



## **ESFA UNDER 18 ARNOLD CLARK SUPER LEAGUE REGULATIONS**

### **1. THE TROPHY**

- (a) The name of the competition is 'ESFA Under 18 Super League'.
- (b) The trophies shall be offered for annual competition to schools, colleges and training providers in affiliated membership with the English Schools' Football Association.
- (c) The trophy is the property of the English Schools' Football Association.
- (d) The trophy shall be presented to the captain of the winning team immediately after the final match.
- (e) The winning team shall be responsible for returning the trophy in the condition in which it was presented. Arrangements for display of the trophy must be agreed by the ESFA.
- (f) It shall be the responsibility of the winning team to ensure the return of the Trophy in time for presentation at the final during the following season.

### **2. CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES**

ESFA will determine closing dates for National Competitions and indicate this on the competition entry forms.

### **3. MEMENTOES**

Eighteen mementoes (16 players and 2 team officials) shall be awarded to each School or College taking part in a final tie. Additional identical mementoes may be purchased by the finalists subject to the approval of the ESFA. Four mementoes shall be awarded to the match officials (referee, two assistant referees and reserve official), officiating at a final tie.

### **4. CONTROL**

- (a) The entire control and management of the competitions shall be vested in the ESFA or such committees that shall be appointed by the ESFA Council.
- (b) The rules of the game shall be those of the International Football Association Board, except as otherwise stated.
- (c) All teams must be under the ultimate control of either
  - (i) a practicing teacher, recognised as such by the Department for Education, or
  - (ii) a retired teacher, or present or past employee of the education service who has received direct approval in writing from the appropriate School or College to undertake such responsibilities.
  - (iii) A person who has direct approval in writing from the appropriate establishment who:
    - (a) has at least a level 1 FA coaching qualification.
    - (b) has undergone a (DBS) Disclosure & Barring Service check – any payment associated with this shall be the responsibility of the establishment or individual concerned. Approval may be withdrawn by the ESFA, or establishment at any time. Any other person regularly assisting with or coaching a team must have an DBS Criminal Record Check and safeguarding training within the previous 3 years (either through an educational establishment or The FA) and operate in the presence of a person who is qualified under (i) or (ii) above.

## 5. THE FIELD OF PLAY

The FA recommend the following pitch sizes for 11v11 youth football:

Age group	Type	Length (yards)	Width (yards)	Goal Height (ft)	Goal Width (ft)
U17 / U18	11 v 11	110	70	8	24

Artificial Turf Pitches (3G Artificial Pitches) are allowed in this Competition providing they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the register and must be tested (by an accredited test institute) every three years and the results passed to The FA. The home team is also responsible for advising participants of footwear requirements when confirming the match arrangements.

## 6. THE BALL

The ball shall be size 5.

## 7. SUBSTITUTES

'Repeated' substitutions are allowed in this competition. A player who has been substituted during a match becomes a substitute and may, in turn, replace another player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of the Game. Teams are permitted to use 5 substitutes from five named players.

## 8. PROTESTS

- (a) Protests arising from competitions organised educational establishments by the English Schools' Football Association shall be submitted to the ESFA in line with the ESFA policy for protests, stated below:
- (i) All protests regarding ESFA national competitions shall be in writing and shall be received at the ESFA headquarters within 48 hours of the match concerned.
  - (ii) No protest relative to the ground, goalposts, or other appurtenances of the game shall be considered unless a protest in writing was made to the referee before the start of the match.
  - (iii) Any protest shall be signed by the Headteacher / Principal as acknowledgment of their approval of its submission.
  - (iv) The ESFA National Competitions Department (NCD) will gather any evidence they wish to have before making their decision.
  - (v) A copy of this decision must be relayed to both teams in writing.
- (b) Should the complainant not be satisfied with the decision of the ESFA, an appeal shall be submitted to the ESFA in line with the ESFA policy for appeals, as stated below:
- (i) Any appeal against the National Competitions Department (NCD) decision must be made within 2 working days of the receipt of the ruling that the NCD has made.
  - (ii) The appeal must arrive at the ESFA headquarters by letter, countersigned by the Headteacher / Principal and accompanied by a School / College cheque for £50. This will be returned if the appeal is upheld.
  - (iii) The appeal will be considered by members of a panel appointed by the ESFA Competitions Committee Chairman. The Competitions Committee panel shall have the power of Council to make all decisions in relation to the organisation, control, and management of any ESFA competition which shall be deemed to be the decision(s) of Council and shall be final and binding on all participants.

## 9. TARGET DATES

ESFA shall fix target dates by which all matches shall be played. Failure to keep to those dates may lead to disqualification. In the event that the team secretaries are unable to agree a mutually convenient date to play the fixture, the default date for playing the match becomes the published deadline date.

