

RULES OF THE MID WALES FOOTBALL LEAGUE

1. Definitions

In these Rules the following words and expressions shall have the following meanings

Administration charge: the charges agreed by the Members at an AGM to be paid by Clubs where required by these rules and as set out in Schedule 2 hereto

AGM: Annual General Meeting

Area: The Central Wales area governed by the Central Wales Football Association

Club: any football club admitted to membership of the League

Club Referee: a person offered by a Club to referee a match when a qualified match official has not been appointed

Club Representative: a person nominated by a Club to be a representative of the Club

COMET: the Football Management System used by the FAW

COMET Regulations: the FAW's regulations for the use of COMET as amended from time to time

CWFA: Central Wales Football Association

Executive Committee: The Officers and two Club Representatives from each division of the League.

FAW: Football Association of Wales

FAW Rules: the Rules of the Football Association of Wales

General Meeting: a meeting of the Members other than an AGM

Ground: the playing facilities of a Club including the pitch and dressing rooms

Ground Criteria: the standards for each Ground as published by the League from time to time as set out in Schedule 1 hereto

IFAB: the International Football Association Board

Laws of the Game: the laws and other rules for playing Association Football as prescribed by IFAB from time to time

League: means the Mid Wales Football League

Member: any Officer and any Club

Officer: any person appointed as President, Vice President, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer or Appointments Secretary

Pyramid: the FAW's pyramid league system

Pyramid Regulations: the FAW's regulations for the Pyramid

Team Sheet: A list of players and Technical Staff including up to five substitute players selected by a Club for a fixture.

Technical Staff: Team officials (for example a manager or coach or physio) directly involved with the team at a match

Tier: a level of organised football within the Pyramid

2. Structure and Membership

2.1 Clubs shall be affiliated to the CWFA and the affiliation fee must be paid electronically via COMET

2.2 Subject to clause 2.4 the League shall have two divisions of equal status known as the Mid Wales League North and the Mid Wales League South

2.3 Each division shall have a minimum of 10 Clubs and no more than sixteen (16) Clubs unless a variation to this rule is approved by CWFA.

2.4 Whenever it appears that there will be less than 10 Clubs in any division, then the League may apply to CWFA to have a single division made up of Clubs willing to participate in the League.

2.5 Each Club applying for membership of the League may have its Ground inspected and must satisfy the Executive Committee that its Ground meets the Ground Criteria. The Executive committee shall have the discretion to permit specified aspects of the Ground Criteria to be complied by the end of the second season of membership of the League

2.6 Any Club failing to meet the Ground Criteria by the end of the second season of membership of the League shall forfeit its membership and shall not be entitled to be admitted into membership of the League until it has satisfied the Executive Committee that it has met the Ground Criteria in full.

2.7 Reserve teams of Clubs shall not be eligible for participation in the League or its cup competitions

2.8 The annual fees payable for admission to the League and its cup competitions shall be determined by the FAW and paid by Clubs through COMET

3. Governance

3.1 The Members shall meet annually at an AGM

3.2 The Members shall appoint the Officers at an AGM

3.3 The Officers shall hold office for a maximum of three years

3.4 The Members may appoint Life Vice Presidents at an AGM

3.5 The affairs of the League shall be managed by the Executive Committee

3.6 The Executive Committee shall meet as often as reasonably required throughout each season

3.7 The CWFA shall appoint a person to be its representative, and that person shall be a non-voting member of the Executive Committee.

3.8 At the AGM, Clubs shall appoint two Club representatives from each division to serve on the Executive Committee.

3.9 No active referee shall be a Club Representative or Officer or serve on the Executive Committee

3.10 An Emergency Committee consisting of three Officers including the Chairman shall deal with all matters of urgency with full powers to act, and shall report its decisions to the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

3.11 A General Meeting shall be convened by the Executive Committee upon a requisition signed by not less than two-thirds of the Club Representatives.

3.12 The Executive Committee shall have jurisdiction over all matters appertaining to the League, whether specifically provided for in these rules or not.

3.13 The Officers shall have free access to any part of any League Ground during the progress of a League fixture.

4. Meetings

4.1 the quorum for the AGM or other General Meeting shall be eight

4.2 the quorum for an Executive Committee meeting shall be four

4.3 the quorum for an Emergency Committee meeting shall be three

4.4 the AGM shall be held not later than 30th June in each year.

