



Department
for Culture,
Media & Sport

Stephanie Peacock MP
Minister for Sport, Media, Civil Society and Youth
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
1st Floor
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

E: enquiries@dcms.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/dcms

20 June 2025

Louie French MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

INT2025/06034/DC

Dear Louie,

I am writing to follow up on one of the questions you raised during the third Committee stage debate on 10th June of the Football Governance Bill. You sought clarification on how the Independent Football Regulator (IFR) will interact with existing rules in place, such as Financial Fair Play / Profit and Sustainability Rules.

As a membership organisation, the Premier League is responsible for implementing its own rules for its members, including Profit and Sustainability Rules (formerly known as Financial Fair Play). Similar rules are operated by the English Football League, and internationally by UEFA.

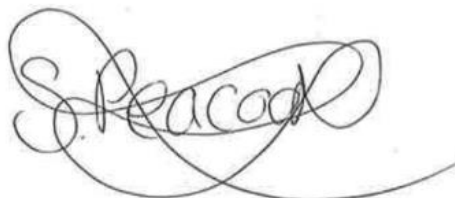
In general, league rules in England are designed to address broader, distinct, issues to those within the IFR's regulatory system. For example, they set limits on permitted losses to maintain competitive balance. Whereas the IFR's financial regulation will be there only to ensure that clubs are financially resilient - something that the industry's existing self-regulation is not designed to achieve.

That means the IFR's system will be a fundamentally different type of regulation. It will be risk-based, proportionate regulation to ensure clubs have a sensible business plan and mitigations for adverse scenarios. Unlike current league rules, it is designed to be forward looking, bespoke to clubs, and tailored to their specific circumstances. For example, ensuring clubs have the appropriate financial resources and contingency plans to manage foreseeable risks.

The leagues will be free to continue operating financial rules of their own, and to update these rules to reflect their broader objectives and priorities. Of course, there may be some helpful spillovers. For example, if league rules limit clubs' expenditure this may support their financial sustainability and mean that the IFR does not need to intervene directly itself. However, it is also in no-one's interest to have unnecessary duplication if the IFR is already delivering sustainable clubs. Whether the leagues choose to continue operating their rules is ultimately a matter for those leagues and their member clubs.

The IFR's regulatory principles will encourage it to be cognisant of existing industry rules, the risk of duplication, and overall burdens on clubs. However, its primary responsibility is the sustainability of English Football, whether or not the leagues act. I have placed a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Peacock', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Stephanie Peacock MP
Minister for Sport, Media, Civil Society and Youth