



Season 2023/2024 BCFA Youth Football League - Under 9 to Under 10 Trophy Competition and Under 11 Trophy Competitions Rules

1. The League will run Trophy Competitions for Under 9, Under 10 and Under 11 which shall be designated as the BCFA Youth Football League Trophy 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 Trophy competition.
3. The Competitions shall be managed by the respective age group Fixture Secretaries.
4. For any Under 9 and Under 10 Trophy Competition this will be held over a 4 week period in accordance with League Rule 20a
5. For any Under 11 Trophy Competition this will be held over a 6 week period in accordance with League Rule 20a
6. As these matches are considered as competitive games team sheets must be checked before the commencement of each Trophy game.
7. 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 Trophy 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.
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 Final tie, players must be registered at least 21 days before the match.
9. A player can only represent a single team in any one season in the Trophy. Once they have played, they become Trophy-tied and cannot play for any other team in any age group Trophy 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 Trophy Competitions if this is proven.
10. The maximum squad size for all games (including the final) in the divisional U9 and U10 Trophy competitions is 14 (7 players plus 7 substitutes).
11. The maximum squad size for all games (including the final) in the divisional U11 Trophy competitions is 14 (9 players plus 5 substitutes).
12. The draw shall be made by the 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 9's and 10's - 50 minutes (25 minutes each way) and for Under 11's it shall be 60 minutes (30 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.
13. 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.
14. Only those players on the pitch at the end of the match can take a penalty.
15. For group matches a drawn game is permitted with no extra time or penalties.
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 opponents 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. For all Trophy 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.