



**GIBRALTAR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**  
**GRASSROOTS YOUTH FOOTBALL RULES**

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## **1. CONTROL OF THE COMPETITIONS**

- 1.1** The organization, control and management of the Youth Leagues & Cup Competitions in all its various age groups shall be the responsibility of the Gibraltar Football Association (GFA) acting through the Technical Youth Committee (TYC). This Committee shall consist of the Technical Director, Grassroots Manager and the Youth League Manager.
- 1.2** The GFA Board of Directors (the “Board”) (as defined in the Statutes of the GFA “the Statutes”) acting through the TD shall have the power to add, alter and/or remove these rules.
- 1.3** The Board acting through the TYC has the power to take action, make decisions, orders and impose such penalties, as it deems appropriate in relation to any matter not specifically mentioned in these Rules or Regulations.
- 1.4** The Board has exclusive entitlement and authorization to use, sell or otherwise exploit all marketing and commercial rights associated with the Youth League and Cup Competitions.

## **2. YOUTH LEAGUES & CUP COMPETITIONS**

- 2.1** All matters related to the division of the age groups, number of teams in each age group and playing areas which affect the format established and are of relevance for the good Governance of the Youth Competitions shall be administered via Regulations attached to these rules which will be published at the start of each season.
- 2.2** Any Changes to these Regulations shall be at the sole discretion of the Board acting through its TYC who were relevant may consult with all other interested parties.

## **3. LAWS OF THE GAME**

- 3.1** All Matches in the Leagues and Cup Competitions shall be played in conformity with the Laws of the Game promulgated by the International Football Association Board (“IFAB”) as amended from time to time. However, the TYC reserves the right to add, alter, amend and/or introduce any rule specific to any age group to help and encourage development in accordance to Rule 1.1. The Board and/or the TYC will authorize such addition, alteration and amendments.
- 3.2** These alterations, amendments and/or additions shall be listed as Regulations to each specific age group and be published accordingly.

#### 4. CLUB PARTICIPATION

- 4.1 A team may only participate in the League or Cup Competition if it is duly registered with the GFA as or under a Club (as defined in the Statutes) under the GFA Domestic Licence Regulations for the respective season,
- 4.1.1 The TYC may from time to time accept a team to participate in the league or cup competition which is considered to be of a development nature.
- 4.2 A Club can only register one team in each age group except in the following circumstances:
- 4.2.1 if this team is comprised exclusively of Girls: or
- 4.2.2 at the sole discretion of the TYC if the majority (minimum two thirds) consists of Girls.
- 4.2.3 in exceptional circumstances to be determined by the Board at its sole discretion, and any decision taken will be binding.
- 4.3 A team may not withdraw and/or resign from the League or Cup competition without prior notification in writing to the TYC prior to the end of the season and/or competition and all other avenues have been explored to prevent such withdrawal and/or resignation.
- 4.4 A Club being unable to field a team for a scheduled official match shall by no later than 36 hours before the set time for the match to commence report the matter to the TYC giving good cause why such match should be postponed.
- 4.4.1 In the Non-competitive leagues, the match will be forfeited and not rescheduled.
- 4.4.2 In the Competitive competitions a reschedule will only be allowed if the team is unable to field a team in the following instances:
- i. A programmed school trip or other school activity or Religious Activity;
  - ii. Sickness (evidence provided)
- 4.5 If a fixture is cancelled/postponed it shall be played as directed by the TYC. In the case that the fixture is abandoned due to other factors, the TYC will have the discretion to determine what action to take and result.

#### 5. PLAYER REGISTRATION

- 5.1 Players eligible to participate in the League and Cup Competitions must be registered with the GFA in accordance with the player registration policy from time to time in place.
- 5.2 Players will be registered in each age group to play with and against players from their own age within the provided range of a one-year band born between the 1<sup>st</sup> January and the 31<sup>st</sup> December of each calendar year.
- 5.3 Players will **not** be allowed to register if they have not attained the age of 5 for the then current season
- 5.4 With regards to the U-12, U-14 and U-16 Leagues the range will be a two-year band born between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 31<sup>st</sup> December of each calendar year.

