



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

12 August 2025

Dear Colleagues,

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING BLOCKED HOURS AND LIVE STREAMING OF MATCHES

We are writing to Clubs to inform them of the “blocked hours” that will be in place for the 2025/26 season.

To that end, please note that:

- From 16 August 2025, the broadcasting or live streaming of matches during “blocked hours” is prohibited.
- Outside of “blocked hours”, live streaming of matches is permitted, subject to the provisions set out in your League’s Rules (see below).
- For FA Cup, FA Trophy and FA Vase fixtures, Clubs must adhere to the rules of those competitions related to broadcasting.

What are blocked hours?

Blocked hours are set time periods occurring on a Saturday when it is prohibited to broadcast any form of live football, either by a domestic agreement or under UEFA Article 48.

UEFA Blocked Hours

UEFA Blocked hours for Season 2025/26 are every Saturday occurring during the following periods (inclusive of the dates set out below) between the hours of 14:45 and 17:15:

Saturday 23 August 2025	to	Saturday 30 August 2025
Saturday 13 September 2025		
Saturday 27 September 2025	to	Saturday 4 October 2025
Saturday 18 October 2025	to	Saturday 8 November 2025
Saturday 22 November 2025	to	Saturday 20 December 2025
Saturday 17 January 2026	to	Saturday 7 February 2026
Saturday 21 February 2026	to	Saturday 28 February 2026
Saturday 14 March 2026	to	Saturday 21 March 2026
Saturday 11 April 2026	to	Saturday 25 April 2026

Domestic blocked hours

The following dates are not part of the formal UEFA Article 48 request, however, they will be treated in the same way domestically and broadcast will **NOT BE** permitted between the hours of 14:45 and 17:15:

Saturday 16 th August 2025
Saturday 20 th September 2025
Saturday 10 th January 2026
Saturday 14 th February 2026
Saturday 7 th March 2026
Saturday 4 th April 2026

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.

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, Clubs are not permitted to broadcast games in the periods set out above, but may record fixtures for later match analysis or highlights purposes.

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.

What rules apply to Clubs that want to offer a live stream of a league matches outside of "blocked hours"?

These are set out in Rules 8.32 to 8.34:

MATCH STREAMING BY A CLUB

8.32 Unless determined otherwise by The FA, a Club participating in a Competition Match may offer a live stream of that match online subject to compliance with the following conditions:

8.32.1 consent of the Board to the live stream taking place must be obtained;

8.32.2 the two competing Clubs must consent to the live stream taking place and agree any associated live streaming arrangements (including the costs associated with those arrangements, if applicable);

8.32.3 subject to Rule 8.32.4, the live stream cannot take place during the Transmission-Free Period;

8.32.4 where the live stream is to take place during the Transmission-Free Period, it must be geo-blocked so that it is not accessible in the UK (or any Crown Dependency of the UK); and

8.32.5 a copy of the live stream footage must be provided to The FA, the Board or the opposing Club upon request following the Competition Match.

- 8.33 *A Club must provide evidence of compliance with the conditions set out in Rule 8.32 upon request by The FA or the Board.*
- 8.34 *The FA or the Board may take action against any Club for a failure to comply with any of the conditions set out in Rule 8.32 or any failure to comply with a request made pursuant to Rule 8.33.*

(ENDS)