GIBRALTAR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
GFA YOUTH LEAGUE RULES 2026-2027

SCOPE OF YOUTH LEAGUE RULES

1. General Provisions

1.1 Save as otherwise set out in this GFA Handbook, matters concerning GFA Youth Competitions shall be dealt with in accordance with these Youth Football Rules and supplemented by Schedule 16 as more particularly set out herein.

1.2 These Youth Rules contain the substantive and formal provisions governing the organisation, administration and operations of GFA Youth Competitions.

1.3 The GFA shall have the power and authority to amend these Youth League Rules from time to time.

2. Control of the GFA Youth Competitions

2.1 The organisation, control and management of the Youth Competitions in all its various age groups shall be the responsibility of the GFA acting through the GFA Football Development Team, which shall include a team comprised of:

(a) the GFA's Head of Football;
(b) the GFA's Grassroots Manager;
(c) the GFA's Head of National Squads;
(d) the GFA's Technical Advisor & Coach Education Manager; and
(e) the GFA's International Football Services Manager.

2.2 The meetings of the Football Development Team will be chaired by the GFA's Head of Football.

2.3 The GFA Football Development Team will in consultation with the GFA Member Clubs, plan, develop, communicate and implement any changes to the formats of the GFA Youth Competitions. The GFA, acting through the GFA Football Development Team, shall have the power to add, alter and/or remove these Youth Football Rules.

2.4 The GFA shall exclusively retain the power to approve and implement such ancillary rules and policies, together with clarifying matters of ambiguity concerning the GFA Youth Football Rules or any other additional aspects which may affect the GFA Youth Competitions.

2.5 The GFA shall exclusively retain all entitlement and authority to use, assign, sell or

otherwise take advantage of all marketing and commercial rights associated with the GFA Youth Competitions, inclusive of pursuing such commercial opportunities and/or agreements and partnerships which may be in the best interests of the GFA Youth Competitions.

2.6 For the avoidance of doubt, these rules do not cover the Under 18 Youth Championship. The Under 18 Youth Championship has a separate set of rules which can be found in the GFA Handbook.

3. GFA Youth Competitions

3.1 Unless otherwise agreed, GFA Youth Football League season shall commence in September 2026 and conclude no later than May 2027 and include the following:

(a) Under 8 - 5v5 format

(b) Under 10 - 7v7 Championship & 5v5 Development League

(c) Under 12 - 9v9 Championship & 7v7 Development League

(d) Under 14 - 11v11 Championship & 9v9 Development League

(e) Under 16 – 11v11 Championship

3.2 All matters related to the division of the age groups and categories, 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 GFA Youth Competitions shall, absent being included in this GFA Handbook, be administered and confirmed by the GFA Football Development Team at the start of each football season.

3.3 Any changes to these Youth Football Rules shall be at the sole discretion of the GFA acting through the GFA Football Development Team who, will consult the GFA Member Clubs, together with such other interested stakeholders prior to making any changes.

4. Laws of the Game

4.1 All GFA Youth Competitions shall be played in conformity with the Laws of the Game promulgated by the IFAB as amended from time to time. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the GFA Football Development Team reserves the right to add, alter, amend and/or introduce any rule specific to any age group to help and encourage development. The GFA and/or the GFA Football Development Team, in consultation with the GFA Member Clubs, will authorise such additions, alterations and

amendments.

5. Club Participation

5.1 A Team may only participate in the GFA Youth Competitions if it is duly registered under an existing Club, with the exception of the GFA Girls Programme and Maccabi FC.

5.2 A Club shall only be permitted to register more than one Team in each age group in the following circumstances:

(a) in circumstances, where in a multiple year category and the club has enough players from each year to be able to field two teams; or

(b) in exceptional circumstances, where the team is allowed to play in the subsequent and/or higher age category in order to increase the competitive nature of the subsequent and/or higher age category.

5.3 Further to rules 5.2 (a) and (b) decisions will be determined by the GFA Football Development Team at its sole discretion, with any such decision being taken as final.

