Area Association or FAW Approved Competition of the same age category, will be suspended for an extra two matches, and so on.

(f) **Measurement of Suspension**

The length of suspension is to be measured against the Team with which the team official committed the offence. If a club has more than one Team that participates within Competitions listed in Appendix 2, then the suspension will be measured against the Team with which the team official committed the offence.

Any team official serving a suspension from a sending off will be suspended from **all** Area Association and FAW Approved Competitions, and Open Friendlies, within the same age category as that where the suspension was imposed, subject to 7(c)(vii). . Any team official serving a suspension from an accumulation of cautions (as set out in section 7(a) & 7(b) of these Procedures) will only be suspended

from participating in the same League Division or Cup Competition in which they received their accumulated cautions.

Where a team official receives a suspension (as set out in these Procedures) from an Open Friendly match (see section 10), this must be measured by the teams next match(es) in League or Cup Competitions (whichever comes first) within the same age category as that where the suspension was imposed.

(g) **Outstanding Suspensions**

Any period of suspension, or part thereof, arising from a sending-off offence which remains outstanding at the end of a season must be served at the commencement of the next following season with the club at which the team official is registered and measured by the team official's matches in Area Association and FAW Approved Competitions in the same age category as that where the suspension was imposed.

Any period of suspension, or part thereof, arising from an accumulation of cautions which remains outstanding at the end of a season will not be carried over to the next season.

(h) **Deliberately left blank**

(i) **Deliberately left blank**

(j) **Rule 24**

In special cases where: -

(i) a match official's report indicates a serious breach of the Laws of the Game, or

(ii) a team official commits an act of misconduct and/or a sending-off offence as set out in the Laws of the Game whilst on the field of play and/or in the Technical Area which is not seen by the match officials but caught on video;

the Gwent County Football Association reserves the right to prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the team official in accordance with one or more of the provisions under Rule 24.

When dealing with a case under 7(j)(i) hereabove, the Disciplinary Panel may take into account any automatic punishment imposed under the Procedures.

When dealing with a case under 7(j)(ii) hereabove, confirmation by the match officials that they did not see the incident in question shall be conclusive evidence of that fact.

(k) **Clubs Imposing Fines**

Clubs may fine team officials for on-field offences but must notify the Gwent County Football Association without delay, the details of the fine in each case.

(l) **Re-Arranged Matches**

A Gwent County Football Association Disciplinary Panel shall have discretionary power to rule that a match shall not count towards the completion of a suspension if it is satisfied that the game has been arranged by the club with a view to enabling the team official to complete their suspension and thus qualify them to participate in a specific match. The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to re-arranged matches is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

(m) **Collection of Administration Fees**

It will be the responsibility of the club to collect the **£12.00** administration fee from the team officials concerned. Clubs will have 31 calendar days to make the payment for each team official's **£12.00** administration fee as and from the date of the match. Should the club fail to make the payment of the **£12.00** administration fee within 31 calendar days, then the team official will become ineligible from participating in **any** Association Football and Futsal match until payment is received. The administration fee must be paid on the COMET system, or any other system as prescribed by the Association from time to time.

Any club experiencing difficulties in obtaining monies owed by team officials of the club may refer such matters to the Gwent County Football Association.

(n) **Abandoned Matches**

(i) any caution or sending-off issued in a match which is subsequently abandoned will remain on the record of the official irrespective of whether the match is replayed.

(ii) Abandoned matches will not count towards clearing an official of a suspension. All matches must be completed for a match to count down the suspension.

(o) **Team(s) Withdrawal from the League**

(i) Where a team withdraws from the League before completing all of its matches for the season, all disciplinary sanctions imposed upon an official of either side in the matches in that team's matches will remain on the record of the official sanctioned.

(ii) Where a player/team official has served a suspension, any part of which has been counted down by a match against a Club who subsequently withdraw from the League, the match will still count for the purpose of serving the suspension.

8. DISCIPLINARY ACTION ON CLUBS FOR MISCONDUCT BY THEIR PLAYERS AND TEAM OFFICIALS

(a) Any club whose players or team officials accumulate a total number of Penalty Points during a season, and that total is considered to be appreciably above the average number of points in the same league, may be required to appear before a Disciplinary Panel and shall be liable to be warned and/or fined for having permitted its players or team officials to violate the Laws of the Game in contravention of Rule [24.1.1]. In addition, the Panel shall be entitled to make an order as to costs against the club. Any action taken by the club to discipline its players will be taken into consideration by the Panel in its findings.

In so far as this Regulation shall apply, the following Penalty Points will be recorded against a club: -

For all recorded cautions - 4 Points

For Sending-off for players under Law 12 (4) (5) & (7) and team officials resulting in a one match suspension - 10 Points

For Sending-off for players under Law 12 (1) (2) (3) & (6) and team officials resulting in a two or three match suspension - 12 Points

(b) A club required to appear before a Disciplinary Panel shall be represented by at least one of its Directors/Officials and the Manager.

(c) The Gwent County Football Association reserves the right to prefer a charge against a club at any time during the season arising from field offences committed by players and team officials of the club.

9. SUSPENSIONS IMPOSED UNDER THESE REGULATIONS

(a) Unless otherwise ordered by the Gwent County Football Association, or a Judicial Body of the FAW. the terms of the suspensions imposed under these entire regulations will be as set out under the category of a Match Suspension (see section 10). The only exception is where a team official receives a suspension for an accumulation of cautions. In this instance, the category of suspension will be a Touchline Suspension (see section 10).

(b) Any suspension imposed on a player may only be served whilst the player holds a registration with a football club. Should a player transfer or register for a new club prior to the commencement of the suspension or during the period of the suspension, the player will not be eligible to play for their new club until such time as the new club with which the player has transferred to has completed the required number of matches in Approved Competitions.

(c) Any suspension imposed on a team official may only be served whilst the team official holds a registration with a football club. Should a team official transfer or register for a new club prior to the commencement

of the suspension or during the period of the suspension, the team official will not be eligible to participate for their new club until such time as the club with which the team official committed the offence has completed the required number of matches in Approved Competitions.

10. DEFINITIONS

i. BUSINESS DAY

Any day of the week except a Saturday or Sunday or public bank holiday in Wales

ii. CLOSED FRIENDLY MATCH

A game of Association Football which is not an Official Match which is played between two (2) teams (whether or not from different Clubs) but is not made open for the public to attend.

iii. MATCH SUSPENSION

A Match Suspension is a ban on taking part in a match and on attending it in the area immediately surrounding the field-of-play. A Match Suspension may be imposed on a player or an official.

The area immediately surrounding the field-of-play includes: -

1. The field-of-play.
2. The dressing rooms and their immediate area.
3. The tunnel and/or private way leading from the dressing rooms to the field of play.
4. The dugouts, benches and technical areas.
5. The prohibited area in the vicinity of the touchline and goal lines.

The player or official under a Match Suspension is prohibited from contact with match officials, players and club officials, as well as giving any media interviews, before, during and after the match.

A Match Suspension does not prohibit a player or official from attending or taking part in a Closed Friendly Match or a club organised private training session. However, a player or official is prohibited from attending or taking part in an Open Friendly Match.

A club who permits a player or an official to attend any ground whilst serving a Match Suspension will be responsible for ensuring the terms of the suspension are adhered to.

iv. OPEN FRIENDLY MATCH

A game of Association Football which is not an Official Match which is played between two (2) teams (whether or not from different Clubs) and is made open to the public to attend.

v. TOUCHLINE SUSPENSION

A Touchline Suspension is a ban from any immediate contact with players, club officials and match officials participating in a match for the duration of the match. A Touchline Suspension may be imposed on a player and an official. A Touchline Suspension prohibits an individual from: -

1. Attending the dugouts and technical areas before, during and after the match.

2. Entering the field-of-play and the prohibited area in the vicinity of the touchline and goal lines.

3. Coaching or issuing instructions for the duration of the game.

4. Engaging the match officials whilst they are on the field-of-play or in the tunnel and/or private way leading from the dressing rooms to the field-of-play.

The player or official under a Touchline Suspension is permitted to attend the team changing room pre-match, at half-time and post-match. Furthermore, the individual is permitted to approach the match officials pre-match or post-match whilst they are in their dressing room and provided the match officials are agreeable to the approach.

The FAW is aware that due to the nature of many grounds, the individual under a Touchline Suspension may stand behind the perimeter barrier surrounding the field-of-play but still remain sufficiently close enough to the field-of-play to allow them to continue coaching or issue instructions to the coaching / technical staff. This will be considered as a breach of the Touchline Suspension and will result in the Football Association of Wales preferring charges of misconduct against the club and player or official who is under the suspension.

Where a stand exists within the ground, the Football Association of Wales requires the player or official to sit in the stand away from the field-of-play.

For the duration of the game, a player or official under a Touchline Suspension is NOT PERMITTED to communicate with the coaching / technical staff via radio or other electronic communication and is prohibited from having personal contact with any such persons.

