

## **PYRAMID PLAY-OFF COMPETITION RULES**

of

**The Scottish Professional Football League (“SPFL”)**

**The Scottish Highland Football League (“SHFL”)**

**The Scottish Lowland Football League (“SLFL”)**

### **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:

**“club/Club”** means a Football club which is, for the time being, eligible to participate in the SHFL, SLFL or SPFL and which is eligible to participate in any Pyramid Play-Off Competition and, except where the context otherwise requires, includes the owner and operator of such club/Club;

**“Club 42”** means the Club occupying the lowest position in the SPFL at the end of the relevant Season;

**“Confidential Information”** means all information, data, communications, reports, advice, decisions and/or opinions or like or similar material of any kind in any format and media in connection with or relating to Net Commercial Pyramid Play-Off Revenues or the meetings, procedures, policies, business and/or finances of any Pyramid Play-Off Competition which is stated to be confidential or equivalent or which might reasonably be regarded as being confidential or equivalent shall be treated as Confidential Information unless or until specified in writing not to be, by an appropriate officer, director or employee of the Scottish FA;

**“Match Officials”** means the referee, assistant referees, fourth official and any other person duly appointed by the Scottish FA to fulfil the role of match official at any Play-Off Tie or Pyramid Play-Off Tie;

**“Membership Criteria”** means the membership criteria of the SPFL;

**“Net Commercial Pyramid Play-Off Revenues”** has the meaning set out in V f);

**“Official”** means any director, secretary, official, representative, manager, agent or employee of the SHFL, SLFL, SPFL, SPFL or Scottish FA or any club/Club and any person having a function or duty or position involving authority or trust within a Club which participates in a Pyramid Play-Off Competition;

**“Parachute Shortfall”** has the meaning set out in V h);

**“Pyramid Play-Off Competition”** means the competition, consisting of a two legged Play-Off Tie and a two legged Pyramid Play-Off Tie, each organised in terms of these Pyramid Play-Off Competition Rules at the end of the relevant Season, to determine which Club, if any, is to be relegated from the SPFL to the SHFL or the SLFL, as the case may be, and which club, if any, is to be promoted from the SHFL or the SLFL to the SPFL;

**“Radio Transmission”** means any terrestrial or satellite, analogue, digital or otherwise radio broadcast or transmission of sounds and/or commentary upon any match taking place as part of a Pyramid Play-Off Competition not consisting solely of storage and distribution of recorded sounds in tangible form whether such radio transmission is on a live or recorded basis in whole or as excerpts or clips;

**“rights, facilities and properties”** includes, but is not limited to, all contractual and property (whether tangible or intangible) rights, all rights in and relating to intellectual property, including all rights held by way of licence, all image and other similar rights held in respect of players and all rights of access to databases and database rights generally;

**“SHFL Champion”** means the club playing in the SHFL in any Season (excluding any ‘Guest’, ‘colt’, ‘B’ ‘second’, ‘reserve’ or like or equivalent team which is part of a Club participating in the same Season in the SPFL and which shall not, under any circumstances, be considered to be eligible to receive the title of SHFL Champion or any other title related to its position in said league, or qualify for or be eligible for participation in the Pyramid Play-Off Competition at the end of any such Season) which is declared the Champion club of the SHFL based on the criteria specified in the

rules of the SHFL;

**“SLFL Champion”** means the club playing in the SLFL in any Season (excluding any ‘Guest’, ‘colt’, ‘B’ ‘second’, ‘reserve’ or like or equivalent team which is part of a Club participating in the same Season in the SPFL and which shall not, under any circumstances, be considered to be eligible to receive the title of SLFL Champion or any other title related to its position in said league, or qualify for or be eligible for participation in the Pyramid Play-Off Competition at the end of any such Season) which is declared the Champion club of the SLFL based on the criteria specified in the rules of the SLFL;

**“SPFL”** means the Scottish Professional Football League Limited (company number SC175364);

**“Teamline”** means a teamline using the format set out in the annex to these Pyramid Play-Off Competition Rules, which shall be utilised, completed and delivered, as provided in these Pyramid Play-Off Rules, by each participant club/Club in and for each individual match played in a Play-Off Competition; and

