
Committee Stage: Wednesday 15 May 2024

Football Governance Bill (Amendment Paper)

This document lists all amendments tabled to the Football Governance Bill. Any withdrawn amendments are listed at the end of the document. The amendments are arranged in the order in which it is expected they will be decided.

★ New Amendments.

☆ Amendments which will comply with the required notice period at their next appearance.

New Amendments: 23 to 27 and NC2 to NC4

Stephanie Peacock

14

Jeff Smith
Rachel Hopkins

☆ Schedule 2, page 82, line 20, leave out “is satisfied” and insert “has ensured”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would strengthen the responsibility of the appointer.

Stephanie Peacock

15

Jeff Smith
Rachel Hopkins

☆ Schedule 2, page 82, line 20, at end insert—

“(1A) A person appointed to the board must declare any interests they consider might give rise to a conflict of interests or the perception or a conflict of interests.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would strengthen the duty of an appointee to declare a conflict of interest.

Ian Byrne

2

Rachel Hopkins

☆ Clause 8, page 5, line 33, at end insert—

“(iv) supporters and supporters’ organisations”

Stephanie Peacock

9

Jeff Smith
Rachel Hopkins

☆ Clause 8, page 5, line 33, at end insert—

“(iv) football fans,
(v) football supporter organisations,
(vi) any local community groups that the IFR considers relevant,
(vii) employee groups and unions with members employed by football clubs, and
(viii) professional football players and their representatives.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment expands the list of those whom the IFR must engage constructively.

Mr Clive Betts

20

Rachel Hopkins

☆ Clause 8, page 5, line 33, at end insert—

“(iv) representatives of major club employee groups such as player or staff unions.”

Stephanie Peacock

11

Jeff Smith
Rachel Hopkins

☆ Clause 10, page 6, line 21, at end insert—

“(ba) an evaluation of the potential impact of ticket pricing and kick off times on fans and make recommendations in accordance with that evaluation.”

Stephanie Peacock

10

Jeff Smith
Rachel Hopkins

☆ Clause 10, page 6, line 24, at end insert—

“(2A) A state of the game report must, notwithstanding whether any women’s football competitions have been specified, consider the state of women’s football in England.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would include the women’s game in the scope of the State of the Game report.

Ian Byrne

4

Rachel Hopkins

☆ Schedule 4, page 93, line 3, leave out from “has” to end of line 6 and insert—

- “(a) adequate means by which to consult its fans about relevant matters, and
- (b) structures and processes for effective engagement with its fans and takes the views of its fans into account in making decisions about the relevant matters.”

Stephanie Peacock

16

Jeff Smith
Rachel Hopkins

☆ Schedule 4, page 93, line 4, leave out “consults” and insert “has structures and processes for effective engagement and consultation with”

Ian Byrne

8

Rachel Hopkins

☆ Schedule 4, page 93, line 4, after “matters,” insert—

- “including any proposal by the club
- (i) to play matches in a competition to which the notice requirements in section 54(7) and (8) apply, or
- (ii) to play home matches at a ground other than the club’s home ground, before giving notice of that intention to IFR under section 48(1),”

Ian Byrne

6

Rachel Hopkins

☆ Schedule 4, page 93, line 10, after “issues” insert “including ticket pricing”

Stephanie Peacock

18

Jeff Smith
Rachel Hopkins

☆ Schedule 4, page 93, line 12, at end insert—

“(f) match ticket prices and kick-off times”

Stephanie Peacock

17

Jeff Smith
Rachel Hopkins

☆ Schedule 4, page 93, line 12, at end insert—

“(2A) The IFR must—

- (1) consult the Football Supporters’ Association on defining what constitutes effective fan engagement and consultation by clubs and,
- (2) issue guidance on measures to be taken by clubs to ensure effective fan engagement and consultation and lay a copy of that guidance before Parliament within six months of this Act coming into force.”

Ian Byrne

5

Rachel Hopkins

☆ Schedule 4, page 93, line 17, at end insert—

“(4) The club’s establishment and continued delivery of such fan engagement must be independently assessed ahead of it being awarded a full operating licence and in the event of the breach of relevant licence conditions or provisions of this Act.”

