

RULES OF THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION

PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

1. Operative Provisions

- 1.1 Clubs, Players, officials, Team Staff, Team Officials and other persons participating in any way in the Competition shall be bound by and comply with these Competition Rules (and any rules and regulations made pursuant to these Competition Rules).
- 1.2 Clubs, Players, officials, Team Staff, Team Officials and other persons participating in any way in the Competition shall only have such rights in relation to the Competition (and any Match) as are expressly granted to them under and in terms of these Competition Rules or by the Scottish FA, in writing.
- 1.3 Any Club, Player, official, member of Team Staff, Team Official or other person participating in any way in the Competition which or who breaches, infringes or fails and/or refuses to comply with any of these Competition Rules, may be:
- 1.3.1 referred to the Compliance Officer for investigation; and/or
 - 1.3.2 the subject of disciplinary proceedings before the Judicial Panel under and in terms of the Judicial Panel Protocol; and/or
 - 1.3.3 liable to sanctions as provided for in the Judicial Panel Protocol.

2. Interpretation

- 2.1 In these Competition Rules, unless expressly provided otherwise:

Annual General Meeting	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Anti-Doping Regulations	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Approval Period	shall have the meaning given to it in Competition Rule 12.7;
Articles	means the Articles of Association of the Scottish FA, as adopted or amended from time to time;
Association Football	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Away Club	means the Club selected second in each Match at the relevant Cup Draw, irrespective of whether the Match is played at a Neutral Ground;
Board	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Club	shall have the meaning given to the term "club" in Article 1.1 and, for the purposes of these Competition Rules, includes (without limitation) Cooperation Clubs;

Club Cooperation Regulations	means the regulations promulgated by the Board from time to time in relation to cooperation arrangements between Clubs;
Club Licence	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Club Licensing	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Club Licensing Procedures	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Commercial Rights	shall have the meaning given to it in Competition Rule 7.1;
Commercial Statement	shall have the meaning given to it in Competition Rule 7.2;
Cooperation Agreement	shall have the meaning given to it in the Club Cooperation Regulations;
Cooperation Club	shall have the meaning given to it in the Club Cooperation Regulations;
Cooperation List	shall have the meaning given to it in the Club Cooperation Regulations;
Cooperation Parent Club	shall have the meaning given to the term "parent club" in the Club Cooperation Regulations;
Competition	shall have the meaning given to it in Competition Rule 3.1;
Competition Rules	means these rules of the Competition (as amended from time to time) and "Competition Rule" shall be construed accordingly;
Compliance Officer	means the Compliance Officer from time to time provided for in terms of the Judicial Panel Protocol;
Concussion Substitute	means a Player who is permanently substituted at any point during a Match after a concussion occurs or is suspected to have occurred after an on-field assessment and/or after an off-field assessment or at any other time when a concussion occurs or is suspected to have occurred (including when a player has previously been assessed and has returned to the field of play);
Cup Draw	means the procedure by which it is determined which Clubs will play against each other in each Round of the Competition;
Disciplinary Procedures	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Disciplinary Rules	means the rules and sanctions more particularly described at Annex A of the Judicial Panel Protocol and as amended from time to time;

East of Scotland Football League	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Fielded Substitutes	shall have the meaning given to it in Competition Rule 13.1;
FIFA	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Final Match	means the Final Match played in the Competition each Season;
full member	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1 and the expression "full membership" shall be construed accordingly;
GLT	shall have the meaning given to it in Competition Rule 17.5;
GLT Costs	means the costs specified by the Scottish FA and communicated to Clubs from time to time for the use of GLT in a Match;
Home Club	means the Club selected first in each Match at the relevant Cup Draw, irrespective of whether the Match is played at a Neutral Ground;
IFAB	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Judicial Panel	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Judicial Panel Protocol	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Laws of the Game	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Match	means a football match played in the Competition;
Match Attendee	shall have the meaning given to it in Competition Rule 24.1;
Match Official	shall have the meaning given to the term "match official" in Article 1.1;
Midlands Football League	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Neutral Ground	means a Registered Ground which is not the Registered Ground of one of the Clubs competing in the Match but shall exclude the Stadium or any other stadium where the Semi-Final Matches or the Final Match is played or to be played;
Nominated Substitutes	shall have the meaning given to it in Competition Rule 13.1;
North Caledonian FA	means the North Caledonian Football Association, an unincorporated association, whose office is at 54 Culduthel Mains Gardens, Culduthel, Inverness IV2 6RD;

North of Scotland Football League	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
official	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Official Return	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Official Team Line	shall have the meaning given to it in Competition Rule 14.1;
Parent Club	shall have the meaning given to it in the Registration Procedures;
Player	shall have the meaning given to the term "player" in Article 1.1 and, for the purposes of these Competition Rules, includes (without limitation) Qualifying Players;
Qualifying Player	shall have the meaning given to it in the Club Cooperation Regulations;
referee	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Registered Ground	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Registration Procedures	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Relevant Period	shall have the meaning given to it in Competition Rule 24.1;
Round	means a Round of Matches in the Competition and reference to "Round [number]" shall be a reference to the relevant Round of the Competition;
Scottish Amateur FA	means The Scottish Amateur FA, an unincorporated association, whose office is at Hampden Park, Glasgow G42 9DD;
Scottish Cup Trophy	means the trophy, including any replicas owned and made available by the Scottish FA, presented to the Winner;
Scottish FA	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Scottish FA Comet	means the football management system known as "Scottish FA Comet" used by the Scottish FA;
Scottish Highland Football League	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Scottish Junior FA	means The Scottish Junior FA, an unincorporated association, whose office is at Hampden Park, Glasgow G42 9DD;
Scottish Lowland Football League	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;

Scottish Professional Football League	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Season	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Semi-Final Match	means a Semi-Final Match played in the Competition;
South of Scotland Football League	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Stadium	means any stadium where the Semi-Final Matches and/or the Final Match will be or is played;
Starting Players	shall have the meaning given to it in Competition Rule 13.1;
Team Official	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Team Staff	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
VAR	shall have the meaning given to it in Competition Rule 17.4;
VAR Costs	means the costs specified by the Scottish FA and communicated to Clubs from time to time for the use of VAR in a Match, including the fees and expenses of the video assistant referee, assistant video assistant referee and replay operator;
West of Scotland Football League	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Winner	means the winner of the Final Match; and
Working Day	shall have the meaning given to the term "working day" in Article 1.1.

- 2.2 Unless otherwise defined in Competition Rule 2.1, words or expressions contained in these Competition Rules shall bear the same meaning as in the Articles and/or the Judicial Panel Protocol.
- 2.3 Unless the context otherwise requires, words importing the singular only shall include the plural and vice versa and words importing any gender shall include all genders.
- 2.4 Headings are inserted for convenience only and shall not affect the construction of these Competition Rules.
- 2.5 All references to a ground shall mean a Registered Ground, unless otherwise specified, within the context of these Competition Rules.
- 2.6 References in these Competition Rules to an "Article" shall be to the relevant Article of the Articles.

COMPETITION RULES

3. Name and Ownership of the Competition

- 3.1 The Competition shall be called the Scottish Football Association Challenge Cup, herein referred to as **“the Competition”**.
- 3.2 The ownership, organisation, control and management of the Competition and any and all rights and properties associated with it, of any nature, shall be vested wholly, exclusively and at all times in the Scottish FA.

4. Name, Ownership, Presentation and Return of the Scottish Cup Trophy

- 4.1 The Scottish Cup Trophy shall be presented to the Winner.
- 4.2 The ownership of the Scottish Cup Trophy and any and all rights and properties associated with it, of any nature, shall be vested wholly, exclusively and at all times in the Scottish FA.
- 4.3 The Winner shall return the Scottish Cup Trophy to the Scottish FA at its request, for such time and purpose as the Scottish FA may determine, and, in any event, prior to 31 March in the year following its winning of the Competition.
- 4.4 Should the Scottish Cup Trophy be lost, destroyed or damaged in any manner whatsoever whilst under the care and/or custody of the Winner, the Winner shall refund to the Scottish FA the amount of its current value on a full replacement basis or, if capable of repair, the cost of thorough repair, and shall indemnify the Scottish FA against all loss, cost and expense incurred by it in relation to or connected with such loss, destruction and/or damage.
- 4.5 The period of care and/or custody of the Scottish Cup Trophy by the Winner shall be deemed to be from the moment of presentation or other delivery of the Scottish Cup Trophy to the Winner until the date of actual physical return of the Scottish Cup Trophy to the Scottish FA. During such period the Winner is solely and exclusively liable for any loss, destruction of or damage to the Scottish Cup Trophy.
- 4.6 During any period that the Winner is in possession of the Scottish Cup Trophy it shall insure it against loss, destruction and/or damage and shall ensure that the interest of the Scottish FA is endorsed on such policy of insurance.

