



## **LEAGUE AND LEAGUE CUP RULES FOR THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S FOOTBALL YOUTH REGIONAL LEAGUES 2020 ("THE RULES")**

Rules for the North, East, West, Central, South-West and South-East Regions from age group 9s to 17s.

### **INTRODUCTION**

- (a) Unless the context otherwise requires, words or expressions contained in the League and League Cup Competition Rules shall bear the same meaning as in the Articles of Scottish Women's Football.
- (b) Unless the context otherwise requires, words importing the singular only shall include the plural and vice versa.
- (c) The headings are inserted for convenience only and shall not affect the construction of the Rules.
- (d) All references to a ground shall mean a registered ground, unless otherwise specified, within the context of these Rules.
- (e) Disciplinary matters relating to field offences and club officials misconduct shall be dealt with in accordance with the relevant Disciplinary Procedures of Scottish Women's Football.

### **1. Name of Competitions**

The League shall be called "The Scottish Women's Football Youth Regional League" (the League(s)) unless title sponsorship is achieved.

The League Cup(s) shall be called "The Scottish Women's Football Youth Regional League Cup" (the League Cup(s)) unless title sponsorship is achieved.

Scottish Women's Football shall organise and administer the League(s) and the League Cup(s) in accordance with the Rules and the Laws of the Game, and as directed by the Regional League Management Committees, in conjunction with the Girls'/Women's Policy Working Group for the Under 13, Under 15 and Under 17 age groups.

### **2. Management, Nomination and Election**

- (a) The League(s) and the League Cup(s) shall be governed, in accordance with the Rules and the standard procedures of the Scottish Women's Football (SWF) Youth Regional Leagues, Scottish Women's Football and the Scottish FA, by (six) Regional League Management Committees (Regional Management Committees).

Each Regional Management Committee shall comprise a total of six representatives.



The representative's period of tenure shall be for one year from date of appointment.

Within each region, three representatives shall be nominated by the SWF Youth Regional Leagues, from members elected at a Regional Annual General Meeting, also referred to as an End of Season Meeting, of all clubs in that region.

The Scottish FA shall nominate a further three representatives, including the Chairperson.

A League Administrator, employed by Scottish Women's Football, shall provide secretariat and administrative support to the Regional Management Committee.

(b) Regional Management Committee members representing the SWF Youth Regional Leagues (retiring club representatives included) shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination.

Other club representatives seeking election to the Regional Management Committee shall be nominated by forwarding to the League Administrator in writing their intention to stand for election, and shall be formally supported in writing by the individual's member club.

Within each region, the names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the Regional Annual General Meeting of the SWF Youth Regional Leagues for that region. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the terms aforesaid, nominations may be received at the Regional Annual General Meeting.

If an election is required to determine the Management Committee representatives from the SWF Youth Regional Leagues, this will be conducted on the day of the Regional Annual General Meeting by ballot.

(c) The Management Committee shall meet as often as is necessary to deal with business as it arises.

(d) Except where otherwise stated, all communications shall be addressed to the League Administrator who shall be responsible for all League and League Cup correspondence and the proceedings of the Regional Management Committee.

Electronic mail (e-mail) shall be the primary method of communication used by clubs and the League Administrator in all correspondence.

Club communications and correspondence must be issued by the nominated Club Secretary and/or another nominated club official.

### **3. Powers of Management**

(a) Each Regional Management Committee has responsibility for all matters relating to the League(s) and the League Cup Competition(s) within their own Region. The Regional Management Committee shall consider, review and implement, where appropriate, recommendations of the Strong Quality Growth Committee and Girls'/Women's Policy Working Group.



(b) Each member of the Regional Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Regional Management Committee meetings and have one vote thereat. No member shall be allowed to vote on any matter directly appertaining to themselves or the club which they represent.

In the event of voting being equal on any matter, the Chairperson shall have a second and casting vote.

(c) The Regional Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the League(s) and the League Cup Competition(s) in consultation with the Strong Quality Growth Committee and Girls'/Women's Policy Working Group, including any not provided for in the Rules.

Except where the Rules provide for the imposition of a set penalty, any Club, Official or Player alleged to be in breach of a Competition Rule must be formally notified in writing and given the opportunity to present their case before the Regional Management Committee.

(d) The decisions of the Regional Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Article 44 of the Scottish Women's Football Appeals Procedure and Guidelines.

Decisions of the Regional Management Committee (Rule 29 (c) excluded) must be notified in writing to those concerned within seven days.

The decision against which any appeal is made will only be set aside when the appeal is received by Scottish Women's Football and agreed to be in order, and confirmation is received in writing by the parties concerned in accordance with Article 43 of the Scottish Women's Football Appeals Procedure and Guidelines.

Any decision taken by Scottish Women's Football is subject to appeal to the Judicial Panel of the Scottish FA in accordance with the Scottish FA Articles of Association and Judicial Panel Protocol.

(e) The quorum for any meeting of the Regional Management Committee shall be three.

(f) The Regional Management Committee shall, as it may deem necessary, have the power to fill in an acting capacity, any vacancies that may occur on the committee after consultation with the Strong Quality Growth Committee and Girls'/Women's Policy Working Group.