Stephanie Peacock

19

Jeff Smith
Rachel Hopkins

☆ Schedule 5, page 95, line 36, at end insert—

“8A Where a club’s fans have established legally registered Supporters Trusts, clubs must have regard to whether these bodies should become the appropriate representation in its fan consultation process under paragraph (8).”

Ian Byrne

7

Rachel Hopkins

☆ Schedule 5, page 95, line 40, at end insert—

“(3) “Persons selected as representing the views of the club’s fans should be appointed through a process that is democratic and independent of club control.

(4) Where the club’s fans have established a legally registered Supporters Trust, that body should have appropriate representation in the club’s consultation processes.”

Stephanie Peacock

12

Jeff Smith
Rachel Hopkins

☆ Clause 32, page 24, line 2, at end insert—

“(2A) A determination period as specified in subsection (2) should have an end date which is as soon as is reasonably practicable.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would ask the Secretary of State to propose a timely end date to a determination period.

Dame Tracey Crouch

1

Clause 37, page 27, line 30, leave out “must” and insert “may”

Mr Clive Betts

21

Rachel Hopkins

☆ Clause 45, page 37, line 11, leave out from “fans” to “about” in line 12 and insert “players and staff of regulated clubs in England and Wales”

Mr Clive Betts

22

Rachel Hopkins

☆ Clause 45, page 37, line 12, after “competition” insert “, and the full impacts of such a decision.”

Stephanie Peacock

13

Jeff Smith
Rachel Hopkins

☆ Clause 45, page 37, line 15, at end insert—

“(aa) professional football players,”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment expands the list of those whom the IFR must consult.

Ian Byrne

3

Rachel Hopkins

☆ Clause 46, page 38, line 15, at end insert—

“(6A) Before the IFR grants an approval under subsection 6 it must—

- (a) consult the supporters of the body in question, the relevant competition organisers and persons representing the local community with which the body is associated; and
- (b) have regard to the views expressed by those consulted.”

Stuart Andrew

Gov 23

★ Clause 54, page 43, line 29, leave out “23” and insert “24”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment corrects a cross-reference in clause 54(1)(b).

Mr Clive Betts

27

★ Clause 55, page 45, line 1, leave out paragraph b

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment allows the regulator to consider the effect of “parachute” payments when assessing the distribution of revenue between competition organisers.

Stuart Andrew

Gov 24

★ Clause 65, page 54, line 12, after “IFR” insert “may”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment inserts a missing word into clause 65(9).

Stuart Andrew

Gov 26

★ Schedule 7, page 100, line 4, leave out “23” and insert “24”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment corrects a cross-reference in paragraph 6(a) of Schedule 7.

Stuart Andrew

Gov 25

- ★ Clause 90, page 71, line 12, leave out "55(2)(b)" and insert "55(2)(a)(ii)"

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment corrects a cross-reference in clause 90(3)(a)(iii).

Stephanie Peacock

NC1

Jeff Smith
Rachel Hopkins

- ☆ To move the following Clause—

"Reporting requirement (women's football)

- (1) The Secretary of State must, no later than five years from the date on which this Act is passed, carry out a review of the professional tiers of women's football to determine whether the competitions specified by the Secretary of State under section 2(3) should include women's football competitions.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the review should take account of—
 - (a) the State of the Game Report,
 - (b) the risk of financial failure in women's football, and
 - (c) such other considerations as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.
- (3) The results of the review must be published and laid before Parliament."

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would review whether or not women's football should be added to the scope of the IFR.

Mr Clive Betts

NC2

- ★ To move the following Clause—

"Heritage of English football to cover league and existing cup competitions

In this Act, reference to the heritage of English football includes the heritage of its league and existing cup competitions."

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause includes the heritage of league and existing cup competitions in the Act's "heritage objective".

Mr Clive Betts

NC3

★ To move the following Clause—

“Owner’s commitment to future use of a club’s football ground

- (1) A person may not become or continue to be an owner of a regulated club unless they provide to the IFR a commitment to maintain long-term use of the football club’s grounds as a mandatory licensing condition.
- (2) The IFR must codify the commitment.
- (3) The IFR may only determine a person to be or remain a suitable owner of a club if the person has made a commitment under subsection (1).”

