

## **Annex 3**

### **THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE RESERVE LEAGUE COMPETITION REGULATIONS;**

#### **OPERATED UNDER THE TITLES OF “the SPFL Reserve League” and “the Reserve League”**

#### **A Competition Title and Organisation**

- A1.1** The Board shall operate and organise a Competition to be known as the ‘SPFL Reserve League’ or such other name and/or title as the Board from time to time may consider appropriate.
- A1.2** In the event that the number of Clubs and/or Football clubs applying to participate in the Reserve League in any Season is greater than the Board considers can practicably be included in a single division then the Board shall ordinarily divide the Clubs and Football clubs into a first and lower division(s) and may, in the case of lower divisions than the first division, divide same into two or more sections broadly on the basis of the geographical location of the Registered Ground of the Clubs or Football clubs and recognised grounds of the Football clubs participating in the Competition. The Board’s decision on the allocation of each such Clubs or Football clubs to a division and/or a section shall be based on whatever criteria the Board considers appropriate and shall be final and binding.
- A1.3** If the Board considers it appropriate and provided that notice of same has been given to participants in advance of the first match in a Season, divisions of the Reserve League may be operated and organised by the Board so that there are such number of promotion(s) and relegation(s) between specified divisions, on such criteria based on sporting merit as the Board considers appropriate, at the end of a Season. The Board’s selection of criteria and its application by the Board shall be final and binding.
- A1.4** All Premiership Clubs for the time being are, subject to these Regulations, entitled but not bound, to participate in the only or first, as the case may be, division of the Reserve League in any Season in which such a Reserve League may be operated and organised.
- A1.5** Championship, League One and League Two Clubs may be permitted, subject to these Regulations, at the discretion of the Board, to participate in the first division of the Reserve League in any Season and are entitled, subject to these Regulations, to participate in a second or lower division/section of the Reserve League in any Season in which such a second or lower division/section may be operated and organised.
- A1.6** Subject to there being, in any Season, a Reserve League operating and being organised by the Company, in two or more divisions then Former League Two Clubs, relegated through the Pyramid Play-Off Competition, shall, for up to the two Seasons following such relegation, be entitled to participate and Highland League and Lowland League Football clubs (“**Football clubs**”) may apply in writing to the Secretary and, at the discretion of the Board, be permitted to participate in any

second or lower division/section of the Reserve League in any Season in which such a second or lower division may be operated and organised.

## **Participation**

- A2.1** Clubs for the time being entitled to participate in the Premiership which wish to participate in the first or other divisions of the Reserve League during a Season must, subject to Regulation A2.3, so notify the SPFL Secretary in writing by not later than 1 June before the commencement of the Season. Failure to provide such written notification in a timely fashion shall mean that a Club will not be permitted, except at the discretion of the Board on cause shown, to participate in the Reserve League during the immediately succeeding Season.
- A2.2** Any Championship, League One, League Two Club, Former League Two Club relegated through the Pyramid Play-Off Competition and Highland League and Lowland League Football clubs which wish to apply to participate in a division/section of the Reserve League during a Season, must so advise the Secretary in writing not later than 1 June before the commencement of such Season. Subject to Regulation A2.4, failure to provide such written notification in a timely fashion shall mean that a Club will not be permitted, except at the discretion of the Board on cause shown, to participate in the Reserve League during the immediately succeeding Season.
- A2.3** Any Club or Football club which participates in a division of the Reserve League in any Season shall be automatically deemed to have given the notification or made the application required by these Regulations in respect of participation in, subject to any promotion or relegation, the same or equivalent division of the Reserve League, in the immediately succeeding Season and, if so promoted or relegated, in the relevant division which reflects such promotion or relegation. If a Club or Football Club by this Regulation 2.3 be deemed to have made a notification or an application in terms of Regulation A2.2 or A2.3 and it does not wish to participate in the Reserve League in the succeeding Season then it must so notify the SPFL Secretary in writing by not later than 31 May preceding the succeeding Season.
- A2.4** Where these Regulations require the Board to make a determination as regards participation in the Reserve League and/or in a division or a section of a division of the Reserve League in a Season the Board shall, in making its decision, have regard to what it considers to be in the best interests of the League and the Reserve League and may take into account such factors as it considers appropriate including, Football performance of the Club or Football club, in the preceding Season, including in the Reserve League, performance and participation in the Reserve League and/or other competitions of young players, including in any schemes or arrangements for the time being organised by the Scottish FA and the facilities, investment and staff engaged and deployed in the training and development of young players.

## **B Basis of Competition**

- B1** Each Club shall comply with and play in the relevant fixtures comprised in the fixture schedule and any delayed, postponed and rearranged Matches as determined by the

Board for each division and, as the case may be, section of a division of the Reserve League for a Season.