- 5.5** Registration of Players not previously registered with any club in Gibraltar in that particular season or having been registered in any other league will be allowed to sign in accordance to the following criteria:
- 5.5.1** The registration does not surpass the allotted maximum number of players in each team at any given time.
  - 5.5.2** The player has received International Clearance via FIFA's International Transfer Matching System (ITMS), in particular its Minors process.
  - 5.5.3** Registration will not be allowed after the 1<sup>st</sup> March and/or should two thirds of the season have passed whichever is the earliest.
- 5.6** Regarding Girls participating in the youth leagues the criteria will be as follows:
- 5.6.1** Girls participating in the Youth League or Cup Competition have a dispensation on Registration as from 1<sup>st</sup> September of each calendar year.
  - 5.6.2** In the under 12 years age group Girls attaining the age of 14 on the then Current season will be allowed to finish the said season.
  - 5.6.3** In the Under 14 years age group Girls attaining the age of 16 on the then current season will be allowed to finish the said season.
- 5.7** Players will be registered in Comet as per the guidelines set by the GFA.
- 5.8** A team may register during the then current season any number of players between the set maximum and minimum numbers of players in each age group as the TYC may from time to time deem reasonable and are published in the Youth Football Regulations booklet.
- 5.9** No club shall be entitled to register more than three players who do not satisfy the Home-Grown Player Rule laid down by the GFA in accordance with the FIFA Regulations Governing the Implementation of the Statutes.
- 5.10** The TYC, at its sole discretion may introduce special concessions and allow more than the number stipulated at 5.9 above on case by case basis during the season.
- 5.11** A player registered in the under 5-16 age groups will be allowed to play for a team from the same club in the next age group, known as a 'feeder' player, under the following conditions:
- 5.11.1** The club has presented a duly signed Parental Consent Form allowing the player to play in the next age group;
  - 5.11.2** Player plays for one of the teams in the older age group should there be two teams in the said higher age group.
  - 5.11.3** The use of feeder players is restricted to the preceding age group and to a maximum of 3 players at any game not exceeding the maximum number of registered players in the latter or the number of non HGP players permitted in the rules. Players can play unlimited number of games in the higher age group.
  - 5.11.4** Regarding Feeder players the TYC has the authority to legislate the format in each age group and shall confirm this in the schedules

**5.11.5** A registered player who has attained the age of 16 is eligible to play unlimited number of games for the Club senior teams in the men's senior leagues with the consent of the parent/guardian as part of the players' development plan. The relevant form will be completed, signed and handed in prior to any game being played.

**5.12** In the event of a team fielding an ineligible player in any official match the offending Club shall be liable to disciplinary proceedings and the game shall be forfeited and awarded to the opposing team.

## **6. TRANSFERS OF PLAYERS**

**6.1** A Club may only transfer its Players in accordance with Rule 14.1.5 below.

**6.2** The transfer of players in the non-competitive leagues will not be permitted unless

**6.2.1** Both clubs have given written agreement and the transfer request is made before the 1<sup>st</sup> March and/or should two thirds of the season have passed whichever is the earliest.

**6.2.2** A safeguarding issue can be proven.

**6.3** Written requests can be submitted to the TYC for their consideration on any transfer issue the decision of the committee will be binding. A player will only be allowed to transfer only once in any given season should the said transfer be allowed

**6.4** The competitive leagues (12, 14, & 16) shall be bound by the GFA Transfer rules as set in 14.1.5 below.

**6.5** In the event of a transfer of registration the Player's new Club must have the transfer form duly signed and registered with the TYC when it will be considered as complete and accepted.

**6.6** The TYC shall have the power at any time to cancel the registration of a player upon application of the Player or his/her Registered Club after having heard and considered such application.

No player may re-register (whether by transfer or release) to play for a team for which said player has played for in the course of the same season.

