

FAW Tier 3 Club Licensing Regulations – Key Updates

Regulation No.	Regulation Title	Previous Regulation	New Regulation Update	Page No.
2.2.1	Management of the System	N/A (New Addition)	<p>In considering a non-Tier 3 club’s application, a non-Tier 3 Club will be permitted to make changes or further developments to their infrastructure criteria if they can evidence by 30th April that quotes, planning permission approval and necessary finance are in place in order to complete the required updates by a date to be agreed by the First Instance Body or the Appeals Body.</p> <p>If current Tier 3 clubs require upgrading their current infrastructure after 30th April, then this can be permitted provided that the club provides quotes, planning permission approval (if required) and necessary finance are in place in order to complete the required upgrades to be agreed by the First Instance Body or the Appeals Body.</p> <p>The decision to grant the Licence on the provision that additional infrastructure works will be completed after 30th April and before the new season is at the sole discretion of the respective First Instance Body or the Appeals Body.</p> <p>Those clubs that meet the standards will be issued a Licence. Those clubs that have not fulfilled the minimum ‘A’ criteria will not be granted a Licence unless an extension has been granted by the First Instance Body to carry out any upgrades.</p>	6

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2.2.3	Criteria Graduation	'B' Criteria – Recommendation If the Applicant does not fulfil any B Criteria, then it may still receive a Tier 2 Licence subject to the Applicant fulfilling the 'A' Criteria	'B' Criteria – Expected If the Licence Applicant does not fulfil any B-Criteria, then it may still receive a Tier 3 Licence subject to the Applicant fulfilling the 'A' Criteria. However, repeated failure to meet these criteria may result in sanctions as specified under 3.1 of these Regulations	7
2.2.3	Criteria Graduation	N/A (New Addition)	'C' Criteria – Recommended If the Licence Applicant does not fulfil any C-Criteria, then I may still receive a Tier 3 Licence. These criteria may become 'A' or 'B' criteria in future licenses; however, it is suggested that clubs have these in place to support the overall development of the club	7
3.3.9.k	Decision-Making Bodies	All decisions made by the First Instance Body and the Appeals Body must be confirmed in writing to the relevant Licence Applicant on the same day as the decision was made	All decisions made by the First Instance Body and the Appeals Body must be confirmed in writing to the relevant Licence Applicant on the same day as the decision was made. The only exception to this is where a First Instance Body or Appeals Body are meeting over two days, in which case, all decisions will be communicated on the second day	9
1.01	Stadium Safety Policy	1.01 Stadium Safety Policy & Evacuation Plan	1.01 Stadium Safety Policy (Removal of Evacuation plan from Safety Policy)	12
1.03	Stadium Evacuation Plan	N/A (New Addition)	1.03 Stadium Evacuation Plan The Licence Applicant must provide a plan to evacuate the ground in the response to any contingencies which arise which must include but is not limited to the requirements of the document provided in Appendix II	12
1.08	Field of Play	1.05 Field of Play Football turf must be in compliance with the FAW Regulations for synthetic pitches.	1.08 Field of Play 3. Football turf must be in accordance with the "FAW Regulations for the use of Football Turf Pitches" and must meet all the following conditions: a. It must have been granted the required FIFA licence, which can only be delivered after the turf in question has been tested by a FIFA-accredited laboratory, as meeting the FIFA quality standards for football turf;	13

