

# SCOTTISH YOUTH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



## SUPPLEMENTARY & PLAYING RULES

**2025 – 2026**

## General

- 1 Unless the context otherwise requires, words or expressions contained in the Rules shall bear the same meaning as in the Articles of Association of SYFA Limited (SYFA) as adopted or amended from time to time.

Unless the context otherwise requires, words importing the singular only shall include the plural and vice versa and words importing any gender shall include all genders.

Unless the context otherwise requires, the words “Head of Operations” contained in the Rules shall bear the same meaning as “Head of Operations” or in their absence an authorised deputy”.

The headings are inserted for convenience only and shall not affect the construction of the rules.

- 2 The minimum level of insurance cover shall be determined by the Board and will include Public and Products Liability Insurance plus Personal Accident Insurance. The Insurance Policy will commence for the Competitive Season from 1 July and for the Development Season from 1 January, or if after this date from the date of affiliation, and the period of cover will expire on 30 June and 31 December respectively.

- 3 There shall be two playing seasons as follows:

### Children’s Football Season

League / Association fixtures shall only be listed and played between 1 March and 30 November inclusive each year and no matches, friendly matches or outdoor tournaments, shall be played between 13<sup>th</sup> December 2025 and 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026 inclusive each year without the consent of the SYFA. Clubs will be permitted to play friendly matches indoor or participate in Futsal Festivals during this period.

### Youth Football Season

Fixtures shall be listed and played between 1 August and 30 June inclusive each year and no matches, friendly matches included, shall be played between 1 July and 14 July inclusive each year without the consent of the SYFA.

The Board shall have the right to end the playing season should circumstances beyond the control of the SYFA result in the cessation or suspension of fixtures.

## Conflict of Interest

- 4 A member of the Board, Working Group or any Committee, if required by such body shall retire from any discussion of the body if the matter to be dealt with involves their club or the football body which they represent and it is possible that a penalty or some other material decision may require to be taken.

It is the member’s responsibility to disclose the conflicting interest to the Board, Working Group or Committee and refrain from participating in any deliberation or decision of the other Board, Working Group or Committee members with respect to the matter in question.

## Board

- 5 Registered players and officials of a club in membership of the Scottish Football Association, Scottish Junior FA, Scottish Amateur FA, Scottish Schools FA, Scottish Welfare FA or Scottish Women's Football or registered referees must declare such position (s) prior to being appointed to the Board, Working Groups or Committees. Registered referees are not eligible to be part of any Disciplinary Committee in any league/association where they referee matches.
- 6 The Articles of Association and Supplementary & Playing Rules shall be posted on the Associations website as and when determined by the Board.
- 7 The Board shall be the authority for the interpretation of the SYFA's Articles of Association and/or Supplementary & Playing Rules and shall decide upon any question of interpretation or upon any matter affecting the SYFA not provided for by the Articles of Association or Supplementary & Playing Rules.
- 8 The Board shall have power to implement whenever necessary additions to the Disciplinary Procedures when dealing with any report relating to incidents and/or acts of misconduct occurring at any match which is played under the jurisdiction of the SYFA or at other authorised match which involves a member club or at any activity involving a member club, any of its officials or players.

## Alteration of Supplementary & Playing Rules and Rules for Small Sided Games

- 9 The Board shall have the power temporarily to amend or add to these rules as circumstances may dictate from time to time, to facilitate the smooth running of matches.
- 10 The Supplementary & Playing Rules may be added to or altered by a Resolution passed at an Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting duly convened for the purpose, and for the passing of which Resolution at least 75% of those present and entitled to vote have voted. Should any member club wish to propose an amendment to the small-sided format or guidelines, they can do so in writing to the SYFA Board to be raised for discussion with the SFA.
- 11 Notice from a member of any proposed addition or alteration to the Supplementary & Playing Rules, or any other resolution, to be put forward for consideration at the Annual General Meeting must be emailed to [syfa@scottish-football.com](mailto:syfa@scottish-football.com) with the subject line 'AGM Resolution' by the proposer and seconder in separate emails, sent by the respective secretary of the member club or league proposing and seconding, to the SYFA c/o Head of Operations, before the 30th day of April in the then current year.
- 12 The Board shall have power to propose additions or alterations to the Supplementary & Playing Rules for consideration at the Annual General Meeting.
- 13 Any proposed alteration of the Supplementary & Playing Rules shall be submitted by the Head of Operations to the Chief Executive of the Scottish Football Association in writing 28 days before it is proposed that such change or changes should become operative or should be submitted to the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting of the SYFA and shall in all cases be subject to approval of the Scottish Football Association.

## Communications and Enquiries

14 Any notice to the SYFA must be sent to SYFA Limited at Hampden Park, Glasgow, G42 9BF and any notice from the SYFA to any of its members, or to any person under its jurisdiction, shall be validly given if posted or sent by electronic communication to the secretary of the club, league, or association, or to the person concerned, at its or their last notified address.

15 Correspondence sent by post that has not been signed will be judged to be incompetent. Electronic communications that do not include the name of the club or team, the club or team age group and the club or team registration ID number may be judged to be incompetent.

Any electronic communication, guest book or website entry that is considered offensive or malicious shall be referred to the relevant disciplinary committee.

16 Any club, team, league or association under the SYFA's jurisdiction which fails to answer a communication from SYFA Ltd within the timescale notified may be censured, fined or have their fixtures suspended at the discretion of the SYFA.

Any person under the SYFA's jurisdiction who fails to answer a written communication from SYFA Ltd within the timescale notified may be censured or placed under a precautionary suspension at the discretion of the SYFA.

## Membership General

17 All members shall be subject to all relevant rules, clauses, paragraphs and sub paragraphs of the SYFA Articles of Association, Supplementary and Playing Rules, Standing Orders, Child Wellbeing and Protection in Scottish Youth FA, Adults at Risk Protection Policy, Disciplinary Procedures and all related policies and any amendments thereto and any regulations or decisions promulgated by the Board and regulations or decisions of the Scottish Football Association shall be binding on all members.