5.4 A Team may not withdraw and/or resign from a GFA Youth Competition prior to the end of the football season without prior notification in writing to the GFA Football Development Team, and unless all other avenues have been explored to prevent such withdrawal and/or resignation. The GFA reserves the right to impose sanctions on a Club or other independent team, that withdraws a Team from any GFA Youth Competition.

5.5 In the event that a Club is unable to field a team for a Match of a GFA Youth Competition, the Club must notify the GFA Football Development Team within 48 hours prior to the commencement of the applicable Match in writing, setting out reasons for its inability to field a team.

5.6 To the extent that a Club is unable to field a team, the following rules shall apply, namely:

(a) In relation to all age categories up to and including the U16 category, the postponement of the Match will only be permitted in the following circumstances, specifically subject to the authorisation of the GFA Football Development Team:

(i) Due to poor weather conditions; or

(ii) A Club may request the postponement of a Match by submitting a request at least seven days before the scheduled date of the Match.

The requesting Club shall be responsible for contacting the opposing Club and seeking to agree both the postponement and a suitable alternative allocation within the dates established for the relevant round or season. A postponement shall only be granted where the opposing Club agrees and a suitable alternative allocation is available. If these conditions are not met, the Match shall proceed as originally scheduled. If the requesting Team subsequently fails to fulfil the fixture, the Match shall be forfeited, and the Club may also be subject to disciplinary sanctions in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations.

5.7 If a Club does not field a Team and/or forfeits a total of 3 Matches during the football season, the Team in question may be removed from the respective category, and the corresponding Club may be subject to Disciplinary Sanctions in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations.

5.8 Players registered with a Club and/or Team that has been removed from the GFA Youth Competitions in accordance with rule 5.5 of these Youth Football Rules, shall be allowed to re-register with another Club, and shall not be required to pay any registration fee.

5.9 Clubs must notify the GFA if a player/parent or guardian (if player is under the age of 18) informs them that they do not want photographs and videos to be taken of them/their child.

6. Player Registration

6.1 Players must be registered in accordance with all applicable GFA Rules and Regulations, as well as with FIFA's Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, insofar as the registration and transfer of minors is concerned, before being eligible to be registered to form part of a Club and/or Team registered to compete in the GFA Youth Competitions.

6.2 Subject to prior compliance with the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, Players between the age of 10 and 16, who have not previously registered with any Club and/or Team in Gibraltar, or having been registered with a club and/or Team outside of Gibraltar, will be allowed to register with a Club and/or Team providing:

(a) said registration does not surpass the permitted maximum number of Players in a Club and/or Team at any given time in the football season, except in cases where a dispensation has been granted by the GFA

Football Development Team;

(b) has received clearance via the FIFA Transfer Matching System ("TMS");

(c) the intended registration is approved by a parent and/or guardian of the Player; and

(d) the registration does not displace an existing registered player who has not been relocated.

6.3 The registration of Female Players participating in the GFA Youth Competitions will be governed by the GFA's Football Development Team in the best interests of the development of Female Players. Further to rule 6.2, Female Players may be registered in the subsequent and/or higher or in the previous and/or lower age category subject to the authorisation of the Football Development Team.

6.4 For the avoidance of doubt, Female Players must only be registered to a maximum of two teams across the GFA Youth Leagues and GFA Women's League (within the same Club or GFA Programme). Combination may include:

(a) One youth club team and GFA Girls (born in 2013 or after)

(b) One youth club team and it's senior Women's team (as per Rule 6.8 (h)) (born in 2012 or before)

(c) GFA Girls (Youth) (U14 – 11v11) and GFA Girls (Women's) (as per Rule 6.8 (h) (born in 2013 or before)

6.5 All Players will be required to be registered in the COMET system.

6.6 The GFA Football Development Team will prior to the commencement of the football season confirm to all Clubs and/or Teams the maximum and minimum amount of Players which may be registered at any given time during the football season.