5. Commencement and Aims of the Competition

- 5.1 The Competition shall be played annually and in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- 5.2 The Competition shall commence on a date to be determined in each Season by the Board.
- 5.3 The aim of the Competition is to promote, foster, and develop the game of Association Football without discrimination against any organisation or person for reason of age, gender, disability, ethnicity, race, language, religion, sexuality or politics.

- 5.4 The Scottish FA shall take all such steps as may be deemed necessary or advisable for preventing infringements of the Laws of the Game, these Competition Rules, such other rules and regulations of the Scottish FA as may be applicable from time to time, any other improper methods or practices in the game, and to ensure that the game of Association Football is protected from any other abuses.
- 5.5 All Clubs, Players, officials, Team Staff, Team Officials and other persons participating in any way in the Competition agree to be subject to, bound by and to comply with the Articles, the Registration Procedures, the Judicial Panel Protocol, these Competition Rules and the Anti-Doping Regulations, all as adopted and amended from time to time. For this purpose, the Articles and these Competition Rules will be deemed to include all rules, regulations, protocols, directions and decisions made pursuant to them which relate to the Competition.

6. Eligible Clubs

- 6.1 All Clubs in full membership shall compete in the Competition in each Season in accordance with Article 33.2, subject to any sanction imposed on any Club which would otherwise prevent it from so competing.
- 6.2 In addition to those Clubs eligible to compete in the Competition in terms of Competition Rule 6.1, Clubs in membership of the East of Scotland Football League, the West of Scotland Football League, the South of Scotland Football League, the Midlands Football League, the North of Scotland Football League, the North Caledonian FA, the Scottish Junior FA and the Scottish Amateur FA shall also be eligible to compete in the Competition as follows:
- 6.2.1 the winners of the East of Scotland Football League, the West of Scotland Football League, the South of Scotland Football League, the Midlands Football League and the North of Scotland Football League Championships, irrespective of their membership status with the Scottish FA;
 - 6.2.2 the winner of the North Caledonian Football League Championship, irrespective of its membership status with the Scottish FA;
 - 6.2.3 the winner of the Cup Winners Shield, irrespective of its membership status with the Scottish FA;
 - 6.2.4 the winner of the Scottish Junior FA Cup, irrespective of its membership status with the Scottish FA; and
 - 6.2.5 the winner of the Scottish Amateur FA Cup, irrespective of its membership status with the Scottish FA.
- 6.3 Prior to the commencement of the Competition in each Season, the East of Scotland Football League, the West of Scotland Football League, the South of Scotland Football League, the Midlands Football League, the North of Scotland Football League, the North Caledonian FA, the Scottish Junior FA and the Scottish Amateur FA, shall provide the Scottish FA with written notification of:
- 6.3.1 the name(s) of their respective participating Clubs, which are eligible to compete in the Competition;

- 6.3.2 the name(s) of any of their respective participating Clubs eligible to compete in the Competition but which intend not to compete in the Competition;
- 6.3.3 the name(s) of the Registered Ground(s) of their respective competing Club(s), the field dimensions of their respective pitches, and the spectator capacity (both seated and standing) of the Registered Ground(s) of each of their respective competing Clubs; and
- 6.3.4 the details of the approved playing kit and colours of their respective competing Club(s).

7. Sponsorship and Broadcasting Matters

- 7.1 The Scottish FA, in accordance with the Articles, may enter into contracts with commercial sponsors and broadcasters and grant certain rights as the Scottish FA may in its discretion determine ("**the Commercial Rights**") to such parties in relation to the Scottish Cup Trophy and the Competition.
- 7.2 The Scottish FA will annually intimate in writing to all Clubs participating in the Competition, the terms of the Commercial Rights, which apply to such Clubs (the "**Commercial Statement**"). The Commercial Statement will constitute a definitive description of the Commercial Rights.
- 7.3 All Clubs, Players, officials, Team Staff, Team Officials and other persons participating in any way in the Competition agree to be bound by and comply with the Commercial Statement.
- 7.4 All Clubs, Players, officials, Team Staff, Team Officials and other persons participating in any way in the Competition undertake to provide any and all rights, facilities, properties and services as may be necessary for the Scottish FA to comply with and discharge the Commercial Rights.

8. Clubs Exempt from Playing in Preliminary Round(s), Rounds One, Two and Three of the Competition

- 8.1 Preliminary Round(s)
 - 8.1.1 The Clubs which, in the current Season, are members of The Scottish Professional Football League, the Scottish Highland Football League or the Scottish Lowland Football League, shall be exempt from playing in the Preliminary Round(s).
 - 8.1.2 If more than one Preliminary Round is required, the Clubs which, in the current Season, do not participate in the Club Licensing System and are not in possession of a Club Licence, as at the date of the Cup Draw, shall be required to play in the first Preliminary Round. For the purposes of these Competition Rules, a Club which has had its Club Licence suspended for whatever reason shall be deemed not to be in possession of a Club Licence.

8.2 Round One

The Clubs which, in the current Season, are members of The Scottish Professional Football League shall be exempt from playing in Round One.

8.3 Round Two

The Clubs which, in the current Season, are members of The Scottish Professional Football League Premiership, Championship or League One, shall be exempt from playing in Round Two.

8.4 Round Three

The Clubs which, in the current Season, are members of The Scottish Professional Football League Premiership shall be exempt from playing in Round Three.

9. Cup Draws for Matches in the Competition

9.1 The Cup Draw for the Preliminary Round(s), if applicable, shall be so arranged that a combination of ties and byes will produce the required number of Clubs to compete in Round One. The names of the Clubs shall be placed in a lot and drawn in couples at a time, until the requisite number of ties are drawn.

9.2 For Round One, the names of the Clubs shall be placed in a lot and drawn in couples at a time. The Clubs in each couple shall compete, and the winning Clubs in each Match will qualify to play in Round Two.

9.3 For Round Two, the names of the Clubs shall be placed in a lot and drawn in couples at a time. The Clubs in each couple shall compete, and the winning Clubs in each Match will qualify to play in Round Three.

9.4 For Round Three, the names of the Clubs shall be placed in a lot and drawn in couples at a time. The Clubs in each couple shall compete and the winning Clubs in each Match will qualify to play in Round Four.

9.5 For Round Four and subsequent Rounds, the names of the 32 Clubs (in the case of Round Four) shall be placed in a lot and drawn in couples at a time. The Clubs in each couple shall compete, and the names of the winning Clubs in each Match shall be placed in a lot and drawn in couples at a time, and so on, until two Clubs are left to compete in the Final Match.

9.6 Any Club eligible to participate in a Round but which is not drawn in the Cup Draw for that Round will receive a bye into the next Round. Clubs receiving a bye are not considered to have participated in that particular Round (and will not be eligible to participate in any financial distribution relating to it).

9.7 In the event that:

9.7.1 a Club which is eligible to participate in a Cup Draw is ejected from the Competition pursuant to a sanction imposed by the Judicial Panel prior to such Cup Draw taking place, such Club shall be replaced in the said Cup

Draw by the Club which it played in the immediately preceding Round or, if any Club which is so ejected from the Competition has not already played a Match in the Competition in the relevant Season, the Cup Draw will simply proceed without such Club's involvement; or

- 9.7.2 a Club which is drawn to play in a Match in a Round is ejected from the Competition pursuant to a sanction imposed by the Judicial Panel prior to such Match taking place, such Club shall be replaced in the said Match by the Club which it played in the immediately preceding Round or, if any Club which is so ejected from the Competition has not already played a Match in the Competition in the relevant Season, the Club which it has been drawn to play will receive a bye into the next Round.
- 9.8 After each Cup Draw, the Scottish FA will inform each Club of the name of the Club against which it is drawn, whether it has been drawn as the Home Club or the Away Club in the tie and the date and time when the Match will be played. Subject to the terms of Competition Rule 9.9, the Board shall decide the date and the hour of kick-off of each Match.
- 9.9 Subject to the agreement of the Board, and if acceptable to both Clubs and the Scottish FA, the two Clubs in a particular Match may agree to a different kick-off time and/or date for such Match than that notified by the Board provided always that such proposed change is notified to the Scottish FA as soon as reasonably practicable after the relevant Cup Draw is made and that, having regard to any Commercial Rights, police wishes and criteria, the Scottish FA does not determine that the Match must take place at a date and time fixed by the Board.