All members recognise that the SYFA holds and processes personal data (including sensitive personal data) that SYFA collect from members in accordance with current data protection legislation and our data protection policy (which is available on our website). In particular, we may use information we hold about members for the purposes of their membership of the SYFA including to contact them, send them documentation or in relation to advertising, marketing of SYFA related events and sponsors products and events, public relations, accounts, records, administration of membership records including player registration, preparation of teamlines and fundraising.

18 The SYFA shall have jurisdiction on all matters connected with member leagues, associations, clubs and teams. All league, association, club, team and player registrations must only be administered by a registered official.

19 Membership of the SYFA confers registered membership of the Scottish Football Association.

20 Each League, Association and Club is responsible to the SYFA for the action of its teams, players, officials and spectators.

## Membership of Clubs

- 21 A team cannot be a member of any other Affiliated National Association or be in membership of more than one member League or Association. Any teams found doing so will be dealt with in line with the disciplinary procedures.

Teams participating within the children's football season shall affiliate from 1 November.

Teams participating within the youth football season can affiliate after 1 April but must affiliate before they assign players to a team within a competition catalogue. Teams must be affiliated and have active players and officials within their competition entry (catalogue) before playing any matches.

### 22.1 Clubs

All clubs in membership must be managed by a committee approved by the SYFA. This committee must not be less than three in number. It shall be considered an offence for a club to have unregistered officials (including applicants) to act on behalf of the club. All clubs must have at least the following positions: Club Secretary, Child Wellbeing & Protection Officer, Treasurer. The Child Wellbeing and Protection Officer shall be in possession of a current child wellbeing certificate.

The relevant Certificates are as follows and must be dated within the previous 3 years:

Scottish Football Association - Managing Child Wellbeing and/or  
Sportscotland - Child Wellbeing & Protection Officer Training

### 22.2 Teams

All teams in membership must have at least two registered officials present during all team activities and must fill the following positions as a minimum: Team Manager, First Aider and Coach. The Coach must be in possession of a current Scottish Football Association Coaching Certificate or FIFA recognised equivalent. The minimum Certificate is as follows:

For teams up to and including age 12: Children's Coaching Certificate (1.2)

For teams age 13 and over: Youth/Adult Coaching Certificate (1.2)

The First Aider must have a current SYFA recognised First Aid Certificate. A first aider must be present during all club or team activities, together with an appropriately stocked first aid kit. If the team's First Aider is unavailable for any reason during a fixture, the team should seek permission from their opposition to provide first aid cover and the teamline signed accordingly.

In order to act as a First Aider you must agree to provide first aid treatment to any child or adult requiring treatment during all club or team activities under the jurisdiction of SYFA. Anyone who does not agree to this requirement will not be permitted to be registered as a First Aider.

All registered officials of clubs and teams must also have completed child wellbeing training as follows:

Scottish Football Association - Children's Wellbeing in Scottish Football E-learning or  
Sportscotland Child Wellbeing and Protection in Sport

- 23 An official is only permitted to register for Club roles, or as Team Manager or for a restricted Team Role for one SYFA member club. An official can only be registered for a restricted Team Role with up to two teams within that club, provided the activities of the two teams do not coincide.

A Team Coach or a Team First Aider are restricted team roles.

Team Assistant Coach, Team Helper and Team Manager are not restricted roles.

An official may be a Team Assistant Coach or a Team Helper at 2 SYFA Clubs, restricted to 1 team per club. The 2 teams must play at different age groups.

A team manager is permitted to be registered with as many teams as required per SYFA Club. Team Coaches and Team First Aiders are only permitted to register with up to 2 teams within the same club.

A team official is any person aged 16 years or over who is registered with an SYFA team.

A team official must be in full membership of the SYFA prior to acting on their team's behalf and until such membership is granted will be known as an applicant or applicant official. Full membership requires an active registration in the team catalogue.

For the purposes of administering disciplinary procedures, the term unregistered official will also apply to applicants or applicant officials.

- 24 A registered referee wishing to become an official of a member club must make application in writing to the Secretary of the League or Association of which the club is a member. If issued a match involving a team within the same age group as their registered team, it is the official's responsibility to inform the relevant match secretary that they are unable to referee the match; failure to do so will be referred to the relevant Disciplinary Committee.

An application must be made in writing to the SYFA by the member league or association for which a registered referee wishes to become part of.

- 25 A registered player is not permitted to become a registered official of the team for which they are registered as a player.

- 26 A player or official of a club in membership of the Scottish Football Association, Scottish Junior FA, Scottish Amateur FA, Scottish Schools FA, Scottish Welfare FA or Scottish Women's Football may become an official of a club in membership of the SYFA subject to registration under this rule.

- 27 Any change of club secretary or team manager must be updated within 48 hours on the registrations system. Clubs failing to carry out such changes will be fined a sum determined each season by the Board as listed within the disciplinary procedures.

- 28 Any member Team withdrawing from its League or Association must intimate same in writing to the SYFA within 7 days from the date of such notification to the League or Association concerned. Failure to do so will be dealt in line with the disciplinary procedures.

- 29 Any team that wishes to resign its membership from a league or association with the intent on seeking membership of another league or association must make application in writing to the relevant league or association secretary stating their reasons for resigning.

If a league or association refuses to accept a resignation, the team may refer the matter in writing to the SYFA.

No league or association will accept a club into membership while that team is in membership of any other member league or association.

- 30 Any club wishing to make any alteration to the club or team name(s) must first obtain prior consent of the SYFA. Unless the SYFA considers there to be exceptional circumstances, such applications for consent may only be granted between applying to renew membership for the following season and the club registering its first player for said season.

- 31 All clubs must keep proper books and records of all their financial transactions, and such books and records, along with relevant vouchers, must be handed to the Board for inspection within seven days of request, if at any time required. Failure to comply, or discrepancies in such books and records, shall be dealt with as considered appropriate and may lead to membership being suspended and/or withdrawn at the discretion of the Board.

All financial records must be kept for a minimum period of five years.