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			b. It must meet all the requirements of the national legislation in force; c. Its surface must be green and marked with white in accordance with the Laws of the Game. Any other coloured lines must be masked out as set out in the “FAW Regulations for the use of Football Turf Pitches”.	
I.11	Substitutes’ Benches	N/A (New Addition)	I.011 Substitutes’ Benches 3. A technical area must be marked for each substitutes bench to define the area designated for team officials as per IFAB Laws of the Game.	13
I.12	Dressing Rooms	N/A (New Additions)	I.12 Dressing Rooms 1c. All rooms must be signposted, well lit, ventilated and/or heated 4. If it’s brought to the attention of the FAW that the changing rooms fall below the minimum hygiene & quality safety standards required at any stage during the season, the following will take place: a. An inspection must be carried out at the earliest opportunity. b. The club must complete any facility improvements as advised by the FAW	14
I.16	Floodlighting	N/A (New Addition)	I.16 Floodlighting 4. For any Licence Applicants that have floodlights, and intend on using them during the season, they must supply a valid LUX certificate (A Criteria)	14
I.17	Parking Areas	I.13 Parking Areas 2. This parking space must be located in a safe and secure area in the immediate vicinity of the players’ and officials’ area.	I.17 Parking Areas 2.This parking area must: a. Be located in a safe and secure area in the immediate vicinity of the players’ and officials’ area. b. Be of a secure footing. i.e., comprising of concrete, tarmac, gravel or stone. (C Criteria)	14
I.18	Refreshment Facilities	N/A (Regulation Reclassified from Stands & Spectator Facilities)	I.18 Refreshment Facilities 2. The ground must be equipped with refreshment and catering facilities for all spectators during the game	14
I.19	Stands and Spectator Facilities	N/A (New Addition)	I.19 Stands and Spectator Facilities 2. If it’s brought to the attention of the FAW that the spectator stands fall below the minimum quality and safety standards required at any stage during the season, the following will take place:	15

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			<p>a. An inspection must be carried out at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>b. The club must complete any facility improvements as advised by the FAW.</p>	
1.19	Stands and Spectator Facilities	1.16 Hardstanding (Regulation Reclassified)	<p>1.19 Stands and Spectators Facilities</p> <p>3. There must be hardstanding surrounding one full length and one full width of the field, comprising of concrete, paving stones or tarmac;</p> <p>a. Hardstanding of a temporary nature is not permitted.</p> <p>4. All mandatory spectator areas must be accessed by hardstanding.,</p> <p>5. It is recommended that it is possible for spectators to be accommodated, either standing or seated, for the full length of all four sides of the playing area, except where permission has been granted by the FAW for one of the sides or part thereof, to be closed by Spectators (C Criteria).</p> <p>6. It is recommended that hardstanding surrounds the whole of the field of play. Where the Ground is part of a larger sports complex, the football area must be totally enclosed from all other activities (C criteria).</p> <p>7. It should be possible, if whenever, necessary to prevent spectators from moving from one sector or sub-sector to another, except as part of the Ground's evacuation process. (C Criteria)</p>	15
1.21	Emergency Lighting	N/A (New Addition)	<p>2. For any Licence Applicants that have floodlights, and intend on using them during the season, they must supply a valid Emergency Lighting Certificate (A Criteria)</p>	15
1.28	Camera Requirements and Positions	N/A (Regulation Reclassified from TV Gantry)	<p>1.28 Camera Requirements</p> <p>1 A television gantry should be provided to meet Broadcasters requirements</p>	16
	Infrastructure Notice	N/A (New Addition)	<p>Please note, If it's brought to the attention of the FAW that the ground falls below the minimum standard required at any stage during the season, the following will take place:</p> <p>a. An inspection must be carried out at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>b. The Licence Applicant must complete any facility improvements as advised by the FAW.</p>	17

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P.05	First Aid Officer	<p>P.07 First Aid Officer</p> <p>1. The First Aid Officer must hold one of the following minimum qualifications:</p> <p>.a Valid Lubas FASE 1</p> <p>4. They must be duly registered with the FAW and hold a valid FAW DBS certificate.</p>	<p>P.05 First Aid Officer</p> <p>Removal of Lubas FASE 1</p> <p>5. They must be duly registered with the FAW and hold a valid FAW enhanced DBS certificate</p>	18
P.09	First Team Manager	<p>P.08 First Team Manager</p> <p>2. The First Team Manager must have completed or, must have at least started and be actively engaged in the following coaching course:</p> <p>a. Valid FAW 'C' Certificate.</p> <p>b. a valid non-UEFA coaching diploma which is equivalent to the one required under a above and recognised by UEFA as such.</p>	<p>P.09 First Team Manager</p> <p>2. The First Team Manager Manager must hold one of the following minimum coaching qualifications, issued by a UEFA member association, in accordance with the UEFA Coaching Convention:</p> <p>a. Valid FAW 'C' Certificate.</p> <p>b. Valid UEFA 'C' coaching Licence.</p> <p>c. Valid non-UEFA coaching diploma which is equivalent to the one required under a. or b. above, as applicable.</p> <p>d. Be 'actively engaged' on the required UEFA coaching diploma course as described under a. or b. above as applicable. Simple registration for the required diploma course is not sufficient to meet this criterion.</p>	18
P.24	Club Referee	N/A (New Addition)	<p>P.24 – Club Referee's (B criteria)</p> <p>1. Each club shall appoint and have registered with the FAW one qualified referee. This individual will be a nominated Club Referee and should be available to referee matches in the FAW Reserve or Youth Competitions when no independent referee is available to officiate.</p> <p>2. The Club Referee cannot be registered with more than one club as a Club Referee.</p> <p>3. To assist clubs in achieving this criterion, the FAW will allow clubs to send two individuals on a FAW refereeing course, free of charge, during the 2023/24 season</p> <p>Please note, this Club Referee criterion will be a '<u>B Criteria</u>' for the 2024/25 season. For the 2025/2026 season, this will become mandatory '<u>A Criteria</u>'</p>	18

