



Women's Super League Football Handbook

PGA Competition Rules

PROFESSIONAL GAME ACADEMY COMPETITION RULES

SEASON 2025 / 2026

Contents for PGA Competition Rules

1.	DEFINITIONS	3
2.	GENERAL	6
3.	ENTRY TO THE PGA COMPETITION	7
4.	CONTROL OF THE PGA COMPETITION AND CONSTITUTION	7
5.	POWERS OF MANAGEMENT	8
6.	PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS	9
7.	PGA BUSINESS	10
8.	SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS	11
9.	PROCEDURES FOR PRE-SEASON SHAREHOLDERS' MEETINGS AND SGMS	11
10.	AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED	12
11.	CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB	13
12.	EXCLUSION OF CLUBS, TEAMS, MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS, EXECUTIVE OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE	13
13.	TROPHY	13
14.	ALTERATION TO PGA COMPETITION RULES	13
15.	CLUB FINANCE	13
16.	INSURANCE	14
17.	DISSOLUTION	14
18.	PLAYERS	14
19.	TRIALLISTS	19
20.	SELECTION OF FIRST TEAM PLAYERS, PLAYERS AGED 15 OR 16, TRIALLISTS, AND NON-PGA PLAYERS	20
21.	CLUB COLOURS	20
22.	SEASON, CONDITIONS OF PLAY, TIMES OF KICK-OFF, POSTPONEMENTS, SUBSTITUTES	21
23.	REPORTING RESULTS	25
24.	DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP	25
25.	REFEREES	25

Appendices

APPENDIX 1: RULES IN RESPECT OF THE U21 PROFESSIONAL GAME ACADEMY CUP AND PLATE ("U21 KNOCK OUT COMPETITION RULES")	27
APPENDIX 2 :TABLE OF FEES AND EXPENSES	34
APPENDIX 3: MANDATORY MEDICAL EQUIPMENT	36

1. DEFINITIONS

1.1 In these PGA Competition Rules:

"Affiliated Association" means an association accorded the status of an affiliated association under the Rules of The FA.

"Board" means the board of directors of Leagues OpCo and where reference is made to the Board taking or authorising any action, or to powers of the Board, such references shall be construed as being subject to Leagues OpCo's own internal company policies, rules and agreements.

"Competition Rules" means the Competition Rules contained at Chapter 1 of the Leagues OpCo Handbook.

"Club" means a Club for the time being in membership of the PGA Competition.

"Club Official" means an Officer of a Club.

"Match" means any match played or to be played under the jurisdiction of the PGA Competition.

"Conditions" has the meaning given to that term in the Competition Rules.

"Contract Player" means any Player who is eligible to play under a written contract of employment with a Club.

"County Association" means a County Association as defined in The FA Rules.

"Deposit" means a sum of money deposited with the PGA Competition as part of the requirements of membership of the PGA Competition.

"Effective Date" means 1 August 2025.

"Electronic Facility" includes, without limitation, website and conference call systems, and any device, system, procedure, method or other facility whatsoever providing an electronic means of attendance at or participation in meetings.

"Embargo" has the meaning given to that term in the Competition Rules.

"Executive Operational Committee" means the sub-committee appointed by the Board to carry out the day to day management and administration of the Competitions.

"Extra Time and Penalties Procedure" means the following procedure which can be used to resolve a knock-out match that ends in a draw. If the score is equal at the end of 90 minutes, a period of extra time shall be played comprising of 15 minutes each way to determine the winner. A coin toss shall determine the start and directions of play. In the event that the score is still equal after extra time has concluded, the outcome of the match will be determined by the taking of penalty kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the procedure adopted by the International Football Association Board.

"Fees Tariff" means the list of fees set out in Appendix 2.

"FIFA" means Fédération Internationale de Football Association.

"Fines Tariff" means the list of fines set out in Appendix 2.

"First Team Player" means a Player registered to play for the Club's first team in the highest league in which the Club participates.

"Football Creditor" has the meaning given to that term in the Competition Rules.

"Former PGA Player" means a Non-Contract Player who is 21 years of age or older as at 31 August in the relevant Season and who in the previous Season was registered with the Club as either (i) a PGA Player in its under 21 Squad Category; or (ii) an Academy / Reserve Player (as defined in the Competition Rules).

"Ground" means the ground on which the Club's team(s) plays its Matches.

"International Transfer Certificate" means the certificate issued on the transfer of a Player from one national association to another national association under FIFA's Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.

"Laws of the Game" means the laws of the game as determined by the International Football Association Board from time to time.

"Leagues OpCo" means Leagues OpCo Limited (company number 15731019) whose registered address is at Wembley Stadium, Wembley, London, United Kingdom, HA9 0WS, unless the Competitions become directly owned and operated by Women's Professional Leagues Limited (of which Leagues OpCo Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary), in which case such reference to Leagues OpCo shall refer to Women's Professional Leagues Limited.

"League Competition Regulations" has the meaning given to it in the Competition Rules.

"Long Term Loan" has the meaning given to that term in the Competition Rules.

"Match Officials" means the referee, the assistant referees and any fourth official appointed to a Match.

"Non-Contract Player" means any Player who is eligible to play for a Club but has not entered into a written contract of employment.

"Non-PGA Player" means a Player who is registered with the Club on Leagues OpCo's player registration system as a Non-PGA Player but who is not registered within the PGA Squad Cap and is either 15 years of age as at 31 August in the Season and is registered in accordance with Rule 18.2.2, or 16 years of age as at 31 August in the Season.

"Officer" means an individual who is required to make an Owners' and Directors' Declaration by Leagues OpCo.

"Out of Contract Player" has the meaning given to that term in the Competition Rules.

"Participation Agreement" means a participation agreement (as amended from time to time) entered into between a Club and Leagues OpCo under which Leagues OpCo grants the Club permission to participate in either Tier 1 or Tier 2 (as applicable), and the Cup Competitions.

"Performance Support Regulations" has the meaning given to that term in the Competition Rules.

"Player" means any Contract Player, Non-Contract Player, PGA Player or other player who plays or who is eligible to play for a Club.

"PGA" means a Professional Game Academy.

"PGA Competition" means the league and cup competitions organised by Leagues OpCo for Clubs which operate a Professional Game Academy.

"PGA Competition Rules" means these PGA competition rules under which the PGA Competition is administered.

"PGA Licence" means a licence issued by Leagues OpCo to operate a PGA.

"PGA Player" has the meaning given to it in the PGA Rules.

"PGA Squad Cap" has the meaning given to it in the PGA Rules.

"PGA Squad List" has the meaning given to it in the PGA Rules.

"PGA Registration Period" has the meaning given to it in the PGA Rules.

"PGA Rules" means the Professional Game Academy Rules published by Leagues OpCo as amended from time to time, as set out in Chapter 11.

"Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting" shall mean the annual Shareholders' Meeting held in accordance with PGA Competition Rule 7.

"Season" means the period between the date on which the first competitive fixture in the PGA Competition is played each year until the date on which the last competitive fixture in the PGA Competition is played.

"Secretary" means such person or persons appointed or elected to carry out the administration of the PGA Competition.

"Secured" has the meaning given to that term in the Competition Rules.

"SGM" means a special general meeting for the PGA Competition.

"Shareholders' Meeting" means a meeting of shareholders of Leagues OpCo.

"Squad Category" has the meaning given to it in the PGA Rules.

"Table of Fees and Expenses" means the Fees Tariff or Fines Tariff as appropriate in the circumstances.

"Team Sheet" means a form provided by the PGA Competition on which the names of the Players taking part in a Match are listed.

"Terminated Player" has the meaning given to that term in the Competition Rules.

"The FA" means The Football Association Limited (company number 00077797), which is the governing body for football in England.

"The FA Rules" means the Rules of The Football Association Limited as amended from time to time.

"The FA Rules and Regulations" means all of the rules and regulations of The FA as amended from time to time including those set out in The FA Handbook but which shall not include the League Competition Regulations.

"The IFAB" means the International Football Association Board.

"Tier 1" means the top tier of women's league football in England organised by Leagues OpCo, currently known as the Barclays Women's Super League.

"Tier 2" means the second tier of women's league football in England organised by Leagues OpCo, currently known as the Barclays Women's Super League 2.

"Triallist" means a player who attends a Club's Professional Game Academy on trial.

"Transfer Window", "First Transfer Window" and "Second Transfer Window" has the meaning given to those terms in the Competition Rules.

"UEFA" means the Union of European Football Associations.

"WSL 2" means the Women's Super League 2.

"Women's Professional Leagues Limited" means Women's Professional Leagues Limited (company number 15675947) whose registered address is at Wembley Stadium, Wembley, London, HA9 0WS.

"WSL" means the Women's Super League.

"written" or **"in writing"** means the representation or reproduction of words or symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise.

- 1.2 Unless stated otherwise, terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.
- 1.3 All Clubs and Players shall adhere to the PGA Competition Rules. Every Club and Player shall be deemed, as participants in the PGA Competition, to have accepted the PGA Competition Rules and have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Executive Operational Committee in relation thereto, subject to any right of appeal set out in these PGA Competition Rules. In the event of any conflict between these PGA Competition Rules, the PGA Rules, the League Competition Regulations and The FA Rules and Regulations, these PGA Competition Rules shall apply in relation to the PGA Competition.

2. GENERAL

- 2.1 The PGA Competition will be known as the U21 Professional Game Academy League (or such other name as the PGA Competition may adopt). The Clubs participating in the PGA Competition must be members of the PGA Competition. A Club which ceases to exist, whose PGA Licence expires or is terminated, or which ceases to be entitled to play in the PGA Competition for any reason whatsoever shall thereupon automatically cease to be a member of the PGA Competition.
- 2.2 The geographical area covered by the PGA Competition shall be England. Subject to PGA Competition Rule 4.12, the PGA Competition shall be structured as follows:
 - 2.2.1 clubs will be grouped by, and play Matches in, two regional divisions: the “**U21 Professional Game Academy (North)**” and the “**U21 Professional Game Academy (South)**”. Matches for the regional divisions must be completed by the date set by the Executive Operational Committee. The Executive Operational Committee may extend the date set at any point during the Season;
 - 2.2.2 at the conclusion of the regional divisions, Clubs shall be placed into two open divisions depending on their position in the regional divisions. The open divisions will be split evenly with Clubs from the North and South divisions. The open divisions will be split with the top four teams from the North and South being placed into Division One. The remaining clubs will be placed into Division Two. Each Club that finishes first in their open division upon the conclusion of the Season, will be the winners of the relevant open division.
- 2.3 All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date in a manner prescribed by The FA and must have a constitution approved by The FA. Failure to comply with this PGA Competition Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 2.4 **Inclusivity and Non-discrimination**
 - 2.4.1 the PGA Competition and each Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and should abide and adhere to The FA Equality Policy and any legislative requirements (to include those contained in the Equality Act 2010);
 - 2.4.2 this Competition and each Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community, irrespective of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise;
 - 2.4.3 any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to The FA for investigation.
- 2.5 Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of Leagues OpCo or The FA which are adopted by the PGA Competition including but not limited to, the Charter Standard, RESPECT and Care First programmes. Failure to comply with this PGA Competition Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 2.6 All participants shall abide by The Football Association's Safeguarding Children and Adults Policies, Procedures and Safeguarding Children and Adults Regulations as amended by The FA from time to time.