## **6.7 POACHING RULES**

1. Poaching is considered a significant offence by this Association and any league, club, or individual found to have committed a poaching violation shall be subject to a significant sanction as determined by the GFA Disciplinary Unit.
2. Such sanctions may include;
  - a. a financial penalty;
  - b. loss of coaching privileges for a year,
  - c. ban from applying for the next available UEFA Licence;
  - d. ineligibility to participate in GFA authorized events,
  - e. or any other appropriate sanction.

3. Any club , team or Coach who through their responsible officers or representatives, attempts at any time prior to the approved trials start date of any seasonal year to induce a registered player (or their parent or their guardian) of any team, or any team as a whole, club, or league under the jurisdiction of this Association to leave their current affiliation before the end of the current seasonal year will be considered a poaching violation.
4. Teams will not be permitted to change Clubs during the seasonal year.
5. In those instances, in which a coach moves from one club to another separate and distinct club at the end of the seasonal year, the coach may not coach players of the same gender and succeeding age group for that seasonal year. In addition, the coach may not serve as a team official or trainer for the same gender and succeeding age group for that seasonal year. (For example, if a U11 boys coach moves to another club, the coach may not coach a U12 boys' team the following seasonal year. These prohibitions shall last one seasonal year).
6. If a coach moves from one club to another separate and distinct club during the seasonal year, the prohibitions shall be enforced for the remainder of that seasonal year and the following seasonal year. This rule does not apply under the following:
  - a. The coach's club dissolves.
  - b. The appropriate prior club representative agrees in writing to the coach's move to a different club.
7. Contact initiated by a responsible representative of a club or team between a registered player or player's parents other than the player's registered club will be considered poaching. For purposes of this rule, contact is not limited to personnel contact, but will include contact by phone, text, emails, face book and all other social media. Responsible representatives include but are not limited to parents of team members, trainers, team managers, club board members, and club directors of coaching.
8. The appropriate response by the responsible representative to player-initiated contact is to provide requested information. Any recommendation for the player to attend training, trials or any other team, club football event by the representative would be inappropriate and considered an attempt to induce a player to leave their present club.
9. A club advertising on their own website is not considered poaching. Attendance by the player at such events when initiated by the player or player's parents will not be considered as an official approach.

## **7 CLUB COLOURS**

- 7.1** For the purpose of these Rules regarding Club Colours, Advertising, Numbers, Sponsor designation and Player identification and strip adherence will be kept to the Rules as set by the GFA from time to time in the Senior League Rules and as per the Laws of the Game. No advertisement will be allowed on any player which would contravene International Standards on the protection of Children & Young Persons.
- 7.2** Where the colour (shirts, shorts, stockings) of two competing team are similar, the team playing away must change unless alternative arrangements are mutually agreed by the competing clubs.
- 7.3** Team's colour must not clash with the outfit being worn by the match officials appointed for the fixture.

## **8. COACHING QUALIFICATIONS**

- 8.1** The Head Coach of a Youth Team must hold an approved GFA Level 1 award in Coaching Football or equivalent minimum coaching qualification and have a validated First aid and safeguarding certificate.
- 8.2** A Coach will only be allowed to be present in the technical area and GFA playing areas if he/she has completed a minimum and valid Coaching Level 1 certificate and a validated First aid and safeguarding certificate. Consideration may be given to a potential coach who has enrolled in an GFA approved course and is in the process of 'working towards' his/her certificate.

## **9. TROPHIES**

- 9.1** Subject to any direction to the contrary given by the GFA at the commencement of the season, the trophies for the winner of each age group of the League and Cup Competitions shall be competed for annually and shall not become the property in any given season of the winning club.
- 9.2** A record shall be kept with respect to each season of the details of the winners of each age group of the League and Cup Competitions.
- 9.3** The leagues relating to the age groups of under 5-10's shall be non-competitive and all participants shall receive their participation memento. The Leagues & Cup competition for the Under 12, 14, & 16 shall be competitive with tables published and played as per the format published in the relevant schedule for these age groups.
- 9.4** The winners of the League & Cup Competitions shall upon being presented with the relevant trophy, execute through an authorized club official for and on behalf of said club, a guarantee in the sum of Five hundred pounds (£500) for any loss or damage which the GFA may suffer in consequence of said trophy being in their possession.