#### **4. The League Trophy and the League Cup Trophy – Ownership and Presentation (for age group 17s, 15s and 13s)**

(a) The trophies, including any replicas, are the property of SWF Youth Regional Leagues.

(b) The League trophies shall be presented to the team which wins each of the Leagues. The League Cup trophies shall be presented to the team which wins each of



the League Cups.

(c) The League Cup trophies shall be engraved and returned to the Regional Management Committee at the request of the League Administrator in the year following presentation, in good order and condition.

The League trophies shall be engraved and returned to the Regional Management Committee before the end of September in the year following presentation, in good order and condition.

## **5. Awards to Players and Officials**

The Regional Management Committee shall present a medal, 20 for 11-a-side competitions and 14 for 7-a-side competitions, in such form as the Regional Management Committee may decide to the winners and the runners up of each of the Leagues.

The Regional Management Committee shall present a medal, 20 for 11-a-side competitions and 14 for 7-a-side competitions, in such form as the Regional Management Committee may decide to the winners and the runners up of each of the League Cup Competitions.

The Regional Management Committee shall present a participation certificate (14 in total for 7-a-side teams and 10 in total for 5-a-side teams) to all teams participating in the 11s and 9s Leagues in such forms as the Regional Management Committee may decide.

## **6. Eligible Clubs**

The clubs competing in the League(s) and the League Cup Competition(s) must be in membership of Scottish Women's Football and the appropriate SWF Youth Regional League.

## **7. Compliance with Articles, League and League Cup Competition Rules**

The clubs eligible to participate in the Competitions shall be subject to both the Articles of Scottish Women's Football, the Scottish FA, the Rules and all other SWF Policies as amended from time to time.

## **8. Season**

The Competitions shall run as decided by the Regional Management Committee following recommendation by the Strong Quality Growth Committee and Girls'/Women's Policy Working Group in accordance with the Scottish FA's Annual Programme for Girls'/Women's Football.

## **9. Confirmation of Clubs Competing in the League**

(a) The Regional Management Committee shall confirm which clubs shall compete in the League(s) in consultation with the Strong Quality Growth Committee and the Girls'/Women's Policy Working Group.

(b) All League Clubs shall complete the annual affiliation process, including provision



(c) of required documentation and payment in full, to Scottish Women's Football

Clubs admitted to the League(s) shall pay an Affiliation Fee paid to Scottish Women's Football as part of the annual affiliation process.

Clubs eligible to compete in the Competitions shall be subject to the Articles of Scottish Women's Football, the Scottish Cup Rules (Youth) and all SWF Policies as amended from time to time.

## **10. League Fixtures**

(a) The League Competition shall consist of each team playing one match at home and one match away from home with each of the other teams in the League, unless otherwise directed by the Regional Management Committee in consultation with the Strong Quality Growth Committee and Girls'/Women's Policy Working Group.

The fixtures shall be arranged in the manner directed by the Regional Management Committee and shall be played on the dates arranged.

Three points shall be awarded to a team for a win, one point for a draw and no points for a loss (with the exception of the 11s and 9s Leagues, which are trophy-free leagues).

The League Administrator shall issue the fixtures not later than 20 February prior to the commencement of each season. Receipt of fixtures shall be acknowledged in writing by each club.

The home club shall, at least five working days prior to a fixture date, confirm the venue (including travel directions), kick-off time and the colour(s) they are intending to play in, in writing to the opposing club, the League Administrator and the appointed match official(s) and/or the Regional Referee Co-ordinator. The away club shall seek and acknowledge receipt of such notification.

The final round of League fixtures, in each season, shall, where possible, have all matches scheduled with the same time of kick-off, unless otherwise agreed by the Regional Management Committee.

(b) Any dispute between two or more clubs as to the arrangement of fixtures shall be referred to, and decided by the Regional Management Committee.

(c) If a club wishes to apply for a postponement of a fixture date, such notification must be made to the League Administrator at least seven working days prior to the date of the originally scheduled fixture. Such application must be made on a form supplied by the Regional Management Committee containing the reason for the application, the opposing club's approval and an agreed proposed new fixture date.

Teams may only be granted a maximum of 3 postponements in any one season with the exception of postponements granted due to players on International Duty or a Scottish Cup fixture taking precedence, and may not apply for any postponements after



the 1<sup>st</sup> October in any season.

If, for unforeseen reasons, the home club is forced to change ground, the club must notify the League Administrator, the visiting club and the appointed match official(s) immediately.

Where a club's ground (or standby ground) is unplayable or unavailable on the day set for the playing of the match, both clubs can agree to reverse the venue.

No alterations of fixtures, dates, kick-off times, grounds can be made without the prior confirmation of the League Administrator.

(d) Notice of the postponement of any match due to an unplayable ground, or other causes over which neither club has control, must be given immediately by the home club to the visiting club, the appointed match official(s) and the League Administrator. Any club failing to comply with instructions in this regard shall be referred to the Regional Management Committee.

The home club should, where possible, be able to provide the League Administrator/Regional Management Committee with a written confirmation of a decision to postpone a match due to an unplayable ground, signed by the ground owner or the match official.