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L.06	Legal Criteria	N/A (I.01(b) Security of Tenure has been reclassified under legal criteria)	<p>L.06 – Stadium for FAW Competitions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Licence Applicant must have a Stadium available for FAW club competitions which must be within the territory of the FAW and approved by the FAW. Pre-existing agreement between clubs and the FAW regarding territory are also applicable 2. If the Licence Applicant is not the owner of the Ground, it must confirm the name of the owner and provide a written contract with the owner(s) of the Stadium(s) it will use. 3. It must be guaranteed that the Stadium(s) can be used for the Applicant’s home matches during the Licence Season. The Licence Applicant must confirm there are no other agreements which may affect its ability to use any part of the Stadium(s) for the Licence Applicant’s home matches during the Licence Season. Any agreements which may affect its use must be provided. 4. The Stadium(s) must fulfil the minimum ‘A’ infrastructure requirements defined in the FAW Tier 3 Club Licensing Regulations. 	19
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Criteria Graduation

A Criteria - Mandatory

I.01 Stadium Safety Policy	I.14 Emergency Medical Room for Player and Officials	I.21 Emergency Lighting – (2. For any Tier 2 clubs that have floodlights, and intend on using them during the season, they must supply a valid LUX certificate <u>(A Criteria)</u>)
I.03 Stadium Evacuation Plan	I.16 Floodlights – (4. For any Tier 2 clubs that have floodlights, and intend on using them during the season, they must supply a valid LUX certificate <u>(A Criteria)</u>)	I.22 Sanitary Facilities
I.04 Approved Capacity Level	I.16 Parking Areas	I.24 Facilities for Spectator with Disabilities
I.06 Public Address System	I.18 Refreshment Facilities	I.25 Ground Regulations
I.08 Field of Play	I.19 Stands and Spectator Facilities	
I.09 Warm-Up Area for Substitutes		
I.10 Goals and Spare Goals		
I.11 Substitutes’ Benches		
I.12 Dressing Rooms		
P.05 First Aid Officer	P.09 First Team Manager	
L.06 Stadium for FAW Competitions		

B Criteria - Expected

I.08 Field of Play (4. Equipped with a drainage system)
P.24 Club Referee’s

C Criteria - Recommended

I.05 Public Access and Egress	I.16 Floodlighting	I.26 VIP Hospitality
I.10 Goals and Spare Goals (2. Spare Goals)	I.16 Parking Areas (2.b Parking Area must be of a secure footing)	I.27 Media Working Area
I.11 Substitutes Benches (2. Increasing Capacity to 13 adults)	I.19 Stands and Spectator Facilities (Criteria 5, 6 & 7)	I.28 Camera Requirements and Positions
I.12 Dressing Rooms (2. Provision for female match officials)	I.20 Visiting Supporters	I.29 Press Box
I.13 Match Day Office	I.21 Emergency Lighting	I.30 TV and Radio Commentary Positions
I.14 Emergency Medical Room for Player and Officials (2. Dedicated First Aid Room)	I.22 Sanitary Facilities (2. 80:20 ratio of male to female facilities)	I.31 Presentation and Post Match Interview Area
	I.24 Facilities for Spectator with Disabilities (Criteria 2, 3 & 4)	I.32 OB Van Parking Area