

## REGULATIONS RELATING TO ADVERTISING ON THE CLOTHING OF PLAYERS, CLUB OFFICIALS AND MATCH OFFICIALS

### Introduction

These Regulations are made pursuant to FA Rule J2 and The Football Association's Regulation's for the Registration and Control of Referees.

All references to a club or clubs in these Regulations include any team, whether or not part of a club.

Clubs participating in International competitions must also comply with all relevant regulations of FIFA, UEFA and other Confederations.

It is recommended that clubs and football boot and clothing manufacturers seeking clarification of any of the regulations do so by referring to the specific competition rules and The Football Association.

We would encourage clubs and football boot and clothing manufacturers to seek feedback at the earliest possible time, in relation to designs and advertising from The Football Association and their specific competition. Clubs and manufacturers are reminded to obtain the necessary permissions before manufacture.

The Football Association have produced an on-line version of these regulations providing a practical guide on how to apply these formal regulations. This can be found at [www.TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/more/kitadvertising](http://www.TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/more/kitadvertising)

### Definitions and Interpretation

**“Advertising”** means any designation, message, logo, trademark, name or emblem of any nature.

**“Clothing”** means the Match clothing of a Player, Club or Match Official and shall include without limitation shirts, shorts, socks, undershorts, t-shirts (or any other item of clothing worn under the shirt), sweat-bands, headbands, caps, tracksuits, gloves, waterproofs, sweat tops, sock tie-ups. Also, any outer garments worn by substitutes and Club Officials in the Technical Area at any time. Save where stated to the contrary, football boots are not considered as clothing.

**“Clothing manufacturer”** means any undertaking that carries out the business of the manufacture or licensing of football clothing and has been appointed by the Club concerned to supply the clothing.

**“Club Officials”** in these Regulations includes any Club Official as defined in the Rules who has team duties such as managers, coaches, physiotherapists, and doctors and includes any person who takes up a position in the Technical Area at any time during a Match

**“Football boots”** means any footwear worn during the period of a Match by a Player or Match Official.

*[Note: In calculating the area of any advertising referred to in these Regulations, the usual mathematical formula will be used, and any outlines or box surrounds of the relevant designation, message, name, logo, emblem or mark, and all included space, shall be considered as part of the area of advertising. Please see the examples set out at the back of the Kit and Advertising regulations booklet. If any further guidance is needed, or a copy of the booklet, please contact Sue Ball at The FA – [sue.ball@thefa.com](mailto:sue.ball@thefa.com)]*

### A. GENERAL

1. Save as set out in these Regulations, advertising on clothing and football boots is prohibited during the period of a Match. This applies to Players, including substitutes, any others in the Technical Area, including Club Officials and to Match Officials. The rules of an Affiliated Association or Competition may provide that for matches under their jurisdiction a Club is obliged to obtain permission for any of the advertising listed in Section C below, subject always to these Regulations. Clubs must seek the permission of the Competition organiser in order to wear any items of clothing during any pre-match warm-up bearing a slogan or

message not otherwise covered by these regulations eg a message of support regarding an ill team-mate.

2. Where the rules of an Affiliated Association or Competition require a Club to obtain permission under A(1), a new application for permission must be made to the appropriate body each time it is proposed to amend the advertising. Subject to the provisions of Section B2 and Section C(5) below, or any relevant provisions of the appropriate Competition, there is no restriction on the number of such applications that may be made during the course of each season.
3. Disciplinary action in accordance with the Rules may be taken against a Club, Player, Club Official or Match Official for any breach of these Regulations.
4. The appearance on, or incorporation in, any item of clothing (including football boots) of any distasteful, threatening, abusive, indecent, insulting, discriminatory or otherwise ethically or morally offensive message, or any political message, is prohibited. The advertising of tobacco products is prohibited.
5. A Club shall observe all recognised advertising standards and in particular those of the Advertising Standards Authority.
6. Advertising entailing the use of numerals is permitted only if such numerals clearly form part of the advertising and cannot in any way be confused with Players' shirt numbers.
7. No colour or design may be used in advertising that might create problems of identification for Match Officials and/or opponents. The colour and design of the clothing of opponents, goalkeepers and match officials must be taken into account.
8. Without limiting the effect of the above, in the case of a team comprising players all under the age of 18 years on 31 August in the current season, the appearance on or incorporation in any item of clothing of any reference whatsoever to a product, service or other activity which is considered by The Football Association as detrimental to the welfare, health or general interest of young persons, or is otherwise considered inappropriate, having regard to the age of the players, is prohibited.

