

South Wales Premier League

Self-Help Guidance

2025 - 2026



PLEASE CHECK THE TOPICS INCLUDED IN THIS GUIDANCE BEFORE CONTACTING THE LEAGUE

NOTE:

ALL Clubs are expected to be conversant with the SWPL Rules

League Documents are available from the link below

<https://www.southwalespremierleague.co.uk/downloads/league-documents>

SW PREMIER LEAGUE WEBSITE INFORMATION

<https://www.southwalespremierleague.co.uk/downloads>

<u>Folder Name</u>	<u>Information within</u>
Archived Seasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reports & tables from previous SWPL seasons
Cup Competition Rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FAW Cup Rules• FAW Trophy Rules• SWFA Senior Cup Rules• SWPL W John Owen Cup Rules• Penalty Shoot-out guide
FAW Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updates from the FAW including FAW Handbook, FAW Regulations, etc
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SWFA GDPR Policy
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• History of the SWPL / SWPL• History of the W John Owen Cup
League Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SWPL Constitution 2025-2026• SWPL Rules 2025-2026• SWPL Free Date Request• SWPL Handbook 2025-2026• SWFA Handbook• SWPL Advice to Clubs and Referees• Areas, Clubs and Referees - location• SWPL Referee Match Fee Form• SWPL Safeguarding Policy
Newsletters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monthly SWPL Newsletters
Referees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information for match officials
SWPL Match Day & Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comet Guides for iOS & Android• Procedure for Postponed Matches• Back-Up Team sheets x2• Advice for Clubs
W John Owen Cup	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• W John Owen Cup information• Programmes and Match Reports

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FAW - Football Services Centre

The team is a multifunctional hub, set up to be able to help across a range of the most common areas and types of activities that take place within the operation of Welsh Football day-to-day/week-to-week. The FSC will be able to help you with any of the following types of queries:

- Amateur player registrations
- Coach and officials registration
- Referee registration
- Competition management queries

For any queries where the team may not know the answer, they will be able to signpost you to the best person or department to assist you & support you in getting an answer to your queries accordingly.

Operating Hours

The FAW understands that many people within the game in Wales are volunteers, carrying out their roles alongside work and other commitments, so with this in mind the team will be on hand to support you 7 days a week and in the evening as well.

The team operates from **9am – 8pm during the week**, as well as from **9am - 5pm on Saturdays and Sundays** for all matchday needs

FAW Football Service Centre Support Portal

Accessing the Portal

The new portal can be accessed via the following link - support.faw.cymru , or through a new support icon on the faw.cymru website.

Here, you will be able to raise tickets, view support articles, & view all previously raised tickets.

Additionally, you can also email **support@faw.cymru**

Or

Can call them on **02922 672 252**

<https://support.faw.cymru/support/home>

PLAYERS REGISTRATION/TRANSFERS

REFER TO SWPL RULE 4

Advice

1. The SWPL Rules are straightforward in that all Players Registrations & Transfers MUST operate within the Registration Rules of the FAW.
2. The SWPL has NO input regarding Players Registrations & Transfers - we cannot assist by “fast tracking” or clarifying any registrations or transfers - it is all dealt with by the FAW.

**The Amateur Registration Period
for the 2025-2026 season runs from
16 June 2025
to
5pm on 26 March 2026**

<https://faw.cymru/player-registrations/>

Should any club have a query please contact the

FAW - Football Services Centre
<https://support.faw.cymru/support/home>

CONTACT DETAILS ON PAGE 3

FIXTURES

REFER TO SWPL RULE 5

Advice

1. Fixtures are prepared and updated on a regular basis and clubs will be advised - whenever possible - with 4 weeks notice.
2. Please note that fixtures are made with an OVERVIEW OF ALL TEAMS - there may well be circumstances clubs are not aware of - for example free dates & cup competitions.
3. The 4 weeks notice of fixtures is not always possible due to - for example - rounds of cup competitions that are less or their draws are than 4 weeks apart.

The SWPL will always look to ensure clubs are kept active.

4. If a club is without a fixture in the long term do not assume that they have a “FREE DATE” as circumstances dictate games - please note point 1 above.
5. It is strongly recommended clubs who require a “FREE DATE” request within the SWPL Rules as soon as possible - see instructions below on Page 6 - again do not assume!

NOTE: FREE DATES ARE 42 DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE!!

The link for the Free Date form is below:

<https://www.southwalespremierleague.co.uk/downloads/league-documents>

FREE DATES

REFER TO SWPL RULE 5

Advice

1. The Free Date Rule is straight forward. The FAW, SWFA & SWPL will provide a list of their “Conference Dates” at the start of each season. These are the dates their respective cup / trophy competition rounds are to be played. A Free Date on a Conference Date will likely expel the club from that seasons competition!
2. No free dates will be allowed on W John Owen Cup conference dates
3. Clubs need to be aware - before requesting their Free Date - not playing on the conference date may well be expulsion from the competition!
4. Secondly clubs are strongly advised to request their Free Dates at the earliest opportunity. The SWPL will not authorise Free Dates if made outside of the business day rule. This is strictly enforced!

