
Committee Stage: Tuesday 21 May 2024

Football Governance Bill (Committee Stage Decisions)

This document sets out the fate of each clause, schedule, amendment and new clause considered at committee stage.

A glossary with key terms can be found at the end of this document.

First to Sixth Sittings

First and Second Sittings

Stuart Andrew

Agreed to

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.

Stuart Andrew

Agreed to

That, subject to the discretion of the Chair, any written evidence received by the Committee shall be reported to the House for publication.

Stuart Andrew

Agreed to

That, at this and any subsequent meeting at which oral evidence is to be heard, the Committee shall sit in private until the witnesses are admitted.

The following Witnesses gave oral evidence:

Kieran Maguire, Senior Lecturer in Football Finance, University of Liverpool.

Dr Christina Philippou, Associate Professor in Accounting and Sport Finance, University of Portsmouth.

Rick Parry, Chair, English Football League.

Richard Masters, Chief Executive, Premier League.

Mark Ives, General Manager, National League.

Kevin Miles, Chief Executive, Football Supporters' Association.

Darryl Eales, Chairman, Solihull Moors FC.

Steve Thompson MBE, Managing Director, Dagenham and Redbridge FC.

Ian Mather, Director, Cambridge United FC.

Sharon Brittan, Chair, Bolton Wanderers FC.

Tony Bloom MBE, Chair and Owner, Brighton & Hove Albion FC.

Steve Parish, Co-owner and Chair of Crystal Palace FC.

David Newton, Senior member of the FA.

Jane Purdon, Former CEO and Director of Women in Football.

Robert Sullivan, CEO, Football Foundation.

Niall Couper, CEO, Fair Game.

Simon Orriss, Head of Legal (also Senior Associate at Mills & Reeve LLP), Fair Game.

*Third and Fourth Sitings***The following Witnesses gave oral evidence:****Ben Wright**, Director of External Affairs, Professional Footballers Association.**Sanjay Bhandari**, Chair, Kick It Out.**Alistair Jones**, Spokesperson, Action for Albion.**Sarah Turner**, Chair, Supporters' Trust at Reading.**Tim Payton**, Spokesperson, Arsenal Supporters' Trust.

Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.

Schedule 1 agreed to.

Clauses 4 and 5 agreed to.

Stephanie Peacock

Withdrawn after debate 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

Not called 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.

Mr Clive Betts**Not selected 28**

Schedule 2, page 82, line 29, at end insert—

- “(5) A person who fulfils any of the following non-exhaustive list of criteria shall, for the purposes of paragraph 7(1), have a conflict of interest if they are—
- (a) employed by or engaged as a consultant by any specified competition organiser or part of any group undertaking of a specified competition organiser;
 - (b) connected in any capacity with an organisation which has, in the last year, received at least half of its income from a specified competition organiser;
 - (c) connected with a group undertaking of an organisation within the scope of part (b);
 - (d) connected in any capacity with an organisation which has, in the last year, received at least half of its income from any of the organisations listed in parts (b) or (c); and
 - (e) connected (as defined in section 252 of the Companies Act 2006) with an individual within the scope of parts (a), (b), (c) or (d).”

Schedule agreed to.

Clause 6 agreed to.

Clause 7 agreed to.

Ian Byrne**Withdrawn after debate 2**

Rachel Hopkins

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

“(iv) supporters and supporters’ organisations”

Stephanie Peacock**Negated on division 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

Not called 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.”

Clause agreed to.

Clause 9 agreed to.

Schedule 3 agreed to.

Stephanie Peacock

Negatived on division 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

Withdrawn after debate 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.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 11 to 14 agreed to.

Clauses 15 to 18 agreed to.

Fifth and Sixth Sitings

Ian Byrne

Withdrawn after debate 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

Not called 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

Not called 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

Not called 6

Rachel Hopkins

Schedule 4, page 93, line 10, after "issues" insert "including ticket pricing"

Stephanie Peacock

Not called 18

Jeff Smith
Rachel Hopkins

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

"(f) match ticket prices and kick-off times"

Stephanie Peacock

Negated on division 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

Not called 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."

Schedule agreed to.

Clause 19 agreed to.

Clause 20 agreed to.

Mr Clive Betts

Not selected 36

Schedule 5, page 95, line 22, at end insert—

“(c) must include in its Code a requirement that clubs in the Premier League and Championship appoint two independent non-executive directors following the principles in the more recent version of the UK Corporate Governance Code issued by the Financial Report Council.”

Stephanie Peacock

Not called 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

Not called 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.”

Schedule agreed to.

Clauses 21 to 24 agreed to.

Schedule 6 agreed to.

Clauses 26 to 31 agreed to.

Stephanie Peacock

Withdrawn after debate 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.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 33 to 36 agreed to.

Dame Tracey Crouch

Withdrawn after debate 1

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

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 38 to 44 agreed to.

Mr Clive Betts

Withdrawn after debate 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

Not called 22

Rachel Hopkins

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

Stephanie Peacock

Negatived on division 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.

Clause agreed to.

Ian Byrne

Withdrawn after debate 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.”

Clause agreed to.

Clause 47 agreed to.

Mr Clive Betts

Not selected 33

Clause 48, page 39, line 20, at end insert—

“(c) has the approval of UK-based supporters.”

Mr Clive Betts

Not called 29

Clause 48, page 39, line 20, at end insert—

“(4A) A regulated club must take reasonable steps to establish that the majority of the club’s fans in England and Wales do not consider the arrangements to constitute significant harm to the heritage of the club under subsection 4(b).”

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 49 to 51 agreed to.

Mr Clive Betts

Withdrawn after debate 30

Clause 52, page 42, line 28, at end insert—

“(9A) The starting point for calculation of the levy payment under subsection (9) applicable to a particular club shall be a percentage of its annual revenue.”

Clause agreed to.

Clause 53 agreed to.

Stuart Andrew

Agreed to 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).

Clause agreed to.

Mr Clive Betts

Not selected 35

Clause 55, page 44, line 30, leave out “by a specified competition organiser”

Mr Clive Betts

Not selected 34

Clause 55, page 44, line 37, leave out paragraph (ii) and insert—

“(ii) revenue received by the competition organiser or directly by licensed Clubs in that competition, and”

Mr Clive Betts

Withdrawn after debate 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.

Stephanie Peacock

Negated on division 31

Jeff Smith

Clause 55, page 45, line 3, at end insert—

“unless the IFR specifies otherwise in rules.

- (2A) The IFR can only make such rules if it can be satisfied that their inclusion furthers its objectives under section 6 by protecting and promoting—
- (a) the financial soundness of regulated clubs, and
 - (b) the financial resilience of English football.
- (2B) The IFR should also have regard when making any rules under section 7 to act in such a way that avoids any—
- (a) effects on sporting competitiveness of any regulated club against another regulated club,
 - (b) adverse effects on the competitiveness of regulated clubs against other clubs, and
 - (c) adverse effects on financial investment in English football.”

Clause agreed to.

Adjourned until Thursday at 11.30 am

Glossary

Added: New Clause agreed without a vote and added to the Bill.

Agreed to: agreed without a vote.

Agreed to on division: agreed following a vote.

Negated: rejected without a vote.

Negated on division: rejected following a vote.

Not called: debated in a group of amendments, but not put to a decision.

Not moved: not debated or put to a decision.

Question proposed: debate underway but not concluded.

Withdrawn after debate: moved and debated but then withdrawn, so not put to a decision.

Not selected: not chosen for debate by the Chair.