



FAW Academy Review Recommendations – June 2016

The FAW conducted an Academy Review during the 2015/16 season. The research had included consultation with 21 academy clubs, 20 academy representatives, 19 league secretaries, 7 representatives from four professional clubs in Wales and a representative from the Dutch Football Federation. The following recommendations have been agreed by the FAW;

1. **Player Pathway Education workshops** | Workshops for junior clubs to be held, to promote a working together philosophy. To be delivered by the WFT Officers. To be delivered through the junior leagues, with invites extended to Clubs, Area Associations and Academies. Reference to the workshops are to be made within the Academy Regulations.
2. **Criteria for Categorisation of Academy Football** | It was agreed that categorisation would not benefit the current structure, but the Application for Approval form should be more detailed and robust. It was agreed that new academies must be playing at Level 2 of the pyramid or higher and any proposed new academy should not impinge on existing academies. It was further agreed that any existing Academy, whose club was relegated from Level 2 would have their status reviewed at the time of Application. All of these recommendations must be included in the Academy Regulations.
3. **Registration of Players** | It was agreed that as Rule 66.9 permits the club to make the choice of whether to allow 1 player / 1 club or to permit the player to play for the junior club and the academy, there was no need to make any change. Clubs can make the choice to suit their own needs and geographical requirement, but must also record the playing time of each player.
4. **Mandatory age-groups** | It was agreed that the only mandatory requirement would be the requirements of the UEFA and FAW Club Licence. Clubs were permitted to run additional age-groups, but only one team per age band (18 players max). It was agreed to allow U13 and U15 friendly matches with FAW sanction. The maximum number being 15 for clubs that don't implement 1 player/1 club or 25 for clubs that implement 1 player/1 club. Academy Regulation 7 to be updated.



5. **Sanctioned Friendlies** | It was agreed that sanction would be granted for requests made 28 days in advance, if the proposed match did not clash with the FAW Academy programme. Junior Clubs and Leagues would be required to release the players for these matches. The maximum number of friendlies in accordance with recommendation 5.
6. **Partnerships** | Opportunities to work together should be reflected within the Regulations and should not be in direct conflict with existing academies. Professional Clubs must work with academies, not against them with WFT meeting key stakeholders to promote this. This must be reflected in Academy Regulation 6.
7. **Audit and Monitoring** | The good work of the current auditors was recognised, but it was noted that they have been in place for many years and familiarity was perceived as an issue so a Review of this needs to be completed. It was agreed to review the structure of the Academy auditing procedure which is responsible for allocating 280k (Euro) and tender for the process.
8. **Funding** | It was agreed that there is a need to consider funding for clubs outside the WPL, but the audit review and new application process is paramount to this. It was agreed that a further discussion would be required following the audit review and before the 2017/18 budgets.
9. **Training Compensation** | Mr Dommatt discussed a paper on Compensation Payments the FAW have considered from other National Associations and Professional Leagues. It was noted by the members that the FAW should proceed to amend FAW Domestic Training Compensation Regulations following the model set by the Elite Player Performance Regulations (EPPP) of the English Premier League and the English Football League. It was agreed that Mr Dommatt would draft an amended set of Domestic Training Regulations and report back to the members of the NGB.
10. **Regional Squads** | It was discussed that developing an extension of the Cymru Cup for other mandatory ages would benefit the Academy programme and the Player Pathway. In principle support was agreed to discuss further with the WFT, before a business case is written for the initiative.