It is the view of The Football Association that examples of such products, services or related activities would include, but are not limited to, alcohol and gambling. Generally, reference to a public house or restaurant may be permissible, unless the establishment primarily or exclusively exists for the supply and consumption of alcohol (which is likely to be reflected in its alcohol licensing conditions). Alcoholic drinks, breweries and products, services or activities related to gambling are unlikely to be permissible under any circumstances.

Prior to entering into any contractual agreement with a product, activity or service that may be considered to be detrimental or inappropriate to young persons, clubs should contact The Football Association to seek approval.

9. Any issues arising in relation to the interpretation or effect of these Regulations shall be referred to The Football Association for its determination, which shall be final and binding (subject to provisions relating to Match Officials).
10. A Club shall supply on demand to The Football Association any item of clothing for consideration as to whether it complies with these Regulations.

#### **B. PERMITTED ADVERTISING (not relating to sponsors)**

The following advertising is permitted:

##### **1. Club emblem and name**

- (i) On football boots

The officially designated Club emblem (or part thereof), name, initials, nickname or a trademark registered by the Club, or a combination of such, may appear without restriction.

- (ii) On all other Clothing  
The officially designated Club emblem (or part thereof), name, initials, nickname or a trademark by the Club, or a combination of such, may appear:
- (a) once only on the front of the shirt, providing it does not exceed an area of 100 square centimetres; and
- (b) once only anywhere on the shorts providing it does not exceed an area of 50 square centimetres; and
- (c) once only on each sock providing it does not exceed an area of 50 square centimetres.

An additional officially designated Club emblem (or part thereof), name, initials, nickname or a trademark registered by the Club, or a combination of such, may appear on each sock or on any cap worn by a goalkeeper providing it does not exceed an area of 50 square centimetres and, where it appears on a sock, is covered when a football boot is worn.

- (d) once only on each sock tie-up providing it does not exceed an area of 100 square centimetres. The sock tie-up may show the Player's name, Player's squad number, Competition name, sponsor designation and date of match or any combination of the same. Clubs must receive the approval of the Competition for the use of sock tie-ups.

The officially designated Club emblem (or part thereof), name, initials, nickname, a trademark registered by the Club or web site address, may appear once only on the collar or collar zone of a shirt and/or tracksuit, provided such does not exceed an area of 12 square centimetres.

- (e) The club may incorporate one of its types of club identification or parts thereof, in jacquard weave form, as tonal print or by embossing the shirt and/or shorts. There is no limitation as to the number, size and positioning of the type of club identification chosen.

The design of such jacquard weave may also be the names of individuals (eg club supporter) providing each is limited to 20 square centimetres, with unlimited repeats being acceptable. Clubs must receive the approval of the Competition to apply the names of individuals into a jacquard weave or similar technique.

The jacquard weave must be incorporated in the main colour and/or in one of the minor colours. It must not dominate, contain a contrasting colour, or affect the distinctiveness of the kit.

## 2. Clothing Manufacturer

- (i) On football boots  
The established mark, logo, name or model/style of football boots or their manufacturer, or a combination of the same, may appear without restriction.
- (ii) On all other Clothing  
The established mark, logo or name of a clothing manufacturer, or a combination of the same, may appear once only:
  - (a) on the shirt and on the shorts provided it is an area no greater than 20 square centimetres:
  - (b) on each of a goalkeeper's gloves, and on a goalkeeper's cap, provided such does not exceed an area of 25 square centimetres.
  - (c) on each of an outfield player's gloves provided such does not exceed an area of 20 square centimetres.

- (d) on the front and back of any t-shirt or any other item of clothing worn under the shirt provided such does not exceed an area of 20 square centimetres and this is not visible outside the playing shirts during the period of the Match.
- (e) on undershorts worn under playing shorts provided such does not exceed an area of 20 square centimetres and this is not visible outside the playing shorts during the period of the Match.
- (f) (i) The established mark, logo or name of a clothing manufacturer, or a combination of the same, may also appear up to twice on each sock between the top edge and the ankle, provided that it is an area no greater than 20 square centimetres for such mark, logo or name (or combination thereof) where it appears once on each sock or 10 square centimetres where it appears twice on each sock. It may be incorporated into the design of the socks, but must be limited to 10 square centimetres repeats and must be restricted to any turn-over on the socks.
- (ii) An additional established mark, logo or name of a clothing manufacturer, or a combination of the same, may appear once only on each sock providing it does not exceed an area of 50 square centimetres and it is not visible when wearing a football boot.
- (g) (i) An additional established mark, logo or name of the clothing manufacturer may be used once or repeatedly on either/or both sleeves as part of the design on the trim or taping of shirts, shorts and socks. Such trim or taping shall be limited to down the outer seam of the shirt (armhole to the bottom of the shirt), or the length of the sleeve (neck to cuff), or across the bottom of each sleeve (cuffs) and to the bottom edge of the shorts or down the outer seam of the shorts and across the top edge of the socks.
- (ii) The mark, logo or name of the clothing manufacturer which appears once or repeatedly, as part of the design on the trim or taping of the shirts, shorts and socks shall be restricted to a maximum width of 10cm on the shirts and shorts and to a maximum width of 5cm on brand-new (unworn) socks.
- (h) The same established mark, logo or name or combination must appear on all clothing of all Players and Club Officials wherever such advertising appears. Once submitted to and approved by a Competition, the established mark, logo or name or combination on players' and club officials' clothing may not be modified during the course of that season, without the approval of the Competition.
- (i) In addition to the club identification, the manufacturer may incorporate one of its types of identification in jacquard weave form or by embossing in the shirt and/or shorts. The type of manufacturer identification chosen must not exceed 20 square centimetres. There is no limitation as to the number and positioning of the type of manufacturer identification chosen.
- The jacquard weave must be incorporated in the main colour and/or one of the minor colours. It must neither dominate nor affect the distinctiveness of the kit.