10. Grounds for Matches

- 10.1 Subject to Competition Rule 10.3, and save for the Semi-Final Matches and the Final Match, a Match shall be played at the Registered Ground of the Home Club.
- 10.2 The venues and all other arrangements for the Semi-Final Matches and the Final Match shall be determined by the Board.
- 10.3 A Home Club shall notify the Board in the event that it considers that its Registered Ground is unsuitable, for whatever reason, for the playing of a Match. The Board may, itself, determine that a Home Club's Registered Ground is unsuitable, for whatever reason, for the playing of a Match. The Board has complete and sole authority to make such a determination either on its own motion or consequentially upon notification from a Club. In making a determination as to suitability of a Registered Ground for the playing of a Match, the Board may have regard to the criteria in Competition Rule 11 but it may also have regard to any other factor(s) it considers relevant. In the event that the Board makes a determination that a Registered Ground is unsuitable for the playing of a Match, then the Match in question shall be played at such alternative Registered Ground as is determined by the Board. In such circumstances the Clubs drawn to play in that Match shall, for all other purposes, retain their respective statuses of Home Club and Away Club as originally drawn.
- 10.4 If more than one Club from the same city or town or with the same Registered Ground is drawn to play at home in the same Round and it is deemed, for whatever reason,

that their Matches cannot be played on the same day or at the same kick-off time then the Board shall determine when each such Match shall be played and the relevant Clubs will be bound by such determination.

11. Registered Ground Criteria

The Registered Ground of a Club participating in the Competition must:

- 11.1 be enclosed with a suitable barrier to keep spectators from gaining entry to the ground without payment;
- 11.2 have the following facilities inside the ground and closely adjacent to the playing field:
 - 11.2.1 separate changing, showering and toilet facilities accommodation for home and visiting teams; and
 - 11.2.2 separate changing, showering and toilet facilities accommodation for Match Officials;
- 11.3 comply with prevailing Health and Safety regulations, and, where applicable, have relevant certification issued by the local authority;
- 11.4 have appropriate facilities to provide refreshments for visiting players and Match Officials;
- 11.5 have adequate car parking provision for players and Match Officials;
- 11.6 have technical areas each capable of holding up to fifteen persons; and
- 11.7 have adequate toilet and catering facilities for spectators.

12. Eligibility of Players

- 12.1 For a Player to be eligible to play for a Club in a Match he must (i) be registered with the Scottish FA for the Club for which he intends to play or, for Season 2025/26 only, if he is a Qualifying Player, he shall be eligible to play for a Cooperation Club in a Match if he is registered with the Scottish FA for a Cooperation Parent Club which has a Cooperation Agreement with that Cooperation Club and he is listed on a Cooperation List under that Cooperation Agreement, notwithstanding that he is not registered with the Scottish FA for the relevant Cooperation Club, and (ii) in either case, be included on the Official Team Line of that Club or Cooperation Club (as the case may be) for the Match concerned in compliance with these Competition Rules.
- 12.2 Subject to the terms of Competition Rule 12.5, a Player may not be listed on the Official Team Line of a Club (either as a Starting Player or a Nominated Substitute) for a Match without having been registered prior to such Match with the Scottish FA for the Club for which he is to be named on the Official Team Line or, for Season 2025/26 only, if he is a Qualifying Player, he may not be listed on the Official Team Line of a Cooperation Club (either as a Starting Player or a Nominated Substitute) for a Match without having been registered prior to such Match with the Scottish FA for a

Cooperation Parent Club which has a Cooperation Agreement with that Cooperation Club and he is listed on a Cooperation List under that Cooperation Agreement, notwithstanding that he is not registered with the Scottish FA for the relevant Cooperation Club.

- 12.3 During the term of a temporary transfer the Player concerned shall not be eligible to play in the Competition against his Parent Club. For Season 2025/26 only, during the term of a Cooperation Agreement, a Qualifying Player who is listed on a Cooperation List under that Cooperation Agreement shall not be eligible to play in the Competition against his Cooperation Parent Club.
- 12.4 Each Club is responsible for ensuring that all of its Players who are listed on the Official Team Line (either as a Starting Player or a Nominated Substitute) for a Match are eligible to do so pursuant to the Registration Procedures, the Disciplinary Procedures and Competition Rule 13.4.
- 12.5 When a Match which is postponed or abandoned is played or replayed, only those Players who were eligible pursuant to these Competition Rules to be listed on the Official Team Line for a Club at the date fixed for originally playing the Match, are eligible to be listed on the Official Team Line for that Club for the rescheduled Match, together with any recognised goalkeeper who is registered with such Club at the date of the rescheduled Match pursuant to an emergency temporary transfer which has been approved by the Board under Competition Rule 12.7 or otherwise approved by the relevant regulatory body, notwithstanding that such recognised goalkeeper was not eligible, by means of his registration, to be listed on the Official Team Line for the relevant Club at the date fixed for originally playing the Match.
- 12.6 A Player must be aged 16 years or more to be eligible to play for a Club in a Match.
- 12.7 The Board may on cause shown, at any time, on such conditions and for a period of not more than seven days (“**the Approval Period**”), approve the emergency temporary transfer of a recognised goalkeeper only where the only football match to be played by the Club requesting such approval during the Approval Period is in the Competition.
- 12.8 Except in the case of a Player whose customary position is that of goalkeeper, for a Player to be eligible to participate (either as a Starting Player or a Nominated Substitute) in the Final Match in a Season, he must have been eligible pursuant to these Competition Rules to participate (either as a Starting Player or a Nominated Substitute) in the Semi-Final Match for that Season, for the Club for which he intends to play in the Final Match.
- 12.9 The Scottish FA may permit a Club to list a goalkeeper in the Official Team Line in the Final Match in a Season who was not eligible pursuant to these Competition Rules to participate for such Club in the relevant Semi Final Match for that Season. In these circumstances such goalkeeper shall not play in any other position for such Club in the Final Match.

13. Number of Players and Substitutes

- 13.1 Subject to the provisions of Competition Rules 14.8, 14.9 and 14.10, a Club shall list

on its Official Team Line eleven Players (**“the Starting Players”**) who will start the Match and up to a maximum of nine substitutes (**“the Nominated Substitutes”**). Of those Nominated Substitutes, not more than five may play in the Match (**“the Fielded Substitutes”**) subject to the terms of Competition Rule 13.2. Each Club will have a maximum of three substitution opportunities in respect of their Fielded Substitutes, subject to the following provisions:

- 13.1.1 where both Clubs make a substitution at the same time, this will count as a used substitution opportunity for both teams;
- 13.1.2 multiple substitutions by a Club during the same stoppage in play count as one used substitution opportunity;
- 13.1.3 Clubs may make substitutions at half-time of a Match, which will not count as one of their three substitution opportunities in such Match;
- 13.1.4 making a Concussion Substitution will not count as one of a Club’s three substitution opportunities in a Match, save where the Club also makes a “normal” substitution at the same time as the Concussion Substitution, in which case it will count as one of their three substitution opportunities in such Match;
- 13.1.5 once a Club has used all three of its substitution opportunities in a Match, it cannot use a Concussion Substitution to make a “normal” substitution; and
- 13.1.6 where a Club makes a Concussion Substitution, the opposing Club may choose to make an “additional” substitution in accordance with Competition Rule 13.2 and receives an “additional” substitution opportunity to do so. Such “additional” substitution opportunity can be used only for the “additional” substitution and not for a “normal” substitution. Any “normal” substitution made at the same time as the “additional” substitution would count as one of the Club’s three substitution opportunities in such Match.

A Club may at its discretion use one additional substitute player, a sixth in total from the nine Nominated Substitutes, during any period of extra time in the Match. In such instances, the sixth substitute shall also be considered a Fielded Substitute. If a Club has not used the maximum number of Fielded Substitutes and/or substitution opportunities before any period of extra time in a Match, any unused Fielded Substitutes and substitution opportunities may be used in extra time. Each Club will have one additional substitution opportunity in extra time. Substitutions may also be made in the period between full time and the start of extra time, and at half time in extra time – these do not count as used substitution opportunities.

- 13.2 In addition to the number of Fielded Substitutes permitted in a Match under Competition Rule 13.1, each Club may use one additional substitute player from its Nominated Substitutes as a Concussion Substitute in a Match. In the event that a Concussion Substitute is used, the opposing Club may make an additional substitute at the same time or any time thereafter (except as provided otherwise in the Laws of the Game). In such instances, the Concussion Substitute and, where applicable, the additional substitute shall also be considered as a Fielded Substitute, and the Player who is replaced by the Concussion Substitute is not permitted to take any further part in the Match (including kicks from the penalty mark).