It is the responsibility of both competing clubs to agree upon a re-scheduled fixture date and advise the League Administrator, in writing, within seven working days from the original fixture date. Failing such agreement and notification to the League Administrator, the Regional Management Committee shall have power to determine the re-scheduled fixture date.

(e) The postponement or abandonment of League fixtures requires to be immediately reported in writing to the League Administrator by the club(s) concerned.

In the event of a late arrival of a team, the match official shall delay the kick-off of the match up to a maximum of 30 minutes. The match official shall report the circumstances of a late kick-off or postponement of the match, as applicable, to the League Administrator.

(f) Any match not completed, except as provided for in Rule 29 "Infringements of Rules", may be ordered to stand as a played match, or may be replayed in its entirety as the Regional Management Committee may determine.

(g) In extenuating circumstances, the Regional Management Committee shall have the power to re-schedule matches, other than those prescribed in this Rule, to facilitate the smooth running of the Competition.

(h) Any club without just cause failing to fulfill its fixture obligations in respect of any such match in the League on the appointed date or dates shall be liable to such sanctions as the Regional Management Committee may determine, but not limited to the deduction of points, fine or expulsion.



(i) Any club failing to fulfill its fixture obligations shall be liable to pay compensation for any actual expenses incurred as a direct result of its failure. The amount of compensation payable in these circumstances will be determined by the Regional Management Committee, and shall be based upon the current tariff approved by the Regional Management Committee.

Applications for reimbursement shall be lodged in writing with the League Administrator not later than five working days following the match.

(j) In the event of a team withdrawing during the course of the playing season, all points gained by teams winning or drawing against the team withdrawing from a League shall be deducted, unless otherwise decided by the Regional Management Committee. Similarly, goals for and against shall be declared null and void.

(k) It is the responsibility of the home club to notify the match result and related information to the League Administrator in accordance with the guidelines agreed by the Regional Management Committee.

(l) A team which has a player(s) selected for the Scottish FA's National Youth teams, Regional Squad activities, Scottish Schools National Youth team or Scottish Schools Cup tie is entitled to have a League or League Cup match postponed, if application is made within three days of the date of the relevant player selection notice.

(m) The home club must ensure that the visiting club and the match official(s) have access to the changing facilities a minimum of 60 minutes prior to a League and League Cup match.

## **11. League Positions**

**(With the exception of 11's and 9's as these games will be trophy-free)**

(a) At the end of the season's League Competition, the team in each League securing the highest number of points shall be declared the Champion team of the League.

(b) For the purpose of clarification, if two or more teams are equal on points upon completion of the League, the following criteria are applied to determine the League Champions:-

There would be a play-off match, or matches, between the teams in question, at which two periods of extra time, and kicks from the penalty mark if required, would be applicable, to determine the winner.

For all circumstances not covered in the paragraphs above, the Regional Management Committee will have full powers to deal with the situation as it deems appropriate in consultation with the Strong Quality Growth Committee and Girls'/Women's Policy Working Group.

(c) If any team(s) in the Leagues is expelled, resigns, or retires for any reason before the commencement of the playing season, the Regional Management Committee will have full powers to deal with the situation as it deems appropriate in consultation with the Strong Quality Growth Committee and Girls'/Women's Policy Working Group.



## **12. League Cup Ties**

(a) All clubs in the League are eligible to enter the League Cup Competition and should complete an entry form for this purpose as prescribed by the League Administrator.

(b) The League Cup draw will be an all-in draw, or such other format as directed by the Regional Management Committee in consultation with the Strong Quality Growth Committee and Girls'/Women's Policy Working Group, and ties shall be arranged in the manner approved by the Regional Management Committee and shall be played on the dates arranged.

(c) The home club shall, at least five working days prior to a fixture date, confirm the venue (including travel directions), kick-off time and the colour(s) they are intending to play in to the opposing club, the League Administrator and match official(s) and/or Regional Referee Co-ordinator in writing. The away club shall seek and acknowledge receipt of such notification.

(d) Any dispute between two or more clubs as to the arrangement of League Cup ties shall be referred to, and decided by, the Regional Management Committee.

(e) In each round except the final, all ties will be played on the ground of the club first drawn in the ballot.

Where a club's ground (or standby ground) is unavailable or unplayable, on the day(s) set for playing the tie, the competing clubs may agree to reverse the venue subject to the permission of the League Administrator.

The home club should, upon request, be able to provide the League Administrator / Regional Management Committee with a written confirmation of a decision to postpone a League Cup tie due to an unplayable ground, signed by the ground owner or match official.

(f) The Final of the League Cup Competition(s) will be played at a neutral venue, unless otherwise decided by the Regional Management Committee.

(g) If a knock-out League Cup tie is drawn at the end of normal play, extra time shall be played as set out below. Thereafter, if the tie is still undecided the winner shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the rules laid down by the IFAB.

17s and 15s - Two halves of ten minutes duration.

13s – Two halves of seven minutes duration.

## **13. Grounds for League Fixtures and League Cup Ties**

All clubs in the Leagues shall have a registered ground, the specific details of which will be provided to the League Administrator and during completion of the club's online affiliation process prior to the commencement of the season.