## Membership of Leagues

- 32 All member leagues or associations must hold an Annual General Meeting in each season.
- 33 All member leagues or associations must hold all details relating to all competitions for a period of two months after the completion of the competition. Teams who have any complaints regarding a competition must comply with Rule 140 for Protest.
- 34 All Leagues or Associations who accept the resignation of a member club or team must inform the SYFA of such in writing within 7 days from the date of club or team notification. Failure to do so will be dealt in line with the disciplinary procedures.
- 35 A member League or Association shall have authority, except for any protection matters, to deal with players, clubs, teams and other persons participating under its jurisdiction who may misconduct themselves, subject to any right of appeal.
- 36 A member League or Association must submit any proposed alterations or additions to its Constitution or Rules to the Head of Operations in writing by recorded signed for or special delivery letter at least twenty-eight days before it is proposed that such change or changes should become operative or should be submitted to a general meeting or special general meeting of the members of such member. In all cases the proposed changes shall not take effect until approved by the Board.
- 37 In the event that the rules of a member league or association are not sufficient for the league or association concerned to determine any relevant matter arising, the Supplementary & Playing Rules of the SYFA when appropriate, shall apply.

## Registration of Player(s) General

- 38 The SYFA will organise football under its jurisdiction in accordance with the National Player Pathway and registration will be open to players who are born on or after the qualifying date as listed below:

### Season 2025

6s	players born on or after	1 January 2019
7s	players born on or after	1 January 2018
8s	players born on or after	1 January 2017
9s	players born on or after	1 January 2016
10s	players born on or after	1 January 2015
11s	players born on or after	1 January 2014
12s	players born on or after	1 January 2013

(for Transition March to June 2025)

### Season 2025/2026

13s	players born on or after	1 January 2013
14s	players born on or after	1 January 2012
15s	players born on or after	1 January 2011
16s	players born on or after	1 January 2010
17s	players born on or after	1 January 2009
18s	players born on or after	1 January 2008

### Season 2026

06's	players born on or after	1 January 2020
07's	players born on or after	1 January 2019
08's	players born on or after	1 January 2018
09's	players born on or after	1 January 2017
10's	players born on or after	1 January 2016
11's	players born on or after	1 January 2015
12's	players born on or after	1 January 2014

(for Transition March to June 2026)

- 39 A team can register a maximum of 5 players who are one age group below (younger than) the team's registered age group. This applies to the team ID and not individual children's groups within that team ID.

In exceptional circumstances, 11 a side teams may apply for further younger players to be registered. Application to the SYFA must be made by the team using 'Dispensation Form 3: Additional Young Players' and must provide clear and concise reasons for the request. The SYFA's decision will be final and binding on all parties.

- 40 Teams who wish to register a player two or more age groups above their actual age group require the permission of the SYFA. Application to the SYFA must be made in writing using 'Dispensation Form 4: Older Age Groups' by the team wishing to register the player and must include evidence from a coach or sports professional regarding the child's ability to play at an older age group. The SYFA's decision will be final and binding on all parties.

- 41 In accordance with the dispensation policy, the SYFA will only consider applications for players to play one age group below their own age group for the following reasons;



- a) Player has a disability
- b) Player has neurodiverse features or impaired development as a result of a long-term condition
- c) Player lives in a rural location in which there are no age-eligible teams within a 20-mile radius of their home address OR
- d) Player is an asylum seeker or refugee and has been placed in a school year younger than their birth year

Applications will only be considered if submitted by the relevant club, via the club secretary, and must be accompanied by all relevant supporting information/evidence as noted in the dispensation policy and dispensation application pack.

- A completed application form, checklist and supporting information/evidence should be sent to [syfadispensations@scottish-football.com](mailto:syfadispensations@scottish-football.com)
- Once a dispensation application is received, this will be reviewed by the SYFA
- The dispensation decision will be communicated to the club secretary via mail or email.
- Any decision made with respect to a dispensation application is final and binding and no consideration can be given to any further applications received for the remainder of the season for the same player.
- Dispensation is team specific- if the player moves to a different team, a further dispensation application will be required.
- Dispensation having been granted previously does not guarantee it will be granted for future seasons and a new application should be submitted before the commencement of each season.
- An 11 a side team will only be allowed to register a maximum of 3 players who are older than the team's age band.

Any applications submitted to the SYFA with no supporting information/evidence as outlined by the dispensation policy will automatically be returned to the club.

Any dispensation granted by the SYFA will be monitored throughout the season and if necessary, the dispensation will be rescinded.

42 Player Registration within the SYFA shall be of two classes:

- i) Players registered for Member Teams (Youth Football)

Players registered for member teams shall firstly register with their member club through the COMET registration form and then be assigned to a team through a catalogue entry.

- ii) Players registered for Member Teams (Children's Football)

Players registered for member teams shall firstly register with their member club through the COMET registration form and then be assigned to a team through a catalogue entry.

Players registered with a children's team can be registered for a second children's team by complying with SYFA registration procedures.

43 Only players of amateur status can play for an SYFA member team.

44 If a player wishes to train with another SYFA member they must have the written permission of the SYFA member for which the player is registered. A copy of the permission must be presented to the club that the player wishes to train with and be produced if requested. It will be an offence for a team to allow a player registered with another team to train with them without such written permission. A registered player cannot play as a trialist for any other SYFA member team.

45 A – Player Approaches

If a team wishes to approach a player registered with another team they must put their request in writing to the Team Manager of the club the player is currently registered before contacting the player or parent. The team that holds the registration must inform the player and their parents/ carers within seven days to see if they wish to take the enquiry further. If they do not comply with this timescale, the approaching team may contact the parent/ carer directly.

The following is not permitted:

- i) Approaches to players or parents/ carer first (unless outwith seven-day timescale) ii) Approaches to clubs/ teams and players/ parents/ carers simultaneously. iii) Approaches by proxy.
- iv) Verbal approaches

B – Team Approaches

It is the duty of the team that has been approached by a player or parent to check the national registration system to ensure that player is not already registered with a different team.

