



# Scottish Lowland Football League Constitution and Rules

Version 18

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## A – GENERAL

- A1 The name of this combination of clubs will be called the Scottish Lowland Football League and is thereafter referred to as the 'League' or the 'SLFL'.

### Objectives

- A2 The objectives of the League shall be:
- a) To conduct each season League and League Cup competitions between the Clubs in Membership;
  - b) To conduct such other competitions as may be decided from time to time.

### Definitions

- A3 In these Rules the terms used shall (unless the context otherwise requires) have the following meanings:
- a) **Championship Play-Off Competition** means the competition which is held pursuant to Rule H3 to determine the Champion Club (as defined in Rule H3);
  - b) **Club** means a Football Club, which for the time being, is eligible to participate in the League and, except where the context otherwise requires, includes the owner and operator of such club;
  - c) **Completion Date** means 30<sup>th</sup> June each year or such other date set by the Board by which all business relating to the season must be completed. Any club failing to adhere to requirements relating to the Completion Date may forfeit membership of the SLFL.
  - d) **Confidential information** means all information, details and data of any kind in connection with the business or finances of the League or any Club which is confidential or which might reasonably be regarded as being confidential to the League or any Club
  - e) **EoSFL** means the East of Scotland Football League
  - f) **Ex officio** means a person by virtue of the office held but does not have the right to vote;
  - g) **Guest Club** means a club, or team representing a club, which is in full membership of the Scottish FA and which is invited to participate in the SLFL on a temporary basis. Such club will be subject to the Rules of the Scottish Lowland Football League so far as concerns its participation in the league. Guest clubs will have no voting rights on any matter;
  - h) **Judicial Panel** means the body with that name formed by the board of the Scottish FA in terms of the articles of association of the Scottish FA;



- i) **Judicial Panel Protocol** means the protocol relating to the operation of the Judicial Panel promulgated by the board of the Scottish FA from time to time in accordance with the articles of association of the Scottish FA;
- j) **Laws of the game** mean the laws of the game promulgated by the International Football Association Board from time to time;
- k) **League, SLFL** or the **Scottish Lowland Football League** means the combination of association football clubs comprising the Clubs known as the Scottish Lowland Football League or the League;
- l) **Official Matches** means any fixture in a competition registered with the SLFL;
- m) **Play-Off Match** means a match played in the Pyramid Play-Off Competition or the Championship Play-Off Competition as the relevant context so requires;
- n) **Pyramid Play Off Competition** means the competition at the end of the season to determine which Clubs, if any, are to be relegated from the Scottish Professional Football League (SPFL) to the Scottish Highland Football League (SHFL) or the Scottish Lowland Football League (SLFL) and which clubs, if any, are to be promoted from the SHFL or the SLFL to the SPFL;
- o) **Pyramid Play-Off Rules** means the rules of the Pyramid Play-Off Competition.
- p) **Registered Ground** means the ground of a Club registered or deemed to have been registered in accordance with the Scottish FA Articles and the words ‘register’ and ‘registered’ shall, where the context so permits, be construed accordingly;
- q) **SFA** means the Scottish Football Association
- r) **SoSFL** means the South of Scotland Football League
- s) **SPFL** means the Scottish Professional Football League
- t) **Trialist** means a player who is under assessment and evaluation by a Club as to his ability, fitness or the like to play football for that Club in Official Matches and who is not registered to that Club;
- u) **The Scottish FA** means the Scottish Football Association Ltd;
- v) **The Scottish FA Articles** means the Articles for the time being of the Scottish FA;
- w) **WoSFL** means the West of Scotland Football league
- x) Unless the context otherwise requires, a reference to one gender shall include reference to other genders

## Designation of Rules by Letter and Numbering

- A4 Rules shall be designated or referred to by a letter and a number. The letter identifies the section of the Rules and the number identifies the numbered Rule within the Section.



- A5 References to a “Rule” shall, unless the context otherwise requires, means a reference to the Rule so designated by Section and Number within such Section in these Rules in which the reference is made.

## B - MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEAGUE

- B1 All clubs must, on the Completion Date, be licensed, full members of the Scottish FA. The maximum number of clubs will normally be sixteen (16) but may be increased temporarily to a maximum of eighteen (18) at the sole discretion of the Board.
- B2 It is mandatory as a condition of membership that clubs purchase group insurance organised by the league. A waiver from this rule may be granted if the Club has insurance cover issued under participation elsewhere in the professional game in Scotland providing (a) that policy meets the requirement of Scottish FA Club Licensing and (b) it is approved by the Board of the SLFL. Clubs will be invoiced by the treasurer when payment of premium is due.