- B2** So far as reasonably practicable, the fixture schedule determined by the Board shall require Clubs or Football clubs participating in the Reserve League to play equal numbers of Home and Away Matches in each Season. The Board may determine that, in a Season, all Clubs or Football clubs will play all other Clubs or Football clubs in the same division or, as the case may be, section, on such number of occasions as it considers appropriate; where it shall be more than once in a Season the Board should, so far as reasonably practicable, endeavour to fixture matches on a Home and Away basis.
- B3** Three points shall be awarded to the winning Club or Football club in each Reserve League Match which is won and none to the losing Club or Football club and one point to each Club or Football club involved in a Reserve League Match which is drawn.
- B4** At the end of each Season (following completion of all first division Reserve League Matches) the Club or Football club achieving the highest number of points during that Season shall be declared the 'Champion Club of the SPFL Reserve League' or such other name or title as the Board may determine.
- B5** If any two or more Clubs or Football clubs are equal in points at the end of the Season in any division or, as the case may be section, the higher placed Club or Football club shall be the Club or Football club with the larger or largest positive goal difference (or the lower or lowest negative goal difference where appropriate). Goal difference shall be determined by deducting the goals conceded from the goals scored in all Reserve League Matches played by a Club or Football club during a Season. In the event of the goal differences of two or more Clubs or Football clubs being equal, the higher or as the case may be highest placed Club or Football club shall be the Club or Football club, which has scored most goals in Reserve League Matches during the relevant Season. In the event the number of goals scored by two or more Clubs or Football clubs being equal in Reserve League Matches, the higher or as the case may be highest placed Club shall be the Club having the greater number of points in Reserve League Matches between the relevant Clubs or Football clubs in question and in the event of the number of such points being equal the higher placed Club shall be the Club with the larger or largest positive goal difference (or the lower or lowest negative goal difference where appropriate) in Reserve League Matches between the relevant Clubs or Football clubs.
- B6** If the League position between any two or more Clubs or Football clubs cannot be determined by application of Rule B5 and their positions in the League at the relevant time have a bearing on deciding which Club is the Champion Club of the Reserve League or Champion Club or Football club of the relevant division or the top Club or Football club in a section as the case may be, or if a divisional or section position is relevant to promotion and/or relegation within the Reserve League , then the Clubs/or Football clubs concerned shall play-off a deciding Reserve League Match on a date and at a ground as determined by the Board. Such deciding Reserve League

Match shall be of 90 minutes duration and kicks from the penalty mark if necessary.

- B7** If two or more Clubs or Football clubs are equal after the application of B5 but their positions in the in the relevant division or section as the case may be do not have a bearing on deciding which Club or Football club is the Champion Club of the relevant division or the leading Club or Football club of a section, as the case may be, or on promotion and/or relegation within the Reserve League, then the Clubs or Football clubs concerned shall not play-off a deciding Reserve League Match and shall be deemed to have finished in equal positions for all purposes.
- B8** The Club or Football club declared the 'Champion Club of the SPFL Reserve League' or such other name or title as the Board may determine, shall hold the SPFL Reserve League Championship Trophy until the next Season's Reserve League Competition is concluded. When the Champion Club has been ascertained, the Trophy shall be handed over to the winner who shall return the same to the Company at the League Office not later than 3 weeks prior to the end of the next following Season, in good order and condition and in any event as soon as reasonably practicable following a request from the Board. It shall be the responsibility of the Champion Club or Football club to arrange appropriate insurance cover for the trophy throughout the period when it is held by the Club.
- B9** The Company shall present the Champion Club or Football club of the SPFL Reserve League in any Season with 25 SPFL Reserve League Championship medals for Players, other staff and Club or Football club Officials. Only those Players who participated in 25% or more of the Reserve League Matches for the Champion Club or Football club in the relevant Season will be eligible to receive such medals.
- B10** The Club or Football club declared the 'Champion Club or Football club of the SPFL Reserve League Second Division' or such other name or title as the Board may determine, being the top Club or Football club in the second division of the Reserve League or as the case may be the winner of the second or lower division of the Reserve League Play-Off Final shall hold the "Second Division (or lower) SPFL Reserve League Championship Trophy" until the next Season's Reserve League Competition is concluded. When the second division Champion SPFL Reserve League Club has been ascertained, the Trophy shall be handed over to the winner who shall return the same to the Company at the League Office not later than 3 weeks prior to the end of the next following Season, in good order and condition and in any event as soon as reasonably practicable following a request from the Board. It shall be the responsibility of the second division Champion Club or Football club to arrange appropriate insurance cover for the trophy throughout the period when it is held by the Club or Football club.
- B11** The Club or Football club declared the 'Champion Club or Football club of each section of the SPFL Reserve League Second Division' or such other name or title as the Board may determine, being the top Club or Football club in each section of the second division of the Reserve League or as the case may be the winner of the second or lower division of the Reserve League Play-Off Final shall hold the "Second Division

(or lower) SPFL Reserve League Championship Trophy" until the next Season's Reserve League Competition is concluded. When the section Champions of the second division SPFL Reserve League Club have been ascertained, Trophies shall be handed over to the winner who shall return the same to the Company at the League Office not later than 3 weeks prior to the end of the next following Season, in good order and condition and in any event as soon as reasonably practicable following a request from the Board. It shall be the responsibility of the second division Champion Club or Football club to arrange appropriate insurance cover for the trophy throughout the period when it is held by the Club or Football club.

