



**Ref: 28906**

15<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Steve Kavanagh  
Chief Executive  
Millwall Football Club

Sent via email

Dear Steve

### **EPPP Indoor Area for Training and playing of matches**

As you will be aware my role at The EFL is that of Youth Development Business Manager and amongst other duties I am responsible for overseeing EFL Clubs Academies and ensuring they are in compliance with the Elite Player Performance Plan (EPPP) and The EFL Youth Development rules.

The EPPP rules are set out in the EFL hand and define how Clubs and Academies must operate. As you will be aware these rules have been developed in conjunction with The Premier League and are established to enable Academies to operate at different levels of categorisation and access the associated grant aid funding from the Professional Game (Premier League, EFL and FA).

The rules are subject to inspection from the EFL and on a 3 yearly basis an external audit by an Independent Standards Organisation (ISO) to ensure the regulations are being properly adhered to and followed. In short there is no wriggle room on mandatory conditions.

### **EFL Youth Development Rules 2016/17 - Rule 3.08, Indoor area for training and playing of matches**

This rule sets out how a Club's Academy must operate such an area.

For a Category 1 and 2 Academy the following is a mandatory requirement.

“One indoor Artificial Surface pitch measuring a minimum of 60 yards by 40 yards which shall be owned by the Club (or alternatively the Club must have a legally enforceable agreement with the owner of the facility for its use by the Club, expiring not earlier than the end of the current season) and which shall be for the exclusive use of the Academy at all times.”

It is extremely likely that failure to fully comply with the above regulation would result in the Club losing its Category 2 status.

I can confirm that the Grant funding differential between Cat 2 and Cat 3 is currently £295,000 and an additional consequence of losing Category 2 status would be the Club's exclusion from Cat 1 and 2 Games Programme, which would almost certainly have an adverse effect of the clubs ability to recruit and retain the highest quality players, from within the local community and beyond.



We are aware that some EFL clubs have declined the opportunity to pursue an application for Category 2 status due to their inability to comply with the requirements of rule 3.08.

I hope this is of assistance, but if you require anything further please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Briden', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Jim Briden**

Youth Development Business and Operations Manager

CC Dave Wetherall, Youth Development Director  
John Clayton, YD London/South Regional Manager