**“Transmission”** means the transmission by or through any available device or medium of any terrestrial or satellite broadcast and/or transmission of moving pictures (with or without sound) comprising match coverage of any football match which is part of or comprised in a Pyramid Play-Off Competition by any means of transmission and/or broadcast of moving pictures (with or without sound), including, without limitation, by television, broadband, ‘smart tv’, IPTV, mobile network, digital or analogue media or any other new or other media, including by any means or mode of transmission whether ‘live’, ‘near live’ or ‘delayed’, of any match, including transmission and/or broadcast of whole, part, highlights, or clips thereof, taking place as part of a Pyramid Play-Off Competition or cable relay of such broadcast or transmission or inclusion of such moving pictures in a cable programme service not consisting solely of the storage and distribution of recorded pictures with or without sound in tangible form and includes, without limitation, all free to air, subscription, pay per view, satellite, internet, broadband, social and/or digital broadcasting, mobile broadcasting of any type and technology whether known at the date hereof or subsequently adopted and/or available to be adopted, all of which shall be capable of

being licensed by the SPFL as part of any commercial exploitation of any Pyramid Play-Off Competition and/or any match played in any Pyramid Play-Off Competition, including such licensing of rights to any person or party, including, without limitation, participating Club(s) and/or club(s), but subject always to and/or on such terms and conditions as the SPFL shall think appropriate.

- (b)** References to Rules within these Pyramid Play-Off Competition Rules are references to the Rules that are contained herein unless otherwise stated.
- (c)** Where a specific Rule or Rules is/are herein referred to, the first number is the reference to the relevant Section hereof and the second or latter reference is to the specific Rule within such Section, e.g., “III(h)”.
- (d)** Any amendment to these Pyramid Play-Off Competition Rules must be agreed by each of the Scottish FA, SPFL, SHFL and SLFL prior to it becoming effective.
- (e)** Each club, Club, Official, director, employee or officer, member of a Committee and any person who by his or her engagement with or connection to the SHFL, SLFL, SPFL, SPFL and Scottish FA may come into possession or knowledge of Confidential Information shall not at any time disclose or divulge either directly or indirectly to any person, firm or company whatsoever or otherwise make use of any Confidential Information or any of his, her or its dealings, transactions or affairs or as to any other matters which may come to its knowledge by reason of its interest in the Pyramid Play-Off Competition without the prior written consent of the Scottish FA, save where required by law to statutory and regulatory authorities (including by the Scottish FA in accordance with the Scottish FA Articles), and to such Officials of a club/Club to whom such disclosure is strictly necessary for the purpose of the discharge of their duties.
- (f)** Agreement with and to these Rules and/or any participation in a Pyramid Play-Off Competition shall constitute an agreement between the SHFL, SLFL, SPFL, SPFL and the Scottish FA and each of the clubs/Clubs participating in any Pyramid Play-Off Competition to be bound by and to comply with these Rules.
- (g)** Any capitalised word or phrase used in these Rules which is defined in the Articles and which is not defined in these Rules has the defined meaning in these Rules and in the

Regulations ascribed to it in the Articles.

- (h)** Wherever in these Rules the computation of a period of time or a number of days is involved, each of Saturday and Sunday and any Public Holiday is to be reckoned as a day.
- (i)** Headings in these Rules are used for convenience only and shall not affect the construction or interpretation of these Rules.
- (j)** Unless the context otherwise requires, words in the singular shall include the plural and the plural shall include the singular.
- (k)** Unless the context otherwise requires, a reference to one gender shall include a reference to the other genders.
- (l)** A “person” includes a natural person, corporate or unincorporated body (whether or not having separate legal personality) and in the case of a natural person that person’s personal representatives and successors.
- (m)** A reference to a “company” shall include any company, corporation, or other body corporate, wherever and however incorporated or established.
- (n)** Any words following the terms “including”, “include”, “in particular” or any similar expression shall be construed as illustrative and shall not limit the sense of the words, description, definition, phrase, or term preceding those terms.
- (o)** Where the context permits, “other” and “otherwise” are illustrative and shall not limit the sense of the words preceding them.
- (p)** A reference to a statute, statutory provision or subordinate legislation or to a regulatory provision is a reference to it as it is in force from time to time and includes any statute, statutory provision or subordinate legislation or regulatory provision which it amends or re-enacts and subordinate legislation for the time being in force made under it provided that, no such amendment, extension or re-enactment or provision made after the date of adoption of these Articles shall apply for the purposes of these Articles to the extent that it would impose any new or extended obligation, liability or restriction on, or otherwise adversely affect the rights of, any club/Club.

