

COMPETITION RULES - GENERAL

The following are applicable to all County Competitions

1. LAWS OF THE GAME

The Laws of the Game shall be those of the Football Association except as otherwise stated.

2. CONTROL & MANAGEMENT OF COMPETITIONS

The entire control and management of the Competitions shall be vested in the Executive Committee. These rules may be altered only as provided for in the General Rules, but the Executive Committee shall have full power to decide any point not provided for in these rules.

3. ENTRIES & FEES

Entries must be made by a date determined by the Executive Committee and shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. The entry fee for each competition entered by an Association or an Individual School shall be determined by the Executive Committee. The sSFA shall have the right to refuse entries.

4. CONTROL & MANAGEMENT OF TEAMS

All teams shall be under the control and management of the District Association or the Individual School competing. In all competition matches, a past or present member of the education service must accompany teams.

5. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

No player shall play for more than one Association or School during the season except by permission of the Executive Committee.

Players who spend any part of the normal school day at a football club are ineligible to play in SSFA competitions. (The only exception to this shall be recognised work experience of a single period not exceeding ten consecutive school days.) The current FA rules and regulations appertaining to mixed football shall apply.

Players who do not make themselves available for district and county teams will not be eligible to play for their schools in SSFA competitions.

Only players whose names are on the roll of the appropriate school affiliated to a District Association (or individually affiliated school) and in full-time attendance at school at the time the match is played, and who are within the appropriate age at midnight on the previous 31st day of August shall be allowed to take part in the competition. Age limits are as follows:

Under 18	Under 18 (i.e. Year 13 and 12)
Under 16	Under 16 (i.e. Year 11)
Under 15	Under 15 (i.e. Year 10)
Under 14	Under 14 (i.e. Year 9)
Under 13	Under 13 (i.e. Year 8)
Under 12	Under 12 (i.e. Year 7)
Under 11	Under 11 (i.e. Year 5 and 6)
Under 10	Under 10 (I.e. Year 3,4,5)

Girls	
Under 18	Under 18 (i.e. Years 13 and 12)
Under 16	Under 16 (i.e. Years 10 + 11)
Under 15	Under 15 (i.e. Years 9 + 10)
Under 14	Under 14 (i.e. Years 8 + 9)
Under 13	Under 13 (i.e. Year 7+ 8)
Under 12	Under 12 (i.e. Year 7)
Under 11	Under 11 (i.e. Year 5 and 6)
Under 10	Under 10 (I.e. Year 3,4,5)

If the Executive Committee has any doubt over the eligibility of any player taking part in a competition, it shall have the power to require the player's school to which he or she belongs to prove that he or she is eligible according to the rules, and failing satisfactory proof the offending school may be disqualified from the competition.

In individual school competitions, a maximum of three players who attend FA Licensed Academies/Centres of Excellence can represent a school in a SSFA competition match.

The SSFA Executive Committee may require players to be registered to participate in its competitions, and to pay a registration fee.

Mixed gender matches may be played in line with current FA regulations.

8. STRENGTH OF TEAMS

Every Association and School shall play its best available team in all SSFA competition matches. (The intention of this rule is not to interfere with normal team selection, but to prevent deliberately weakened teams being fielded, and to prevent players being released to play in club football. It is not intended that Associations and Schools must field higher team players in lower teams when the higher team has no engagement.) If in the opinion of the Executive the substance or spirit of this Rule is disregarded, the Associations or Schools concerned will be liable to be disqualified from competitions.

9. SUBSTITUTES

In all SSFA eleven-a-side competitions, teams are permitted to use up to five named substitutes; substituted players may return to the field of play at any time and for any reason, except to replace a player who has been sent from the field of play by the referee under Law 12. In all SSFA small-sided competitions, teams are permitted to use up to three named substitutes; substituted players may return to the field of play at any time and for any reason, except to replace a player who has been sent from the field of play by the referee under Law 12.

10. MATCH ARRANGEMENTS

After the closing of entries for the season's competition the Executive shall arrange for the draw for fixtures, the first Association or School drawn in each fixture having the choice of grounds. The Executive shall fix the dates within which or on which such fixtures shall be played. In the

case of matches for which limit dates have been fixed, they must be played on a Saturday unless both parties mutually agree otherwise.