46 It shall be considered an offence:

- 1 for a player to sign any registration Form whilst under a suspension unless moving team at the end of that playing season
- 2 for a player who at any time held status as a non-amateur to declare themselves an amateur unless they have been reinstated as such by the Scottish Football Association
- 3 for a club or team to offer or make any payment to a player registered by the SYFA other than by way of reimbursement of their necessary hotel and travelling expenses actually incurred
- 4 for a player registered by the SYFA to accept any such payment as described in subparagraph (3) above.
- 5 for a player made active in a catalogue after 31 March in the current season to participate in any Cup Competitions for that season except where covered by these rules.

47 Clubs or Teams must obtain written consent from a player's parent/ carer before adding them to a registration form. A copy of this consent must be retained by the team for the duration of the season.

48 A player cannot re-register for a team within 4 weeks of de-registration for that same team.

49 Any change of details for a registered player must be amended online by the club secretary or team manager. Amendments must be made within 14 days of said change.

50 Failure to adhere to the registration procedures will result in the responsible parties being dealt with by the relevant Committee.

51 All player registration transaction history shall be stored online. Certificates confirming the registration or non-registration of players may be provided at a charge of £10.00 to member clubs, teams, leagues or associations and £20.00 to clubs, leagues or associations not in membership of the SYFA but affiliated to either the Scottish Football Association or an Affiliated National Association.

All requests for Certificates must be made in writing on club, league or association headed paper. The certificate fee shall be paid in advance.

## Registration of Player(s) Children's Football

52 Player registrations for member teams will only be done online.

Access to the online player registration system for teams participating within a children's football playing season will be after the team affiliates and before the team participates in any matches.

53 Players' club registrations will be open-ended and remain in place for the duration of time they're with the club. Player's team registrations (catalogue entry) within the Children's Football season shall be binding until 31 December of the season for which the player is registered unless made inactive at an earlier date.

54 A member team playing within children's football shall have no restriction on the number of players that they are allowed to register and therefore should ensure all players participating within their team are registered. In accordance with the national player pathway, all registered players should receive equal playing time.

55 Within the Children's Football Season, players can be registered with a second team on a secondary registration form provided the following criteria is met:

- a. The player's registered team and proposed second member team must play at the same age group
- b. The players registered team and proposed second member team must not play in the same league/association
- c. The players registered team and proposed second member team must not play on the same day

If all of the above points have been met, the following can be applied:

- i) Any member team wishing to play a player who is already registered with another SYFA member team, must obtain written permission from the player's registered team using the SYFA secondary registration form
- ii) The completed SYFA secondary form must be signed by both leagues and uploaded with the player's registration. Should the secondary team be part of the same club, the form should be retained by the Club Secretary.
- iii) Teams are only permitted to submit secondary registration forms for a maximum of 3 players

iv) In the event of clash of games, the player should play for their registered team

In the event permission is not granted, the player will only be permitted to play for their registered team.

## Registration of Player(s) Youth Football

56 Player registrations for member teams will only be done online.

Access to the online player registration system for teams participating within a youth football season will be after the team affiliates. Teams officially intimating their resignation during the currency of a season shall forfeit the right to have first call on any player they may have had registered during the season they ceased to function.

57 Player's club registrations will be open-ended and remain in place for the duration of time they're with the club.

Player's team registrations (catalogue entry) within the Youth Football season shall be binding until 30 June of the season for which the player is registered unless made inactive at an earlier date.

58 A player shall not be eligible to play for a member team in a cup-tie unless they are registered and appears in the team's online list of registered players. It will be the team's responsibility to go online and check the player's eligibility before the player participates in any matches.

59 In any other match a player shall not be eligible to play on a fifth occasion for the same team, and a team may not play more than 4 unregistered players in any such match.

Trialists must be registered firstly to the club as a trialist and it is the club's responsibility to determine their eligibility. Once completed, the player should be added to the catalogue as normal. Ineligible players will be dealt with in line with the Disciplinary Procedures.

Trialists will be permitted to play for a team who are one age group above the player's actual age group. Trialists will not be permitted to play for a team who are two or more age groups above the player's actual age group.

60 A SYFA registered player cannot play for another SYFA member team. Players who play without having been registered in accordance with this rule will be grounds for protest in the season in which such breach occurred.

61 A player shall only play for the team for which they are registered, except as otherwise permitted by Rule 63. A player having signed any official Registration Form or playing in a match for a member team shall be subject to the Articles of Association and Supplementary & Playing Rules of the SYFA and to the Articles, Rules and Regulations of the Scottish Football Association.

62 No team at age groups 13 to 17 shall have more than 20 players registered at any one time during the season.

No team at age group 18 shall have more than 22 players registered at any one time during the season.

A team found to have breached this rule by signing a player when this would result in the team exceeding the permitted number of registered players of the team, shall be fined the sum of £10.

- 63 An active player within a team's catalogue (registered) shall only play for the team for which they are registered, except that they may play:
- a. for another team in membership of the SYFA provided that to do so is not contrary to the regulations of the SYFA
  - b. for a representative team selected and organised by a recognised football body
  - c. in any circumstances governed by agreement between the Scottish Junior FA and the SYFA provided that the player is not currently registered by means of a Non Recreational Youth Player Registration Form for a club in Full or Associate membership of the Scottish Football Association or in membership of an Affiliated Association;
  - d. for a team in membership of the SYFA or in membership of an Affiliated Association in any match in which they are eligible to play provided that the written permission of their team is obtained prior to each match, unless they are currently registered by means of Non Recreational Amateur or Youth Player Registration Forms for a team in membership of the SYFA or in membership of an affiliated association in which case he may only play for the team that they are registered with upon a Non-Recreational Amateur or Youth Registration Form.
- 64 Where a registered player of a member team signs a registration form for a Junior club or a club in full or Associate membership of the Scottish Football Association, in all cases intimation of the date of signing, and the name of the club, shall be sent to the SYFA within 7 days from the date of signing. Teams failing to comply with this rule will be liable to have disciplinary action taken against them by the SYFA.
- 65 A player who was previously registered for a member team prior to becoming a registered player for a club in membership of the Scottish Junior FA will not in that same season be eligible to be registered for a member team other than the one for which they were previously registered, without the consent of the SYFA.
- 66 Teams infringing Rule 43 over and above having any protest upheld against them shall be reported to the SYFA for a breach of the registration rules and fined a sum determined each year by the General Purposes Committee.