### Promotion into the League

- B3 The club eligible for promotion into the League from the EoSFL, SoSFL or the WoSFL will be identified as follows:
- If more than one of the champion clubs of both the EoSFL, SoSFL and WoSFL meet the criteria for membership of the League, a play-off competition between these clubs (the “Lower Pyramid Playoff Competition”) will decide the eligible club, which will be promoted to the League;
  - If only one champion club from the EoSFL, SoSFL or WoSFL meets the criteria, that club becomes the eligible club, which will be promoted to the League;
  - If no champion club of the EoSFL, SoSFL or WoSFL meets the criteria for membership there will be no promotion to the League.

### Relegation from the League

- B4 The number of clubs for the forthcoming season will be calculated by adding to the number of clubs in membership at the end of the current season, adding any club that may be promoted from the EoSFL, SoSFL or WoSFL, adding any club that may be relegated from the SPFL and subtracting any club that may be promoted to the SPFL. In order to maintain a maximum of sixteen clubs (or such other number as may be set by the Board pursuant to by Rule B1), the bottom club or clubs at the end of the current season will be relegated to the league(s) decided by a joint meeting of the representatives of the League, the EoSFL, SoSFL and WoSFL prior to the start of each season. (Please refer to Annex I for illustration of the process for deciding on relegation.)



## Admission by Application

- B5 If the number of clubs for the forthcoming season is less than sixteen having taken account of promotion and relegation as described in rules B3 and B4 above, applications for membership will be invited. Applications must be advertised and received in accordance with procedures established by the Board at the time of identification that there may be a vacancy to be filled by admission. Applications will be considered by the member clubs, whose decision regarding admission is absolute and final.
- B6 The League may, by a vote of member clubs, admit Guest Clubs to the League competition. Guest clubs will be admitted for a single season and may not take part in any competition other than the League..

## Registered Ground

- B7 Each Club shall register its ground and playing field dimensions at the time of submission of the annual return to the Secretary and no such club shall remove to another ground without first obtaining the consent of the Board. Any club wishing to make any alteration to its registered ground or its playing field dimensions must first obtain the written consent of the Board. Except as otherwise approved by the Board under a 'ground sharing' agreement, all clubs must also confirm that their ground is available to them on every Saturday of the season at no less than four (4) days' notice and also that the ground is available for midweek fixtures throughout the season at no less than four (4) days' notice.

## Provision of Services

- B8 All clubs must provide services and facilities pursuant to any contract relating to sponsorship, Radio and Television coverage of the League.

## Relationship between Clubs and the League

- B9 In all matters and transactions relating to the League, each Club shall behave towards each other Club and the League with the utmost good faith.
- B10 No Club, either by itself or its Officials, shall by any means whatsoever disparage, belittle, discredit or unfairly criticise any other Club, or the League or in either case any such other Club or the League's officers, employees or agents (which shall, for the avoidance of doubt, exclude supporters).

## Confidentiality

- B11 A Club shall not either during its membership of the League or at any time after its membership has terminated disclose or divulge either directly or indirectly to any person, firm or company whatsoever or otherwise make use of any Confidential Information as to the business or finances of the League or any of its dealings, transactions or affairs or as to any



other matters which may come to its knowledge by reason of its membership without the Board's prior written consent save when required by law to statutory and regulatory authorities (including by the Scottish FA in accordance with the Scottish FA Articles) and to such employees of a club to whom such disclosure is strictly necessary for the purpose of their duties and only then to the extent necessary.

## Communication

- B12 Clubs will engage with the League and will be required to respond timeously and effectively to all requests and instructions. Any Club which fails to respond as requested will be reported to the Board who will consider if any action is appropriate under article B15 of the Constitution and Rules.
- B13 Communications will be by e-mail. Clubs must maintain and monitor at least daily two e-mail addresses. E-mails will be considered to have been received when sent unless there is a failure of delivery notice.

## Official Return

- B14 Each Club shall complete and submit to the Secretary of the League by 15th June each year the Annual Return, showing details of their Board or Committee for the ensuing season.

## Club Directory

- B15 Each club will submit details to the Secretary for club directory as required by the League by 15th June each year.