- 4.5 Clubs may appoint two persons including the Club Representative to attend the AGM or other General Meeting. If the Club representative is not able to attend the Club shall appoint a person to attend in the place of the Club Representative.
- 4.6 At an AGM or other General Meeting, a Club shall have one vote
- 4.7 The Officers shall be entitled to attend and vote at a General Meeting
- 4.8 At a General Meeting the Chairman shall have a casting vote
- 4.9 A minimum of 14 days' notice shall be given to all Members and Life Vice Presidents of any General Meeting and shall include notice of any proposed changes to the Rules.
- 4.10 Each Club Representative, each Officer and each Life Vice President must submit to the Executive Committee a valid e-mail address and contact telephone number
- 4.11 Notices served as an attachment to an e-mail addressed to the e-mail address of a Club Representative, an Officer or a Life Vice President shall be deemed properly served on the day that the e-mail is sent.
- 4.12 Any Club failing to attend the AGM or other General Meeting shall pay the appropriate administration fee as set out in Schedule 2

5. Conditions of Play

- 5.1 All fixtures shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game
- 5.2 Three points shall be awarded for a win, and one point for a draw.
- 5.3 Each Club shall register its colours with the League Secretary. Clubs shall not play each other in the same colours. In the event of any two Clubs registering the same colours, the visiting Club must change colours.
- 5.4 All outfield players participating in a fixture must wear the registered colours of their Club, failing which the Club may be charged with a disciplinary offence.
- 5.5 A goalkeeper shall participate in colours distinct from the outfield players of both teams.
- 5.6 All players participating in a fixture must wear a shirt displaying a number which shall not be the same number as displayed on the shirt of another player of the same team failing which the Club may be charged with a disciplinary offence.
- 5.7 Any Club refusing the referee's instruction to start a match, or continue a match, and any official of a Club alleged to have encouraged or instigated such conduct may be charged with a disciplinary offence
- 5.8 Each Club involved in a fixture that is recorded on COMET shall submit an electronic Team Sheet via COMET to the match referee no later than 30 minutes before kick-off.

5.9 Players shirts shall be clearly numbered in accordance with the Team Sheet. A player shall not change shirt number during the match, except for a change of goalkeepers. Any infringement of this rule may lead to the Club being charged with a disciplinary offence.

5.10 Clubs must provide a telephone number and e-mail address of a Club official who shall be the primary contact of the Club and those contact details shall be made available to all Club secretaries and the Executive Committee.

5.11 Any Club failing without just cause to fulfil a fixture on the appointed date or causing a fixture to be abandoned may be charged with a disciplinary offence and if proved may have three points deducted from its record, be liable for any reasonable expenses the opponent Club has incurred and a fine of two hundred pounds (£200). The fine shall be doubled for any subsequent offence occurring during the same season.

5.12 The League Secretary shall fix the times of kick-off of League and cup fixtures but shall retain an absolute discretion to change the kick off time of a match if deemed appropriate.

5.13 Any Club considered responsible for delaying the start, or re-start, of a match shall be reported by the referee to the Executive Committee in accordance with rule 12.9 and it may charge the Club with a disciplinary offence and if proved the Club may be fined fifty pounds (£50.00).

5.14 Fixtures may be played under floodlights, if required by the League Secretary

5.15 Each Club is responsible for ensuring that it holds appropriate insurance cover for all its on and off field activities including public liability insurance.

6 Promotion and Relegation

6.1 At the end of each season's league competitions the Club scoring the highest number of points in a division shall be declared the division champions. Where two or more clubs in a division possess the same number of points the following criteria, in the following order, shall be applied to determine their rankings:

(a) Superior goal difference obtained in all matches.

(b) Higher or highest number of goals scored in all matches.

(c) Higher or highest number of points obtained in all matches played between the clubs in question.

(d) Superior goal difference obtained in all matches played between the clubs in question.

(e) Higher or highest number of goals scored in all matches played between the clubs in question.

(f) Higher or highest number of goals scored away from home in all matches played between the clubs in question.

(g) Higher or highest number of wins in all matches.

(h) Higher or highest number of away wins in all matches.

(i) Lower or lowest disciplinary points total based only on yellow and red cards in all matches.

6.2 The division champions shall each be entitled to apply for promotion to Tier 3 of the Pyramid in accordance with the Pyramid Regulations.

6.3 Subject to there being a vacancy or vacancies at Tier 3 of the Pyramid any Club may apply to be considered for promotion to Tier 3 of the Pyramid in accordance with the Pyramid Regulations.