## **14. Number of Players, Substitutes and Club Officials**





For 15s and 17s age groups a team shall consist of eleven players and is permitted to list up to 7 substitutes of whom all may take part in the match.

For the 13s (7 a-side) age group a team shall consist of seven players and is permitted to list up to 7 substitutes of whom all may take part in the match.

For the 11s age group a team shall consist of seven players and is permitted to list up to 7 substitutes of whom all may take part in the match.

For the 9s age group a team shall consist of five players and is permitted to list an unlimited number of substitutes of whom all may take part in the match.

Up to a maximum of six approved officials may be listed on the official Team Line.

In League Cup ties, the players in a team may be changed from match to match, but a club or team, may not play, or list as a named substitute any player who, in the same season, has already played (as one of the seven/eleven first named players or as a fielded substitute), for another club or team, in any other League Cup Competition, irrespective of age-group or association, including the senior league cup.

Rolling substitutes may be used in all matches.

## **15. Dimensions of the Field of Play**

(a) For 15s and 17s age groups the length of the field of play shall be compliant with the dimensions provided in the IFAB Laws of the Game.

For 13s and 11s (7 a-side) age group the length of the field of play shall not be more than 65 metres and not less than 55 metres. The breadth shall not be more than 45 metres and not less than 35 metres.

For 9s (4v4 + GK) age group the length of the field of play shall be approximately 35 metres and the breadth shall be approximately 25 metres.

(b) Where possible, spectators should be separated from the field of play by a wall, a rope, a railing or a fence (the distance from the touchline should be a minimum of 1m).

(c) Spectators shall be positioned on the opposite side of the field of play from the technical areas.

(d) Technical areas, on the same side of the field of play, marked by lines/markers etc., shall be provided at each ground (the distance from the touchline should be 1m).

## **16 Playing Field**

Matches in the League(s) and the League Cup Competition(s) shall be played on a natural grass surface or on an artificial turf surface. Artificial turf surfaces must comply with quality standards set for football by FIFA.

Home clubs with artificial turf surfaces may be required to provide a letter from the



ground owner/local authority confirming the standard of the surface, as part of the Club affiliation process

The home club is responsible for ensuring that the ground is of a standard that will not compromise the safety of players or spectators.

### **17 Goals, Goal Nets, Corner Flags**

Appropriate size goals with goal nets and corner flags shall be used at all matches.

### **18 Provision of Footballs**

Two footballs of first grade quality shall be provided by the home club for each match played in the League and the League Cup:

For 17s size 5 balls will be used.

For 13s and 15s size 4 balls will be used.

For 11s size 3 balls will be used.

For 9s size 3 balls will be used.

### **19 First Aid Provisions**

It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that a club official in possession of a current Sports First Aid Certificate or equivalent qualification recognised by the Scottish FA is available at all matches played at its registered ground.

### **20 Player Registration and Eligibility**

To be eligible to participate in League and League Cup Competition football, players must be registered with the Scottish FA through Scottish Women's Football, in accordance with the terms of the Scottish Women's Football Registration Procedures.

To be eligible to participate in the League and League Cup Competitions, players must comply with the following Age Eligibility;

Age eligibility for season 2020:

17's must be born on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2003

15's must be born on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005

13's must be born on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007

11's must be born on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009

9's must be born on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011

Minimum age eligibility in respective age groups:

17's must be born on or before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006

15's must be born on or before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008

13's must be born on or before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010

11's must be born on or before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012



9's must be born on or before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014

Players can play in their club, in their own age group or one age group above (as per above) in all League and League Cup matches (note – cup tied for a team if player has already played, as one of the seven/eleven first named players or as a fielded substitute, for another club or team, in any other League Cup Competition, irrespective of age-group or association)

To play up two age-groups and out-with eligibility criteria outlined above, dispensation approval is required from the League Administrator, in consultation with the Strong Quality Growth Committee and Girls'/Women's Policy Working Group.

(a) To be eligible to participate in the final of a League Cup Competition, a player must have been registered to play on the date the semi-final tie was played. Goalkeepers may gain exemption from this rule, only on the written agreement of the Regional Management Committee

(b) A club which operates more than one team in the same age-group at regional level will not be permitted to move its players between these teams. This excludes National Performance League Teams.

A club which operates more than one team in the same age-group at regional level is responsible for submitting a "List of Players" for each team, duly signed, to the League Administrator by the date notified by the Regional Management Committee.

In such circumstances, to be eligible to play in a Regional League match, a player must be denoted on the team's "List of Players" or be a registered youth player from a younger age group for the club.

A team's "List of Players" shall include the name, date of birth and registration date of every registered player.

Amendments to a team's "List of Players" may be made in accordance with the guidelines and provisions approved and circulated by the Regional Management Committee up to and including the 15<sup>th</sup> October.

