

# SCOTTISH YOUTH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



## SUPPLEMENTARY & PLAYING RULES

**2022 – 2023**

## **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 "Chief Operating Officer" contained in the Rules shall bear the same meaning as "Chief Operating Officer or in his 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:

### **Development Season**

League / Association fixtures shall only be listed and played between 1 March and 30 November inclusive each year and no matches, friendly matches included, shall be played between the second weekend in December and the second weekend in January 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.

### **Competitive 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 his club or the football body which he represents 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 and Rules for Small Sided Games 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.
- 11 Notice from a member of any proposed addition or alteration to the Supplementary & Playing Rules and Rules for Small Sided Games to be put forward for consideration at the Annual General Meeting must be sent by Recorded Signed for or Special Delivery by the proposer and seconder in separate letters, signed by the respective secretary of the member club, league or association proposing and seconding, to the SYFA c/o Chief Operating Officer, before the 30th day of April in the then current year. Notice from a member of any other Resolution to be brought before an Annual General Meeting must be sent in like manner 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 and Rules for Small Sided Games for consideration at the Annual General Meeting.
- 13 Any proposed alteration of the Supplementary & Playing Rules and Rules for Small Sided Games shall be submitted by the Chief Operating Officer 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 written communication from SYFA Ltd within the timescale notified may be censured, fined or have their fixtures suspended at the discretion of the SYFA.

Any player, official, referee, or other 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.

Where the failure to reply relates to a case of reported misconduct or to an offence, the case shall be dealt with as determined by the relevant Committee, except as otherwise indicated in the Articles of Association.

### **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.

Teams participating within a development playing season shall affiliate before 1 March.

Teams participating within a competitive playing season can affiliate after 1 April but must affiliate before they register players and play any matches.

## 22.1 Clubs

All clubs in membership must be controlled and managed by a committee approved by the SYFA. This committee must not be less than two in number. If the number falls below two for any reason, including the suspension of a registered club official, the club must inform the replacement official's details to the SYFA within 48 hours. It shall be considered an offence for a club to have unregistered officials to act on behalf of the club. All clubs must have at least the following positions: Club Secretary, Child Wellbeing & Protection Officer, Treasurer and Coach Co-ordinator. 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  
Childrens 1<sup>st</sup> In Safe Hands

## 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 Secretary, 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 or Sports Injuries 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  
and/or  
Sportscoach UK Safeguarding and Protecting Children

23 A club official may only register for one SFA ID member club but may be registered with two teams within the Club, subject to registration restrictions. A registered official of a club may act as an ex-officio member of any team in membership of this club.

Team official shall mean any person aged 16 years or over who is registered for a member club as a team official, and acts on his team's behalf by managing or assisting in the running of the member team.

A team official must be in full membership of the SYFA prior to acting on his team's behalf and until such membership is granted shall be known as an applicant or applicant official.

For the purposes of administering disciplinary procedures, the term unregistered officials shall 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 club, it is the official's responsibility to inform the relevant match secretary that he is unable to referee the match; failure to do so will be referred to the relevant Disciplinary Committee.

A registered referee wishing to become an official of a member league or association must make application in writing to the SYFA. The official shall not be permitted to referee any matches in the league/association in which he is a registered official.

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

- 28 Any 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.

- 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 a minimum of two general meetings of member clubs including 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 142 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.
- 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 Chief Operating Officer 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 2022

|     |                          |                |
|-----|--------------------------|----------------|
| 06s | players born on or after | 1 January 2016 |
| 07s | players born on or after | 1 January 2015 |
| 08s | players born on or after | 1 January 2014 |
| 09s | players born on or after | 1 January 2013 |
| 10s | players born on or after | 1 January 2012 |
| 11s | players born on or after | 1 January 2011 |
| 12s | players born on or after | 1 January 2010 |

(for Transition March to June 2022)