Member’s explanatory statement

This new clause introduces a new licensing condition requiring an owner to provide a commitment to the future ongoing use of a football ground by a club.

Mr Clive Betts

NC4

★ To move the following Clause—

“State of the Game report and regulator’s trigger of revenue distribution process

- (1) The IFR may trigger the resolution process under this Part where, in the opinion of the IFR and subject to subsection (2) the State of the Game report has identified and issue that requires intervention.
- (2) Before triggering the resolution process under subsection (1) the IFR must consult fans on the question of whether the process should be triggered.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This new clause provides provision for the IFR to trigger the revenue distribution process on its own initiative following relevant findings in a State of the Game report and following consultation with fans.

Order of the House

[23 April 2024]

That the following provisions shall apply to the Football Governance Bill:

Committal

1. The Bill shall be committed to a Public Bill Committee.

Proceedings in Public Bill Committee

2. Proceedings in the Public Bill Committee shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion on Thursday 6 June 2024.

Consideration and Third Reading

4. Proceedings on Consideration shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion one hour before the moment of interruption on the day on which those proceedings are commenced.
5. Proceedings on Third Reading shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion at the moment of interruption on that day.
6. Standing Order No. 83B (Programming committees) shall not apply to proceedings on Consideration and Third Reading.

Other proceedings

7. Any other proceedings on the Bill may be programmed.

Order of the Committee

[14 May 2024]

That—

- (1) the Committee shall (in addition to its first meeting at 9.25 am on Tuesday 14 May) meet—
 - (a) at 2.00 pm on Tuesday 14 May;
 - (b) at 11.30 am and 2.00 pm on Thursday 16 May;
 - (c) at 9.25 am and 2.00 pm on Tuesday 21 May;
 - (d) at 11.30 am and 2.00 pm on Thursday 23 May;
 - (e) at 9.25 am and 2.00 pm on Tuesday 4 June;
 - (f) at 11.30 am and 2.00 pm on Thursday 6 June;
- (2) the Committee shall hear oral evidence in accordance with the following Table:

TABLE

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>
Tuesday 14 May	Until no later than 10.10 am	Mr Kieran Maguire, Senior Teacher in Accountancy, University of Liverpool; Dr Christina Philippou, Principal Lecturer in Accounting,

		Economics and Finance, University of Portsmouth
Tuesday 14 May	Until no later than 11.00 am	The English Football League; The Premier League; The National League
Tuesday 14 May	Until no later than 11.25 am	The Football Supporters' Association
Tuesday 14 May	Until no later than 2.30 pm	Solihull Moors F.C.; Dagenham & Redbridge F.C.
Tuesday 14 May	Until no later than 3.00 pm	Cambridge United F.C.; Bolton Wanderers F.C.
Tuesday 14 May	Until no later than 3.30 pm	Brighton & Hove Albion F.C.; Crystal Palace F.C.
Tuesday 14 May	Until no later than 3.50 pm	The Football Association
Tuesday 14 May	Until no later than 4.10 pm	Women in Football
Tuesday 14 May	Until no later than 4.40 pm	The Football Foundation; Fair Game
Thursday 16 May	Until no later than 11.50 am	The Professional Footballers' Association
Thursday 16 May	Until no later than 12.10 pm	Kick It Out
Thursday 16 May	Until no later than 12.40 pm	Action for Albion; Supporters Trust at Reading; STAR; Arsenal Supporters' Trust

- (3) proceedings on consideration of the Bill in Committee shall be taken in the following order: Clauses 1 to 3; Schedule 1; Clauses 4 to 5; Schedule 2; Clauses 6 to 9; Schedule 3; Clauses 10 to 18; Schedule 4; Clauses 19 to 20; Schedule 5; Clauses 21 to 24; Schedule 6; Clauses 25 to 66; Schedule 7; Clause 67; Schedule 8; Clauses 68 to 74; Schedule 9; Clauses 75 to 80; Schedule 10; Clauses 81 to 92; Schedule 11; Clauses 93 to 95; Schedule 12; Clauses 96 to 98; new Clauses; new Schedules; remaining proceedings on the Bill; and
- (4) the proceedings shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion at 5.00 pm on Thursday 6 June.