# STANDARD CODE OF RULES (SCOR) CHANGES – 2022-2023 SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

| **No.** | **RULE** | **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS** | **RATIONALE** |
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|  | Rule 1  Definition of “Scholarship” | “Scholarship” means a Scholarship as ~~set out in Rule C3.1.1~~ defined in ~~of the rules of~~ The FA rules. | Updated reference. |
|  | Rule 2.E | Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the Competition including, but not limited to, ~~Charter Standard~~ England Football Accredited and RESPECT programmes. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. | Charter Standard has changed its name to England Football Accreditation. |
|  | Rule 4.A | Applications by Clubs for admission to the Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same Club must be made in writing to the Secretary *by [ ]* and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee for each Team as set out in the Fees Tariff, which shall be returned in the event of non-election. | This amendment gives the Competition the option to provide a deadline to Club for submission of written applications for admission. |
|  | Rule 6.L | The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the AGM or SGM called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Playing Season, subject to the provisions of the National League System Regulations or Women’s Football Pyramid Regulations (which shall take precedence if applicable). | Both the National League System Regulations and the Women’s Football Pyramid Regulations contain provisions of potential relevance to the provision of SCOR which provides for the Management Committee to fill a vacancy in the membership of the Competition. For example, Regulation 7(3) of the Women’s Football Pyramid Regulations sets out the circumstances in which a League may seek approval to elect a Club to the membership of that League. The proposed amendment therefore ensures that Competitions using the Standard Code of Rules do not adopt rules that conflict with other applicable Regulations. |
|  | Rule 8.I | Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM, but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a Club (see Rule 8.G). | To clarify who can vote at an AGM and in what capacity. |
|  | Rule 9.F | Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all SGMs, but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a Club (see Rule 9.D). | To clarify who can vote at an SGM and in what capacity. |
|  | Rule 14 | Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM or at an SGM specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 9. Any alteration made during the Playing Season to these Rules shall not take effect until the following Playing Season, except in exceptional circumstances where approved by Sanctioning Authority and The FA. | This amendment is needed to give flexibility to Competitions to amend their rules in exceptional circumstances (such as a pandemic). However, such amendments must still be approved by the relevant Sanctioning Authority and The FA. |
|  | Rule 18.B | 18.B   1. Contract players are not permitted in this Competition with the exception of those Players who are registered under Contract with the same Club who have a team operating at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System, or Tiers 1-4 of the Women Pyramid System. 2. It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any Player registered to the Club has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any Player aged 10 and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland. 3. Each team must have at least [ ] Players registered [ ] days before the start of each Playing Season. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. 4. In the event of a Non Contract Player changing his status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, or with a Club in another Competition their registration as a Non Contract Player will automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 18.B.1. | The amendment at 18.B.1 aligns the approach taken in the Women’s game (where some contract players exist at Tiers 3 and 4) with that taken in the Men’s game.  The text at 18.B.4 is not new – it has been moved to this new location from 18.H (fourth paragraph). This change has no substantive effect but is designed to make the rules easier to follow. |
|  | 18.C | A Player that owes a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations) shall be permitted to register for a Club but ~~[~~will~~/may]~~ be suspended from football activities if the Player does not comply with the terms of the Football Debt Recovery Regulations in respect of that Football Debt. | This amendment is necessary to reflect the fact that the Football Debt Recovery Regulations do not afford discretion to Affiliated Associations as regards the suspension of players who failure to comply with the terms of those Regulations. |
|  | 18.F | It shall be a breach of Rule for a Player to:-   1. Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred. 2. Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season except for the purpose of a transfer, or where the Competition adopts Rule 18.P. 3. Submit a signed registration form as per Rule 18 A.2 or submit a registration through the Player Registration System that the Player had willfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.   Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. | Amendment reflects introduction of new Rule 18.P. |
|  | 18.H | Subject to compliance with FA r~~R~~ule C~~2(a)~~ when a Club wishes to register a player who is already registered with another club it shall submit a transfer notification to the Competition via the Player Registration System. A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff [will/may] be required.  Such transfer shall be referred by the Competition to the club for which the player is registered. Should this club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Competition and to the player concerned within 3 days of receipt of the notification. Upon receipt of the club’s consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within 3 days, the Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date or [ ] days after receipt of such transfer.  In the event of an objection to a transfer the matter shall be referred to the Management Committee for a decision.  ~~In the event of a Non Contract Player without a written contract changing his status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, another Club in the Competition or with a club in another competition their registration as a Non Contract Player will automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 18.B.1.~~ | The amendment to the first paragraph reflects the change in the numbering of Rule C.  The fourth paragraph is to be moved into 18.B.1 as described above. |
|  | 18.P (new rule) | *If a Club wishes to cancel a Player’s registration within the Competition, it must make a request via The FA’s electronic player registration system giving the reasons for the request. The Competition may either approve or decline the request.*  *If a Player’s registration is cancelled he/she will not be eligible to re-register in the Competition for a period of [x] days from the date of cancellation.* | OPTIONAL RULE:  This reflects the ability of a Club to cancel a Player’s registration via The FA’s electronic systems subject to the consent of the Competition. Competitions may specify their own timeframe for a Player whose registration has been cancelled to re-register. |
|  | 20.A | All Competition Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board.  Clubs must take all reasonable precautions to keep their Grounds in a playable condition. All Competition Matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Management Committee. If through any fault of the home Team a match has to be replayed, the Management Committee shall have power to order the venue to be changed.  The Management Committee shall have power to decide whether a pitch and/or facilities are suitable for Competition Matches and to order the Club concerned to play its Competition Match(es) on another ground.  Football Turf Pitches (3G) are allowed in this Competition provided they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA’s Register of Football Turf Pitches. All Football Turf Pitches used must be tested (by a FIFA accredited test institute) every three years and the results passed to The FA. The FA will give a decision on the suitability for use and add the pitch to the Register.  The home Club is also responsible for advising Participants of footwear requirements when confirming match arrangements in accordance with Rule 20(C).  Within the National League System (“NLS”) and Regional NLS Feeder Leagues, all Competition Matches shall have a duration of 90 minutes. All other Competition Matches ~~outside of the NLS~~ shall have duration of 90 minutes unless a shorter time (not less than sixty (60) minutes) is mutually arranged by the two Clubs in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves. Two matches involving the same two Teams can be played on the same day providing the total playing time is not more than 120 minutes.  The times of kick-off shall be agreed at the AGM and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing Clubs and the Competition.  Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition.  The home Team must provide goal nets, corner flags and at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if not provided. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.  No overhead netting is allowed for 9v9 and 11v11 affiliated matches  Regional NLS Feeder Leagues: Overhead wires used to support pitch divider netting are removed for all affiliated matches in the NLS and at Regional NLS Feeder League level  For those leagues which are not Regional NLS Feeder Leagues: Overhead wires used to support pitch divider netting are ideally removed for affiliated matches but if they cannot be removed then discretion is given to the match official to restart the match in accordance of the laws of the game. | This clarifies the duration of matches at particular levels.  This clarifies when overhead netting can be used and the approach to be taken with respect to pitch divider wires. It follows recommendations made by the FA Facilities Expert Advisory Group. |
|  | 20.F | The referee *[and a representative of the opposing Club]* shall be informed of the names of the ~~substitute~~ Players taking part in the Match (including the substitutes) not later than [ ] minutes before the start of the Competition Match and a Player not so named may not take part in that Competition Match. | This amendment clarifies that clubs are required to provide not just the names of substitutes but also of those starting the game. The amendment also gives competitions the option to require such disclosure to be made not just to the referee but also to a representative of the opposing club. |