## **II Infringement of Pyramid Play-Off Competition Rules**

- (a)** Any club, Official, Player, or other person, which/who infringes any of these Pyramid Play-Off Competition Rules, shall be liable to a fine, censure, suspension, order to replay a Pyramid Play-Off Tie (in the case of a club), ejection and/or exclusion from a current and/or future Pyramid Play-Off Competition (in the case of a club) and/or any such other sanction(s) as specified within the Judicial Panel Protocol of the Scottish FA.
- (b)** The Judicial Panel is empowered to consider and determine any allegations of infringement of these Pyramid Play-Off Competition Rules and to impose such sanction(s), as specified within the Judicial Panel Protocol or in these rules, as it considers appropriate in order to deal justly with the case in question except where the sanction for a specific infringement is mandatory. In particular (but without prejudice to the generality):
- (i)** a club which is found to have infringed these Pyramid Play-Off Competition Rules, may be ordered to replay the Play-Off Tie and/or Pyramid Play-Off Tie (or a leg thereof) 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 the Judicial Panel in its absolute discretion; and
  - (iii)** in the event of disorderly conduct by a Club/club(s) in breach of the Articles of Association of the Scottish FA and/or the Judicial Panel Protocol, such Club/club(s) may be ejected from the relevant Pyramid Play-Off Competition and to have one or more of its matches in the competition cancelled.
- (c)** For the avoidance of doubt, the provisions of this rule II do not supersede or override the terms of any other rule which addresses sanctions for infringement thereof.
- (d)** Notwithstanding the terms above, the Scottish FA has the power to investigate any matter pursuant to the operation of a Pyramid Play-Off Competition.

### III Eligibility to Participate and Operation of Competition

- (a) The SHFL Champion and the SLFL Champion at the end of each Season shall, subject to Rules III(f), (g) (h) and (k), take part in a home and away two-legged Play-Off tie known as the **“Play-Off Tie”** organised by the Scottish FA in accordance with these Rules, to determine which club shall take part in the Pyramid Play-Off Tie at the end of the same Season. A draw undertaken by the Scottish FA will determine which club has home advantage in the first leg of a Play-Off Tie.
- (b) The winner of the Play-Off Tie or the team determined in accordance with rule III(f), will enter a home and away two-legged tie against Club 42 known as the **“Pyramid Play-Off Tie”** organised by the Scottish FA in accordance with these Rules. If the winner of the Pyramid Play-Off Tie is the SHFL Champion or the SLFL Champion it shall cease to be a member of the SHFL or of the SLFL, as appropriate, be entitled to participate in the lowest Division of the SPFL (currently League Two) during the immediately succeeding Season, shall be entitled to become a Member of the SPFL and shall comply with the Articles, Rules and Regulations of the SPFL and SPFL.
- (c) By not later than 14 July in each year, except in 2021 when the last date shall be 30 November 2021, each Club entitled to participate in the lowest Division of the SPFL (currently League Two), in the immediately succeeding Season, shall, subject to Rule III(c)(ii), notify the Secretary of the SPFL in writing of which of the SHFL or the SLFL it elects to be relegated to, become a member of and participate in, in the event that it is Club 42 at the end of the immediately succeeding Season and loses the Pyramid Play-Off Tie at the end of that Season (**“Club Notification”**). The Secretary of the SPFL shall notify each of the SHFL, SLFL and Scottish FA of each of such Club Notifications by not later than 31 July, except in 2021 when the date shall be 14 December 2021 of the relevant year and thereafter a duly authorised representative of each of the SPFL, SHFL and SLFL shall meet to agree whether each Club Notification shall be approved. In the event of unanimous agreement by each of the SPFL, SHFL and SLFL, each Club Notification shall be so approved and shall be binding on all parties. In the event that one or more of the SPFL, SHFL and SLFL do not agree with any one or more of such Club Notifications, the Scottish FA Board shall determine which of the SHFL or SLFL the

Club in question shall be relegated to in the event that it shall become Club 42 and lose the Pyramid Play-Off Tie at the end of the relevant Season.