(c) Clubs with a team participating in the National Performance League at any age-group, will be permitted to move their players with the following additional restrictions:

- i) A player listed as one of the eleven players starting the match in the national performance team will not be permitted to be listed for the following youth regional team's match at any age-group, the following match being the next scheduled competitive match.
- ii) For the avoidance of doubt, a player listed in such circumstances will not be permitted to be listed for the youth regional team's match(es) at any age-group on the same date and on the next (youth regional team at any age-group) match date thereafter



- iii) A player listed as a substitute in a match for a club's national performance team will be permitted to be listed for the youth regional team's next competitive match, excluding matches scheduled on the same date, up to and including the 15th October.
- (d) If the youth regional team at any age-group starts its season before the national performance team's season commences, a maximum number of 7 players from the youth regional team can be listed for the national performance team's first league match.
- (e) A club's youth players can also, in accordance with the Rules of the Scottish Women's Premier League, Scottish Women's Championship and Scottish Women's Football League, play in their club's senior team(s) providing they have attained 15 years of age in the year in which the season commences and that these teams are formally registered within their club.
- (f) It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that its players are eligible to play in League and League Cup Competition matches.
- (g) Any team fielding an ineligible player in a League fixture or a League Cup tie may have points deducted from its points total in the League, or the result being awarded 3-0 in favour of the opposing team, and/or be liable to other such penalties as the Regional Management Committee may decide.
- (h) If a player participates in a League fixture or a League Cup tie whilst being ineligible to play in the match as a result of a suspension imposed by League Administrator, in accordance with SWF's Disciplinary Procedures, the team for which the player has participated may have points deducted from its points total in the League, or the result being awarded 3-0 in favour of the opposing team, and/or be liable to other such penalties as the Regional Management Committee may decide.
- (i) Pending suspensions can only be served by registered players.
- (j) SWF can give dispensation to players (one year too old for an identified age group) to play at the age level immediately below their age for a period of one season in accordance with the dispensation guidelines.

Applications in this regard must be submitted to the Strong Quality Growth Committee in writing and in accordance with timelines outlined in dispensation guidelines.

## **21 Playing of Players without Registration (Trialists)**

- (a) No more than three unregistered players ("Trialists") may be allowed to play, or be listed as a substitute for a club in any League match.
- (b) Each Trialist may be allowed to play in, or be listed as a substitute for, a maximum of three games for any one club, provided she is otherwise eligible to do so. Clubs playing a player in these circumstances must indicate the fact by adding the letter "T"



- (c) or “X” after the player’s name and date of birth on the official Team Line.
- (d) A Trialist may not be used in any League Matches after the 15<sup>th</sup> October in the current season.
- (e) A player shall not be eligible to play for a club in a League Cup tie unless registered for the club.

## **22 Team Lines**

(a) Not later than 30 minutes before the start of a match, each club shall hand to the referee, a list, and to its opponent, a copy, both of which shall be signed by the Secretary or other accredited club official, of the proper names of the players in its team, of such substitutes as are permitted, and of the club officials on forms provided by the Regional Management Committee.

Should any nominated player or substitute sustain an injury, or due to extenuating circumstances, be unable to participate after the submission of the list of players to the referee and prior to kick-off, the following provisions shall apply:-

(i) If any of the first 11 players (7 when 7 a-side) listed on the Team Line is not able to start the match for any reason, they may be replaced by any of the substitutes. Such replacements will reduce the quota of substitute players accordingly. Rolling substitutes may still be used as required.

(ii) If any of the substitutes listed on the Team Line is not able to be fielded for any reason, they may not be replaced, which means that the quota of substitute players will be reduced accordingly.

(iii) If a goalkeeper listed on the Team Line cannot be fielded for any reason, she may be replaced by another goalkeeper not previously listed on the Team Line.

(b) Within three working days thereafter the referee shall send to the League Administrator, the lists which were handed to him/her, which he/she shall also sign, and on which he/she shall intimate the result, the goal scorers, time of goals and which substitute or substitutes played in the match.

(c) Any club, on discovering an ineligible player has been listed on a team line should bring this to the immediate attention of the Cup Administrator, who shall advise Scottish Women’s Football and the Board shall conduct an investigation, and take any required action.

(d) The League Administrator shall keep a register of the names of all of the players who take part in the League and League Cup Competitions. The register shall be open for inspection.

## **23 Registered Colours**

(a) As part of the annual affiliation process, a club shall register the colour of shirts, shorts and stockings comprising its first and second choice playing kits. Subject to the terms of the paragraphs (b) (c) and (d) below, a club shall play in its registered colours,



(b) failing which it shall be liable to disciplinary action. Exceptionally, a club may, with the approval of the Regional Management Committee, play in colours which are modified from those which have been registered.

(c) When the first choice colours of two competing clubs are the same, or similar, the away club shall change and play in distinctive colours.

(d) A club may play in its second colours provided that this does not prevent its opponent from observing the terms of paragraph (b) or from playing in its first choice registered colours if it chooses to do so.

(e) If there is any dispute as to whether the colours of the teams are the same, or similar, the referee shall decide the issue.

(f) Goalkeepers shall wear colours which distinguish them from the other players and from the match official(s).

(g) Every player and substitute of each team shall wear a distinguishing number on her shirt or shorts. Such number shall be clearly distinct from the colours of the shirt and shorts in order that it is clearly visible. Numbers on shirts shall be a minimum of 25 cm and maximum of 35 cm in height, and those on shorts a minimum of 10 cm and a maximum of 15 cm.