**3. Product marks and seals of quality**

- (i) On football boots

The official licensing product mark or seal of quality is permitted on the outside of football boots without restriction.

- (ii) On all other Clothing

An official licensing product mark or seal of quality is permitted on the outside of the clothing only if Competition rules so allow. When placed on a shirt, such mark or seal may not exceed 10 square centimetres in size and shall be placed on an area which is hidden when the shirt is tucked inside the shorts.

A second, smaller licensing mark or seal of quality is allowed on the shirt which must not exceed 5 square centimetres and must be placed along the torso outer seam. In addition to any licensing product mark(s) or seal(s) of quality which may appear on the shirt, such a mark or seal is permitted on the shorts. It may not exceed 5 square centimetres.

**4. Numbers**

- (i) On football boots

A Player's shirt number may appear on his boots without restriction.

- (ii) On all other Clothing

Where the Competition rules require a number on the back of the shirt, it should be clearly legible and positioned in the centre of the back of the shirt.

The number should be between 20 cm and 35 cm in height with provision for each competition to set specific criteria.

A number may also appear on the front of the shorts which must correspond with the number on the shirt.

The number should be between 10 cm and 15 cm in height with provision for each competition to set specific criteria.

The officially designated logo or name of the Competition or combination of the same may appear once only on each of the player's shirt numbers providing the logo, name or combination does not exceed an area of 20 square centimetres. No other advertising or any other marking is allowed on players' shirt numbers.

**5. Players Names and Personalisation**

- (i) On football boots

A Player's name, including any appropriate nickname or initials, may appear on that Player's boots without restriction. Other names, places, appropriate nicknames or numbers of personal significance to that Player (e.g. the name or birthday of a family member, or the number of playing appearances made) may also appear on that Player's boots without restriction.

- (ii) On all other Clothing

The name of a player may appear on the back of shirts or tracksuits only if Competition rules so permit. The height of the lettering must not be greater than 7.5 centimetres.

**6. Other Logos**

- (i) On football boots

Except as permitted by paragraphs 1 – 5 above, the appearance of any logo of any description on a Player's football boots is prohibited.

- (ii) On goalkeeper gloves  
A goalkeeper's name, including any appropriate nickname or initials, may appear on the goalkeeper's gloves providing such name etc does not exceed an area of 20 square centimetres.
- (iii) On all other Clothing
- (a) The officially designated logo or name of an Affiliated Association or Competition may appear once only on each sleeve of shirts, provided Affiliated Associations or Competition rules so permit. Such mark must appear between the shoulder seam and the elbow and must not exceed 100 square centimetres.
- (b) The officially designated logo, name of any awards or titles won in previous seasons or commemorative occasions (which may include any match details eg date, venue, opponents) may appear on shirts, provided such does not exceed an area of 100 square centimetres and permission has been granted from the Competition in which the kit is to be worn.
- (c) The national flag may appear once only on each sleeve of the playing shirt provided that Affiliated Associations and competition rules so permit and that it does not exceed an area of 25 square centimetres.
- (d) The officially designated name, logo or emblem of a registered charity may appear once only on shirts, provided that such name, logo or emblem does not exceed an area of 100 square centimetres. Alternatively, such a charity name, logo or emblem may appear on shirts in the space reserved for the main club sponsor, either alone or in combination with a club sponsor logo, provided that a total area of 200 square centimetres is not exceeded.
- Before any such charity name, logo or emblem is used on a kit, permission must be granted from the Competition in which the kit is to be worn. Such permission may only be granted on a maximum of three occasions in any one season.

