

SMALL-SIDED FOOTBALL REGULATIONS 2024-25 SEASON

AMENDMENTS

REGULATION	AMENDMENT
PLAYING EQUIPMENT 2.2	Added additional content to state that <i>'shin pads must be made of a suitable material to provide reasonable protection and covered by the socks. The FAW does not advocate the use of 'mini shin pads' as these do not provide suitable protection.'</i>
ORGANISATION OF MATCHES, FESTIVALS AND FUN DAYS 3.3	Added additional content to state that 'Results of festival/round robin matches at these age groups should not be published due to the non-competitive nature of small-sided football.'
POSITIVE MATCH DAY CULTURE 5.1.1	Added additional content to state that 'Smoking and vaping is banned from the sideline.'
POSITIVE MATCH DAY CULTURE 5.1.8	Added additional content to state that 'Buffer Zones should be marked by using portable crowd barriers, cones or a marked line.'
THE RULES OF SMALL-SIDED FOOTBALL 2.6	Added content to state that 'If a Junior League feels that based on a player's ability or physicality, he or she should be playing down one-year group, permission to play down must be gained annually in accordance with FAW Rule 88 with approval from the relevant Area Association to enable players to play down.
THE RULES OF SMALL-SIDED FOOTBALL 2.7	Added content to state 'Teams can only request to move up an age group en masse prior to the commencement of a league season. This will enable leagues to deliver a sustainable games programme for all participating clubs.'
THE RULES OF SMALL-SIDED FOOTBALL 2.8 REMOVAL	Removal of previous rule 2.8 given all players are now allowed to play up one academic year.
2.8 NEW REGULATION	Players are allowed to play both within grassroots teams and FAW Licensed Academies from Under 8 to Under 11 age groups only. Where this applies, the grassroots club shall hold the player registration on the Comet platform. For the avoidance of doubt, where an Under 11



	grassroots player is playing one year up at Under 12, they may also continue to play academy football at Under 11 age group only as per the one player one club FIFA ruling.
COACHES AND TEAM HELPERS 3.4.1	Added content 'Clubs are to ensure that each age group squad has at least ONE qualified coach, minimum FAW Football Leaders Award. (CAP 2.3.3). all participating teams must submit a team sheet via COMET on match days. This is to identify what players have participated on any given match day. Teams DO NOT need to submit a team sheet for each individual festival/round robin match.'
COACHES AND TEAM HELPERS 3.4.3	Added content: 'A club may appoint volunteers to the role of 'team helper' with any team. Subject to completion of a FAW DBS check, these individuals can supervise young people to ensure the correct player to adult ratio is maintained. (CAP 2.3.2). For clarity, where a club has multiple small-sided teams at the same age group attending a venue, 1 qualified coach with an FAW Leaders Award must be present along with a first aider. Team helpers with a valid DBS check can assist with the organising of teams at a venue where a qualified coach is present.'
SUBSTITUTES 4.3	Amended wording to state 'All players in the squad should participate in a minimum of 50% of the total playing time during a match day. <i>For example, at under 8 where there is a total maximum playing duration of 50 minutes, all players should participate in at least 25 minutes (50%) of the total game time available.'</i>
OFF-SIDE 7.0	Added content ' There is no off-side in Small-Sided Football at ages Under 6 – Under 11.

9V9 FORMAT REGULATION CHANGES (UNDER 12 & UNDER 13)

9V9 PLAYING FORMAT – 15.1 & 15.3	At Under 13 age group, the pitch length should be increased from 64 yards to 76 yards and between 44-54 yards wide.
9v9 GOAL SIZE 15.4	Added content: ' It is recommended that match day goal frames should be made of plastic or metal material to ensure a sturdy goal frame..
MATCH DURATION AT 9V9 – 15.6.2 REMOVED	Removed previous 15.6.2 rule given this is now irrelevant as school academic year 6 players can participate and play up one year in competitive U12 football.
TEAM ROSTERS 15.2.3	Added new section ' The use of team rosters for all League and Cup competitions are compulsory at Under 12 age group and above for all junior leagues. This will help with managing competition integrity.'