APPENDIX 1

Fees applicable when making a Claim of Mistaken Identity or a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal

For teams playing in:-	**£ Fee payable**
All Senior League Clubs	£50.00

Appendix 2

Gwent Premier League:	League & Cup Competitions
East Gwent League:	League & Cup Competitions
Gwent Central League:	League & Cup Competitions
Newport & District League:	League & Cup Competitions
North Gwent League:	League & Cup Competitions
GCFA Senior Cup:	
GCFA Amateur Cup:	
GCFA Intermediate Cup:	

APPENDIX 1

Fees applicable when making a Claim of Mistaken Identity or a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal

For teams playing in:-	**£ Fee payable**
Gwent Premier Youth League Clubs	£50.00

Appendix 2

Gwent Premier Youth League
Gwent Premier Youth League Cup

APPENDIX 1

Fees applicable when making a Claim of Mistaken Identity or a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal

For teams playing in:-	**£ Fee payable**
All Junior League Clubs	£50.00

APPENDIX 2

Islwyn Junior League:	League & Cup Competitions
Monmouthshire Junior League:	League & Cup Competitions
Newport Junior League:	League & Cup Competitions
Torfaen Junior League:	League & Cup Competitions
Gwent County Girls League:	League & Cup Competitions
GCFA Under 14 Boys/Mixed Challenge Cup	
GCFA Under 15 Boys/Mixed Challenge Cup	
GCFA Under 16 Boys/Mixed Challenge Cup	
GCFA Under 14 Girls Challenge Cup	
GCFA Under 15 Girls Challenge Cup	

SECTION "E"

REGULATIONS GOVERNING ASSAULTS ON MATCH OFFICIALS

These Regulations shall apply at all levels of the game

1. PREFERRING A CHARGE

1.1 Upon receipt of a report from a match official detailing an alleged assault against him/her the Gwent County Football Association will without delay:

1.1.1 Investigate the official's report and if the we are satisfied that a prima facie case of assault of a match official can be made out against the alleged offender the Association shall;

1.1.2 Take the necessary steps to prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the alleged offender. Details of the charge shall be addressed specifically to the alleged offender and be sent by First Class post to the alleged offender's home address; and

1.1.3 Forward a copy of the charge by First Class post to the alleged offender's club and the relevant League.

1.2 Where the Association is in receipt of a report from a Match Official detailing that an alleged assault has occurred pursuant to Part 3B (Assault whether or not causing bodily harm) or Part 3C (Assault Causing Serious Bodily Harm) the Association shall impose an immediate interim suspension on the alleged offender concerned upon invoking Regulation 1.1 here above.

1.3 Where the Association is not in receipt of a report from the Match Official but is in receipt of information (whether verbally or in writing) that an assault pursuant to Part 3B (Assault whether or not causing bodily harm) or Part 3C (Assault Causing Serious Bodily Harm) has occurred the Association may impose an immediate interim suspension on the alleged offender.

1.4 In deciding to adopt this course of action the Association must: -

1.4.1 Contact the alleged offender's club and establish without delay address and telephone contact details of the alleged offender; the club should also be informed of the suspension at this time;

1.4.2 Contact the alleged offender directly confirming the suspension and reasons for this course of action.

1.4.3 A written report of the incident must be received from the match official concerned within two (2) Business Days of the match and forwarded with a letter setting the details of the charge of misconduct to the alleged offender concerned as detailed under Regulation 1.1 here above.

1.4.4 If the match official's report is NOT received within two (2) Business Days of the match the authority must lift the suspension by means of contacting the club and alleged offender directly and make appropriate enquiries with the match official(s) concerned. This action should be confirmed in writing to all parties.

2. CONDUCT OF THE HEARING

2.1 A disciplinary body of the Association must be convened within fourteen (14) Business Days as of the date of the letter detailing the charge of misconduct against the alleged offender.

2.2 The alleged offender shall be given a minimum notice of seven (7) Business Days to attend the convened disciplinary body's hearing.

2.3 The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the relevant rules of the Association.

2.4 Having considered all the evidence available the disciplinary body shall decide one of the following: -

2.4.1 The alleged offender is not guilty of misconduct

2.4.2 The alleged offender is guilty of misconduct.

2.4.3 The alleged offender is guilty of misconduct and such conduct falls within the definition of Category A (Technical Assault) of these Regulations detailed in Part 3 here below.

2.4.4 The alleged offender is guilty of misconduct and such conduct falls within the definition of Category B (Assault whether or not causing bodily harm) of these Regulations detailed in Part 3 here below.

2.4.5 The alleged offender is guilty of misconduct and such conduct falls within the definition of Category C (Assault causing serious bodily harm) of these Regulations detailed in Part 3 here below.

2.5 In relation to a finding under Regulation 2.4.1 2.4.2 and 2.4.3 here above the disciplinary body will lift any interim suspension imposed under Regulation 1.2 with immediate effect and inform the alleged offender accordingly at the conclusion of the hearing.

2.6 If the alleged offender is found guilty of misconduct as set out under Regulation 2.4.2 2.4.3 2.4.4 or 2.4.5 here above the disciplinary body will request mitigating factors and due consideration will be given to these factors when considering the level of penalty or sanction to impose.

2.7 In relation to a finding under Regulation 2.4.2 2.4.3 2.4.4 and 2.4.5 here above the disciplinary body when deciding the penalty or sanction must give consideration to the matches missed by the alleged offender as a result any interim suspension imposed.

2.8 In relation to a finding under Regulations 2.4.2 2.4.3 2.4.4 and 2.4.5 here above any period of suspension imposed by the disciplinary body must commence from the date of the interim suspension.

2.9 Where a suspension is imposed as a result of a finding under Regulation 2.4.2 2.4.3 2.4.4 or 2.4.5 here above the disciplinary body shall consider the 'Category of Suspension' (as defined by the FAW Regulations) to be served.

2.10 Where practicably possible the disciplinary body shall inform the alleged offender of the penalty or sanction imposed at the conclusion of the hearing.

2.11 Whether or not the penalty or sanction is given at the conclusion of the hearing the disciplinary body will confirm their decision and penalty or sanctions imposed in writing to the alleged offender within three (3) Business Days as of the date of the hearing.

2.12 A copy of the decision relating to the hearing must be forwarded to the Football Association of Wales within three (3) Business Days as of the date of the hearing.

3. CATEGORIES OF ASSAULT

3A. **Technical Assault** (where there is no element of contact between the offender and match official)

3A.1. A Technical Assault will occur where:

3A.1.1. An individual uses words or actions that are intended to intimidate and/or threaten the official; and

3A.1.2. The intimidation and/or threat is one of a violent nature; and

3A.1.3. The individual was within a close proximity to the official at the time of the intimidation and/or threatening behaviour; and

3A.1.4. The words or actions used caused the official to feel intimidated threatened and/or fearful of the use of violence by the individual.

3A.2. A Technical Assault will occur regardless of whether the individual intended to carry out the threats.

3A.3. Actions intending to intimidate and/or threaten the official will also include careless actions which will include but is not limited to the throwing or kicking of objects or substances or spitting towards the match official but where no contact is made with the said official.

3A.4. When considering proximity under 3A.1.3 the disciplinary body will consider whether the individual made an attempt to advance towards the official in order to intimidate and/or threaten.

3B. **Assault** (whether or not causing bodily harm)

3B.1. An assault in accordance with this category is defined as any circumstance of an inappropriate nature where physical contact is made with an official whether or not any injury results.

3B.2. This category also includes but is not limited to the throwing or kicking of objects or substances or spitting towards the match official where the said object or substance or spit makes contact with the match official.

3C. **Assault Causing Serious Bodily Harm**

3C.1. An assault shall be regarded as causing serious bodily harm if the official suffers any serious injury including but not limited to injury to limbs bones or senses cuts bruises burns or concussion.

3C.2 Serious bodily harm may occur whether or not the Official requires medical treatment or first aid but shall not include harm which at the reasonable discretion of the disciplinary body is deemed bodily harm of a minor nature falling within Category B above.

4. RECOMMENDED SANCTIONS

4A. Technical Assault

A maximum of 182 days suspension from football (the 'Category of Suspension' to be determined by the disciplinary body) and a minimum fine of £50.00.

The length of the suspension is to be determined by a Judicial Body of the FAW or an Area Association on a case-by-case basis. Below is the recommended starting point for a fine for an individual found proven of Technical Assault in accordance with these Regulations. It will then be for the Judicial Body to consider aggravating and mitigating factors to increase or decrease the fine as necessary;

For Adults & Youth team football in tier 4 and below in the FAW Pyramid Regulations (managed by the Area Associations), the recommended starting point should be a £120.00 fine and costs.

4B. **Assault** (whether or not causing bodily harm)

A maximum of two years suspension from football (the 'Category of Suspension' to be determined by the disciplinary body) and a minimum fine of £75.00.

The length of the suspension is to be determined by a Judicial Body of the FAW or an Area Association on a case-by-case basis. Below is the recommended starting point for a fine for an individual found proven of Assault in accordance with these Regulations. It will then be for the Judicial Body to consider aggravating and mitigating factors to increase or decrease the fine as necessary;

For Adults & Youth team football in tier 4 and below in the FAW Pyramid Regulations (managed by the Area Associations), the recommended starting point should be a £180.00 fine and costs.

4C. Assault causing Serious Bodily Harm

A Sine Die suspension from ALL FOOTBALL RELATED ACTIVITY with no review to be considered under a period of 5 years and a minimum fine of £100.00.