6.4 Clubs wishing to be considered for promotion to Tier 3 must apply in accordance with the Pyramid Regulations.

6.5 Subject to Rule 2.3 all issues of promotion from a Tier 5 league to the League and all issues of relegation from the League to a Tier 5 league shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

6.6 Subject to rule 6.5 the two lowest placed Clubs in each division shall be relegated to a CWFA Tier 5 league appropriate to their respective geographical location within the Area to accommodate Clubs entitled to be considered for promotion to the League from CWFA Tier 5 leagues.

6.7 Subject to rule 6.5 whenever more than one Tier 5 league feeds into the League the clubs entitled to be promoted shall be the champions of its league, or the runner up in the league, if the champion club does not seek promotion or is unable to be promoted because it has not met the Ground Criteria.

6.8 Clubs wishing to be considered for promotion to the League from a Tier 5 league must apply to the League before 1st January if they wish to be assessed against the Ground Criteria for playing in the League. A club will not be promoted if it has not been successful in its application.

7. Substitutes

7.1 A Club may nominate a maximum of five (5) substitutes for each match.

7.2 At its discretion and subject to rule 7.3 a Club may use a maximum of three (3) substitute players from the substitutes nominated under rule 7.1. A substitution may only be made when play has stopped for any reason, and the referee has given permission.

7.3 A substitution may be made for any reason but a substitute player may not be used to replace a player who has been suspended by the referee from further participation in the match.

7.4 A substituted player shall play no further part in the match except to assist the referee if requested to do so.

7.5 A substitute player may not be used unless his full name and FAW Number is recorded on the Team sheet delivered to the referee in accordance with rule 5.8

8. Withdrawal

8.1 A Club intending to resign from the League at the end of the season must do so by 1st April of that season and must pay an administration charge as set out in Schedule 2. Should any Club fail to complete all its fixtures, the points awarded in respect of its completed fixtures shall be deleted from the League table and the Club shall pay the appropriate administration charge

8.2 If a Club resigns from the League otherwise than in accordance with Rule 8.1 it shall pay an administration charge as set out in Schedule 2.

8.3 Whenever a Club resigns from the League the points awarded in respect of its completed fixtures shall be deleted from the League table in accordance with Rule 15.5.

9. Registration of Players

9.1 Only amateur players within the definition of Amateur Players in the FAW Rules are eligible to participate in the League and any cup competitions organised by the League

9.2 Players shall register to play for a Club in strict compliance with Section H of the FAW Rules and FAW COMET Regulations

9.3 It shall be the duty of the League Secretary to report to the Executive committee evidence that an ineligible Player has played in a league fixture or cup competition organised by the League.

9.4 A Club approached by a Player or intending to approach or negotiate with a Player must comply strictly with Section H of the FAW Rules.

10. Transfers

All transfers must be carried out in accordance with the FAW Rules and FAW COMET Regulations

11 Match Officials

11.1 All match officials shall be affiliated to FAW or CWFA. Affiliation and the payment for affiliation will be made via COMET.

11.2 Subject to availability, match officials shall be appointed for each fixture by the Appointments Secretary. The appointments will be made via COMET and match officials must accept or reject their provisional appointment via COMET.

11.3 In the event of the appointed match officials not attending a fixture or there being no available match officials to attend a fixture, the Clubs may agree to appoint a Club Referee who shall be considered a League appointed referee for the purposes of the fixture.

11.4 Each Club must have one person within the Club willing to act as a Club Referee.

11.5 Match officials must be paid in their dressing rooms at such rate including expenses as determined by CWFA following FAW guidelines

11.6 In the event of a fixture not being played the referee and any appointed match official shall be paid half his or her fee and traveling expenses provided he or she has made the journey to the Ground.

11.7 Clubs shall submit an official match expenses statement to the Appointments Secretary of the League within 48 hours of the match detailing the payments made by the home club, these being equalised at season end. Clubs failing to comply with this rule shall pay the administration charge for breach of this rule as set out in Schedule 2

11.8 Clubs must provide a steward to escort any match officials from the field at full-time. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule may be charged with a disciplinary offence.

12. Postponements

12.1 A match may only be postponed in the following circumstances;

12.1.1 when an official referee of the League having regard to the safety of the Players considers the condition of the playing surface to be unfit.

12.1.2 when travel conditions are such as to prevent a Club travelling to the match venue.

12.1.3 when the youth team of a Club is required to play a fixture in the Welsh Youth Cup on the same date as the League fixture.