6.7 A Team must ensure they do not have more than five non-Gibraltar Eligible Players registered at any given time.

6.8 Subject to compliance with the following conditions, a Player registered to participate in the GFA Youth Competitions with a Club and/or Team will also be eligible to play for said Club and/or Team in a higher age category or division, providing the following is adhered to:

(a) the Club has presented the GFA Football Development Team with the written consent of the parents and/or guardians of the Player to do so;

(b) Teams in all formats may recruit Feeder Players registered with the club from the preceding age category per match providing such recruitment does not exceed the match day squad maximums or the amount of non-Gibraltar

Eligible Players permitted under these Youth Football Rules;

(c) Feeder Players can only be used for one team in the event that a Club has more than one team in any division or competition.

(d) Players registered must play in their age categories as a priority, in the event that a Club has two age categories playing on the same date the Club can decide which team takes precedence;

(e) Players who are eligible may Play up in an unlimited amount of Matches;

(f) a Player who has attained the age of 16 may be eligible to, without a restriction on the number of Matches, play for the Club in the GFA Football League and GFA Reserve League (subject to name change) (inclusive of corresponding cup Competitions played in connection therewith) provided that all applicable competition rules are complied with;

(g) a Player who was born in 2011 or 2012 and is registered in the Clubs U16 category may be eligible to, without a restriction on the number of Matches, play for the Club in the GYFL Under 18 Championship. Players born in 2013 may be given a dispensation from the GFA Football Development Team to play in the GYFL Under 18 Championship, provided that all applicable competition rules are complied with;

(h) a Female Player who was born in 2012 or before, and is registered in the Club may be eligible to, without a restriction on the number of Matches, play for the Club in the GFA Women's League (inclusive of corresponding cup Competitions played in connection therewith) provided that all applicable competition rules are complied with; and

(i) Players will not be allowed to feed down from their registered team category or division

6.9 Any breach of these provisions may constitute Misconduct by the offending Club and/or Team, and said Club and/or Team may be subject to Disciplinary Sanctions under the Disciplinary Regulations (including forfeiting the applicable Match).

7. Transfer of Players

7.1 A Club and/or Team may only transfer its Players in a GFA Youth Competition in accordance with the rules and regulations in these Youth Football Rules, but always in full compliance and adherence with the protection of Minor provisions in the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players in this GFA Handbook.

7.2 There will be two transfer windows in each Youth League season, namely:

(a) the Summer Transfer Window; and

(b) the Winter Transfer Window.

7.3 A Player may be registered outside of the Transfer windows if they are transferring from a different jurisdiction. This is available up until 11 March 2027.

7.4 A 2011 born player may be registered by a team in the Under 16 category outside the transfer window if it is their first-ever registration (i.e., the player has never previously played football in an official capacity). However, that player will not be eligible to feed into the Under 18, Reserve, or Gibraltar Football League until the next transfer window opens.

7.5 Players in the Under 14 category and below may only be registered to a maximum of two clubs per season.

7.6 Written requests to the GFA Football Development Team for their consideration of any issues concerning a transfer may be submitted. Any decision taken by the GFA Football Development Team will be final and binding.

7.7 The transfer of Players who will turn 16 before the end of the season and/or born in 2011 shall be carried out in full compliance and adherence with the Status and Transfer Regulations in this GFA Handbook.

7.8 The GFA Football Development Team shall have the power at any time to cancel the registration of a Player upon the Player or the Club's request after having heard and considered such requests.

7.9 In accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations contained in this GFA Handbook, and as more particularly set out in Schedule 1 (Offences of Misconduct), but which is nonetheless included herein, tampering of any form by any Clubs, Participants or ancillary intermediaries who approach, whether directly or indirectly (including by means of a Player's parents and/or guardians), a Player competing in a GFA Youth Competition during the seasonal year with a view to inducing or assisting them to leave their Club without the knowledge and prior written consent of the Player's current Club shall constitute Misconduct contrary to this GFA Handbook. For the avoidance of doubt, this shall include conduct or contact which initiated by a Player. Any complaints on this basis should be supported with evidence and directed at the Gibraltar FA in writing by the club.

7.10 Teams registered with a Club will not be permitted to re-register with a different Club during the same football season.

7.11 The advertisement of trials for any age category during the defined dates of the season, will not be permitted and will result in disciplinary action/sanctions on the club (regardless of the actual date of the trial/open day).