The ESFA has the power to:

- (a) Order a match to be played on, or by, the given date

- (b) Grant a reasonable extension to the target deadline
- (c) Expel any team from the competition.

#### **10. PLAYERS' ATTIRE**

- (a) Where teams have similar colours, the home team shall be entitled to retain their colours and the visiting team shall change to colours that provide a satisfactory contrast.
- (b) Teams must not wear shirt advertising of a conflicting interest to that of the competition's sponsor.
- (c) Players' shirts shall be numbered.

#### **11. PLAYERS**

- (a) All participating players must be recorded on the Individualised Learning Record (ILR) of establishment which is drawing down funding as a continuing student at the time of the match. Students on the ILR or 'roll' who are registered as completed, withdrawn or transferred are not eligible to play.
- (b) Students who are over the age of 15 years and under the age of 18 years at midnight between the previous 31st August and 1st September shall be allowed to take part in this competition (Year 11 to 13 only).
- (c) Where establishments are being funded by another training provider under a sub contract, franchise or other partnership, they must provide the name and URN of that provider, and formal confirmation from them that provider the subcontract is in place, upon request from the ESFA. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from the competition.
- (d) Students on apprenticeship programmes are permitted to play in this competition.
- (e) Any establishment submitting false information or playing ineligible player(s) may forfeit the match and may be disqualified from the competition.
- (f) If the ESFA has any doubt over the qualification of a player taking part in the competition, it shall have the power to call upon the player's establishment (including the training provider on whose roll the player is registered, in the case of subcontracting, franchise or other funded partnership) to which he or she belongs to prove that he or she is qualified according to the rules, and failing satisfactory proof the offending establishment shall be disqualified from the competition.
- (g) Mixed-gender matches shall be played in line with current FA regulations. *\*Current rules state that mixed gender matches can be played up to and including the U18 age group.*
- (h) A student shall not play for more than one establishment in the same competition during any season, except by permission of the ESFA.

#### **12. MATCH DURATION AND ARRANGEMENTS**

- (a) Matches will consist of two periods of 45 minutes, with teams changing round at half-time.
- (b) Teams will play in a League format followed by a "knock-out" section to determine the national champion team. In the League Section, a win will gain 3 points, a draw will gain 1 point and a defeat will gain zero points. Should teams share a position in the league, the highest ranked team will be decided on goal difference. Should points and goal difference be equal the winners shall be the team scoring the most goals. If this fails to determine the winning team, the position shall be decided by the head to head result during the league phase. If this fails to determine the highest placed team and qualification into the knockout phase is dependent on such a position, then the ESFA will decide the highest place team via a toss of a coin. The ESFA will determine how many teams progress from each league into the knockout phase and communicate this process at the start of each playing season.
- (c) In the knockout phase of the competition, extra time of 10 minutes each way shall be played if the match ends in a draw. Should the scores remain equal after the conclusion of extra time, then the result shall be determined by the taking of kicks

from the penalty mark (taken in accordance with the recommendations of FIFA and published in the Laws of the Game). There are no replays in this competition.

- (d) If, in the opinion of the referee, for circumstances beyond the control of the organisers, scheduled extra time in a match cannot be started or completed, a match shall be deemed to have been completed at the end of normal playing time. Penalties, if scheduled, shall then follow.
- (e) Postponed or abandoned matches shall be played by the Saturday following the deadline date. Where schools are not mutually agreed on a date, then the matter will be referred to the ESFA.
- (f) In the event of any match being abandoned for any reason stated under Law 5 of The Laws of the Game, the ESFA shall have the power to allow the score at the time of the abandonment to stand and the points of the fixture shall be awarded as deemed appropriate by ESFA and / or remove any team found guilty of causing such abandonment from the competition.
- (g) There shall be a half time interval of ten minutes in all matches which can only be altered with the consent of the referee.
- (h) All arrangements for Finals shall be decided by ESFA.

### **13. MATCH OFFICIALS**

- (a) The Match Officials shall be appointed as ESFA directs in its communication at the start of the season. Their duties shall be accordance with the Laws of the Game as sanctioned and enforced by the International Football Association Board.
- (b) In the event of a referee failing to appear, the teams involved must agree in writing upon one at the ground so that the game shall be conducted in accordance with the rules. The official so acting shall have the powers of a duly appointed referee.

### **14. MATCH DAYS**

Matches will be played on Saturdays, but a match may be played midweek where teams are mutually agreed, or, where on the application of the home team, the ESFA considers it desirable. In the case of emergency, matches must be played on any date ordered by ESFA.

### **15. FINANCE**

The ESFA is unable to provide any financial assistance towards travel or accommodation in any round of this competition. Details of financial assistance will be circulated to the participating teams at the start of each season.