The length of the suspension is to be determined by a Judicial Body of the FAW or an Area Association on a case-by-case basis. Below is the recommended starting point for a fine for an individual found proven of Assault causing Serious Bodily Harm in accordance with these Regulations. It will then

be for the Judicial Body to consider aggravating and mitigating factors to increase or decrease the fine as necessary;

For Adults & Youth team football in tier 4 and below in the FAW Pyramid Regulations (managed by the Area Associations), the recommended starting point should be a £270.00 fine and costs.

5. AGGRAVATING AND MITIGATING FACTORS

5.1 When determining the penalty or sanction to be imposed under Regulation 4A 4B or 4C here above consideration should be given to: -

5.1.1 aggravating factors - these may include (but not limited to):- the level of the game the alleged offender participates the seniority of the alleged offender within the club the length of the incident the requirement for others to prevent an escalation of the incident the impact on the match official the severity of the incident and previous disciplinary record;

5.1.2 mitigating factors - these may include (but not limited to): - the remorsefulness of the alleged offender acceptance of the charge of misconduct post incident behaviour of the alleged offender the length of the incident lack of involvement from any other party to stop the incident and previous disciplinary record.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

6.1 Any penalty or sanction imposed in accordance with these Regulations is subject to appeal as set out under Section E Rules 7. & 8.

6.2 A suspension from football imposed in the case of a disciplinary body's finding under Regulation 2.4.4 or 2.4.5 here above shall remain in place until such time as an appeals body determines otherwise. Except that an appellant may submit a written application to the appointed chair of an appeals body convened to consider an appeal for the penalty or sanction imposed to be set aside whilst the appeal hearing is pending.

6.3 The decision of the chair of an appeals body relating to any such application under Regulation 6.2 shall be final and binding on all parties and not subject to further appeal.

All correspondence relating to on-field offences & misconduct must be sent to the Association Assistant Secretary Discipline, Mr K.R. Jones.

SECTION "F"

FAW REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE APPLICATION OF THE REDUCED PENALTY PROCEDURES FOR DISCIPLINARY OFFENCES UNDER THE RULES OF THE GWENT COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION ("ASSOCIATION")

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of these Regulations is to give effect to the principle that when dealing with the penalties imposed by the Association for Disciplinary Offences credit in the form of a reduction in the applicable penalty should be given to the Party charged who admits to a charge of a Disciplinary Offence preferred by the Association and to the timely disposal of such matters. To achieve this when a charge of a Disciplinary Offence is brought under the procedures in these Regulations it will also incorporate an offer of a reduced penalty on the Association's minimum standard penalty for the Disciplinary Offence as published from time to time. In the case of a financial penalty the offer shall be a reduction of one-third (to the nearest whole pound). In the case of any other penalty the offer shall be a reduction of one-third or the nearest whole number equivalent. Should the Party charged elect NOT to accept the reduced penalty offered or fails to comply with the requirements set out under Clauses 3.2.3 and/or 3.2.4.5 of these Regulations and the charge is subsequently found proved at a Disciplinary Panel hearing a higher penalty will apply which will not incorporate the reduction.

2. EXEMPTIONS

2.1 The procedures in these Regulations shall not apply to any Disciplinary Offence in relation to any of the following:–

- A Disciplinary Offence as set out under Gwent County Football Association Section E Rule 2.1.4 or any other charge brought concerning betting activity related to any match;
- A Disciplinary Offence as set out under Gwent County Football Association Section E Rule 2.1.5 or any other charge brought relating to 'match fixing';
- A Disciplinary Offence as set out under Gwent County Football Association Section E Rule 2.1.7 or any other charge brought relating to ticket touting;
- A Disciplinary Offence as set out under Gwent County Football Association Section E Rule 2.1.4 or any other charge brought relating to a match that has been played at a ground closed by the Association;
- Disciplinary Offences as set out under FAW Rules 38.1.10 or 38.1.11 or any other charge brought relating to the 'ANTI-DOPING REGULATIONS OF THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES';
- A Disciplinary Offence as set out under Gwent County Football Association Section E Rule 2.4.10 or any other charge brought relating to 'THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES WELFARE REGULATIONS' or WELFARE POLICY';
- Disciplinary Offences as set out under Gwent County Football Association Section E Rule 2.4.11 2.4.12 or 2.4.13 relating to the conduct of a club's supporters and/or spectators and/or followers; or
- A Disciplinary Offence brought pursuant to 'THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES' CODE OF ETHICS'.

2.2 Any charge of a Disciplinary Offence preferred by the Association that is exempt from the procedures in these Regulations will be dealt with in accordance with the procedures as set out under the Association's Section E Rules 6.1.1. to 6.1.14 inclusive.

3. SCOPE OF PROCEDURES

3.1 Subject to the exemptions in 2 above in all cases it shall be at the absolute discretion of the Association whether a reduced penalty shall be offered under the procedures in these Regulations. In exercising that discretion, the Association shall not utilise these procedures where any one or more of the following exceptional circumstances applies: -

- Where the particular facts of the alleged Disciplinary Offence are of a serious and/or unusual nature as determined by the Association;

- Where the Party charged has pleaded guilty or been found guilty with a similar matter as determined by the Association in the current season;

- Where the alleged Disciplinary Offence is allegedly aggravated by reference to any of the factors as set out under the 'FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES NON-DISCRIMINATION REGULATIONS'; or

- Where the particular facts of the alleged Disciplinary Offence as determined by the Association necessitate a charge of misconduct to be brought against a participant pursuant to the 'REGULATIONS GOVERNING ASSAULTS ON MATCH OFFICIALS'.

3.2 Upon the Association deciding that facts or matters may give rise to a Disciplinary Offence and that a charge be brought which should include the offer of a reduced penalty under these Regulations the following procedure will apply: -

THE CHARGE

3.2.1 The Association will give written notice ("the Disciplinary Notice") to the Party charged stipulating: –

3.2.1.1 The nature of the alleged Disciplinary Offence;

3.2.1.2 Details of the reduced penalty offered; and

3.2.1.3 Details of the options available to the Party charged.

3.2.2 If an individual is charged a copy of the Disciplinary Notice will be sent to his/her club. If a club is charged a copy of the Disciplinary Notice will be sent to the club's relevant league.

THE RESPONSE

3.2.3 The Party charged shall have seven (7) Business Days after service of the Disciplinary Notice to respond in writing to the charge.

3.2.4 Should the Party charged elect to admit the charge and accept the reduced penalty offered the following shall apply: –

3.2.4.1 There shall be no Disciplinary Panel hearing and the matter shall be dealt with at an administrative level by the Association;

3.2.4.2 The Party charged shall not be entitled to provide evidence in mitigation;

3.2.4.3 The penalty imposed on the Party charged by the Association shall be the reduced penalty set out in the Disciplinary Notice;

3.2.4.4 Any suspension which forms part of the reduced penalty offered shall automatically come into effect fourteen (14) calendar days following the date of the Disciplinary Notice;

3.2.4.5 Any fine which forms part of the reduced penalty offered shall be payable within seven (7) Business Days following the date of the Disciplinary Notice;

3.2.4.6 There shall be no costs payable by the Party charged; and

3.2.4.7 The Association shall write to the Party charged with confirmation of the outcome.

3.3 Should the Party charged elect NOT to accept the reduced penalty offered the matter will proceed in accordance with Gwent County Football Association Section E Rules 6.1.1. to 6.1.14 and the following shall apply: -

3.3.1 The reduced penalty offered shall be withdrawn;

3.3.2 A Disciplinary Panel shall be convened;

3.3.3 The Party charged shall be entitled to provide evidence in mitigation;

3.3.4 If a charge is found proven any penalty applied shall be based on the standard minimum penalty; and

3.3.5 If a charge is found proven the Disciplinary Panel shall be entitled to impose costs against the Party charged.

3.4 Should the Party charged either fail to respond in writing to the charge as per Clause 3.2.3. here above or fail to pay any fine offered as part of the reduced penalty offered as per Clause 3.2.4.5. here above within the required seven (7) Business Days the matter will proceed in accordance with Gwent County Football Association Section E 6.1.3 and the following shall apply: -

3.4.1 The reduced penalty offered shall be withdrawn;

3.4.2 The Party charged will be deemed to have denied the charge and to have waived their right to a private hearing before the Disciplinary Panel;

3.4.3 The Association will without further notice to the Party charged convene a Disciplinary Panel who will consider the alleged Disciplinary Offence in the absence of the Party charged.

3.4.4 If a charge is found proven the standard minimum penalty shall form the basis of any penalty applied; and

3.4.5 If a charge is found proven the Disciplinary Panel shall be entitled to impose costs against the Party charged.

4. APPEALS

4.1 Should the Party charged elect to admit the charge and accept the reduced penalty offered there shall be no right of appeal under the FAW Rules to the outcome set out in 3.2.4. above except where –

4.1.1 It is necessary to allow an appeal in order to avoid real injustice;

4.1.2 The circumstances are exceptional and make it appropriate to allow an appeal; and

4.1.3 There is no alternative effective remedy.

4.2 A Party wishing to claim a right of appeal in the circumstances set out in 4.1. above shall make an application in writing to the Football Association of Wales in accordance with the procedures set out under Section A Rule7 & 8 and their sub clauses.