- 2.7 Clubs must comply with the Performance Support Regulations, and any applicable criteria for PGAs in respect of grounds and facilities, as directed by the Board or Executive Operational Committee.
- 2.8 Clubs shall not enter any of their teams playing in the PGA Competition in any other competitions (with the exception of The FA and County Association competitions) except with the written consent of the Executive Operational Committee. Failure to comply with this PGA Competition Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 2.9 Cup competitions in the U21 and U16 Squad Categories shall be run for participating PGA Clubs in accordance with the rules at Appendix 1.

3. ENTRY TO THE PGA COMPETITION

- 3.1 In order to be admitted to membership of the PGA Competition, a club shall have a PGA Licence.
- 3.2 In order to be admitted to membership of the PGA Competition, a club must provide written confirmation to the Secretary of its intention to do so by no later than 1st June.
- 3.3 Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 1st July of its FA affiliation number for the forthcoming Season. Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the PGA Competition.

4. CONTROL OF THE PGA COMPETITION AND CONSTITUTION

- 4.1 The ownership, organisation, control and management of the PGA Competition and any rights associated with it of any nature shall be vested entirely and exclusively in Leagues OpCo.
- 4.2 Pursuant to the above powers and save where otherwise specifically mentioned herein, Leagues OpCo has determined that the administration of the PGA Competition under these PGA Competition Rules will be carried out by the Board and the Executive Operational Committee in accordance with and as set out in these PGA Competition Rules.
- 4.3 All Clubs and Players shall comply with the League Competition Regulations and The FA Rules and Regulations which are applicable including Rule D of The FA Rules in respect of international and other representative matches and call-ups.
- 4.4 The membership of the PGA Competition, its composition, format and the number of Clubs shall be determined annually by the Board at its discretion subject to compliance with these PGA Competition Rules, the Participation Agreement, the PGA Licence, the PGA Rules and the League Competition Regulations.
- 4.5 Subject to PGA Competition Rule 11, the Clubs competing in the PGA Competition for a Season will be confirmed at the Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting each year.
- 4.6 A Club which is confirmed as competing in the PGA Competition at the Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting shall be subject to the application of these PGA Competition Rules until the date of the following Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting.
- 4.7 The Board may appoint such sub-committees as it deems appropriate which shall be fully empowered to act on the Board's behalf subject to (save as set out below) ratification by the Board. Pursuant to this power, the Board has appointed the Executive Operational Committee to carry out the day to day management of the PGA Competition and as such, the Executive Operational Committee shall have the powers set out under these PGA Competition Rules until such time as the Board determines otherwise. Decisions of the Executive Operational Committee, unless otherwise specified by the Board, shall not require ratification when made pursuant to a power contained within these PGA Competition Rules.

- 4.8 The Executive Operational Committee shall have the power to deal with matters within the PGA Competition in accordance with Rule G of The FA Rules. For the avoidance of doubt, Misconduct (as defined in The FA Rules) under Rule E1 of The FA Rules shall only be dealt with by The FA or an Affiliated Association.
- 4.9 Save where specifically provided otherwise in these PGA Competition Rules, the Executive Operational Committee shall have the power to apply, act upon and enforce these PGA Competition Rules and shall have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the PGA Competitions including any not provided for in these PGA Competition Rules.
- 4.10 Attendance and voting at Executive Operational Committee meetings shall be as per Rule 3.3 of the Competition Rules.
- 4.11 The Executive Operational Committee shall have the powers of inquiry set out in Rule 3.4 of the Competition Rules in respect of the PGA Competition and the Board and Executive Operational Committee shall have the power to issue directives as set out in Rule 3.5 of the Competition Rules in respect of the PGA Competition.
- 4.12 The Executive Operational Committee may amend the structure of the PGA Competition at any time where it considers it necessary in its sole discretion. If the Executive Operational Committee exercises such discretion, it shall notify the participating Clubs promptly of any such change, which shall represent an amendment to the provisions contained in these PGA Competition Rules.

5. POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 Subject to the permission of Leagues OpCo having been obtained the Executive Operational Committee may order a match or matches to be played each season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the PGA Competition and, if necessary, may call upon each Club (including any Club which may have withdrawn during the season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the season.
- 5.2 The Executive Operational Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce these PGA Competition Rules and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the PGA Competition. Any action by the Executive Operational Committee must be taken within 28 days of the Executive Operational Committee being notified.

With the exception of PGA Competition Rules 5.5, 7.8, and 10, for all alleged breaches of these PGA Competition Rules, the Executive Operational Committee shall issue a formal written charge to the Club concerned. The Club charged shall be given seven days from the date of notification of the charge to reply. In such reply a Club may:

- 5.2.1 accept the charge and submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Executive Operational Committee on the papers;
- 5.2.2 accept the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Executive Operational Committee;
- 5.2.3 deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Executive Operational Committee; or
- 5.2.4 deny the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case at a hearing before the Executive Operational Committee.

Where the Club charged fails to respond within seven days, the Executive Operational Committee shall determine the charge in such manner and upon such evidence as it considers appropriate.

Where required, hearings shall take place as soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of the reply of the Club as more fully set out above.

Having considered the reply of the Club (whether in writing or at a hearing), the Executive Operational Committee shall make its decision and, in the event that the charge is accepted or proven, decide on the appropriate penalty (with reference to the Fines Tariff where applicable).

No participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

All breaches of the Laws of the Game, or The FA's Rules and Regulations shall be dealt with in accordance with The FA Rules by The FA or Affiliated Association, as appropriate.

All breaches of the League Competition Regulations shall be dealt with in accordance with the League Competition Regulations.

The maximum fine permitted for any breach of a PGA Competition Rule is £250 and, when setting any fine, the Executive Operational Committee must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

- 5.3 All decisions of the Executive Operational Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with PGA Competition Rule 6.

Decisions of the Executive Operational Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within seven days.

- 5.4 A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the Executive Operational Committee and must attend to the business and / or the correspondence of the PGA Competition to the satisfaction of the Executive Operational Committee.

- 5.5 Subject to a Club's right of appeal in accordance with PGA Competition Rule 6 below, all fines and charges are payable forthwith and must be paid within 14 days of the date of notification of the decision. Any Club failing to do so will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine within 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.

- 5.6 A member of the Executive Operational Committee appointed by the PGA Competition to attend a meeting or Match may have any reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the PGA Competition.

- 5.7 The business of the PGA Competition as determined by the Executive Operational Committee may be transacted by electronic mail.

- 5.8 Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the PGA Competition and keep a record of its proceedings.

- 5.9 All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their nominated Officers.

6. PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS

6.1

6.1.1 All questions relating to provisions of these PGA Competition Rules including as regards eligibility, qualification of Players or interpretations of the PGA Competition Rules shall be referred to the Executive Operational Committee or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Executive Operational Committee;

6.1.2 Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Executive Operational Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee before the commencement of the PGA Match.

- 6.2 Except in cases where the Executive Operational Committee decides that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged with the Secretary within 7 days (excluding Sundays) of the PGA Match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Executive Operational Committee. A member of the Executive Operational Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

- 6.3 No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Executive Operational Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum in accordance with the Fees Tariff. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Executive Operational Committee shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the inquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.
- 6.4 All parties to a protest or complaint must receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days prior to the protest or complaint being heard:
- 6.4.1 all parties must have received 7 days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend;
- 6.4.2 should a Club elect to state its case in person then it should indicate such when forwarding the written response.
- 6.5 The Executive Operational Committee shall also have the power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the Executive Operational Committee shall direct.
- 6.6 Any appeal against a decision of the Executive Operational Committee made pursuant to these PGA Competition Rules must be lodged with Leagues OpCo within 14 days of the written notification of the decision causing the appeal being sent, accompanied by a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff), which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. A copy of the appeal must also be sent to the Secretary. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by Leagues OpCo, in such respect Leagues OpCo may (but is not obliged to):
- 6.6.1 invite submissions by the parties involved;
- 6.6.2 convene a hearing to hear the appeal;
- 6.6.3 permit new evidence; or
- 6.6.4 impose deadlines as are appropriate.
- Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Executive Operational Committee.
- 6.7 No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at a Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting or SGM unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.
- 6.8 All protests, claims or complaints relating to these PGA Competition Rules and appeals arising from a Player's contract shall be heard and determined by the Executive Operational Committee, or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Executive Operational Committee. The Clubs or Players protesting, appealing, claiming or complaining must send a copy of such protest, appeal, claim or complaint and deposit a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff) which shall be forfeited in the event of the protest, appeal, claim or complaint not being upheld, and the party not succeeding may, in addition, be ordered to pay the costs at the direction of the Executive Operational Committee.
- All such protests, claims complaints and appeals must be received in writing by the Secretary within 14 days of the event or decision causing any of these to be submitted.

7. PGA BUSINESS

- 7.1 Each year a Shareholders' Meeting shall be held which shall take place after 30 June but before the start of the upcoming Season (the "**Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting**"). Subject to PGA Competition Rule 9.9, the following business shall be transacted at the Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting each year:
- 7.1.1 to receive and confirm the minutes of the preceding Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting;
- 7.1.2 to consider any business arising from the previous Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting;
- 7.1.3 to receive the annual report and financial report in respect of the PGA Competition;

7.1.4 to receive notice of:

- (a) the composition of the PGA Competition for the upcoming Season;
- (b) any changes to the members of the Board or Executive Operational Committee;
- (c) the PGA Competition's auditors;
- (d) the date for the commencement and conclusion of the Season and the kick off times applicable to the PGA Competition; and

7.1.5 to consider any other business set out in the agenda and any other business specified by the Board or the Executive Operational Committee.

7.2 A copy of the duly audited / verified annual report, financial report and agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least fourteen days prior to the meeting.

7.3 Each Club which participated in the PGA Competition during the previous Season or which will participate in the PGA Competition for the upcoming Season shall be sent a copy of the duly audited / verified annual report, financial report and agenda in accordance with PGA Competition Rule 7.2. The agenda may be updated at any time before the Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting.

7.4 A signed copy of the duly audited / verified annual report and financial report shall be sent to Leagues OpCo within fourteen days of its adoption by the Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting.

7.5 Each Club shall be empowered to send one delegate to a Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting.

7.6 Clubs which have withdrawn their membership of the PGA Competition during the season being concluded or which are not continuing membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the season being concluded. This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled from the PGA Competition.

7.7 No individual shall be entitled to more than one vote or to vote on behalf of more than one Club.

7.8 Any continuing Club must be represented at the Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting. Failure to comply with this PGA Competition Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

8. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

8.1 Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2 / 3) of the Clubs in membership, the Secretary shall call an SGM.