NOTE: FREE DATES ARE 42 DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE!!

5. Therefore the SWPL strongly advise clubs to obtain any dates off their players where a Free Date may be required - again as early as possible!
6. **Teams must use an allocated free date if they wish to participate in an in-season tournament. Participation in any tournament during the league season requires prior approval from the SWFA and/or FAW. League fixtures take priority over tournament participation, and teams must ensure that league commitments are fulfilled before entering external competitions.**
7. Free Date requests are to be made, by email, to the SWPL Secretary using the Free Date Request Form - which can be found here.

<https://www.southwalespremierleague.co.uk/downloads/league-documents>

POSTPONEMENTS

REFER TO SWPL RULE 5

Advice

1. A club simply cannot simply postpone a game on their own volition - for ANY REASON - it MUST be authorised by the SWPL Secretary or if the SWPL Secretary is unavailable - another League Officer
2. In the case of unfit pitches please go to Fitness of Grounds on Page 9
3. A failure to follow SWPL Rules can, and often do, incur additional costs to clubs for their opponents expenses.

For a list of referees in your local area go to..... Area, Clubs, Referees

<https://www.southwalespremierleague.co.uk/downloads/league-documents>

Referees contact details are on the website here.....

<https://www.southwalespremierleague.co.uk/match-info/officials>

GROUND UNAVAILABILITY

BACKGROUND

It is often the case that the designated home ground (referred to as the Stadium on Comet) becomes unavailable for various reasons - for example ground sharing, vandalism, remedial work, etc.

ADVICE

- 1. It is any groundsharing clubs' responsibility to inform and update the SWPL on the availability of their ground at all times.**
- 2. If any designated ground becomes unavailable - ie vandalism or remedial work being undertaken - then clubs are to contact their opponents in the FIRST INSTANCE with a view to reverse the fixture where possible and then inform the SWPL.**
- 3. If the ground is unavailable for any extended period clubs are required to seek an alternative venue to play that meets the required standard and inform the SWPL to update Comet.**
- 4. In ALL instances clubs MUST obtain authorisation from the SWFA to use an alternative venue**
- 5. As far as the SWPL is concern clubs can play at any ground that meets the criteria - it is not a necessity to only play on your designated home ground.**
- 6. Should clubs require a list of grounds then please contact the SWFA or the SWPL.**

FITNESS OF GROUNDS

REFER TO SWPL RULE 5

Advice

It is advisable to plan ahead and notify a referee (match or local) and your opponents on whether you may need a ground inspection - dont leave it until it's too late for your opponents to travel!

If the referee deems your pitch is unfit you need to inform your opponents, the League Secretary (or if the League Secretary is unavailable another League Officer) - including the name of the match official who inspected the pitch - and the appointed match official (if they did not do the pitch inspection) as soon as possible to reduce travelling.

**There is an updated list of referee contacts on the website under
Match Info / Match Officials tabs**

Link is:

<https://www.southwalespremierleague.co.uk/match-info/officials>

**REMEMBER THE MATCH OFFICIAL MUST BE A REGISTERED
OFFICIAL WITH THE SWFA AND THE LEAGUE.**

KICK OFF TIMES

REFER TO SWPL RULE 5

Advice

1. Application for earlier or later kick-offs than the above must be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and the appointed match official involved and must be forwarded to the Hon. Secretary with details of the reason for the application at least 5 business days before the scheduled date of the match.
2. Change of kick off dates/times within five business days will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances and the League Officers have sole “discretion in whether to refuse or accept any request.”
3. All SWPL mid-week games will be fixtured for Wednesday as not to conflict with Ardal League matches.
4. The SWPL have no issues if clubs wish to change their match day (ie Wednesday to Tuesday or Saturday to Friday) or kick off time - as long as both teams and match referee agrees.

NEW RULE FOR 2025- 2026

If a club provides evidence that they are unable to kick-off at the regular default kick off time at their home venue due to circumstances beyond their control the LMB will sanction any kick-off time at the venue between 12noon and 6.00pm on that date on the proviso that the opposition and the match official have been given at least 7 days-notice of the switch and the venue is equipped with floodlights should a later kick-off be required in the winter months

CLUB COLOURS AND NUMBERING

REFER TO SWPL RULE 6

Clubs are required to update their colours and alternative kit prior to the start of each season.

If clubs are unable to update then contact the FAW Football Services Centre - contact details on Page 3

NEW SWFA RULE FOR 2025-2026 -

If there is a clash the home team changes.

