



Season 2023/2024 BCFA Youth Football League - Under 12 up to Under 18 Cup Competitions Rules

1. The League will run Cup Competitions for Under 12's, 13's, 14's, 15's, 16's, 17's and 18's which shall be designated as the BCFA Youth Football League Cup Competitions.
2. The Competitions shall be conducted on a group basis and knock-out basis or purely as a knock-out as determined by the League Management Committee and shall be open to Clubs in the respective age group Divisions of the Competition. The Competitions shall be affiliated to the Essex County Football Association. Any team currently only playing friendlies will not be eligible to enter a cup competition.
3. The Competitions shall be managed by the respective age group Fixture Secretaries.
4. As per all competitive divisional games team sheets must be checked before the commencement of each cup game.
5. If a team is unable to present a team sheet, then the game will be counted as a friendly and not counted as the scheduled cup match. This must be reported to the relevant age group secretary on the day of the match. The outcome of the match will then be decided by the Discipline Committee. Please see League Rule 18Q.
6. Eligibility of all registered members of the Club must be in accordance with League Rule 18 (A). To be eligible to play in the semi-Final and Final ties, players must be registered at least 21 days before the match and have played for such Team in at least THREE BCFA Youth League competitive matches during the current season. These shall include all rounds up to and including the semi-final of the Cup and League matches, but shall NOT include any County Cup, friendly or representative matches.
7. A player can only represent a single team in any one season in the cup. Once they have played, they become cup-tied and cannot play for any other team in any age group cup competition. It shall be a breach of League Rules for a player to play for more than one team and any team risks being removed from the Cup Competitions if this is proven.
8. The maximum squad size for all games (including the final) in the divisional U12 cup competitions is 14 (9 players plus 5 substitutes).
9. The maximum squad size for all games (including the final) in the divisional U13 to U18 cup competitions is 16.
10. The draw shall be made by the relevant age group Fixture Secretary who will also fix the grounds and dates by which the ties will be played. The duration of play for: Under 12's shall be 60 minutes (30 minutes each way); for Under 13's and 14's it shall be 70 minutes (35 minutes each way); for Under 15's and 16's it shall be 80 minutes (40 minutes each way) and for Under 17's and 18's it shall be 90 minutes (45 minutes each way). For all ties if, in the opinion of the Referee, light or conditions will not permit the playing of the stated normal duration of the game, playing times may be reduced by 5 minutes each way.
11. For group matches a drawn game is permitted with no extra time or penalties.
12. For all knock out matches if the scores are equal at the end of each game, no extra time is to be played and the match shall be decided by a penalty competition in conformance with the current rules of the Football Association. Five spot kicks each side, followed by sudden death.
13. Only those players on the pitch at the end of the match can take a penalty.
14. On the second occasion that a match is postponed due to the home pitch being unfit or otherwise unavailable, the match is to be switched to the opponents ground if they have a pitch available.
15. Each Club shall be deemed to have given its assent to the foregoing Rules and to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee, subject to Rule 7 of the League Rules.
16. For all cup games except the final, whether a group stage or knock out match the referee fee is split 50/50 between the home and away teams.