



Richard Masters
Chief Executive, Premier League

By Email

25 March 2024

Dear Mr. Masters,

We, the Everton Fan Advisory Board (FAB), write to you in the hope that you can shed some light on a lingering uncertainty regarding the rules within the Owner and Directors Tests section of the Premier League (PL) Handbook.

At the hearing in front of the Culture, Media & Sport Committee on 16 January 2024, you reported that it would take “hopefully weeks” to determine whether 777 Partners would be approved to purchase Everton under Premier League Rules. Since then, there has been conjecture, silence, and uncertainty, about when and how the process might conclude. Even this weekend, further media briefings abound of the PL being “of a mind” to approve 777, subject to certain financial conditions being met.

For the fans of Everton Football Club, this matter has only amplified the maelstrom of anxiety and anger which, when added to the issue of points deductions and appeals, has undoubtedly had a consequential impact on our team’s performances on the field.

Journalists, politicians, sports finance professionals and football supporters have been unable to reach a consensus on whether the rules in the Premier League Handbook allow a party to be rejected. We therefore ask you for clarification: can the Premier League reject a party? Or is a deal held in abeyance until such time that a prospective acquiror does provide the necessary paperwork? If the latter is the case, is the provision of such

documentation time-bound or could this already protracted process drag on indefinitely due to the inability to reject outright?

We would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this letter and also respond by Friday 29 March, and we hope that the PL makes a grounded, considered and full decision to protect Everton Football Club, a founder member of the Football League, from any more financial and reputational damage, whoever the next owner(s) may be.

Everton Fan Advisory Board