- B12** The Company shall present the second and any lower division champion SPFL Reserve League Club or Football club or, as the case may be sectional Champions in any Season with 25 divisional or sectional champion SPFL Reserve League Championship medals for Players, other staff and Club or Football club Officials. Only those Players who participated in 25% or more of the relevant Reserve League Matches for the divisional/sectional Champion SPFL Reserve League Club or Football club in the relevant Season will be eligible to receive such medals.
- B13** Regulations B10 to B12 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to any third or lower divisions of the Reserve League as may be organised and operated by the Board in any Season.
- B14** Any Club or Football club, Official, Player or agent acting on any of their behalf's or the Associate of any of them, offering or receiving whether directly or indirectly any payment, benefit, consideration, concession, bonus or any other inducement, to or from another Club or Football club, Official, Player or agent acting on any of their behalf's or the Associate of any of them or any other person or party other than, in the case of an Official or Player, their own Club or Football club under and in terms of their contract of service, to influence the result or any other aspect of a Match in the Competition shall, subject to the terms of these Regulations, be liable to expulsion, suspension, fine or any other sanction(s) and/or condition(s) which the Board or a Commission shall consider appropriate. Any Club or Football club in any way involved in or concerned, whether directly or indirectly with any such payment, benefit, consideration, concession, bonus or any other inducement shall be in breach of these Regulations and be liable to expulsion, suspension, fine or any other sanction(s) and/or condition(s) which the Board or, as the case may be, a Commission shall consider appropriate.

## **C Match Arrangements**

- C1** The Board shall notify all Reserve League Match fixtures as soon as practicable prior to the commencement of the Season. Reserve League Matches shall normally be scheduled by the Board to be played on Tuesday afternoon at 2pm in the case of the first division of the Reserve League with matches in all other Reserve League divisions/section normally being scheduled for mid-week evenings.
- C2** Clubs and Football clubs, so far as reasonably practicable, shall be a Home Club on one week and a Visiting Club the next.

- C3** Reserve League Matches shall, unless rearranged on the application of the competing Clubs or Football clubs and with the approval of the Board, or on the instruction of the Board, be played on the dates and times scheduled at the commencement of the Season.
- C4** The Board shall have authority to order that the date and/or time and/or venue of any Reserve League Match be moved from the scheduled date/time/venue for such reason as the Board considers sufficient, provided that, where any proposed re-arrangement has not previously been agreed by any Clubs or Football clubs which might be affected thereby, the Board shall consult with and shall take into account any representations made by such Clubs or Football clubs before making any order under this Regulation.
- C5** The appointment of Match Officials shall be the responsibility of the Scottish FA in accordance with the agreement reached between the SPFL and the Scottish FA from time to time.
- C6** A Club or a Football club shall be entitled to apply to the Board for the postponement of any Reserve League Match where five or more of its Players are unavailable through international selection and, following receipt of such an application, the Board may postpone and rearrange the Reserve League Match.
- C7** Both teams shall enter the field of play together, along with the Match Officials, no later than five minutes prior to the kick-off time.
- C8** In all Reserve League Matches the half-time interval shall be fifteen minutes.
- C9** All Reserve League Matches shall be of 90 minutes' duration, with two equal halves of 45 minutes. However, any Reserve League Match that, from any cause whatever, falls short of 90 minutes' duration may be ordered to count as a completed fixture or to be replayed in full as the Board may in its absolute discretion determine.
- C10** All Reserve League Matches shall be played in compliance with the Rules (so far as applicable), these Regulations and the Laws of the Game.
- C11** The ball or balls to be used in all Reserve League Matches shall comply with the Laws of the Game and be of a type as shall be specified by the Board from time to time.
- C12** At and during all Reserve League Matches, the Home Club shall have available for use a match ball and a sufficient number (being not less than two) of reserve balls, at least one of which shall be an orange or yellow coloured ball.
- C13** Within 2 hours of the end of a Reserve League Match, the Referee of that Match shall send a Match Report in electronic form, if available, to the League and to the Scottish

FA containing details of the result of the Reserve League Match, the participating Clubs or Football clubs' team lists, the substitutes used, cautions and orderings-off, if any and the name of any scorers. The Referee shall, if requested by either or both of the League and/or the Scottish FA also send an original of such Match Report by first class post to the so requesting body to arrive within 3 working days of such request. The Board may from time to time determine the form of such Match Report.

- C14** No Reserve League Match shall be postponed except on the instructions of the appointed Match Referee or a pitch inspector or by the Board.
- C15** If a Reserve League Match is postponed other than by the Board, such postponement shall be reported as soon as reasonably practicable to the Secretary by the Referee concerned and, where it has been postponed with the consent of the Board, it shall be the duty of the Home Club or Football club to immediately notify the appointed Match Officials of such postponement.
- C16** In the event of any Reserve League Match not being played or abandoned or being ordered to be played or replayed, it shall, subject to Regulation C17, be played on a date and at a time as determined by the Board.
- C17** In the event that, for any reason, a Reserve league Match is postponed or is otherwise not played, from the date and time originally fixed for the Match, then the postponed/re-arranged Match shall ordinarily take place on the next Tuesday on which both teams do not have an already fixed match date in the Reserve League.
- C18** No Club or Football club shall, unless the circumstances of the failure are outside the control of the Club concerned and could not have been reasonably foreseen and reasonably anticipated and remedied prior to the Match, fail to fulfil its fixture obligations in respect of any Reserve League Match on and at the appointed or rescheduled date, time and venue.
- C19** For the purposes of Regulation C18, a representation by a Club that it will not or intends not to fulfil a fixture obligation or that it will do so only subject to a condition or conditions which are or are found to be unacceptable to the Board shall be deemed to be in breach of Regulation C18 notwithstanding that the Board has or may have rescheduled or later reschedules the match concerned.
- C20** Without prejudice to any other sanctions, which may be imposed for a breach of these Regulations, any Club or Football club failing to fulfil its fixture obligations shall be liable to pay compensation for any expenses necessarily incurred by the opposing Club or Football club and/or the Company in terms of Match Official and/or any venue costs as a consequence of the failure. The amount of compensation will be at the discretion of the Board which will consider each such case on its merits.