4.3 Should the Party charged elect NOT to accept the reduced penalty offered and the charge is subsequently found proved at a Disciplinary Panel the Party charged shall have a right of appeal to the FAW in accordance with the procedures as set out under Section A Rule 7 and its sub-clauses.

SECTION "G"

GWENT COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION ADULT CUP COMPETITION RULES

1. NAME:

'The Gwent County Football Association Senior Cup'
'The Gwent County Football Association Amateur Cup'
'The Gwent County Football Association Intermediate Cup'

2. ELIGIBILITY:

The Senior Cup Competition shall be Level 4 Clubs & Combination Division only.

The Amateur Cup Competition shall be open to the registered Clubs of this Association from Level 5 down (Saturday senior teams only).

The Intermediate Cup shall be by invitation to the top four (4) teams in each of the four (4) District Leagues who did not achieve promotion.

3. CONTROL:

The entire control and management of the Competitions shall be vested in the Competitions Committee of the Association.

4. ENTRY DATES:

Senior Cup/Amateur Cup
Clubs to enter before the 31st July.

Intermediate Cup
By invitation only.

5. WITHDRAWAL CONDITIONS:

5.1 Any Club intending to scratch must give information of their intention to do so to the Secretary of the opposing Club and the Competitions Secretary.

5.2 A Club withdrawing from the Competition shall be reported to Competitions Committee who shall have the power to compel such offending Club to pay the expenses incurred and take such action as they deem expedient.

5.3 Clubs failing to give a satisfactory reason for withdrawing shall not be allowed to enter the Competition the following season and shall be liable to a fine.

5.4 In the Semi-Final and Final ties any Club failing to play without showing a good and sufficient cause for such failure to play may be adjudged by the Competitions Committee to have been guilty of serious misconduct and liable to be dealt with under Rules of the Association.

6. FEES:

The entrance fees for the Competitions will be as directed by the Council of the Gwent County Football Association.

7. QUALIFICATIONS OF PLAYERS:

7.1 Players must have a current League registration with the Club and competing teams shall number 11 players and may be changed during the series of matches if thought necessary: but no individual shall play for more than one competing team. Any player not registered with the Club and subsequently playing in a match will be declared as an ineligible player and the Club charged.

7.2 Match Team Sheets must be completed and submitted using the systems and procedures provided by the FAW from time to time, at least thirty (30) minutes before kick-off of each Match up to the Semi-Finals and at least sixty (60) minutes before kick-off for the Semi Final and Finals Matches.

When completing Team Sheets on the Comet System, it is the responsibility of the Club to ensure players are eligible to play in the game as per the Rules of the Competition in the Handbook. The Comet System should flag up players who are under suspension due to disciplinary sanctions (red/yellow cards, misconduct), but will not flag up players who may be ineligible because they do not comply with Rules of the Competition.

7.2.1 After the team sheets have been submitted by both teams, and if the match has not yet kicked off, no replacement is allowed except in the following cases:

7.2.2 If any of the 11 Players indicated on the team sheet as forming the starting 11 are not able to start the match due to unexpected physical incapacity, they may only be replaced by any of the five substitutes listed on the initial team sheet, with the exception of the Goalkeeper, who may be replaced by a non-listed substitute.

7.2.3 Any Club not registering **any** players 7 days prior to their first game will be struck out of the Competition and fined.

7.3 In the case of postponed matches only those players shall be allowed to play who were eligible on the date originally fixed for the completion of the round.

7.4 A Club may at its discretion use five players at any time in a match for any reason except to replace a player who has been suspended from the game by the Referee. The substitution can only be made when play has stopped for any reason and only after the referee has given permission.

No substitutes other than the nominated substitutes will be allowed to take part in the game.

7.5 If the Player is a nominated but unused substitute for a Match, he shall be deemed as not having played for the Club in that Match.

8. MATCH DETAILS:

8.1 The home team to notify visiting team and referee in writing of all match details at least six days before the game. Directions to reach ground details of colours and time of kick off. Clubs failing to comply will be dealt with by the Football & Competitions Committee.

8.2 Teams must play in their nominated colours. No Club will be allowed to play in Black or Dark Blue jerseys that may cause confusion with the referees' kit. No two Clubs shall play in similar colours. In the event of any two Clubs having similar colours the away team shall make a change unless otherwise mutually agreed upon.

9. BYES:

As a general rule all byes shall be drawn in Round One.

10. NAME OF DRAW:

10.1 The lots shall be drawn and the Competition matches played as the Competitions Committee may determine. Immediately after each draw the Competitions Secretary shall intimate to the Secretary of each Club the name of the Club it is drawn against and the time within which the tie has to be played and the time of kick-off.

10.2 The Cup Competitions will be scheduled for a Saturday, but can be played on a Friday night or a Sunday on condition both teams agree. The GCFA Competitions Secretary must be kept informed of any changes.

11. IF MATCH PLAYED MUST BE A CUP-TIE:

Clubs shall not mutually arrange to play a match in lieu of a cup-tie. If a match is played to a conclusion, it must be a cup-tie.

12. DURATION OF GAMES:

12.1. Games shall be played as directed by the Competitions Secretary. The duration of each match shall be one hour and a half (two equal halves of 45 minutes). Any match not completed may be ordered to stand as a

complete match or replayed for the full period of 90 minutes (two equal halves of 45 minutes) as the Competitions Committee may direct.

12.2. When ninety minutes of the game has taken place and the score is level the round shall be decided on the Penalty Procedure as laid down by the F.A.W. (see item 63 of the Association Rules).

12.3. Any Club guilty of delaying the start shall be reported by the referee the Competitions Committee to have the power to fine or otherwise deal with the offending Club if its explanation is unsatisfactory.

12.4. Any club found guilty of breaking a fixture will be liable to be struck out of the Competition and the tie awarded to the opponents in addition they will be fined as directed by the Competitions Committee.

12.5. Any club found guilty of causing a game to be abandoned will be fined as directed by the Committee and the game may be awarded to the non-offending club.

12.6. All matches not mutually agreed upon shall be arranged by the Competitions Secretary whose decision shall be final. Clubs failing to comply will be disqualified and liable to a fine as directed by Competitions Committee.

13. POSTPONED GAMES:

Postponed games be rearranged by the Competitions Secretary and confirmed in writing.

14. LATE STARTS:

Clubs responsible for a late start whether the match is completed or not shall be liable to a fine of £12.00.

15. RESULT OF MATCHES TO BE REPORTED:

Each Club competing in a Match shall send the completed standard electronic Result Form to the Association within sixty (60) minutes of the final whistle, using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time. The Referee shall send the completed standard Referee's Report Form to the Association within ninety (90) minutes of the final whistle, using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time. The Referee's Report Form must be complete in all details, including the result of the Match, the full names of the Players taking part in the Match, the names of the substitutes and details of any substitutions made (including the Match time when the substitution was made), and details of any yellow cards and red cards issued (including the Match time when the card was issued).

16. CHOICE OF GROUND:

Unless otherwise mutually arranged the Clubs, which are in each instance first drawn in the ballot shall have choice of ground. If the ground is not available for any reason game to be played on the opponent's ground.

17. SEMI FINALS AND FINAL TIES:

In the last two ties being the semi-final and final the ground shall be chosen by the Competitions Committee who shall appoint Assistant Referees and Referee same to be duly registered with the F.A.W. or this Association and have all the management thereof and in the event of any Club failing to play when ordered to do so it shall be adjudged to have lost the match and shall be dealt with by the Competitions Committee for misconduct.

If the teams are level after extra time the match shall be decided on the Penalty Procedure as laid down by the F.A.W.

18. DATES OF SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS:

The semi-final and final cup-tie dates arranged by the Competitions Committee shall be strictly adhered to unless mutual arrangements are arrived at between the two competing Clubs and the Association.

19. COMMITTEE TO SETTLE ALL DISPUTES:

19.1. All protests from Clubs of eligibility qualifications of competitors or interpretation of the rules or laws of the game shall be referred to the Competitions Committee whose decision shall be final. Should any Club/League in connection with any dispute or protest have a member on the Committee; the said member

shall not be eligible to sit on the Committee while such dispute or protest is being considered.

19.2. No protest relative to the playing ground goal posts or bars or other appurtenances of the game shall be entertained by the Committee unless it is laid with the referee before the commencement of the match nor shall any protest relative to the interpretation of the rules or laws of the game be entertained unless laid with the referee on or before the conclusion of the match. Protests may be made verbally but must be handed to the referee in writing before he has left the ground or dressing room.

19.3. A written notice of such protest or protests and two copies thereof must be sent to the Competitions Secretary within two days (Sundays excepted) after the conclusion of the match within which time a written protest against the eligibility of any player may be lodged. The sum of £50.00 must be deposited with the Association Secretary together with all such appeals or protests which sum will be forfeited to the funds of the Association in the event of such protest or appeal not being sustained.

20. EXPENSES OF PROTESTS:

The Committee may order any club engaged in a protest to pay such sum as may be considered necessary towards defraying the expenses incurred.