#### Season 2022/2023

|     |                          |                |
|-----|--------------------------|----------------|
| 13s | players born on or after | 1 January 2010 |
| 14s | players born on or after | 1 January 2009 |
| 15s | players born on or after | 1 January 2008 |
| 16s | players born on or after | 1 January 2007 |
| 17s | players born on or after | 1 January 2006 |
| 18s | players born on or after | 1 January 2005 |

### Season 2023

|      |                          |                |
|------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 06's | players born on or after | 1 January 2017 |
| 07's | players born on or after | 1 January 2016 |
| 08's | players born on or after | 1 January 2015 |
| 09's | players born on or after | 1 January 2014 |
| 10's | players born on or after | 1 January 2013 |
| 11's | players born on or after | 1 January 2012 |
| 12's | players born on or after | 1 January 2011 |

(for Transition March to June 2023)

- 39 Players will be permitted to register for a team who are one age group above the player's actual age group. A team will only be allowed to register a maximum of 5 players who are one age group below the team's registered age group.

Dispensation for players over and above the maximum 5 players may be sought by making application to the SYFA in writing using the SYFA Dispensation Form by the team wishing to seek dispensation giving clear and concise reasons for their application. The SYFA's decision will be final and binding on all parties.

- 40 Players who wish to register for a team who are two or more age groups above the player's actual age group require the permission of the SYFA. Application to the SYFA must be made in writing using the SYFA Dispensation Form by the team wishing to register the player giving clear and concise reasons for their application. 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 OR
- c) Player lives in a rural location in which there are no age-eligible teams within a 20-mile radius of their home address

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 (Competitive)

Players registered for member teams shall register using the SYFA online registration system by using an SFA Recreational Form.

- ii) Players registered for Member Teams (Developmental)

Players registered for member teams shall register using the SYFA online registration system by using an SFA Recreational Form.

Players registered for a Development Member Team can be registered for a second Development Club by complying with local 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 he 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 It shall be considered an offence:

- 1 for a player to sign any registration Form whilst under a dated suspension
- 2 for a player who at any time held status as a non-amateur to declare himself an amateur unless he has 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 his 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.

46 Before a player signs a Registration Form for an SYFA member team, the team concerned shall ensure that all details have been inserted. The player shall ensure that all details have been inserted into the Registration Form before signing. Players at age groups 6 to 8 will not be required to sign the Registration Form.

The player's signature, except for age groups 6 to 8, and that of the secretary or other registered official of the team, shall be attested by another party. The signing of a Registration Form by a player of 17 years of age or under must be witnessed by a parent or guardian. All other age groups must be witnessed but not necessarily by a parent or guardian.

47 An original signed SFA Summary Sheet as created by the online registration system must be submitted to the SYFA in hard or electronic or faxed copy. The SFA Summary Sheet should only be submitted once.

The original signed SFA Recreational Registration Form must be retained by the club for a period of two months after the completion of the season. The original signed SFA Recreational Registration Form must be submitted to the SYFA if so requested within 7 days.

48 Any change of address for a team's registered player must be amended online by the registered secretary of the team or player registration office to whom such player is registered. Amendments must be made within 14 days of said change of address. Any other changes to a players details to be informed to the SYFA in writing.

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

50 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) Development Football**

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

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

52 Both SFA Recreational Forms and Associate Player registration shall be binding on the player and the club as follows:

Development season registration shall be binding until 31 December of the season for which the player is registered unless cancelled at an earlier date.

53 A member team playing within development 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.

54 A player playing within development football and registered by means of an SFA Recreational Form or a local League / Association Registration Form shall only play for the team for which he is registered, except that he may play for another development team within the same SYFA registered club or another development team in membership of the SYFA under the following criteria:

- (1) The member team for whom the player first registers will be the player's registered team
- (2) The player's registered team must give written permission using the SYFA Secondary Registration Form that is available in the download section of the Scottish Youth FA website to allow the player to play for a second member team. If permission is not granted, the player will only be permitted to play for the registered team

