

THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE UNDER-17 YOUTH DIVISION CONSTITUTION AND RULES

1. TITLE

This combination of clubs shall be known as “The Scottish Football League Under-17 Youth Division”.

2. OBJECTS

2.1 The object of The Scottish Football League Under-17 Youth Division shall be to:

2.1.1 Promote and extend the game of Association Football at Under-17 youth level and to provide League Championship and League Cup Competitions for its members;

2.1.2 Foster and develop the game of Association Football for talented youngsters at Under-17 Age Level;

2.1.3 Establish a properly co-ordinated training and development structure; and

2.1.4 Provide a good standard of training and playing facilities.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to the Under-17 Youth teams of all First, Second and Third Division clubs of The Scottish Football League.

4. CONTROL

The Scottish Football League Under-17 Youth Division shall be governed by The Scottish Football League’s Board or Committee of Management (hereinafter “Board”). The Board shall have full power in all matters relating to the Youth Division and its decisions shall be binding on all participating clubs, subject to the right of appeal provided by the terms of Rule 45 of the League’s Rules and Articles 66 and 133.1 of the Articles of Association of The Scottish Football Association. Words and phrases defined in The Scottish Football League Rules shall have the same meaning in these Rules.

UNDER-17 YOUTH DIVISION COMPETITION RULES

5. COMPETITIONS

5.1 The Board shall in each season conduct and control a Competition to be called The Scottish Football League Under-17 Youth Division in which all clubs must play each other. The Competition will commence on the opening date of the playing season and will be completed by 15th May or any approved extension to the playing season.

5.2 Any match which, for any reason, is not completed may be regarded as a completed match or may be replayed for the full 90 minutes, at the sole discretion of the Board.

6. FIXTURES

6.1 The format of The Scottish Football League Under-17 Youth Division and the number of fixtures to be played by competing clubs in any season shall be decided annually by the Board, taking into account the number of clubs participating in the season in question.

6.2 The list of fixtures compiled by the Chief Executive shall be approved by the Board and all clubs shall be bound to fulfil them as scheduled, except when permission is obtained for a variation.

6.3 The dates on which fixtures shall be played shall be arranged by the Board. The hour of kick-off shall be agreed mutually by the clubs concerned.

7. CHAMPION CLUB

7.1 In the Under-17 Youth Division, the club gaining the highest number of points - three points shall be awarded for a win and one point for a draw - shall be awarded a trophy or other award determined by the Board. If two or more clubs are equal on points, the winner shall be decided by goal difference. In the event of the goal difference also being equal, the club scoring the highest number of goals will be deemed the winner. Should the clubs score the same number of goals, however, they shall play a deciding game or games in such manner and under such conditions as the Board may decide.

7.2 The winners of the Under-17 Youth Division will be presented with a trophy which must be returned when required by the League in like good order and condition in which it was received. The winners in the Competition will also receive such awards as the Board may decide.

7.3 It shall be the responsibility of the winning club to arrange appropriate insurance cover for the trophy throughout the period when it is held by the club.

8. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

8.1 Players, other than recognised goalkeepers, are eligible to play in the 2011-2012 Scottish Football League Under-17 Youth Division only if they were born on or after 1st January, 1995. In the case of recognised goalkeepers, no age restriction shall apply.

8.2 Players may be of either amateur or professional status and need not be registered for the club for which they play, provided that they are otherwise eligible to play for that club.

8.3 A club may field an unlimited number of trialist players in any match in the Under-17 Youth Division, provided that, where necessary, the prior written permission of the player's minor grade club has been obtained, and that such players are otherwise eligible to participate.

8.4 In the Under-17 Youth Division, a player may participate as a trialist in any number of matches, subject to him being otherwise eligible to do so.

8.5 The terms of Scottish Football League Rule 123 (*Transfer/Temporary Transfer of Registration during Currency of Contract*) with regard to the eligibility of players who are temporarily transferred shall similarly apply to the Under-17 Youth Division competition.

8.6 If a player participates in an Under-17 Youth Division match, such player being ineligible to play in the match as a result of his suspension by The Scottish Football Association or for any other reason, the club for which the player participates in the Under-17 Youth Division match shall be liable to such penalty as the Board may decide.

UNDER-17 YOUTH LEAGUE CUP COMPETITION RULES

9. FORMAT

- 9.1** The Board may organise an Under-17 Youth League Cup Competition which is open to all members of The Scottish Football League.
- 9.2** The format of the Under-17 Youth League Cup Competition will be at the discretion of the Board and intimated to clubs on an annual basis. In all rounds of the competition which are played on a knock-out basis, if the scores are equal at the end of the ninety minutes, an extra thirty minutes will be played and, if still undecided, the winner shall be ascertained by taking kicks from the penalty mark as laid down by the International Football Association Board.
- 9.3** All ties will be played on dates decided by the Board. The venue for the Final Tie will be decided by the Board.
- 9.4** The Board shall have full power to conduct and control the Competition and amend the Competition Rules as appropriate.