8.2 The Executive Operational Committee may call a SGM at any time.

8.3 At the same time as notice is given of a SGM, an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting will be provided.

8.4 Each Club shall be empowered to send one delegate to all SGMs.

8.5 Any Club failing to be represented at a SGM shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

9. PROCEDURES FOR PRE-SEASON SHAREHOLDERS' MEETINGS AND SGMS

Notice

9.1 Notice shall be given of each Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting and SGM. The length of this notice shall be at least 28 days unless the chairperson of the Board considers it appropriate or necessary that shorter notice be given.

9.2 The accidental omission to give notice of any Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting or SGM or the non-receipt by any person entitled to receive the same shall not invalidate the proceedings of that SGM or Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting.

Voting and quorum

- 9.3 50 percent or more of those who have the right to attend at a Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting or SGM shall constitute a quorum for that meeting. No business shall be transacted at a Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting or SGM if a quorum is not in attendance but the meeting may proceed and items may be discussed. In such circumstances, the chairperson of the Board may call another Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting or SGM at a date and time he or she specifies and / or give valid notice of the items which the attendees were due to receive notice of by such other means as he or she considers appropriate.
- 9.4 A person shall be in attendance at a Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting or SGM where they attend the meeting in person or, where approval of Secretary has been obtained, they participate through an Electronic Facility.
- 9.5 The chairperson of the Board shall chair each Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting or SGM or, if not in attendance, the chairperson shall nominate another member of the Board to chair the Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting or SGM.

Attendance

- 9.6 Each member of the Board and Executive Operational Committee shall be entitled to attend a Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting and SGM.
- 9.7 The Executive Operational Committee and Board may each invite any person they choose to a Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting or SGM if they consider it to be appropriate.

Postponement

- 9.8 If, after the sending of the notice of a Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting or SGM but before the meeting is held, the chairperson of the Board, in his or her absolute discretion, considers that it is impracticable, inappropriate or unreasonable for any reason to hold a Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting or SGM at the place or on the date or at the time specified in the notice calling the Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting or SGM, he or she may postpone the Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting or SGM (by notifying those who had a right to attend the Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting or SGM) to another place, date or time or specify that the business to be transacted at the meeting is dealt with in accordance with PGA Competition Rule 9.9.

Transactions in writing

- 9.9 Notwithstanding the provisions of PGA Competition Rules 7 and 8, any business that may be transacted at a Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting or SGM may be transacted in writing outside of a Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting or SGM in a procedure to be specified by the chairperson of the Board. This procedure, as a minimum, shall ensure that those who would have been entitled to attend a Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting or SGM had it occurred, be afforded the same attendance rights as specified above.

10. AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

- 10.1 Each Club shall complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with Leagues OpCo together with the application for membership for the coming Season, or upon indicating that the Club intends to compete.
- 10.2 "We, (A) (name) [] of (address) [] (Chairperson) / (Director) and (B) (name) [] of (address) [] (Secretary) / (Director) of [] Football Club (Limited) have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the [] Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club, to conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Board and Executive Operational Committee of the PGA Competition, subject (as applicable) to the right of appeal in accordance with PGA Competition Rule 6."
- 10.3 The agreement shall be signed by:
- 10.3.1 where a Club is an unincorporated association, the Club chairperson and secretary; or
- 10.3.2 where a Club is an incorporated entity, two directors of the Club.

- 10.4 Any alteration of the chairperson and / or secretary of the Club on the above agreement must be notified to the County Association(s) to which the Club is affiliated and to the Secretary.

- 10.5 Failure to comply with this PGA Competition Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

11. CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

- 11.1 Any Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw from the PGA Competition on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the PGA Competition must notify the Secretary in writing by 31st March each season. Failure to comply with this PGA Competition Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- 11.2 The Executive Operational Committee shall have the discretion to deal with a Club being unable to start or complete its fixtures for a Season, including, but not limited to, issuing a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- 11.3 Notwithstanding the powers of the Executive Operational Committee pursuant to PGA Competition Rule 11.2, in the event of a Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the PGA Competition in excess of £50, the Executive Operational Committee shall be empowered to refer the debt under The FA Football Debt Recovery Regulations.

12. EXCLUSION OF CLUBS, TEAMS, MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS, EXECUTIVE OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE

Any Officer or member of a Club proved guilty of a breach of a PGA Competition Rule, other than field offences, shall be liable to such penalty as the Executive Operational Committee may decide.

13. TROPHY

The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the cup or trophy:

“We (A) (name) and (B) (name), the Chairperson and Secretary of FC (Limited), members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of the cup or trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the PGA Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the cup or trophy to the Secretary on or before []. If the cup or trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to Leagues OpCo the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair.”

Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

14. ALTERATION TO PGA COMPETITION RULES

- 14.1 These PGA Competition Rules shall be deemed to have come into effect on the Effective Date.

- 14.2 These PGA Competition Rules shall be effective until amended.

- 14.3 No amendment of these Rules shall be made or implemented until it has been approved by the Board in its absolute discretion. Once such approval has been made, the Board shall notify Clubs of the amendment to the PGA Competition Rules at which point the PGA Competition Rules, as amended, shall become effective. It is envisaged that the Board will provide this notice to Clubs at a Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting or SGM but the Board reserves the right to provide the notice in any other way it considers appropriate.

15. CLUB FINANCE

- 15.1 Financial Records must be kept by each Club in accordance with the terms of its Participation Agreement. Where a Club defaults in making any payments to any Football Creditor, the Club shall be subject to such penalty as the Executive Operational Committee may decide.

- 15.2 All monies required to be paid by any Club pursuant to these PGA Competition Rules must be paid within 14 days.

16. INSURANCE

- 16.1 All Clubs must have valid public liability insurance cover of at least ten million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times.
- 16.2 All Clubs must have valid personal accident cover for all Players registered with them from time to time. The Players' personal accident insurance cover must be in place prior to the Club taking part in any Match and shall be at least equal to the minimum recommended cover determined from time to time by The FA.
- 16.3 Failure to comply with PGA Competition Rule 16.1 or 16.2 will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

17. DISSOLUTION

- 17.1 Dissolution of the PGA Competition shall be by decision of the Board.

In the event of the dissolution of the PGA Competition, the members of the Executive Operational Committee shall be responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the PGA Competition.
- 17.2 The Executive Operational Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:
 - 17.2.1 any surplus assets, save for a trophy or any other presentation, remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the PGA Competition shall be transferred only to another competition, an Affiliated Association or The Football Association Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the PGA Competition as determined by resolution of the Board at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by Leagues OpCo;
 - 17.2.2 a trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as Leagues OpCo may decide.

18. PLAYERS

- 18.1 The FA Rules and Regulations and the PGA Rules will apply in respect of all matters concerning Players, as applicable.

Qualification of Players

- 18.2
 - 18.2.1 A Player shall not be eligible to play for a Club in any Match unless the Player is:
 - (a) a Player who is included on the Club's PGA Squad List, and is at least 16 years of age or 15 years of age (provided that they are registered in accordance with PGA Competition Rule 18.2.2;
 - (b) a First Team Player;
 - (c) a Former PGA Player (provided that they are registered in accordance with PGA Competition Rule 18.2.3;
 - (d) a Triallist; or
 - (e) a Non-PGA Player,who is registered to play in the PGA Competition in accordance with the requirements set out in the remainder of this PGA Competition Rule 18.
 - 18.2.2 PGA Players that are 15 years old may be registered in the PGA Competitions provided that:
 - (a) the PGA Player is in school Year 11 (being the final year of compulsory education in England and Wales);
 - (b) a duly completed player transition form (in the form that the Secretary may prescribe from time to time) is submitted to the Secretary; and

- (c) the prior consent of the Secretary is obtained.

18.2.3 Former PGA Players may be registered in the PGA Competitions provided that the prior written consent of the Executive Operational Committee is obtained. Such consent shall only be provided in exceptional circumstances and in any event where the number of PGA Players registered to the Club's U21 Squad Category plus the number of registered Former PGA Players would not exceed 25.

Player Registration

18.3

18.3.1 A Player shall be deemed to be registered to play for the Club in the PGA Competition upon receipt of both The FA's and Leagues OpCo's confirmation via the online player registration system to that effect. Any loan registration must also be approved by The FA and Leagues OpCo before that Player can be considered eligible to play.

18.3.2 For a Player to be registered to play for a Club in a Match, the Club must have submitted via the online player registration system in accordance with these PGA Competition Rules:

- (a) Non-Contract Players, PGA Players and Trialists:
 - (i) the relevant Competition registration form signed by an Authorised Signatory of the Club and the Player (such signature to be witnessed by a second person); and
 - (ii) a copy of the relevant transfer or cancellation forms (where applicable) as specified in these PGA Competition Rules; and
- (b) Contract Player:
 - (i) the relevant registration form as specified in these PGA Competition Rules and The FA Rules which has been duly completed and signed by an Authorised Signatory of the Club and the Player (such signature to be witnessed by a second person);
 - (ii) a copy of the relevant transfer, loan or cancellation forms (where applicable) as specified in these PGA Competition Rules; and
 - (iii) the Player's Playing Contract,

and such documents must be approved and registered by the Secretary and The FA, where applicable, in accordance with these PGA Competition Rules.

18.3.3 Subject to PGA Competition Rule 18.5.1, the deadline for submission to the Secretary via the online player registration system of all duly completed documents referred to in PGA Competition Rule 18.3.2 shall be not less than four hours before the scheduled kick-off time of the PGA Match in which the Player is due to play or, if the PGA Match is on a Saturday, Sunday or bank holiday, by 16:00 on the last week-day before the PGA Match in which the Player is due to play. In exceptional circumstances, an extension to this deadline may be granted by the Executive Operational Committee. Where these documents are not received in accordance with the above, the relevant Player shall not be eligible to play. PGA Competition Rule 18.8 shall apply if an ineligible Player plays in a Match.

18.3.4 It is the responsibility of the Club to ensure a Player participating in a Match is not registered with any other Club. When the Player was previously registered with another Club it is necessary for that Club to complete the relevant transfer form or to have completed the relevant cancellation of registration form prior to or at the same as the registration to the new Club.

18.3.5 It is the responsibility of all Clubs to ensure any Player signing a registration form has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate.

