**Rules Template for District Competitions/ Leagues**

The rules attached are derived from the Standard Code of Rules for Youth Football (SCORY), which has been adapted by a National Working Group of ESFA Members to be applicable to football organised by affiliated Districts of the ESFA. This template is intended as a guide from which Members can derive their rules.

In the rules, grey text indicates optional inclusion. Italicised text indicates that relevant criteria for that activity should be selected from the range provided in the guidance at the end of the document, or that content specific to your activity needs to be added.

You may wish to consider other matters in your rules: how many medals are to be presented, for example, and whether or not match officials receive mementoes, fees or expenses; whether kick off times are to be specified; whether the home team chooses the venue, and so on. You may therefore add to these rules to suit your activity, but anything not in grey or italicised text must be adopted for leagues and competitions. You are also able to adapt the rules to accommodate tournament formats.

1. **COMPETITIONLEAGUE NAME**

*Insert the name of the competition/league*

All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board.

The Competition/League shall be managed by (*e.g. the executive committee of the Association*) and shall (*only*) be open to those schools affiliated to the Association

*Optional: add in the minimum or maximum number of entrants*

*Optional: add in any geographic boundaries or other conditions you wish to apply*

This Competition/League and each team must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them

All participants must abide by the ESFA and The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children

All entrants to the competition/league shall pay an affiliation or entry fee set each season by the Management Committee

1. **CONTROL (rep football only)**

All District and County Associations who run representative teams must register all team personnel with the ESFA as a requirement of the affiliation. This information must be registered with the ESFA as part of the affiliation process, prior to affiliation being approved.

All District and County representative teams must be under the ultimate control of either:

(i) A practicing teacher, recognised as such by the Department for Education, current employee of education service

OR

(ii) A retired teacher, or past employee of the education service or an AOTT who has received direct approval in writing from the appropriate Local or County Schools’ Football Association to undertake such responsibilities.

All personnel involved must comply with ESFA safeguarding requirements

**3** **PROTESTS AND APPEALS**

Protests arising from Competitions/Leagues organised for schools by the [Competition/League Name] shall be submitted to the Management Committee in line with the ESFA policy for protests, as published in the ESFA Handbook. An appeal fee is payable.

**4. TROPHIES & MEDALS**

The trophy (*if provided*) is the property of the (*Association*)

Medals and mementoes shall be provided (*describe arrangements if they apply*)

**5.** **ALTERATION TO RULES**

These rules may be altered only at a General Meeting of the Association in accordance with the rules governing that General Meeting

Dissolution of the Competition/League shall be by resolution approved at a general meeting in accordance with the constitution of the Competition/League.

**6. PARTICIPATION**

**Players who are under six years of age on 1st September in any playing season shall not be allowed to participate in Competitions/Leagues sanctioned by ESFA/CSFA.** A child who has not attained the age of ten years at midnight between 31 August and 1 September shall not play and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play in a match between sides of more than seven players in that playing season. The relevant age for each Player is determined by his or her age as at midnight on 31 August of the relevant Playing Season. Up to and including Under 15s (Year 10), players must not play, and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play in a match where any other player is older or younger by two years or more than that child.

Mixed-gender matches shall be played in line with current FA regulations

A player may only play for the School or College he/she is currently attending and on whose roll he/she appears at the time of the game in which he/she is playing.

(rep football: only full time students in attendance at a school within the approved geographic boundaries of the Association are eligible for selection for representative sides)

**7. COMPETITION/LEAGUE: FORMAT, FIELD OF PLAY, THE BALL**

The Competition will be run as a knock out cup in the format (*select from table 1*) OR

The League will be in the format (*select from table 1*)

The pitch size will be (*select from table 1*)

Goal sizes will be (*select from table 1*)

Ball size will be (*select from table 1*)

**8. COLOURS, PLAYERS ATTIRE**

Players participating in this league/competition must wear shin protection.

Goal keepers must wear colours which differentiate them from other players and no team shall play in black

*Add in any requirements about playing colours, shirt numbering, clashes of opponents’ colours*

**9. DURATION OF MATCHES AND FIXTURE DATES**

Match duration shall be (*select from table 2*)

Except by permission of the Management Committee all Competition Matches/League fixtures must be played [*on the dates originally fixed / by the closing date set for the playing of a specific set of matches)*] but priority shall be given to ESFA and parent County Schools’ Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Teams may mutually agree to bring forward a Competition Match/League with the consent of the (*Fixtures/Competition*) Secretary.

**10. FIELD OF PLAY, POSTPONEMENTS, SUBSTITUTES**

The Management Committee shall have power to decide whether a pitch and/or facilities are suitable for Competition/League Matches and to order the team concerned to play its Competition/League Matches on another ground. Football Turf Pitches (3G) are allowed in this Competition/League provided they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA’s Register of Football Turf Pitches. Mini soccer can be played on sand-based pitches where necessary.