## Obligations

- B16 All Clubs will agree to fulfil the fixtures cast by the League, adhere to the League Constitution and Rules for a period of twelve (12) months from the commencement of each football season and abide by the decisions of the Board, subject to the right of appeal as provided for under the current Judicial Panel protocol of the Scottish FA.
- B17 Each Club will be liable for a fine and/or expulsion from the competition in the event of their not fulfilling the obligations imposed on them by their acceptance of membership. The amount of fine on any one count will be subject to a maximum of Five Hundred Pounds (£500). All fines must be paid within fourteen (14) days; otherwise the offending Club will cease to be a member of the League.

## Commitment to National Teams

- B18 Each Club shall support the Scottish FA and other football associations in relation to all international matches in accordance with the provisions of the Scottish FA Articles and the FIFA Statutes and Regulations.





## Cup Competitions

- B19 Each Club shall compete in the Scottish Cup competition and South Region Cup competition in each season if eligible to do so.

## Representative Games

- B20 All Member Clubs must release players for any representative match or training session organised by the League in accordance with Scottish FA Registration procedure. It should be deemed an offence for any Club Official to attempt to dissuade or discourage any player from accepting an invitation to represent the League in such a match or training session. If more than two players of any one Club are required for any representative game, the said Club will be allowed to postpone any League match due to be played on the same date as the representative game.

## Misconduct with intent to Influence Result

- B21 A Club, official, team official or other member of staff, player, or other person directly or indirectly offering or receiving a bonus or any other inducement to or from another Club, official, player, referee or other person to influence the result of a match or otherwise affect the conduct of a match shall be deemed guilty of serious misconduct.
- B22 Any Club. Official, team official or other member of team staff, player who has been approached to be the target or is the target of bribery must notify the League forthwith.

## Sponsorship and Broadcasting Matters

- B23 The League may enter into contracts with commercial sponsors and broadcasters and grant certain rights as the League may in its discretion determine to such parties in relation to the League and League Cup Competitions.
- B24 All clubs participating in the competitions undertake to provide any rights, facilities and other services as may be necessary for the League to perform the League's obligations.
- B25 Failure and/or refusal by a club to comply with any of the terms of the League's obligations as intimated shall be deemed to be an infringement of the Rules and such a club shall be liable to a fine, censure, suspension, ejection from the competition or a combination thereof.

## C – FINANCE

### Membership

- C1 All Clubs will, by the Completion Date each year, pay to the League Treasurer an Annual Subscription as determined by the Annual General Meeting.



- C2 New Clubs on being admitted to membership must remit the same annual subscription by that date or within seven (7) days of receipt of written notification of their acceptance as members if that date is after the completion date. New clubs will be required to pay a bond, to be set by the Board on admission of that club. The bond will be returned to the club on leaving the SLFL after deductions of any sums owing to the SLFL or its member clubs. No interest will be paid on the bond.
- C3 The Board may set different charges for Annual Subscription and Bond for Guest Clubs.

### Bank Account

- C4 The funds of the League will be controlled through an approved Bank Account standing in the name of the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Treasurer of the League. Cheques or electronic transactions are to be approved (by signature when appropriate) by one of these persons.

### Financial Statement

- C5 A financial statement, duly examined and approved, will be submitted to each Club in membership prior to the Annual General Meeting. An Auditor, who may be independent of any club in membership of the League, will be appointed at the Annual General Meeting to audit the League's accounts.

### Accounting Period

- C6 The League's accounts will be prepared and maintained on a calendar year basis.

## D - GOVERNANCE

### Office Bearers

- D1 The Office Bearers will consist of Chairman and Vice Chairman who will be elected for a period of two years at the Annual General Meeting and will be eligible for re-election thereafter.

### Board

- D2 The affairs of the League shall be conducted by a Board comprising the Chairman, Vice Chairman and four (4) ordinary members elected by the member clubs of the League with no Club having more than one (1) representative on the Board. Members of the Board will be elected for a period of two (2) years at the Annual General Meeting. Retiring members will be eligible for re-election. The Office Bearers and members of the Board must be named on their Club's annual return to the League and the Scottish FA. The Board will normally meet monthly during the playing season with 50% plus one (1) of the Board Members required to be present for the meeting to be quorate. All or any of the Board Members may participate in a meeting



of the Board by means of a conference telephone or any communication equipment which allows all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other and provided the relevant quorum of Board Members participating as aforesaid (notwithstanding that such quorum is not present together in one place) such meeting will be quorate and subject to the provisions of the Rules and Constitution the meeting will constitute a meeting of the Board. A person so participating shall be deemed to be present in person at the meeting and shall be entitled to vote or be counted in the quorum accordingly. Such meeting will be deemed to take place where the largest group of those participating is assembled, or, if there is no such group, where the Chairman of the meeting then is located.

