



Scottish Lowland Football League Constitution and Rules

Version 25

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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. The League will operate two divisions, and these will be called Lowland League East and Lowland League West.
 - b) To conduct such other competitions as may be decided from time to time.
 - c) To conduct each season a Development League and Cup competitions between the Clubs in membership.

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 30th 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) **Cooperation Agreement** has the meaning given to "cooperation agreement" in the Scottish FA Club Cooperation Regulations;
 - f) **Cooperation Club** has the meaning given to "cooperation club" in the Scottish FA Club Cooperation Regulations;
 - g) **Cooperation List** has the meaning given to "cooperation list" in the Scottish FA Club Cooperation Regulations;
 - h) **Division/s** means Lowland League East and/or Lowland League West;
 - i) **EoSFL** means the East of Scotland Football League;



- j) **Ex officio** means a person by virtue of the office held but does not have the right to vote;
- k) **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;
- l) **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;
- m) **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;
- n) **Laws of the game** mean the laws of the game promulgated by the International Football Association Board from time to time;
- o) **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;
- p) **MFL** means the Midlands Football League;
- q) **Official Matches** means any fixture in a competition registered with the SLFL;
- r) **Parent Club** has the meaning given to “parent club” in the Scottish FA Club Cooperation Regulations;
- s) **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;
- t) **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;
- u) **Pyramid Play-Off Rules** means the rules of the Pyramid Play-Off Competition.
- v) **Qualifying Player** means a Player who is registered with a Parent Club and is entitled to play for a Cooperation Club, pursuant to the terms of a Cooperation Agreement, in accordance with the terms of these Rules, the Player Regulations and the Scottish FA Club Cooperation Regulations;
- w) **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;
- x) **Scottish FA Club Cooperation Regulations** means regulations adopted by the Scottish FA in relation to cooperation arrangements between Clubs, the current version of which is set out at Annex 2;



- y) **SFA** means the Scottish Football Association;
- z) **SLFL Candidate Club** is a Club which is a member of the East of Scotland Football League, the West of Scotland Football League, the Midlands Football League or the South of Scotland Football League, which may become eligible for promotion to the SLFL via the Play off system at the end of the season;
- aa) **SoSFL** means the South of Scotland Football League;
- bb) **SPFL** means the Scottish Professional Football League;
- cc) **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;
- dd) **The Scottish FA** means the Scottish Football Association Ltd;
- ee) **The Scottish FA Articles** means the Articles for the time being of the Scottish FA;
- ff) **WoSFL** means the West of Scotland Football league;
- gg) 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. From season 2028/29 onwards clubs should also have covered space for 500 spectators with at least 100 covered seats and floodlights which meet Scottish FA Club Licensing Bronze standard. Any existing member club which fails to achieve and thereafter maintain this by January 1 in each season will receive a nine-point immediate deduction unless a derogation is applied for at least 28 days before the January 1 deadline and is then granted by the League 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 From season 2026/27 onwards, the four clubs eligible for promotion into the League from the 'feeder Leagues', EoSFL, SoSFL, WoSFL or the MFL, are identified as follows:
- a) The club/s that gain promotion to the SLFL shall be the club that finishes **in first place** in the final standings of the Tier 6 feeder leagues immediately below the SLFL.
 - b) In accordance with this rule, the club/s with the **highest number of points** shall be deemed to have finished in first place. In the event of a tie on points, the eligible club will be the club deemed to have finished first in the feeder League rankings taking into account such criteria as goal difference, goals scored, play off winners, etc, as laid out in each feeder League's rules.
 - c) Only the club finishing in first place at the top of its feeder League table, as determined above, shall be eligible for promotion to the League. No other club shall be considered for promotion under any circumstances.
 - d) Only clubs finishing in first place in EoSFL, SoSFL, WoSFL or MFL that also meet all SLFL criteria will be promoted to the League. If a club finishing in first place in the EoSFL, SoSFL, WoSFL or MFL does not meet the criteria for membership they cannot be promoted to the SLFL.
 - e) MFL and EoSFL clubs are eligible for promotion to Lowland League East while WoSFL and SoSFL clubs are eligible for promotion to Lowland League West.

Relegation from the League

- B4 From season 2026/27 onwards, the number of **member** clubs for the forthcoming season in each of Lowland League East and Lowland League West will be calculated by adding to the number of clubs in membership at the end of the current season, any club that may be promoted from the EoSFL, SoSFL, WoSFL or Midlands League; 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 normal maximum of sixteen **member** clubs **per division** (or such other number as may be set by the Board) , the bottom two clubs from each of Lowland League East and Lowland League West 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, WoSFL and MFL prior to the start of each season. **Normally clubs will be relegated to the League which matches their geographic location as per the existing EoSFL, SoSFL, WoSFL or MFL geographic boundaries.** In the event that one of more of the Leagues involved in the meeting do not agree which league a club(s) shall be relegated into then the Scottish FA Board shall determine which of the EoSFL, SoSFL, MFL and WoSFL the club(s) in question shall be relegated into (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 the Established Number (currently thirty two (32)) having taken account of promotion and relegation as described in rules B3 and B4 above, applications for membership will be invited, **apart from for season 2026/27 unless the Board otherwise agrees**. 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 are not eligible to take part in any competition other than the League. Guest Clubs must sign a participation agreement that will set out the conditions of their involvement and such participation agreement must be approved by the board of directors of the Scottish FA before a Guest Club can participate in the League competition.

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 one e-mail address. 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.
- B19 A Club shall be entitled to apply to the League Secretary for the postponement of any League Match where five or more of its Players are unavailable through international selection and, following receipt of such an application, the League Secretary may postpone and rearrange the League Match.

Cup Competitions

- B20 Each Club shall compete in the Scottish Cup competition and South Region Cup competition in each season if eligible to do so.

Representative Games

- B21 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

- B22 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.
- B23 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

- B24 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.
- B25 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.



- B26 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. These fees will be paid in full and in advance of the season commencing.
- C2 At the discretion of the Board clubs may be required to pay a bond on admission into the League.
- C3 The Board may set different charges for Annual Subscription and Bond for Guest Clubs. These fees will be paid in full and in advance of the season commencing.
- C4 As at 31 January in each calendar year a Club and any SLFL Candidate Club must not have any Overdue Payables; see description of meaning of Overdue Payables in Rules C7 and C8, to other Football clubs and Football authorities as described in Rule C4.1, including, as a result of transfers undertaken up to and including that 31 January.
- C4.1 Overdue Payables to other Football clubs and/or Football authorities are those amounts due to:
- (i) Football clubs as a result of transfer activities, including training compensation and solidarity contributions as defined in the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, as well as any amount due upon fulfilment of certain conditions and any amounts due in respect of compensation for training and development, Compensation and Development Contribution or the like or equivalent in terms of the Articles, Rules and Regulations of the SLFL and/or Scottish FA;
 - (ii) any amount payable to a Home Club resulting from damage caused to the stadium of a Home Club by supporters of a Visiting Club at any Official Match; and
 - (iii) any Football authority, howsoever arising, including to the SLFL and/or the Scottish FA.
- C5 As at 31 January in each calendar year a Club and any SLFL Candidate Club must not have any Overdue Payables, see description of Overdue Payables in Rules C7 and C8, towards any of its Players, coaching or football management staff, including those formerly employed by the Club and any SLFL Candidate Club in such roles.
- C6 As at 31 January in each calendar year a Club and any SLFL Candidate Club must not have any Overdue Payables, see description of Overdue Payables in Rules C7 and C8, in respect of Tax Liabilities to HMRC as a result of contractual or legal obligations in respect of, related to or concerning that Club's and any SLFL Candidate Club's employees.