- (i) Subject to Rule III(c)(ii), in the event of Club 42, in any Season, losing the Pyramid Play-Off Tie, it will be relegated to which of the SHFL or the SLFL it has notified in its relevant Club Notification or has been determined by the Board of the Scottish FA as appropriate.
  - (ii) A Club Notification made by an SPFL Club in any one Season shall continue to have effect in future Seasons unless and until withdrawn, replaced or amended, each in writing, by the SPFL Club concerned and shall be deemed to have been so made and notified from Season to Season thereafter, unless and until so withdrawn, replaced and/or amended.
  - (iii) In the event that a Club has not by the due date made a Club Notification or has deemed notified, as provided for in Rule III(c)(ii), then which of the SHFL and SLFL is to be deemed notified for the purposes of Rule III(c) for the relevant SPFL Club for such Season shall be determined by the Board of the Scottish FA (“**Scottish FA Selection**”).
  - (iv) The Scottish FA shall as early as possible during a Season and, in any event, by not later than 31 August in each Season, except in Season 2021/22 when the relevant date shall be 31 January 2022, publish a list of the Club Notifications approved, deemed Club Notifications and Scottish FA Selections applying for each Club participating in the lowest Division in the SPFL in that Season.
  - (iv) In the event that an SPFL Club in the relevant Season becomes Club 42 and loses the Pyramid Play-Off Tie, that Club will be relegated to which of the SHFL or the SLFL was notified, deemed notified or Scottish FA Selected by or for it for that Season, in terms of this Rule III(c).
- (d) The winning club in each of the Play-Off Tie and the Pyramid Play-Off Tie will be the club which scores the greatest number of goals, over the relevant two leg tie. In the event that the aggregate scores are equal at full-time of the second leg of the tie, kicks from the penalty mark will be taken, all in accordance with the Laws of the Game laid down from time to time by The International Football Association Board, which will



determine the winner.

- (e)** The two legs in each of the Play-Off Tie and the Pyramid Play-Off Tie at the end of any Season shall take place on dates and at times determined by the SPFL Board in consultation with the Scottish FA, the SHFL and the SLFL. The SPFL Board shall, after consultation with the Scottish FA, the SHFL and the SLFL, publish provisional dates for the Play-Off Tie and the Pyramid Play-Off Tie by 31 August in each season; with any later amendment to the provisional dates by the SPFL Board requiring further consultation with the Scottish FA, SHFL and SLFL.
- (f)** In the event that one of the SHFL Champion and the SLFL Champion in respect of any Season: (i) fails to comply with the Membership Criteria in circumstances where it is required to do so as the Candidate Club in terms of the SPFL Rules, and the SPFL Board has not granted any waiver, relaxation or period of grace in respect of that club's requirement to comply with the Membership Criteria; or (ii) has not played at least fifteen (15) matches against the other clubs participating in their respective league during the relevant Season, there will, subject to rule III(k), be no Play-Off Tie in terms of rule III(a) and the Champion Club in the other of the SHFL or SLFL as applicable, will automatically go forward to the Pyramid Play-Off Tie at the end of the relevant Season in terms of rule III(b).
- (g)** In the event that neither of the SHFL Champion nor the SLFL Champion in respect of any Season: (i) complies with the Membership Criteria in circumstances where each is required to do so as the Candidate Club in terms of the SPFL Rules, and the SPFL Board has not granted any waiver, relaxation or period of grace in respect of each such club's requirement to comply with the relevant part(s) of the Membership Criteria; or (ii) the SHFL Champion and the SLFL Champion has not played at least fifteen (15) matches against other clubs participating in their respective league during the relevant Season, there will, subject to rule III(k), be no Pyramid Play-Off Competition at the end of the relevant Season and Club 42 will retain its place in the SPFL in the immediately succeeding Season.
- (h)** Any team participating in the SHFL and/or in the SLFL, which is a 'Guest', 'colt', 'B' 'second', 'reserve' or like or equivalent team of a Club participating in the SPFL shall not, under any circumstances, be eligible to receive the title of SHFL Champion and/or

SLFL Champion or any other title related to its position in either of said Leagues or qualify for or be eligible for participation in the Pyramid Play-Off Competition at the end of any such Season. In such circumstances, the next best placed club (which is not a 'Guest', 'colt', 'B' 'second', 'reserve' or like or equivalent team of an SPFL Club) shall be eligible to participate in the Play-Off Tie, subject to Rules III(f), (g) and (k).