## **24 Duration of League Matches**

- (a) For 17s a match will consist of two halves each of 40 minutes in duration  
For 15s a match will consist of two halves each of 35 minutes in duration  
For 13s a match will consist of two halves each of 30 minutes in duration  
For 11s a match will consist of two halves each of 25 minutes in duration  
For 9's matches will be played in a festival format

(b) A match which has started and which for any reason is abandoned, may not be continued as a "friendly" match.

(c) The half time interval shall be of 10 minutes duration, or as otherwise determined by the referee.

## **25 Appointment of Match Officials**

(a) Match Official(s) shall be appointed by the Referee Co-ordinators acting on behalf of the Scottish FA Referees' Associations.

A club may not refuse the services of any match official appointed by, or on behalf of, the Scottish FA.

(b) The home club is responsible for the payment of the match officials' fees for League matches and for all League Cup ties up to, and including, the Semi-Final Round.

(c) Should a match official not be notified of the postponement of a match before



(d) travelling, he/she shall be entitled to payment of one half of the match fee from the home club.

(e) A match fee is deemed to be inclusive of expenses.

(f) In the event that the appointed referee fails to appear, it is the responsibility of the two participating clubs to reach a signed agreement with regards to appointing a club official to referee the match.

## **26. Protests**

(a) When a club intends to lodge a protest in connection with events during a match, the Secretary of the club or other accredited official shall inform a match official and a club official of the opposing team within 30 minutes of the end of the match, and shall, at the same time, inform them of the grounds of protest.

The Secretary or other accredited club official shall be required to confirm the protest in writing, to the League Administrator within three days of the end of the match (Sunday excluded)

The League Administrator will confirm receipt of the protest to both clubs and the match officials and the nature of the protest(s). A deposit of £20 will be lodged at the same time.

(b) The Regional Management Committee shall determine the outcome of a protest, properly constituted in accordance with the terms of paragraph (a) above, and shall have the power to retain the deposit, to order either club to pay such sum towards defraying the expenses incurred as may be considered desirable and to take such action as it deems fit.

(c) Any objection to the ground, goal posts, crossbars, or other appurtenances of the game shall be intimated to the referee before the start of the match. The club on whose ground the match is played shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with Rule 15, and Law I of the Laws of the Game - The Field of Play.

(d) All decisions of the Regional Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal to Scottish Women's Football in accordance with Article 44 of the Scottish Women's Football Appeals Procedure and Guidelines.

Decisions of the Management Committee (Rule 29 (c) excluded) must be notified in writing to those concerned within seven days.

The decision against which any appeal is made will only be set aside when the appeal is received by Scottish Women's Football and agreed to be in order, and confirmation is received in writing by the parties concerned.

Any decision taken by the Scottish Women's Football is subject to appeal to the Judicial Panel of the Scottish FA in accordance with the Scottish FA Articles of Association and Judicial Panel Protocol.



## **27. Protest – Interested Party**

If a member of the Regional Management Committee is connected with a club which is involved in a protest, or in any disciplinary hearing where a penalty may be imposed on the club or an official or a player of the club, then he/she shall not sit in the Regional Management Committee while the matter is being determined.





## **28. Disorderly Conduct**

Clubs are responsible, where practically possible, for the behaviour of their players, officials, members, supporters and any person carrying out a function at a match on their behalf. In the event of damage being sustained to a ground where a League or League Cup Competition match is played as a consequence of mis-behaviour by a player, official, member, supporters, or any other person acting on behalf of or associated with a club, then that club shall be responsible for any costs arising in the preparation of same. The Regional Management Committee shall have the power to request such reports as may be necessary in determining responsibility for restitution and may additionally impose upon any club a censure, fine, expulsion from the competition or suspension if, in the opinion of the Regional Management Committee, a ground is the subject of damage by that club's representatives or those associated with it.

## **29. Infringement of Rules**

(a) Any club, official, player, or other person, who infringes any of these Rules, shall be liable to a fine or suspension, or both or such other sanction(s) as specified within these Rules. The Regional Management Committee has the power to investigate, consider and determine any allegations relative to the infringement of these Rules and to impose such sanction(s), as specified within these Rules, as it considers appropriate in order to deal justly with the case in question.

(b) A club which is found to have infringed these Rules, may be liable to replay a specific match in question, at a time, venue and other conditions as deemed appropriate by the Regional Management Committee in its absolute discretion.

(c) In the event that the Regional Management Committee decides to impose a replay or suspension on a club which is found to have infringed these Rules, an appeal from the club against such decision must be dispatched in writing to Scottish Women's Football within three days of the date of the Regional Management Committee's written determination to the club.

## **30. Alterations and Additions to Rules**

(a) All proposed alterations and additions must be submitted to the Board of the SWF, in consultation with the Girls'/Women's Policy Working Group for approval prior to the Regional League's AGM. They will then be presented to the SWF AGM for ratification and acceptance. No alterations or additions shall be made to these Rules except at the Annual General Meeting or at a General Meeting convened for that purpose.