- (3) Any member team wishing to play a player who is registered for another member team must firstly obtain permission in writing, using the SYFA Secondary Registration Form that is available in the download section of the SYFA website, from the player's registered team before the player is permitted to play for them
- (4) Any member team wishing to play a player who is registered for another member team must submit the fully completed SYFA Form to their league / association secretary for final approval and storage
- (5) Any member team wishing to register a player(s) who are registered on an SFA Recreational Form shall only be permitted to submit SYFA Forms for a maximum of 3 players
- (6) The player's registered team and the second member team that the player wishes to play for must play at the same age group
- (7) The player's registered team and the second member team that the player wishes to play for must not be in membership of the same league / association or play on the same day. Teams may seek dispensation from the league/association secretary at point 4 above
- (8) The player's registered team have first call on the player if there is a clash of fixtures

### **Registration of Player(s) Competitive Football**

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

Access to the online player registration system for teams participating within a competitive season will be after the team affiliates and on or after 1 May to teams who have renewed their membership. Teams who have renewed their membership can commence registering players who have been registered for them and not cancelled in the current season. After 31 May of each season a team may approach and sign an unregistered player of another club if they so desire.

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.

Access to the online player registration system will be on or after 1 June to teams who have obtained membership for the first time. New member teams can commence registering players who have not been registered for any other club after 1 June.

56 SFA Recreational Forms shall be binding on the player and the team as follows:

Competitive season registration shall be binding until 30 June of the season for which the player is registered unless cancelled at an earlier date

57 A player shall not be eligible to play for a member team in a cup-tie unless he is 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.

58 In any other match a player shall not be eligible to play on a fifth occasion for the same team without having been registered on the relevant official Registration Form before playing, and a team may not play more than 4 unregistered players in any such match.

Unregistered players must be marked as trialists on the teamline (in the player's ID section) and failure to do so will be deemed that the player is ineligible. For trialists who do not have an SFA player registration ID number, the team must retain the player's full proper name,

address, date of birth and place of registration of birth and provide this on request to the relevant match secretary within 24 hours of the request.

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.

59 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.

60 A player shall only play for the team for which he is registered, except as otherwise permitted by Rules 42 & 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.

61 It shall be considered an offence:

- (1) for a player to sign any registration Form whilst under a dated suspension
- (2) for a player who at any time held status as a non-amateur to declare himself an amateur unless he has 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 his 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 registered on an SFA Recreational Form after 31 March in the current season to participate in any Cup Competitions for that season except where covered by these rules.

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 A player registered by means of an SFA Recreational Form or a local League / Association Registration Form shall only play for the team for which he is registered, except that he may play:

- (1) for another team in membership of the SYFA provided that to do so is not contrary to the regulations of the SYFA
- (2) for a representative team selected and organised by a recognised football body
- (3) 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;

(4) for a team in membership of the SYFA or in membership of an Affiliated Association in any match in which he is eligible to play provided that the written permission of his team is obtained prior to each match, unless he is 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 he is 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 he was 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 his registration cancelled by submitting a written request to the secretary of the player's current team. On receiving such a request, the team secretary should check that the player has no outstanding commitments to the team, and should then go online and cancel the player's registration directly on the SFA registration system.

68 A team desiring to have a player's registration cancelled, the team secretary or player registration officer must go online and cancel the player's registration direct on the SFA registration system.

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. The team for which said player registers should send the registration form to the SYFA accompanied by a letter from the player which indicates the number of matches of his suspension he has still to serve. The games played by that new team from the date of receipt will be counted towards suspension.

Only after the completion of a dated suspension will a player be allowed to sign and register for a member team.

71 When a player and a team for which he is registered are unable mutually to agree to the cancellation of his registration, the player may apply in writing to the SYFA to have his registration cancelled.

In such circumstances, the SYFA will write to the player's team to seek an explanation as to why the team refuses to cancel the player's registration. If the SYFA does not receive a reply from the team within 7 days the player's registration will be cancelled by SYFA.

On receipt of a reply from the team if SYFA is satisfied that the player has met all his commitments to the team the player's registration will be cancelled.

On receipt of a reply from the team if SYFA is not satisfied that the player has met all his commitments to the team the player's registration will not be cancelled.

