# STANDARD CODE OF RULES FOR MINI SOCCER AND YOUTH FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS - CHANGES FOR 2023-24 - RATIONALE

| **No.** | **RULE** | **AMENDMENT** | **RATIONALE** |
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|  | 7(B) | Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged with the Secretary within [ ] days (excluding Sundays) of the Competition Match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of their ~~his~~ Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined. | Amendment to provide for gender neutral language. |
|  | 18(B)(ii) | A Player registered with a Premier League or ~~English Football League~~ EFL Academy under the Elite Player Performance Plan contained within Youth Development Rules will not be permitted to play in this Competition, except for those in the under 11 age-group and below where consent has been given by the relevant Premier League or EFL Academy (such consent can be withdrawn at any time). Trial players are not considered to be registered with a Premier League or EFL Academy for these purposes and therefore the prohibition on playing in the Competition does not apply to them. The relevant Premier League/EFL Academy remains responsible for managing the frequency of the player’s playing time. Details of the Youth Development Rules are published on The FA website. A Player registered with an ~~FA Girls’ Regional Talent Club~~ FA Emerging Talent Centre or an FA Professional Game Academy may play in this Competition subject to the FA Girls’ Emerging Talent Centre Operating Criteria and Professional Game Academy Youth Development Rules. | The Premier League have amended their Elite Player Performance Plan Rules (see Rule 153) so as to permit academy players in the foundation phase to train and play for teams at grassroots level, subject to obtaining the prior approval of their Club.  This amendment to SCORY gives effect to the abovementioned change.  FA Emerging Talent Centres have replaced the Regional Talent Centres, so reference to these has been updated accordingly.  The title of the rules governing Women’s Professional Game Academies has not yet been finalised as a consultation is still ongoing. This will be changed to amend the newly inserted reference to “Professional Game Academy Youth Development Rules” in Rule 18(B)(ii), in the event that a different title is ultimately agreed. |
|  | 18(C) | A child who has not attained the age of 6 shall not play, and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play, in a match of any kind.  The relevant age for each Player is determined by his or her age as at midnight on 31 August of the relevant Playing Season i.e. children who are aged 6 as at midnight on 31 August in a Playing Season (together with those who attain the age of 6 during the Playing Season) will be classed as Under 7 Players for that Playing Season. Children who are aged 7 as at midnight on 31 August in a Playing Season will be classed as Under 8 Players for that Playing Season, and so on.  Notwithstanding the above, a child is permitted to play up in the age group above his or her chronological age group, irrespective of any changes of format or competition structure, save that a child who attains the age of 6 after 31 August is permitted to play only in the Under 7 age group, and may not play in the Under 8 age group, for that Playing Season. Girls in all female teams may also be permitted to play an age group down in accordance with Rule 4(F).  The age groups that children are eligible to play in are set out in the table below, subject to Rule 4(F), along with the permitted football formats for each of those age groups. For the purposes of this Rule 18(C), provisions relating to playing in specified age groups shall include participating in training as well as playing in matches. Children shall not play, and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play, in a match between sides of more than the stated number of players, according to their age group:   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Age on 31 August of the relevant  Playing Season | Eligible Age Groups | Maximum Permitted Format | Minimum Pitch Sizes | | Maximum Pitch Sizes | | Recommended Goal Sizes  in feet | Ball Size | | Yards | Metres | Yards | Metres | | 6 | Under 7 | 5v5 | 30 x 20 | 27.45 x 18.3 | 40 x 30 | 36.3 x 27.45 | 12 x 6 | 3 | | Under 8 | 30 x 20 | 27.45 x 18.3 | 40 x 30 | 36.3 x 27.45 | 12 x 6 | | 7 | Under 8 | 5v5 | 30 x 20 | 27.45 x 18.3 | 40 x 30 | 36.3 x 27.45 | 12 x 6 | 3 | | Under 9 | 7v7 | 50 x 30 | 45.75 x 27.45 | 60 x 40 | 54.9 x 36.6 | 12 x 6 | | 8 | Under 9 | 7v7 | 50 x 30 | 45.75 x 27.45 | 60 x 40 | 54.9 x 36.6 | 12 x 6 | 3 | | Under 10 | 50 x 30 | 45.75 x 27.45 | 60 x 40 | 54.9 x 36.6 | 12 x 6 | 3 | | 9 | Under 10 | 7v7 | 50 x 30 | 45.75 x 27.45 | 60 x 40 | 54.9 x 36.6 | 12 x 6 | 3 | | Under 11 | 9v9 | 70 x 40 | 64 x 36.6 | 80 x 50 | 73.15 x 45.75 | 16 x 7 | 4 | | 10 | Under 11 | 9v9 | 70 x 40 | 64 x 36.6 | 80 x 50 | 73.15 x 45.75 | 16 x 7 | 4 | | Under 12 | 70 x 40 | 64 x 36.6 | 80 x 50 | 73.15 x 45.75 | 16 x 7 | | 11 | Under 12 | 9v9 | 70 x 40 | 64 x 36.6 | 80 x 50 | 73.15 x 45.75 | 16 x 7 | 4 | | Under 13 | 11v11 | 90 x 50 | 82.3 x 45.75 | 100 x 60 | 91.44 x 54.9 | 21 x 7 | | 12 | Under 13 | 11v11 | 90 x 50 | 82.3 x 45.75 | 100 x 60 | 91.44 x 54.9 | 21 x 7 | 4 | | Under 14 | 90 x 50 | 82.3 x 45.75 | 100 x 60 | 91.44 x 54.9 | 21 x 7 | | 13 | Under 14 | 11v11 | 90 x 50 | 82.3 x 45.75 | 100 x 60 | 91.44 x 54.9 | 21 x 7 | 4 | | Under 15 | 90 x 50 | 82.3 x 45.75 | 110 x 70 | 100.58 x 64 | 24 x 8 | 5 | | 14 | Under 15 | 11v11 | 90 x 50 | 82.3 x 45.75 | 110 x 70 | 100.58 x 64 | 24 x 8 | 5 | | Under 16 | 90 x 50 | 82.3 x 45.75 | 110 x 70 | 100.58 x 64 | 24 x 8 | | 15 | Under 16 | 11v11 | 90 x 50 | 82.3 x 45.75 | 110 x 70 | 100.58 x 64 | 24 x 8 | 5 | | Under 17 | 100 x 50 | 91.44 x 45.75 | 130 x 100 | 118.87 x 91.44 | 24 x 8 | | Under 18 | 100 x 50 | 91.44 x 45.75 | 130 x 100 | 118.87 x 91.44 | 24 x 8 | | 16 | Under 17 | 11v11 | 100 x 50 | 91.44 x 45.75 | 130 x 100 | 118.87 x 91.44 | 24 x 8 | 5 | | Under 18 | 100 x 50 | 91.44 x 45.75 | 130 x 100 | 118.87 x 91.44 | 24 x 8 | | Open Age | 100 x 50 | 91.44 x 45.75 | 130 x 100 | 118.87 x 91.44 | 24 x 8 | | Amendment to clarify that the provisions relating to match-play age groups also apply to training situations. |
|  | Throughout SCORY | Amend references from “his” to “their” in order to be gender neutral. | Amendment to provide for gender neutral language. |
|  | 18(N) | (i) Subject to Rule 18(N)(ii), any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a Competition Match or Matches where points are awarded shall have the points gained from that Competition Match deducted from its record, up to a maximum of 12 points, and have levied upon it a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.  (ii) The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule 18(N)(i) only in circumstances where the ineligibility is due to the failure to obtain an International Transfer Certificate or where the ineligibility is related to the Player’s status.  (iii) Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible Player in accordance with Rule 18(N)(i) above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion:  (a) Award the points available in the Competition Match in question to the opponents, subject to the Competition Match not being ordered to be replayed; ~~or~~  (b) Levy penalty points against the Club in default; and/or  (c) Order that such Competition Match or Matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee). | Amendments made to clarify that the Management Committee may impose any combination of the sanctions set out at (iii)(a) to (c).  The previous drafting meant that the Management Committee was only able to impose a combination of (a) and one of (b) or (c). |
|  | 18(O) | (i) Priority must be given at all times to the activities of schools and school organisations ~~activities~~. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.  (ii) The availability of children must be cleared with their head teacher (except for Sunday league competitions).  (iii) A child under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31 August in the relevant Playing Season, shall not be permitted to play in a Competition Match during that Playing Season where any other Player is older or younger than that child by two years or more. | Amendment to 18(O)(i) has been made to correct a typographical error. |
|  | 20(A) | All Competition Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board or, for Mini-Soccer, ~~and 9v9 football, the Rules~~ The Mini-Soccer and Youth Futsal Handbook, or, for 9v9 football, ~~as set down by~~ The FA’s Guide to 9v9 Football. Clubs must take all reasonable precautions to keep their Grounds and Pitches in a playable condition. All Competition Matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Management Committee. If through any fault of the home Team a Competition Match has to be replayed, the Management Committee shall have power to order the venue to be changed.  The Management Committee shall have power to decide whether a pitch and/or facilities are suitable for Competition Matches and to order the Club concerned to play its Competition Matches on another ground.  Artificial Football Turf Pitches (3G) are allowed in this Competition provided they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA’s Register of Football Turf Pitches - <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register>. All Football Turf Pitches used must  be tested (by a FIFA accredited test institute) every three years and the results passed to The FA. The FA will give a decision on the suitability for use and add the pitch to the Register.  The home Club is also responsible for advising Participants of footwear requirements when confirming match arrangements in accordance with Rule 20.C | Amendment reflects the fact that the Rules of Mini-Football and 9v9 football are included in The Mini-Soccer and Youth Futsal Handbook and Guide to 9v9 Football. The previous reference was inaccurate (as the “Rules” is a defined term meaning SCORY).  Insertion of hyperlink to the pitch register for ease of access. |