- C7 Payables are considered as overdue if they are not paid according to the agreed terms and where a payable arises by statutory or regulatory provision when overdue in terms of such provision.
- C8 Payables are not considered overdue, within the meaning of this rule, if the Club or any SLFL Candidate Club concerned is able to satisfy the Board that by and/or as at 31 January in the relevant calendar year, the Club or the SLFL Candidate Club has:
- a) paid the relevant amount in full;
 - b) concluded an agreement which has been accepted in writing by the creditor, to extend the due date for payment beyond the applicable due date and later than the relevant 31 January (NB: the fact that a creditor may not have requested payment of an amount due does not constitute an extension of the due date);
 - c) commenced on or prior to the relevant 31 January a legal claim to or at a competent court, tribunal, authority, the national or international football authorities or relevant arbitration tribunal contesting liability in relation to each relevant overdue payable. However, if the Board is satisfied, acting reasonably, that such claim has been brought or such proceedings have been opened for the sole or principal purpose of avoiding the time limits set out in this rule (i.e. in order to 'buy time') and/or that the Club or SLFL Candidate Club concerned is not otherwise acting in good faith and, in the case of a tax assessment and the like which the Club or SLFL Candidate Club concerned is obliged by law to pay whilst contesting same, on or prior to the relevant 31 January, the due amount has been so paid on or before the relevant 31 January, the relevant amount will still be considered an overdue payable;
 - d) has contested, on or prior to the relevant 31 January at or to a competent court, tribunal, authority, the national or international football authorities or relevant arbitration tribunal, a claim and/or assessment or the like which has been brought or proceedings which have been commenced, brought, raised or the equivalent against it by a creditor in respect of overdue payables and is able to demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the Board that it has established reasons for contesting the claims or proceedings which have been opened. However, if the Board consider the reasons for contesting the claim or proceedings which have been opened as manifestly unfounded and that the Club or SLFL Candidate Club concerned is otherwise acting in good faith, the amount will be considered as an overdue payable; and/or
 - e) is able to demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the Board that it has taken all reasonable measures to identify and pay the creditor club(s) in respect of training compensation and solidarity payments as defined by the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, and the SLFL Rules, and the Articles and Regulations of Scottish FA, in force from time to time.
- C9 Throughout each calendar year a Club and any SLFL Candidate Club must be, as regards all of its employees, in compliance with all applicable law in relation to PAYE, tax, expenses and benefits and the National Minimum Wage Regulations 2015 and/or any supplementary, variation or replacement regulations or other provisions in force from time to time. As at 31 January in each calendar year, the Club and the SLFL Candidate Club must have no sums due



to or in respect of any of its employees and former employees arising out of or connected with the said applicable PAYE, tax, expenses and benefits requirements and the relevant national minimum wage requirements except where such payment is not obliged to be paid on or before the relevant 31 January.

- C10 As at 31 January in each calendar year a Club and any SLFL Candidate Club must certify that no sums have been paid by it or by third parties as remuneration for playing activities to players registered with the Club or SLFL Candidate Club as Non-Contract Professionals or Amateurs other than actual expenses incurred by the player due to his playing activities.
- C11 By not later than 31 March in each year a Club and any SLFL Candidate Club must have sent to and had received by the Secretary, a fully completed declaration approved by the Board certifying that the Club or any SLFL Candidate Club, including its owner and operator, are in full compliance with each and all of the requirements of Rules C4-C10 or, if not in such full compliance, the full details of such non-compliance, full documentary explanation for and verification of and value. And the date or dates on such noncompliance is anticipated to be resolved and compliance achieved by the Club or the SLFL Candidate Club, as regards each such non-compliance.
- C12 Without prejudice to the terms of any of the other provisions of these Rules, where a Club or any SLFL Candidate Club:
- i) fails to provide the declaration required by Rule C11 to the Secretary by the required date or by any later date agreed to by the Board in its sole discretion; and/or
 - ii) provides such declaration and/or materials along with and/or in support or explanation of such declaration and which contains untrue and/or incorrect information and/or which is misleading in its terms,
 - iii) fails or unreasonably delays in the provision of such Material as may be required by the Board will be in breach of and shall fail to comply with these Rules.
- C13 Where a Club breaches rules C4-C12, they will face disciplinary action by the SLFL Board. This may encompass fines and/or up to a 15 points deduction to take effect in that Season, with a 5 points deduction being applied in the immediately following Season such that the relevant Club shall commence that immediately following Season in the SLFL on minus 5 points. SLFL Candidate Clubs in breach of these rules may also be deemed ineligible for promotion into the SLFL.

Bank Account

- C14 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

- C15 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

- C16 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 up to six (6) ordinary members elected by the member clubs of the League with no Club having more than one (1) representative on the Board. **It is desirable but not mandatory that at least two (2) members should be from clubs in each division of the SLFL.** 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. In the interest of good governance the Board may appoint a maximum of four independent Board Members, not affiliated to any League member, to join the Board at any time during the season. Such independent Board Members may contribute to Board discussions and sit on



any sub-committees formed but will not have a vote on any issues being decided with the exception of disciplinary subcommittees on which they will be required to vote if necessary.

- 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.
- D4 The Board shall have the authority to develop, adopt, and implement any such operational protocols, procedures, and operational measures as it considers necessary for the effective administration, integrity, safety, and fair conduct of the League. These protocols may be introduced at any time, shall take effect upon publication to the Member Clubs, and shall be binding on all participants unless otherwise specified by the Board. These protocols or procedures shall not impact upon any other league or competition and/or will not contradict or supersede any protocols/procedures set out by the Scottish FA.

Representative to the Scottish FA's Congress

- D5 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

- D6 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.

League Administration

- D7 The Secretary/League Administrator, fixture manager, competition secretary/administrator and any other administrative roles will be appointed by the Board and paid a monthly fee to be set by the SLFL Board. They 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/League Administrator of the Scottish Lowland Football League. All communications must be addressed to the Secretary or League Administrator, who will conduct the correspondence of the League and maintain League records. All administration appointments will be subject to the approval of the member clubs at a General Meeting.

Expenses

- D8 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

- D9 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. Amendments to the League Constitution and Rules sections: A2, B1 to B6 inclusive, C4-13 inclusive, D2, D4, E5, F1, H6 and Annex 1 - though require a 66% vote in favour by all League member clubs and a 66% vote in favour by member clubs in each division.

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 A minimum of 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 £250.00. In extreme circumstances this fine may be waived at the Boards discretion.

Annual General Meeting

- F4 The Annual General Meeting will be held between 15th May and 30th 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, a Special General Meeting summoned for this purpose or at a General Meeting summoned by the Board 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.
- F9 Reconstruction Process – Operative Provision
The provisions in Annex 3 (below) will come into effect in season 2025/26 in order to facilitate reconstruction of the Lowland League into two divisions in season 2026/27 – Lowland League East and Lowland League West. Inter alia this means that Rule B4 (Relegation from the League) is suspended for one year and will not apply in season 2025/26. Rule B3 (Promotion into the League) will likewise be suspended for one year and not apply in season 2025/26. Promotion and Relegation at the end of season 2025/26 will be governed by the provisions set out in Annex 3.

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 the club must demonstrate by an independent review, arranged by the Board and at the club's expense, be rated at entry level for 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 and specification 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 both participating clubs are in agreement that the pitch is unplayable. 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 conditions being severe enough for advice to be issued by the Met Office or Police Scotland not to travel on the grounds of health and safety for 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. If both clubs agree to the game being switched to a neutral venue, then must seek SLFL Board approval for such a change no later than 10am on the day of the match, or by 2pm for an evening match.
- 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 match officials 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.
 - a) In the event of two or more Clubs being equal in points, goal difference will decide the final position;
 - b) In the event of the points and goal difference being equal, the club scoring the most number of goals will decide the final position;
 - c) 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;
 - d) 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;
 - e) 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, including Guest 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 Confirmed as registered for their Club by the Scottish FA on the SFA Comet system in line with SFA Registration procedures. All Club Officials to be named on a club's Team Line must be registered on the Comet system and be Confirmed by the SFA.
- 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 may play trial games in Lowland League matches (excluding cup competitions other than League Cup Group stage). A "trialist" can either be: 1) a currently unregistered player who is otherwise eligible; or 2) a player registered with a club playing under the jurisdiction of another body outwith the Scottish Football Association Pyramid senior set up (viz. the Scottish Youth Football Association, the Scottish Welfare Football Association or the Scottish Amateur Football Association) who is otherwise eligible. His current club must have provided written permission for him to play to the Lowland League member club.
- 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 registered as a Trialist with the SFA, be named on the Comet Team Lines and marked as Trialist (T) on Comet Team Lines.
- 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. However in the case of a Goalkeeper position if a club has no recognised goalkeeper available after 1 April due to Injury or illness



(with medical certificate), Suspension or International call up, a club may sign a goalkeeper to cover this position either as a full registration/transfer or as a temporary transfer (loan) or may play a trialist goalkeeper after 1 April, subject to SLFL trialist regulations. A club may also take recourse to a 7 day emergency loan for a goalkeeper from a club in the SPFL, under SPFL rules.