- D3 Board vacancies arising for any reason between Annual General Meetings will be filled by a ballot of clubs, either by electronic means, at a General Meeting or a Special General Meeting.

### Representative to the Scottish FA's Congress

- D4 The League's representative on the Scottish FA's Congress will be elected by the member clubs of the League at the Annual General Meeting and serve for a period of two years. This person must be named on their Club's Annual Return for the current year. This person will be an ex officio member of the Board if not already a member and will be eligible for re-election.

### Representative to the Scottish FA's Professional Game Board

- D5 The League's representative on the Scottish FA's Professional Game Board will be the Chairman or such other person as appointed by the Board. This person must be eligible as required by the Articles of the Scottish FA.

### Secretary

- D6 The Secretary will be appointed by the Board and paid an honorarium to be agreed at the Annual General Meeting. His appointment will be subject to the approval of the member clubs at a General Meeting. He will not be allowed to vote at any meeting, nor be connected with any member club. All reference to the Secretary in the Rules and Constitution, except as otherwise defined, will refer to the Secretary of the Scottish Lowland Football League. All communications must be addressed to the Secretary, who will conduct the correspondence of the League and maintain all records of meetings etc.

### Expenses

- D7 Members of the Board or other Representatives of Member Clubs shall be entitled to reimbursement of out of pocket expenses properly incurred by them in representing the League on official business. In those cases where the expense incurred is for travel the rate paid shall be on the same basis as the rates paid to referees. In all other cases the rate will be determined by the Board and receipts will be required.



## Treasurer

- D8 The Treasurer will be appointed by the Board and paid an honorarium. His appointment will be subject to the approval of the member clubs at a General Meeting. He will not be allowed to vote at any meeting, unless he is also an elected board member.

## E - THE BOARD

### Management

- E1 A member of the Board at Board Meetings will not be entitled to vote on any issue when the club he represents is involved. At the discretion of the Chairman any member may be asked to leave the meeting once he has stated his club's case and answered any questions from his fellow members. Should such a request be made by the Chairman the member involved must comply.
- E2 The Board will have full executive powers to deal with any Member Club, Club Official, or player as they deem fit, either by expulsion, suspension, fine deduction of points or any such sanction as is deemed appropriate. Appeals against decisions of the Board or League in General Meeting must be lodged with the Scottish FA under the terms of the current Judicial Panel Protocol.
- E3 Any matter not provided herein will be determined by the Board whose decision will be final and binding on all Clubs and parties concerned.
- E4 The Board may from time to time appoint Sub-Committees to deal with particular matters. Sub-Committees will have power to co-opt any person who it felt would have particular knowledge applicable to its remit. There must at all times be a majority of Member Club representatives at any Sub-Committee meetings. Sub-Committees will report directly to the Board.
- E5 The Board shall have the power to temporarily suspend, amend or add to the rules as circumstances may dictate from time to time, as it deems appropriate in its reasonable discretion, to facilitate the smooth running of the competition, or in order to ensure the League is capable of meeting any commitments put upon it under the terms of any contracts or agreements with other bodies or sponsors.
- E6 The Secretary will attend Board meetings and prepare minutes of the meeting. If the Secretary is not available, the Chairman will appoint a deputy to prepare the minutes, such person being either a member of the Board or the Administration. Other persons, including members of the Administration, may attend Board meetings at the invitation of the Chairman. Such guests will normally only attend for the relevant sections of the Board meeting and will have no voting rights.



## F – MEETINGS

### Voting

- F1 At Annual and Special General Meetings and General meetings of the League, each Club has one vote and the Chairman will have the casting vote only. All decisions arrived at will be by a majority vote of members present at the meeting.

### Venue

- F2 All meetings will be held at a venue approved by the Board. In the event of the designated venue being unavailable the Office Bearers will select a suitable alternative. Sub-Committee Meetings will be held at a suitable venue. If a meeting is held by teleconference, the venue will be considered to be the location of the Chair.

### General Meetings

- F3 Four General Meetings of the League will be held annually to which each club in membership will be allowed to send two representatives who must be named on the club's Annual Return as amended from time to time. One of these general meetings will be the "Annual General Meeting", which will be held in May or June. The Board has powers to cancel a General Meeting if, at its sole discretion, it is considered that there is insufficient business to justify the meeting. Attendance at General Meetings is compulsory and any club which does not send a representative will be fined £50.00.

