**COMPETITION RULES PART FOUR

7. COLOURS, PLAYERS’ ATTIRE**

Where Schools or Associations 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.

Teams must not wear shirt advertising of a conflicting interest to that of the competition’s sponsor.

Players’ shirts shall be numbered where possible.

Attire worn by players and staff must only reflect their School, College or Association and not make any reference to other football organisations.

Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from all other Players and the Match Officials.

No Player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts.

**8. PLAYING SEASON, CONDITIONS OF PLAY, TIMES OF KICK-OFF, POSTPONEMENTS, SUBSTITUTES**

(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 as set down by the FA.

Schools must take all reasonable precautions to keep their Grounds 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 team concerned to play its Competition Matches on another ground.

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. 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. **Mini soccer can be played on sand-based pitches where necessary.**

The home team is also responsible for advising Participants of footwear requirements when confirming match arrangements in accordance with Rule 9(C).

All Competition Matches shall have a duration as set out below unless a shorter time is mutually arranged by the two teams in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the Competition Match, and in any event shall be of equal halves.

Competition Matches should be played in accordance with the Laws appropriate to the relevant age group, as laid down by the FA, as detailed below.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| AgeGroup | 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.

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.

For trophy events, the Competition may award mementos.

Referees must order Competition Matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition.

The home Team must provide goal nets, corner flags and at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if any of the items provided are unsuitable.

(B) Except by permission of the Management Committee all Competition Matches must be played by the closing date set for the playing of a specific set of matches.

In the case of a revised fixture date, the Teams must be given by the Competition 5 clear days’ notice of the Competition Match (unless otherwise mutually agreed).

(C) An Officer of the home team must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the Ground and time of kick-off

(D) The minimum number of Players that will constitute a Team for a Competition Match is as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| FORMAT | MINIMUM NUMBER |
| 5v5 | 4 |
| 7v7 | 5 |
| 9v9 | 6 |
| 11v11 | 7 |

(E) (i) In competitions where points are awarded, home and away matches shall be played (unless a single fixture programme has been agreed by the competition organiser and participating teams prior to its commencement*)*.

* 1. Any school unable to fulfil a fixture or where a Competition Match has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the Competition Secretary, the opposing school and the Match Officials.
	2. In the event of a Competition Match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither school has control, it should be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two teams and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the Competition Secretary within 7 days the Management Committee shall have the power to order the Competition Match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and the teams involved agree, the Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand.
	3. The Management Committee shall review any Competition Match that has taken place where either or both Teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by ESFA, ISFA or Affiliated Schools’ Association. In each case the Team that was under suspension would be dealt with in the same manner as if they had participated with ineligible players. Where both Teams were under suspension the Competition Match must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.

(F) ‘Repeated’ substitutions are allowed in all competitions up to and including the Under 18 age group. In these age groups, 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.

1. 9v9 and 11v11 matches: Teams are permitted to use 5 substitutes from five named players.
2. Small-Sided matches: Indoor 5-a-side - 3 named substitutes 7-a-side - 3 named substitutes

(G) The half time interval shall be of 7 minutes’ duration, but it shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.

(H) The Teams taking part in Under 7s to Under 11 or Youth Football shall identify a Team captain who may wear an armband and shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of his/her teammates.