21. RIGHT OF APPEAL:

Any appeal against a decision of the Competitions Committee of this Association must be made to the Football Association of Wales accompanied by a fee determined by the Football Association of Wales within three (3) business days (Copy to this Association) of decision being given to the Club..

22. COMMITTEE MAY SELECT ANOTHER CLUB:

That in the event of any Club withdrawing or declining to play from any cause in a semi-final or final tie or replayed matches of the same the Competitions Committee may if time and circumstances permit select any other Club or original entrants for the Competition to play. Other things being equal preference may be given to the Club that was next in merit judged from the results of the rounds and if more than one Club has equal claims the Club shall be selected by lot from those having equal claims if there is not time to permit of their playing off.

23. INELIGIBLE PLAYERS:

In the case of any player being found ineligible the Club playing him must be adjudged to have lost the match and fined. The player to be reported to the Gwent County Football Association.

24. CLUBS LEAVING GROUND:

Any Club leaving the ground before the expiration of the game may be judged to have lost the match shall incur a penalty as directed by this Association.

25. DISQUALIFICATION:

If the Competitions Committee has any doubt as to the qualification of any player competing in the Competition it shall have power to call upon such player or the Club to which he belongs or for which he played to prove to the satisfaction of the Committee that he is properly qualified according to the rules and failing such satisfactory proof the Committee shall have power to disqualify such player and remove such Club form the Competition and fined as directed by Committee.

26. RESPONSIBILITY OF SAFE CUSTODY OF CUP:

When the winning Club shall have been ascertained the Association shall deliver the cup to the representatives of such Club upon receiving a document to the following effect subscribed by three persons whose names shall be previously submitted and approved by the Council:

'We A.B. C.D. and E.F. members of and representing the Club which has now been declared to have won the Gwent Football Association Cup the same having been delivered to us by Secretary of the Association do hereby on behalf of the said Club individually and collectively engage to return the same to the Secretary of the Association for the time being before 1st March next season in good order and condition and in accordance with the conditions of the annexed rules to which also we have subscribed our respective names and providing the said Cup is destroyed or damaged by fire whilst under our care or custody we agree to refund the Association the amount of its original value or the cost of thorough repair and should the said Cup be lost or destroyed from any other cause whilst under our

care and custody we hereby individually and collectively undertake to pay to the Association a sum of £50.00 as and for liquidated damages and also to refund to the Association the amount of the original value of the Cup."

27. LAWS:

The laws of the game to be observed in the Competition shall be those of the Football Association of Wales.

28. SIZE OF GROUND:

The ground for the cup-ties shall be defined by F.A.W. The ground, if possible, to be roped off three yards from the touch and goal line which are to be clearly defined. Goal nets must be used

29. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS:

In addition to the Cup the Council will present to the winners and runners-up 16 mementoes any further mementoes can only be purchased by the permission and discretion of the Council.

30. PROVISION OF BALLS AND PITCH:

In the rounds the home Club must provide at least two balls and mark the pitch. In the semi-finals both Clubs must provide at least two balls. In the final the balls shall be provided by the Gwent County F.A. and both Clubs must provide two balls to be used if Association match balls are lost.

31. USE OF GROUNDS:

Clubs affiliated to this Association can be compelled to give their grounds to the Association for the purpose of playing the semi-final but no club to be called upon more than once in a season.

32. OFFICIALS FEES AND EXPENSES:

Senior Cup/Amateur Cup		
Rounds	**Semi Final**	**Final**
£40.00	**£40.00**	**Memento**

Intermediate Cup		
Rounds	**Semi Final**	**Final**
£30.00	**£30.00**	**Memento**

Assistant referees, where appointed, to receive fifty per cent of the referee's rate.

In addition, officials will be paid second-class train bus fare or 55p per mile car travelling allowance. Fees and expenses will be paid by home Club in rounds except the Finals when they will be paid by the Association.

33. REGULATIONS AFFECTING REFEREES AND/OR ASSISTANT REFEREES:

All appointments of match officials shall be made by the Referees Officer of the Gwent County Football Association.

33.1 Fitness of Ground: The referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of grounds in all matches except those under the control of grounds men and each Club must take every precaution to keep its ground in a playing condition and if necessary, the Home Club may request the referee to visit the ground two hours before the advertised time of kick off.

33.2 Late starts and reports: Referee must report late starts provide details of postponed or abandoned matches and in addition should inform the Competitions Secretary of the late arrival on the field of play of any player or referee / assistant referee. Failure to do so will lead to disciplinary action against the referee.

33.3 In the event of misconduct, the officiating referee must render his report to the Gwent County Football Association. This report should be rendered in duplicate.

33.4 Postponed Matches: In the event of a match being unavoidably postponed the officials if any have attended the ground shall receive half fee and travelling expenses.

33.5 Appointments: Referees/Assistant Referees must accept or reject appointments within 48 hours. If no reply

is received it will be assumed that appointment is accepted.

33.6 Emergency Officials: In the event of the Referee or Assistant Referees appointed not attending a match and the two Clubs agreeing to one on the ground such Referee shall be considered to be an appointed official for the time being.

33.7 Absence: Referees or Assistant Referees failing to give a satisfactory reason for absence shall be dealt with by the Referees' Committee of the Gwent County Football Association.

34. INSCRIPTIONS ETC. ON CUPS:

No inscriptions engravings etc. shall be placed on the challenge cups and vases except by the authority of this Association.

35. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR:

Any matter arising which is not provided for in these rules shall be dealt with at the discretion of the Football & Competitions Committee Gwent County Football Association.

GWENT COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
JUNIOR CUP COMPETITION RULES

1. NAME:

'The Gwent County Football Association Junior Boys/Mixed Under 14 Cup'
'The Gwent County Football Association Junior Boys/Mixed Under 15 Cup'
'The Gwent County Football Association Junior Boys/Mixed Under 16 Cup'
'The Gwent County Football Association Junior Girls Under 14 Cup'
'The Gwent County Football Association Junior Girls Under 15 Cup'
'The Gwent County Football Association Junior Girls Under 16 Cup'

2. ELIGIBILITY

The Junior Boys/Mixed Under 14 Cup Competition shall be open to Clubs registered with the Association. Teams must be playing in the Under 14 Division of their respective Junior Boys/Mixed League. This Competition will only take place provided there are sufficient entries from Clubs.

The Junior Boys/Mixed Under 15 Cup Competition shall be open to Clubs registered with the Association. Teams must be playing in the Under 15 Division of their respective Junior Boys/Mixed League. This Competition will only take place provided there are sufficient entries from Clubs.

The Junior Boys/Mixed Under 16 Cup Competition shall be open to Clubs registered with the Association. Teams must be playing in the Under 16 Division of their respective Junior Boys/Mixed League. This Competition will only take place provided there are sufficient entries from Clubs.

The Junior Girls Under 14 Cup Competition shall be open to Clubs registered with the Association. Teams must be playing in the Under 14 Division of their respective Junior Girls League. This Competition will only take place provided there are sufficient entries from Clubs.

The Junior Girls Under 15 Cup Competition shall be open to Clubs registered with the Association. Teams must be playing in the Under 15 Division of their respective Junior Girls League. This Competition will only take place provided there are sufficient entries from Clubs.

The Junior Girls Under 16 Cup Competition shall be open to Clubs registered with the Association. Teams must be playing in the Under 16 Division of their respective Junior Girls League. This Competition will only take place provided there are sufficient entries from Clubs.

If a League operasted two (2) year age related Leagues, the teams playing in a League can enter the respective Cup Competition. i.e. A League does not run an under 15 League but runs an under 16 League. Under 15 teams can enter the Under 16 Cup Competition subject to FAW rules on player registration.

3. CONTROL:

The entire control and management of the Competitions shall be vested in the Competitions Committee of the Gwent County Football Association.

4. ENTRY DATES:

Clubs to enter before the 1st September.

5. WITHDRAWAL CONDITIONS:

5.1. Any Club intending to scratch must give information of their intention to do so to the Secretary of the opposing Club and the Competitions Secretary.

5.2. A Club withdrawing from the Competition shall be reported to Competitions Committee who shall have the power to compel such offending Club to pay the expenses incurred and take such action as they deem expedient.

5.3. Clubs failing to give a satisfactory reason for withdrawing shall not be allowed to enter the Competition the following season and shall be liable to a fine.

5.4. In the Semi-Final and Final ties any Club failing to play without showing a good and sufficient cause for

such failure to play may be adjudged by the Competitions Committee to have been guilty of serious misconduct and liable to be dealt with under Rules of the Association.

6. FEES

The entrance fees for the Competitions will be as directed by the Council of the Gwent County Football Association.

7. QUALIFICATIONS OF PLAYERS:

7.1 Players must have a current League registration with the Club and competing teams shall number 11 players and may be changed during the series of matches if thought necessary: but no individual shall play for more than one competing team. Any player not registered with the Club and subsequently playing in a match will be declared as an ineligible player and the Club charged.

7.2 Match Team Sheets must be completed and submitted using the systems and procedures provided by the FAW from time to time, at least thirty (30) minutes before kick-off of each Match up to the Semi-Finals and at least sixty (60) minutes before kick-off for the Semi Final and Finals Matches.