### Annual General Meeting

- F4 The Annual General Meeting will be held between 15<sup>th</sup> May and 30<sup>th</sup> June each year, at which clubs in membership will be allowed to send two representatives.
- F5 Notice of the Annual General Meeting and all the business to be transacted will be intimated to the clubs in writing, by the Secretary, at least fourteen (14) days before the date of the meeting.

### Special General Meeting(s)

- F6 Any three member clubs may apply to the Secretary for a Special General Meeting to be held. The written application must state the specific business for which the meeting is required and if found to be competent, the meeting will be convened within twenty one (21) days, at a suitable venue. Only the business stated in the application will be discussed except for any election(s) for Board position(s) as intimated in accordance with rule D3. At Special General Meetings, Clubs will have the same rights as at the Annual General Meeting.



## Alterations to the Constitution and Rules

- F7 No alterations will be made to the Constitution or the Rules except at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting summoned for this purpose. Notice of the proposed alteration(s) to the Constitution and Rules for consideration at the Annual General Meeting must be intimated to the Secretary, in writing, at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting convened to deal with the matter.
- F8 Unless otherwise stated in the proposal and agreed at the Annual or Special General Meeting, all proposals that are accepted will become effective once they have been agreed and accepted the Scottish FA Board.

## G – COMPETITION RULES

### General

- G1 All matches will be played according to the Laws of the Game as recognised by the Scottish FA.
- G2 All matches must be played on a ground where a gate can be taken. Should any Club's ground be unavailable to host a league match with the exception of being declared unplayable, it becomes the home club's responsibility to secure the use of another registered Scottish Lowland Football League ground or suitable ground which complies with Club Licensing for the playing of the fixture. The alternate ground must not incur any extra travel time for the visiting club (under normal conditions) and must be either closer to or a similar distance from the visiting Club's ground unless the visiting Club agrees otherwise and such change of venue must have the prior approval of the Board.
- G3 Each club on their annual return must detail their first, second and, where applicable third choice colour of shirts, shorts and socks. The first and second choice colours must be different and distinct. Clubs are required to wear their first choice strips, save that a club shall be permitted to play in colours which are not first choice, provided they have been registered on their annual return and the opposing club and the referee appointed for such match are advised forty eight hours before the match. Clubs cannot change from their first choice strip if change means clash with their opponent's first choice strips. If there is a clash of first choice strips the away team should play in their second choice strip unless agreed otherwise by both clubs. Goalkeepers will wear colours which distinguish them from other players and the referee. The player's jerseys must be clearly numbered. The numbers must be distinct in colour and appear on the back of players jerseys.
- G4 The make of ball used in both League and League Cup games must be the one recommended by the Board.
- G5 The Secretary will for all intents and purposes be the legal holder of the Trophies in trust for the Board.



- G6 Each Club must play its full strength team in all matches, unless a satisfactory explanation is offered to the Board.
- G7 The League will provide Member Clubs each season with Visitors Complimentary Tickets up to a maximum of ten (10) for use of Club Officials' listed on the Official Return to be used at their club's away games which will allow entry to the ground and Boardroom. No member of the committee of the visiting club will be entitled to enter free without producing the official ticket. Any Club permitting its tickets of admission to be used by unauthorised persons will be liable to have disciplinary action taken against them by the Board.
- G8 All games must commence promptly at the times officially set by the Secretary, unless both Clubs agree to an alternative date and/or time which must be advised to the Secretary for approval before the date of the game.

## Postponed Games

- G9 The reason for non- fulfilment of a fixture on a stipulated date shall be intimated in writing to the Secretary within three (3) days (Sunday included as a day) of the stipulated fixture unless the ground is unplayable. Failure to comply with this will be considered by the Board at the same time as dealing with the reason for non-fulfilment of the fixture.
- G10 If a Club requests the postponement of a fixture because of injuries to or illness of players they must inform the Secretary 30 hours prior to the game and the Board will have the discretion to postpone the fixture after considering all the available evidence. The Board have the right to request the submission of medical certificates or such other evidence as may be available should they think fit. The Board will only in exceptional circumstances consider the matter if less than the required notice is given.