11. DURATION OF MATCHES & SIZE OF BALL

Duration of game and size of ball shall be as follows:

Under 18	80 minutes	Size 5 ball
Under 18 (girls)	80 minutes	Size 5 ball
Under 16	80 minutes	Size 5 ball
Under 16 (girls)	80 minutes	Size 5 ball
Under 15	70 minutes	Size 5 ball
Under 15 (girls)	70 minutes	Size 5 ball
Under 14	70 minutes	Size 4 ball
Under 14 (girls)	60 minutes	Size 4 ball
Under 13	70 minutes	Size 4 ball
Under 13 (girls)	60 minutes	Size 4 ball
Under 12	60 minutes	Size 4 ball
Under 11	50 minutes	Size 4 ball
Under 10	40 minutes	Size 4 ball

Extra time of 10 minutes each way (5 minutes each way for Under 10 and Under 11 games) will be played in all games in which the scores are level at the end of normal time. In the event of scores still being level at the end of extra time, the tie will be decided by penalties, in accordance with the procedure outlined in the Referees Chart. The referee, with the consent of both Schools or Associations, may reduce the match by no more than 5 minutes each half if deemed desirable. The Competition Secretary may, at his discretion in the case of a match taking place after the scheduled limit date, order the venue of the match to be reversed.

12. FIELD OF PLAY

In each age group a pitch of appropriate size shall be provided. The minimum size of the field of play in 11-a-side matches at the Under 16 age group or above shall be 90 yards by 60 yards. Matches may be played on artificial grass pitches that conform to the FIFA 1 star standard, or the equivalent International Artificial Turf Standard (IATS) (This usually refers to 3G pitches and advancements introduced thereafter.)

13. NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

In Inter-School Competitions, it shall be the responsibility of the WINNING School to notify results to the Competition Secretary within 24 hours of the conclusion of the match. Any Association or School failing to submit a result on time could be fined £10.

14. PLAYERS' ATTIRE

District Associations and Schools must wear their registered colours in competition matches. In the event of the colours of the two teams clashing the visiting team shall change, except in finals where both teams shall change.

In county finals, players' shirts shall be numbered.

Attire worn by players and staff at county finals must only reflect the name of their District Association or School and not make any reference to other football institutions.

15. FINALS

The Executive Committee shall have direct control of arrangements and finances connected with the finals. The finals shall be played in one leg. Extra time of 10 minutes each way (5 minutes each way for primary games) shall be played if the scores are still level at the end of normal playing time. If the match is still unresolved, the trophy will be shared.

Finals of County Competitions must be staged in accordance with the instructions issued by the Executive Committee.

In finals of Individual School Competitions, squad lists need to be sent to the competition secretary 1 week before the final date. The cost of the officials for the final will be determined by the Executive Committee.

16. MATCH OFFICIALS

For individual schools competition matches prior to the semi-finals, the home school shall provide a suitable referee. From the semi-finals onwards, the referee shall be appointed by the competition secretary. Each school shall provide an assistant referee in all games except the final.

17. FIRST AID

The home School is responsible for ensuring that an adequate first-aid kit is available at the side of the pitch.

18. PROTESTS

All protests shall be in writing and shall be received by the SSFA General Secretary within two working days of the match concerned, accompanied by a fee of £25, which shall be refunded if the protest is upheld.

No protest relative to the ground, goalposts or other appurtenances of the game unless protest is made in writing to the referee before the start of the game.

Any protest shall be signed by the Headteacher (in the case of Schools) as acknowledgement of their approval of its submission.

The SSFA will gather evidence at its discretion and notify both parties of its decision, which shall be binding on both parties.

19. SAFEGUARDING

All District Associations who run representative teams MUST have a named Association Welfare Officer who is fully compliant with FA/ESFA Welfare Officer requirements.

INTER-SCHOOL COMPETITIONS

In addition to the General rules governing all County competitions, the following will apply to Individual School Competitions.

1. The draw for competitions shall be determined by the SSFA Executive Committee. Draws in competitions that lead to ESFA national competitions shall be open. The draw for other competitions may be zoned up to the quarter-finals.

2. Subject to the number of entries the County is allocated the finalists in open draw competitions shall represent the County in the SSFA national competitions, providing they accept the entry conditions set out by the SSFA. In the event of the County being allocated only one entry, the Cup winners will be that entry. The Executive Committee reserves the right to withhold a school's entry to the national competition for any reason it deems appropriate and in such instance will fill the vacancy as it wishes.

3. In the event of pitches at the home school being unfit, the away school shall be given the opportunity to stage the match on the same date. In the event of a complete postponement to the original fixture or a game being abandoned, the match shall be (re)played within 7 days from the date of the original fixture/match.

4. Games can only be arranged after the scheduled limit date if permission is obtained in advance from the Competition Secretary.