- 13.3 A Starting Player or Fielded Substitute who has been substituted is not permitted to take any further part in the Match.
- 13.4 A Club must include a minimum of two Players whose designated position is that of goalkeeper, one of whom must be named as a Starting Player and at least one other as a Nominated Substitute, in its Official Team Line. Such Players shall be so designated by adding "GK" after each of their names on the Official Team Line. Subject to Competition Rule 12.9, a Nominated Substitute who is designated as a goalkeeper may nonetheless play in the relevant Match for his Club in any other position.
- 13.5 A Player shall not play for more than one Club in the Competition (either as a Starting Player or a Fielded Substitute) in the same Season.
- 13.6 A Club may not list in their Official Team Line, either as a Starting Player or as a Nominated Substitute, any Player who, in the same Season, has already played as a Starting Player or a Fielded Substitute for another Club in the Competition. A Player(s) shall not be deemed to have played (as one of the 11 Starting Players or as a Fielded Substitute) in a Match where such Match has been abandoned or is declared void, except where such Match was abandoned or declared void as a result of the conduct of such Player(s) acting in breach of the Disciplinary Rules.
- 13.7 A Nominated Substitute who has not been a Fielded Substitute for any Club may play for another Club in the Competition in the same Season.

14. Official Team Lines

- 14.1 Each Club must provide a duly completed Official Team Line, in the form provided by the Scottish FA from time to time ("**the Official Team Line**"), to the referee and a representative of their opponents in the presence of the referee, not later than 75 minutes before the start of the Match.
- 14.2 The Official Team Line must be submitted in accordance with these Competition Rules in order to enable a Club to participate in a Match.
- 14.3 A maximum of nine Nominated Substitutes and a maximum of six Team Staff are allowed to occupy positions in the technical area allocated for their Club, in addition to the Club's doctor (in accordance with Competition Rule 14.7), i.e. a total of sixteen persons. If space so permits, up to eight additional technical seats are allowed for persons providing technical support to a Club during a Match (e.g. kit manager, assistant physiotherapist, etc.). Such seats must be outside of the technical area and positioned at least five metres behind or to the side of the benches but with access to the dressing rooms.
- 14.4 The Official Team Line shall contain accurate and complete details of the full names and dates of birth of the eleven Starting Players and the maximum of nine Nominated Substitutes, together with full names of the maximum of six Team Staff to be seated within the relevant technical area and the maximum of eight persons providing technical support to the Club referred to in Competition Rule 14.3. The Official Team Line must be properly completed and submitted on behalf of the Club in accordance

with Competition Rule 14.1 via Scottish FA Comet, save where the Club is unable to do so due to exceptional circumstances, in which case the Club shall provide its duly completed Official Team Lines by such other means as the referee for the relevant Match deems acceptable (acting reasonably). Upon submission of the Official Team Line in accordance with the foregoing, it will be deemed to be complete and, subject to Competition Rules 14.8, 14.9 and 14.10, binding on the Club concerned.

- 14.5 The numbers on the players' shirts and (if applicable) shorts must correspond with the numbers indicated on the Official Team Line.
- 14.6 The goalkeepers and team captain must be identified on the Official Team Line by being marked with "GK" and "TC", respectively, beside their names.
- 14.7 If so required, pursuant to the Club Licensing Procedures, each Club shall also list the proper name of the Club's doctor in the Official Team Line and he shall be entitled to occupy a position in the technical area for such Club, in addition to the six Team Staff who are permitted to occupy a position in the technical area for the Club under Competition Rule 14.3. In all other circumstances, it is recommended that a Club's doctor and physiotherapist are listed on the Official Team Line and accommodated in the technical area within the category of Team Staff (in the case of the physiotherapist) and in addition to the six Team Staff who are permitted to occupy a position in the technical area for the Club under Competition Rule 14.3 (in the case of the Club's doctor).
- 14.8 If a Starting Player listed on the Official Team Line is not able to start the Match due to unexpected physical incapacity or other extreme circumstances (which are explained to and accepted by the referee), he may only be replaced by one of the Nominated Substitutes. The Nominated Substitute who becomes a Starting Player may then only be replaced by an eligible Player not originally listed on the Official Team Line as submitted, so that the quota of Nominated Substitutes is not reduced.
- 14.9 If a Nominated Substitute listed on the Official Team Line is, at the start of the Match not able to be named as a Nominated Substitute due to an unexpected physical incapacity or other extreme circumstances (which are explained to and accepted by the referee), he may only be replaced by an eligible Player not originally listed on the Official Team Line as submitted.
- 14.10 If a goalkeeper listed on the Official Team Line is unable to be fielded due to unexpected physical incapacity or other extreme circumstances (which are explained to and accepted by the referee), then he may be replaced, but only by an eligible player who must be designated as goalkeeper in accordance with Competition Rule 13.4.
- 14.11 In the event that an ineligible player is identified in respect of a Starting Player listed on the Official Team Line after it has been submitted but prior to kick-off, the error (which is explained to and accepted by the referee) results in the Starting Player having to be removed from the Official Team Line, he may only be replaced by one of the Nominated Substitutes. If an ineligible player is identified in respect of a Nominated Substitute, and the error (which is explained to and accepted by the referee) results in the Nominated Substitute having to be removed from the Official Team Line, he may not be replaced.

14.12 If, for any reason, changes require to be made to the Official Team Line pursuant to Competition Rules 14.8, 14.9, 14.10 and/or 14.11 (and said changes are accepted by the referee) then the Club must notify its opponent immediately thereafter.

14.13 If, for any reason, changes require to be made to the Official Team Line pursuant to Paragraphs 14.8, 14.9, 14.10 and/or 14.11, the Club concerned must in addition to the requirements set out above, provide the Scottish FA, upon request, with necessary medical certificates and/or a full written explanation of the circumstances that caused any changes.

14.14 The Scottish FA shall keep a register of the names of all of the Players who take part in the Competition. The register shall be open for inspection by all Clubs.

15. Field of Play and Match Requirements

15.1 The terms of this Competition Rule 15 do not apply to the Semi Final Matches or the Final Match.

15.2 The Home Club shall be responsible for making all of the arrangements for any Match where it is the Home Club, and such Home Club shall be liable for any failure to do so.

15.3 The Home Club shall ensure that all Matches where it is the Home Club shall be played on a natural grass surface or on an artificial surface. Any artificial surfaces used must meet the requirements of the FIFA Quality Programme for Football Turf or the International Match Standard.

15.4 Any Club which wishes to use an artificial surface for any Match shall be required to provide a current test certificate confirming compliance to FIFA artificial surface requirements and the surface must comply with the Laws of the Game. Clubs may only use testing and certificating agencies in relation to an artificial surface which have been accredited for that purpose by FIFA.

15.5 A Home Club shall ensure that the length of the field of play used in any Match where it is the Home Club shall be a maximum of 130 yards (120 metres) and a minimum of 100 yards (90 metres). The breadth of the field of play shall be a maximum of 80 yards (75 metres) and a minimum of 55 yards (50 metres).

15.6 Subject to the terms of Competition Rule 15.5, a Club shall ensure that the dimensions of the field of play used in any Match where it is the Home Club shall not differ from those contained in the Official Return for that Club (if applicable) for the current Season, unless such dimensions have been approved and consented to, in writing, by the Board.

15.7 A Home Club shall ensure that in any Match played where it is the Home Club, spectators are separated from the field of play by a wall, a rope, a railing or a fence.

15.8 A Home Club shall ensure that for any Match which is played or is to be played at its Registered Ground:

15.8.1 goal nets and corner flags shall be used;

- 15.8.2 an appropriate number of new footballs of first grade quality shall be provided by them; and
 - 15.8.3 adequate first aid facilities, requisite equipment and stretcher facilities/carrying chair(s) capable of conveying spectators from seated areas are available and that at least one fully qualified person is present and equipped to administer first aid. The Home Club should take cognisance of the expected attendance and provide additional first aid cover as appropriate for the configuration of the ground.
- 15.9 No Match shall take place at any stadium where the playing area is covered or partially covered by a roof or other form of canopy without the prior consent of the Board.
- 15.10 In the Semi-Final and Final Matches, a system of replacement balls (or multi-ball) shall operate in accordance with Law 2.3 of the Laws of the Game and any guidance issued by the Board, as amended or supplemented from time to time.
- 15.11 Each Club entitled to play in the Competition shall notify the Scottish FA in writing, no later than 30 June prior to the commencement of the Competition in each Season, if the Club intends to utilise a single match ball or a system of replacement balls (or multi-ball) in all matches prior to the Semi-Final Matches, in accordance with Law 2.3 of the Laws of the Game and any guidance issued by the Board, as amended or supplemented from time to time. Should participating Clubs' ball replacement system differ in Matches prior to the Semi-Final Matches, the ball replacement system of the Home Club shall be operated. Subject to the foregoing, no Club shall utilise a different ball replacement system than that notified to the Scottish FA in any Match prior to the Semi-Final Matches without first obtaining prior written approval of the Board. The ball replacement system applicable to a particular Match in accordance with this Competition Rule 15.11 shall be utilised for the entirety of such Match, subject to any right of the referee to alter the applicable ball replacement system in a Match expressly set out in any guidance issued by the Board in relation to ball replacement systems from time to time.