## Protests

- G11 All questions relating to the qualification of competitors, or interpretation of the rules, or any dispute or protest whatever, shall be referred to the Board. Every protest must be made, in writing, and must contain particulars of the grounds upon which it is founded. One copy of the protest must be lodged with the Secretary of the League by email within three (3) days of the match to which it relates (Sunday and public holidays not included) and an exact copy sent to the Secretary of the club protested against by email within the same timescales. The League may impose a fine not exceeding £100 if the protest is considered to be trivial and groundless.
- G12 The Board may order any Club engaged in dispute or protest to pay such sum as may be considered necessary towards defraying the expenses incurred in hearing the protest. Also Disciplinary Panels may recommend that clubs engaged in any disciplinary hearing are required to pay such sum as may be considered necessary towards defraying the expenses incurred in such a hearing.
- G13 Any protest relating to the ground, goal posts or bars or other appurtenances of the game shall not be entertained by the Board unless there is evidence that an objection has been lodged with the Referee and captain of the opposing team prior to the commencement of the



match. The Referee shall require the responsible Club to remove the cause of the objection if this is possible without unduly delaying the progress of the match.

## Inspection of Grounds

- G14 Where it is clear that due to surface water, snow or frost, a pitch is unplayable the home Club must arrange for a pitch inspection. Exemption for this inspection may be given by the Secretary. If there is the slightest doubt as to whether the pitch is playable the home Club must have it inspected by a qualified referee. If the home Club considers the ground unplayable they must inform their opponents, the referee and the Secretary not later than 10am on the day of a match, or by 2pm for an evening match, or later if agreed by both clubs. A Club may only declare a pitch unplayable the day before a fixture date in the event of extreme weather conditions or on the grounds of health and safety of the players, officials or spectators of both clubs and with the agreement of the Secretary. The Secretary, if requested by either the visiting Club or an Office Bearer may appoint a referee to carry out a pitch inspection. The cost of such an inspection will be divided equally between the two clubs.
- G15 In the event of the match referee declaring the ground unplayable, he and each assistant referee who has travelled to the ground, shall receive half tariff along with travel expenses (as applicable), shared between both clubs.

## Referees

- G16 The Scottish FA shall appoint referees for all games. The home Club will be responsible for notifying the appointed referee and visiting Club of the hour of kick-off etc at least 48 hours before the scheduled date of the match. They shall be responsible for all expenses, including referee's and assistants' tariff and travel expenses. at the rate agreed by the Board. Travel expenses are calculated using the recommended route (ignoring traffic conditions) from Google Maps ([google.com/maps](https://www.google.com/maps)).
- G17 Clubs must record Tariff and Expenses paid to the referee and assistant referees and obtain signatures from all officials. The form as approved by the Board to be used for this purpose.

## Pitch Protection

- G18 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 League, League Cup Match or Play-Off Match;
- a) The pitch shall only be used for warming up or warming down by Players named on the lists of Players provided to the Referee not less than half an hour before the time of kick-off;
  - b) pre- match warming up by either team shall not commence until at the earliest 45 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time and shall end not later than 10 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time;





- c) if portable goals are provided they shall be used for all goalkeeping drills other than crossing practice;
- d) 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;
- e) for the purpose 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 officials of the home club;
- f) all speed and stamina work shall be undertaken off the pitch normally parallel to the touchline opposite the side to be patrolled by the assistant referee or, in the absence of sufficient space in that part of the pitch as otherwise directed by the officials of the home club;
- g) 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;
- h) The Home Club may water the pitch at half time 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;
- i) any warming down after the conclusion of the match shall last for no longer than 15 minutes and for that purpose neither penalty area shall be used.

## Pitch Conditions

- G19 Each Club shall ensure that the field of play at its Registered Ground and at any other ground at which it is the Home Club for a League, League Cup or Play-Off Match is;
- a) smooth and in good condition and repair; and
  - b) equipped with an efficient and effective drainage system so as to minimize the chance of the pitch becoming unplayable due to flooding.
- G20 The Board may, without prejudice to any sanction that might be imposed on a Club for failure to comply with Rule G19 require the Club concerned to take such steps within such time and on such conditions as the Board shall specify, if the Board is not satisfied that the club concerned is complying or has complied in all respects with Rule G19.
- G21 Clubs will ensure that they have floodlights of sufficient quality to play competitive matches midweek throughout the season.

## H - THE LEAGUE COMPETITION RULES

- H1 The Competition will be known as The Scottish Lowland Football League. The Board may from time to time rename the Competition in terms of any sponsorship agreement or agreements which may be concluded.