- (j)** The Board of the SPFL shall determine what, if any, Covid 19 Testing and Compliance procedures will be obliged to be followed by clubs/Clubs participating in a Pyramid Play-Off Competition, will monitor compliance by the clubs/Club concerned and if it considers that a club/Club has breached and/or not complied with same may report any such breach and/or failure to comply to the Scottish FA Compliance Officer for consideration of proceedings before the Judicial Panel pursuant to Rule II(b).
- (k)** In the event that Rule III(f)(ii) applies in the case of the SHFL Champion and/or the SLFL Champion or Rule III(g)(ii) applies in respect of both of the SHFL Champion and the SLFL Champion it, either or both, as the case may be, shall be entitled to apply to the Board of the Scottish FA to be entitled to participate in the relevant Play-Off Tie and, if it is successful or is the only Champion Club so entitled, in the relevant Pyramid Play-Off Tie. The Scottish FA Board shall determine and implement a fair procedure to determine any such application, including all parties with an interest being entitled to make representations before determining any such application and shall determine same in its sole discretion and on such criteria as it may determine. The decision of the Board of the Scottish FA on any such application shall be final, shall be determined as an expert and not as an arbitrator and shall not be open to challenge.

## **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 FA.

### **Appointment of Match Officials**

- (b) The Match Officials for all matches in Play-Off Ties and Pyramid Play-Off Ties 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/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 Pyramid Play-Off Competition Rules.
- (d) Fees and expenses of Match Officials shall be paid by the Scottish FA in accordance with Rule IV(ff).

### **Clash of Colours**

- (e) When the colours of the two competing clubs in the same match are alike or similar, the Visiting club/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/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 shirt must, in all cases, be clearly distinguishable from the colours of the shirts worn by all outfield Players of both participating clubs/Club 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 Teamline, a team shall consist of eleven players and is permitted to list a minimum

of five substitutes up to a maximum of seven, of whom not more than three may take part in the match. Each Teamline must include at least one recognised goalkeeper.

### **Eligibility of Players**

- (h)** Only a player registered at the Scottish FA by a club/Club on 1 March in the year of the relevant Play-Off Competition shall be eligible to play and be listed on the Teamline of such club/Club for the purposes of playing in a match in the relevant Play-Off Competition.
- (i)** All players in a Pyramid Play-Off Competition must be eligible to play in the relevant match having regard in particular (but without prejudice to the generality) to the Registration Procedures and the Disciplinary Procedures in each case of the Scottish FA.

### **Teamlines**

- (j)** A Teamline for a match in a Pyramid Play-Off Competition shall permit the listing of the starting eleven players, up to a maximum of seven potential substitutes and up to six technical personnel. Each club's/Club's Teamline must be submitted in accordance with these Rules in order for a club/Club to participate in a match in a Pyramid Play-Off Competition.
- (k)** Not later than 75 minutes before the start of each match in a Pyramid Play-Off Competition, each club/Club shall deliver personally to the referee and to a designated Official of its opponent identical copies of the Teamline for that club/Club for the relevant leg. The Teamline shall contain accurate and complete details of the shirt numbers, full player names and dates of birth, identification of which (of) such player(s) is/are the designated goalkeeper(s) of not more than eighteen players, including identification of the first such players who shall comprise the starting 11 players and which of such starting 11 players is the captain, together with full names and dates of birth of the technical personnel to be seated within the technical area (subject to a maximum of six such technical personnel). The Teamline must be completed clearly and in block capitals and signed by the club secretary or other official of the club/Club concerned. Upon such signature, such Teamline shall be deemed to be complete and binding on the club/Club concerned. The club(s)/Club participating in

such a match may agree in writing in advance to exchange copies of their respective Teamlines by agreed electronic means, but in the absence of such an agreement copies of Teamlines must be exchanged within the time specified above by personal delivery to relevant club/Club Officials. The referee, whom failing the senior assistant referee of each such match must send a copy of the Timeline, plus details of any subsequent amendment made to either of them in accordance with these Rules and any explanatory note she/he considers appropriate, by electronic means to each of the SHFL, SLFL, SPFL and the Scottish FA within 2 hours of the ending of the relevant match.

