

LOWER PYRAMID PLAY-OFF COMPETITION RULES

I. Definitions, Interpretation and Infringement of these Pyramid Play-off Competition Rules

a) In these Pyramid Play-Off Competition Rules, the following words and terms shall (unless the context otherwise requires) have the following meanings:

"Membership Criteria" means the membership criteria of the SLFL;

"Lower Pyramid Play-Off Competition" means the competition at the end of the season to determine which Club, if any, is to be relegated from the Scottish Lowland Football League ("SLFL") to the East of Scotland Football League ("EoSFL") or the South of Scotland Football League ("SoSFL") and which Club, if any, is to be promoted from the EoSFL or the SoSFL to the SLFL;

"Team Lines" means the team lines using the format set out in the annex to these Pyramid Play-Off Rules which shall be utilised for all matches played in the Play-Off Competition;

Any amendment to these Pyramid Play-Off Rules must be agreed by each of the Scottish FA, SLFL, EoSFL and SoSFL prior to it becoming effective.

II Infringement of Lower Pyramid Play-Off Competition Rules

a) Any club, Official, Player, or other person, who infringes any of these Pyramid Play-Off Rules, shall be reported to the SLFL board for further examination.

i) A club which is found to have infringed these Pyramid Play-Off Rules, may be ordered to replay the Pyramid Play-Off Match in question, at a time and venue and subject to whatever conditions (including as to allocation and/or indemnification of financial benefits and liabilities) as deemed appropriate by SLFL board in its absolute discretion;

ii) where a club is found to have named within Team Lines a player who is not eligible to participate in the relevant match in the Pyramid Play-Off Competition pursuant to these Pyramid Play-Off Rules and/or the disciplinary procedures of the SLFL, then such Club will be ejected from the Pyramid Play-Off Competition. No party or other body shall be entitled to waive or modify the application of this Rule in any circumstances.

iii) in the event of disorderly conduct by a club in breach of the Articles of Association of the Scottish FA, such club may be ejected from the Pyramid Play-Off Competition.

b) For the avoidance of doubt, the provisions of this rule does not supersede or override the terms of any other rule which addresses sanctions for infringement thereof.

c) notwithstanding the terms above, the SLFL has the power to investigate any matter pursuant to the operation of the Pyramid Play-Off Competition

d) No appeals shall be permissible from a SLFL decision in relation to an infringement of these Pyramid Play-Off Rules.

III Team Eligibility and Running of Competition

- a) The League Champions of the EoSFL and the SoSFL at the end of season 2017/18 and in each season thereafter will (subject to rule III(f)) take part in the Play-Off Match which shall consist of a home and away two-legged match approved and organised by the Scottish F.A to determine, subject to these rules, which club shall be promoted to the SLFL. A draw supervised by the SLFL, EoSFL and SoSFL will determine which club has home advantage in the first match.
- b) The winning club in the Play-Off Match will be the club which scores the greatest number of goals over the relevant two match tie. In the event that the aggregate scores are equal after the second leg of the tie, extra time of thirty minutes (fifteen minutes each way) will take place and thereafter if necessary kicks from the penalty mark will be taken in accordance with the rules laid down by The International Football Association Board, which will determine the winner.
- c) The two legs in each of the Play-Off Match will take place on dates and at times determined by the SLFL.
- d) In the event that one of the Champion Clubs in the EoSFL or the SoSFL fails to comply with the Membership Criteria (by 31st March each year) in circumstances where it is required to do so as the Candidate Club in terms of the SLFL Rules, and the SLFL Board has not granted any waiver, relaxation or period of grace in respect of that club's requirement to comply with the Membership Criteria, there will be no Play-Off Match in terms of rule III(a) and, the other Champion Club will automatically be promoted to the SLFL.
- e) In the event that neither the Champion Club of the EoSFL nor of the SoSFL complies with the Membership Criteria (By 31st March each year) in circumstances where it is required to do so as the Candidate Club in terms of the SLFL Rules, and the SLFL Board has not granted any waiver, relaxation or period of grace in respect of both Clubs' requirement to comply with the relevant part of the Membership Criteria, there will be no lower Pyramid Play-Off Competition at the end of the relevant Season and the relevant club in the SLFL will retain its place in the SLFL in the immediately succeeding Season.

IV Competition Rules — General

Laws of the Game

- a) All matches will be played according to the Laws of the Game as recognised by the Scottish Football Association Ltd.

Appointment of Match Officials

- b) Match officials shall be appointed by the Scottish FA from those referees whose names are included in the list of referees maintained by the Scottish FA.
- c) A Club may not refuse to accept the services of any match officials appointed by the Scottish FA. If any Club refuses to play a match due to an objection or concern about the identity of any match official, it shall be liable to ejection from the Play-Off Competition together with such other sanctions as are imposed pursuant to the provisions above under the heading of Infringement of Lower Pyramid Play-Off Rules.
- d) Fees and expenses of match officials shall be paid by the home club in each tie at the rates currently applicable to matches in SLFL competitions.

Clash of Colours

e) When the colours of the two competing clubs in the same match are alike or similar, the visiting club shall change to its second choice colours or a combination of its first and second choice colours (or, if applicable, third choice colours) provided that these do not include any of the basic colours of the home club. Whether or not there is a clash shall be determined by the referee in his sole discretion.

f) The colour of the goalkeeper's kit must, in all cases, be clearly distinguishable from the colours of the kit worn by all outfield Players of both participating clubs in any match and from those of the match officials. Whether or not there is a clash shall be determined by the referee in his sole discretion.