- H2 The gross receipts of all League matches will be retained by the Club cast as the 'home' club for the fixture. The 'home' club will be responsible for the payment of any agreed rental to the club hosting the match if it is not at the ground of the home club. Such payment must be made within seven days of the match.
- H3 League positions will be decided on results of the Home and Away matches between the Clubs in membership, three points for a win, one point for a draw. Except as provided below regarding the final position of Guest Clubs, the club in top position will be declared Champion.
- In the event of two or more Clubs being equal in points, goal difference will decide the final position;
  - In the event of the points and goal difference being equal, the club scoring the most number of goals will decide the final position;
  - If the points, goal difference and goals scored are the same the final positions may, at the Board's sole discretion, be decided by Play-Off match(es) at venue(s) to be decided by the Board;
  - If a decision in a Play-Off Match has not been reached by the end of ninety (90) minutes, the winners will be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the system laid down by the International Football Association Board. The cost of Match Officials, Ground Rent, Catering etc, for the play-off will be met from the gate receipts and any surplus thereafter will accrue to the League;
  - Points awarded for matches involving Guest Clubs will be included in the calculation of positions in the league. The position of Guest Clubs will be disregarded when deciding final league positions. Specifically, a Guest Club shall not be the Champion Club.
- H4 If any Club in membership intimates their withdrawal or is expelled from the League Competition all games played by the Club will be declared null and void. Also if their delegate is a Board member they must retire.

## Fixtures

- H5 Clubs shall receive a fixture list from the Secretary. Fixtures will be cast between a date to be decided by the Board and 31st May in the succeeding year and Clubs will be required to fulfil fixtures between those dates.
- H6 Only Scottish Cup, South Region Challenge Cup and any other cup competition (at the discretion of the Board) shall have precedence over League fixtures.

## Abandoned Fixtures

- H7 In the event of any match being unfinished owing to fog or other causes over which neither Club has any control, the Board have the discretion to order the match to stand as a completed match or to be replayed for the full ninety (90) minutes.



## Registration of Players

- H8 Subject to Rule H10 below, all players must be registered for their Club by the Scottish FA.
- H9 To be eligible to play in matches held under the auspices of the League and for registration, a player must have attained the age of 16 years.
- H10 A “trialist” (an unregistered player or a player registered with a club playing under the jurisdiction of another body who is otherwise eligible and has received the relevant permissions to play) may play trial games in League competitions (excluding Cup Competitions other than League Cup group stage).
- H11 No trialist can play (*i.e.*, take part in the match as a player) more than five games in total per season for any one club in the League Competition or League Cup group stage and no Club may list in excess of four trialists in any one match.
- H12 Trialists must be named on the Team Lines and marked as Trialist with their address and date of birth.
- H13 Any player registered to a Member Club or registered to a Full Member of the Scottish FA whose registration is cancelled with the League Secretary or the Scottish FA or who is subject to a transfer between any combination of the aforementioned Clubs on or after April 1st cannot play for any other Club during the current season. Additionally, any player who is the subject of an international clearance application submitted on or after April 1st cannot be played in League Competitions in the current season.
- H14 It is the duty of a member Club or the Secretary to report any contravention of Rule H8 to H13 to the Board.

## Number of Player and Substitutes

- H15 A team shall consist of eleven players and is permitted to list up to a maximum of seven (7) substitutes of whom not more than three (3) may take part in the match. Where extra time is played each team:
- May use an additional substitution (whether or not the team has used its maximum number of substitutes)
  - Has one additional substitution opportunity (whether or not the team has used its maximum number of substitutes)
  - May additionally make substitutions in the period before the start of extra time or at half time in extra time.

If a team has not used its maximum number of substitutes or substitution opportunities, the unused substitutions and opportunities may be used in extra time. Where both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as a used substitution opportunity for each team.



## Team Lines

- H16 The Official Team Lines for matches in the Competition shall permit the listing of eleven players and up to a maximum of seven substitutes, and six technical personnel. The template of the Official Team Line shall be provided by the League. This template must be used and any club wishing to customise the template must obtain permission from the Secretary before the customised template is used
- H17 Not later than 45 minutes before the start of the match, each Club shall hand to the referee and to its opponent a duplicate of the Official Team Line. The Official Team Line shall contain accurate and complete details of the numbers, full player names (as registered with the Scottish FA) in relation to not more than 18 players, together with full names of the technical personnel to be seated within the technical area (subject to a maximum of 6 such technical personnel). It is the club's responsibility to ensure that all sections of the team line are completed in block capitals, and signed by the Secretary or other accredited official. Upon signature by the Secretary or other accredited official, such Official Team Line will be deemed to be complete and binding on the club concerned.
- a) The players named in the Official Team Line must be clearly shown to be commencing the match or designated as substitutes.
  - b) The numbers on the players' shirts must correspond with the numbers indicated on the Official Team Line. The goalkeepers and team captain must be identified.
  - c) Only three of the substitutes listed on the Official Team Line may take part in the match. A player who has been substituted may take no further part in the match.
  - d) Trialists must be listed on the Team Lines as per Rule H12.

