



Season 2025/2026 BCFA Youth Football League - Under 9 to Under 11 League Cup Competitions and Under 11 Trophy Competition Rules

1. The League will run Cup Competitions for Under 9, Under 10 and Under 11 which shall be designated as the BCFA Youth Football League Cup Competitions – these will consist of League Cup, League Plate, League Trophy, League Vase, League Bowl or League Jug. The U11 Trophy competition is based on mini-League tables of maximum 6 teams where team plays each other once. These mini divisions are named after American States e.g. U11 Nebraska Trophy.
2. The U11 Trophy competition will be optional for teams. If a team does not want to enter, they must notify the U11 Fixture Secretary.
3. 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/Trophy competition.
4. The Competitions shall be managed by the respective age group Fixture Secretaries.
5. The Under 9, Under 10 and U11 League Cup Competitions timetable is shown in the League Calendar. The schedule may be extended if interrupted by bad weather.
6. The Under 11 Trophy Competition will be optional for teams. If a team wants to opt out of playing, they must notify the U11 Fixture Secretary. The timetable is shown in the League Calendar. Any scheduled match not played will be decided by the discipline committee.
7. All Cup and Trophy fixtures comprise of 2 halves and splitting into quarters is not permitted.
8. As matches are considered as competitive games, so the squad list must be checked before the commencement of each fixture.
9. If a team fails to present their squad list to the opposition on the day of the cup/trophy 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. The outcome of the match may then be decided by the Discipline Committee.
10. 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.
11. A player can only represent a single team in the season 25/26 Cup Competition. The same applies in the U11 Trophy competition. Once they have played, they become cup-tied and cannot play for any other team in any age group Cup or 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 Cup/Trophy Competitions if this is proven.
12. The maximum squad size for all games (including the final) in the divisional U9 and U10 Cup competitions is 14 (7 players plus 7 substitutes).
13. The maximum squad size for all games (including the final) in the divisional U11 Cup competitions is 14 (9 players plus 5 substitutes).
14. 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 should 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.
15. For all knockout 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.
16. Only those players on the pitch at the end of the match can take a penalty.
17. For group matches a drawn game is permitted with no extra time or penalties.
18. 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.
19. 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.

20. For all Cup/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.
21. If any cup fixture is postponed due to any other reason than prevailing weather conditions, then any charge raised must be responded to within 2 days. This will allow the discipline committee to adjudicate on the outcome of the postponement within 5 days of the fixture being played.

BCFA Cup Competition Finals

- A. League Cup Finals will all be played on a single day at a central location.
- B. No referee fees are required to be paid for Cup Finals.
- C. All Teams must hand in a printed copy of their squad list on arrival. The squad list must be dated within 7 days of the final.
- D. A maximum of 3 team/club officials are permitted to be on the touch line.
- E. All parents/supporters must remain behind the barriers.
- F. Teams will only be allowed on the pitch when invited.
- G. Team officials without a photo ID on the squad list will not be permitted on the touchline.
- H. Player's playing kit must be numbered individually. No duplicate numbers allowed. Two or more players must not wear the same number on their shirts (or shorts).
- I. Players' names must not be printed on their shirts.
- J. The match officials will lead the teams out to the pitch for final line-up and respect handshakes.
- K. Unless otherwise agreed with the BCFA in advance, cup finalists must wear their club colours.
- L. Goalkeepers and outfield players are not permitted to play in black or very dark shirts.
- M. Roll on roll off substitutes as per league fixture.
- N. All referees will be a BCFA appointed referee.

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