- 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 five (5) may take part in the match. Each team has a maximum of three (3) substitution opportunities and may make additional substitutes at half-time. 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 and a club Doctor if they have one. The SFA's Comet system shall be used for the submission of all Team Lines. Only in very exceptional circumstances (primarily the unavailability of the SFA Comet system) can the Official Team Line be submitted by alternative means if accepted by the Match Official, viz., the template of the Official Team Line provided by the League as a back-up. Only this template can be used and if accepted by the Match Official a copy must also be provided to the opposition club immediately.
- H17 Not later than 60 minutes before the start of the match, each Club shall have submitted its Team Line electronically via Comet to the referee. The Official Comet Team Line shall contain accurate and complete details of the numbers, 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) plus the Club's playing colours for the match. It is the club's responsibility to ensure that all sections of the team line are completed, and submitted by the Secretary or



other accredited official. Upon submission by the Secretary or other accredited official and receipt by the Referee, such Official Comet 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 five 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 submitted on Comet.

Temporary Transfers / Loans / Cooperation Agreements

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) 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.
- b) The Board may on cause shown, at any time, on such conditions and for a period of not more than 14 days ("the Approval Period"), approve the emergency temporary transfer of a recognised goalkeeper for matches during the Approval Period.

A Club shall not, at any one time, have more than, in aggregate, six Players from Clubs and Scottish Football clubs who are either:



- (i) Registered with it on the basis of Temporary Transfers; or
- (ii) Qualifying Players under a Cooperation Agreement.

Of those six Players, a Club shall not have more than five Players from any one other Club at any one time. Of those five Players, at any one time, there shall be no more than three SPFL League Registered Players with it on the basis of Temporary Transfers from that Club or three Qualifying Players from that Club under a Cooperation Agreement.

Subject to these Rules, the Player Regulations and the terms of the Scottish FA Club Cooperation Regulations, for Season 2025/26 only, a Qualifying Player shall be eligible to Play for a Cooperation Club if:

- (i) he is SPFL League Registered with a Parent Club which has a Cooperation Agreement with the Cooperation Club; and
- (ii) the relevant Qualifying Player is listed on a Cooperation List under such Cooperation Agreement.

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 indicate when the ball is out of play.

I – STADIA / UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT

- I1 A Each Club shall provide technical areas in accordance with the Laws of the Game and FIFA.
- I2 No League Match or Play-Off Match shall take place at any stadium where the playing area is permanently covered or partially covered by a fixed or moveable roof without the prior written approval of the SLFL Board after consultation with the Clubs.



- 13 Any Club proposing to cover or partially cover its stadium with a fixed or moveable roof shall be required to submit outline plans to the SLFL Board and a copy of the planning application prior to such planning application being submitted to the appropriate authority.
- 14 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 Match or Play-Off Match:
- 14.1 the pitch shall only be used for warming up or warming down
- 14.2 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;
- 14.3 if portable goals are provided they shall be used for all goalkeeping drills other than crossing practice;
- 14.4 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;
- 14.5 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 groundsperson;
- 14.6 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 described in Rule 14.5 or as otherwise directed by the groundsperson;
- 14.7 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;
- 14.8 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; and
- 14.9 any warming down after the conclusion of the League Match or Play-Off Match shall last for no longer than 15 minutes and for that purpose neither penalty area shall be used.
- 15 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 Match or Play-Off Match is:-
- 15.1 smooth and in good condition and repair; and
- 15.2 equipped with an efficient and effective drainage system so that it cannot become unplayable due to flooding.
- 16 The Board may, without prejudice to any sanction that might be imposed on a Club for failure to comply with Rule 15, 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 15.



- 17 No Club shall play its Home matches at any ground other than its Registered Ground without first obtaining the written approval of the Board.
- 18 A Club which changes its ground must register its replacement ground with the SLFL Board.
- 19 All registered grounds and grounds at which League and League Cup Matches and Play-Off Matches are played must have floodlights that operate at least to the Entry Standard with respect to floodlighting as set out in The Scottish Football Association National Club Licensing Manual in force and as amended or supplemented from time to time.
- 110 If a Club owns its Registered Ground, itself or through a Group Undertaking, and wants to grant a right of occupation or tenure in its Registered Ground to any other party, it must obtain prior written approval from the SLFL Board. The prospective landlord Club must make a written application to the SLFL Board not later than 31st March in any year. The Board shall be entitled to require the prospective landlord Club to provide further information, explanations and documentation as the Board may in its sole discretion consider appropriate in relation to the nature of the proposed arrangement.
- 111 Where an approval is given in terms of Rule 110, then such approval shall apply to and shall only be effective for the period specified by the SLFL Board. If the SLFL Board does not specify any period, then any approval given in terms of Rule 110 shall only apply to and be effective for one Season immediately succeeding such approval being given.
- 112 Where an approval is given in terms of Rule 110, the Board may attach conditions to such approval as the Board may in its sole discretion consider appropriate and may impose further conditions during the period of occupation or tenure.
- 113 A person present at or in a stadium where an Official Match is being played engages in Unacceptable Conduct where their conduct is violent and/or disorderly.
- 114 Conduct is violent where there is (i) actual, attempted or threatened physical violence against a person or persons; or (ii) intentional damage to property.
- 115 Disorderly conduct includes:
- 115.1 conduct which stirs up or sustains or is likely or designed to stir up or sustain, hatred or ill will against or towards a group of persons based on their membership or presumed membership of a group defined by reference to a category mentioned in Rule H32 or against an individual who is or is presumed to be a member of such group;
- 115.2 using threatening, abusive or insulting words or conduct;
- 115.3 displaying any writing or other thing which is threatening, abusive or insulting; and
- 115.4 using words or conduct or displaying any writing or other thing which indicates support for, or affiliation to, or celebration of, or opposition to an organisation or group proscribed in terms of the Terrorism Act 2000
- 115.5 any incursion onto the field of play, or the pitch side area, other than as part of an emergency evacuation
- 115.6 the possession of or the discharging of any pyrotechnic device, smoke device, or similar item.



- I16 The categories referred to in Rule I15 are:-
- I16.1 female or male gender;
 - I16.2 colour, race, nationality (including citizenship) or ethnic or national origin;
 - I16.3 membership of a religious group or of a social or cultural group with a perceived religious affiliation;
 - I16.4 sexual orientation;
 - I16.5 transgender identity; and
 - I16.6 disability.
- I17 In Rule I16.3 religious group means a group of persons defined by reference to their religious belief or lack of religious belief, membership of or adherence to a church or religious organisation, support for the culture and traditions of a church or religious organisation and/or participation in activities associated with such a culture or such traditions.
- I18 In Rule I16.5 transgender identity means any one or more of transvestism, transsexualism, inter-sexuality or change of gender.
- I19 In Rule I16.6 disability means physical or mental impairment of any kind.
- I20 The Home Club in any Official Match must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable,
- I20.1 good order and security;
 - I20.2 that policies and procedures have been adopted and are implemented to prevent incidents of Unacceptable Conduct; and
 - I20.3 that any incidents of Unacceptable Conduct are effectively dealt with, all at its Stadium on the occasion of an Official Match
- I21 Each Club must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that:
- I21.1 its Players, officials, supporters and any person exercising a function for or connected with the Club do not engage in Unacceptable Conduct at a Stadium on the occasion of an Official Match;
 - I21.2 it identifies any of its supporters who engage in Unacceptable Conduct at an Official Match; and
 - I21.3 it takes proportionate disciplinary measures in respect of supporters so identified in terms of Rule I21.2.
- I22 Any failure by a Club to discharge a requirement to which it is subject by virtue of Rules I20 and/or I21 shall constitute a breach of these Rules.
- I23 In any proceedings in terms of the Rules against a Club in which it is alleged that there has been a failure by that Club to discharge a requirement to which it is subject by virtue of Rules I20 and/or I21 it shall be for the Club concerned to prove that it was not reasonably practicable to do more than was in fact done or (as the case may be) that there was no better practicable means than was in fact used to discharge such requirement. Account shall be



taken in such proceedings of the effect of decisions and actions of the local police, public authorities and other Club taking part in an Official Match, in determining whether the requirements of Rules I20 and/or I21 have been discharged.