- 18.3.6 Clubs are responsible for all Players being correctly registered and ensuring that they are so registered before any Player is fielded in a Match. Fielding an unregistered Player in a Match shall constitute fielding an ineligible Player and PGA Competition Rule 18.8 shall apply.
- 18.3.7 A reference to a relevant registration form or cancellation form in these PGA Competition Rules shall mean the form prescribed by the Secretary for that type of registration (for example a loan or permanent registration) or registration cancellation (as applicable). Registration forms will be made available to Clubs by the Secretary. The status of a Player must be clearly stated on the registration form provided to the Secretary.
- 18.3.8 Original registration forms must be retained by the Club. The Secretary has the power to call for inspection of the original registration form should they wish to do so. If a Club fails to comply with the provisions of this PGA Competition Rule, the Player shall not be eligible to play in the PGA Competitions. The original registration form, if sent to the Secretary must contain the same information as the registration form that was sent by email. If a Club fields a Player for which falsified registration forms have been submitted, that Club will be deemed to have fielded an ineligible Player and PGA Competition Rule 18.8 shall apply.
- 18.3.9 The registration of a Non-Contract Player to participate in the PGA Competitions with a Club will terminate at the end of that Season or where cancelled in accordance with these PGA Competition Rules.
- 18.3.10 The registration of a Contract Player to participate in the PGA Competitions with a Club shall terminate:
- (a) upon it being transferred in accordance with these PGA Competition Rules;
 - (b) in the case of a Contract Player registered on loan with a Club, when the loan terminates or expires;
 - (c) in the case of an Out of Contract Player in respect of whom the Conditions have been satisfied, upon a transferee club effecting her registration;
 - (d) in the case of an Out of Contract Player in respect of whom the Conditions have not been satisfied, on the expiry of her contract; or
 - (e) in the case of a Terminated Player on receipt by the Secretary of a copy of the relevant FA form.
- 18.3.11 The registration of a PGA Player to participate in the PGA Competitions with a Club will terminate at the end of the PGA Player's PGA Registration Period in accordance with the PGA Rules.
- 18.3.12 The registration of a Trialist to participate in the PGA Competitions with a Club will terminate at the end of the trial in accordance with PGA Competition Rule 19.
- 18.3.13 It shall be a breach of these PGA Competition Rules for:
- (a) a Contract Player to play for more than one Club in the PGA Competitions in the same Season without first being transferred in accordance with these PGA Competition Rules;
 - (b) any Player to be registered for more than one Club in the same League at the same time; or
 - (c) any Player to sign or submit a registration form that the Player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.
- Breach of this PGA Competition Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 18.3.14 In addition to PGA Competition Rule 18.3.13, the Executive Operational Committee shall have the power in its absolute discretion to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any Player or fine a Player who is found to have breached any rules or regulations concerning Player registrations.

- 18.3.15 A Player may only play under her correct status (being a Contract Player, a Non-Contract Player, a PGA Player or a Triallist). Any change of a Player's status during the currency of a registration must be notified to the Secretary within five days of the change of registration being affected.
- 18.3.16 In the event of a Player changing her status with the same Club, that Player must sign a new relevant registration form and be re-registered. If such a Player is not re-registered, the Player will be ineligible to play in a Match and PGA Competition Rule 18.8 shall apply in respect of Clubs who play a Player who has changed status without re-registering.
- 18.3.17 A Contract Player whose registration at a Club (the "**Cancelling Club**") is cancelled by mutual consent and who is subsequently re-registered by any Club as a Non-Contract Player or a PGA Player, shall not be registered as a Contract Player with the Cancelling Club within three months of the date of the relevant cancellation, except with the consent of the Executive Operational Committee.
- 18.3.18 In the event of a Contract Player terminating her Playing Contract with a Club ("**Club A**") pursuant to clauses 54 and 55 of her Playing Contract and registering for another Club in membership of Leagues OpCo ("**Club B**") as a Contract Player, Non-Contract Player or PGA Player during the 6-month period after such termination, Club B shall pay a compensation fee to Club A to be determined, in default of agreement, by the Compensation Fee Tribunal.
- 18.3.19 The Executive Operational Committee shall have the power to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player it considers guilty of undesirable conduct or where a Player brings any of the PGA Competitions into disrepute. For the purposes of this PGA Competition Rule, bringing any of the PGA Competitions into disrepute means that the Player has received in excess of 112 days suspension, or 10 matches in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence. Undesirable conduct shall mean incidents of repeated conduct which may deter others (including corporate entities) from being involved in the PGA Competitions. The right of the Executive Operational Committee pursuant to this PGA Competition Rule is subject to a right of appeal to The FA.
- 18.3.20 The Executive Operational Committee shall also have the power to place an Embargo on any Club deemed to be in breach of these PGA Competition Rules regarding Players. Where a Club has been subject to an Embargo that is on-going (if applied by the Executive Operational Committee or otherwise) then the Embargo shall continue to apply until the Club can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Executive Operational Committee that the circumstances that resulted in the Embargo no longer apply.
- 18.3.21 Any new registrations or transfers of registrations received after 5 pm on the fourth Thursday in March of each Season will be declined, The Executive Operational Committee shall have the power to reconsider, on request, and approve any declined registrations or transfers, subject to such limitations and restrictions as the Executive Operational Committee may determine.

Player Status

18.4

- 18.4.1 The status of a Player shall be: (i) Contract Player; (ii) Non-Contract Player; (iii) PGA Player or (iv) Triallist.
- 18.4.2 A Contract Player must be engaged on a Playing Contract. All contracts and financial arrangements shall comply with Rule C of The FA Rules and be in the full name of the Club including the Club's registered number.
- 18.4.3 Subject to the exceptions set out below and the requirements of The FA Rules, a Playing Contract may be for any period provided that its expiry date is 30 June. The exceptions to this Rule are:
- (a) contracts with Contract Players under the age of 18 which must not be capable of lasting for longer than three years; and

- (b) contracts no greater than one month in duration.

18.4.4 Rule C of The FA Rules in respect of Non-Contract Players shall apply to the PGA Competitions.

Registration Periods, Transfers, Loan Transfers and Long Term Loans

18.5

- 18.5.1 Rule 7.3 (Registration Period) of the Competition Rules shall apply to the PGA Competitions in respect of Contract Players and Non-Contract Players only (as applicable), save for that the reference in Rule 7.3.4(a) "(not including registered PGA / Reserve Players)" shall be omitted.
- 18.5.2 Rule 7.5 (Transfers), 7.6 (Loan Transfers) and 7.7 (Standard Loans) of the Competition Rules shall apply to the PGA Competition in respect of Contract Players only.
- 18.5.3 For the purposes of PGA Competition Rule 18.5.1 and 18.5.2 above:
 - (a) references to defined terms in the Competition Rules shall be deemed to be references to those terms as defined in these PGA Competition Rules (and not to the term as defined in the Competition Rules); and
 - (b) references to breaches being subject to fixed penalties in accordance with the Table of Summary Offences and Sanctions or breaches being referred to an Independent Tribunal for determination, shall instead be determined by the Executive Operational Committee in its absolute discretion.

General Registration Provisions

18.6

- 18.6.1 Each Club shall have at least 11 Players registered to play for it in Competitions 14 days before the start of each Season and at all times throughout the Season.
- 18.6.2 In the event of a Player signing registration forms for more than one Club, priority of registration shall decide for which Club she is entitled to play. The Club submitting the later form shall be notified of the prior registration of the Player, and the circumstances under which the registration forms were signed shall be investigated by the Executive Operational Committee. Any Player found to have signed registration forms for more than one Club shall be considered in breach of PGA Competition Rule 18.3.13. Any Club found to have knowingly induced a registered Player of another Club to sign a registration form shall be in breach of these PGA Competition Rules and such breach shall be determined by the Executive Operational Committee in its absolute discretion.
- 18.6.3 If a Non-Contract Player, PGA Player or Trialist has concurrent registrations for a Club and a club which does not participate in the PGA Competition her registration for the PGA Competition may be retained by the Club.
- 18.6.4 The Executive Operational Committee may place an Embargo on any Club which has overdue payables to another Club (or club) in relation to a transfer, loan, or Recognition Fees which has not been Secured.

List of Players and transfer list

- 18.7 Club shall keep a list of the Players it registers and a record of the games in which each Player has played. A Club shall produce this list upon demand by the Executive Operational Committee.

Playing an ineligible player

18.8

- 18.8.1 Any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a Match or Matches shall be in breach of these PGA Competition Rules and the matter shall be referred to the Executive Operational Committee, who shall either determine the matter itself or refer it to an independent tribunal in accordance with the procedure set out in Rule 3.9 of the Competition Rules.
- 18.8.2 Subject to PGA Competition Rule 18.8.3, where the Executive Operational Committee determines the matter itself it may:
- (a) order that any points gained from that Match or Matches are deducted from its record up to a maximum of 12 points;
 - (b) order that any such Match or Matches be replayed on such terms as are decided by the Executive Operational Committee; and / or
 - (c) make any such other order that the Executive Operational Committee may decide.
- 18.8.3 Where the Executive Operational Committee determines the matter itself, it may only determine not to impose a points deduction 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.

Financial arrangements

18.9

- 18.9.1 Subject to PGA Competition Rules 18.9.2 to 18.9.7 and The FA Rules, a Club may negotiate financial arrangements with its Players.
- 18.9.2 All Contract Players must be registered with Leagues OpCo and The FA.
- 18.9.3 All payments and benefits due and / or made to a Contract Player must be shown in the Playing Contract.
- 18.9.4 All payments made to Players must be made by the Club and fully recorded in the accounting records of the Club.
- 18.9.5 E. All salaried payments (whether to Contract Players or Non-Contract Players) must be subject to PAYE and National Insurance.
- 18.9.6 All salary payments due on written contracts must be stated gross, before PAYE and National Insurance deductions.
- 18.9.7 Any Players paid expenses should be reimbursed via an expense claim form. The Club should retain all expense records in a format acceptable to HM Revenue and Customs.
- 18.9.8 Any Club or Club Official found to have committed a breach of The FA Rules regarding payments to Players may have its right to participate in the PGA Competitions revoked and, in addition, shall be fined such sums as the Board shall determine in its absolute discretion.

19. TRIALLISTS

- 19.1 Provided that Clubs comply at all times with FA Rule C in respect of trials, Clubs may offer trials to players who are domiciled in the territory of The FA under the following conditions:
- 19.1.1 A trial may be offered to a player between the ages of 16 and 20 years old provided that, where the Triallist is registered to a Club, the trialling Club obtains the prior permission of the Triallist's Club.
 - 19.1.2 The period of any trial shall be no more than four Matches, or eight weeks (whichever is the shorter).
 - 19.1.3 A player may only be a registered Triallist at one Club at any given time.

19.1.4 A player may only register as a Trialist at the same Club once per Season.

19.2 Trials for players who are not domiciled in the territory of The FA shall be in accordance with FA Rule C.

20. SELECTION OF FIRST TEAM PLAYERS, PLAYERS AGED 15 OR 16, TRIALLISTS, AND NON-PGA PLAYERS

20.1 If a Club intends to select any:

20.1.1 First Team Players;

20.1.2 players who are included on the Club's PGA Squad List, and are at least 16 years of age or 15 years of age (provided that they are registered in accordance with PGA Competition Rule 18.2.2);

20.1.3 Triallists; or

20.1.4 Non-PGA Players,

for a Match, it must complete the relevant registration form and ensure that it is received and approved by the Secretary in accordance with the registration rules contained in PGA Competition Rule 18. Any such player will be considered to have participated in a Match if they are included in the starting 11 or appear on the field of play as a substitute in a Match.