## Cancellation of Player Registration(s)

- 67 A player may have their registration cancelled by submitting a written request to the secretary of their current team. On receiving such a request, the Team Manager or Club Secretary should go online and cancel the player's registration within 3 days, unless the player is serving a suspension. In this instance the player's registration should be cancelled on completion of their suspension.
- 68 Where a team or club does not cancel a player registration within 7 days, the player or their parent/ carer may request that the SYFA cancels their registration by emailing [syfa@scottishfootball.com](mailto:syfa@scottishfootball.com)

In such instances, they must provide evidence that they have already approached the team directly.

69 The cancellation of a player's registration will be effective immediately after it is actioned on the SFA registration system.

70 It shall be an offence for clubs to request cancellation of registration for any player while the player is under a dated or games suspension. Players of teams which fold or cease to exist during the currency of a player's match suspension should register for a new team. Players who have still to complete a games suspension or serve a suspension that is due to commence in a new season must inform their new team of the suspension.

Teams registering new players must check that the player is free from any suspensions. Only after the completion of a suspension will a player be allowed to sign and register for a member team, unless moving team at the end of that playing season.

71 The SYFA shall have the power to cancel registration of players in cases of teams for which they are registered becoming defunct, debt suspended for a period of one month or where reasons satisfactory to the SYFA are adduced why the registration should be cancelled.

72 Players of a defunct team will be permitted to register for another team subject to the registration rules.

## Matches

73 All matches where there are less than 11 players in a team and played under the jurisdiction of the SYFA shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as settled by the International Football Association Board.

74 All 11-a-side matches to be played under the jurisdiction of the SYFA shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as settled by the International Football Association Board and the duration of play shall be:

90 minutes in the 18s and 17s age groups  
80 minutes in the 16s and 15s age groups  
70 minutes in the 14s and 13s age groups

For matches where extra time is required the duration of play shall be:

30 minutes in the 18s and 17s age groups  
20 minutes in the 16s, 15s, 14s and 13s age groups

Competitive matches may only be organised for age groups 13 and above.

For all matches including friendlies, each team will provide the referee with completed teamlines listing all participating players and all team officials present prior to the match commencing. Only teamlines approved by the SYFA to be used.

Both lists shall be compared by the Referee and one list shall be given to the opposing Team Manager prior to the kick-off. No game shall be allowed to commence without teamlines of both teams being completed.

By signing the official list, on behalf of the team, the official declares that all information is accurate and has been verified by the team in accordance with the terms of the SYFA Supplementary and Playing Rules.

If there is a challenge to the eligibility of a player, it is their team's sole responsibility to verify to their opponents and the referee the eligibility of any player so challenged.

75 The referee should complete all administrative duties within the timeline decided by the league/association on behalf of which they are acting.

76 Clubs, leagues and associations must ensure the safety, good conduct and behaviour of its supporters before, during or at the conclusion of any match. In any match the home team, league or association must ensure the safety, good conduct and behaviour of all supporters before, during or at the conclusion of any match. The foregoing applies to all matches authorised by or matches played under the jurisdiction of SYFA.

In the event of misbehaviour of supporters being reported to or otherwise being brought to the attention of SYFA, a league or association, SYFA, a league or association will have jurisdiction to deal with the matter and to impose sanctions in respect thereof as prescribed within SYFA Disciplinary Procedures.

Each club, team, league or association must ensure that its players, officials, supporters and any person exercising a function for or in connection with the club, team, league or association do not engage in unacceptable conduct.

77 For all unfulfilled fixtures or matches abandoned by the referee, the General Purposes Committee or relevant Regional/League Committee will determine the status of the match.

78 In matches the size of the ball shall be as follows:

Age groups 6 to 8	shall use a size 3 ball
Age groups 9 to 13	shall use a size 4 ball
Age groups 14 to 18	shall use a size 5 ball

In all matches the home and visiting teams shall each have two playable balls available but the ball of the visiting team shall only be used if those belonging to the home team become unfit for play.

79 When the teams have the same or similar colours, the visiting team shall have the choice of colours.

In semi-final and final ties where colours are the same or similar, and no agreement can be reached, both teams must change.

80 In all matches the substitution of players will be permitted in accordance with the following stipulations, which must be adhered to:

6s to 12s playing small sided games refer to the Player Journey Resources and Information [Player Journey | Football Development | Scottish FA](#)

13s to 18s age groups - 7 substitutes from 7 named substitutes

At all age groups players substituted are available to retake the field of play at a later time in the match.

The referee will record on team lists the names and number of the substitutes who actually participated in the tie. Named substitutes who do not enter the field of play will not be considered to have been cup tied for the competition.

- 81 It is the responsibility of the home team to supply adequate changing and toilet facilities for their opponents and the referee. This includes ensuring the provision of suitable facilities for mixed gender teams and teams requiring accessible facilities at the venue. Visiting teams must provide details of their requirements to the home team at least 48 hours in advance of the fixture.
- 82 Mixed gender teams are permitted up to and including age group 16.
- 83 All matches and competitions shall be completed by the end of the season for which they have been approved. Exceptionally, in the case of unfinished Cup Competitions, special permission may be granted by the SYFA for delayed Cup ties to be played on or after 1 August in the following season. Only players who were eligible to play for the teams involved in a delayed Cup tie at 15 June in the preceding season may play in such Cup tie for which special permission has been granted.
- 84 All forms of photography and videography must comply with Scottish Football's Safe Use of Images Practice Note.

## Playing Kit

- 85 It shall not be permissible in any match played under the auspices of the SYFA, for football strips, track suits or other apparel to display the name or logo or brand of a sponsor which can be associated directly with alcohol, tobacco or gambling product or other such advertisement which the Board shall consider inappropriate to youth football.
- 86 In all competitive matches numbers must be worn on either jerseys or shorts and must be a minimum of 5 inches high, which must correspond to the numbers on the team lists. Teams failing to comply with this rule may be fined £10.00.