When completing Team Sheets on the Comet System, it is the responsibility of the Club to ensure players are eligible to play in the game as per the Rules of the Competition in the Handbook. The Comet System should flag up players who are under suspension due to disciplinary sanctions (red/yellow cards, misconduct), but will not flag up players who may be ineligible because they do not comply with Rules of the Competition.

7.2.1 After the team sheets have been submitted by both teams, and if the match has not yet kicked off, no replacement is allowed except in the following cases:

7.2.2 If any of the 11 Players indicated on the team sheet as forming the starting 11 are not able to start the match due to unexpected physical incapacity, they may only be replaced by any of the five substitutes listed on the initial team sheet, with the exception of the Goalkeeper, who may be replaced by a non-listed substitute.

7.2.3 Any Club not registering **any** players 7 days prior to their first game will be struck out of the Competition and fined.

7.3 In the case of postponed matches only those players shall be allowed to play who were eligible on the date originally fixed for the completion of the round.

7.4 A Club may at its discretion use five players at any time in a match for any reason except to replace a player who has been suspended from the game by the Referee. The substitution can only be made when play has stopped for any reason and only after the referee has given permission.

No substitutes other than the nominated substitutes will be allowed to take part in the game.

8. MATCH DETAILS:

8.1. The home team must notify visiting team and referee in writing of all match details at least six days before the game giving directions to reach ground details of colours and time of kick off. Clubs failing to comply will be dealt with by the Competitions Committee.

8.2. Teams must play in their nominated colours. No Club will be allowed to play in Black or Dark Blue jerseys that may cause confusion with the referees' kit. No two Clubs shall play in similar colours. In the event of any two Clubs having similar colours the away team shall make a change unless otherwise mutually agreed upon.

9. BYES:

As a general rule all byes shall be drawn in Round One.

10. NAME OF DRAW:

10.1 The lots shall be drawn and the Competition matches played as the Competitions Committee may determine. Immediately after each draw the Competitions Secretary shall intimate to the Secretary of each Club the name of the Club it is drawn against and the time within which the tie has to be played and the

time of kick-off.

10.2 Junior Boys/Mixed Cup Competitions will be scheduled for a Saturday, but can be played on a Friday night or a Sunday on condition both teams agree. Girls Cup Competition will be scheduled for a Sunday, but clubs can play on a Friday night or a Saturday on condition both teams agree. The GCFA Competitions Secretary must be kept informed of any changes.

11. IF MATCH PLAYED MUST BE A CUP-TIE:

Clubs shall not mutually arrange to play a match in lieu of a cup-tie. If a match is played to a conclusion it must be a cup-tie.

12. DURATION OF GAMES:

12.1. Games shall be played as directed by the Competitions Secretary. The duration of each match shall be:

Under 14: one hour and ten minutes (two equal halves of 35 minutes).
Under 15: one hour and twenty minutes (two equal halves of 40 minutes).
Under 16: one hour and twenty minutes (two equal halves of 40 minutes).

Any match not completed may be ordered to stand as a completed match or replayed for the full period as the Competitions Committee may direct.

12.2. When scores are level at the end of full time, the round shall be decided on the Penalty Procedure as laid down by the F.A.W. in accordance with the International Board Decision on the Laws of the Game

12.3. Any Club guilty of delaying the start shall be reported by the referee the Competitions Committee to have the power to fine or otherwise deal with the offending Club if its explanation is unsatisfactory.

12.4. Any club found guilty of breaking a fixture will be liable to be struck out of the Competition and the tie awarded to the opponents in addition they will be fined as directed by the Competitions Committee.

12.5. Any club found guilty of causing a game to be abandoned will be fined as directed by the Committee and the game may be awarded to the non-offending club.

12.6. All matches not mutually agreed upon shall be arranged by the Competitions Secretary whose decision shall be final. Clubs failing to comply will be disqualified and liable to a fine as directed by Competitions Committee.

13. POSTPONED GAMES:

Postponed games shall be rearranged by the Competitions Secretary and confirmed in writing.

14. LATE STARTS:

Clubs responsible for a late start whether the match is completed or not shall be liable to a fine of £10.00

15. RESULT OF MATCHES:

15.1 Each Club competing in a Match shall send the completed standard electronic Result Form to the Association within sixty (60) minutes of the final whistle, using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time. The Referee shall send the completed standard Referee's Report Form to the Association within ninety (90) minutes of the final whistle, using the systems and procedures set by the FAW from time to time. The Referee's Report Form must be complete in all details, including the result of the Match, the full names of the Players taking part in the Match, the names of the substitutes and details of any substitutions made (including the Match time when the substitution was made), and details of any yellow cards and red cards issued (including the Match time when the card was issued).

15.2 FAW Mercy Rule. When one team is ahead by eight (8) goals, the match is declared over, the score is recorded on Comet and any remaining game time is to be played out as a friendly. For example, a scoreline may finish 8-0, 9-1, 10-2. Coaches are encouraged to use interventions to challenge players appropriately during unbalanced fixtures to aid player development. Clubs failing to adhere to this rule will be fined as determined by the Competitions Committee.

16. CHOICE OF GROUND:

Unless otherwise mutually arranged the Clubs, which are in each instance first drawn in the ballot shall have choice of ground. If the ground is not available for any reason game to be played on the opponent's ground. In the case of inclement weather, a decision on the ground must be made at 8.00am.

17. SEMI FINALS AND FINAL TIES:

In the last two ties being the semi-final and final the ground shall be chosen by the Competitions Committee who shall appoint the Referee and Assistant Referees same to be duly registered with the F.A.W. or this Association and have all the management thereof and in the event of any Club failing to play when ordered to do so it shall be adjudged to have lost the match and shall be dealt with by the Football & Competitions Committee.

When scores are level at the end of full time, a further ten minutes each way shall be played and after this, if the score is still level, the round shall be decided on the Penalty Procedure as laid down by the F.A.W. in accordance with the International Board Decision on the Laws of the Game

18. DATES OF SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS:

The semi-final and final cup-tie dates arranged by the Competitions Committee shall be strictly adhered to unless mutual arrangements are arrived at between the two competing Clubs and the Association.

19. COMMITTEE TO SETTLE ALL DISPUTES:

19.1. All protests from Clubs of eligibility qualifications of competitors or interpretation of the rules or laws of the game shall be referred to the Competitions Committee whose decision shall be final. Should any Club/League in connection with any dispute or protest have a member on the Committee; the said member shall not be eligible to sit on the Committee while such dispute or protest is being considered.

19.2. No protest relative to the playing ground goal posts or bars or other appurtenances of the game shall be entertained by the Committee unless it is laid with the referee before the commencement of the match nor shall any protest relative to the interpretation of the rules or laws of the game be entertained unless laid with the referee on or before the conclusion of the match. Protests may be made verbally but must be handed to the referee in writing before he has left the ground or dressing room.

19.3 A written notice of such protest or protests and two copies thereof must be sent to the Association Secretary within two days (Sundays excepted) after the conclusion of the match within which time a written protest against the eligibility of any player may be lodged. The sum of £25.00 must be deposited with the Association Secretary together with all such appeals or protests which sum will be forfeited to the funds of the Association in the event of such protest or appeal not being sustained.

20. EXPENSES OF PROTESTS:

The Competitions Committee may order any club engaged in a protest to pay such sum as may be considered necessary towards defraying the expenses incurred.

21. RIGHT OF APPEAL:

Any appeal against a decision of the Competitions Committee of this Association must be made to the Football Association of Wales accompanied by a fee determined by the Football Association of Wales within three (3) business days (Copy to this Association).

22. COMMITTEE MAY SELECT ANOTHER CLUB:

That in the event of any Club withdrawing or declining to play from any cause in a semi-final or final tie or replayed matches of the same the Competitions Committee may if time and circumstances permit select any other Club or original entrants for the Competition to play. Other things being equal preference may be given to the Club that was next in merit judged from the results of the rounds and if more than one Club has equal claims the Club shall be selected by lot from those having equal claims if there is not time to permit of their playing off.

23. INELIGIBLE PLAYERS:

In the case of any player being found ineligible the Club playing him must be adjudged to have lost the match and fined. The player to be reported to the Gwent County Football Association.

24. CLUBS LEAVING GROUND:

Any Club leaving the ground before the expiration of the game may be judged to have lost the match shall incur a penalty as directed by this Association.

25. DISQUALIFICATION:

If the Competitions Committee has any doubt as to the qualification of any player competing in the Competition it shall have power to call upon such player or the Club to which he belongs or for which he played to prove to the satisfaction of the Committee that he is properly qualified according to the rules and failing such satisfactory proof the Committee shall have power to disqualify such player and remove such Club form the Competition and fined as directed by Committee.