## **10. MATCH OFFICIALS**

- 10.1** All competitive League and Cup Matches will be administered and refereed by a Gibraltar FA Registered Referee, in accordance with the Gibraltar FA Referee Regulations as set in Rule 14 below.
- 10.2** In the non-competitive competitions where no match official is available a registered member with a minimum level 1 certificate in coaching can be appointed as the match official in any of the under5-10 age groups as directed by the TYC.

## **11. COMET / TEAM SHEETS**

- 11.1** Each competing team shall accurately complete the team sheet in the COMET system, containing a list of Players, substitutes and corresponding shirt numbers and complete this prior to the start of the game for the match official to check.
- 11.2** All entries in COMET/ team sheet must be composed of the following information: -
- 11.2.1** In the case of Under 5-10s:
- i. Names of Registered Players; and
  - ii. Names of team officials who fulfill the following roles:  
Qualified Head Coach;  
Qualified Assistant Coach;
- 11.2.2** In the case of Under 12,14 & 16in addition to above:  
Include a Qualified Physiotherapist and/or Doctor;
- 11.3** Only the persons listed above, named in COMET/team sheet are allowed in the technical area.
- 11.4** It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that the information provided in each COMET team sheet is correct and accurate and that the listed Player Members are eligible to participate.
- 11.5** The Match Officials will then check each Team Sheet in accordance with the GFA Referee Regulations as set in Rule 14 below.
- 11.6** Where there are issues regarding Comet or in the absence of the availability of Comet the TYC may issue guidance as to the use of paper team sheets.

**11.7** In the case of feeder players, a feeder player form will be duly completed and presented to the match official so a note can be made in the Comet system of the player's inclusion in the squad.

## **12. IDENTITY**

**12.1** Players and officials mentioned in the COMET team sheet are obliged to have visible the Gibraltar FA Identity Card.

**12.2** The Gibraltar FA Identity Card of all persons listed on the team sheet can be checked by the Match Official(s) prior to kick off.

**12.3** In the case where a player's identity could not be verified by a valid Gibraltar FA Identity Card, the player will not be allowed to play. In the case of a team official, he/she will not be allowed to sit in the technical area.

**12.4** In the case of a protest, complaint, charge or investigation, the burden of proof as to the identity of a player or official taking part in a match shall rest with the Club.

## **13. DISPUTES, COMPLAINTS & BREACH OF RULES OR REGULATIONS**

**13.1** Any dispute or complaint by a Club regarding another Club in relation to any matter applicable to the League or Cup, shall be dealt with by the TYC in accordance with the GFA Disciplinary Rules as set down in Rule 14 below.

**13.2** Any dispute or complaint by a Club regarding any matters as to the laws of the games or breach of Regulations will be dealt with by the TYC. There being cause for arbitration the matter will be referred to the Board. The decision made by the Board will be final.

**13.3** Any dispute or complaint by a club member in relation to any matter not specifically mentioned in these Rules, the TYC shall have the power to take such action and make such decisions, orders, and rulings and impose such penalties as it deems necessary and follow such procedures as it considers appropriate.

**13.4** Any breach of these Rules will be dealt with by the TYC as per the GFA Disciplinary Rules as set in Rule 14 below.

**13.5** The TYC in consultation with the GFA Board shall have the power to disqualify a club and/or a team from any official competition should it deem it appropriate upon the said club/ team being found guilty of a serious breach of these Rules or is consistently in breach of these rules causing disaffection with other members.

**13.6** The following rules will apply to players, coaches and clubs registered in the Youth Leagues regarding cards, suspensions penalties and fines:

**13.6.1** No cards will be shown through the non-competitive leagues (Under 5-10). In these leagues sanctions during the game will be administered by the match official and adhered to by the coaches.