- (l) The eleven first named players on a club's/Club's Teamline 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 his club's/Club's Teamline.
- (m) Only three of the substitutes listed on a Teamline may, subject to (n) below, take part in the match. A player who has been substituted during a match may take no further part in that match.
- (n) Where the Scottish FA has elected to include the Pyramid Play-Off Competition in a concussion substitute trial and the IFAB has accepted the competition for such inclusion Option B shall apply and up to two concussion substitutes from the Match Information Form may be used by each participant in each such Match.
- (o) It is recommended that a club's/Club's doctor and physiotherapist are listed on its Teamline and accommodated in the technical area within the category of technical personnel.

#### **Replacement of Players on the Teamline**

- (p) If any of the first eleven players listed on the Teamline 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 Teamline as submitted to the referee, so that the quota of substitutes is not reduced. During the match, up to three players may still be substituted.

- (q)** If any of the named substitutes listed on the Teamline 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 Teamline as submitted to the referee.
- (r)** If a goalkeeper or goalkeepers listed on the Teamline is/are not able to be fielded due to unexpected physical incapacity or other extreme circumstances (which are explained to and accepted by the referee), then he/they may be replaced, but only by (an) eligible goalkeeper(s) not originally listed on the Teamline submitted to the referee.
- (s)** If for any reason changes require to be made to the Teamline pursuant to the above provisions (and said changes are accepted by the referee) then the club/Club must notify its opponent immediately thereafter.
- (t)** The club/Club concerned must, in addition to the requirements set out above, upon request, provide the Scottish FA and the SPFL with requisite medical certificates and a full written explanation of the circumstances that caused the change.

#### **Pitch Protection**

- (u)** 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:
- (v)** the pitch shall only be used for warming up or warming down by the players listed in the Teamlines for that match;
- (w)** pre-match warming up by either team shall not commence until at the earliest 45 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;
- (x)** if portable goals are provided, they shall be used for all goalkeeping drills other than crossing practice;
- (y)** 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;

- (z)** 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 halfway line or as otherwise directed by the groundsman;
- (aa)** 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;
- (bb)** 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;
- (cc)** the Home club/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
- (dd)** 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**

- (ee)** The Home club/Club in any leg in a Play-Off Tie or any leg in a Pyramid Play-Off Tie shall, in its absolute discretion, determine admission charges (subject to these being the same for home and away supporters for broadly comparable accommodation/facilities).
- (ff)** The Home club/Club in any leg in a Play-Off Tie or any leg in a Pyramid Play-Off Tie shall be responsible for all match expenses and shall (subject to Part V of these Pyramid Play-Off Competition Rules) retain the net gate receipts therefrom. The fees and expenses of the match officials will be paid by the Scottish FA and recharged to the SPFL which shall treat the amounts as a charge to be deducted in calculating Net Commercial Pyramid Play-Off Revenues per Rule V(f).
- (gg)** The SPFL and/or the Scottish FA shall be entitled to request that the Home club/Club in any Play-Off Tie provides a written statement of gate receipts and expenses incurred.

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



## **V Commercial Rules**

- (a)** The SHFL, SLFL, SPFL, Scottish FA and the clubs/Club taking part in each Pyramid Play-Off Competition and each of them agree to centrally pool and market their rights, facilities and properties relating to and concerning, Radio Transmission and Transmission during and in respect of the relevant Pyramid Play-Off Competition and each match therein, for exclusive exploitation by the SPFLL.
- (b)** Further, the SHFL, SLFL, SPFL, Scottish FA and the clubs/Club taking part in a Pyramid Play-Off Competition, hereby assign to the SPFLL their whole respective rights, title and interest in, to and in connection with their respective commercial, copyright and database rights and properties and any and all other intellectual property rights in and relating to each Pyramid Play-Off Competition and in each of the individual matches in each such Competition and each of them, to the extent necessary having regard to such assignation, hereby authorises the SPFLL to enter into commercial contracts for the commercial exploitation of the matches (or any of them) in and/or of a Pyramid Play-Off Competition (“**Pyramid Commercial Contracts**”) including but not limited to Pyramid Commercial Contracts in relation to Radio Transmission, Transmission, sponsorship or advertising of or at the matches (or any of them) in each or any Pyramid Play-Off Competition(s) whether individually or collectively.
- (c)** The SHFL, SLFL, SPFL, Scottish FA and the clubs/Club taking part in a Pyramid Play-Off Competition and each of them license and shall otherwise provide to the SPFLL the use of such of their other rights, facilities and properties as may be required by the SPFLL to enable the SPFL to enter into and fulfil its/their obligations under and in terms of Pyramid Commercial Contracts entered into or to be entered into by the SPFLL in relation to such Pyramid Play-Off Competition and each match therein.
- (d)** Except pursuant to a Pyramid Commercial Contract, there shall be no and, each of the clubs/Club shall in respect of a match in a Pyramid Play-Off Competition played at their home ground procure that there shall not be any, Radio Transmission and/or Transmission of all or any part of a said match without the prior written approval of the SPFLL.
- (e)** The clubs/Club taking part in a Pyramid Play-Off Competition and each of them shall