### C. SPONSOR DESIGNATIONS

- (i) On football boots  
Except as permitted by paragraphs 1 – 5 above, the appearance of any advertising of any description, including sponsors' designations, on a Player's football boots is prohibited.
- (ii) On all other Clothing  
No sponsor advertising is permitted anywhere on the clothing of a Player on the field of play during a match except as provided for in this part C.  
The following advertising is permitted:

#### 1. Playing kit

- (a) On the clothing of a Player on the field of play, the following areas shall be permitted to be used for advertising
- One single area not exceeding 200 square centimetres on the front of the shirt
  - One single area not exceeding 100 square centimetres on the back of the shirt; and
  - One single area not exceeding 100 square centimetres on the back of the shorts.

- Once only on each sock tie-up providing it does not exceed an area of 100 square centimetres.

In the event that a Club or Competition elects to have an area of sponsor advertising only on the front of the shirt, and on no other item of playing kit, that area may be increased to a maximum of 250 square centimetres if approved by the Competition.

One or more company may be advertised and, in respect of any one company, one or more of its products. The same advertising must appear in the same form on the clothing of all Players and Club Officials, wherever such advertising appears, throughout the entirety of the match.

- (b) Any advertising under C(1) must be clearly separated from the items described in B above.
2. Tracksuits and other clothing in the Technical Area
    - (a) Advertising may appear on tracksuits, and other items of clothing other than the clothing of a Player, on the field of play during a match in accordance with the size and locations set out in C1.

The advertising carried on the tracksuits and other clothing worn by Players and Club Officials in the Technical Area can be either:

      - (i) the same sponsor(s) as worn on the playing kit (home or away strips)
      - (ii) be additional to the sponsors as worn on the playing kit
      - (iii) a single sponsor that is an official partner of the relevant competition
  3. Clubs may conclude sponsorship arrangements with different companies in respect of advertising permitted under C(1) above for both their 'home' and 'away' strips. Where Competition rules allow for a third strip to be worn, this may carry advertising as worn on either the "home" or "away" shirt. The third strip may carry an alternative sponsor advertisement with the permission of the Competition. The advertising must appear in the same form on the clothing of all Players and Club Officials wherever such advertising appears, throughout the entirety of the match.
  4. Where a non-member Club wishes to include the name of a sponsor in its Club title, consent must be received in advance from the relevant Affiliated Association and where such consent is given, advertising on behalf of one company only shall be carried on the Club's match shirts, irrespective of the provisions of B (4) and C (1) above. No Full Member Club or Associate Member Club may include the name of a sponsor in its Club title without the consent of The Football Association.
  5. No Club in Membership of the Football Conference, the Isthmian League, Northern Premier League or Southern Football League may include the name of a sponsor in its Club title without the consent of the competition and, in the case of a Full Member Club or Associate Member Club, the consent of The Football Association.
  6. Clubs with more than one team may conclude separate shirt advertising agreements on behalf of each team.

**D. MATCH OFFICIALS**

No advertising of any nature, save as set out below, is permitted on Match Officials' clothing or football boots without the consent of The Football Association.

The following advertising is permitted:

1. The mark, logo or name of a clothing manufacturer or a combination of the same, may appear:
  - (a) once only on the shirt provided it is an area no greater than 20 square centimetres.
  - (b) once only on the shorts provided it is an area no greater than 12 square centimetres.
  - (c) incorporated into the design of the socks, but must be limited to an area no greater than 12 square centimetres.
2. Jacquard Weave

A jacquard weave or similar technique such as embossing shall be allowed providing each is limited to 20 square centimetres, with unlimited repeats being acceptable. The design of such jacquard weave may be the manufacturer's mark, logo or name. The jacquard weave shading shall be restricted to two shades differing from the base colour, using a standard Pantone reference manual.
3. Sponsor Advertising

Sponsor Advertising in accordance with FIFA Equipment Regulations is permitted only on shirt sleeves and the total surface area of the advertising shall not exceed 200 square centimetres. Any sponsorship contract must be made between the sponsor and The Football Association. Individual Affiliated Associations or Leagues are not permitted to enter into sponsorship contracts.
4. Badges

Match kit shirts may carry the recognised badge of the appropriate Competition once only, which must be on either site of the breast pocket. This badge must not exceed an area of 20 square centimetres and, where it contains the established trademark, trade name or logo of a sponsor of the Competition, must be approved by The Football Association in advance.

In addition to the recognised competition badge the match kit shirt may carry once only on either site of the breast pocket an officially designated badge of FIFA, The Football Association, the relevant Affiliated Association or the Referees' Association (where relevant).
5. Sock Tie-Up

Each sock tie-up may show the name and/or badge of appropriate Affiliated Association or the Referees' Association providing it does not exceed an area of 100 square centimetres.

No advertising is allowed.