**D** **Players, Coaching and Technical Staff**

- D1** In order to be eligible to Play for a Club or Football club in a Reserve League Match a

Player must be: -

- (i) League Registered with that Club or, in the case of a Football club, Scottish FA Registered with that Football club;
- (ii) at the date of the relevant Match, the subject of a Temporary Transfer to another Club or Football club by the Club or Football club concerned; or
- (iii) a Trialist, as provided for in Regulations D4 or D5; and
- (iv) aged 15 years or more.

**D2** An authorised Official of each Club/club participating in a Match, must deliver to the Match referee, with a copy to an appropriate Official of the opposing Club/club, a 'Scottish Professional Football League - Match Information Form', in a form from time to time approved for use by the Board, with the match details and match commencement team information sections completed which specifies the Players who will Play in that Match for that Club, including the name(s) of the Club's nominated substitute(s), not less than 75 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time. Clubs/clubs shall be entitled to specify up to 20 such Players on such form. The completed form delivered to the referee and copied to the opposing Club/club shall state:

- (i) the Competition in which the match is to be played, the Clubs/clubs which will participate in the Match and the date, time and place of the scheduled Kick-off;
- (ii) the full names of the Players who may Play for the Club/club in the Match, their squad numbers, if any, their dates of birth and the designated team captain; and
- (iii) as the first Player listed, the Player who will fulfil the role of goalkeeper in the starting 11.

**D3.1** If any Player (or substitute Player) named in a Match Information Form is injured or otherwise incapacitated after the delivery of that Match Information Form to the Match referee but before the scheduled kick-off time, the Club or Football club concerned may add the name of another Eligible Player to the Match Information Form as a Player or a substitute Player provided that:

- (i) the most senior member of coaching staff present for that Club or Football club has certified that the injury or incapacity is such that the Player in question cannot reasonably be expected to enter the field of play;
- (ii) if the Player in question has been named in the starting eleven they may only be replaced by any of the up to nine substitutes initially listed on the Match Information Form. The substitute in question may only then be replaced by an Eligible Player not initially listed on the Match Information Form, so that the quota of substitutes is not reduced;



- (iii) if the Player in question has been named as one of the nine substitutes, they may only be replaced by an Eligible Player not initially listed on the Match Information Form; and
  - (iv) if the Player in question is a goalkeeper and no substitute goalkeeper has been initially listed on the Match Information Form, the Player may be replaced by an Eligible Player not initially listed on the Match Information Form.
- D3.2** Any amendment/supplement to the Match Information Form pursuant to Regulation D3.1, shall be immediately communicated by the relevant Club or Football club to the Match referee, an appropriate Official of the opposing Club and to the media. The Club concerned must, upon request, provide the Company with the necessary medical certificates.
- D4** In the case of Clubs or Football clubs participating in the first division of the Reserve League, provided there is compliance with the relevant provisions of the Player Regulations concerning Trialists, a maximum of two Trialists may be included on the Match Information Form for each Reserve League Match. Each of such Trialists may only be included on Match Information Forms as a Trialist on a maximum of three occasions in Reserve League Matches, by such Club or Football club during a Season.
- D5** In the case of Clubs and Football clubs participating in a division of the Reserve League lower than the first division, provided there is compliance with the relevant provisions of the Player Regulations concerning Trialists, a maximum of four Trialists may be included on the Match Information Form for each Reserve League Match. Each of such Trialists may only be included on Match Information Forms as a Trialist on a maximum of six occasions in Reserve League Matches, by such Club or Football club during a Season.
- D6** Subject that a Club and Football Club must make all of the substitutions which it wishes to make during an individual Reserve League Match within a maximum of three stoppages, excluding the half-time period which shall not for this purpose be counted as a stoppage, but is a time when substitutions may be made, only up to a maximum of five nominated substitutes for any one Club or Football club may participate by taking the field of play in an individual Reserve League Match. A player who has been substituted in a Reserve League Match may not take any further part in that Match. The list of twenty Players referred to above must include at least one recognised goalkeeper, who must start the match.
- D7** No more than five substitutes from each team shall warm up along the pitch perimeter at the same time. Substitutes who are warming up on the pitch perimeter shall wear colours sufficient to distinguish them from those worn by the Players (including goalkeepers) participating in the Reserve League Match in question.
- D8** The Players' shirts must be clearly numbered on the back and the Players' shorts may be numbered providing that they are clearly numbered on the left-hand side at the front and in accordance with the Match Information Form. Any such numbers and letters must be in compliance with the style and conditions approved by the Board.