The player will only be eligible to participate again in football after receiving written notification from the SYFA.

A player may only have his registration cancelled in such a manner, once per season.

72 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.

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

#### **Matches**

74 All matches where there is 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 and the SYFA Playing Rules for Small Sided Games (appendix 1).

75 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 17's age groups
- 80 minutes in the 16's and 15's age groups
- 70 minutes in the 14's and 13's 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 played under the jurisdiction of the SYFA each team will hand to the referee before the start of the game two official lists containing the full proper name and SFA player registration ID number for each player in their team and also the full name and address of the person in charge of the team for the match and the name and signature of the qualified First Aid Official present at the match.

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 his/her team's sole responsibility to verify to their opponents and the referee the eligibility of any player so challenged.

- 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 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.

- 78 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.

- 79 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 SYFA Playing Rules for Small Sided Games (appendix 1)

13s to 18s age groups - 5 substitutes from 5 named substitutes

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

For 11-a-side matches, the substitutes' full proper name and SFA player registration ID number must appear on the team list and be numbered respectively. 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.

- 80 For all matches to be played under the jurisdiction of the SYFA it will be deemed the responsibility of the home team to supply changing accommodation for their opponents and the referee. The changing accommodation should be adjacent to the pitch where the match is to take place and should contain washing and toilet facilities. If the changing

accommodation is at a different location to that of the pitch where the match is to take place, the home team must provide transport for their opponents and the referee.

- 81 Matches involving male and female players may be played providing that all of the participating players meet the requirements of the Registration Procedures of the SYFA for a team participating up to and including age group 16 and the following conditions:
- a) The League/Association of which the team is in membership or for regional competitions the appropriate Regional Secretary must be informed in writing of a team's wish to involve male and female players in the same team
  - b) The team secretary of any team wishing to play male and female players in the same team for an away match will be responsible for informing their opponents and checking that separate suitable facilities are available. The opposition secretary must advise accordingly at least 24 hours before the scheduled kick off time. If no suitable facilities are available it is the responsibility of the team wishing to play male and female players in the same team to make alternative arrangements.
- 82 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.
- 83 It is not permissible to video record or take photographs of any match under the jurisdiction of the SYFA unless it has been agreed in writing by both participating teams and the organising committee. All forms of photography to comply with the SYFA's policy Code of Good Conduct for the use of Photographs.

#### **Playing Kit**

- 84 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.
- 85 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**

- 86 A player shall be considered cup-tied in the competition(s) he has 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 he played in the competition resigns its membership of the SYFA before 1 October in the season.
- 87 A player can only play for one team in any Cup Competition except as per Rule 88.
- 88 All players except for a player whose customary position is that of goalkeeper, registered on an SFA Recreational 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.

89 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 Semi-final rounds of such competition for the team for which he is to participate in the Final Tie.

90 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 he played to prove his 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.

91 In all Cup Competition matches each team will hand to the referee before the start of the game, two official lists containing the full proper names and SFA player registration ID numbers for each player in their team and also the full name and address of the person in charge of the team for the match. The use of abbreviations and dittos is not permissible and if found to have occurred the team may have action taken against them. Both lists shall be compared and signed by the Referee and one list shall be given to the opposing team secretary prior to the kick-off. No game shall be allowed to commence without team lists of both teams being completed and signed by the Referee.

The referee and all registered officials must not pass team lists onto any other party for any reason except as designated in Rule 92.

Any team violating this rule will be reported to the relevant Disciplinary Committee.

92 The Referee should forward the other copy of the team lists fully completed, including the result and the number of substitutes used or unused by each team, to the relevant Match Secretary within 3 days of the match (Sunday excluded).

93 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.