- I24 The Board may from time to time issue and publish Guidance for Clubs on Unacceptable Conduct; any amendment to such approved guidance to be issued and published from time to time by the Board.
- I25 In any proceedings in terms of the Rules against a Club in which it is alleged that there has been a failure by that Club to discharge a requirement to which it is subject by virtue of Rules I20 and/or I21 a Disciplinary Panel shall when deciding whether such a requirement has been discharged, take into account whether the Club concerned has complied with any Guidance for Clubs on Unacceptable Conduct.
- I26 Proceedings in terms of the Rules against a Club in which it is alleged that there has been a failure by that Club to discharge a requirement to which it is subject by virtue of Rules I20 and/or I21 may only be commenced where the SLFL Board has received information from:-
- I26.1 the police;
 - I26.2 the Scottish FA acting on information received by it from the relevant Official Match referee or other match official;
 - I26.3 any representative of the SLFL attending the relevant Official Match on behalf of the Board;
 - I26.4 the other Club which took part in the relevant Official Match;
 - I26.5 a written complaint or other written communication which, in the opinion of the Board, provides grounds to believe that such a requirement may not have been discharged; and/or
 - I26.6 the SLFL Board has received or has been apprised of information which in the opinion of the SLFL Board, provides grounds to believe that such a requirement may not have been discharged and that the information is such that such proceedings are appropriate notwithstanding that a written complaint or other written communication has not been received from a person or party listed in Rules I26.1 to I26.4 (inclusive).
- I27 In the event that any damage shall be caused to the fabric of a Home Ground or Neutral Venue, including any fixtures and fittings and/or the pitch, by the supporters of the Visiting Club or, in the case of such a Neutral Venue, the supporters of either Club participating in the relevant match, on the occasion of an Official Match then the Visiting Club in the case of such damage to the fabric of the ground, of a Home Club or, as the case may be, the Club whose supporters causing or who have caused any such damage to a Neutral Venue, shall, if and only if directed by the SLFL Board and subject to the relevant Maximum Aggregate Amounts Payable set out in Rule I29, be obliged to compensate the Home Club, Neutral Venue owner or, where the SLFL Board has to any extent compensated or be obliged to compensate a Neutral Venue owner, the League, in the costs and/or expense and/or liability reasonably incurred or to be incurred by the Home Club, Neutral Venue owner and/or League in repairing and making good such damage.



128 If any dispute or difference shall arise between a Home Club and a Visiting Club or a Football club or between a Neutral Venue owner and either of the Clubs participating in the relevant match as regards any claim and/or liability for payment of compensation under and in terms of Rule 127 the Board, shall, upon application to the Board made by a Home Club, Visiting Club, Neutral Venue owner, Football club participating in the relevant match consider and adjudicate upon the matter. The determination of such dispute or difference and any determination made by the Board, shall, subject to any appeal to the Judicial Panel, be final and binding on each of the parties concerned.

129 The financial limits referred to in Rule 127 are as set out below in this Rule 129.

The “**Maximum Amount Payable**” specified in section A is the maximum aggregate amount which may be required to be individually paid by a Club for any and all damage occasioned by its supporters in the case of a Neutral Venue, during or relating to an Official Match, notwithstanding the number and timing of the incidents in which such damage has been caused by its supporters, to the fabric of the relevant ground.

The “**Maximum Amount Payable**” list in section B. are the maximum aggregate amounts of compensation which may be required to be paid individually by an Visiting Club for damage occasioned by its supporters to the fabric of an Away Ground during or relating to an Official Match.

A. SLFL Organised	Maximum Amount Payable
Neutral venue	
Competition Semi-Finals & Finals, Play-Off matches at Neutral venues etc	£2,000
B. League, League Cup, Development League	£1,000

J – PYRAMID

130 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 / Midlands 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 of 16	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 Established Number plus three	Relegation of the bottom and second bottom club from those completing the current season. The Number of member clubs in the Division for the forthcoming season shall increase to 17 with up to 3 clubs then being relegated at end of that season.

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



Clubs finishing current season	Club promoted from E/S/W/M	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
16	2	0	1	17	Bottom club finishing current season is relegated
16	2	0	0	18	Bottom 2 clubs finishing current season are relegated
16	2	1	1	18	Bottom 2 clubs finishing current season are relegated
16	2	1	0	*19	Bottom 2 clubs finishing current season are relegated
17	0	0	1	16	No relegation from SLFL
17	0	0	0	17	Bottom club finishing current season is relegated
17	0	1	1	17	Bottom club finishing current season is relegated
17	0	1	0	18	Bottom 2 clubs finishing current season are relegated
17	1	0	1	17	Bottom club finishing current season is relegated
17	1	0	0	18	Bottom 2 clubs finishing current season are relegated
17	1	1	1	18	Bottom 2 clubs finishing current season are relegated
17	1	1	0	19	Bottom 3 clubs finishing current season are relegated
17	2	0	1	18	Bottom 2 clubs finishing current season are relegated
17	2	0	0	19	Bottom 3 clubs finishing current season are relegated
17	2	1	1	19	Bottom 3 clubs finishing current season are relegated
17	2	1	0	*20	Bottom 3 clubs finishing current season are relegated

*19 and *20 – Relevant division will comprise 17 member clubs in forthcoming season in which one additional club will be relegated over and above the normal complement (i.e. up to 3 clubs could be relegated)

Any vacancy taking a Division's numbers below the norm of 16 will firstly be addressed by reducing the number of clubs relegated and then Rule B5 will be applied. However, in 2026/27 season a Division may run with less than 16 member clubs on the expectation that it should reach the 16 threshold by the following season.



ANNEX 2 - SCOTTISH FA CLUB COOPERATION REGULATIONS

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of these Regulations is to regulate matters relating to the entry into, and operation of, cooperation agreements, together with the rights of a Qualifying Player to play under the terms of any such cooperation agreement.

1.2 In these Regulations, unless expressly provided otherwise:

- (a) words and expressions which have particular meanings in the Articles and/or the Registration Procedures shall have the same meanings in these Regulations;
- (b) a reference to the Articles, the Registration Procedures or to any rule or regulation of the Scottish FA is a reference to the Articles, the Registration Procedures or such rule or regulation as in force from time to time, including any amendment, addition or re-enactment of or to the Articles, the Registration Procedures or to that rule or regulation that may be made by the Scottish FA from time to time;
- (c) a reference to a paragraph shall be to a paragraph of these Regulations;
- (d) words importing the singular only shall include the plural and vice versa;
- (e) words importing any gender shall include all genders;
- (f) references to persons include an individual, company, corporation, firm or partnership; and
- (g) references to "in writing" include the use of appropriate electronic media.

1.3 The headings in these Regulations are inserted for convenience only and shall not affect the construction of these Regulations.

1.4 These Regulations are adopted pursuant to the Articles and shall be effective as of 1 June 2025 (the “**Effective Date**”).

1.5 The provisions of these Regulations shall apply with effect from (and including) the Effective Date and shall automatically expire at the end of Season 2025/26, unless reenacted (with or without amendment) by the Scottish FA. The expiry of these Regulations shall not affect any breach of any provision of these Regulations which existed at or before the date of expiry.