20.2 Where registered in accordance with PGA Competition Rule 18, a maximum of:

20.2.1 3 First Team Players; and

20.2.2 4 Triallists, subject to compliance with the provisions concerning Triallists set out at PGA Competition Rule 19 above,

may be included on a Club's Team Sheet for each Match.

21. CLUB COLOURS

21.1 Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 1 July who shall decide as to their suitability.

21.2 Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from all other players and the Match Officials.

21.3 No Club shall be permitted to register or play in shirts the colour of which is likely to cause confusion with the outfits worn by the Match Officials. Where the Executive Operational Committee and / or the Match Officials determine that a Club's colours are not clearly distinguishable from the Match Officials, the Club whose colours cannot be so distinguished must provide alternative shirts to be worn by the Match Officials. Failure to provide alternative shirts to be worn by the Match Officials will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

21.4 At least 14 days prior to a Match, the home Club shall notify the away Club and the Secretary of the colours it intends that its Players will wear and the away Club must respond at least seven days prior to the PGA Match with the colours it intends that its Players will wear. Any dispute arising between the Clubs as to colours shall be determined by the Executive Operational Committee. The following order of precedence shall, unless otherwise authorised by the Executive Operational Committee, apply in determining which colours shall be worn:

21.4.1 1st priority: the outfield players of the home Club who shall wear their first choice colours;

21.4.2 2nd priority: the outfield players of the away Club;

21.4.3 3rd priority: the goalkeeper of the home Club; and

21.4.4 4th priority: the goalkeeper of the away Club.

- 21.5 The Secretary shall, no later than five days prior to the PGA Match, notify both Clubs and the Match Officials of the colours to be worn.
- 21.6 Notwithstanding PGA Competition Rule 21.5, if on the day of the PGA Match, the Match Officials determine that the two Clubs have the same or similar colours such that the colours of the Clubs are not clearly distinguishable, the order of precedence set out at PGA Competition Rule 21.5 shall apply in determining which colours shall be worn (unless otherwise authorised by the Executive Operational Committee).
- 21.7 Players' shirts must be clearly numbered so that players can be clearly identified by the referee. The shirts must be numbered in accordance with the team sheet handed to the referee before the PGA Match (in accordance with PGA Competition Rule 22.18 and there must be no changing of numbers during the PGA Match except for a change of goalkeeper or if permitted by the referee because of a blood injury).

22. SEASON, CONDITIONS OF PLAY, TIMES OF KICK-OFF, POSTPONEMENTS, SUBSTITUTES

- 22.1 All Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the IFAB.
- 22.2 Clubs must take all reasonable precautions to keep their Grounds in a playable condition. All Matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Executive Operational Committee. If through any fault of the home team a Match has to be replayed, the Executive Operational Committee shall have power to order the venue to be changed.
- 22.3 The Executive Operational Committee shall have power to decide whether a pitch and / or facilities are suitable for Matches and to order the Club concerned to play its fixtures on another ground.
- 22.4 Football turf pitches (3G) are allowed in this Competition providing they meet the required performance standards and are listed on The FA's register of football turf pitches. The pitch 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 if the pitch is considered suitable.
- 22.5 The home Club is also responsible for advising participants of footwear requirements at least 5 days before each Match. Where the PGA Match is played on a neutral venue following a request pursuant to PGA Competition Rule 22.16.1, the Secretary will advise both Clubs of the footwear requirements at least 5 days before the PGA Match.
- 22.6 The default day on which Matches shall be played is Wednesday, but the Secretary may, at their absolute discretion, schedule a Match to be played on any other day of the week.
- 22.7 All Matches shall be of 90 minutes duration unless a shorter time (not less than sixty (60) minutes) is mutually agreed by the two Clubs in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the PGA Match, and in any event shall be of equal halves.
- 22.8 The times of kick-off and the venue of the match shall be fixed at the Pre-Season Shareholders' Meeting and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing Clubs at least 14 days prior to the scheduled date of the PGA Match with written notification given to the Secretary at least 14 days prior to the date of the PGA Match (the aforementioned time limits may be shortened only with the approval of the Executive Operational Committee). Normal kick of time will be 2.00pm unless otherwise agreed by the two competing Clubs in accordance with the above. In the event of extensive travel, kick of times should enable all players to be back home by 11pm at the latest. All Matches from 1st November will have a default kick-off time of 1pm if the home club's venue does not have floodlight facilities.
- 22.9 Referees must ensure Matches commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Secretary.
- 22.10 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 Secretary if the footballs are unsuitable. Failure to comply with this PGA Competition Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- 22.11 Subject to the remainder of this PGA Competition Rule, the home team shall provide drinks for the visiting team and Match Officials on arrival and at half-time. The home Club shall provide refreshments at full-time. The Clubs shall agree, where possible, at least 7 days before each Match, what refreshments are to be provided at full time. In the event that the Clubs are unable to agree, the refreshments to be provided shall be at the discretion of the home Club. In the case of Matches played at neutral venues, each Club shall liaise with the venue to make its own arrangements for drinks and refreshments for its players and staff. Drinks and refreshments for Match Officials appointed to Matches played on neutral venues shall be organised and paid for by the home team. Failure to comply with this PGA Competition Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 22.12 Save where otherwise permitted under this PGA Competition Rule, all Matches must be played on the dates originally fixed. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to reschedule a Match with the consent of the Secretary (such consent shall only be provided where the Clubs' request is made no later than 14 days before the scheduled date of the PGA Match via the leagues administration system). Where a rescheduled date cannot be agreed between the competing Clubs, the Club wishing to reschedule may submit a request to the Executive Operational Committee which may approve or reject it in its absolute discretion. Failure to play a Match, save where otherwise permitted under this PGA Competition Rule, will be determined by the Executive Operational Committee in accordance with PGA Competition Rule 22.16.1 as a failure to keep an engagement.
- 22.13 If the Executive Operational Committee gives permission for a fixture to be re-scheduled, the Clubs must be given 5 clear days' notice of the date on which the re-scheduled fixture is to be played (unless otherwise mutually agreed).
- 22.14 The secretary of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground and time of kick-off to the Match Officials and the secretary of the opposing Club at least 5 clear days prior to the date of the PGA Match. If full particulars are not given or are not given on time, this will result in a fine for the home Club in accordance with the Fines Tariff and the away Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Secretary.
- 22.15 No Match shall commence where either Club has fewer than 11 Players ready to play. Where either Club does not have 11 Players ready to play by thirty minutes past the scheduled kick off time, the PGA Match shall be abandoned by the Referee and shall be determined by the Executive Operational Committee
- 22.16
- 22.16.1 All Matches shall be played on the home and away principle, with the exception of regional division fixtures (with each Club scheduled against each other once), the venue for which shall be set by the Secretary. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement, the Executive Operational Committee shall have the power to inflict a fine, deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points from the PGA Match in question to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals. Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Executive Operational Committee shall have the power to order a Match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent's ground if (i) a request is made by both Clubs that both Matches which the Clubs will participate in during a Season are played on a neutral ground or (ii) the Executive Operational Committee is satisfied that such action is warranted in the circumstances.
- 22.16.2 Any Club which is unable to fulfil a fixture or where a fixture has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the Secretary, the Competition Referees Appointments Secretary, the secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials. Notwithstanding the above, where a Club is suffering an epidemic affecting the availability of its players, (i) any request to postpone the fixture shall only be valid where it is received by the Secretary 24 hours prior to the scheduled time of kick-off of the PGA Match to be postponed, and (ii) in considering such a request, the Executive Operational Committee shall be entitled to request from the Club any such evidence as it considers appropriate.
- 22.16.3 Where a Club considers that a Pitch or Ground may be unsuitable due to adverse weather it shall follow the procedures provided for in the document published by Leagues OpCo entitled "Recommended procedure

for the guidance of Clubs and Referees in determining the suitability of grounds in adverse weather conditions for Professional Game Academy" (as may be amended from time to time). Should the Ground or Pitch be declared unfit under this procedure by the appointed Referee, the home Club shall immediately advise the Secretary, Leagues OpCo, the visiting Club and the Match Officials. In these circumstances the fixture shall be rescheduled by the Secretary, unless the Club has failed to follow properly the procedures provided for in the "Recommended procedure for the guidance of Clubs and Referees in determining the suitability of grounds in adverse weather conditions for Professional Game Academy", in which case the matter shall be referred to the Executive Operational Committee who shall determine it in their absolute discretion. Where the fixture is to be rescheduled, the Secretary shall identify the next available fixture window that is appropriate for the game to be played or replayed (as applicable) and shall inform the Clubs of the identified window. The Clubs shall then follow the procedures provided for in the document published by Leagues OpCo entitled Fixture Guidance Note (as may be amended from time to time) to agree a date within the identified window for the game to be rescheduled. Where a date for the match cannot be agreed for any reason, the matter shall be referred to the Executive Operational Committee who shall determine, in its absolute discretion, a date for the match to be rescheduled.

- 22.16.4 In the event of a Match not being played or being abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it shall be re-played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Executive Operational Committee. The Clubs must agree the date on which the re-scheduled Match is to be played within 7 days of the date of the original Match and notify the Secretary within this time. Should the Clubs fail to reach agreement or notify the Secretary in accordance with the above, the Executive Operational Committee shall have the power to order that the PGA Match is played on a date set by the Executive Operational Committee. Notwithstanding the above, where it is to the advantage of the PGA Competition and the Clubs involved agree, the Executive Operational Committee shall have the power to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand.
- 22.16.5 The Executive Operational Committee shall review all Matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Clubs. Where it is to the advantage of the PGA Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Executive Operational Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Executive Operational Committee is satisfied that a Match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one Club, it shall be empowered to award the points for the PGA Match to the opponent. In cases where a Match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Clubs, the Executive Operational Committee shall rule that all points for the PGA Match are void. No fine(s) can be applied by the Executive Operational Committee for an abandoned Match.
- 22.16.6 The Executive Operational Committee shall review any Match that has taken place where either or both teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by Leagues OpCo, The FA or an Affiliated Association. In cases where only one of the participating Clubs was under suspension, such Club will be dealt with in the same manner as if they had participated in the PGA Match and fielded ineligible players in accordance with PGA Competition Rule 18.8 above. Where both teams were under suspension, the PGA Match must be declared null and void.
- 22.17 A Club having 3 or more Players or one goalkeeper from within their PGA Squad Cap for the U21 Squad Category selected for international duty in accordance with Annexe 1 of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (this does not include Players on standby) by their national association for any competitive UEFA and FIFA matches which are played within the FIFA Women's International Match Calendar, shall be entitled to request a postponement of any Match(es) that takes place during the period of time in which the Players are called up by their national association team or within two days of the Player(s) returning from international duty, provided that at least 10 days' written notice has been given to the Secretary prior to the scheduled time of kick-off of the PGA Match(es).
- 22.18 The person in charge of each Club on the day (for example the manager or assistant manager) must hand a team sheet to the referee and a representative of their opponents in the presence of the referee at least 60 minutes before

the scheduled time of kick-off. The names and shirt numbers of that team's players (including any nominated substitutes) and the colours of the playing strip must be clearly stated.