PRE-MATCH COMMUNICATION

REFER TO SWPL RULE 7

Advice

1. There is now no requirement for clubs to confirm the game or colours with their opponents - only if post match hospitality is being offered and if this is the case their opponents are expected to confirm.
2. Clubs colours are updated on the SWPL Website - it is the AWAY teams responsibility to check the HOME teams colours

COMET - TEAM LINE UPS

REFER TO SWPL RULE 7

Advice

1. There will be Comet checks on when time sheets are submitted -

FOR 2025-2026 IT IS 30 MINS PRIOR TO KICK OFF

This will be checked on Comet - late team sheet = fine!

2. Teams can now name 6 names on Comet for the technical area. This is to accommodate an additional person for Comet update / Club Assistant Referee (Line)
3. Teams are reminded only ONE person is to be named as Senior Official
4. Clubs MUST ensure the referee updates the match information after the game ie goal scorers, assists and misconduct.

CLUBS UNABLE TO FULFIL A FIXTURE

REFER TO SWPL RULE 5

Advice

1. Clubs cannot postpone a game on their own volition
2. A clubs **MUST** prioritise SWPL games with regards to fielding a team to fulfil a fixture.
3. It is important that clubs inform the League at the earliest opportunity if they cannot fulfil a fixture - this may well save them additional costs!

PAYING FINES - TO SWPL

REFER TO SWPL RULE 1

Advice

- 1. Fines need to be paid in a timely manner**
- 2. All accounts, including the levying of fines MUST be paid within 31 days of the date of such account by bank transfer using the unique reference number provided by the SWPL**
- 3. However if a club has launched an appeal, if the fine is still outstanding at the end of this 31 day period, the club will have an additional 7 days to settle their account.**
- 4. Failure to comply without good cause will incur a fine as shown in Annex 2**
- 5. Any fixtures postponed, as a consequence of this action, will be dealt with under Rule 5**

MISCONDUCT & APPEALS

All misconduct relating to clubs and players contact
SWFA Discipline Secretary Dave King
Email: discipline@southwalesfa.co.uk

For SWPL - REFER TO SWPL RULE 8

Advice

Clubs are strongly advised to get their administration completed in a timely manner within SWPL Rule 8 and SWFA Rules as laid out in the SWFA Handbook.

<https://www.southwalespremierleague.co.uk/downloads>

CUPS & COMPETITIONS - Non-SWPL

**The SWPL only has control on the SW League & the WJO Cup
For all other competitions please contact the respective
Association or League**

For all FAW CUP & TROPHY COMPETITIONS

Contact:

FAW Competition Manager: Nick Davies

Email: ndavies@faw.cymru;

Alternative FAW Football Contact Centre

Tel: 02922 672 252

Email: fsc@faw.cymru

For SWFA SENIOR CUP

Contact:

SWFA Competitions Secretary: Emma Taylor

Email: admin@southwalesfa.co.uk

Alternative

SWFA Secretary Geoff Buckingham

Email: secretary@southwalesfa.co.uk

**All Cup & Competition Rules
Are available Here:**

<https://www.southwalespremierleague.co.uk/downloads/cup-competition-rules>

FRIENDLIES

- Remember friendlies can be played at any time however
- Clubs **MUST** have affiliated to the SWFA
- Clubs **MUST** obtain permission from the SWFA email friendlies@southwalesfa.co.uk
- If the game is in the regular season then clubs are expected - as a curtesy measure - to inform the SWPL Secretary

Your fixture(s) are approved subject to FAW Rules and both clubs complying with the following conditions:

1. That your club and opponents comply with any additional restrictions imposed by the local authority where the fixture is played and/or imposed by the facilities owner.
2. That both clubs have sufficient correctly registered players available to start the fixture and the clubs are correctly affiliated to their Area Associations or the FA of Wales. Clubs may included unregistered players as trialists in a maximum of two games per player.
3. That neither club has been suspended by this Association or the FAW for misconduct or outstanding financial obligations
4. Matches at under-11 and below are only sanctioned on the basis they are played under the FAW small-sided regulations and are played under the regulations appropriate to their age group.
5. Fixtures at under-12 are only sanctioned on the basis they are played as 9 v 9 matches in line with FAW Regulations on small sided football.
6. Permissions for matches taking place on 1 July or later are subject to both clubs also being correctly re-affiliated to their Area Associations or the FAW. Failure to carry this out will result in the fixture being deemed invalid and your club insurance cover may also not be effective.
7. Playing the fixture(s) will be deemed to constitute acceptance of these conditions. The Association reserves the right to make investigations and if necessary, issue charges of misconduct where we receive information that leads us to believe clubs may have breached these conditions or taken part in football matches without advising the Association of their intentions

BLUEFIN INSURANCE

<https://faw.bluefinsport.co.uk/>