- D9** One Player for each Club or Football club shall be nominated as captain for the Reserve League Match on the Match Information Form and shall wear a distinguishing armband to indicate his status. If the captain for the time being ceases to participate in a Reserve League Match another Player shall be designated as captain and he shall wear an armband as aforesaid.
- D10** Clubs must play in colours registered by them with the SPFL. Football clubs, other than Clubs, shall notify the Secretary in writing prior to their first Reserve League match in each Season of the details of two or more sets of outfield and goalkeeper colours proposed to be used by them in Reserve League matches in each Season.
- D11** At least 7 days prior to all Reserve League Matches, the competing Clubs or Football clubs shall notify each other and the Secretary of the kit it intends its Players to wear in the Match. The competing Clubs or Football clubs shall notify the Match referee of the kit it intends its Players to wear in the Match as soon as the Match referee is appointed by the Scottish FA. Such notifications shall be made using the SPFL Match Kit Form and include the kit to be worn by the goalkeeper.
- D12** No Club participating in a Reserve League Match shall be permitted to play in shirts the colour of which is likely to cause confusion with the outfit worn by the Match Officials. When the colours of two competing Clubs or Football clubs are alike or similar, the Visiting Club shall change to its second-choice colours or a combination of its first and second choice colours (or, if applicable, third choice colours) provided that these do not include any of the basic colours of the Home Club or Football club colours to be worn in the same Reserve League Match by both of its outfield players and its goalkeeper.
- D13** The colour of the goalkeepers' shirts in a Reserve League Match must, in all cases, be clearly distinguishable from the colours of the shirts worn by all outfield Players of both participating Clubs or Football clubs in the same match and from those of the Match Officials.
- D14** If so determined by the Board, the shirts of all Players in Reserve League Matches shall carry the League logo and/or, the name/logo(s) of the title or other sponsor of the League, on one or both sleeves, as specified from time to time by the Board.
- D15** The colours of clothing worn by ball attendants at a Reserve League Match must not be likely to cause confusion with the colours of either of the competing Clubs or Football clubs or Match Officials.
- D16** Any Club or Football club breaching or failing to carry out the provisions of any of Regulations D1 to D5 (inclusive) in relation to a Reserve League Match may be dealt with by means of a Defined Sanction in terms of the Rules of Procedure.
- D17** Subject to any medical or similar circumstance arising during and in relation to the Match, which shall require attendance of a member of staff away from the Match venue, each Club and Football Club participating in a Reserve League Match in the

first or top division of the Reserve League shall have in attendance for the whole of such Match at the Match Venue, a minimum of four staff members, other than Players, comprising not less than two coaches (one of whom must have at least a current A coaching license), a minimum of one physiotherapist (as a minimum Health and Care Professions Council registered as a physiotherapist with a recommendation that such physiotherapist has a current sports first aid qualification from an approved Scottish FA provider) and a minimum of one goalkeeping coach (who must have or be working towards a goalkeeping coaching license).

**D18** Subject to any medical or similar circumstance arising during and in relation to the Match, which shall require attendance of a member of staff away from the Match venue, each Club and Football Club participating in a Reserve League Match in the second or lower division of the Reserve League, shall have in attendance for the whole of such Match at the Match Venue, a minimum of two staff members, other than Players, comprising not less than one coach (who must have or be working towards at least a B coaching license) and a person who has a current sports first aid qualification from an approved Scottish FA provider.

**D19** In order to protect the pitch and unless otherwise agreed between both participating Clubs/clubs, the following procedures shall be adopted by Players and Officials in the periods immediately before and after and at half time during a Reserve League Match:

- (i) the pitch shall only be used for warming up or warming down by Players named on the Match Information Form;
- (ii) pre-match warming up by either team shall not commence until at the earliest 45 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time, shall not last for more than 30 minutes, and shall end not later than 10 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time;
- (iii) if portable goals are provided they shall be used for all goalkeeping drills other than crossing practice;
- (iv) the goalmouth area shall be used by goalkeepers only if portable goals are not provided or for crossing practice and then only for not more than 20 minutes;
- (v) for the purposes of warming up and warming down each team shall use only part of the pitch between the edge of a penalty area and the half way line or as otherwise directed by the groundsman;
- (vi) all speed and stamina work shall be undertaken off the pitch parallel to the touchline opposite the side to be patrolled by the assistant referee or, in the absence of sufficient space at that location, in that part of the pitch directed by the groundsman;
- (vii) Players using the pitch at half time shall give due consideration to any other activity or entertainment taking place on the pitch at the same time;

- (viii) the Home Club may water the pitch at half time provided that it gives reasonable notice to the referee and the other Club that it intends to do so and that any such watering is carried out evenly over the entire length and width of the pitch; and
- (ix) any warming down after the conclusion of the Reserve League Match shall last for no longer than 15 minutes and for that purpose neither penalty area shall be used.