not by any act or omission infringe any rights granted by the SPFLL in a Pyramid Play-Off Commercial Contract or otherwise cause or allow any breach thereof to occur.

- (f) The SPFLL shall determine and shall make and/or allow, in its absolute discretion, for any reasonable costs, expenses, charges or any other sum or amount incurred or to be incurred in generating income from Pyramid Play-Off Commercial Contracts, to be charged and/or off-set against any income generated by Pyramid Play-Off Commercial Contracts so as to determine the amount of the “**Net Commercial Pyramid Play-Off Revenues**”, before making any other payment provided for in these Rules.
- (g) The SPFL and Scottish FA shall not be permitted to make a charge or set-off in terms of rules V(f) and/or (h) except in relation to or in respect of any cost, expense, liability or charge incurred or for which either or both may be liable arising out of or related to the Pyramid Play-Off Competition in relation to a specific season and/or the operation of the Pyramid Play-Off Competition generally. Each Pyramid Play-Off Competition is to be accounted for separately and where possible amounts of income and expenditure are to be attributed to each individual Pyramid Play-Off Competition as they arise. Where any income and/or expenditure is generated or incurred/to be incurred pursuant to more than one Pyramid Play-Off Competition e.g., a broadcasting contract with a term of more than one such Competition, the relevant income and expenditure shall be apportioned/applied by the SPFLL as it thinks appropriate.
- (h) The amount of any Pyramid Parachute Payment due to be paid to any Club relegated from the SPFL to either the SHFL or, as the case may be, the SLFL, as a result of a Pyramid Play-Off Competition, shall be determined in accordance with the Articles of the SPFLL and the Rules of the SPFL, as approved by the Scottish FA, and shall be deducted by the SPFLL from Net Commercial Pyramid Play-Off Revenues. If the amount of the Net Commercial Play-Off Revenues for any Pyramid Play-Off Competition is less than the amount of the Pyramid Parachute Payment or Payments payable (“the **Parachute Shortfall**”), the Scottish FA shall pay to the SPFLL an amount equivalent to that Parachute Shortfall in advance of the SPFLL making payment of the Pyramid Parachute Payment to the relevant former Club. The amount of any Parachute Shortfall in respect of one Pyramid Play-off Competition shall be carried forward and re-imbursed to the Scottish FA out of the Net Commercial Play-Off

Revenues from the next or subsequent Pyramid Play-Off Competitions. The amount of any such Parachute Shortfall shall be a first charge and the Pyramid Parachute Payment or Payments shall be a second charge on the amount of any Net Commercial Pyramid Play-Off Revenues calculated in accordance with Rules V(f) and (h).

- (i) After having paid and/or allowed for any and all amounts to be paid/allowed for in terms of these Rules in the calculation of, out of or in connection with Net Commercial Pyramid Play-Off Revenues the remaining sum in respect of each Pyramid Play-Off Competition shall be paid by SPFL as fees in the amounts determined from the specified percentage to the parties set out in the Table below in consideration of the rights, facilities and properties relating to and concerning, Radio Transmission and Transmission during and in respect of the relevant Pyramid Play-Off Competition and the other commercial, copyright and database rights and properties and any and all other intellectual property rights in and relating to each Pyramid Play-Off Competition contributed by each such party. If there has been no Pyramid Play-Off Tie then no payment shall be made to whichever of the SHFL or SLFL did not have a Champion club involved in the Pyramid Play-Off Competition.

the Scottish FA	10%
the SPFL	15%
the SHFL	15%
the SLFL	15%
The clubs/Club participating in the relevant season's Pyramid Play-Off Competition, divided equally between each of them	45%