16. Duration of Match and Stadium Clocks

- 16.1 Except when extra time is played in accordance with the terms of Competition Rule 21, a Match will consist of two halves each of 45 minutes in duration.
- 16.2 A Match which has started and which, for any reason, is abandoned, may not be continued as a "friendly" match.
- 16.3 The half time interval shall be of 15 minutes duration, or as determined by the referee.
- 16.4 Clocks in a stadium provided for the purposes of showing the amount of time played may run during the Match, and may continue to run to include any extra time played in the Match and any time added at the end of normal time in each half, i.e. after 45 and 90 minutes respectively and after 15 minutes of each half of extra time.
- 16.5 Public address announcements, where made, should specify that any added time to be played is a minimum number of minutes.

17. Appointment of Match Officials

17.1 The Scottish FA shall make all appointments of all Match Officials for all Matches.

17.2 Match Officials shall be appointed from those Match Officials whose names are included in the List of Referees. In the Preliminary Round (if applicable), Round One and Round Two, assistant referees may be appointed from the List of Registered Referees.

17.3 Fourth officials shall be appointed to all Matches from Round 5 onwards and to any Matches in prior Rounds which are broadcast live on television or any Matches which the Scottish FA considers appropriate.

17.4 Video assistant refereeing (“**VAR**”) shall be used:

17.4.1 at the sole discretion of the Board for the Semi-Final Matches and the Final Match; and

17.4.2 for Matches in Rounds Four, Five and Six where the relevant Match is to be played at the Registered Ground of a club in the top division of the Scottish Professional Football League, the necessary equipment for the operation of VAR is already installed at such Registered Ground and:

(a) such relevant Match will be broadcast live on television; or

(b) where such relevant Match will not be broadcast live on television, (i) the competing Clubs agree to so use VAR or (ii) one of the competing Clubs wishes to use VAR and agrees to pay the VAR Costs for the relevant Match,

in all cases, in accordance with the Laws of the Game and the relevant IFAB and Scottish FA protocols for the purpose of assisting the referee.

No sources or systems other than the official VAR system may be used by the referee to review replays during the Match. A failure of the VAR system shall in no way prejudice the referee’s decision. If necessary, for example in case of a system failure, Matches at which VAR would otherwise be used in accordance with this Competition Rule 17.4 will take place or continue without the use of VAR.

17.5 Goal-line technology (“**GLT**”) shall be used:

17.5.1 at the sole discretion of the Board for the Semi-Final Matches and the Final Match; and

17.5.2 for Matches in Rounds Four, Five and Six where the relevant Match is to be played at the Registered Ground of a club in the top division of the Scottish Professional Football League, the necessary equipment for the operation of GLT is already installed at such Registered Ground (and such equipment has been approved by the Board for use in the Competition) and:

(a) such relevant Match will be broadcast live on television; or

- (b) where such relevant Match will not be broadcast live on television, (i) the competing Clubs agree to so use GLT or (ii) one of the competing Clubs wishes to use GLT and agrees to pay the GLT Costs for the relevant Match,

in all cases, in accordance with the Laws of the Game and any protocol for use of GLT issued by the Scottish FA from time to time for the purpose of verifying whether a goal has been scored to support the referee's decision. That decision remains under the sole discretion of the referee and is final. A failure of the GLT system shall in no way prejudice the referee's decision. If necessary, for example in case of a system failure, Matches at which GLT would otherwise be used in accordance with this Competition Rule 17.5 will take place or continue without the use of GLT.

- 17.6 Appointments of Match Officials to Matches shall take precedence over all other appointments, except with the permission and consent of the Scottish FA.
- 17.7 A Club shall not be entitled to refuse to accept the services of any Match Official appointed by the Scottish FA to a Match.
- 17.8 The fees and expenses of Match Officials shall be paid by the Scottish FA.

18. Replacement of a Match Official

- 18.1 In the event the referee is unable to start or complete a Match, he will be replaced by another Match Official in accordance with the following provisions:
 - 18.1.1 in respect of Matches in the Preliminary Round(s), Round One or Round Two, the assistant referee who is a category 3 referee, shall replace the referee. Except in the event that assistant referee 1 is a category 3 specialist assistant referee or a category 3 specialist assistant referee development, and assistant referee 2 is a category 3 referee, then assistant referee 2 shall replace the referee;
 - 18.1.2 in respect of Matches in Round Three, the assistant referee 2 shall replace the referee; and
 - 18.1.3 in respect of Matches in Round Four, the fourth official (if appointed) shall replace the referee. Where a fourth official is not appointed to a Match, assistant referee 2 shall replace the referee.
- 18.2 In the event an assistant referee is unable to start or complete the Match or he replaces the referee in accordance with Competition Rule 18.1, he will be replaced by another Match Official in accordance with the following provisions:
 - 18.2.1 in respect of all Matches, except the Semi-Final Matches and the Final Match, and where a fourth official is appointed, the assistant referee will be replaced by the fourth official;
 - 18.2.2 in respect of all Matches, except the Semi-Final Matches and the Final Match, and where no fourth official has been appointed, the assistant referee will be

replaced by a registered referee in attendance at the Match, failing which the replacement will be a Club official decided by the referee;

- 18.2.3 if it is assistant referee 1 who is being replaced, assistant referee 2 moves to become assistant referee 1 and the replacement assistant referee becomes assistant referee 2; and
 - 18.2.4 in respect of the Semi Final Matches and the Final Match, the assistant referee will be replaced by the fourth official (or by a reserve assistant referee if one has been appointed).
- 18.3 In the event that a fourth official is unable to start or complete a Match or is required to replace another Match Official in accordance with Competition Rules 18.1 and/or 18.2, he will be replaced by a registered referee in attendance at the Match, failing which no replacement will be made.
- 18.4 In the event that an additional assistant referee (if appointed) is unable to start or complete a Match, he will be replaced by the fourth official.
- 18.5 In the event that two or more Match Officials (excluding video assistant referees and assistant video assistant referees) require to be replaced during a Match, the referee will decide what should happen as regards the second replacement of a Match Official to enable the Match to be completed.
- 18.6 In the event that a video assistant referee, assistant video assistant referee or replay operator is unable to start or complete a Match, he will only be replaced by someone who is qualified for that role.

If no qualified replacement can be found for the video assistant referee or replay operator, the Match must be played or continue without the use of VAR.

If no qualified replacement can be found for the assistant video assistant referee, the Match must be played or continue without the use of VAR unless, in exceptional circumstances, both teams agree in writing that the Match may be played or continued with only the video assistant referee and replay operator.

19. Registered Colours

- 19.1 Before the first day of August in each year, each Club shall register with the Scottish FA, the colours and design of its shirts, shorts and stockings. Clubs will register their first choice colours and second choice colours and, should Clubs so desire, they may also register a third set of colours. Subject to the terms of this Competition Rule 19, a Club shall play in one of its registered sets of colours.
- 19.2 In exceptional circumstances, and with the prior written approval of the Board, a Club may play in colours which are modified from those which have been registered with the Scottish FA.
- 19.3 When the first choice colours of both competing Clubs are the same, or similar, the Away Club shall change and play in a set of registered colours which are distinctive from those to be used by the Home Club.

- 19.4 In the case of the Semi-Final Matches, the first drawn Club in each of the Semi-Final Matches at the Cup Draw for the Semi-Final Matches will be permitted to play in its first choice registered colours and the second drawn Club (if necessary) is required to change.
- 19.5 The winning team of the first Semi-Final Match drawn in the Cup Draw will automatically be deemed to be the Home Club for the Final Match.
- 19.6 A Club may play in its second or third choice registered colours provided that this does not prevent the opposing Club from observing the terms of Competition Rule 19.3 or from playing in its first choice registered colours if it elects to do so.
- 19.7 A Club which elects to play in its second or third choice registered colours shall inform the opposing Club, the referee and the Scottish FA in writing not later than seven days before the date of the Match.
- 19.8 Goalkeepers shall wear colours which distinguish them from the other players in both teams and from the Match Officials. The referee's decision on whether this Competition Rule 19.8 is met will be final and binding on all parties.
- 19.9 Every Starting Player and Nominated Substitute of each Club shall wear a distinguishing number on his shirt and may wear the same distinguishing number on his shorts.
- 19.10 If there is any dispute as to whether the colours of the Clubs which are to play in a Match are the same, or similar, or if a Club has not notified the opposing Club, the referee and/or the Scottish FA in accordance with Competition Rule 19.6, the referee shall decide the issue and his decision will be final and binding on the competing Clubs.