- 94 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.
- 95 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.
- 96 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.
- 97 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.
- 98 All competing teams must notify their Match Secretary of the match result, or if it is unplayed, before 6pm on the date of the match and not later than 9.00pm for midweek matches. Teams failing to comply with this rule will be fined an amount set annually by the relevant Committee.
- 99 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 30 November

- 100 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.
- 101 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**

- 102 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 and 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 The Board shall have discretion to organise Supplementary Cup Competitions as deemed necessary relative to the National Cup Competitions. Any team which has not taken part in the National Cup Competitions as defined in Rule 102 shall not be eligible to take part in the Supplementary Cup Competition. All Supplementary Cup ties will be played to a finish and in the event of a draw with the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the rules laid down by the International Football Association Board.
- 106 Sixteen medals will be awarded to each of the finalist teams in the Cup Competitions.
- 107 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.
- 108 The entry fee per team for each competition shall be fixed annually by the Board.
- 109 Teams in each competition shall be grouped in regions as determined by SYFA. The names of the teams in each competition shall be placed in a lot or lots and drawn in couples at a time until the requisite number of ties for the round, as determined by the SYFA, is drawn. The teams whose names are not drawn shall receive a bye into the next round.

The teams in each couple shall compete and the names of the winning teams and the names of the teams which received a bye shall be placed in a lot or lots and drawn in couples at a time for ties in the next round. The teams in each couple shall compete as in the previous round and so on, until two teams are left to compete in the final tie.

- 110 The teams, which are first drawn in each tie, shall have choice of ground except in the case of the semi-final and final ties, which shall be played on grounds selected by the SYFA. The teams, which have the choice of ground in each tie or replay, shall have 4 weeks to play the tie. If the tie is postponed for a fourth time the SYFA would investigate the circumstances surrounding said cancellations and may take the decision to reverse the tie. The SYFA's decision will be final and binding on all parties.

In the event of a tie being postponed the rescheduled match will take place 7 days after the date of the original postponed match.

For any ties that have not taken place by the scheduled date of the next round the tie in the next round will take place 7 days after the previous round tie has been decided. Under exceptional circumstances as determined by the SYFA a dispensation may be granted to allow the tie to take place no later than 14 days after the previous round tie has been decided.

For all ties it is only permissible to play matches on grass or synthetic surface with a rubber infill.

Goal nets are compulsory for all National Cup Ties.

- 111 In The Scottish Youth FA 18s Cup, The Scottish Youth FA 17's Cup, The Scottish Youth FA 16's Cup, The Scottish Youth FA 15's Cup, The Scottish Youth FA 14's Cup, The Scottish Youth FA 13's Cup in the event of the score being level after the stipulated playing time has been completed extra time will be played. Should the score remain level after extra time is completed then the result of the tie will be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the rules laid down by the International Football Association Board.

- 112 National Cup draws shall be placed on the SYFA website.
- 113 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.

- 114 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.
- 115 Any Team intending to scratch must give notice to the SYFA and the opposing team secretary 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.
- 116 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.
- 117 When a tie other than a semi-final or final tie is postponed it shall automatically be relisted 7 days later unless it has been agreed to play earlier. It will be the duty of the home team to reconfirm with their opponents and the referee the arrangements for playing the tie, on a weekly basis at least 72 hours before the date of the tie.
- 118 The team which is the home team in each tie shall play the match on the day their league or association normally competes e.g. Saturday or Sunday. It is only acceptable to change the day and kick-off time if agreed by the SYFA and both teams and the referee agree. The only exception is semi-final and final ties, which shall be played on dates selected by the SYFA.

For all pitches that are synthetic surfaces with a rubber infill or grass pitches with floodlights the match kick-off can be between 12 noon and 4pm. All other matches will have a kick-off at either 12 noon or 1pm 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 extra time and the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the rules laid down by the International Football Association Board.

- 119 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.

- 120 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 he shall be paid half the referee's fee which shall be met by the home team.

- 121 In semi-final and 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.

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

- 123 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.

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

- 125 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**

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

#### **Development Squads**

- 127 Players of teams operating under the auspices of the SYFA, when selected by the SYFA or one of its Regional Committees to take part in representative or trial games, development competitions or when selected by the SYFA to take part in International or representative games may not refuse such selection except for reasons of injury or illness or with the consent of the SYFA. If the player refuses such selection he will not be eligible to play for their registered team on the said date. The Board shall investigate the reasons behind any infringement of this rule in relation to the concerned player(s), officials or his team and may take such action as it may consider appropriate. Any team who has a player or official selected to take part in any International or 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.

