



SANCTION AGREEMENT

between

THE PREMIER LEAGUE

and

ASTON VILLA FC

Introduction

1. Capitalised terms not otherwise defined in this Sanction Agreement or its covering letter shall bear the meanings given to them in the Season 2025/26 edition of the Premier League Rules¹ (the '**Rules**').

Applicable Rules

2. The Premier League Board (the '**Board**') has jurisdiction over Aston Villa FC (the '**Club**') pursuant to the following provisions:

- a. Rule L.35.1 of the Rules:

'In all League Matches ... participating Clubs shall utilise a system of replacement balls, in accordance with Law 2.3 of the Laws of the Game and any guidance issued by the League in conjunction with PGMOL'.

- b. Rule W.6.7 of the Rules:

'The Board shall have power to deal with any suspected or alleged breach of these Rules by:

...

*W.6.7. concluding an agreement in writing with that Person in which it accepts a sanction (which may include any of the sanctions referred to at Rule W.55) proposed by the Board, provided that agreement has been ratified in accordance with Rule W.17 (a "**Sanction Agreement**").'*

Agreed Facts

3. At its League Match against Tottenham Hotspur FC ('**THFC**') on 16 May 2025 (the '**Match**'), the Club accepts misusing the multiball system as summarised below, and contrary to Rule L.35 and the guidance issued by the League (the '**Guidance**')

¹ The Rule references in respect of the multiball requirements in the Season 2025/26 version of the Rules are the same as those in the Season 2024/25 version of the Rules.

- a. the Ball Assistants provided replacement balls from the cones direct to the Club's players prior to (i) throw-ins on three occasions and (ii) corner kicks on multiple occasions when not permitted to do so
 - b. additional Ball Assistants were positioned behind the goal that the Club was attacking and were in possession of additional balls (in excess of those permitted under the Guidance), which were provided to the Club's Players prior to corner kicks
 - c. on one occasion, a Ball Assistant threw an additional ball onto the pitch at the same time as the THFC goalkeeper was collecting the Match ball in order to restart via a goal kick.
4. In contrast to paragraph 3(b), the correct number of replacement balls were located behind the goal at which the Club was defending (i.e. the goal at which THFC were playing towards) with no additional Ball Assistants present.
 5. Adherence to the Guidance and the correct application of the multiball system was raised with the Club prior to the Match by the Match Delegate and Referee. The Match Officials also raised concerns regarding adherence to the Guidance with the Club's multiball supervisor at half-time of the Match.
 6. By way of additional context, this was:
 - a. an important League Match for the Club (being the Club's penultimate League fixture, and final home fixture of the Season, at a time when the Club were outside of the top five League positions and were aiming to secure qualification for the UEFA Champions League)
 - b. the Club's fifth breach in Season 2024/25 (see further at paragraph 7 below).
 7. The table below provides a summary of the Club's breaches in Season 2024/25 and the action that the Board has taken pursuant to Rule W.6.3 of the Rules:

No.	Fixture	Breach	Club Observations	Sanction
Season 2024/25				
1.	Aston Villa FC v Manchester United FC, 6 October 2024	Misuse of the multiball system	The Club explained the Ball Assistants were confused about the protocols that they were required to follow as the Club had recently played at home in the UEFA Champions League.	£10,000 (Rule W.6.3)
2.	Aston Villa FC v AFC Bournemouth, 26 October 2024	Misuse of the multiball system	The Club explained that during the match the first-team operations manager spoke to each Ball Assistant individually in respect of their conduct and that the Guidance had since been re-circulated internally.	£50,000, with £25,000 suspended and to be activated in the event of a further breach (Rule W.6.3)
3.	Aston Villa FC v Crystal Palace FC, 23 November 2024	Misuse of the multiball system	The Club (a) noted that further to the Club's previous breaches of Rule L.35 and the	£50,000 (and imposition of the previously

			Guidance, the Ball Assistants had improved their behaviour in respect of throw-ins, (b) confirmed the Ball Assistants had been spoken to about corners and (c) explained that it had been challenging for the Ball Assistants to change working patterns which had been used for a period of time.	suspended £25,000) (Rule W.6.3)
4.	Aston Villa FC v Brentford FC, 4 December 2024	Misuse of the multiball system	The Club provided no observations.	£70,000 (Rule W.6.3)
5.	Aston Villa FC v Tottenham Hotspur FC, 16 May 2025	Misuse of the multiball system	The Club provided no observations.	See paragraph 10

8. In light of the Club's repeated breaches and frequent reminders from the League, it is the League's view that breach (5) was intentional (i.e. the Ball Assistants were acting deliberately and under instruction), with no other reason than to attempt to affect passages of play for the benefit of the Club.

Agreed Sanction

9. The Board has confirmed to the Club that it is willing to resolve the contemplated disciplinary proceedings against the Club for breach (5) in paragraph 7 above (the '**Breach**'), on the terms set out in paragraph 10 below ('**Terms**'), and the Club has accepted such Terms.

Terms

10. In respect of the Breach:

- a. a fine in the sum of £125,000 should be imposed on the Club
- b. the Club is prohibited from operating the multiball system at its first three home League Matches of Season 2025/26, currently scheduled to be (subject to any changes in the schedule):
 - i. the Club's League Match against Newcastle United FC on 16 August 2025
 - ii. the Club's League Match against Crystal Palace FC on 30 August 2025
 - iii. the Club's League Match against Fulham FC on 27 September 2025
- c. the Club will review and amend its procedures in order to prevent further breaches of Rule L.35 and the Guidance.

Next steps

11. Payment of the sum set out in paragraph 10 above will be made to the Premier League within 14 days of the execution of this Sanction Agreement, and the Club shall not operate the multiball system at its first three home League Matches of Season 2025/26.



RATIFICATION

As members of the Disciplinary Panel appointed pursuant to Rule W.17 of the Premier League Rules, we agree that the sanction set out in the proposed Sanction Agreement should be ratified and it can be concluded immediately by the Premier League and Aston Villa FC and take immediate effect thereafter:

Robert Glancy KC

Name and title

Robert P. Glancy KC

Signature

6th August 2025

Date

Mr Kwadjo Adjepong

Name and title

Signature

6 August 2025

Date

Ifeanyi Odogwu

Name and title

Signature

6 August 2025

Date

EXECUTION

By signing this Sanction Agreement, we acknowledge that we have read and understood its contents and that we agree to be bound by the Terms.