‘Repeated’ substitutions are allowed in all Competitions/Leagues up to and including the Under 18 age group. In 9v9 and 11v11 matches, teams are permitted to use 5 substitutes from five named players. In small-sided matches: Indoor 5-a-side - 3 named substitutes 7-a-side - 3 named substitutes

Postponements (*insert arrangements for seeking and agreeing postponements*)

**11. REPORTING RESULTS**

*Insert your arrangements for reporting results*

**12. DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP IN COMPETITIONS WHERE POINTS ARE AWARDED**

Team rankings within the Competition/League may be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn Competition/League Match. The teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective divisions at the end of the Playing Season shall be adjudged the winners. Competition/League Matches must not be played for double points.

In the event of two or more Teams being equal on points the highest placed team shall be decided as follows:

1. Goal difference.
2. Most goals scored
3. Won most matches
4. Result(s) of match(es) between the teams concerned.

**13. MATCH OFFICIALS**

Registeredreferees for all Competition/League matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee. Referees between the ages of 14 and 16 are only eligible to officiate in competitions where the Players’ age band is at least one year younger than the age of the referee. In cases where there are no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance, the teams shall agree upon a refereewho shall have the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee Where assistant referees are not appointed each Team shall provide an assistant referee.

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**GUIDANCE**

This section provides the options from which you should select the relevant detail for your competition

Table 2: rule 7

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *School Year Group* | *Maximum Permitted Format* | *Minimum pitch Size* | | *Maximum pitch Size* | | *Recommended goal sizes in feet* | *Ball size* |
| *Yards* | *Metres* | *Yards* | *Metres* |
| *Year 2* | *5v5* | *30 x 20* | *27.45 x 18.3* | *40 x 30* | *36.3 x 27.45* | *12 x 6* | *3* |
| *Year 3* | *5v5* | *30 x 20* | *27.45 x 18.3* | *40 x 30* | *36.3 x 27.45* | *12 x 6* | *3* |
| *Year 4* | *7v7* | *50 x 30* | *45.75 x 27.45* | *60 x 40* | *54.9 x 36.6* | *12 x 6* | *3* |
| *Year 5* | *7v7* | *50 x 30* | *45.75 x 27.45* | *60 x 40* | *54.9 x 36.6* | *12 x 6* | *3* |
| *Year 6* | *9v9* | *70 x 40* | *64 x 36.6* | *80 x 50* | *73.15 x 45.75* | *16 x 7* | *4* |
| *Year 7* | *9v9* | *70 x 40* | *64 x 36.6* | *80 x 50* | *73.15 x 45.75* | *16 x 7* | *4* |
| *Year 8* | *11v11* | *90 x 50* | *82.3 x 45.75* | *100 x 60* | *91.44 x 54.9* | *21 x 7* | *4* |
| *Year 9* | *11v11* | *90 x 50* | *82.3 x 45.75* | *100 x 60* | *91.44 x 54.9* | *21 x 7* | *4* |
| *Year 10* | *11v11* | *90 x 50* | *82.3 x 45.75* | *110 x 70* | *100.58 x 64* | *24 x 8* | *5* |
| *Year 11* | *11v11* | *90 x 50* | *82.3 x 45.75* | *110 x 70* | *100.58 x 64* | *24 x 8* | *5* |
| *Year 12* | *11v11* | *100 x 50* | *91.44 x 45.75* | *130 x 100* | *118.87 x 91.44* | *24 x 8* | *5* |
| *Year 13* | *11v11* | *100 x 50* | *91.44 x 45.75* | *130 x 100* | *118.87 x 91.44* | *24 x 8* | *5* |

**Table 2, for rule 10**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Age  Group | Minimum Duration of play per quarter (minutes)  (Mini-Soccer) | Maximum Duration of play per quarter (minutes)  (Mini-Soccer only) | Minimum duration of play per half (minutes) | Maximum duration of play per half (minutes) | Maximum playing time in one day in all organised development fixtures (minutes) | Maximum playing time in one day in all tournaments and trophy events/festivals (minutes) | Competition structure |
| Year 2/3 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 40 | 60 | Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 2-week periods (6 weeks) |
| Year 4/5 | 10 | 12.5 | 20 | 25 | 60 | 90 | Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 4-week periods (12 weeks) |
| Year 6 | N/A | N/A | 20 | 30 | 80 (if applicable) | 120 | Any varieties including one season long league table |
| Year 7 | N/A | N/A | 20 | 30 | 80 (if applicable) | 120 | Any varieties including one season long league table |
| Year 8/9 | N/A | N/A | 25 | 35 | 100 | 150 | Any varieties including one season long league table |
| Year 10/11 | N/A | N/A | 25 | 40 | 100 | 150 | Any varieties including one season long league table |
| Year 12/13 | N/A | N/A | 25 | 45 | 120 | 180 | Any varieties including one season long league table |
| Matches for age-groups from U7 to U10 can be played in either quarters or halves. [This competition uses quarters/halves (delete as appropriate).]  For round robin/trophy events, the maximum duration of play per half cannot be exceeded, but the minimum duration of play per half may be adjusted. | | | | | | | |