8. Advertising

8.1 Rules on Advertising as set out in the Football League Rules shall apply to these Youth Football Rules.

9. Sponsor Designation

9.1 Rules on Sponsorship Designation as set out in the Football League Rules shall apply to these Youth Football Rules. Further to these rules, the appearance on or incorporation in any item of clothing, football boots or other equipment of any reference whatsoever to a product, service or other activity which is considered by The GFA as detrimental to the welfare, health or general interest of young persons, or is otherwise considered inappropriate, having regard to the age of the players or Match Officials, is prohibited. Examples of such products, services or related activities would include, but are not limited to, age restricted products, services and related activities such as alcohol and gambling.

10. Player Identification and Strip

10.1 Rules on Player Identification and Strips as set out in the Football League Rules shall apply to these Youth Football Rules, save with the addition that in the event of a clash and/or similarity in strips between two opposing Teams, the Match Official may request the team designated as the away team to wear bibs which the GFA shall make available.

10.2 All Players must wear the same kit at matches. Match kit includes jersey, shorts and socks.

10.3 Clubs become responsible for contacting each other prior to a match to avoid a kit clash. Failure to do so may lead to a forfeit in accordance with the GFA Disciplinary Regulations.

11. Coaching Qualifications

11.1 In order to be eligible to coach and/or manage a Club and/or Team competing in the 5v5 and 7v7 formats all persons must hold an approved GFA level one award or Football Leaders Award in coaching football (or equivalent minimum coaching qualification), and have a validated first aid and safeguarding certificate.

11.2 In order to be eligible to coach and/or manage a Club and/or Team competing in the 9v9 Championship and 11v11 Championship formats coaches must hold a UEFA C Licence or be registered on the course and have a validated first aid and safeguarding certificate.

11.3 No access whatsoever will be permitted to any adult who is not registered with any Club and/or Team on COMET.

11.4 Parents/guardians will be permitted to go onto the playing area to attend to their child in the event of a major medical emergency after seeking the permission of GFA staff

or the Match Official.

11.5 A maximum of three coaches and/or managers of a Club and/or Team competing in all formats of GFA Youth Competitions but who must be registered with the GFA.

11.6 The Club safeguarding officer, welfare officer, Head of Youth or youth co-ordinator may also be permitted in the technical area. These individuals must be registered on Comet and be added on the Team Sheet for matches.

11.7 In the event that a Coach/Manager is unable to attend a match, a Club can nominate an individual to Coach/Manage the team for said match provided that they hold the relevant safeguarding courses and subject to the approval of the Football Development Team.

12. Trophies

12.1 Clubs must return the trophies won during the previous season to the GFA by no later than one week prior to the commencement of the following season, which for the avoidance of doubt shall not at any time become the property in any given football season of any of the winning Clubs and/or Teams.

12.2 The GFA Football Development Team shall keep a record with respect to the winners of each age category of all GFA Youth Competitions.

12.3 For competitions labelled as championships, the results and rankings of each of the Youth Championship (in their respective age categories) shall be recorded by the GFA Football Development Team in a league table or cup bracket, depending on the format.

12.4 Results in the Under 8 and Under 10 Development Leagues will be recorded as 1-0 for a win and 0-0 for a draw.

12.5 All winners of the Leagues shall each be presented with a trophy by the GFA. Any loss or damage sustained to the trophies presented by the GFA will need to be paid and remedied by the Club and/or Team responsible for causing said damage.

13. Match Officials

13.1 All GFA Youth Competitions from Under 10 category and above will be administered and regulated by Match Officials in accordance with the Laws of the Game and the GFA Referee Regulations as amended from time to time.

13.2 Match Officials will always wear yellow and/or green kits at all matches.

13.3 In regard to Matches, to the extent that there is no suitably qualified Match Official and/or Referee (in accordance with the GFA Referee Regulations) to officiate said Match, an individual with a Youth Club Manager Qualification may be appointed as directed by the GFA Football Development Team.