Sanctions imposed during the game will be considered as served unless of a serious nature whereby the match official will make a relevant report for the matter to be considered by the TYC whose decision as to any further sanction imposed will be final.

**13.6.2** Regarding under 12,14 & 16 leagues, regarded as competitive, the normal rules of the game, discipline and sanctions will apply with the following added provisos:

- i. Feeder players in the case of accumulated yellow cards regardless of in which league the card was obtained will serve any sanction/ban in the age group in which the player was cautioned
- ii. Coaches will serve any sanction/ban imposed in the age group where the offence was committed/recorded unless of a serious nature where the TYC may decide to impose a sanction/ban across the board befitting the infraction and according to the discipline rules as set by the GFA Rules.
- iii. Under 16 players who are sanctioned will serve any sanction/ban in the leagues where the sanction was issued unless the offence is of such a serious nature that the TYC considers that further punishment is applicable. Decisions by the TYC will be final and binding.

**13.7** Fines in the non-competitive leagues will not be considered regarding infractions to the discipline code or GFA rules committed by the players however consideration will be taken by the TYC to impose such fines as set by the GFA Discipline Regulations regarding infractions by a club, coach, club member or supporter.

**13.8** In the competitive leagues (under 12,14 & 16) fines equivalent to 50% of that which would be imposed in the senior leagues will be applied to any infractions by a club, coach, club member or supporter.

**13.9** Failure by any club to ensure sanctions imposed are adhered to or served by any club, coach, club member or supporter will result in such club being made accountable to disciplinary action and responsible for any sanction, ban or fine the Technical Department may consider appropriate and proportionate.

#### **14. POLICIES AND REGULATIONS**

**14.1** The following Rules, Policies and Regulations apply to these Rules and all GFA Members must adhere to them during their participation in the League and as long as they are Members of the GFA: -

- 14.1.1** Social Media Policy;
- 14.1.2** Rules of the GFA;
- 14.1.3** Referee Regulations;
- 14.1.4** GFA Disciplinary Rules;

**14.1.5** GFA Regulations on Status & Transfer of Players.

**14.1.6** GFA Home Grown Player Rules

**14.2** A copy of the above shall be made available to all Clubs participating in the League by the GFA, and it is the responsibility of each Clubs to ensure their registered Members are fully aware of the repercussions in the event of their breach

**These Rules have been adopted by the Board to regulate the 2019/2020 League Season.**

**By Order of the GFA**

**2019**





**GIBRALTAR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**  
**GRASSROOTS YOUTH FOOTBALL REGULATIONS**

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## 1. COMPETITIONS

The schedules below apply in full to both the League Format and Cup Competitions, which the TYC have agreed with the GFA Board in accordance to the Grassroots Plan.

Any matters concerning the development of Grassroots Youth Football must be brought to the TYC, who will in turn inform the GFA Board.

## 2. LAWS OF THE GAME (Schedules per age group)

Under the Powers Conferred upon the TYC under Section 2.1 of the Rules, the following additions and amendments are made to the Laws of the Game in the:

### Under 5-8 Age Groups

#### SCHEDULE 1

1. No Offside Rule.
2. No throw-ins. Replaced by a pass-in along the ground with the opposition at least 5 meters away from ball
3. GK must pass all goal kicks along the ground. When in his hands GK must roll ball out, **No kicking from hands**
4. When a Goal Kick is awarded, the nearest opposing team player must be on the half way line until such time the Goal Kick is taken along the ground.
5. NO Heading. In the event of a deliberate header it will be treated as an interference with the flow of the game as specified below. Inside the area a defensive header will constitute a corner and attacking header will constitute a goal kick.
6. Penalty kicks shall be taken from the edge of the goal area. Except for the player taking the penalty, all defending and attacking players will position themselves outside the area behind the ball. No defending player will stand in a position that could in anyway interfere with the run up of the player taking the penalty.
7. All Fouls will be **indirect** and all kicks from static play will be below hip high (i.e. goal kicks, throw ins, corners & free kicks)
8. All registered Players in this age group, who are eligible and, on the team, - sheet must play at least once in each half.
9. Roll on/Roll off substitutions.
10. Recording of minutes played by each player should be encouraged.
11. Feeder players allowed in this age group up to the maximum number of players in the next higher age group.

