



To: All Clubs at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System

August 2023

Dear colleagues,

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING BLOCKED HOURS AND LIVE STREAMING OF MATCHES

We write to inform Clubs of the “blocked hours” that will be in place for the 2023/24 season.

To that end, please note the broadcasting of matches (including live streaming) is prohibited during the “blocked hours” time periods listed below, with the first period starting on 5 August 2023.

The streaming of league matches outside of blocked hours is permitted, subject to the conditions set out in League Rules.

For FA Cup, Trophy and Vase fixtures, Clubs must adhere to the specific rules for those Competitions.

What are blocked hours?

Blocked hours are set time periods occurring on a Saturday when it is prohibited to broadcast or live stream any form of live football.

Blocked hours for Season 2023/24 are every Saturday occurring during each period set out below between the hours of 14:45 and 17:15:

Saturday 5 August 2023	to	Saturday 2 September 2023
Saturday 16 September 2023	to	Saturday 7 October 2023
Saturday 21 October 2023	to	Saturday 11 November 2023
Saturday 25 November 2023	to	Saturday 23 December 2023
Saturday 13 January 2024	to	Saturday 16 March 2024
Saturday 30 March 2024	to	Saturday 20 April 2024

Why do we have blocked hours?

Blocked hours have been in place for many years in England and are permitted by Article 48 of the UEFA Statutes.



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The rationale for blocked hours includes:

- To ensure spectators are not deterred from attending your matches.
- In parallel to the above, protecting clubs' revenue generated by gate receipts.
- To protect the interests of football within each national association.

For the avoidance of doubt, whilst Clubs are not permitted to broadcast or live stream matches during the periods set out above, a Club may record fixtures for the purposes of post-match analysis or post-match highlights.

What are the consequences of broadcasting or live streaming matches during blocked hours?

This could result in disciplinary action against a Club or individuals as Clubs would be in breach of UEFA Article 48.

(ENDS)