**E Match Officials and Technical Area Facilities**

- E1** Each Club and Football club shall provide technical areas in accordance with the Rules and the Laws of the Game.
- E2** The Match Officials for Reserve League Matches shall be appointed by the Scottish FA.
- E3** The Match Officials must report to the Scottish FA all cases of misconduct and Unacceptable Conduct of Players, Club Officials or Spectators within three (3) days of the occurrence.
- E4** The match fees for Match Officials payable before any deductions shall be as determined by the Board. In the case of postponed matches, half the above fee will be paid to Match Officials who report to the ground.
- E5** Match Officials shall be entitled to claim expenses as determined by the Board.
- E6** Match Officials who inspect grounds as directed by the Board shall be paid a fee as determined by the Board plus expenses (including time lost if applicable).
- E7** No Club or Club Official or other person acting on behalf or in the presumed interests of a Club or Football club shall pay or offer to pay a Referee or Assistant Referee.
- E8** Match Officials shall use all reasonable endeavours to be present at the relevant Match venue at least one and a half hours prior to the scheduled time of kick-off. The Referee shall decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and each Home Club and Home Football club must take every reasonable precaution to keep its ground in a playing condition and, where necessary, shall re-mark the ground during the half-time interval. The Home Club or Home Football club may, where weather or other conditions make it appropriate, require the Referee to visit the Match venue two hours or more before the scheduled time of kick-off of any Reserve League Match.
- E9** The Board may require the Referee to complete a report on the condition of the playing surface in a form specified by the Board from time to time.
- E10** The football proposed to be used in the Match and the replacement footballs must be submitted by the Home Club or Home Football club to and approved by the

Referee before the commencement of the Match.

**E11** In addition to the normal type of ball, an orange or yellow ball which complies in every respect with the requirements of the Laws of the Game must be made available by the Home Club or Home Football club for Reserve League Matches. The selected ball must be used throughout the Match unless otherwise determined by the Referee.

**E12** A referee supervisor may be appointed by the Scottish FA to attend Reserve League Matches. Clubs or Football clubs must ensure that the referee supervisor is given a prime seat in the main stand and is allowed free access to all areas of the ground.

## **F Registration of Ground**

**F1** Each Club and Football club participating in the Reserve League must register or be deemed to have registered any grounds that it wishes to use for Home Reserve League Matches with the Secretary by not later than 1 July immediately preceding each Season. If a Club intends to use its Registered Ground (as defined and provided for in the Rules) for Home Reserve League Matches it must so advise the Secretary in writing by 1<sup>st</sup> July prior to its first participation in the Reserve League.

**F2** No Club or Football club shall play a Home Reserve League Match at any ground other than such registered ground or it's so notified Registered Ground without first obtaining the written approval of the Board. Once a Club or Football club has registered its ground(s) with the Secretary for Reserve League Matches it shall not be required to re-register such ground(s) for each succeeding Season in which it is a participant in the Reserve League but shall be deemed, on a continuing basis, to have registered same on 1 July immediately preceding each such Season. A Club which changes or adds any ground(s) which it intends to use as a venue for Home Reserve League Matches it must first register or, where appropriate, notify, such ground(s) with the Secretary in accordance with Regulation F1.

**F3** Any Club or Football club seeking to register a ground other than a Registered Ground may only do so with the permission of the Board; such permission may only be granted following an inspection on behalf of and a satisfactory report of such inspection to the Company.

**F4** Clubs or Football clubs must register their pitch dimensions for all grounds they intend to utilise for Home Reserve League Matches in any Season with the Secretary not later than 1 July prior to the start of each Season. No Club shall alter its notified pitch dimensions for any Reserve League Match during a Season unless with the prior written consent of the Board. The Board may at any time require a Club to submit a report from an appropriately qualified independent source certifying its pitch dimensions.

- F5** Each Club shall take all reasonable steps to maintain its pitch at its Home Reserve League ground(s) in good order. The Board may require a Club to take such steps as the Board shall specify if not satisfied that an adequate standard of pitch is being maintained.
- F6** Each Club and Football club shall provide, maintain and use, in such manner as to ensure its efficient and effective operation, an adequate winter pitch protection system at its Home Reserve League Match venues. Such systems shall be fully utilised by the Home Club before any Home Reserve League Match where there is a reasonable possibility of its pitch otherwise being frozen or covered in snow or ice so as to ensure that the Reserve League Match is able to take place at the venue and on the date and time scheduled notwithstanding such possibility.
- F7** No Reserve League Match shall be played on a synthetic or artificial grass surface unless such synthetic or artificial grass surface has been approved by the Board in accordance with Rules H4 to H8 (inclusive) on the basis, if it is not in fact the case, that the ground is the Registered Ground of a Club which in any Season is eligible to participate in the Championship, League One or League Two. In the event that a Club or Football club wishes to use a venue with a synthetic or artificial surface for a Reserve League Match or Matches which is not approved in terms of Rules H4 to H8 then the venue shall be subject to such inspection, evaluation and assessment as shall be considered appropriate and may only be utilised for such Matches when its use has been approved by the Board. Such approval may be time limited and be subject to such conditions as the Board shall think appropriate.
- F8** No Reserve League match shall take place at any stadium where the playing area is permanently covered or partially covered by a fixed or moveable roof without the prior written approval of the Board.