Number of Players and Substitutes

g) Except for the circumstances described below under Replacement of Players on a Team Line, a team shall consist of eleven players and is permitted to list a maximum of seven subs, of whom not more than three may take part in the match.

Eligibility of Players

h) All Players in the Pyramid Play-Off Competition must be eligible to play in the relevant match and be registered, in compliance with SFA rules and regulations, for the team they will be representing in the match. No trialists will be permitted to participate in these matches.

Team Lines

i) Team Line for matches in the Pyramid Play-Off Competition shall permit the listing of eleven players, and up to a maximum of seven subs, and six technical personnel. The Team Line must be submitted in order to enable a Club to participate in a match in the Pyramid Play-Off Competition.

j) Not later than 60 minutes before the start of a leg of a match, each Club will hand to the Referee and to its opponents a duplicate of the Team Lines for that club for the relevant leg. The Team Line shall contain accurate and complete details of the numbers, full player names in relation to not more than eighteen players, together with full names of the technical personnel to be seated within the technical area (subject to a maximum of six such technical personnel). The Team Line must be completed in block capitals, and signed by the club secretary or other accredited official. Upon such signature, such Team Line shall be deemed to be complete and binding on the Club concerned.

k) The eleven first named players on the Team Line must commence the match. The other named players are designated as substitutes. The numbers on the players' shirts and/or shorts must correspond to the numbers indicated on the Team Line. The goalkeepers and team captain must be identified.

l) Only three of the substitutes listed on the Team Line may take part in the match. A player who has been substituted may take no further part in the match.

m) It is recommended that a club's doctor and physiotherapist are listed on the Team Line and accommodated in the technical area within the category of technical personnel.

Replacement of Players on the Team Line

- n) If any of the first eleven players listed on the Team Line is not able to start the match due to unexpected physical incapacity or other extreme circumstances (which are explained to and accepted by the referee), he may only be replaced by one of the named substitutes. The substitute(s) in question may then only be replaced by an eligible player(s) not originally listed on the Team Line as signed, so that the quota of substitutes is not reduced. During the match, three players may still be substituted.
- o) If any of the named substitutes listed on the Team Line is not able at the start of the match to be fielded due to unexpected physical incapacity or other extreme circumstances (which are explained to and accepted by the referee), he may only be replaced by an eligible player not originally listed on the Team Line as signed.
- p) If none of the goalkeepers listed on the Team Line is able to be fielded due to unexpected physical incapacity or other extreme circumstances (which are explained to and accepted by the referee), then one may be replaced but only by an eligible goalkeeper not originally listed on the Team Line as signed.
- q) If for any reason changes require to be made to the Team Line pursuant to the above provisions (and said changes are accepted by the referee) then the club must notify its opponent immediately thereafter.
- r) The club concerned must in addition to the requirements set out above, upon request, provide the SLFL with necessary medical certificates and/or a full written explanation of the circumstances that caused the change.
- s) The SLFL shall keep a register of the names of all of the players who take part in the Lower Pyramid Play-Off Competition. The register shall be open for inspection by all clubs taking part in said Lower Pyramid Play-Off Competition.

Pitch Protection

- t) In order to protect the pitch and unless otherwise agreed between both participating clubs, the following procedures shall be adopted by players and Officials in the periods immediately before and after and at half time during a match in the Pyramid Play-Off Competition:
- u) the pitch shall only be used for warming up or warming down by the players listed in the Team Lines; w) pre-match warming up by either team shall not commence until at the earliest 60 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time, shall not last for more than 30 minutes, and shall end not later than 10 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time;
- v) if portable goals are provided they shall be used for all goalkeeping drills other than crossing practice;
- w) the goalmouth area shall be used by goalkeepers only if portable goals are not provided or for crossing practice and then only for not more than 20 minutes;
- x) for the purposes of warming up and warming down each team shall use only part of the pitch between the edge of a penalty area and the half way line or as otherwise directed by the groundsman;

y) all speed and stamina work shall be undertaken off the pitch parallel to the touchline opposite the side to be patrolled by the assistant referee or, in the absence of sufficient space at that location, in that part of the pitch as directed by the groundsman;

z) players using the pitch at half time shall give due consideration to any other activity or entertainment taking place on the pitch at the same time;

aa) the home club may water the pitch provided that it gives reasonable notice to the referee and the other club that it intends to do so and that any such watering is carried out evenly over the entire length and width of the pitch; and

bb) any warming down after the conclusion of a match shall last for no longer than 15 minutes and for that purpose neither penalty area shall be used.

Admission Charges and Abandoned Matches

cc) The Home Club in any leg in a Play-Off Match or any leg in a Pyramid Play-Off Match shall, in its absolute discretion, determine admission charges (subject to these being the same for home and away supporters for broadly comparable facilities).

dd) The Home Club in any leg in a Play-Off Match or any leg in a Pyramid Play-Off Match shall be responsible for all match expenses and shall (subject to Part IV of these lower Pyramid Play-Off Rules) retain the net receipts in relation to said Play-Off Match. The fees and expenses of the match officials will be the responsibility of the home club in each tie.

ee) In the event of a leg in a Play-Off Match or a leg in a Pyramid Play-Off Match being abandoned the SLFL Board shall determine the requirement and/or arrangements for any such leg being replayed or the SLFL board may determine a deemed result of such leg and, said decision of the SLFL Board shall be final and binding and shall not be open to challenge.