12.2 It is the responsibility of the home Club to ensure that the League Secretary, the Appointments Secretary, the travelling Club and the match officials are made aware of any postponement under Rule 12.1 as soon as practically possible.

12.3 In addition to postponements under Rule 12.1 Clubs shall be allowed one postponement per season. An application for a postponement must be made in writing to the League Secretary at least six weeks before the requested date.

12.4 Whenever there is doubt as to the fitness of the playing surface;

12.4.1 the home Club must arrange for a Ground inspection to take place between 9.30 am and 10.00 am on the date of the match.

12.4.2 the match referee may arrange for a registered referee local to the match venue to inspect the pitch and give his report.

12.5 In the event of a postponement under Rule 12.1.1;

12.5.1 the traveling club should be notified not less than three hours before the scheduled kick-off time, and

12.5.2 The home Club must ensure that the match referee or the league/cup competition manager changes the status of the match to 'postponed' on COMET

12.6 In the event of a postponement under Rule 12.1.2 the travelling Club must provide evidence confirming the adverse travel conditions to the League Secretary with a report of the circumstances within five (5) days. In the event of a protest or complaint the Executive Committee will consider the evidence provided.

12.7 Following the conclusion of a match, the match referee is responsible for;

12.7.1 checking that the match events entered by the home Club are correct, and

12.7.2 adding details of the yellow/red cards including the times they were shown, and

12.7.3 adding good and clear descriptions of any misconduct, and

12.7.4 submitting a match report using COMET as soon as practicable and in accordance with the COMET Regulations.

12.8 A match referee failing to comply with Rule 12.7 may be charged with a disciplinary offence.

12.9 The match referee must report to the League Secretary any Club which has caused or contributed to the kick-off being delayed.

12.10 The match referee must report to the League Secretary any delay of the kick-off time caused by the late arrival of the referee or other appointed match official.

12.11 A referee or other match official unable to accept a League appointment must inform the Appointment Secretary via COMET. The Appointment Secretary shall have the power to

appoint a substitute referee via COMET, and the Appointment Secretary shall inform the home Club of the change via COMET.

12.12 Clubs marking a referee less than five (5) must submit an explanation letter to the League Secretary with the Team Sheet.

13 Match Results

13.1 The home Club must record the details of the goal scorers and substitutions on behalf of both teams (along with times of each) on COMET as soon as practicable following the end of the match. A Club failing to comply with this Rule shall pay the administration charge set out in Schedule 2.

13.2 A Club providing false details of a Player shall be charged with a disciplinary offence.

14 Grounds

14.1 Subject to rule 2.4 all Grounds must comply with the Ground Criteria

14.2 The playing surface must be clearly marked in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

14.3 Dressing rooms are to be open and available for use at least one hour before the start of the match.

15 Fixtures

15.1 League fixtures shall be drawn up by the League Secretary. In the event of a draft set of fixtures being created for the season, or any part of the season, the draft fixture schedule shall be subject to change as the season progresses.

15.2 Clubs must be prepared to play fixtures from the first Saturday of the League season, and to play mid-week evening fixtures

15.3 Clubs may agree to play an evening fixture at an alternative time and date provided permission is obtained from the League Secretary.

15.4 Clubs must play their home fixtures on their registered Ground. Permission to play on any other ground must be obtained from the League Secretary or the Executive Committee

15.5 Should any Club fail to complete all its fixtures, the points awarded in respect of its completed fixtures shall be deleted from the League table and the Club shall pay the appropriate administration charge

16. Protests, claims and complaints

16.1 All protests, claims or complaints shall be lodged with the League Secretary within three days of the date of the fixture or occurrence, excepting those relating to the playing surface, which must be lodged with the referee before the commencement of the game.

16.2 Every protest, claim or complaint must be accompanied by the administration fee set out in Schedule 2, and shall be heard and determined by the Executive Committee.

16.3 The findings and decisions of the Executive Committee shall be subject to appeal to CWFA.

17 Playing an ineligible player

17.1 Any Club playing an ineligible player shall have three points deducted from its record for each offence, and be liable to a fine not exceeding two hundred (200) pounds.

17.2 The Executive Committee may also at its discretion;

17.2.1 have the game re-played on a date and time at its discretion, and

17.2.2 determine how the gate monies of the re-played game shall be distributed.

18 Officer's responsibilities

18.1 The Officers shall be responsible for the safe custody of all cups, monies and property of the League, and shall deal with the same as instructed by the Executive Committee, excepting that when Clubs receive the various cups from the League, those Clubs shall be responsible for the safe custody of the relevant cup(s), and shall return them to the League in good order and sound condition when requested.