14. Match Day Procedure and Team Sheets

14.1 Prior to every match, all Clubs and/or Teams shall accurately insert and complete the details of their Team on the COMET system. The particulars and details to be recorded shall include full names (with corresponding shirt numbers) of all starting Players and substitutes, together with the coach and/or manager, and any other Club/Team official, and as more particularly set out in rule 14.3 below.

14.2 It shall be the responsibility of the Club and/or Team to ensure that the requisite information is entered into the COMET system by no later than 15 minutes for the 5v5, 7v7 and 9v9 formats prior to kick-off, following which, no changes or alterations may be made, unless authorised by the GFA Delegate in exceptional circumstances.

14.3 All entries in the COMET system must be composed of the following information:

(a) in the case of 5v5 and 7v7 formats Matches:

(i) full names (and corresponding shirt numbers) of Players and substitutes; and

(ii) full names of the coach and/or manager, and assistant coach and/or manager (each of whom are qualified in accordance with the provisions of these Youth Football Rules);

(iii) kit colours; and

(b) in the case of 9v9 and 11v11 Matches:

(i) full names (and corresponding shirt numbers) of Players and substitutes;

(ii) names of the coach and/or manager, and assistant coach and/or

manager (each of whom are qualified in accordance with the provisions of these Youth Football Rules);

(iii) as encouraged by the GFA Football Development Team, a qualified first aider, sports therapist, physiotherapist or doctor; and

(iv) kit colours.

14.4 For the avoidance of doubt, only the persons listed in rule 14.3 above named on the team sheet are permitted in the Technical Area.

14.5 In the event that a Team does not complete or submit the details of their Team Sheet for their Team on the COMET system by the specified deadline as per Rule 14.2 such failure will result in the Team being fined in accordance with the GFA's Disciplinary Regulations. Match Officials will check each team sheet prior to each GFA Youth Competition Match.

14.6 In the event that there may be issues or disruptions with Clubs and/or Teams' use of the COMET system, the GFA Football Development Team will issue guidance from time to time.

15. Checking of Identity

15.1 The burden of proof as to the identity of a Player or Club Official participating in a GFA Youth Competition shall rest with the Player and/or Club Official whose identity is being questioned by a Match Official or the GFA.

16. Ancillary Youth Provisions: Cautions, Dismissals, Suspensions and Fines

16.1 The following provisions of this rule 16 will apply to Players, Club Managers, Club Officials and Clubs registered in the GFA Youth Competitions.

16.2 No Cautions or Dismissals will be shown by Match Officials to Players in the Under 12 Category and below. Any form of Disciplinary Sanction will be administered by a Match Official (as permitted by the Disciplinary Regulations) and adhered to by the Club Manager. Disciplinary Sanctions imposed during a Match will be considered served unless of such a serious nature which shall require the Match Official to make a report for the matter to be considered further by the GFA Football Development Team and Disciplinary Officer, who will make a decision on the imposition of any Disciplinary Sanctions.

(a) Referees may request the substitution of a player if an offense is committed that is deemed non-professional or dangerous by the referee.

16.3 In relation to the 9v9 and 11v11 (U14 and U16), the Disciplinary Regulations will apply but subject to the following provisos, namely:

(a) Players who may be played by Clubs in Teams in different 9v9 and 11v11 formats will generally serve any Caution, Dismissal or other suspension or Disciplinary Sanction in the Parent Competition in which they are registered in. However, Players may also serve any Caution, Dismissal or other suspension or Disciplinary sanction where any such Disciplinary Sanction was imposed subject to the authorisation from the GFA Football Development Team;

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), any Player who is dismissed from a 9 v 9 or 11 v 11 match shall be ineligible to participate in any further Match in the same or any other age categories in the Youth Competitions and Under 18 Championship until the following weekend. This restriction shall apply automatically and shall be without prejudice to any suspension or other Disciplinary Sanction subsequently imposed in connection with the Dismissal. The restriction may not be automatically reflected in COMET, and it shall be the responsibility of the Player's Club to ensure that the Player is not fielded. The fact that COMET permits the Player to be selected shall not affect the Player's ineligibility or relieve the Club of its responsibility under this Rule. For the avoidance of doubt, this restriction shall not, of itself, render the Player ineligible to participate in a Reserve League or GFL Match;

(c) Club Managers will serve any Disciplinary Sanction in the format where the Misconduct was committed, unless the same was of such a serious nature that the GFA Football Development Team may consider pursuing the imposition of additional Disciplinary Sanctions as prescribed by the Disciplinary Regulations;

(d) Noting that the GFA will reserve the right to refer any matter concerning the foregoing provisions to the GFA Disciplinary & Integrity Officer for their review.