Any player who is selected for an SYFA National Development Squad must, throughout that same season, also participate in all their Regional Squad Activities if selected by that said Region, 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. Any scheduling conflicts would be discussed between the National Development Officer and the relevant Region.

### **Tournaments and Friendly Matches**

- 128 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.
- 129 All matches must be sanctioned by SYFA or a member region, league or association.
- 130.1 The procedure for making application for permits to participate in friendly matches and/or tournaments will be as follows:
- 1) If you are playing a friendly match against another SYFA member team from within your league, application must be made to your local league secretary using your league's procedures
  - 2) If you are playing a friendly match against another SYFA member team who are not in your league but are in the same region, application must be made by the home team to the regional secretary using your region's procedures. However the away team must have permission from their league secretary in writing, an email is acceptable, and must send a copy to the home team to accompany their application. The regional secretary must not issue permits unless the approval of both teams' league secretary is supplied
  - 3) If you are playing a friendly match against another SYFA member team who are not in your region, application must be made to the SYFA using the online system. However, the away team must have permission from their league secretary in writing, an email is acceptable, and must send a copy to the home team to accompany their application. The SYFA must not issue permits unless the approval of both teams' league secretary is supplied
  - 4) If you are playing a friendly match against a club who are not in membership of the SYFA, application must be made to the SYFA using the online system
  - 5) If you are playing a friendly match against a club who are not in membership of the Scottish FA (an international match against non-Scottish opposition), application must be made to the SYFA using the online system who will seek the permission of UEFA and/or FIFA.
- 130.2 SYFA Permission to play Friendly Matches out with their Registered Age Group. Match permits will not be issued to SYFA member teams at age groups 6 to 17 to play matches against a team or club outwith their registered age group unless the following procedures have been followed by participating SYFA clubs:
- 1) For a friendly match involving SYFA member teams in the same league, permission must be sought in accordance with point 130.1.1 above. The younger age group team must give the name and age group of their opponents and submit a letter stating that their players will be physically and mentally capable of playing against the older age group team. The league secretary will then determine if a match permit is to be issued

- 2) For a friendly match involving SYFA member teams who are not in the same league but are in the same region, permission must be sought in accordance with point 130.1.2 above. The younger age group team must give the name and age group of their opponents and submit a letter stating that their players will be physically and mentally capable of playing against the older age group team. The regional secretary will then determine if a match permit is to be issued
- 3) For a friendly match involving SYFA member teams who are not in the same region, permission must be sought in accordance with point 130.1.3 above. The younger age group team must give the name and age group of their opponents and submit a letter stating that their players will be physically and mentally capable of playing against the older age group team. The SYFA will then determine if a match permit is to be issued
- 4) For a friendly match involving an SYFA member team and a club not in membership of the SYFA, permission must be sought in accordance with point 130.1.4 above. The SYFA member team must give the name and age group of their opponents and submit a letter stating that their players will be physically and mentally capable of playing against the club not in membership of the SYFA. The SYFA will then determine if a match permit is to be issued
- 5) Match permits may be issued subject to the above permission procedure to SYFA member regions, leagues, associations or teams wishing to play against any club in the Scottish FA's Club Academy Programme giving the name and age group of their opponents. The SYFA will then determine if a match permit is to be issued.

130.3 SYFA Permission to play Away Fixtures and Trips with Overnight Stays. The application process shall be in accordance with 130.2 points 3 to 5 above with the following additions:

- 1) All teams before seeking a permission permit must download the Advice Sheets, Away Fixtures and Trips with Overnight Stays giving consideration to the following documents:
  - 1.1 SYFA Advice sheets No 1 to 8 as appropriate
  - 1.2 Before booking a trip
  - 1.3 Before and during a trip
  - 1.4 After a trip
  - 1.5 SYFA risk strategy
  - 1.6 SYFA risk register for trips
- 2) All teams must complete a risk assessment on behalf of their team covering their trip when seeking a permission permit from SYFA.