20. Scheduling of Postponed and Abandoned Matches – excluding the Semi-Final Matches and the Final Match

- 20.1 Where a Match in the Preliminary Round(s) (if applicable), Round One, Round Two or Round Three is not played on or before the original scheduled date or is abandoned, the unplayed or abandoned Match shall be played or replayed on either the Saturday following the original Match date (or the date fixed therefor), or in the second midweek following the original Match date, unless the two Clubs, the relevant authorities and the Scottish FA are all agreeable that the Match be played on an earlier date.

The unplayed or abandoned Match shall take place on a day to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs, other than Thursday or Friday.

- 20.2 In subsequent Rounds (i.e. for Matches after Round Three, but excluding the Semi-Final Matches and the Final Match), the unplayed or abandoned Match shall be played or replayed in the second midweek following the original Match date (or the date fixed therefor), on a day other than Thursday or Friday, unless the two Clubs, the relevant authorities and the Scottish FA are all agreeable that the Match be played on an earlier date.

- 20.3 For the purposes of Competition Rules 20.1 and 20.2, if a Match is still undecided

Clubs are required to make two attempts to play or to replay the Match in succeeding mid-weeks until the Match is decided and it is known which Club is progressing into the next Round of the Competition. These attempts will be made on Mondays and Wednesdays. Clubs may however elect to play on a Tuesday rather than a Monday, but if doing so, will be required to play or replay on the Wednesday of that midweek in the event of a postponement or an abandonment. Postponed or abandoned matches in the Competition will have priority over league matches in the Scottish Professional Football League or any other relevant league either scheduled or re-scheduled except in exceptional circumstances and by agreement of the Board.

21. Drawn Matches – Extra Time/Kicks from the Penalty Mark

- 21.1 When a Match in any Round, other than the Semi-Final Matches and the Final Match, is drawn, a further thirty minutes, fifteen minutes each way, of extra time shall be played. Thereafter, if the Match is still undecided, the winner shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the rules laid down by IFAB. The Club which scores more times in respect of such kicks will be declared the winner of the Match and will proceed to the next Round of the Competition.
- 21.2 When a Semi-Final Match is drawn, a further thirty minutes, fifteen minutes each way, of extra time shall be played. Thereafter, if the Match is still undecided, the winner shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the rules laid down by IFAB. The Club which scores more times in respect of such kicks will be declared the winner of the Semi-Final Match and will proceed to the Final Match.
- 21.3 When the Final Match is drawn, a further thirty minutes, fifteen minutes each way, of extra time shall be played. Thereafter, if the Match is still undecided, the winner shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the rules laid down by IFAB. The Club which scores more times in respect of such kicks will be declared the Winner.

22. Match Unfinished

- 22.1 In the event of any Match being unfinished owing to weather conditions or other causes over which neither competing Club has any control, the disbursement of receipts from the unfinished Match shall be made in accordance with the relevant Competition Rules which would have been applicable had the Match been completed.
- 22.2 When such unfinished Match is subsequently re-scheduled and played, the disbursement of receipts from that rescheduled Match shall be made in accordance with the relevant Competition Rules, subject to the discretionary provisions contained in Competition Rule 22.3 below.
- 22.3 The competing Clubs shall have discretion, subject to the Board's endorsement of the exercise of such discretion and notwithstanding the provisions for charges for admission stipulated elsewhere in these Competition Rules, to agree to charge those spectators who paid an admission charge in respect of the unfinished Match, a concessionary rate for entry to the re-scheduled Match.
- 22.4 In calculating the division of receipts in accordance with the relevant Rules, the

following provisions shall apply:

- 22.4.1 when a levy is payable to the Scottish FA, it shall be calculated from the gross receipts of the Match excluding concessionary admissions assuming that the concessionary admissions are on a no charge basis. If there is a concessionary charge for admission the concessionary charges shall be included in the gross receipts;
- 22.4.2 when the Match is played at the ground of one of the competing Clubs, the deduction from receipts which the Home Club is entitled to make shall be calculated on the basis of the notional gross receipts of the match which will include the full corresponding charges for those spectators admitted on a concessionary basis;
- 22.4.3 when the Match is played at a Neutral Ground, the rental payable to the Club on whose ground the Match is played shall be calculated on the basis of the notional gross receipts of the Match which shall include the full corresponding charges for those spectators admitted on a concessionary basis;
- 22.4.4 if the sums calculated under Competition Rules 22.4.1 or 22.4.2 cannot be met from the actual Match receipts, which shall include concessionary admissions if a concessionary charge for admission is made, the deficit shall be met equally by the competing Clubs; and
- 22.4.5 the disbursement of receipts from any Match which is unfinished due to circumstances other than as stated in Competition Rule 22.1 and from any subsequent re-scheduling of such Match, shall be determined by the Board.

23. Condition of Ground

- 23.1 Each Home Club must take all reasonably practicable measures to ensure that its pitch is in a fit playing condition for a Match (and conforms to the specifications set out in these Competition Rules). In the event of doubt regarding the condition of the pitch, any competing Club shall immediately notify the Scottish FA to enable a referee to conduct a pitch inspection.
- 23.2 In addition, the Scottish FA has discretion to initiate a pitch inspection in respect of any Match to be played in the Competition. The inspection may be made at any time before the Match is to be played. If an inspection is made on the day of the Match, it shall be made as soon as reasonably practicable on the day of the Match and (where possible) not later than four hours before the time set for the kick-off, in order to advise the competing Clubs of the outcome of the pitch inspection accordingly.
- 23.3 The referee's decision shall be final on whether or not a Match should proceed. His fee and expenses shall be paid by the Scottish FA.
- 23.4 A pitch and/or Registered Ground which is deemed unfit for the purpose of a Match in the Competition shall not be used that same day for any other match.

24. Supporter Conduct and Damage to a Registered Ground

- 24.1 Each Club is responsible for the behaviour of its Players, officials, Team Staff, Team Officials, members, supporters and any other person(s) acting on behalf of or associated with a Club ("**Match Attendee**") before, during and after such Match and whilst any Match Attendee is present ("**the Relevant Period**").
- 24.2 In the event that, during the Relevant Period, at any Match, any part of any Registered Ground or such other stadium in which a Match is played is damaged as a consequence of misbehaviour by a Match Attendee(s), then the Club which the Match Attendee(s) is either representing, belonging to and/or associated with, shall be, subject to Competition Rule 24.7, responsible for any costs arising in the reparation of same, including all costs and expenses incurred by the venue owner and/or operator of the Registered Ground or such other stadium in which a Match is played.
- 24.3 The Scottish FA shall have the power to require such reports as it may consider necessary in relation to such damage and the appropriate amount(s), if any, which should be paid and by which Club(s).
- 24.4 In respect of the Semi-Final Matches and the Final Match only, and subject to Competition Rule 24.7, all costs and expenses incurred by the venue operator at whose ground the relevant Semi-Final Match or the Final Match is being played, in repairing the damage caused to the Stadium or otherwise to reinstate the Stadium, shall be deducted from the financial proceeds of the Competition normally payable by the Scottish FA to the participating Club concerned (see Competition Rule 24.2 above) and paid to the venue operator at whose ground the relevant Semi-Final Match or the Final Match is being played.
- 24.5 In respect of the Semi-Final Matches and the Final Match only, each Club in breach of and/or found liable under this Competition Rule 24 instructs and mandates the Scottish FA to pay the costs of any damage or repair, so determined, to the venue operator and/or owner of the Registered Ground or such other Stadium in which the relevant Match is played, together with any other costs due and payable under this Competition Rule 24, out of that Club's share in the financial proceeds of the Competition.
- 24.6 In respect of the Semi-Final Matches and the Final Match only, and subject to Competition Rule 24.7, in the event that the Club's share in the financial proceeds of the Competition as aforesaid is less than the aggregate amount of the costs referred to in this Competition Rule 24, the Club undertakes to indemnify the Scottish FA against, and to pay within 7 days of a written demand, an amount equal to the amount by which such aggregate amount exceeds the Club's share in the financial proceeds of the Competition as aforesaid.
- 24.7 In respect of each Match, the aggregate amount of any sums payable by a Club as a consequence of such misbehavior by a Match Attendee(s) under and in terms of this Competition Rule 24 shall not exceed the sum of FIFTY THOUSAND POUNDS (£50,000) STERLING exclusive of VAT.
- 24.8 Under exception of any issue arising as regards Article 28 and Competition Rule 24.9, and without prejudice to the terms of Competition Rule 1.3, any dispute arising from the application of the terms of this Competition Rule 24 shall be resolved by arbitration

in accordance with Article 99.