2. DEFINITIONS

In these Regulations, the following words and expressions have the following meanings:



“Articles”	means the Articles of Association of the Scottish FA in force as at the Effective Date (as amended from time to time).
“cooperation agreement”	means an agreement concluded by a parent club and a cooperation club, pursuant to which players registered for the parent club are entitled to play for the cooperation club, in accordance with the terms of these Regulations.
“cooperation club”	means the club in one of the cooperation leagues which has entered into a cooperation agreement with a parent club, in accordance with the terms of these Regulations.
“cooperation leagues”	the Scottish Professional Football League Championship, the Scottish Professional Football League League 1, the Scottish Professional Football League League 2, the Scottish Highland Football League and the Scottish Lowland Football League.
“cooperation list”	means the list of Qualifying Players who are entitled to play for a cooperation club under the terms of a cooperation agreement, from time to time, in accordance with the terms of these Regulations.
“Effective Date”	has the meaning given to it in paragraph 1.4.
“match”	includes a match in any competition organised or promoted by the Scottish FA (including the Club Academy Scotland programme), the Scottish Professional Football League, the Scottish Highland Football League or the Scottish Lowland Football League and any other match played under the jurisdiction of the Scottish FA.
“parent club”	means the Scottish Professional Football League Premiership or Championship club which has entered into a cooperation agreement with a cooperation club, in accordance with the terms of these Regulations.



“Qualifying Player”	means a player born on or after 1 January 2005 who is registered with a parent club in accordance with the Registration Procedures (and any other applicable rules and regulations of the Scottish FA) and is eligible to play for the representative men’s teams of the Scottish FA, in each case as at the date such player is listed on a cooperation list in accordance with the terms of these Regulations.
“Registration Period”	has the meaning given to it in the Registration Procedures.
“Registration Procedures”	means the procedures promulgated by the Board from time to time in connection with the registration of players, Team Officials and Team Staff, and the licensing of Team Scouts, as well as the registration and/or licensing of any other persons referred to therein.
“these Regulations”	means these Scottish FA Club Cooperation Regulations, as amended, supplemented or replaced by the Board from time to time.
“Scottish FA”	means The Scottish Football Association Limited (Company Number SC005453) whose registered office is at Hampden Park, Glasgow G42 9AY.
“Scottish FA Comet Regulations”	means the regulations promulgated by the Board from time to time in connection with the use of Scottish FA Comet.
“working day”	means a day (other than a Saturday or Sunday) on which banks are open for normal banking business in Scotland.

3. COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

3.1 A club in the Scottish Professional Football League Premiership shall be entitled to enter into cooperation agreements as a parent club with clubs in each of the cooperation leagues, in accordance with the terms of these Regulations.

3.2 A club in the Scottish Professional Football League Championship shall be entitled to enter into cooperation agreements as a parent club with clubs in each of the cooperation leagues (other than the Scottish Professional Football League Championship), in accordance with the terms of these Regulations.

3.3 Subject to paragraph 3.4, a parent club shall be entitled to have a cooperation agreement with a club in each of the cooperation leagues (other than the Scottish Professional Football League Championship, where the parent club is a club in the Scottish Professional



Football League Championship), but shall not have a cooperation agreement with more than one club in each such cooperation league at the same time.

3.4 A parent club shall not be entitled to have a cooperation agreement with a club in any cooperation league in which the parent club has a competing club.

3.5 A cooperation club shall not be entitled to enter into a cooperation agreement with more than one parent club at the same time.

3.6 A parent club and a cooperation club shall be entitled to enter into a cooperation agreement at any time during Season 2025/26 after the Effective Date.

3.7 Cooperation agreements must be entered into in the form, and contain the terms, set out in Annex 1 to these Regulations. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the parties to a cooperation agreement shall be entitled to include such additional terms in a cooperation agreement as they shall agree, provided that in the event of there being or becoming any conflict or inconsistency between any such additional terms and any provision(s) of these Regulations (or any other applicable rules and regulations of the Scottish FA), the provision(s) of these Regulations (or other applicable rules and regulations of the Scottish FA, as the case may be) shall prevail and apply.

3.8 A copy of each cooperation agreement entered into between a parent club and a cooperation club (and any amendment thereto from time to time) shall be submitted to the Scottish FA by each of the parent club and the cooperation club which is party to such cooperation agreement via Scottish FA Comet within seven (7) days of the date the cooperation agreement is entered into and, in any event, prior to the cooperation list relative to such cooperation agreement being submitted to the Scottish FA in accordance with the terms of these Regulations.

3.9 Subject to paragraph 3.10, all cooperation agreements must be for a term of not less than the period until the first day of the next Registration Period and shall have a maximum term of one Season.

3.10 Notwithstanding the terms of paragraph 3.9, a parent club or a cooperation club may terminate any cooperation agreement which it is party to at any time during the term of such cooperation agreement immediately upon giving written notice of such termination to the other party to the cooperation agreement, provided that such notice must be served:

- (a) by 12pm on the Thursday before the other party's next match in which a Qualifying Player would be eligible to play for such other party, where such match is scheduled to take place on a Saturday or Sunday; or
- (b) by not later than 48 hours before the other party's next match in which a Qualifying Player would be eligible to play for such other party, where such match is scheduled to take place on a day other than a Saturday or Sunday.

3.11 Where a cooperation agreement is terminated in accordance with paragraph 3.10, the parent club which is party to such cooperation agreement shall notify



the Scottish FA of such termination via Scottish FA Comet within seven (7) days of the date of the termination.

- 3.12 Immediately upon the termination of a cooperation agreement, for any reason whatsoever, any player on the cooperation list relating to such cooperation agreement shall no longer be entitled to play for the relevant cooperation club.

4. COOPERATION LISTS

4.1 In order to be entitled to play for a cooperation club pursuant to a cooperation agreement entered into between such cooperation club and a parent club, a Qualifying Player must be:

- (a) listed on the cooperation list relating to such cooperation agreement; and
- (b) submitted to the Scottish FA by the cooperation club via Scottish FA Comet in accordance with the provisions of the Scottish FA Comet Regulations relating to the registration of players, together with a copy of the cooperation list on which such Qualifying Player is listed,

provided that the submission referred to in paragraph 4.1(b) shall only be made:

- (i) during a Registration Period; or
- (ii) during September and February in Season 2025/26, to the extent that the Rules and Regulations of the Scottish Professional Football League permit Clubs, for the time being entitled to participate in the Scottish Professional Football League Championship, League 1 or League 2, to Scottish FA Register and League Register a Player on the basis of a Temporary Transfer during such months. Capitalised terms used in this paragraph 4.1(ii) and not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings given to them in the Rules and Regulations of the Scottish Professional Football League in force as at the Effective Date (as amended from time to time).

4.2 A parent club is entitled to list, at any one time, a maximum of three (3) Qualifying Players on the cooperation list which relates to a cooperation agreement entered into by such parent club with a cooperation club under the terms of these Regulations.

4.3 Cooperation lists must be in the form set out in Annex 2 to these Regulations and must be signed by (i) each Qualifying Player listed therein to confirm his consent to play for the relevant cooperation club pursuant to the terms of the relevant cooperation agreement and (ii) the parent club to confirm that it is the current cooperation list relating to the relevant cooperation agreement.

4.4 A parent club is entitled, in its sole discretion, to remove a Qualifying Player from a cooperation list at any time immediately upon giving written notice of such removal to the relevant cooperation club, provided that such notice must be served:



- (a) by not later than 12pm on the Thursday before the cooperation club's next match in which such Qualifying Player would be eligible to play for such cooperation club, where such match is scheduled to take place on a Saturday or Sunday; or
- (b) by not later than 48 hours before the cooperation club's next match in which such Qualifying Player would be eligible to play for such cooperation club, where such match is scheduled to take place on a day other than a Saturday or Sunday,

whereupon the relevant Qualifying Player shall no longer be entitled to play for the cooperation club under the terms of the relevant cooperation agreement, but without prejudice to his entitlement to continue to play for the parent club.