- 22.19 A substitution can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the referee has given permission. A Club at its discretion may use five substitute Players during a Match, subject to the conditions set out in Law 3 of the Laws of the Game. For the avoidance of doubt, each Club has no more than three opportunities to make substitutions during normal time in the Match (in addition to the ability to make substitutions at half time and any concussion or additional substitutions in accordance with Rule 22.20). If the Match proceeds to extra time, each Club will be permitted to carry over any unused substitution opportunities into extra time and will be permitted an additional fourth opportunity to make a substitution (excluding (i) the break between full time and extra time and (ii) at half time of extra time). Where both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as a used substitution opportunity for each team.
- 22.20 A maximum of five substitutes may be nominated for each Match and they must be included on the official Team Sheet handed to the referee before the PGA Match. A substitute may not be used to replace a Player who has been suspended or ejected from the PGA Match by the Match Officials. If a Player does not take part in the PGA Match for which she is a nominated substitute she shall be deemed as not having played for the Club in that Match.
- 22.21 The half time interval shall be of 15 minutes duration and shall not exceed fifteen minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.
- 22.22 The Clubs taking part in a Match shall identify a team captain who shall wear an armband to signify her status and shall be responsible for offering support in the management of the on-field discipline of her team mates. Failure to comply with this PGA Competition Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 22.23 All Clubs shall have the following minimum level of medical provision:
 - 22.23.1 Both the home Club and away Club shall each have a HCPC Registered Physiotherapist or a Sports Therapist in attendance at each Match.
 - 22.23.2 Medical equipment present and in full working order at every training session and Match which corresponds with the list set out at Appendix 3. In addition, a defibrillator must be present (pitch side or, if the relevant session is a training session which is not pitch based, in close proximity to the relevant session) and in full working order for the duration of all Matches and training sessions.
 - 22.23.3 All incidents, interventions and procedures must be documented and recorded in accordance with standard medical practice and stored in accordance with nationally recognised guidelines.
 - 22.23.4 All medical personnel must ensure that medical records are kept in accordance with their accredited national governing body's requirements and guidelines.
 - 22.23.5 Where no medical personnel are employed by a Club, care should be taken to ensure that health and safety legislation is adhered to and there is both an emergency action plan and the ability to document and regularly review all medical emergencies and requirements for first aid.
 - 22.23.6 All staff must be covered by appropriate indemnity insurance and have documentation evidencing their qualifications, disclosure and barring service check and other relevant information on record with the Club.
 - 22.23.7 All Clubs must have an audit and restocking procedure for all supplies and equipment maintenance.
 - 22.23.8 Any administrator involved in managing medical data must have sufficient training and understanding of the significance of confidential medical information and how it should be handled.
 - 22.23.9 All Clubs shall ensure that any player who sustains a potentially concussive head injury during a Match is substituted and not permitted to resume training or play without the consent of a medical practitioner. The same provisions shall apply where a potential concussive head injury is sustained in training.

- 22.23.10 Any failure to comply with this PGA Competition Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Where there are multiple breaches of this PGA Competition Rule, each instance of breach constitutes an individual and separate breach of this PGA Competition Rule and will attract a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

23. REPORTING RESULTS

- 23.1 The Secretary must receive the result of each Match in the prescribed manner within 3 days of the date of the PGA Match. This must include the forenames and surnames of the Players (in block letters) and also the referee markings required by PGA Competition Rule 25.8 as well as any other information required by the PGA Competition.
- 23.2 Both Clubs shall enter the result of each Match to the relevant online portal within two hours of the final whistle.
- 23.3 The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by a responsible member of the Club.
- 23.4 Any failure to comply with PGA Competition Rules 23.1 - 23.3 will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 23.5 Within 72 hours of the conclusion of each Match each Club shall enter the forenames and surnames of the Players which have played in the PGA Match as well as any other information required by the Executive Operational Committee, Leagues OpCo or The FA from time to time on to the relevant online portal.

24. DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

- 24.1
- 24.1.1 Club rankings within the PGA Competition will be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn Match. Matches must not be played for double points. When a Match is drawn, the game shall go straight to penalties using the ABAB format. The winner of the penalty shoot out shall be awarded 1 additional point, on top of the point awarded for the draw.
- 24.1.2 In circumstances where two or more Clubs in the same division are equal on points, Club rankings shall be determined by goal difference where the goals scored against each team shall be deducted from the goals scored by that team and the largest positive or smallest negative difference shall be placed the highest. In the event of the goal difference being equal, the highest placed Club shall be the Club which has scored the most goals. In the event that two or more Clubs have the same goal difference and have scored the same number of goals, then the highest placed Club shall be the Club which has won the most Matches.
- 24.1.3 In the event of the two Clubs still being equal, the Club which has the better playing record against the other Club in their head to head Matches during the Season will be the highest placed Club (together with PGA Competition Rule 24.1.2, the "**Tiebreaker Rules**").
- 24.1.4 If the records of two or more Clubs are still equal and it is necessary for any reason to determine the position of each then the Clubs affected shall play a deciding match or matches as determined by the Executive Operational Committee.
- 24.2 In the event of a Club withdrawing from the PGA Competition before completing 75% of its fixtures for the Season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting Club shall be expunged from the PGA Competition table. For the purposes of this PGA Competition Rule 24.2, a completed fixture shall include any Match(es) which has been awarded by the Executive Operational Committee.

25. REFEREES

- 25.1 Registered referees (and assistant referees where approved by The FA or County Association) for all Matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Executive Operational Committee and by The FA.
- 25.2 In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed referee, the appointed senior assistant referee shall take charge and a substitute assistant referee shall be appointed by the competing Clubs. In cases where there are no officially

appointed assistant referees, the Clubs shall agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee. Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any open age competition.

- 25.3 Where assistant referees are not appointed each Club shall provide an assistant referee. Any failure to comply with this PGA Competition Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 25.4 The appointed referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the Ground in all Matches and the referee's decision shall be final subject to either, in the case of a ground of a Local Authority or the owners of a ground, the representative of that body is the sole arbiter and whose decision must be accepted.
- 25.5 Subject to any limits / provisions laid down by the relevant Affiliated Association, Match Officials appointed under this PGA Competition Rule shall be paid a match fee of £45 (Referee) or £35 (Assistant Referee) and travel expenses of 35p per mile up to a maximum of £40. If the fixture takes place on a Business Day (as defined in The FA Rules), each Match Official shall be paid an additional £15.

The home Club shall pay the Match Officials their fees and expenses immediately after the PGA Match. Any failure to comply with this PGA Competition Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- 25.6 In the event of a Match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to half fee plus expenses. Where a Match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Match Officials, if they attend the Ground, their full fee and expenses. Any failure to comply with this PGA Competition Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 25.7 A referee not keeping his or her engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Affiliated Association with which he or she is registered.
- 25.8 Each Club shall, in the manner prescribed from time to time by Leagues OpCo award marks to the referee for each Match and the name of the referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Secretary on the prescribed form. Clubs failing to comply with this PGA Competition Rule shall be liable to be fined or dealt with as the Executive Operational Committee shall determine. Any failure to comply with this PGA Competition Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 25.9 The PGA Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the form provided by the prescribed date each Season, shall submit a summary to The FA / County Association.
- 25.10 Referees and assistant referees shall have undertaken a Respect briefing offered by The FA / County Association or the PGA Competition.

Appendix 1: Rules in respect of the U21 Professional Game Academy Cup and Plate (“**U21 Knock Out Competition Rules**”)

General

1. The Cup shall be called ‘The U21 Professional Game Academy Cup’ (the “**U21 Cup**”) and the Plate shall be called ‘The U21 Professional Game Academy Plate’ (the “**U21 Plate**”) (together the “**U21 Knock Out Competitions**”).
2. Save as set out otherwise below, the U21 Professional Game Academy League Rules (the “**Rules**”) shall apply to the U21 Knock Out Competitions. For the purposes of these U21 Knock Out Competition Rules, references to the PGA Competition (including a Match) within the Rules shall include the U21 Knock Out Competitions.
3. In the event of any conflict between the Rules and these U21 Knock Out Competition Rules, these U21 Knock Out Competition Rules will take precedence in relation to the U21 Knock Out Competitions.
4. In order to participate in the U21 Knock Out Competitions, a Club must comply with the U21 Knock Out Competition Rules and, as appropriate, the provisions of the Rules.

Clubs and Players

5. All Clubs competing in the PGA Competition shall compete in the U21 Knock Out Competitions.
6. In addition to those Clubs who shall compete in the U21 Knock Out Competitions pursuant to paragraph 5 above, the Board may invite one or more clubs which are not members of the PGA Competition (which will be considered to be “**Clubs**” for the purposes of the U21 Knock Out Competitions in the Season in which they participate in the U21 Knock Out Competitions) to participate in the U21 Knock Out Competitions. The Board will determine, in its absolute discretion, which club or clubs will be invited to participate in the U21 Knock Out Competitions each Season.
7. Any Club withdrawing from the U21 Knock Out Competitions once it has been confirmed as competing in the U21 Knock Out Competitions for the relevant Season shall be fined a sum not exceeding £100.
8. Subject to paragraph 11 below regarding eligibility to play in the Semi Final and / or Final of either U21 Knock Out Competition, in order to be eligible to play in the U21 Knock Out Competitions, a Player must be:
 - 8.1 registered for a Club participating in the PGA Competition; or
 - 8.2 for Clubs which are not participating in the PGA Competition, registered for the U21 Knock Out Competition in accordance with Rule 18 of the Rules.
9. A Player shall not play for more than one Club in the U21 Knock Out Competitions during any one Season. A Club playing an ineligible Player may be removed from the U21 Knock Out Competitions, and be subject to a fine as determined by the Executive Operational Committee.
10. Trialists are not permitted to play in the U21 Knock Out Competitions.
11. For a Player to be eligible to play in the Semi Final and / or Final of either U21 Knock Out Competition that Player must have played in at least three matches for her Club's Professional Game Academy during the current Season or be registered within the Club's PGA Squad Cap. These matches can be played in the PGA Competition, the U21 Knock Out Competitions or any other league competition in which a Club may play. The Executive Operational Committee may waive the eligibility requirement contained in this paragraph in respect of goalkeepers only, where it considers, in its sole discretion, that exceptional circumstances apply.