24.9 The provisions of this Competition Rule 24 are without prejudice to the terms of Article 28.

25. Disagreement on Date of Match

25.1 Subject to the remainder of the terms of this Competition Rule 25, in any case where the date of a Match is not specified within these Competition Rules and/or not decided upon by the Board, and the two competing Clubs are unable to reach agreement as to when the Match should be played or replayed, the Home Club for that Match shall decide when a Match is to be played.

25.2 In exceptional circumstances, where it can be demonstrated that the terms of Competition Rule 25.1 should not apply, the Board shall decide when a Match is to be played.

26. Refusal or Failure to Play

26.1 All Clubs shall play in every Match in which they are scheduled to play.

26.2 No Club shall refuse or fail to play in a Match in which it is scheduled to play.

26.3 Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this Competition Rule 26, and without prejudice to any disciplinary proceedings before the Judicial Panel under and in terms of the Judicial Panel Protocol and/or any sanctions that may be imposed under the Judicial Panel Protocol in respect thereof, where a Club fails to play in a Match in which it is scheduled to play, the other Club drawn to play in the said Match shall automatically progress to the next Round of the Competition.

27. Club Withdrawing from Competition

27.1 Any Club intending to withdraw from the Competition must notify its intention to do so in writing to the Scottish FA, and the Club that it is scheduled to play in the next Match, not less than four days before the date the Match is scheduled for.

27.2 A Club may only withdraw from the Competition, or decline to enter the Competition when it is eligible to do so, with the prior written consent of the Board.

27.3 Where a Club which has been drawn to play in a Match withdraws from the Competition in accordance with this Competition Rule 27 prior to such Match being played, the other Club drawn to play in the said Match shall automatically progress to the next Round of the Competition.

28. Minimum Charge for Admission

28.1 All Home Clubs shall ensure that the minimum adult, non-concessionary admission charge for Matches in the Preliminary Round(s) (if applicable), Round One, Round

Two and Round Three shall be £5.

28.2 All Home Clubs shall ensure that the minimum adult, non-concessionary admission charge for all other Matches, excluding the Semi-Final Matches and the Final Match, shall be £8 for all.

28.3 Subject to the terms of this Competition Rule 28, the charges for admission for Matches shall be agreed by the Clubs competing in that particular Match. If the competing Clubs are unable to agree, the charges which are normally made for the regular fixtures of the Home Club will apply.

28.4 Except as provided in Rule 28.5, a Club which is the Home Club for a Match is prohibited from charging higher admission prices to accommodation designated for supporters of the Away Club than for broadly comparable accommodation designated for use by supporters of the Home Club at the same Match.

28.5 The prohibition in Rule 28.4 does not apply to any: -

28.5.1 element of discount in the admission price per Match integral in the price of a season ticket or season book for all of the Matches of the relevant Club for the complete season in which ground access is permitted by such season ticket or season book;

28.5.2 concessionary admission prices for the relevant Match charged exclusively to persons who are senior citizens, children and/or disabled and who qualify as such; and

28.5.3 concessionary admission prices for the relevant Match charged to individuals comprised in groups of two or more persons, at least one of whom must be less than sixteen years of age, for admission together to a bona fide family enclosure exclusively used and designated as such for the complete season in which the relevant Match falls.

29. Tickets for Sale

29.1 For any Match, excluding the Semi-Final Matches and the Final Match, to which admission is wholly or partly by ticket and/or by cash admission at the turnstiles, the Away Club shall have the right to claim admission for its supporters of up to 20% of the spectator capacity of the Registered Ground at which the Match is to be played.

29.2 In the case of Matches falling under the terms of Competition Rule 29.1, the Away Club's supporters shall be accommodated in an area of the ground which is agreed by both Clubs and the Police authorities after having taken cognisance of the Safety at Sports Ground Act, 1975, where appropriate. The exercise of such right shall be subject to the following conditions:

29.2.1 the Away Club shall request their ticket allocation as soon as reasonably practicable following the date on which the Cup Draw for the Match is made;

29.2.2 the Away Club shall be responsible for payment to the Home Club for all tickets delivered to the Away Club for sale to supporters of the Away Club;

- 29.2.3 the Away Club shall ensure that any tickets which are not required, together with full remittance for the total allocation, irrespective of whether or not the full allocation has been sold by the Away Club, have been sent to the Home Club at least 24 hours before the Match is due to kick off;
- 29.2.4 if any of the tickets which are so returned under the terms of Competition Rule 29.2.4 are subsequently sold by the Home Club, the amount recouped by the Home Club shall be paid by the Home Club to the Away Club as soon as reasonably practicable; and
- 29.2.5 the tickets which are allocated to the Away Club, if numbered and for reserved positions, shall be equal in quality of position to those retained by the Home Club.

30. Restriction on Members, etc., Tickets

- 30.1 Except in the case of a Match which is played on a Neutral Ground and subject to the Away Club having an entitlement to claim admissions up to 20% of the permitted spectator capacity of the Home Club to accommodate its supporters, there is no restriction on the number of members, season ticket holders and complimentary ticket holders who may be admitted by the Home Club.
- 30.2 In calculating the gate drawings, the Home Club shall be entitled to exclude 100 season tickets and complimentary tickets actually issued and used from the calculation of the gate drawings. The Home Club shall be entitled to further exclude all season tickets and complimentary tickets actually issued and used up to a maximum of 10% of the remaining total attendance, subject to such a limit not exceeding 1,000 such persons. Tickets issued as part of a paid hospitality package may not be included in the total number of complimentary tickets.
- 30.3 Thereafter the Home Club shall include the corresponding charges for admission in respect of every season ticket holder and complimentary ticket holder in excess of such limit. The corresponding charges shall be those charges which are applicable to all other paying spectators admitted to the Match, relative to the area, or comparable area of the stadium to which a member, season ticket holder or complimentary ticket holder, in excess of the number of such persons allowed for the purpose of calculating the gate drawings, is admitted.
- 30.4 Except with the agreement of the competing Clubs, members' tickets, season tickets and complimentary tickets issued by the Home Club shall not be included for the purposes of Competition Rules 30.1 to 30.3, inclusive, when a Match is played on a Neutral Ground.

31. Complimentary Tickets

- 31.1 The Home Club shall provide to the Away Club up to a maximum of ten complimentary tickets for the Home Club's director's seating area. These tickets shall give access to reserved seats.

- 31.2 In addition to the tickets provided for in Competition Rule 31.1, it shall be open for the Home Club and the Away Club to determine, between them, the number of further complimentary tickets to be given by the Home Club to the Away Club.
- 31.3 The particular accreditation necessary for Players, officials, Team Staff, Team Officials and any other staff to permit entry to the dressing room area within a Registered Ground and other designated areas, shall be agreed between the Home Club and the Away Club, and failing which shall be determined by the Scottish FA.

32. Travel – Financial Assistance and Guarantee

- 32.1 The Scottish FA will, as a measure of financial assistance, provide a payment to each Away Club in the Preliminary Round(s) (if applicable), Round One and Round Two, (except those which are played at a Neutral Ground) which requires travel from a Club's Registered Ground to the Registered Ground at which the Match is being played of a distance of more than 50 miles to play a Match. In such event, and subject to the submission of an original travel invoice, the Scottish FA will contribute up to a maximum of £600 to such Club.
- 32.2 In all other Matches from Round Three onwards (except those which are played on a Neutral Ground) the Home Club shall give a financial guarantee to the Away Club, of up to a maximum of £600.
- 32.3 Subject to the receipts being sufficient, when a match is played on a Neutral Ground, both competing Clubs shall be guaranteed reimbursement of travel expenditure incurred, up to a maximum of £600 as provided in Competition Rule 32.1.