- 4.5 A cooperation club shall terminate the entry of any Qualifying Player who is listed against such cooperation club on Scottish FA Comet within twenty-four (24) hours of (i) any such Qualifying Player being removed from the cooperation list relating to a cooperation agreement to which such cooperation club is party or (ii) the relevant cooperation agreement being terminated, in each case in accordance with the terms of these Regulations.
- 4.6 A parent club may replace any Qualifying Player removed from a cooperation list pursuant to paragraph 4.4 with another Qualifying Player, provided that any such replacement Qualifying Player shall only be added to the relevant cooperation list during the periods referred to, and otherwise in accordance with, paragraph 4.1 and the maximum number of Qualifying Players on a cooperation list shall not, at any one time, exceed three (3).
- 4.7 A Qualifying Player shall only be listed on one cooperation list at any one time, notwithstanding how many cooperation agreements the parent club with which he is registered is a party to.

5. QUALIFYING PLAYERS

5.1 During the term of a cooperation agreement, any Qualifying Player who is listed on the cooperation list relating to such cooperation agreement shall be entitled to play in matches for the parent club and the cooperation club which are party to such cooperation agreement, in accordance with the following provisions:

- (a) in the event that the parent club and the cooperation club both wish to play any such Qualifying Player in matches scheduled to take place on the same day and the Qualifying Player is for the time being with the cooperation club, the parent club shall determine which of such matches the Qualifying Player shall play in, provided that if the parent club determines that the relevant Qualifying Player shall play in the parent club's match, it must notify the cooperation club of such determination:
 - (i) by 12pm on the Thursday before the relevant match in which such Qualifying Player would be eligible to play for such cooperation club, where such match is scheduled to take place on a Saturday or Sunday; or



- (ii) by not later than 48 hours before the relevant match in which such Qualifying Player would be eligible to play for such cooperation club, where such match is scheduled to take place on a day other than a Saturday or Sunday;
 - (b) any such Qualifying Player shall only play for the senior team of the relevant cooperation club;
 - (c) in the event that a Qualifying Player plays in:
 - (i) thirty (30) minutes or less of a match (excluding stoppage time, extra-time and penalty kicks, if any) for a parent club or a cooperation club, such Qualifying Player shall only be entitled to play up to sixty (60) minutes in any other match (excluding stoppage time, extra-time and penalty kicks, if any) for the parent club or the cooperation club before the third day following the day on which the match in which the Qualifying Player played thirty (30) minutes or less ended;
 - (ii) thirty-one (31) to sixty (60) minutes of a match (excluding stoppage time, extra-time and penalty kicks, if any) for a parent club or a cooperation club, such Qualifying Player shall only be entitled to play up to forty-five (45) minutes in any other match (excluding stoppage time, extra-time and penalty kicks, if any) for the parent club or the cooperation club before the third day following the day on which the match in which the Qualifying Player played thirty-one (31) to sixty (60) minutes ended; or
 - (iii) more than sixty (60) minutes of a match (excluding stoppage time, extra-time and penalties, if any) for a parent club or a cooperation club, such Qualifying Player shall not play in any other match for the parent club or the cooperation club until at least the third day following the day on which the match in which the Qualifying Player played in ended,

provided that any breach of this paragraph 5.1(c) shall not affect the eligibility of the relevant Qualifying Player to play in any match for the parent club or the cooperation club, but without prejudice to any other penalty or sanction available for such breach; and
 - (d) in the event that a Qualifying Player who is listed on a cooperation list in accordance with the terms of these Regulations has not played at least fifteen (15) minutes (including extra-time, if any, but excluding stoppage time and penalty kicks, if any) in not less than five (5) matches for the cooperation club to which such cooperation list applies up to (and including) 31 March in a Season, such cooperation club shall terminate the entry of such Qualifying Player against such cooperation club on Scottish FA Comet by 00:01 on 1 April in such Season and such Qualifying Player shall not be entitled to play for the cooperation club after 31 March in such Season.
- 5.2 Any playing sanction incurred by a Qualifying Player under the Disciplinary Procedures shall be served by such Qualifying Player in the relevant match(es) of



the club with which he incurred such sanction, in accordance with the terms of the Judicial Panel Protocol.

- 5.3 The parent club shall remain responsible for all obligations (including financial obligations) owed to a Qualifying Player under his contract with such parent club, and the cooperation club shall bear no responsibility for any such obligations. Without prejudice to the foregoing generality, the parent club shall continue to pay all remuneration and other financial obligations due to a Qualifying Player, notwithstanding that he may play for a cooperation club pursuant to a cooperation agreement during the term of such Qualifying Player's contract with such parent club.
- 5.4 A Qualifying Player playing for a cooperation club under a cooperation agreement shall not be considered to be a transfer (permanent or temporary) of such Qualifying Player to such cooperation club under the Registration Procedures or any other rules and regulations of the Scottish FA.

6. NOTICE

6.1 In exceptional circumstances and/or where it is not possible to submit any information or documentation required to be submitted under these Regulations to the Scottish FA utilising Scottish FA Comet, hard copies of the relevant information or documentation (as the case may be) shall be submitted to the Scottish FA at Hampden Park, Glasgow G42 9AY or registrations@scottishfa.co.uk, in each case marked for the attention of "Registrations Department".

6.2 Save where these Regulations state that information or documentation is to be submitted via Scottish FA Comet (and subject to paragraph 6.1 in that regard), information, documentation or notices in respect of these Regulations shall be delivered by:

- (a) first class ordinary or recorded or registered delivery post;
- (b) hand delivery or courier;
- (c) email to an intimated email address; or (d) any combination of the above.

6.3 Unless provided otherwise in these Regulations, information, documentation or notices shall be deemed to have been delivered:

- (a) if sent by recorded delivery or registered first class post, and upon production of evidence of posting by recorded or registered delivery, on the day after posting;
- (b) if sent by hand or by courier, on the date of delivery upon evidence of delivery by hand or courier; or
- (c) if sent by email, and upon evidence of sending by email, on the day on which the email was sent.

6.4 Where a given number of clear days' notice is required to be given under these Regulations, neither the day for which notice is given nor the day of service shall be included in such number of clear days.



7. BREACH OF THESE REGULATIONS

7.1 It shall be a breach of these Regulations if any club fails to comply with the provisions of these Regulations or uses cooperation agreements in any manner contrary to the terms of these Regulations.

7.2 The Judicial Panel shall have jurisdiction, subject to the terms of the Judicial Panel Protocol, to deal with any alleged breach of these Regulations.

8. APPLICABLE LAW

These Regulations, their subject matter and their formation (and any non-contractual disputes or claims) are governed by the law of Scotland.

March 2025



FORM OF COOPERATION AGREEMENT

This cooperation agreement (this “**Agreement**”) is made on [*insert date*] 20[●] **between:**

- (1) [*insert name of Parent Club*] incorporated and registered in Scotland with company number SC[●] whose registered office is at [*insert registered office address*] (the “**Parent Club**”); and
- (2) [*insert name of Cooperation Club*] incorporated and registered in Scotland with company number SC[●] whose registered office is at [*insert registered office address*] (the “**Cooperation Club**”), each a “**Party**”

and together the “**Parties**”.

Whereas:

The Parent Club has agreed to provide the services of the Qualifying Players as footballers to the Cooperation Club in accordance with the terms of the Scottish FA Club Cooperation Regulations and this Agreement.