26. RESPONSIBILITY OF SAFE CUSTODY OF CUP:

When the winning Club shall have been ascertained the Association shall deliver the cup to the representatives of such Club upon receiving a document to the following effect subscribed by three persons whose names shall be previously submitted and approved by the Council:

'We A.B. C.D. and E.F. members of and representing the Club which has now been declared to have won the Gwent Football Association Cup the same having been delivered to us by Secretary of the Association do hereby on behalf of the said Club individually and collectively engage to return the same to the Secretary of the Association for the time being before 1st March next season in good order and condition and in accordance with the conditions of the annexed rules to which also we have subscribed our respective names and providing the said Cup is destroyed or damaged by fire whilst under our care or custody we agree to refund the Association the amount of its original value or the cost of thorough repair and should the said Cup be lost or destroyed from any other cause whilst under our care and custody we hereby individually and collectively undertake to pay to the Association a sum of £50.00 as and for liquidated damages and also to refund to the Association the amount of the original value of the Cup."

27. LAWS:

The laws of the game to be observed in the Competition shall be those of the Football Association of Wales.

28. SIZE OF GROUND:

The ground for the cup-ties shall be defined by F.A.W. The ground, if possible, to be roped off three yards from the touch and goal line which are to be clearly defined. Goal nets must be used

29. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS:

In addition to the Cup the Council will present to the winners and runners-up 18 mementoes any further mementoes can only be purchased by the permission and discretion of the Council.

30. PROVISION OF BALLS AND PITCH:

In the rounds the home Club must provide at least two balls and mark the pitch. In the semi-finals both Clubs must provide at least two balls. In the final the balls shall be provided by the Gwent County F.A. and both Clubs must provide two balls to be used if Association match balls are lost.

31. USE OF GROUNDS

Clubs affiliated to this Association can be compelled to give their grounds to the Association for the purpose of playing the semi-final but no club to be called upon more than once in a season.

32. REFEREES' FEES AND EXPENSES

Rounds	Semi Final	Final
£25.00	£25.00	Memento

Assistant referees, where appointed, to receive fifty per cent of the referee's rate.

In addition, officials will be paid second-class train bus fare or 55p per mile car travelling allowance. Fees and expenses will be paid by home Club in rounds except the Semi-Finals and Final when they will be paid by the Association.

33. REGULATIONS AFFECTING REFEREES AND/OR ASSISTANT REFEREES

All appointments of match officials shall be made by the Referees Officer of the Gwent County Football Association.

33.1. Fitness of Ground: The referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of grounds in all matches except those under the control of grounds men and each Club must take every precaution to keep its ground in a playing condition and if necessary, the Home Club may request the referee to visit the ground two hours before the advertised time of kick off.

33.2. Late starts and reports: Referee must report late starts provide details of postponed or abandoned matches and in addition should inform the Competitions Secretary of the late arrival on the field of play of any player or referee / assistant referee. Failure to do so will lead to disciplinary action against the referee.

33.3. In the event of misconduct, the officiating referee must render his report to the Gwent County Football Association. This report should be rendered in duplicate.

33.4. Postponed Matches: In the event of a match being unavoidably postponed the officials if any have attended the ground shall receive half fee and travelling expenses.

33.5. Appointments: Referees/Assistant Referees must accept or reject appointments within 48 hours. If no reply is received it will be assumed that appointment is accepted.

33.6 Emergency Officials: In the event of the Referee or Assistant Referees appointed not attending a match and the two Clubs agreeing to one on the ground such Referee shall be considered to be an appointed official for the time being.

33.7 Absence: Referees or Assistant Referees failing to give a satisfactory reason for absence shall be dealt with by the Referees' Committee of the Gwent County Football Association.

34. ASSISTANT REFEREE

34.1. Each team MUST supply an Assistant Referee who shall report to the Referee before the start of the game. The home Club must provide suitable Assistant Referee's flags (one orange and one red). These to be handed to the Referee by the home team Assistant Referee before the kick-off.

Clubs failing to supply Assistant Referee will be dealt with as directed by the Executive Committee.

To get the most effective co-operation from CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREES the following procedure should be adopted.

34.2. Both Club Assistant Referees should report to the Referee BEFORE the start of the match and receive his instructions and be informed that no matter what may be their personal opinion the decision of the Referee is final and must not be questioned.

34.3. The work allotted to them as Assistant Referees is to signal WHEN the ball is ENTIRELY over the touchline and to indicate WHICH side is entitled to the throw-in subject always to the decision of the Referee.

Keeping in mind their distinctive duties outlined above Referees should decide beforehand exactly WHAT they want their ASSISTANT REFEREES to do and should be able to tell them distinctly how they can best help him. It is essential that there should be some conference between the three officials BEFORE any match. As the chief of this trio the Referee must be able to indicate clearly to his assistants how they may best help him. His instructions may be specific in order to avoid confusion.

On their side the ASSISTANT REFEREES MUST FULLY APPRECIATE the Referee's prior authority and accept his rulings without question should there be any differences of opinion amongst them. Their relationship to him MUST be one of assistance and neither undue intervention nor opposition.

35. INSCRIPTIONS ETC. ON CUPS

No inscriptions engravings etc. shall be placed on the challenge cups and vases except by the authority of this Association.

36. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

Any matter arising which is not provided for in these rules shall be dealt with at the discretion of the Football & Competitions Committee of the Gwent County Football Association.

SENIOR CUP PREVIOUS WINNERS

1919-1920 Abertillery Town
1920-1921 Newport County
1921-1922 Newport County
1922-1923 Newport County
1923-1924 Newport County
1924-1925 Ebbw Vale
1925-1926 Newport County
1926-1927 Ebbw Vale
1927-1928 Newport County
1928-1929 Ebbw Vale
1929-1930 Lovell's Athletic
1930-1931 Lovell's Athletic
1931-1932 Newport County
1932-1933 Ebbw Vale
1933-1934 Pontnewydd
1934-1935 Oakdale
1935-1936 Newport County
1936-1937 Lovell's Athletic
1937-1938 Lovell's Athletic
1938-1939 Lovell's Athletic
1939-1940 Monmouth Town
1944-1945 Cwm Welfare
1945-1946 Ebbw Vale
1946-1947 Lovell's Athletic
1947-1948 Albion Rovers
1948-1949 Lovell's Athletic
1949-1950 Lovell's Athletic
1950-1951 Ebbw Vale
1951-1952 Lovell's Athletic
1952-1953 Abergavenny Thursdays
1953-1954 Newport County
1954-1955 Lovell's Athletic
1955-1956 Abergavenny Thursdays
1956-1957 Abergavenny Thursdays
1957-1958 Newport County
1958-1959 Newport County
1959-1960 Pontllanfraith
1960-1961 Abergavenny Thursdays
1961-1962 Pontllanfraith
1962-1963
1963-1964 Abergavenny Thursdays
1964-1965 Newport County
1965-1966 S.W. Switchgear
1966-1967 S.W. Switchgear
1967-1968 Newport County
1968-1969 Newport County
1969-1970 Newport County
1970-1971 Cwmbran R.C.
1971-1972 Newport County
1972-1973 Newport County
1973-1974 Newport County
1974-1975 Newport Y.M.C.A.
1975-1976 Newport Y.M.C.A.
1976-1977 Pontnewydd Seniors
1977-1978 Newport Y.M.C.A.
1978-1979 Aberbargoed Buds
1979-1980 Caldicot Town
1980-1981 Albion Rovers
1981-1982 Girlings (Cwmbran)
1982-1983 Llanfrechfa Grange
1983-1984 Fields Park Athletic
1984-1985 Risca United
1985-1986 Croesyceiliog
1986-1987 Croesyceiliog
1987-1988 Aberbargoed Buds
1988-1989 Albion Rovers
1989-1990 Pill A.F.C.
1990-1991 Pill A.F.C.
1991-1992 Abergavenny Thursdays
1992-1993 Caldicot Town
1993-1994 Caerleon
1994-1995 Cwmbran Town
1995-1996 Cwmbran Town
1996-1997 Newport AFC
1997-1998 Newport AFC
1998-1999 Newport AFC
1999-2000 Newport County
2000-2001 Newport County
2001-2002 Newport County
2002-2003 Croesyceiliog
2003-2004 Newport County
2004-2005 Newport County
2005-2006 Cwmbran Town
2006-2007 Croesyceiliog
2007-2008 Caldicot Town
2008-2009 Newport Civil Service
2009-2010 Competition Suspended
2010-2011 Newport County
2011-2012 Newport County
2012-2013 Caldicot Town
2013-2014 Goytre
2014-2015 Monmouth Town
2015-2016 Cwmffrwdoer Sports
2016-2017 Malpas United
2017-2018 Abertillery Bluebirds
2018-2019 Cwmbran Town
2019-2020 Not Completed (Virus)
2020-2021 No Competition (Virus)
2021-2022 Blaenavon Blues
2022-2023 Aberbargoed Buds
2023-2024 Newport Corinthians
2024-2025 Cwmbran Town
2025-2026 Newport Corinthians