12. U-5-8 Matches will be played x2 weekend in every month with the remainder of the weekends used for coaching and or festivals as directed by the Technical Team. Each team will compete in a series of non-competitive 'round robin' small side games.
13. Interference in the flow of the game U 8 pitch 2:
  - a. If there is interference to the flow of the game as a result of the ball impacting the net or the tensing wires at any point above the playing area, a Pass-in will be awarded to the opposing team.
  - b. The kick-in will be taken from the side line nearest to the point of impact of the ball with the net or tensing wire.

### **Under 9-10 Age Groups**

#### **SCHEDULE 2**

1. No off-side.
2. No throw-ins. Replaced by a pass-in along the ground with the opposition at least 5 meters away from ball
3. GK must pass all goal kicks along the ground. When in his hands GK must roll ball out, No kicking.
4. When a Goal Kick is awarded, the nearest opposing team player must be on the half way line until such time as the Goal Kick is taken.
5. **Heading is to be discouraged.**
6. Interference in the flow of the game:
  - a. If there is interference to the flow of the game as a result of the ball impacting the net or the tensing wires at any point above the playing area, a pass-in will be awarded to the opposing team.
  - b. The pass-in will be taken from the side line nearest to the point of impact of the ball with the net or tensing wire.
7. All registered Players in this age group, who are eligible and on the team sheet must play at least once in each half.
8. All Fouls will be **indirect** and all kicks from static play should be encouraged to be below hip high (i.e. goal kicks, throw ins, corners & free kicks)
9. Roll on roll off substitutions
10. Feeder players allowed in this age group up to the maximum number of players in the next higher age group

11. U-9/10 Matches will be played x2 weekend in every month with the remainder of the weekends used for coaching as directed by the Technical Team
12. On the other x2 weekends in the month the teams will be invited to participate in the GFA Grassroots festival weekends, where each team will compete in a series of non-competitive 'round robin' small side games.

### **Under 12 Age Groups**

#### **SCHEDULE 3**

1. Offside rule applies.
2. Heading is permitted.
3. Roll on Roll of Substitutions.
4. All players on the team sheet to play in each half. Playing time recorded.
5. Feeder players allowed in this age group up to the maximum number of players in the next higher age group.
6. Interference in the flow of the game:
  - a. If there is interference to the flow of the game as a result of the ball impacting the net or the tensing wires at any point above the playing area, a **throw-in** will be awarded to the opposing team.
  - b. The throw-in will be taken from the side line nearest to the point of impact of the ball with the net or tensing wire.

### **Under 14 & 16 Age Groups**

#### **SCHEDULE 4**

1. All games 11v11
2. In accordance with UEFA Development Guidelines:
  - (a) Each team may use all substitutes in the course of the match.
  - (b) A team is permitted to make as many substitutes as it wishes during the first half. However, the player/players substituted may not return to the field of play.
  - (c) Any number of substitutions is permitted during half time.
  - (d) During the second half, a team is only permitted to stop the game for substitutions for a max of 3 times.

(e) All substitutions to be made with the permission of the Match Official and or Match Delegate.

3. All eligible players named in the team sheet in these age groups must be played at least once in each game.
4. All playing minutes to be recorded.
5. Feeder Players will be allowed in these age groups under the following conditions:
  - i. 4 players at any given fixture. These players can play unlimited number of games throughout the season.
  - ii. Feeder players allowed in this age group up to the maximum number of players in the next higher age group.
  - iii. Players having attained the age of 16+ will be allowed to play unlimited times in the senior leagues.