It is hereby agreed as follows:

1. Definitions and interpretation

1.1 In addition to terms defined elsewhere in this Agreement, the following definitions shall apply in this Agreement:

“**Cooperation List**” means the list of Qualifying Players who are entitled to play for the Cooperation Club under the terms of this Agreement, from time to time, in accordance with the terms of the Scottish FA Club Cooperation Regulations;

“**FIFA RSTP**” means the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players in force as at the date of this Agreement, as such may be amended by FIFA from time to time;

“**Qualifying Player**” means a player born on or after 1 January 2025 who is registered with the Parent Club in accordance with the Scottish FA Registration Procedures (and any other applicable rules and regulations of the Scottish FA) and is eligible to play for the representative men’s teams of the Scottish FA, in each case as at the date such player is listed on a Cooperation List in accordance with the terms of the Scottish FA Club Cooperation Regulations;

“**Scottish FA**” means The Scottish Football Association Limited (Company Number SC005453) whose registered office is at Hampden Park, Glasgow G42 9AY;



“Scottish FA Articles” means the articles of association of the Scottish FA in force as at the date of this Agreement (as amended from time to time);

“Scottish FA Club Cooperation Regulations” means the regulations promulgated by the board of directors of the Scottish FA from time to time in connection with the entry into, and operation of, cooperation agreements;

“Scottish FA Registration Procedures” means the procedures promulgated by the board of directors of the Scottish FA from time to time in connection with the registration of players and any other persons referred to therein;

“Scottish Professional Football League” means the combination of association football clubs known as The Scottish Professional Football League, operating under and administered and managed by The Scottish Professional Football League Limited (Company Number SC175364) whose registered office is at Hampden Park, Glasgow G42 9DE, and any successor thereto from time to time; and

“working day” means a day (other than a Saturday or Sunday) on which banks are open for normal banking business in Scotland.

- 1.2 The headings in this Agreement shall not affect the interpretation of this Agreement.
- 1.3 This Agreement shall be binding on, and enure to the benefit of, the Parties and their respective personal representatives, successors and permitted assigns, and references to any Party shall include that Party's personal representatives, successors and permitted assigns.
- 1.4 References in this Agreement to Clauses are to the clauses of this Agreement.
- 1.5 Any words in this Agreement following the term **“including”** 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.

2. Commencement and duration

This Agreement shall commence on the date of this Agreement, as evidenced by the date at the start of this Agreement (the **“Commencement Date”**), and shall continue, unless terminated earlier in accordance with Clause 6, until [*insert date not earlier than the first day of the next Registration Period and not later than the last date of the Season*] (the **“Term”**), when it shall terminate automatically without notice.

3. Provision of services

- 3.1 The Parent Club agrees to provide the services of each of the Qualifying Players listed in the Cooperation List to the Cooperation Club as a footballer for the duration of the Term, subject to the terms of the Scottish FA Club Cooperation Regulations and this Agreement.



3.2 The Parent Club shall not be in breach of its obligation to provide any Qualifying Player to the Cooperation Club during the Term by reason of such Qualifying Player being:

- (a) unable to play on medical grounds; or
- (b) absent on any annual leave afforded to the Qualifying Player by the Parent Club during the Term.

4. Parent Club Obligations

4.1 During the Term, the Parent Club shall remain responsible for all obligations owed to a Qualifying Player under his contract with the Parent Club, and the Cooperation Club shall bear no responsibility for any such obligations. Without prejudice to the foregoing generality, during the Term, the Parent Club shall continue to pay all remuneration and other financial obligations due to a Qualifying Player under his contract with the Parent Club, notwithstanding that such Qualifying Player may play for the Cooperation Club pursuant to this Agreement during the term of such Qualifying Player's contract with the Parent Club.

4.2 The Parent Club shall be solely responsible, without any contribution from the Cooperation Club whatsoever, for any compensation which may be payable to any other football club in respect of the provision of the services as a footballer of a Qualifying Player to the Cooperation Club under this Agreement during the Term, including pursuant to the Scottish FA Registration Procedures or the FIFA RSTP.

5. Cooperation Club Obligations

5.1 The Cooperation Club shall ensure that each Qualifying Player has available to him, whilst engaged in any football activities for the Cooperation Club during the Term, appropriate medical and physiotherapy facilities.

5.2 The Cooperation Club shall notify the Parent Club as soon as reasonably practicable after the Cooperation Club becomes aware of any injury suffered by a Qualifying Player whilst with the Cooperation Club during the Term and, save in a medical emergency, shall not initiate any treatment options for such Qualifying Player without first discussing and agreeing them with the Parent Club's medical team.

5.3 The Cooperation Club agrees that it shall have no claim of any nature whatsoever in respect of a Qualifying Player's registration, including pursuant to Annex 8 (Entitlement to Compensation) to the Scottish FA Registration Procedures, or Article 20 (Training Compensation) or Article 21 (Solidarity) of the FIFA RSTP. Any claim or right to payment under the aforementioned provisions in respect of the Term shall accrue solely for the benefit of the Parent Club, and to the extent that any such claim or right to payment shall accrue or be deemed to have accrued to the Cooperation Club, it is hereby unconditionally and irrevocably waived by the Cooperation Club.



5.4 If, notwithstanding the terms of Clause 5.3, the Cooperation Club shall receive any payment in respect of a Qualifying Player's registration, it shall pay the entire amount of such payment (without deduction or set-off) to the Parent Club as soon as reasonably practicable (and, in any event, within ten (10) working days) after receipt by the Cooperation Club of the same.

6. Termination

6.1 Notwithstanding the terms of Clause 2, either Party may terminate this Agreement at any time during the Term immediately upon giving written notice of such termination to the other Party, provided that such notice must be served:

- (a) by 12pm on the Thursday before the other Party's next match in which a Qualifying Player would be eligible to play for such other Party, where such match is scheduled to take place on a Saturday or Sunday; or
- (b) by not later than 48 hours before the other Party's next match in which a Qualifying Player would be eligible to play for such other Party, where such match is scheduled to take place on a day other than a Saturday or Sunday.

6.2 Without affecting any other right or remedy available to it, either Party may terminate this Agreement with immediate effect by giving notice to the other Party if:

- (a) the other Party commits a material breach of any term of this Agreement and (if such breach is remediable) fails to remedy that breach within a period of fourteen days after being notified to do so;
- (b) the other Party repeatedly breaches any of the terms of this Agreement in such a manner as to reasonably justify the opinion that its conduct is inconsistent with it having the intention or ability to give effect to the terms of this Agreement; or
- (c) the other Party suffers an insolvency event (as defined in the Scottish FA Articles).

6.3 Termination or expiry of this Agreement shall not affect any rights, remedies, obligations or liabilities of the Parties that have accrued up to the date of termination or expiry, including the right to claim damages for any breach of this Agreement that existed at or before the date of termination or expiry.

7. Warranty

Each Party warrants to the other that it has taken all necessary actions and has all requisite power and authority to enter into and perform this Agreement, and that this Agreement constitutes (or will constitute when executed) valid, legal and binding obligations on that Party in accordance with its terms.



8. Assignment

Neither Party shall assign, transfer, mortgage, charge, subcontract, delegate, declare a trust over or deal in any other manner with any of its rights and obligations under this Agreement.

9. Confidentiality

Each Party undertakes that it shall not at any time disclose the terms of this Agreement to any person without the prior written consent of the other Party, save that each Party may disclose the terms of this Agreement:

- (a) to its employees, officers and professional advisers, provided that it shall ensure that its employees, officers and professional advisers to whom it discloses the terms of this Agreement comply with this Clause 9; and
- (b) as may be required by law, a court of competent jurisdiction or any governmental or regulatory authority, including the Scottish FA.

10. Entire agreement

This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties and supersedes and extinguishes all previous agreements, promises, assurances, warranties, representations and understandings between them, whether written or oral, relating to its subject matter.

11. Variation

This Agreement shall not be varied or supplemented, except in writing and signed by the Parties (or their authorised representatives).

12. No partnership or agency

Nothing in this Agreement is intended to, or shall be deemed to, establish any partnership or joint venture between any of the Parties, constitute any Party the agent of another Party, or authorise any Party to make or enter into any commitments for or on behalf of any other Party.

13. Notices

13.1 Any notice given to a Party under or in connection with this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be:

- (a) delivered by hand or by pre-paid first-class post or other next working day delivery service providing proof of postage at its registered office; or (b) sent by email to the following address:



(i) Parent Club: **[insert email address]**; or (ii)

Cooperation Club: **[insert email address]**.