## Cup Competitions

- 87 A player shall be considered cup-tied in the competition(s) they have played in. Players will only be cup-tied in cup competitions in which they have actually taken the field of play.
- A player shall not be considered cup-tied in any competition if the member team for which they played in the competition resigns its membership of the SYFA before 1 October in the season.
- 88 A player can only play for one team in any Cup Competition except as per Rule 88.
- 89 All players except for a player whose customary position is that of goalkeeper, registered on a Registration Form after 31st March in the current season will not be eligible to participate in any Cup Competitions for that season.



For a player whose customary position is that of goalkeeper, a team may apply in writing to the SYFA for dispensation, giving a clear and concise reason, to play in a cup tie after 31 March.

Such written request must clearly state the reason for the request and include supporting paperwork. The request must also state that the goalkeeper, for whom the team seek a replacement, will not play in any further matches for the remainder of that season.

Any application based on a medical request must be supported with a letter from a relevant professional confirming clear and concise medical details of the player's injury or illness e.g. physiotherapist, doctor, etc.

The SYFA's decision will be final and binding on all parties.

A goalkeeper who gains exemption may not, under any circumstances whatsoever, take the field in any other position.

- 90 Except for a goalkeeper who has been granted a dispensation as per Rule 88, a player to be eligible to participate in the final tie of a cup competition played under the auspices of the SYFA must have been eligible, suspension excepted, to participate in the respective semifinal rounds of such competition for the team for which they are to participate in the final tie.
- 91 If any objection be made by a team to the eligibility of any player who may have taken part in any cup competitions, the relevant committee, shall have power to call upon such player and/or the team for which they played to prove their eligibility to the satisfaction of the relevant committee, who shall have the power to deal with the player and/or team objected to or the objecting team as it may deem appropriate. For teams this will include elimination from the cup competition.
- 92 Referees for cup-ties will be appointed by the competitions Match Secretary from the SFA List of Registered Referees. No team may object to any Referee so appointed. In the event of the Referee failing to turn up, the teams may mutually agree to any Referee, who must be on the list of SFA Referees. The expenses of the Referee shall be defrayed by the home team and must be paid before the start of the tie. The Match Secretary shall appoint Referees and may appoint Assistant Referees for quarter-final, semi-final and final ties.
- 93 Referee's fees shall be set annually by the Competition's Committee. The assistant referee's fee should be approximately two thirds of the referee's fee. Regions that use locally agreed referee fees and/or expenses must seek the permission of the SYFA.
- 94 The Match Secretary shall fix the grounds for all semi-final or final ties and shall have direct control of the arrangements, subject to the approval of the Competition's Committee.
- 95 In all semi-final and final ties entry to the technical area will be restricted to 6 registered club/team officials plus the named substitutes. Any reported infringement of this rule will be subject to disciplinary action by the relevant Disciplinary Committee.
- 96 When it is found that spectators at a game conduct themselves in such a manner as to interfere with the players or to stop the game or the match is unable to be completed for any unacceptable reason, the relevant Disciplinary Committee shall have the power to order the

match to be replayed on another ground or to award the tie to either team or to deal with the matter and/or offending team(s) as they deem appropriate.

97 All competing teams must notify their Match Secretary of the match result, or if it is un-played, in line with relevant associations instructions. Teams failing to comply with this rule will be fined an amount set annually by the relevant committee.

98 All Cup Competitions within a competitive playing season shall be completed each season prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting.

All matches within a development playing season shall be completed each season prior to the 1 December.

99 Any team, or any of its members, infringing any of the Supplementary & Playing Rules or procedures of the SYFA or the Competition may be liable to be disqualified from taking further part in the competition for the season. Teams may also be refused entry to any future competitions.

100 All questions of eligibility of teams, qualifications of players, or interpretation of the Articles of Association and Supplementary & Playing Rules shall be referred to the SYFA Board whose decision shall be final subject to any right of appeal.

## SYFA National Cup Competitions

101 The Competitions shall be called:  
The Scottish Youth FA 18s Cup, The Scottish Youth FA 17s Cup, The Scottish Youth FA 16s Cup, The Scottish Youth FA 15s Cup, The Scottish Youth FA 14s Cup, The Scottish Youth FA 13s Cup

102 The competitions shall be open to all teams in full membership of the SYFA.

103 Referee's fees shall be set annually by the Board. The assistant referee's fee should be approximately two thirds of the referee's fee.

In Cup Competitions excepting semi-final and final ties the home team shall pay the Referee's and, where applicable, the Assistant Referee's tariff and travelling expenses plus any ground costs. The away team will bear the costs of its own travelling expenses to the venue for the tie.

104 No other game under the SYFA's auspices shall be played within a radius of 5 miles from the ground where semi-final or final ties of the Cup Competitions are being played without the prior permission of the Board.

105 Eighteen medals will be awarded to each of the finalist teams in the Cup Competitions.

Twenty medals will be provided for teams who are permitted twenty registered players.  
Twenty-two medals will be provided for teams who are permitted twenty-two registered players.

- 106 The competitions for the Cups shall be played annually and shall be conducted in accordance with the Laws of the Game as settled by the International Football Association Board, and as directed by the Board.
- 107 The entry fee per team for each competition shall be fixed annually by the Board.
- 108 Fixtures shall be drawn at random. Any team that does not receive a fixture will be given a bye to the next round. The team drawn first will be the home team and the fixture should be played at their regular home ground. The Board may regionalise cup rounds up to and including round four.
- 109 SYFA will set the dates for each round of fixtures. SYFA National Cup fixtures must take priority over all other fixtures. If a tie is postponed or does not go ahead for any other reason, the SYFA may investigate the circumstances and may take the decision to reverse the tie. The decision will be final and binding on all parties.

In the event of a tie being postponed the rescheduled match will take place on or before the next available fixture date, which will normally be 7 days after the date of the original postponed match.

When a tie has not taken place for any reason by the date of the next round, the SYFA will have the power to recast the tie at any other venue.