### 3. **TABLE OF FORMAT**

Under the Powers Conferred upon the TYC under Section 2.1 of the Rules, the following additions and amendments are made to the format of the game in the various age groups as shown on the table below as follows:

Age Group	Minimum & Maximum registered Players		Format per side	Minimum required to start game	No of Periods/ Minutes	Pitch	Ball Size
Under 5	6	10	5 a-side	4	2 x 15	Indoor 3	3
Under 6	8	10	5 a-side	5	2 x 15	Indoor 4	3
Under 7	8	10	6 a-side	5	2 x 20	2 Across	3
Under 8	8	12	6 a-side	5	2 x 20	2 Across	3
1. Coaches would help officiate 2. All players to have equal playing time – (recorded)							
Under 9	9	12	8 a-side	6	2 x 25	2	4
Under 10	9	12	8 a-side	6	2 x 25	2	4
1. Young referees to officiate or coaches 2. All players to have equal playing time – (recorded)							

Under 12	10	15	9 a-side	8	2 x 30	2	4
Under 14	12	18	11 a-side	10	2x35	1	5
Under 16	12	18	11 a-side	10	2 x 40	1	5
1. Referees to officiate 2. Feeder players to be used to maximise potential development for each individual player.							

### **Delegate Responsibilities**

During all fixtures, the GFA appointed Delegates will be Acting on behalf of the TYC, and as such, will have full powers to implement all guidelines and GFA Rules and regulations.

#### **4. EXPECTATIONS**

- 4.1 All recommendations to be reviewed again by the committee during the winter break.
- 4.2 Max of 3 NHGP players permitted at these age groups in accordance to the GFA HGP rule.
- 4.3 All disciplinary matters (yellow/red cards, suspensions, etc.) must be referred to the TYC for resolution.

#### **5. CUP COMPETITIONS**

- 5.1 In the non-competitive league age groups cups and/or festivals will be organized by the TYC as the years schedule permits and in a format in which will be decided prior to the start of each competition.
- 5.2 In the under 12,14, &16 age groups the winners of the previous season League competition, will have the choice of entering the first round of the Cup competition in the next higher age category. Should they choose to play in the higher cup competition they will not be eligible to enter their respective cup competition that same year.
- 5.3 As soon as possible after each draw is made, notice shall be given to the team of each club of the name of its opponent, and the date and hour when the tie shall be played. All ties in each round shall be played at such times and on such days as the Technical Department may determine.
- 5.4 With reference to the under 12, 14, &16 age groups the teams competing for the Cup shall be drawn in couples. These couples shall compete, and the winners shall be drawn and shall compete in the same manner and this shall be continued until the end of the Competition for each age group, when the winning team shall hold the Cup for that age group. Unless a satisfactory reason is given, each team shall represent the full available strength from time to time.
- 5.5 No feeder players permitted during cup competitions

- 5.6** All ties played are to be decided in the event of a draw either on a 1match basis (knockout system) or in a Home and away format by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the procedure adopted by the International Football Association Board provisions which are provided for in these schedules.

**Provisions Concerning Qualifications of Players**

- 5.7** A player shall not in the same season play for more than one team/club if he has already competed in that same cup competition.
- 5.8** A player who has been suspended may play in postponed, drawn or replayed ties after the term of his suspension has expired.
- 5.9** A substitute who is not used in any match in the Competition is entitled to play for the team of another club in the same season provided that the transfer occurs as per the transfer rules.
- 5.10** In all rounds of the Competition a player must have been a registered member of his team at least 7 days previous to the date fixed for playing the match for that round. In the case of postponed, drawn or replayed matches only those players shall be allowed to play who were eligible at the time fixed for playing the said match.
- 5.11** In order to be eligible for the final tie, players must have been correctly registered and eligible for the semi-final round of the Competition.
- 5.12** Feeder Players are eligible to play in a higher age group cup competition provided their team has not registered to play in that cup competition and the player has not already played for his registered team

**These Regulations have been adopted by the Board in consultation with all interested parties to regulate the 2019/2020 Grassroots Youth League & Cup Competition**

**By Order of the GFA**

**2019**