AMATEUR CUP PREVIOUS WINNERS

1925-1926 Lovell's Athletic
1926-1927 New Tredegar
1927-1928 Excelsiors
1928-1929 Lovell's Athletic
1929-1930 1st Brigade R.H.A.
1930-1931 Cwm Betterment
1931-1932 Lliswerry
1932-1933 Cwm Betterment
1933-1934 Brookside Athletic
1934-1935 Cwm Welfare
1935-1936 Ynysddu Crusaders
1936-1937 Ebbw Junction
1937-1938 Clydach United
1938-1939 Cefn Forest
1944-1945 Cwm Welfare
1945-1946 Lysaght's
1946-1947 Albion Rovers
1947-1948 Ynysddu Welfare
1948-1949 Newbridge Welfare
1949-1950 St. Julian's
1950-1951 St. Julian's
1951-1952 St. Julian's
1952-1953 Fleur-de-Lys Welfare
1953-1954 Fleur-de-Lys Welfare
1954-1955 Caerleon
1955-1956 St. Julian's
1956-1957 St. Julian's
1957-1958 Monmouth Town
1958-1959 Monmouth Town
1959-1960 Albion Rovers
1960-1961 Docks Utd
1961-1962 Abergavenny Thursdays
1962-1963 Girlings
1963-1964 Caerleon
1964-1965 Bedwas Colliery
1965-1966 Caerleon
1966-1967 Corinthians
1967-1968 Christchurch
1968-1969 Pontnewydd
1969-1970 Fields Park Athletic
1970-1971 Christchurch
1971-1972 Pontllanfraith
1972-1973 Cwmbran Celtic
1973-1974 Newport Y.M.C.A.
1974-1975 Newport Y.M.C.A.
1975-1976 Croesyceiliog
1976-1977
1977-1978 Aberbargoed Buds
1978-1979 Fields Park Athletic
1979-1980 Aberbargoed Buds
1980-1981 Girlings (Cwmbran)
1981-1982 Newbridge Town
1982-1983 Tredegar Town
1983-1984 Monmouth Town
1984-1985 Caldicot Town
1985-1986 Risca Utd.
1986-1987 Albion Rovers
1987-1988 Albion Rovers
1988-1989 Newport Corinthians
1989-1990 Albion Rovers
1990-1991 Albion Rovers
1991-1992 Pill A.F.C.
1992-1993 Pill A.F.C.
1993-1994 Spencer Youth and Boys
1994-1995 Newport Civil Service
1995-1996 Monmouth Town
1996-1997 Spencer Youth & Boys
1997-1998 Cwmtillery
1998-1999 Newport Corinthians
1999-2000 Cwmtillery
2000-2001 Abertillery Town
2001-2002 Llanhilleth Athletic
2002-2003 Christchurch/Hamdden
2003-2004 Croesyceiliog
2004-2005 Underwood
2005-2006 Abertillery Bluebirds
2006-2007 Abertillery Bluebirds
2007-2008 Govilon
2008-2009 Abertillery Bluebirds
2009-2010 Coed Eva Athletic
2010-2011 Newport Corinthians
2011-2012 Lliswerry
2012-2013 Lliswerry
2013-2014 Pill AFC
2014-2015 Albion Rovers
2015-2016 Spencer Youth & Boys
2016-2017 Fairfield United
2017-2018 Ynysddu Welfare
2018-2019 Abertillery Excelsiors
2019-2020 Not Completed (Virus)
2020-2021 No Competition (Virus)
2021-2022 Cwmffrwdoer Sports
2022-2023 Cefn Fforest
2023-2024 AFC Pontymister
2024-2025 Nantyglo
2025-2026 Aberbargoed Buds

INTERMEDIATE CUP PREVIOUS WINNERS

2019-2020 Thornwell Red & White
2020-2021 No Competition (Virus)
2021-2022 No Competition (Virus)
2022-2023 Pontypool Town
2023-2024 Aberbargoed Town
2024-2025 Fleur-De-Lys
2025-2026 Newbridge Town

CHALLENGE TROPHY PREVIOUS WINNERS

1975-1976 Newport Y.M.C.A.
1976-1977 Pontnewydd Seniors

JUNIOR BOYS/MIXED UNDER 14 CUP PREVIOUS WINNERS

1966-1967 Croesyceiliog Youth
1967-1968 Cwmbran Catholics
1968-1969 Cromwell Youth
1969-1970 R.T.B. Youth (E.V.)
1970-1971 Caerleon Youth
1971-1972 Newport County
1972-1973 Newport County
1973-1974 Newport Y.M.C.A.
1974-1975 Pontymister Boys
1975-1976 Newport Y.M.C.A.
1976-1977 Newport County
1977-1978 St. Julian's Youth
1978-1979 Gelli United
1979-1980 Newport Y.M.C.A.
1980-1981 Gelli United
1981-1982 Maesglas United
1982-1983 Coed Eva Youth
1998-1999 Lliswerry Stars
1999-2000 Eveswell
2000-2001 Llanyravon
2001-2002 Cromwell Youth
2002-2003 Albion Rovers Youth
2003-2004 Pengam Boys & Girls
2004-2005 Newport Corinthians
2005-2006 Cromwell Youth
2006-2007 Malpas Youth
2007-2008 Race Junior AFC

2008-2009 Penygarn & Trevethin
2009-2010 Maesglas United
2010-2011 Cwmbran Celtic
2011-2012 Fleur-De-Lys Welfare
2012-2013 Maesglas United
2013-2014 Griffithstown
2014-2015 Monmouth Town
2015-2016 Coed Duon Dragons
2016-2017 Cromwell
2017-2018 Fleur-De-Lys
2019-2020 Not Completed-Virus
2020-2021 No Competition-Virus
2021-2022 Abertillery Excelsiors
2022-2023 Cromwell Youth
2023-2024 Cwmbran Celtic
2024-2025 Graig Villa Dino
2025-2026 Caldicot Town

JUNIOR GIRLS UNDER 14 CUP PREVIOUS WINNERS

2007-2008 Pontnewydd United
2008-2009 Abertysswg Angels
2010-2011 Mardy Tigers
2025-2026 Ponthir

JUNIOR BOYS/MIXED UNDER 15 CUP PREVIOUS WINNERS

2024-2025 Cwmbran Celtic
2025-2026 Graig VillaDino

JUNIOR GIRLS UNDER 15 CUP PREVIOUS WINNERS

2025-2026 Treowen Stars

JUNIOR BOYS/MIXED UNDER 16 CUP PREVIOUS WINNERS

2017-2018 Malpas United
2018-2019 Caldicot Town
2019-2020 Not Completed-Virus
2020-2021 No Competition-Virus
2021-2022 Croesyceiliog
2022-2023 Riverside Rovers
2023-2024 Panteg
2024-2025 Newport Corinthians
2025-2026 Cwmbran Celtic

JUNIOR GIRLS UNDER 16 CUP PREVIOUS WINNERS

2009-2010 Mardy Tigers
2010-2011 Mardy Tigers

INTER-LEAGUE CUP PREVIOUS WINNERS

1994-1995 Monmouthshire Building Society Newport and District A.F.L.
1995-1996 Monmouthshire Building Society Newport and District A.F.L.
1996-1997 Monmouthshire Building Society Newport and District A.F.L.
1997-1998 Owens Corning Gwent Central A.F.L. / TSA North Gwent League / Shared
1998-1999 Monmouthshire Building Society Newport & District AFL
1999-2000 Owens Corning Gwent Central AFL
2000-2001
2001-2002 East Gwent League AFL
2002-2003 East Gwent League AFL
2003-2004 TSA North Gwent AFL
2004-2005 Tredegar AFC (TSA North Gwent)
2005-2006 Pandy (Knauf Insulation Gwent Central League)
2013-2014 MBS Newport & District AFL
2014-2015 Ryan Transport North Gwent AFL
2015-2016 Ryan Transport North Gwent AFL

GWENT COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
SUNDAY INTER-LEAGUE CUP PREVIOUS WINNERS

2014-2015 North Gwent Sunday AFL

GWENT COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
JUNIOR BOYS/MIXED INTER-LEAGUE CUP PREVIOUS WINNERS

Under 12

2000-2001 Torfaen Junior League
2001-2002 Torfaen Junior League
2002-2003 East Gwent Junior League
2003-2004 Torfaen Junior League
2004-2005 Torfaen Junior League

Under 14

2000-2001 Islwyn Junior League / Torfaen Junior League
2001-2002 Islwyn Junior League
2002-2003 Newport District League
2003-2004 Torfaen Junior League
2004-2005 Islwyn Junior League

Under 15

2012-2013 Islwyn Junior League

Under 16

2000-2001 Torfaen Junior League
2001-2002 East Gwent Junior League
2002-2003 East Gwent Junior League
2003-2004 Torfaen Junior League
2004-2005 Islwyn Junior League
2012-2013 Torfaen Junior League
2014-2015 East Gwent Junior League
2015-2016 Torfaen Junior League

REFEREES WANTED

Throughout the Country local football depends on the service of keen dedicated people who make a vast contribution to the national game as referees enabling players to more easily enjoy their matches.

CAN YOU HELP?

Every year more clubs registered with the Gwent County Football Association. There are more and more to which referees must be appointed.

CAN YOU HELP?

If you have played the game at any level, you will know how important it is to have a qualified referee present.

CAN YOU HELP?

If you are physically fit with good eyesight and are at least fourteen years of age and willing to attend a local course of instruction in preparation for a straight forward examination.

WILL YOU HELP?

If are interested in accepting the challenge of refereeing local football matches:

PLEASE CONTACT:
M. Roberts
Tel: 07855 406923
Email: mark.roberts@gwentfa.co.uk

Mr K.R. Jones
President 2026-2029