

Scottish FA – Minimum Operating Criteria (MOC)

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the Minimum Operating Criteria (MOC)?

The MOC are a set of basic operational standards that every registered member club must comply with for Season 2026/27. They ensure clubs are safe, accountable and well-managed.

2. Why are the MOC being introduced?

The purpose is to:

- Safeguard all players, especially young people.
 - Improve the quality and consistency of coaching.
 - Strengthen club governance and transparency.
 - Provide a pathway for clubs to grow and progress towards Scottish FA accreditation.
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3. Who do the MOC apply to?

All clubs which are registered members of the Scottish FA must comply with the MOC. A registered member is a member which is not a full member of the Scottish FA, but is a member of an Affiliated Association, an Affiliated National Association or a recognised league.

The MOC is separate from, and does not replace, the requirements that clubs must satisfy to become members of an Affiliated National Association (ANA) or to participate in a particular competition. Clubs are reminded that they must continue to satisfy such requirements of membership and participation.

In a similar vein, the MOC does not replace the Scottish FA Board Directive regarding the implementation of minimum standards for child wellbeing and protection in Scottish football (CWB Board Directive). Clubs remain required to comply with the CWB Board Directive and their compliance with the CWB Board Directive will continue to be monitored separately.

4. What areas do the MOC cover?

The MOC requirements vary between youth football (U18 and below) and adult football (18+), but both are built around five key areas:

	Youth Football Club (U18 players and below) SYFA/SWF/SPF	Adult Football Club (18+ Players) SAFA/SWFA/SWF/SPF/SCFA/EoSFL/WoSFL/SoSFL/NoSFL/MFL/NCFL.
1. Governance & Financial Accountability	Constitution must be in place, outlining governance structure and operational practices. A club bank account must be in place for all transactions.	Constitution must be in place, outlining governance structure and operational practices (template available). A club bank account should be in place for all transactions.
2. Coach Education	Minimum of one qualified coach per team/activity with the Scottish FA Introduction to Coaching qualification. Coaches within the SYFA must ensure they have the additional Scottish FA Certificate qualification in place relevant to their pathway. All coaches are recommend attendance at a relevant Player Journey Workshop.	Not currently mandatory for adult football – but coach education strongly encouraged.
3. Wellbeing & Protection	Wellbeing & Protection Policy in place (template: https://www.scottishfa.co.uk/scottish-fa/wellbeing-protection/). Named Child Wellbeing & Protection Officer (trained, with visible contact details). Appointment & selection procedure for staff/volunteers, including PVG membership. All staff/volunteers trained in wellbeing & protection	General wellbeing and conduct policies should be in place as per the Scottish FA directive – https://www.scottishfa.co.uk/scottish-fa/wellbeing-protection/).

	(https://www.scottishfa.co.uk/scottish-fa/wellbeing-protection/) . Code of Conduct in place (template available).	
4. First Aid	One person per team/activity must hold an up-to-date First Aid certificate (minimum 6 hours, covering CPR, concussion and sports injuries) – please check with your ANA about suitable providers.	For over 18 football activity, clubs must ensure that they have adequate first aid cover in place, which is appropriate to the competition/activity and environment in which they are participating. By way of example, this could be by way of a qualified first aider and/or the first aid cover in place at the venue for the match in question. The foregoing provision is without prejudice to any applicable PVG membership scheme requirements. Note - For adult football falling under the auspices of SWF and SPF, this is a requirement and all First Aiders in a recognized role must be PVG checked Please check with relevant ANA for further information.
5. Insurance	Liability insurance and personal accident insurance must be in place as per requirements of your ANA / competition organiser	Liability insurance and personal accident insurance must be in place as per requirements of your ANA / competition organiser

5. How will clubs confirm compliance?

Clubs will complete an **Annual Club Declaration Form** via COMET, asking clubs to confirm compliance in each area.

The Scottish FA will conduct random spot checks to ensure that clubs are complying with the MOC. This helps maintain fairness and ensures that standards are upheld across the game.

6. What is the implementation timeline for my club?

- **24th August 2026** – Information circulated to all clubs
 - **1st September 2026** – Process goes live on COMET and links will circulate
 - **31st December 2026** – Final deadline for all clubs to complete Club Declaration
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7. How will clubs be supported?

- **Templates** for constitutions, codes of conduct and wellbeing policies.
 - **Guidance documents and FAQs** published on the Scottish Website
 - **Contact support** for questions and clarifications – via MOC@scottishfa.co.uk
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8. Is there a pathway beyond compliance?

Yes. Clubs who meet the application criteria can apply for Scottish FA Accreditation after completion of MOC. Scottish FA accredited clubs receive additional recognition, access to resources and potential funding opportunities

9. What additional benefits are there to meeting the Minimum Operating Criteria (MOC)?

A full and evidenced commitment to the Minimum Operating Criteria can help unlock future development opportunities for your club. If your club has plans to improve or develop football facilities and may seek funding or related support from the Scottish FA, compliance with the MOC is a key prerequisite. Demonstrating that your club meets the required standards provides a strong foundation for accessing future investment and development support.

9. Where can I find more information?

- Any question email - MOC@scottishfa.co.uk
- Wellbeing & Protection: [Wellbeing & Protection - Scottish FA](#)
- Coach Education: [Coach Education - Scottish FA](#)