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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Education and Communities Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>06 May 2014</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director Education Communities and Organisational Development</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>EDUCOM/42/14/MM</b>
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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Update on Policy on Waivers to Let - Football</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To update Committee on proposed changes to the formulae for free use of pitches for under 19 teams.

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Members will recall the proposals brought to Committee on 11 March 2014 significantly amending the Waivers to Let regime including the extension of free lets of pitches to under 19 teams. The report recommended that members received an update on any substantive changes to the regime proposed following consultation with affected organisations.
- 2.2 There have been a number of developments in the use of pitches by football teams, particularly at 4, 5 and 7 a side levels since the March report and there has been a successful club consultation on slight changes to the original allocations to reflect this.
- 2.3 The new, more detailed proposals are attached at Appendix 1. The changes involve fairer matchplay allocations for 11 a-side; more detailed proposals for training allocations for 4, 5 and 7 a-side and; changes to the matchplay allocations to reflect the new 4, 5 and 7 a-side League Central Venues (hubs) in Inverclyde. All of the changes have been developed in consultation with the Scottish Football Association, the Scottish Youth Football Association and have been presented to representatives of local clubs and the league.

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 It is recommended that members:-

Approve the allocation rules detailed in Appendix 1.

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 New rules and formulae for calculating club allowances were approved by the Education and Communities Committee on 11 March 2014. Since that meeting there has been an opportunity to reflect on the first two months of the new League Central Venues for 7 a-side at the Port Glasgow Community Campus and for 4 and 5 a-side at Parklea. Feedback from these and a number of other changes resulting from further consultation with the SFA were presented to the local youth football clubs and league at a meeting on 3 April.

4.2 The main changes are as follows:

- A change in the 11 a-side matchplay allowance to reflect actual games played in the course of the season

This will be fairer to successful clubs which have extended cup runs as well as covering only home draws. Away draws against teams from outwith Inverclyde can still potentially take place in Inverclyde but must be paid for.

- A change in matchplay allowances for 4, 5 and 7 a-side teams to reflect the operation of the new League Central Venues.

The operation of these is inherently more cost effective thus the allowance is changed to cover the actual cost of participation. Clubs will now be required to participate in such arrangements where they are available.

- Changes in training allowances for age groups playing 4, 5 and 7 a-side.

These will more accurately reflect the pitch areas and the training hours required for training such younger players thus removing some potential anomalies in the original formulae.

4.3 Overall the changes recommended in Appendix 1 will provide clubs with a fair and reasonable pitch allocation whilst reducing the costs of the scheme to Inverclyde Council.

## 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

### 5.1 Financial Implications

The new formulae do not change the overall financial implications from the March 2014 report.

### 5.2 Legal Implications

None

### 5.3 Human Resources Implications

None

### 5.4 Equalities Implications

The new scheme in having clearly defined rules and eligibility criteria will allow greater access to the scheme by a wider cross section of society.

### 5.5 Repopulation Implications

None

## **6.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 6.1 Policy for the granting of waivers to letting charges for sports and community facilities  
– Education & Communities Committee 11 March 2014

## Appendix 1 - Proposed Club Allocations

### 11 a side

**Training** – 1/3 of a pitch for three hours per week for 40 weeks

Number of Registered Players aged 12-18	<15	15-29	30-44	45-59	60-74	75-98	90-104
Equivalent Number of 11 a side Teams	<1	1	2	3	4	5	6
Hours 1/3 Pitch per week	0	3	6	9	12	15	18
Hours free pitch use per week* (Training)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6

### Matchplay

Each team will receive all of their home league fixtures plus home drawn cup matches and 2 pre-season friendlies. League game allowances will obviously vary depending on league size.

No allowance will be made for matches originally drawn away but played in Inverclyde for reasons of pitch availability. These will be the responsibility of the away team from outside Inverclyde.

## 7 a side

**Training** – 1/3 of a pitch for three hours per week for 40 weeks

Number of Registered Players	<9	9-27	28-54	55--81	82-108	109-135	136--162
Expected Number of 7a side Teams Registered	<1	1-3	4-6	7-9	10-12	13-15	16-18
Hours 1/3 Pitch per week	0	3	6	9	12	15	18
Equivalent Hours Full Pitch	0	1	2	3	4	5	6

### Matchplay

Teams will play in League Central Venues in Inverclyde where available for their age group. These teams will receive an allowance to cover their element of the pitch hire of the venue.

Teams for which a Central Venue is not available will receive an allowance to cover their home games. As with 11-a side allowances this will vary depending on the number of teams in their league.

No allowances will be available for matches played outside Inverclyde.

## 4/5 a side

**Training** – 1/3 of a pitch for two hours per week for 40 weeks

Number of Registered Players	<12	12-36	37-72	73--108	109--144	144-180
Expected Number of 4 a side Teams Registered	<2	2-6	7-12	13-18	19-24	25-30
Hours 1/3 Pitch per week	0	2	4	6	8	10
Equivalent Hours Full Pitch	0	2/3	1 1/3	2	2 2/3	3 1/3

### Matchplay

Teams will play in League Central Venues in Inverclyde where available for their age group. These teams will receive an allowance to cover their element of the pitch hire of the venue.

No allowances will be available for matches played outside Inverclyde.

### Soccer Centres (Academies)

A number of teams run academies. It is possible for these to be registered with SYFA as “Soccer Centres” but they are all run on different lines. Clubs running academies or other initiatives which do not naturally fall into the scheme above (e.g. YAC summer 7s programme) will be expected to register these where possible as Soccer Centres. Discussions will then be had with the individual clubs about appropriate allowance.

### Club Tournaments

No allowance will be made for pitch hire for tournaments. These are generally fund raising events and hires will be at the normal rate.