**G Media Co-Operation Requirements**

- G1** At every Reserve League Match which is televised or in respect of which moving pictures are to be recorded by or on behalf of the Company, Home Clubs and Football clubs are required to:
- (iii) grant access to reporters, technicians, cameramen, interviewers and others working with or for television, radio and other broadcast media partners with which the Company has a Commercial Contract for the purposes of Section I of the Rules and/or these Regulations, or who are working under a contract with and for the Company, to the tunnel and trackside area prior to kick-off for the purpose of approaching Players and Club Officials on the football management and coaching staff of Clubs and Football clubs for interviews during this period (N.B. the decision whether to speak to such media remains with the individuals themselves and Clubs and Football clubs may require that any interview requests are directed through their PR or operations staff) and ensure that branded backdrop boards provided by or on behalf of the Company are suitably located for such interviews; and

- (i) make reasonable provision for any representatives of the Visiting Club's and Football club's official websites.

**G2** At every Reserve League Match which is televised or in respect of which moving pictures are to be recorded by or on behalf of the Company, Clubs are required to ensure that:

- (i) all television and other interviews in front of a camera recording moving images for broadcast take place in front of the branded backdrop boards provided by or on behalf of the Company;
- (ii) its Players participate in the pre-match "Match Handshake, if any, and for live televised matches allow at least one cameraman pitch access for the duration of the handshake; and
- (iii) make available at least one Official on the football management or coaching staff of the Club or Football club and at least one Player who Played in the match for interview after the match within 30 minutes of the final whistle, giving priority to broadcast media partners of the Company with which the Company has a contract for the purposes of Section I of the Rules and/or these Regulations which are broadcasting live (N.B. the SPFL's media guidelines provide that post-match interviews should take place within 10 minutes of the final whistle).

## **H General**

**H1** Any word or phrase used in these Regulations which is defined in the Articles or Rules and which is not defined in these Regulations has the defined meaning ascribed to it in the Articles or Rules.

**H2** Rules A3 – A18 (inclusive), B1 – B3 (inclusive), C46 - C49 (inclusive), F1 & F2, G1, G3-5 (inclusive), G7, G9-15 (inclusive), G28, G49, G53 and G54, G56-G64 (inclusive), G68-G85 (inclusive), Section H (all), I33 - I41 (inclusive), I52 – I54 (inclusive) and Section J (all) shall apply to the Reserve League.

**H3** Any Club/club in breach of or failing to comply with these Regulations, including any club which is a member of a Recognised League and which participates in the Competition, hereby agrees, and its participating players and Officials agree and are individually and collectively deemed to agree, to be bound by these Regulations and the Rules, in so far as relating to and applying to this Competition, and shall be liable to be dealt with and sanctioned in accordance with Section J of the Rules.

**H4** Each Club or Football club, Player, player, Trialist, Club or Football club Official, Match Official, and any other person participating in the Competition, and/or organisation and/or playing of a Competition Match, agrees to observe and be subject to, so far as concerning and/or relating to the Competition, the articles of association, protocols, procedures, rules, decisions and regulations of the Scottish FA, the Articles, Rules, these Regulations and the other Regulations and decisions of The Scottish Professional Football League and the Charter and Regulations, Rules etc. of UEFA and

of FIFA, the rules, regulations and the like of any other organisation of which these bodies or the Club or Football club may be a member and each and all of them, except where they have already so submitted by agreement, agrees, including by such participation, that he, she or it submits to the jurisdiction and to the decision making authority of the Scottish FA, The Scottish Professional Football League Limited, UEFA and of FIFA. In the case of any conflict between these Regulations and such articles of association, protocols, procedures, rules, decisions regulations, Articles, Rules, Regulations and Charters then, save in the case where these Regulations confer additional rights, benefits, obligations or remedies on the person or party so submitting, such articles of association, protocols, procedures, rules, decisions regulations, Articles, Rules, Regulations and Charters shall take precedence.

**H5** The provisions of Regulations H2 and H3 are without prejudice to the provisions of the Rules which relate to or concern the same or similar matters and which Clubs, Players and Club Officials are obligated not to breach and to comply with.

**H6** Unless expressly otherwise stated, all references to individual Regulations are to Regulations in these Regulations.

**H7** The Home Club or Football club shall make and record a digital video record, both moving images and sound, of each Reserve League Match played at its Home ground. The standard of such video or film record shall be not less than reasonably sufficient for coaching and match analysis by professional coaching staff of each participating Club or Football club. The standard does not require to be of broadcast quality. The Home Club or Football club shall, on request and as soon as reasonably practicable, provide the Visiting Club or Football club and the Company with a copy of or access to a downloadable copy of such a video or film record. If a copy is provided it shall be on conventionally accessible media and in a readily available format.

## **I Commercial Arrangements**

**I1** In connection with the Reserve League, the Board shall have power to conclude and administer contracts on behalf of all Clubs participating in the Reserve League with commercial sponsors, broadcasters, publishers and others for the benefit of Clubs and Football clubs participating in the Reserve League.

**I2** Such contracts include, but are not be restricted to:

- (i)** sponsorship of the Reserve League;
- (ii)** Transmission, Radio Transmission, Other Transmission and recording by any means of Reserve League Matches;
- (iii)** commercial exploitation of the Reserve League, badge, emblem, and trademark in connection with the Reserve League; and
- (iv)** publications including sound and video recordings relating to the history and fixtures of the Reserve League.

**I3** The Clubs and Football clubs and each of them agree to centrally pool and market their rights, facilities and properties relating to and concerning, Radio Transmission and Transmission of Reserve League Matches for exclusive exploitation by the



Company of Radio Transmission and Transmission of Reserve League Matches.