(b) Notice of any proposed alteration or addition for consideration at the ensuing Regional Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Women's Football Youth Regional Leagues shall be submitted in writing and be received by the League Administrator no later than 31<sup>st</sup> August.

(c) The League Administrator shall circulate a copy of any proposed amendments to all clubs not less than twenty one days in advance of the Regional Annual General Meeting.



The Board of SWF, in consultation with the Girls/Women's Policy Working Group shall be empowered itself to propose any amendment.



## SCOTTISH WOMEN'S FOOTBALL YOUTH REGIONAL LEAGUES

### Additional 9 a-side rules for 15s

The laws of the game as stated by FIFA and the International FA Board shall apply subject to the following:

#### 1. The Field of Play

##### **Recommendation**

The field of play shall be 45 to 60 metres wide and 50 to 67 metres long or as an alternative half a full size pitch.

Goalposts should be no more than be 4.9 metres x 1.8 metres (16ft by 6ft).

##### **The Penalty area**

The penalty area is defined at each end of the field as follows:

Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal lines 18 metres apart from each other. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of 12 metres and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. If there are no pitch markings a pitch can be marked out using cones.

##### **Alternative Pitch Markings**

The penalty area can be designated by cones and/or markers placed on each touchline 12 metres from the corner of the touchline and by-lines. Where possible flat markers should be placed to form a line across the pitch between the cones/markers.

Within each penalty area a penalty mark is made 9 metres from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them.

A centre mark at the midpoint of the halfway line

##### **Alternative**

Field and goalposts as supplied by the local authority may be used. Coaches should adapt the recommendations according to the venue specifications.

#### 2. The Ball

A size 4 ball should be used

#### 3. The Number of Players

Teams will comprise 8 outfield players plus a goalkeeper. Team squads may consist of up to 16 players with rolling substitutions used throughout the match. Players who have been substituted may return to the field of play as often as necessary. All team members should receive equal playing time where possible. In the event of an obvious mismatch, the weaker team, as jointly agreed by the respective team leaders, may field an extra player.

#### 4 The Players' Equipment

All players must wear shin-guards.

Metal studs are suitable for grass fields only.

Players must wear the appropriate clothing dependant on weather.

Glasses may be worn provided they have safety frames and lenses.

#### 5 The Referee



Match Official(s) shall be appointed by the Referee Co-ordinators acting on behalf of the Scottish FA Referees' Associations.

## **6 Assistant Referees**

Assistant referees are not required.

## **7 Duration of the Game**

### **Recommendation**

The duration of the game shall be 2 periods of 30 minutes with a 5 minute interval. Matches should be organised as regular fixtures.

Flexibility should prevail. The team leaders have joint discretion to alter this in the event of poor weather conditions, pitch conditions or an obvious mismatch.

## **8 The Start and Restart of Play**

On scoring a goal, the team that scores will retreat to the halfway line. The team conceding the goal will restart the game with a kick off at the centre of the pitch. Opponents should be 6 metres away from the ball.

## **9 The Ball in and out of Play**

Normal rules apply.

## **10 The Method of Scoring**

Normal rules apply.

## **11 Offside**

Normal rules apply within an area 12 metres from the by-line (penalty area).

## **12. Fouls and Misconduct**

Normal rules apply.

### **Pass Back**

The deliberate pass to the goalkeeper law does apply.

## **13 Free Kicks**

Normal rules apply except that the distance an opposing player must be is 6 metres from the ball.

## **14 The Penalty Kick**

Normal rules apply.

## **15 The Throw In**

Players should take throw-ins.

In the event of the ball going out of play a throw-in will be awarded.



**16 The Goal Kick**

Normal rules apply.

**Retreating Area**

There will be no retreating area.

**17 The Corner Kick**

Normal rules apply.

**General**

Team coaches will stand on the same side of the pitch. Parents should stand on the opposite side of the pitch behind a marked area, for example, cones, pitch tapes etc.

Dependant on the venue, parents should be encouraged to stand a distance away from the pitch and to only encourage players and to uphold fair play.

Team coaches should encourage the rotation of players to experience different positions on the pitch.

Goalkeepers may either throw the ball, make a pass from the ground to a teammate or kick the ball from hand.

At the end of every game, team coaches should encourage both teams to shake hands with each other and the officials.

**Results**

Teams should refrain from promoting scores in the youth game however if a necessity no more than a 9 goal difference should be publicised.

**Recommended Coach Education**

Required Coach Education Award is Level 1.2 of the Scottish FA Children's Pathway.

**Recommended Coach in Service**

All coaches should attend the 'Transition to 9s Player Pathway In-service training, relevant CPD & PCS Coaches Workshop

Scottish FA Children's Pathway				
<b>Level 1.1</b> Early Touches	<b>Level 1.2</b> Coaching Young Footballers	<b>Level 1.3</b> Coaching in the Game	Children's Award	Advanced Children's Licence



## SCOTTISH WOMEN'S FOOTBALL YOUTH REGIONAL LEAGUES

### Additional 7 a-side Rules for 13s and 11s

The laws of the game as stated by FIFA and the International FA Board shall apply subject to the following:

**1. Match Official / Supervisor**

For 13s match official(s) shall be appointed by the Referee Co-ordinators acting on behalf of the SFA Referees' Associations.