33. Division of Receipts and Payment of Expenses

- 33.1 Subject, in every case, to the terms of Competition Rule 32, except when a Match is played on a Neutral Ground, the monies received from all admission charges to a Match in the Preliminary Round(s) (if applicable), Round One and Round Two, shall be divided equally between the Clubs after deduction of 20% from the gross receipts by the Home Club. In respect of Round Three the following will apply:
- 33.1.1 the Home Club shall be entitled to make a deduction of 20% from the gross receipts;
 - 33.1.2 when half of the receipts remaining exceed the guarantee, the said receipts shall be divided, equally, between the Clubs;
 - 33.1.3 when half of the receipts remaining do not exceed the guarantee, the Away Club shall only receive the guarantee; and
 - 33.1.4 the Home Club shall be responsible for payment of the Match expenses.
- 33.2 When a Match in the Preliminary Round(s) (if applicable), Round One, Round Two and Round Three is played on a Neutral Ground, the Club on whose Registered Ground the Match is played shall be paid a rental of 20% of the monies received from all admission charges to the Match.

Subject to the foregoing, the balance of the receipts shall be divided between the two competing Clubs as follows:

- 33.2.1 when the balance is sufficient, each competing Club shall be entitled to reimbursement of expenditure on travel, in terms of Competition Rule 32;
 - 33.2.2 when the balance is insufficient, the sum available shall be divided between them, in proportion to their expenditure on travel; and
 - 33.2.3 any surplus remaining after payment of travel expenses, shall be divided, equally, between them. The competing Clubs shall be responsible, jointly, for payment of the Match expenses.
- 33.3 Except when a Match is played on a Neutral Ground, the monies received from all admission charges to a Match in any Round other than the Preliminary Round(s) (if applicable), Round One, Round Two, Round Three, the Semi-Final Matches and the Final Match, shall be divided as follows:
- 33.3.1 the Home Club shall be responsible for paying a levy of 5% of the monies received from all admission charges to the Match to the Scottish FA within three days of the date on which the Match is played;
 - 33.3.2 subject to Competition Rule 33.3.6, in the event that VAR and/or GLT is/are used in the Match, the Home Club shall be responsible for paying the VAR Costs and/or the GLT Costs (as the case may be) to the Scottish FA (or as the Scottish FA shall direct) from all admission charges to the Match within three days of the date on which the Match is played, provided that if the admission charges to the Match are insufficient to pay the levy, the VAR Costs and the GLT Costs, the competing Clubs shall be responsible, jointly, for paying any shortfall in the VAR Costs and the GLT Costs to the Scottish FA within three days of the date on which the Match is played;
 - 33.3.3 subject to the sums referred to in Competition Rules 33.3.1 and 33.3.2 having been paid, the Home Club shall be entitled to make a deduction of 20% from the gross receipts;
 - 33.3.4 when, after payment of the levy, the VAR Costs (if any), the GLT Costs (if any) and of the deduction foresaid, half of the remainder of the receipts exceeds the guarantee, the said remainder of the receipts shall be divided, equally, between the two competing Clubs;
 - 33.3.5 when, after payment of the levy, the VAR Costs (if any), the GLT Costs (if any) and of the deduction foresaid, half of the said remainder of the receipts does not exceed the guarantee, the Away Club shall only receive the guarantee;
 - 33.3.6 notwithstanding Competition Rules 33.3.2 and 33.3.7, where VAR and/or GLT is/are used in the Matches because one of the competing Clubs has agreed to pay the VAR Costs and/or the GLT Costs (as the case may be) pursuant to Competition Rules 17.4.2(b)(ii) and/or 17.5.2(b)(ii), such Club shall be responsible for payment of the VAR Cost and/or the GLT Costs (as

the case may be) to the Scottish FA (or as the Scottish FA shall direct) within three days of the date on which the Match is played; and

- 33.3.7 the Home Club shall be responsible for payment of the Match expenses (other than the VAR Costs and the GLT Costs, if any, to the extent they have been paid in accordance with Competition Rule Rules 33.3.2 and/or 33.3.6).
- 33.4 When a Match in any Round other than the Preliminary Round(s) (if applicable), Round One, Round Two, Round Three, the Semi-Final Matches and the Final Match is played on a Neutral Ground:
 - 33.4.1 the competing Clubs shall be responsible, jointly, for paying a levy of 5% of the monies received from all admission charges to the Match to the Scottish FA within three days of the date on which the Match is played;
 - 33.4.2 subject to Competition Rule 33.4.7, in the event that VAR and/or GLT is/are used in the Match, the competing Clubs shall be responsible, jointly, for paying the VAR Costs and/or the GLT Costs (as the case may be) to the Scottish FA (or as the Scottish FA shall direct) from all admission charges to the Match within three days of the date on which the Match is played, provided that if the admission charges to the Match are insufficient to pay the levy, the VAR Costs and the GLT Costs, the competing Clubs shall be responsible, jointly, for paying any shortfall in the VAR Costs and the GLT Costs to the Scottish FA within three days of the date on which the Match is played;
 - 33.4.3 after payment of the levy, the VAR Costs (if any) and the GLT Costs (if any) foresaid, the Club on whose Registered Ground the Match is played shall be paid a rental of 20% of the balance of the monies received from all admission charges to the Match;
 - 33.4.4 when the balance is sufficient, each competing Club shall be entitled to reimbursement of expenditure on travel, in terms of Competition Rule 32;
 - 33.4.5 when the balance is insufficient, the sum available shall be divided between them, in proportion to their expenditure on travel;
 - 33.4.6 any surplus remaining after payment of travel expenses, shall be divided, equally, between them;
 - 33.4.7 notwithstanding Competition Rules 33.4.2. and 33.4.8, where VAR and/or GLT is/are used in the Match because one of the competing Clubs has agreed to pay the VAR Costs and/or the GLT Costs (as the case may be) pursuant to Competition Rules 17.4.2(b)(ii) and/or 17.5.2(b)(ii), such Club shall be responsible for payment of the VAR Costs and/or the GLT Costs (as the case may be) to the Scottish FA (or as the Scottish FA shall direct) within three days of the date on which the Match is played; and
 - 33.4.8 the competing Clubs shall be responsible, jointly, for payment of the Match expenses (other than the VAR Costs and the GLT Costs, if any, to the extent they have been paid in accordance with Competition Rules 33.4.2 and/or 33.4.7).

33.5 The Home Club shall provide a written statement of the share of the gate receipts, or the guarantee, ideally, on the day of the Match but in any event not later than 5pm on the immediately following Working Day, and shall pay the appropriate amount within five Working Days of the Match date.

33.6 Competition levies taken by the Scottish FA in the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Rounds shall be retained by the Scottish FA and applied in such manner as it sees fit from time to time.

33.7 In respect of the Semi-Final Matches:

33.7.1 the receipts from the Semi-Final Matches shall be pooled and shall be deemed to include monies received from all admission charges to the Matches;

33.7.2 the Scottish FA shall retain 10% of the balance, after payment of the expenses of the two Matches (including the VAR Costs and the GLT Costs, if any) and the Clubs' guarantees; and

33.7.3 the remainder, after payment of the rental for the use of a ground or grounds, the scale of which shall be determined by the Board, shall be divided, equally, among the four competing Clubs.

33.8 In respect of the Final Match:

33.8.1 the receipts from the Final Match shall be calculated in the manner defined in Competition Rule 33.7 foresaid mutatis mutandis; and

33.8.2 the Scottish FA shall retain 10% of the balance, after payment of the expenses of the Match (including the VAR Costs and the GLT Costs, if any) and the Clubs' guarantees. The remainder, after payment of the rental for the use of the ground, the scale of which shall be determined by the Board, shall be divided, equally, between the competing Clubs.

34. Awards to Player, Officials and Match Officials

The Scottish FA shall present a medal or a souvenir in such forms as the Board may decide to the Players appearing on the Official Team Line of the Clubs that participated in the Final Match, the Manager or Head Coach of both such Clubs and to the Match Officials who officiated in the Final Match.

35. Alterations and Additions to Rules

35.1 Notwithstanding the terms of Competition Rule 35.2, the Board shall have the power to temporarily suspend, amend or add to these Competition Rules as circumstances may dictate from time to time, as it deems appropriate in its reasonable discretion, to facilitate the smooth running of the Competition, or in order to ensure that the Scottish FA is capable of meeting the commitments made by it under the terms of its television, sponsorship and other commercial contracts.

- 35.2 Subject to the terms of Competition Rule 35.1, alterations or additions may only be made at an Annual General Meeting. Notwithstanding the foregoing terms, the Board will be permitted to propose alterations or additions to these Competition Rules at a General Meeting to be held at a time and place as determined by the Board at its sole discretion or in a written resolution of those full members entitled to appoint a representative to attend a general meeting pursuant to the Articles.
- 35.3 Notice of any proposed alteration or addition for consideration at the ensuing Annual General Meeting of the Scottish FA, shall be submitted in writing to be received not later than 28 February in the year of the Annual General Meeting of the Scottish FA at which such proposed alteration or addition is to be considered.