At age group 12 teams will only be allowed to play competitive tournaments or 11 a side matches as and when permitted by the SYFA.

- 131 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.
- 132 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**

- 133 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.
- 134 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.
- 135 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.
- 136 The Chief Operating Officer shall inform the Board of any debt suspensions applying to clubs, teams, leagues or associations.
- 137 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.
- 138 The SYFA shall recognise and give effect to such suspensions as are confirmed by The Scottish Football Association and to any suspension imposed by a club, league or association. All dated suspensions imposed by a club, league or association must be submitted to the SYFA for confirmation within seven days of being passed.
- 139 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**

- 140 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.



- 141 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**

- 142 Protests relative to the ground, goalposts, crossbar or other appurtenances of the game, must be intimated in writing and be signed by the Referee and to the secretary or official in charge of the opposing team at the time the infringement takes place or prior to the match kicking off.

These protests and claims for ties and other protests by claiming/protesting team concerning the eligibility of players which must specify the grounds of ineligibility must be lodged in writing and contain an original handwritten signature of the appellant, accompanied by a deposit of £40.00 by the protesting team to the SYFA and a verbatim copy lodged with the team protested against, both to be sent by recorded signed for or special delivery and to bear a postmark not later than the second day after the match (excluding Sunday).

Where the protest regards an alleged ineligible player the team protested against must supply to the team protesting and the SYFA in writing proof of the player's eligibility within 5 days of receipt of the protest. The required proof to be sent by recorded signed for or special delivery. The supplied proof will be used by the committee hearing the protest.

If the protest is considered trivial or groundless the protesting team may be held liable for all or part of the expenses connected with the protest and forfeit their deposit.

For all protests and claims for ties, the protesting/claiming team must have written proof in respect of their protest/claim. The specific grounds must be supported by written proof e.g. a protest/claim has been properly lodged, original recorded posting receipts, a certificate proving that the match was listed by the relevant match secretary, a certificate that a player participated in the match or a certificate that a specific player was either registered or not registered or that a person was suspended.

All protest/claim letters must be signed by a registered team official of the protesting/claiming team.

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, no protest or claim is required.

### **Appeals**

- 143 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.

- 144 A club, team, player or registered club official may appeal to the Appeals Committee against the decision of a Club, League, Association, General Purposes, Protection Panel or Regional Board affecting such club, team, player or registered club official.

Such appeals which must contain an original handwritten signature of the appellant, complete with the specific grounds of appeal, all paperwork that they wish to present to the appeals committee and a copy of the written notice of decision to be appealed against, shall be dispatched to the SYFA, Hampden Park, Glasgow, G42 9BF by recorded signed for or special delivery within seven days of receipt of written notice of the decision of the league, association or club concerned.

A deposit shall be lodged with each appeal. In the case of a player signing and lodging an appeal this shall be £30, and in the case of any other appellant lodging an appeal it shall be £60. This deposit may be forfeited if the Appeals Committee so decides.

If the Appeals Committee considers the appeal frivolous or trivial, the appellant may be liable to a financial levy the scale of which shall be fixed annually by the Appeals Committee. An appeal hearing shall not be conducted as a re-hearing of the case nor shall fresh evidence be submitted or heard.

- 145 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 chairman of the Appeals Committee, whose decision thereon shall be final and binding. In the absence of either the Chief Operating Officer and/or the chairman of the appeals committee, the Chairman and/or the Vice Chairman shall be entitled to act as an alternative in considering the representations.
- 146 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.
- 147 Appeals, which relate to any matter affecting the result of a cup-tie or which would interrupt the playing of a competition shall not be entertained as per the Judicial Panel Protocol of the Scottish Football Association.
- 148 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.

## Appendix 1

Rules for Small Sided Games are downloadable from the Scottish Youth FA website.