- 14** Subject that a Club or Football club shall not, other than in respect of contracts entered into by the Company relating to Radio Transmission or Transmission of Reserve League Matches, be obliged to comply with this Regulation 14 if to do so would result in that Club being in breach of a contractual obligation entered into prior to the Board determining to enter into the contract concerned, the Clubs and each of them shall license and otherwise provide to the Company the use of such of their other rights, facilities and properties as may be required by the Company to enable the Company to enter into and/or fulfil the Company's obligations under and in terms of contracts concerning and/or relating to the Reserve League.
- 15** The Company shall be entitled, for the purposes or contracts entered into or to be entered into by the Company in relation to the Reserve League, to sub-license, package or otherwise deal in or with any rights, facilities and properties licensed or otherwise provided to the Company by the Clubs and Football clubs and each of them.
- 16** The Company shall not grant or purport to grant any exclusive right or rights in relation to Other Transmission of Reserve League Matches, which would have the object or effect, whether intentionally or otherwise, of preventing or inhibiting the Clubs or Football clubs or any of them from exercising any rights available to them, which they are not expressly prohibited from exercising in terms of these Regulations.
- 17** Except pursuant to a contract entered into by the Company in relation to the Reserve League, there shall be no and each of the Clubs and Football clubs shall in respect of a Reserve League Match played at their Home ground procure that there shall not be any Radio Transmission and/or Transmission of all or any part of a Reserve League Match without the approval of the Board.
- 18** The Clubs and Football clubs and each of them shall not by act or omission infringe any exclusive rights granted by the Company in a contract entered into by the Company in relation to the Reserve League in relation to Radio Transmission and/or Transmission or otherwise cause any breach thereof to occur.
- 19** The Clubs and Football clubs and each of them shall not grant or purport to grant any exclusive right or rights or generally enter into or accept any obligation in relation to Other Transmission of Reserve League Matches which has or would have the effect, whether intended or otherwise, of preventing, restricting or inhibiting the Company from or disadvantaging the Company in competing with the Clubs and/or Football clubs or any third party in the Other Transmission of Reserve League Matches.
- 110** Where a Club or Football club shall be involved in the broadcasting and/or transmitting by means of Other Transmission out with the British Isles of moving pictures of all or any part of a Reserve League Match, other than pursuant to a contract entered into by the Company in relation to the Reserve League, it shall use its best endeavours to procure, including by use of legal proceedings at its own instance, that no broadcasting and/or transmission which is or would be prohibited

within the British Isles by these Regulations, shall be broadcast and/or transmitted by any person or party, whether with or without the permission of the Club or Football club concerned, within, to or which shall be capable of being received in the British Isles.

- I11** Except pursuant to a contract entered into by the Company in relation to the Reserve League, there shall not, without the approval of the Board, be any Other Transmission, within the British Isles, of moving pictures of all or any part of a Reserve League Match within any period provided for in a Commercial Contract and in any event not, in the case of a Reserve League Match played on a Saturday until midnight on the next day and on any other day until midnight on that day.
- I12** Clubs and Football clubs may enter into commercial arrangements or sponsorship agreements relating to their participation in the Reserve League provided Clubs and Football clubs ensure that such arrangements or agreements do not conflict with these Regulations, the Rules and/or any commercial arrangements or sponsorship agreements negotiated by the Board on behalf of the Company in relation to or in connection with the Reserve League, any other Competition or any Commercial Contracts or Limited Commercial Contracts. All revenue received by the Company in terms of or arising out of any contract relating to the Reserve League, other than a Commercial Contract or Limited Commercial Contract, shall be Other Revenue
- I13** The Company shall not contract in a contract entered into by the Company in relation to the Reserve League so as to require any Home Club or Football club to provide, for central exploitation, more than 12 trackside advertising spaces or equivalent at an individual Reserve League Match.
- I14** Clubs and clubs shall be entitled to generate and, subject to these Regulations, broadcast audio-visual coverage of Matches in the Reserve League in which they participate subject that;
- (i) they may only broadcast and exploit such coverage by means of Other Transmission by Pay Per View (PPV), as if the Match were a League Match, was governed by and subject to the Rules, except that any limit on the number of League Matches provided in or affected by the Rules which may be so broadcast shall not apply to Matches in the Reserve League;
  - (ii) this Regulation I14 shall be subject to such modification/amendment at any time as the Board may think expedient; and
  - (iii) where a Club is the Visiting Club and wishes to generate such audio-visual coverage the relevant Home Club shall afford the Visiting Club accreditation for the members of its media team at the Match. the use, without additional charge, of the available physical facilities, including electronic communication facilities requested by the Visiting Club and shall make available to the Visiting Club any and all such audio-visual coverage as may be generated by the Home Club, either or and with such audio coverage as may be available, and the

Visiting Club shall if it wishes such access and rights to such coverage, shall so notify in writing the Home Club and the Secretary not less than seven clear days before the relevant Match.

- (iv) only Home Clubs shall broadcast Matches in the Reserve League on a live or near live PPV basis and Away Clubs and any person or party associated with an Away Club or on its behalf shall only Be entitled to broadcast Matches in the Competition, irrespective of the source of the coverage broadcast, after the expiry of the same 'holdback period' as would apply in the Rules if the Match were a League Match.