10. TROPHY

- The winners of the Under-17 League Cup shall hold the trophy and when it is handed over to the winner, that Club shall grant an obligation to return same to the Chief Executive if and when required and in any case prior to the commencement of the next season's Competition in the like good order and condition in which it was received.
- 10.1** It shall be the responsibility of the winning Club to arrange appropriate insurance cover for the trophy throughout the period when it is held by the Club.
- 10.2** The winners and runners-up in the Competition will receive such awards as the Board may decide.

11. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- 11.1** Players, other than recognised goalkeepers, are eligible to play in the 2011-2012 Scottish Football League Under-17 Youth League Cup only if they were born on or after 1st January, 1995. In the case of recognised goalkeepers, no age restriction shall apply.
- 11.2** A club may field an unlimited number of trialist players in any match in the Under-17 Youth League Cup, provided that, where necessary, the prior written permission of the player's minor grade club has been obtained, and that such players are otherwise eligible to participate.

- 11.3** No club shall play, or list as a named substitute, any player who, in the same season, has already played or been a named substitute for another club in the competition.
- 11.4** Clubs playing trialists must indicate the fact by adding the words “not registered” after such player’s name and address, place and date of birth, previous club, and the country in which he last played in the list of players to be handed to the referee prior to the match.
- 11.5** It shall be the responsibility of each club participating in the Competition to ensure that its players are eligible to play in any Under-17 Youth League Cup match.
- 11.6** If a player participates in an Under-17 Youth League Cup match, such player being ineligible to play in the cup match as a result of his suspension by The Scottish Football Association or for any other reason, the club for which the player participates in the Under-17 Youth League Cup match shall be liable to such penalty as the Board may decide.
- 11.7** Any club infringing this Rule may be disqualified from the Competition and the tie awarded to its opponents.
- 11.8** The terms of Scottish Football League Rule 123 (*Transfer/Temporary Transfer of Registration during Currency of Contract*) with regard to the eligibility of players who are temporarily transferred shall similarly apply to the Under-17 Youth League Cup Competition.

GENERAL

12. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

- 12.1** All Under-17 Youth Division and Youth League Cup matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game and the Rules of The Scottish Football League.
- 12.2** Disciplinary matters relating to field offences shall be dealt with in accordance with the Disciplinary Procedures of The Scottish Football Association.

13. REGISTERED GROUND

- 13.1** All Under-17 Youth Division and Youth League Cup matches must be played at a club's registered ground or at a designated ground which has a playing surface, floodlighting and changing accommodation that is of an acceptable standard to The Scottish Football League.
- 13.2** It should also be noted that Scottish Football League Under-17 Youth Division and Youth League Cup matches will be permitted to be played on artificial grass surfaces.

14. SUBSTITUTE PLAYERS

- 14.1** Clubs are permitted to field during the course of any Under-17 Youth Division or Youth League Cup match, all five nominated substitutes listed.
- 14.2** Substitutions can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the referee has given permission.
- 14.3** 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, he may be replaced at the discretion of the referee provided the opponents are informed prior to kick-off. Any alterations made to a completed list of players pursuant to Rule 15 below must be formally endorsed in writing by an Official and signed by the referee as evidence of his consent pursuant to this Rule 14.3.

15. LIST OF PLAYERS TO BE HANDED TO REFEREE

Clubs must hand copies of a list of names of players participating in any Scottish Football League Under-17 Youth Division or Youth League Cup match (including the names of the nominated substitutes) to the referee and a representative of its opponents in the presence of the referee 45 minutes before the advertised hour of kick-off.

16. REPORTS OF RESULTS

16.1 Clubs must forward to the Chief Executive within three days of each match, the full names of all players who took part in any Under-17 Youth Division or Youth League Cup match, together with the result. Clubs failing to comply, or making any error therein or any omissions therefrom, shall be liable to such penalty as the Board may decide.

16.2 Notwithstanding the terms of Rule 16.1, teamlines for all Under-17 Youth Division or Youth League Cup matches must be submitted to The Scottish Football League by telefax or any other electronic means by 11.00 a.m. of the day following the tie or the match.

17. MATCH OFFICIALS

17.1 A match referee shall be appointed by The Scottish Football Association for all Under-17 Youth Division and Youth League Cup matches.

17.2 The League shall pay the fees and expenses of all match officials appointed to officiate at all Under-17 Youth Division and Youth League Cup matches.

18. COACHING PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE AT MATCHES

Clubs must have a minimum of two suitably qualified coaches in attendance at all Under-17 Youth Division and Youth League Cup matches.

19. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

Any matter not provided for in these Rules shall be subject to the decision of the Board, taking into account the provisions of the abovementioned Rule 4 entitled "Control".