For 11s a match supervisor will officiate from a designated area on the touchline or the field of play, no adult will be allowed on the field of play. Match supervisors are not allowed to coach. Both clubs to supply a Match supervisor with each club expected to 'officiate' one half of the game.

**2. Number of Players**

In addition to Rule 14 of the SWF Youth Regional Rules, a minimum of five players are required to start a 7-a-side match.

**3. Goalposts**

Soccer Sevens goals (4.9 m x 1.8 m) will be used.

**4. Equipment**

For 13s metal studs are suitable for grass fields only. For 11s

metal studs shall not be allowed.

**5. Offside**

There is no offside rule.

**6. Retreating Area**

For age group 11s there will be a 13m retreating area. When the goalkeeper has the ball in her hands, the opposing team must retreat behind the retreating area (marked by cones, flat markers, poles or the match supervisor can be used to take a line) until the ball has been played to a member of her team. No player from the opposition is allowed into the retreating area until the outfield player has touched the ball.

For age group 13s there will be no retreating area.

**7. Throw-ins and Free Kicks**

In the event of the ball going out of play, a throw-in will be awarded.

At all throw-ins and the taking of free kicks, all opposition players must be 6 metres from the ball.

For 11s players may be permitted a second throw-in following guidance from the match supervisor



- 8. Re-start**  
Play shall be re-centred after a goal has been scored with the opposing team at least 6 metres from the ball.
- 9. Pass back**  
For 13s the current pass back rule will apply. For 11s  
  
the current pass back rule will not apply.
- 10. Penalty Kicks**  
Penalty kicks shall be taken 7 metres from the goal line.
- 11. Goalkeepers**  
Goalkeepers may kick or throw the ball out as preferred. However, in an effort to prevent long passes prevailing, they should be encouraged to restrict these to a minimum. Goalkeepers attempting to gather the ball by hand may not be challenged.  
  
For 13s the six second rule for goalkeepers will apply. For  
  
11s the six second rule for goalkeepers will not apply.
- 12. Corner Kicks**  
For 13s and 11s the current corner kick rule will apply.
- 13. Goal Kick**  
For 13s a goal kick can be taken from anywhere in the goal area. For 11s  
a goal kick can be taken from anywhere in the penalty area.



SCOTTISH WOMEN'S  
YOUTH LEAGUE

## SCOTTISH WOMEN'S FOOTBALL YOUTH REGIONAL LEAGUES

### 4v4 + GK Football Guidelines for Age 9s

The laws of the game as stated by FIFA and the International FA Board shall apply subject to the following:

- 1. Match Official / Supervisor**  
A match supervisor will officiate from a designated area on the touchline or the field of play, no adult will be allowed on the field of play. Match supervisors are not allowed to coach. Both clubs to supply a Match supervisor with each club expected to 'officiate' one half of the game.
- 2. Goalposts**  
1.8m x 1.2m goals will be used.
- 3. Equipment**  
Metal studs shall not be allowed.
- 4. Offside**  
There is no offside rule.
- 5. Throw In**  
In the event of the ball going out of play, a kick-in will be awarded. All opposition players must be 5m from the ball.
- 6. Free Kicks**  
At the taking of free kicks, all opposition players must be 5 metres from the ball.
- 7. Re-start**  
Play shall be re-centred after a goal has been scored with the opposing team at least 6 metres from the ball.
- 8. Pass back**  
The current pass back rule will not apply.
- 9. Penalty Kicks**  
Penalty kicks shall be taken 7 metres from the goal line.
- 10. Goalkeepers**  
Goalkeepers may kick or throw the ball out as preferred. However, in an effort to prevent long passes prevailing, they should be encouraged to restrict these to a minimum. Goalkeepers attempting to gather the ball by hand may not be challenged.  
  
The six second rule for goalkeepers will not apply.
- 11. Corner Kicks**  
Corner kicks can be taken from the penalty area line.



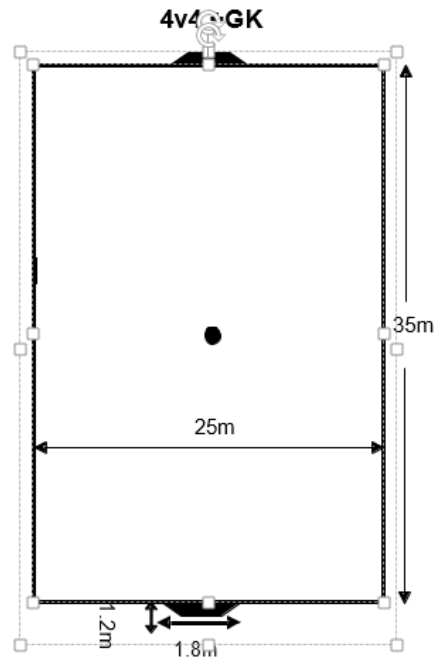


SCOTTISH WOMEN'S  
FOOTBALL

## 12. Goal Kick

A goal kick can be taken from anywhere in the penalty area.

### Recommended Pitch Sizes



### Soccer Sevens

