# STANDARD CODE OF RULES - CHANGES FOR 2023-24 - RATIONALE

| **No.** | **RULE** | **AMENDMENTS** | **RATIONALE** |
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|  | Preamble | This document contains the Standard Code of Rules developed by The Football Association for open age football (the “Standard Code”).  The Standard Code is mandatory for all Competitions at Regional NLS Feeder League level and below, and Tier 7 and below of The FA Women’s Pyramid ~~excluding the FAWSL, FAWC and the FA Women’s National League~~.  Competitions seeking sanction must draft their Rules in conformity with the Standard Code, using the same numbering and standard headings.  The mandatory rules are printed in normal text and the optional rules in italics.  It should be noted that in many cases rules are so printed because they are alternatives and the procedure to apply should be retained and the others omitted.  In all cases where a [ ] is shown the necessary name, address, number or wording to complete that rule must be inserted.  Competitions may add to the core of the Standard Code, which is mandatory, providing the additions are approved by the Sanctioning Authority and do not conflict with the mandatory rules or any relevant principles and policies established by The FA. ~~Competitions at Tiers 5 and 6 of The FA Women’s Pyramid must also have an additions or optional rules approved by The Women’s Football Board prior to seeking approval from the Sanctioning Authority. Guidance from the Sanctioning Authority should be sought in advance if there is any doubt as to the acceptability of additional rules.~~ | References to the Women’s Football Pyramid and associated regulations have been amended because a separate set of rules for Tiers 3-6 of the Women’s Football Pyramid is being created. This will replace the Standard Code of Rules for competitions at that level of the women’s game (albeit will be very similar in content and format). Tier 7 of the Women’s Football Pyramid will still follow the Standard Code of Rules. |
|  | Throughout SCOR | Amend references from “his” to “their” in order to be gender neutral. | Amendment to provide for gender neutral language. |
|  | 18.M | 1. Subject to Rule 18.M.2 any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a Competition Match or Matches where points are awarded shall have the points gained from that Competition Match deducted from its record, up to a maximum of 12 points, and have levied upon it a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).  2. The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule 18.M.1~~2~~ only in circumstances where the ineligibility is due to the failure to obtain an International Transfer Certificate or where the ineligibility is related to the Player’s status.  3. Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible Player in accordance with Rule 18.M.1~~2~~ above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion order one or more of the following (if appropriate):  a) Award the points available in the Competition Match in question to the opponents, subject to the Competition Match not being ordered to be replayed; ~~or~~  b) Levy penalty points against the Club in default; ~~or~~  c) Order that such Competition Match or Matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee). | Amendments made to clarify that the Management Committee may impose a combination of the sanctions set out at 18.M.3(a) to (c) if appropriate. |
|  | 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.  Artificial 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 - https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register. 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 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. | Deletion of “in the NLS” reflects the fact that SCOR does not apply to the NLS.  Insertion of hyperlink to the FA’s Register of Football Turf Pitches. |