Structure of the U21 Knock Out Competitions

12. The Executive Operational Committee reserves the right to amend the structure of the U21 Knock Out Competitions at any time where it considers necessary in its sole discretion. Where the Executive Operational Committee exercises this discretion, it shall notify the participating Clubs promptly of any such change, which shall represent an amendment to the provisions contained in these U21 Knock Out Competition Rules under the section titled "Structure of the U21 Knock Out Competitions".
13. Where there are 17 Clubs participating in the U21 Knock Out Competitions, a match will take place between two Clubs chosen by lot from either the group of Northern Clubs or the group of Southern Clubs (both as defined below) depending on which group contains the greatest number of Clubs (the "**U21 Knock Out Competition Preliminary Match**"). The U21 Knock Out Competition Preliminary Match will take place over one leg and be played at the home Ground of the first drawn Club, or, where the Executive Operational Committee in its sole discretion considers appropriate, at a neutral ground to be selected by the Executive Operational Committee. The U21 Knock Out Competition Preliminary Match shall be played to a conclusion. In the event that the score is equal at the end of 90 minutes, the Extra Time and Penalties Procedure shall be followed. The loser of the U21 Knock Out Competition Preliminary Match will bypass the U21 Plate Competition Preliminary Match (as defined below) and enter the U21 Plate and the winner of the U21 Knock Out Competition Preliminary Match will enter the Initial Round (as defined below).
14. In order to determine which Clubs will participate in the U21 Cup and which Clubs will participate in the U21 Plate, an initial round of matches ("**Initial Round**") will be held with the losers of those matches participating in the U21 Plate and the winners participating in the U21 Cup. In order to determine which clubs will play each other in the Initial Round, the clubs will be separated into two groups which will be split geographically so that one group shall contain the most southerly clubs ("**Southern Clubs**") and the other shall contain the most northerly clubs ("**Northern Clubs**"). An open draw will then take place with the Southern Clubs being drawn against each other and the Northern Clubs being drawn against each other. The Initial Round matches will take place over one leg and be played at the home Ground of the first drawn Club, or, where the Executive Operational Committee in its sole discretion considers appropriate, at a neutral ground to be selected by the Executive Operational Committee. The Initial Round matches shall be played to a conclusion. In the event that the score is equal at the end of 90 minutes, the Extra Time and Penalties Procedure shall be followed.
15. Where there are 9 Clubs participating in the U21 Plate, a match will take place between two Clubs chosen by lot, which shall not include any Club that participated in the U21 Knockout Competition Preliminary Match (the "**U21 Plate Competition Preliminary Match**"). The U21 Plate Competition Preliminary Match will take place over one leg and be played at the home Ground of the first drawn Club, or, where the Executive Operational Committee in its sole discretion considers appropriate, at a neutral ground to be selected by the Executive Operational Committee. The U21 Plate Competition Preliminary Match shall be played to a conclusion. In the event that the score is equal at the end of 90 minutes, the Extra Time and Penalties Procedure shall be followed. The loser of the U21 Plate Competition Preliminary Match will be eliminated from the U21 Plate and the winner will progress to the Knock Out Stage (as defined below).

Knock Out Stage

16. Following the Initial Round, both the Cup and Plate will proceed to subsequent rounds which shall be played on a knock out basis ("**Knock Out Stage**"). The Knock Out Stage of both U21 Knock Out Competitions shall consist of:
 - 16.1 four quarter finals ("**Quarter Finals**");
 - 16.2 two semi-finals ("**Semi Finals**"); and
 - 16.3 the final ("**Final**").

Quarter Finals

17. In order to determine which Clubs will play each other in the Quarter Finals, an open draw will take place with those Clubs in the U21 Cup drawn against each other and those Clubs in the U21 Plate drawn against each other.
18. The Quarter Finals of both U21 Knock Out Competitions shall be played at the home Ground of the first drawn Club or a neutral ground to be determined by the Board in its absolute discretion.
19. The Quarter Finals of both U21 Knock Out Competitions shall be played to a conclusion. In the event that the score is equal at the end of 90 minutes, the Extra Time and Penalties Procedure shall be followed.
20. The winning four Clubs from the Quarter Finals of each U21 Knock Out Competition will progress to the Semi Finals.

Semi Finals

21. In order to determine which Clubs will play each other in the Semi Finals, an open draw will take place with those Clubs in the U21 Cup drawn against each other and those Clubs in the U21 Plate drawn against each other.
22. The Semi Finals of both U21 Knock Out Competitions shall be played at the home Ground of the first drawn Club or a neutral ground to be determined by the Board in its absolute discretion.
23. The Semi Finals of both U21 Knock Out Competitions shall be played to a conclusion. In the event that the score is equal at the end of 90 minutes, the Extra Time and Penalties Procedure shall be followed.
24. The winners of the two Semi Finals of the U21 Cup will progress to the Final of the U21 Cup and the winners of the two Semi Finals of the U21 Plate will progress to the Final of the U21 Plate.

The Final

25. The Finals of both U21 Knock Out Competitions shall be played on a date and at a neutral ground to be determined by the Secretary in their absolute discretion.
26. The winner of the Final of the U21 Cup will be the winner of the U21 Cup and the winner of the Final of the U21 Plate will be the winner of the U21 Plate.
27. The Finals of both U21 Knock Out Competitions shall be played to a conclusion. In the event that the score is equal at the end of 90 minutes, the Extra Time and Penalties Procedure shall be followed.

Trophy and Medals

28. When the winning Club of each U21 Knock Out Competition has been ascertained, Leagues OpCo shall deliver the corresponding trophy to the winning Club. The winning Clubs shall be responsible for the return of the relevant trophy to Leagues OpCo on or before the first day in June in the ensuing year in good order and condition.

Should either trophy be lost, destroyed or damaged by fire or any other cause whilst under the care or custody of a Club, the Club shall pay to Leagues OpCo the amount of the current insured value or the cost of thorough repair of the relevant trophy in addition to any other penalty which the Executive Operational Committee may impose.

29. The Executive Operational Committee (or a person nominated on its behalf) shall present to the winners of each U21 Knock Out Competition 30 souvenirs medals, 25 for the Players, 1 for the secretary, 1 for the team manager, 1 for the physiotherapist and 2 for staff other than Players. Additional souvenirs cannot be presented except by consent of the Executive Operational Committee, and then at the expense of the requesting Club. When a Player taking part is ordered to leave the field of play for misconduct, the medal to which she may be entitled may be withheld at the discretion of the Executive Operational Committee.

RULES IN RESPECT OF THE U16 PROFESSIONAL GAME ACADEMY CUP AND PLATE ("U16 KNOCK OUT COMPETITION RULES")

General

1. The Cup shall be called "The U16 Professional Game Academy Cup" (the "**U16 Cup**") and the Plate shall be called "The U16 Professional Game Academy Plate" (the "**U16 Plate**") (together the "**U16 Knock Out Competitions**").
2. Save as set out otherwise below, the Professional Game Academy League Rules (the "**Rules**") shall apply to the U16 Knock Out Competitions. For the purposes of these U16 Knock Out Competition Rules, references to the Competition (including a Match) within the Rules shall include the U16 Knock Out Competitions.
3. For the purposes of these U16 Knock Out Competition Rules, references to "**Players**" shall mean players who are:
 - 3.1 registered to the Club's PGA Squad Cap and are either 14 or 15 years old as at 31 August in the relevant Season; or,
 - 3.2 registered with the Club on the League's player registration system (but not the PGA Squad Cap) and are 13 years old as at 31 August in the relevant Season, provided that The FA has given permission for that player to play in the U16 Knock Out Competitions (in such manner as may be specified by The FA from time to time).
4. In the event of any conflict between the Rules and these U16 Knock Out Competition Rules, these U16 Knock Out Competition Rules will take precedence in relation to the U16 Knock Out Competitions.
5. In order to participate in the U16 Knock Out Competitions, a Club must comply with the U16 Knock Out Competition Rules and, as appropriate, the provisions of the Rules.

Clubs and Players

6. In order to be admitted to membership of the U16 Knock Out Competitions, a Club shall have a PGA Licence.
7. In order to be admitted to membership of the U16 Knock Out Competitions, a Club must provide written confirmation to the Secretary of its intention to do so by no later than 1 June in the relevant Season.
8. Any Club withdrawing from the U16 Knock Out Competitions once it has been confirmed as competing in the U16 Knock Out Competitions for the relevant Season shall be fined a sum not exceeding £100.
9. Subject to paragraph 12 below regarding eligibility to play in the final of either of the U16 Knock Out Competitions, only Players (as per paragraph 3 above) shall be eligible to play in the U16 Knock Out Competitions.
10. A Player shall not play for more than one Club in the U16 Knock Out Competitions during any one Season. A Club playing an ineligible Player may be removed from the U16 Knock Out Competitions, and be subject to a fine as determined by the Executive Operational Committee.
11. Triallists are not permitted to play in the U16 Knock Out Competitions.
12. For a Player to be eligible to play in the Semi Final and / or Final of either U16 Knock Out Competition that Player must have played in at least three matches for her Club's Professional Game Academy during the current Season or be registered within the Club's PGA Squad Cap. These matches can be played in the PGA Competition, the U16 Knock Out Competitions or any other league competition in which a Club may play. The Executive Operational Committee may waive the eligibility requirement contained in this paragraph in respect of goalkeepers only, where it considers, in its sole discretion, that exceptional circumstances apply.

Structure of the U16 Knock Out Competitions

13. The Executive Operational Committee reserves the right to amend the structure of the U16 Knock Out Competitions at any time where it considers necessary in its sole discretion. Where the Executive Operational Committee exercises this discretion, it shall notify the participating Clubs promptly of any such change, which shall represent an amendment to the provisions contained in these U16 Knock Out Competition Rules under the section titled "Structure of the U16 Knock Out Competitions".
14. Where there are 17 Clubs participating in the U16 Knock Out Competitions, a match will take place between two Clubs chosen by lot from either the group of Northern Clubs or the group of Southern Clubs (both as defined below) depending on which group contains the greatest number of Clubs (the "**U16 Knock Out Competition Preliminary Match**"). The U16 Knock Out Competition Preliminary Match will take place over one leg and be played at the home Ground of the first drawn Club, or, where the Executive Operational Committee in its sole discretion considers appropriate, at a neutral ground to be selected by the Executive Operational Committee. The U16 Knock Out Competition Preliminary Match shall be played to a conclusion. In the event that the score is equal at the end of 80 minutes, the outcome of the match will be determined by the taking of penalty kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the procedure adopted by IFAB. The loser of the U16 Knock Out Competition Preliminary Match will bypass the U16 Plate Competition Preliminary Match (as defined below) and enter the U16 Plate and the winner of the U16 Knock Out Competition Preliminary Match will enter the Initial Round (as defined below).
15. In order to determine which Clubs will participate in the U16 Cup and which Clubs will participate in the U16 Plate, an initial round of matches ("**Initial Round**") will be held with the losers of those matches participating in the U16 Plate and the winners participating in the U16 Cup. In order to determine which clubs will play each other in the Initial Round, the clubs will be separated into two groups which will be split geographically so that one group shall contain the most southerly clubs ("**Southern Clubs**") and the other shall contain the most northerly clubs ("**Northern Clubs**"). An open draw will then take place with the Southern Clubs being drawn against each other and the Northern Clubs being drawn against each other. The Initial Round matches will take place over one leg and be played at the home Ground of the first drawn Club, or, where the Executive Operational Committee in its sole discretion considers appropriate, at a neutral ground to be selected by the Executive Operational Committee. The Initial Round matches shall be played to a conclusion. In the event that the score is equal at the end of 80 minutes, the outcome of the match will be determined by the taking of penalty kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the procedure adopted by the IFAB.
16. Where there are 9 Clubs participating in the U16 Plate, a match will take place between two Clubs chosen by lot, which shall not include any Club that participated in the U16 Knockout Competition Preliminary Match (the "**U16 Plate Competition Preliminary Match**"). The U16 Plate Competition Preliminary Match will take place over one leg and be played at the home Ground of the first drawn Club, or, where the Executive Operational Committee in its sole discretion considers appropriate, at a neutral ground to be selected by the Executive Operational Committee. The U16 Plate Competition Preliminary Match shall be played to a conclusion. In the event that the score is equal at the end of 80 minutes. In the event that the score is still equal after 80 minutes has concluded, the outcome of the match will be determined by the taking of penalty kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the procedure adopted by the IFAB. The loser of the U16 Plate Competition Preliminary Match will be eliminated from the U16 Plate and the winner will progress to the Knock Out Stage (as defined below).