## Replacement of players on the Official Team Line

- H18 If any of the players listed to start the match on the Official 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 on the Official Team Line as signed, so that the quota of substitutes is not reduced. During the match, five players may still be substituted.
- a) If for any reason changes require to be made to the Official Team Line (and the said changes are accepted by the match official) then the Club must notify its opponent and if appropriate the press immediately thereafter.
  - b) If any of the named substitutes listed on the Official Team Line is not able at the start of the match to be fielded due to unexpected physical incapacity or other extreme circumstance (which are explained to, and accepted by, the referee), he may only be replaced by an eligible player not originally listed on the Official Team Line as signed.



## Temporary Transfers / Loans

- H19 The temporary transfer of a player and his registration shall be permitted from and to clubs in membership of the SLFL and/or a football club in membership of any other League, providing the rules of such other League so permit.
- a) A club shall not during any part of a season have more than four players registered to it on the basis of temporary transfers.
  - b) On the expiry of the term or other termination of a temporary transfer, the registration of the player concerned shall automatically revert back to the transferor club.

## Admission Charges

- H20 The Home Club in its absolute discretion shall determine admission charges for League Games. In the event of a game being abandoned the admission charges will be the same as the original fixture unless the two clubs come to an amicable agreement.

## Replacement of Match Officials

- H21 In the event that any match official is unable to start or continue the match:
- a) If that official is the match referee, he/she will be replaced by Assistant Referee 1
  - b) If that official is an Assistant Referee (or an Assistant Referee replaces the Referee), that Assistant Referee may be replaced by any Qualified Referee in attendance at the match failing which he/she will be replaced by an official of the Home Club (or first named club in the event of the match being played on a neutral ground) acceptable to the Referee
  - c) Qualified referees may fulfil the full functions of the Assistant Referee under the Laws of the Game. Club Officials may only indicate when the ball is out of play.

## I – PYRAMID

- I1 A Pyramid Play-Off Competition shall take place each year and shall be played in accordance with Pyramid Play-Off Rules.



## Annex 1

### Decision Regarding Relegation

The “Established Number” will be sixteen or such other number as decided by the Board pursuant to rule B1

The number of clubs for the forthcoming season will be calculated as follows:

- Number of clubs completing the current season and eligible to continue in membership
  - PLUS any clubs received from the East / South / West leagues or the SPFL
  - MINUS and club promoted to the SPFL.

Number of clubs for forthcoming season	Actions to be taken
Less than the Established Number	No relegation of a current club Applications for membership to be considered
The Established Number	No relegation of a current club
The Established Number plus one	Relegation of the bottom club from those completing the current season
The Established Number plus two	Relegation of the bottom and second bottom club from those completing the current season

The following illustrative table is based on the Established Number being sixteen and would be varied to take account of an Established Number which was not equal to sixteen.



Scottish Lowland Football League  
Constitution and Rules  
Version 18 – updated 1 November 2021

Clubs finishing current season	Club promoted from E/S/W	Club relegated from SPFL	Club promoted to SPFL	Total	Action
16	0	0	1	15	Vacancy for 1 club
16	0	0	0	16	No relegation from SLFL
16	0	1	1	16	No relegation from SLFL
16	0	1	0	17	Bottom club finishing current season is relegated
16	1	0	1	16	No relegation from SLFL
16	1	0	0	17	Bottom club finishing current season is relegated
16	1	1	1	17	Bottom club finishing current season is relegated
16	1	1	0	18	Bottom 2 clubs finishing current season are relegated
15	0	0	1	14	Vacancy for 2 clubs
15	0	0	0	15	Vacancy for 1 club
15	0	1	1	15	Vacancy for 1 club
15	0	1	0	16	No relegation from SLFL
15	1	0	1	15	Vacancy for 1 club
15	1	0	0	16	No relegation from SLFL
15	1	1	1	16	No relegation from SLFL
15	1	1	0	17	Bottom club finishing current season is relegated
14	0	0	1	13	Vacancy for 3 clubs
14	0	0	0	14	Vacancy for 2 clubs
14	0	1	1	14	Vacancy for 2 clubs
14	0	1	0	15	Vacancy for 1 club
14	1	0	1	14	Vacancy for 2 clubs
14	1	0	0	15	Vacancy for 1 club
14	1	1	1	15	Vacancy for 1 club
14	1	1	0	16	No relegation from SLFL