- 110 In the event of the score being level after the stipulated playing time has been completed in all rounds including final, then the result will be decided by the taking of penalty kicks.
- 111 National Cup draws shall be placed on the SYFA website.
- 112 All cup-ties must be played on or before the date specified by the SYFA. Unless there is an acceptable reason, failure to comply will result in the team(s) concerned being dealt with by the relevant committee.

A team may make a written signed application for relief of fixture to the SYFA national office a minimum of 14 days before the listed date of the tie. The team must clearly state the reason for seeking relief of fixture and must supply all evidence to support the application. If relief of fixture is granted the team so requesting will be responsible to inform all parties within 24 hours. The SYFA's decision will be final and binding on all parties.

Relief of fixture will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. Relief of fixture will not be granted to cover any suspensions and/or injuries.

- 113 Any team refusing to play the team against which it has been drawn, shall be reported to the General Purposes Committee, which shall take any action deemed appropriate.
- 114 Any Team intending to forfeit or withdraw must give notice to the SYFA and the opposing Team Manager at least four days before the date fixed for playing the tie failing which it will be reported to the relevant Committee which shall have the power either to compel such offending team to pay the expenses incurred by their opponents, or take such action as it may deem expedient. All teams scratching from the competition will be reported to the General Purposes Committee who shall take action as they feel appropriate.

- 115 Ties will be on the day the home team normally plays their league fixtures. The day and kickoff time can only be changed if agreed by the SYFA and both teams. The only exception is semi-final and final ties, which shall be played on dates selected by the SYFA.

Matches should kick-off between 12 noon and 4pm unless otherwise agreed by both teams. In the event of non-agreement between the participating clubs the SYFA's decision will be final and binding on all parties.

All ties must have a kick-off time to allow for the taking of penalty kicks.

- 116 On the application of either team, the ground on which a cup tie is to be played must be inspected a minimum of four hours before kick-off time or, in the event of long distance travelling, the ground may, on application, be inspected on the afternoon of the day prior to the tie, but not later than 5.30pm by a local SFA registered referee appointed by the home team. A fee of £15.00 shall be paid by the home team to the referee carrying out the ground inspection.

For any late cancellation of matches the away team may submit a claim for travel expenses against the home team. Only travel expenses actually incurred and receipted will be considered. Where negligence is proven against the home team the General Purposes Committee may apportion all or part of the travel costs against the home team.

- 117 On points of fact connected with the fitness of the ground for play the decision of the referee shall be final unless the ground has been closed and declared unplayable by the relevant public/private authority.

Where a referee has travelled and the pitch is declared unplayable they shall be paid half the referee's fee which shall be met by the home team.

- 118 In final ties the SYFA shall provide a football for the tie. The competing teams shall also have available two match balls for use in semi-final and final ties. The loss of these match balls shall be the responsibility of the SYFA and competing teams, the cost of which will be deducted from the gate receipts.

- 119 The SYFA shall keep a register of all players taking part in the Cup Competitions, which shall be open for inspection by member teams.

- 120 All Life Members of the SYFA shall be entitled to admission without charge to all matches played under the jurisdiction of the SYFA except when the Board shall decide otherwise.

- 121 The Board shall be, for all intent and purposes, the legal holders of the Cups in trust for the SYFA.

- 122 A document in the following terms shall be granted on behalf of the winning team; - We, A B Secretary of the Y Z Team and C D, E F, G H, members of and representing the said team which has now been declared to have won the SYFA... Cup, and which cup we have received, do hereby on behalf of the said team, and individually and collectively, engage to return the said cup in good order and condition to the SYFA within 28 days of receipt. Teams which fail to return the Cup by the due date without an acceptable reason, shall be fined a sum not less than £50.

The signatories to the document other than the Secretary must be householders.

## SYFA Development Competitions

- 123 The Board shall have power to promote such competitions, as it may from time to time deem fit.

## Development Squads

- 124 Any player who is selected for an SYFA National Development Squad must, throughout that same season, also participate in all of their Regional Squad Activities if selected, unless the player has to withdraw through illness or injury. Any player who refuses such selection shall be reported to the SYFA and will not be permitted to participate in National Development Activities. The National Development Officer and the relevant regional representative must discuss any scheduling conflicts.

Any team who has a player or official selected to take part in any representative match may have its fixture cancelled on application to the team's league / association giving a minimum of 10 days' notice, such notice period being waived if the player or official is selected less than 10 days prior to the match.

## Tournaments and Friendly Matches

- 125 All clubs, teams, leagues, associations and players under the jurisdiction of the SYFA shall not be permitted to stage or play in any match or competition other than those approved by the SYFA.
- 126 All matches must be sanctioned by SYFA or a member region, league or association.
- 127 Friendly match permits must adhere to the appropriate league procedure.
- 128 Teams must obtain permits to participate in festivals, tournaments and friendly matches. Applications to host or play in a tournament/festival are available on the SYFA website. Costs to host and participate are to be set annually by the SYFA board.
- 129 Any club, team, league, association, player or club representative taking part in an unapproved match or tournament may be debarred from taking part in football under the jurisdiction of the SYFA until dealt with by the relevant committee.
- 130 No, club, team, league, association, player or club representative shall be permitted to take part in, or be involved in, any match or competition which is not authorised by the Scottish Football Association.

## Penalties

- 131 A club, team, league or association which is found to be run wholly or in part for the direct financial gain of a person or persons (whether or not such person or persons are members of the said club/team/league/association) shall not be considered eligible for membership or, if in membership, such club, team, league or association may have its membership withdrawn.