Knock Out Stage

17. Following the Initial Round, both the U16 Cup and U16 Plate will proceed to subsequent rounds which shall be played on a knock out basis ("**Knock Out Stage**"). The Knock Out Stage of both U16 Knock Out Competitions shall consist of:
 - 17.1 four quarter finals ("**Quarter Finals**");
 - 17.2 two semi-finals ("**Semi Finals**"); and

- 17.3 the final ("Final").

Quarter Finals

18. In order to determine which Clubs will play each other in the Quarter Finals, an open draw will take place with those Clubs in the U16 Cup drawn against each other and those Clubs in the U16 Plate drawn against each other.
19. The Quarter Finals of both U16 Knock Out Competitions shall be played at the home Ground of the first drawn Club or a neutral ground to be determined by the Board in its absolute discretion.
20. The Quarter Finals of both U16 Knock Out Competitions shall be played to a conclusion. In the event that the score is equal at the end of 80 minutes, the outcome of the match will be determined by the taking of penalty kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the procedure adopted by the IFAB.
21. The winning four Clubs from the Quarter Finals of each U16 Knock Out Competition will progress to the Semi Finals.

Semi Finals

22. In order to determine which Clubs will play each other in the Semi Finals, an open draw will take place with those Clubs in the U16 Cup drawn against each other and those Clubs in the U16 Plate drawn against each other.
23. The Semi Finals of both U16 Knock Out Competitions shall be played at the home Ground of the first drawn Club or a neutral ground to be determined by the Board in its absolute discretion.
24. The Semi Finals of both U16 Knock Out Competitions shall be played to a conclusion. If there is no winner after 80 minutes, the winner shall be determined by the taking of penalty kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the procedure adopted by the IFAB.
25. The winners of the two Semi Finals of the U16 Cup will progress to the Final of the U16 Cup and the winners of the two Semi Finals of the U16 Plate will progress to the Final of the U16 Plate.

The Final

26. The Finals of both U16 Knock Out Competitions shall be played on a date and at a neutral ground to be determined by the Secretary in their absolute discretion.
27. The winner of the Final of the U16 Cup will be the winner of the U16 Cup and the winner of the Final of the U16 Plate will be the winner of the U16 Plate.
28. The Finals of both U16 Knock Out Competitions shall be played to a conclusion. If there is no winner after 80 minutes, the winner shall be determined by the taking of penalty kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the procedure adopted by the IFAB.

Trophy and Medals

29. When the winning Club of each U16 Knock Out Competition has been ascertained, Leagues OpCo shall deliver the corresponding trophy to the winning Club. The winning Clubs shall be responsible for the return of the relevant trophy to Leagues OpCo on or before the first day in June in the ensuing year in good order and condition.

Should either trophy be lost, destroyed or damaged by fire or any other cause whilst under the care or custody of a Club, the Club shall pay to Leagues OpCo the amount of the current insured value or the cost of thorough repair of the relevant trophy in addition to any other penalty which the Executive Operational Committee may impose.
30. The Executive Operational Committee (or a person nominated on its behalf) shall present to the winners of each U16 Knock Out Competition 30 souvenirs medals, 25 for the Players, 1 for the secretary, 1 for the team manager, 1 for the physiotherapist and 2 for staff other than Players. Additional souvenirs cannot be presented except by consent of the Executive Operational Committee, and then at the expense of the requesting Club. When a Player taking part is

ordered to leave the field of play for misconduct, the medal to which she may be entitled may be withheld at the discretion of the Executive Operational Committee.

Appendix 2 :Table of Fees and Expenses

FEES TARIFF		
PGA COMPETITION RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE
6.3, 6.6, 6.8	PROTEST / APPEAL FEES	£50
25.5	REFEREE FEES	£45 if weekend fixture or £60 where fixture is on a Business Day & 35p per mile up to a maximum of £40
25.5	ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES	£35 if weekend fixture or £50 where fixture is on a Business Day & 35p per mile up to a maximum of £40

FINES TARIFF		
PGA COMPETITION RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
2.3	FAILURE TO AFFILIATE	£100
2.5	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH LEAGUES OPCI OR FA INITIATIVES	£25
2.8	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITIONS	£25
5.4	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE	£100
5.5	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	£20
7.8	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT PRE-SEASON SHAREHOLDERS' MEETING	£100
8.5	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM	£100
10.5	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT OR TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO SIGNATORIES	£10
11.1	FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE DEADLINE	£150
11.2	FAILURE TO COMMENCE / COMPLETE FIXTURES	£100
13	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY	£10

FINES TARIFF		
PGA COMPETITION RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
16.1 and 16.3	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£25
16.2 and 16.3	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£25
18.3.13	BREACH OF RULE 7.1.13 OF THE COMPETITION RULES	£25 per player
18.5.1	BREACH OF RULE 7.4.2 OF THE COMPETITION RULES	£100
21.3	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CHANGE OF COLOURS FOR MATCH OFFICIALS	£25
21.7	FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS	£100
22.10	FAILURE TO PROVIDE BALLS, CORNER FLAGS OR NETS	£50
22.11	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFRESHMENTS	£100
22.14	FAILURE OF HOME CLUB TO PROVIDE FULL PARTICULARS OF A GROUND OR FIXTURE	£50
22.16.1 & 22.16.2	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE	Up to £250
22.22	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	£5
22.23	FAILURE TO MEET ANY MINIMUM REQUIREMENT OF MEDICAL PROVISION	£100 per requirement
23.1	LATE RESULT NOTIFICATION FORM	£25
23.2	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT	£25
23.3	RESULT NOTIFICATION NOT SIGNED BY APPROPRIATE SIGNATORIES	£25
25.3	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE	£25
25.5	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES AND EXPENSES	£25
25.6	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED	£25
25.8	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK	£15

Appendix 3: Mandatory medical equipment

ITEM	PROPOSED SITE (DISCRETIONARY)
UTILITY – AIRWAY MANAGEMENT AND BREATHING	
OPAs, NPAs and I-Gels	Bag
Lubricating jelly	Bag
Magill's adult forceps	Bag
Manual suction device with Yankeur catheters	Bag
Cricothyroidotomy set	Recommended Ambulance if applicable
Intubation kit	Recommended Ambulance if applicable
Bag valve with face masks	Bag
Pulse oximeter	Bag
Oxygen with non-rebreathing mask / reservoir	Bag
UTILITY – CIRCULATION	
AED adult with 2 sets of pads, razor and towel	Bag
Stethoscope	Bag
Sphygmomanometer	Bag
Venous tourniquet	Bag
EZ-IO with 25mm needle and stabiliser dressing	Recommended not yet mandated
IV cannula assorted sizes	Bag
IV fluid giving set, dressings and fluids	Room / bag
Umbrella	Pitch-side
UTILITY – WOUND MANAGEMENT AND HAZARD	
Sharps box 500ml	Room
Antiseptic e.g. chlorhexidine sachets	Room
Sterile syringes 2,5,10,20ml	Room and bag accordingly
Hypodermic needles green / blue / orange	Room & bag as needed
Saline 20ml	Room / bag
Clinical waste bags and bin	Room
Hand gel	Room
Gloves sterile and non-sterile	Room and bag accordingly
Nasal tampons	Room and bag
A selection of swabs, dressings, bandages and skin closure materials	

ITEM	PROPOSED SITE (DISCRETIONARY)
Suture material	Room
UTILITY – EVACUATION	
Fully equipped spinal board and appropriate triple immobilisation system	Pitch-side
Semi-rigid adjustable cervical collar	Pitch-side
Basket stretcher	Pitch-side
Split-device & securing / immobilisation adjuncts	Pitch-side
UTILITY - FRACTURE IMMOBILISATION	
Triangular bandage	Bag
Lower limb traction splint (Kendrick or equivalent)	Pitch-side
Rescue type blankets	Room
SAM splint orange / blue	Bag
Vacuum splints (not mandated but advised for angulated fractures)	Pitch-Side
Pelvic splint (SAM pelvic binder recommended)	Pitch-side
Box splints	Pitch-side
UTILITY - GENERAL	
Pocket concussion recognition tool and CCSPiNES (Clearing C spine algorithm)	Bag
Glucometer, strips and lancets	Bag / Room
Urinalysis sticks	Room
Non-mercury thermometer	Room
Ophthalmoscope and otoscope	Room
Tongue depressors	Room
Penlight / torch	Room / bag
Heavy scissors	Bag
Running water	Room
Ice and ice bags	Room
Referral letters and head injury instructions	Room
Emergency protocol for venue with contacts	Room
Couch and 2 chairs	Equipped medical room
UTILITY – MEDICINES	
Adrenaline 1:10,000 10ml	Bag
Adrenaline 1:1000 (Epipen / Anapen)	Room / Bag
GTN spray	Bag

ITEM	PROPOSED SITE (DISCRETIONARY)
Aspirin tabs 300mg	Room / Bag
Chlorpheniramine 10mg in 1ml	Room / Bag
Glucose gel or glucagon injection or both	Room / Bag
Oral rehydration fluids	Room
Hydrocortisone injection	Room / Bag
Local anaesthetic, lidocaine or equivalent	Room
Salbutamol nebules and nebuliser or salbutamol MDI and spacer device	Room
Oxygen spare cylinder and high flow masks	Room or Ambulance if applicable
Entonox (Pentrox recommended but not yet mandated)	Pitch-side
Amiodarone	Room or Ambulance if applicable
Buccal midazolam for seizure control	Room / Bag