



Season 2025/2026 BCFA Youth Football League Under 12 up to Under 18 Cup Competition 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. All Cup Competitions shall be conducted on a group basis and knock-out basis or purely as a Knock-Out competition as agreed by the League Management Committee and shall be open to teams 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 respective age group Fixture Secretaries shall manage the Competitions.
4. Each cup competition will be for a maximum of teams from 2 Divisions. The standard order of sequence is shown below:
 - a. BCFA Cup: Premier & Championship Divisions
 - b. BCFA Trophy: Divisions 1 & 2
 - c. BCFA Vase: Divisions 3 & 4
 - d. BCFA Plate: Divisions 5 & 6
 - e. BCFA Jug: Divisions 7 & 8
 - f. BCFA Bowl: Divisions 9 & 10
5. The home team must inform their opponent of Cup Match details (Kick off time & Venue) at least 5 days in advance of the cup match and advise their opponent of their playing kit colours.
 - a. In the event of a kit colour clash, the away team changes (or wears bibs)
6. As per all competitive matches Squad Lists (team sheets) must be checked before the commencement of each cup game.
7. If a team fails to present their Squad List to the opposition on the day of the cup match, then League Policy 1g will apply. This must be reported to the relevant age group secretary on the day of the match. Please also see League Rule 18Q.
8. 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 semi-final of the relevant competition and have played for such Team in at least five BCFA Youth League competitive matches during the current season. These shall include all rounds up to the semi-final of the Cup and League matches, but shall NOT include any County Cup, friendly or representative matches.
9. A player can only represent one team in a cup competition each season.

Once a player has played a cup match, they become cup-tied and cannot play for any other team in any other age group in the BCFA cup competitions.

A player playing for more than one team in BCFA Cup Competitions in the same season is a breach of BCFA Cup Competition rules. Teams risk being removed from the Cup Competitions if fielding a cup tied player.
10. The maximum squad size for all games (including the final) in the divisional U12 cup competitions is 14 (9 players plus 5 substitutes).
11. The maximum squad size for all games (including the final) in the divisional U13 to U18 cup competitions is 16. (11 players + 5 Subs)

12. 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.
13. The duration of play for:
 - Under 12's shall be 60 minutes (30 minutes each way).
 - Under 13's and 14's it shall be 70 minutes (35 minutes each way).
 - Under 15's and 16's it shall be 80 minutes (40 minutes each way).
 - 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.
14. For all knock out matches if the scores are equal at the end of each game, no extra time is to be played. The match shall be decided by a penalty shootout in conformance with the current rules of the Football Association. Five spot kicks each side, followed by sudden death.
15. Only those players on the pitch at the end of the match can take a penalty.
16. 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 opponent's ground if they have a pitch available.
17. 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.
18. Both teams will notify the result of each competition match to the Full-Time website by SMS before 6pm on the day of the match.
19. Both teams will complete & submit their team sheets for the match on Full-Time by the Wednesday evening following the match.

Referee's

1. For BCFA Cup Competitions if the league appoints a referee to a cup match, they must be used.
2. If a league referee has not been appointed for a cup match, both teams must agree on a suitable person to officiate as referee for the match.
3. For all cup games except the final, whether a group stage or knock out match the referee fee is split 50/50 (of current BFC League Referee Fees) between the home and away teams.

BCFA Cup Competition Finals

1. Will be played at a venue arranged by the BCFA Youth League
2. No fees are required to be paid for Cup Finals.
3. Registered Players who are eligible to play will only be permitted in the team changing room area's before, during or after their team's cup final.
 - Non-Playing squad players are permitted in the dugout but are not permitted to wear team strips.
 - Players not eligible to play or suspended are not permitted in the dugout or changing rooms.
4. A maximum of 3 team/club officials are permitted in the team changing room area's before, during or after their team's cup final.
5. Team managers & coaches who are registered to the team on Full-Time only will be permitted in the team changing room area's before, during & after their team's cup final.
6. Team officials Name + photograph must be included on the team's squad list.
Team officials not identified on the Squad List (including photograph) will not be permitted in the changing room areas or pitch side at any time.

The League will not enter any debate or discussion. It is each team's responsibility to ensure their squad lists are correct & up to date with FA requirements for eligibility.

BCFA Cup Final Matches

1. Player's playing kit must be numbered individually. No duplicate numbers allowed.
2 or more players must not wear the same number on their shirts (or shorts).
2. Players names must not be printed on their shirts.
3. Teams should be in their dressing room & ready to line up in the tunnel 5 mins before kick-off.
4. The match officials will lead the teams out to the pitch for Final line-up and respect handshakes.
5. Unless otherwise agreed with the BCFA in advance, Cup Finalists must wear their club colours.
6. Goalkeepers and outfield players are not permitted to play in black or very dark shirts.

7. There is no extra time. Drawn matches will proceed to Penalty Kicks.
8. Each club that reaches a Cup Competition Final are to nominate 1 official to assist the League Officials at their cup final.

Substitutions.

- Will be facilitated by the 4th official at the halfway line. Further explained on the day.