18.2 The League funds shall be banked in the name of the League, and all cheques signed by any two of the Chairman, League Secretary and Treasurer.

19. Alteration to rules

19.1 No alteration shall be made to these rules except at the AGM, or any special General Meeting, convened for the purpose. At least 21 days' notice must be given to the League Secretary of any proposed alteration or addition to these rules and the same shall be forwarded to Clubs at least 14 clear days prior to the meeting.

19.2 In the event of the League not having a rule on a particular issue any FAW rule or regulation upon that issue will apply.

19.3 In the event of any conflict between these rules and the rules and regulations of FAW, the FAW rule or regulation shall prevail.

20. Gate monies

20.1 The gate monies collected at a League fixture shall belong to the home Club.

20.2 In respect of any League fixture each Club shall be responsible for its administrative and advertising expenses.

20.3 After the Executive Committee has deducted the expenses of the League in staging the match, the balance of the gate money received from any play-off match between division champions in accordance with rule 6.2 shall be divided equally between the League and the two competing Clubs.

21. Conduct

21.1 Misconduct players, officials, spectators etc, shall be reported by the referee to the CWFA via COMET as soon as possible following conclusion of the match and in accordance with the COMET Regulations.

21.2 Fines and administration charges imposed by these rules or by the Executive Committee must be paid within 14 days of notice being given to the Club, unless an appeal is lodged in which case, they are payable within 14 days of the appeal if the appeal is unsuccessful in whole or in part.

21.3 Notwithstanding anything contained in these rules to the contrary, Clubs, players and officials aggrieved by any decision of the Executive Committee shall have right of appeal to CWFA.

23 Attendance at meetings

23.1 In the event of any member of the Executive Committee (not including Life Members) failing to attend three consecutive meetings the said member will be deemed to have vacated his or her position, and a replacement shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.

Schedule 1

MID WALES FOOTBALL LEAGUE GROUND CRITERIA

OWNERSHIP OF THE GROUND	All matches to be played on private grounds or on grounds deemed suitable by the Executive Committee
PLAYING AREA	In accordance with the Laws of the game, the touchline must be longer than the goal-line. The minimum length is 90m (100 yds.) the maximum length is 120m (130 yds.). The minimum length of the goal-line is 45m (50 yds.) the maximum length of the goal-line is 90m (100 yds.).
PLAYING SURFACE	The field of play must either be a natural grass surface or a 3G synthetic surface and must be maintained in good condition
FIELD MARKINGS	The field of play must be marked in accordance with the Laws of the Game. Field markings shall be white in colour and clearly visible to match officials and players.
GOAL POSTS AND NETS	Goal posts and goal nets must be maintained in good condition and meet the requirements of the Laws of the Game.
DUGOUTS	Separate and covered dugouts must be provided for both teams Only the team managers, substitutes, coaches and medical staff are allowed in the dugouts.
TECHNICAL AREA	The technical area should be marked in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
BOUNDARY FENCING	The playing area must be fenced (ropes permitted) to a good standard at least two yards from the touch and goal lines.
CHANGING ROOMS	Separate and secure accommodation must be provided for both teams and the match officials. It must be located within a proximity of the playing area acceptable to the League Management Committee.
SHOWER FACILITIES	Showering facilities must be provided for both teams and match officials
TOILET FACILITIES	Toilet facilities must be provided at grounds. They must be situated within a proximity of the playing area acceptable to the Executive Committee
MATCH OFFICIALS	A separate dressing room must be provided for the match officials to include washing facilities. Separate toilet facilities for match officials must be provided by season 2022/2023
EMERGENCY VEHICLES	Emergency vehicles must be able to drive in to the playing ground. The access and egress point(s) must not be blocked.

Schedule 2

Administration Charges

Rule	Brief Description	Charge
4.12	Failure to attend an AGM or other General Meeting For each subsequent failure [in the same season] the charge shall be double the previous charge imposed	£20.00
8.1	Notice served before 1 st April of intention to resign from the League at the end of the season	£250.00
8.2	Resignation from the League otherwise than in accordance with Rule 8.1	£250.00
11.7	Failure to submit an official match expenses statement	£10.00
13.1	Failure to properly record the required match details on COMET as soon as practicable.	£10.00
15.5	Failure to complete League fixtures	£100.00
16.2	Administration fee to accompany a protest, claim or complaint	£20.00