- 132 Any club, team, league or association that fails to pay any fine imposed by the SYFA, an SYFA Regional Committee or a member League / Association Committee within 14 days, from receipt of notice, will be debt suspended and levied an administration charge, which will be set by the Board, until the monies outstanding are paid. Debt suspension will apply to the club or team and all of its registered officials. Any debt suspension can only be lifted on receipt of payment and the approval of the relevant secretary(s) and at least 5 days before any listed fixture.
- 133 During a period of debt suspension fixtures will still be listed but will not be allowed to take place. The debt suspended team will lose the points for all league or association matches and will forfeit all cup matches during the period that they are under debt suspension.
- 134 The Head of Operations shall inform the Board of any debt suspensions applying to clubs, teams, leagues or associations.
- 135 The SYFA is opposed to the use of prohibited drugs, legal highs and related prohibited practices in sport. It will take such steps as considered necessary to ensure that players and member clubs, teams, leagues, associations or any other person participating under the jurisdiction of the SYFA comply with The Scottish FA's Charter Against Doping in Scottish Football. To this end players of all member teams may be subjected to random testing and should any such player, club, team, league, association or other person be found to have contravened this rule, they may be liable to have action taken against them by the Board.

SYFA will take such steps as considered necessary to ensure that players and member clubs, teams, leagues, associations or any other person participating within SYFA shall not directly or indirectly gamble on any matches under the jurisdiction of SYFA.

They must not directly or indirectly receive a bonus or any other inducement to influence the result of a match or otherwise affect the conduct of a match.

Any person under the jurisdiction of SYFA who has been approached to be the target or is the target of attempted bribery must notify the SYFA forthwith.

- 136 All dated suspensions imposed by a league or association must be submitted to [SYFA@scottish-football.com](mailto:SYFA@scottish-football.com) within seven days of issue.

SYFA will notify the Scottish FA of any dated suspensions imposed on a member of SYFA. SYFA will impose any dated suspensions confirmed by the Scottish FA on any member of SYFA.

- 137 Subject to the SYFA deciding that there is exceptional reason to act otherwise, no cognisance will be taken of any infringement which has taken place over 12 months prior to the date of complaint or report of such infringement.

## Payment to players

- 138 Clubs and teams operating under the auspices of the SYFA are prohibited completely from making payment to any of their players for playing. Travelling expenses may be paid, but this should amount to the sum actually expended by the receiving player. Clubs or teams found violating this Rule will be reported to the Board who shall take such action as is deemed appropriate which may include expulsion from the SYFA. Clubs and teams are also prohibited from offering inducement to any player in return for signing the official Registration Form.

- 139 The relevant Committee shall have power to examine all accounts in connection with any match played under the jurisdiction of the SYFA and to take any appropriate action that is considered necessary.

## Protests

- 140
- i) All questions of eligibility, qualification of players or compliance with the rules shall be referred to the Disciplinary Committee of the Organising Association.
  - ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flags or other facilities of the venue will not be accepted unless a protest is lodged with the referee prior to the commencement of the match.
  - iii) Protests must be submitted by email to the appropriate Secretary of the Organising Association, or in the case of the Scottish Cup to [SYFA@scottish-football.com](mailto:SYFA@scottish-football.com), with the subject line 'PROTEST'. The protesting team must supply evidence of the reasons they are protesting the match and they must copy the team they are protesting against into the email. A £40.00 fee must be paid via BACS prior to sending a protest.
  - iv) Where a protest alleges a team played an ineligible player, the protesting team must submit evidence of why they believe an opponent has played an ineligible player to within 48 hours of completion of the match. The secretary of the organising association or the SYFA will request evidence of player eligibility from Team Manager. This must be supplied within 5 days of receipt of protest.
  - v) For all protests, written proof of reason for protest must be submitted prior to the case being heard.
  - vi) All protests must be submitted by the Team Manager.
  - vii) Unfulfilled fixtures or abandoned matches are not subject to protest.
  - viii) The secretary of the organising association or the SYFA will notify teams if a protest is successful or unsuccessful in writing following their appearance before the relevant committee.
  - ix) Protests improperly lodged may be dealt with by the relevant committee as a complaint.
  - x) Points can only be awarded or deducted after a successful protest.
  - xi) Ties can only be decided after a successful protest.

## Appeals

- 141 The Articles of Association of the SYFA covers the hearing of appeals and provides a means for the resolution of any differences or questions arising from the observance and implementation of the Articles of Association and Supplementary & Playing Rules and decisions and the fact of membership of the SYFA shall constitute an agreement by a member

that, it or anybody or person interested through such member, shall submit (and/or agree to submission of) such complaints, breaches, claims, disciplinary and protection matters, appeals and/or disputes to the jurisdiction of the SYFA, SYFA region, league or association and shall not be permitted to take such differences or questions to a court of law.

142 Any member of SYFA may appeal a decision of an SYFA Committee.

Appeals on behalf of a player must be submitted by a team or club secretary.

Appeals must be submitted on an Appeals form which has been signed by the appellant and the club secretary.

Appeals must be submitted within 7 days of notification of the decision of the committee.

Appeals must be submitted via email to SYFA@scottish-football.com

A deposit must be made via bank transfer at the point of appeal, the cost of which is £30 for a player and £60 for all other appellants.

Appeals will not be a rehearing of the case and fresh evidence that was not submitted at the original hearing may not be submitted to an appeal.

Appeals which do not meet the criteria as detailed on the appeals form will not be granted a hearing.

143 Once an appeal has been validly submitted to the SYFA and found to be in order the decision against which the appeal is submitted shall be set aside pending the hearing of the appeal unless the interests of justice dictate that the decision should be given effect. The original decision-making body shall be entitled to make representation to the SYFA opposing such a setting aside of the decision. Such representation must be lodged in writing with the SYFA within 5 working days of the SYFA's receipt of the appeal. The representations shall be considered by the SYFA and the chair of the Appeals Committee, whose decision thereon shall be final and binding. In the absence of either the Head of Operations and/or the chairman of the appeals committee, the Chair and/or the Vice Chair shall be entitled to act as an alternative in considering the representations.

144 The decision against which any appeal is made will only be set aside when confirmation is received in writing of such from the SYFA by the parties concerned.

145 Appeals which relate to any matter affecting the result of a cup tie or which could interrupt the playing of a competition (depending on the circumstances) shall not be heard by the SYFA.

146 All clubs, leagues and associations must incorporate in their rules a clause specifying the right of their members to appeal to the SYFA and stating that the decision of the Appeals Committee must be given effect to by such club, league or association, subject to the right of appeal to The Scottish Football Association.