13.2 Any notice shall be deemed to have been received:

- (a) if delivered by hand, at the time the notice is left at the registered office;
- (b) if sent by pre-paid first-class post or other next working day delivery service providing proof of postage, at 9.00am on the second working day after posting; or
- (c) if sent by email, at the time of transmission, or, if this time falls outside business hours in the place of receipt, when business hours resume. In this Clause 13.2(c), business hours means 9.00am to 5.00pm on a working day.

14. Counterparts

14.1 This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts and by each Party in separate counterparts. Each counterpart, when executed and delivered, shall constitute a duplicate original, but all the counterparts shall together constitute the one agreement.

Delivery of a counterpart by email transmission shall be an effective mode of delivery.

14.2 No counterpart shall be effective until each Party has executed and delivered at least one executed counterpart. Delivery will take place when the date of delivery is agreed between the Parties after execution of this Agreement, as evidenced by the date at the start of this Agreement.

14.3 Where not executed in counterparts, this Agreement shall take effect after its execution upon the date agreed between the Parties, as evidenced by the date at the start of this Agreement.

15. Third party rights

Unless it expressly states otherwise, this Agreement does not give rise to any rights under the Contracts (Third Party Rights) (Scotland) Act 2017 to enforce any term of this Agreement.

16. Governing law

This Agreement and any dispute or claim (including non-contractual disputes or claims) arising out of or in connection with it or its subject matter or formation shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the law of Scotland and all applicable rules and regulations of the Scottish FA and the Scottish Professional Football League.

17. Dispute resolution



17.1 Any dispute or claim (including non-contractual disputes or claims) arising out of or in connection with this Agreement or its subject matter or formation shall be referred to and finally resolved by arbitration under Article 99 of the Scottish FA Articles, the terms of which Article are deemed to be incorporated by reference into this Clause.

17.2 To the extent that the Scottish FA has no jurisdiction to hear any dispute or claim (including non-contractual disputes or claims) arising out of or in connection with this Agreement or its subject matter or formation, each Party irrevocably agrees that the courts of Scotland shall have exclusive jurisdiction to settle any such dispute or claim.

In witness whereof this Agreement, consisting of this and the preceding [6] pages, has been executed by the Parties as follows:

Signed for and on behalf of **[insert name of Parent Club]**

by Director / Authorised Signatory _____

at on in the presence of:

Witness Signature: _____

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Signed for and on behalf of **[insert name of Cooperation Club]**

by Director / Authorised Signatory _____

at on in the presence of:

Witness Signature: _____

Full Name: _____

Address: _____



ANNEX 2 – FORM OF COOPERATION LIST

Cooperation List relative to Cooperation Agreement between [*insert name of parent club*] (the “**Parent Club**”) and [*insert name of cooperation club*] (the “**Cooperation Club**”) dated [*insert date*] 20[●] (the “**Cooperation Agreement**”).

Full name of player	Date of birth	Comet ID

I, the aforementioned player, hereby confirm that I have been provided with a copy of the Cooperation Agreement and consent to play for the Cooperation Club pursuant to and in accordance with the terms of the Cooperation Agreement, which I agree to be bound by, comply with and subject to.

Player Signature: _____ Date: _____

Full name of player	Date of birth	Comet ID

I, the aforementioned player, hereby confirm that I have been provided with a copy of the Cooperation Agreement and consent to play for the Cooperation Club pursuant to and in accordance with the terms of the Cooperation Agreement, which I agree to be bound by, comply with and subject to.

Player Signature: _____ Date: _____

Full name of player	Date of birth	Comet ID

I, the aforementioned player, hereby confirm that I have been provided with a copy of the Cooperation Agreement and consent to play for the Cooperation Club pursuant to and in accordance with the terms of the Cooperation Agreement, which I agree to be bound by, comply with and subject to.



Player Signature: _____ Date: _____

We, the Parent Club, hereby confirm that the foregoing is the current Cooperation List relative
the Cooperation Agreement.

Signature: _____ (Authorised Signatory)

Full Name: _____

Date: _____



ANNEX 3 - RECONSTRUCTION

The PWG membership recently confirmed that it wished the Lowland League to govern the new East and West Lowland Leagues from season 2026/27. Subsequently, Lowland League member clubs voted 12-1 in favour of the new Lowland League set up coming into force from season 2026/27 and also 12-1 in favour of tier 6 champion clubs being automatically promoted to relevant Lowland League from 2026/27, as long as they met the eligibility requirements which are currently an entry level SFA license and compliance with the Lowland League's Financial Fair Play rules.

Thus 2025/26 will be a 'transition season' with reconstruction to come into full effect in season 2026/27. Member clubs are now required to agree to the reconstruction process which will be put in place. The reconstruction proposal is largely framed around the discussions and negotiations involving our own representative/s at the PWG under the Chairmanship of the SFA.

Proposed SLFL Reconstruction Process May 2025

- 1.) From season 2026/27 onwards the Lowland League will extend and amend its remit so as to operate two Tier 5 Leagues - a Lowland League East and a Lowland League West. On implementation each league will potentially consist of 16 full member clubs.
- 2.) The tier 6 leagues that will sit below the Lowland League East will be the East of Scotland Football League and the Midlands Football League.

The tier 6 leagues that will sit below the Lowland League West will be the South of Scotland Football League and the West of Scotland Football League.
- 3.) From the end of Season 2026/27 the Champions of each of the 4 tier 6 Leagues will be automatically promoted, with the proviso they meet the SLFL entry criteria (currently entry level SFA license and satisfy FFP rules).
- 4.) If the current Guest Clubs invoke their option right to participate in the Lowland League in season 2026/27 they would continue as Guest Clubs and would be club 17 in each SLFL League.
- 5.) Lowland League East and Lowland League West membership will be based on the current geographical footprint of their respective tier 6 feeder leagues.
- 6.) There will be no relegation from the SLFL for any club at the end of season 2025/26. Thus relegation is suspended for this season.
- 7.) At the close of season 2025/26, the existing Lowland League clubs will form the core memberships of the East and West Leagues (plus potentially SPFL Club 42 and club/s moving from Highland League as appropriate). Additional clubs will be



moved up to tier 5 to fill the 16 member places in each of the Lowland Leagues East and West.

- 8.) No clubs below tier 6 will be eligible for this move to tier 5. To be clear the ineligible clubs would include any Tier 6 clubs who would normally be relegated under their League's existing rules (e.g. the clubs finishing in the last 3 places in the East of Scotland Premier and West of Scotland Premier Leagues in 2025/26) and Tier 7 clubs who win promotion at the end of 2025/26. If there are initially insufficient eligible clubs to meet the 16 club level – the relevant League will run with less members until future ventilation fully populates the League.
- 9.) The initial process for filling these Leagues will be in order as follows:
 - Existing Lowland League clubs split geographically.
 - Any club relegated from the SPFL as Club 42 will be allocated an appropriate place in either the Lowland League East or Lowland League West.
 - Any club in the Highland League which falls within the revised geographic boundary of the Lowland League will be allocated an appropriate place in Lowland League East.
 - Clubs from Tier 6 as per below.

WEST: After PWG discussions and dialogue between the two Leagues, it has now been intimated to the Lowland League that an agreement has been reached between the WoSFL and the SoSFL to allocate prospective places as follows:

- SoSFL will be allocated 2 places as a cap at that level will apply at their request, and these will be filled by their two highest placed qualifying licensed clubs in 2025/26 which meet the FFP criteria.
- WoSFL – will be allocated the remaining places and these will be filled by their highest placed qualifying licensed clubs which meet the FFP criteria.

EAST: Again following PWG discussions and dialogue between the two leagues, it has been intimated to the Lowland League that an agreement has been reached between the EoSFL and the MFL to allocate prospective places on an equal numerical basis:

Allocation will be in the following order for Licensed clubs meeting the FFP criteria.

- Highest placed eligible club from each feeder league, then second highest placed eligible club from each feeder league, and the pattern thereafter repeats until all places are allocated

As aforementioned, this process is used until all or any additional places in Lowland League East are filled. If two clubs are tied in respect of their eligibility then the Lowland League Board will require these clubs to play off.