16.4 Football Development TeamFines in the Under 12 category and below will not be considered for Players' infractions of the Disciplinary Regulations, however the GFA Football Development Team may consider and determine whether a fine should be imposed in relation to infractions committed by a Club, Club Manager, Club Official or spectator in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations.

16.5 For the avoidance of doubt, Players in the Under 14 and Under 16 Categories who are cautioned or dismissed will not be fined. However, Players may be fined for findings of misconduct by the GFA Disciplinary Bodies.

16.6 Fines in all formats shall, in the first instance, be 100% of the amounts set for the

GFA Football League in the Disciplinary Regulations in this GFA Handbook, and will be served by a Club, Club Manager, Club Official or spectator.

16.7 Any failure by a Club to ensure that Disciplinary Sanctions are adhered to or served by a Club, Club Manager, Club Official or spectator will result in said Club being made accountable to further disciplinary action and subject to further Disciplinary Sanctions.

16.8 In the Under 14 and the Under 16 age categories, when a Player is shown a caution for dissent the Player will be sanctioned with an eight-minute temporary dismissal (sin bin). The Player will need to spend the time during the temporary dismissal (sin bin) in the delegates area. For the avoidance of doubt, this rule does apply to any other format and/or age category.

17. Disputes, Complaints and Breach of Rules

17.1 Any dispute or complaint by a Team and/or Club regarding another Team and/or Club must be officially reported to the GFA Football Development Team within 48 hours from the date and time of such facts or events giving rise to said dispute or complaint, and shall be dealt with in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations in this GFA Handbook.

17.2 Any dispute or complaint by a Team and/or Club in relation to the Laws of the Game shall be considered and dealt with by the GFA Football Development Team. To the extent that an independent arbitrator is required, the matter will be referred to the GFA who will make a final decision.

17.3 Any dispute or complaint by a Team and/or Club in relation to any matter not considered in these Youth Football Rules shall require the GFA Football Development Team to consider, review and give a decision, direction and/or ruling on the matter, together with imposing such penalties and procedures to be followed as it considers appropriate.

17.4 As may be required, the GFA Football Development Team shall have the right to refer any dispute or complaint to the GFA Disciplinary & Integrity Officer.

17.5 Any breach of these Youth Football Rules will be dealt with by the GFA Football Development Team in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations (noting that the GFA Football Development Team in consultation with the GFA shall have the power

to disqualify a Club and/or Team from any GFA Youth Competition should it be deemed appropriate following said Club and/or Teams being found of serious breach of these Youth Football Rules).

Schedule 16 Youth Football Rules: Ancillary Provisions

1. GFA Youth Competitions

1.1 This Schedule 16 shall supplement the Youth Football Rules of this GFA Handbook and shall apply in full to all GFA Youth Competitions, including both league and cup format competitions introduced by the GFA Football Development Team.

2. Laws of the Game

2.1 Under the powers conferred by the Youth Football Rules on the GFA Football Development Team, the following amendments will be made to the application of the Laws of the Game as they pertain to GFA Youth Competitions, namely:

(a) in relation to the 5v5 and 7v7 league formats, and in the interests of the promotion of the game, in Matches where a Club and/or Team is winning by an aggregate goal difference of plus 5 goals at any one time during the Match, the opposing Club and/or Team will be permitted to add an additional Player onto the field of play (noting that said additional Player must be removed in the event that the aggregate goal difference between both Clubs and/or Team is less than 5 goals); and

(b) in relation to the 5v5 and 7v7 league formats, and in the interests of the promotion of the game, in Matches where a Club and/or Team is winning by an aggregate goal difference of plus 10 goals at any one time during the Match, the opposing Club and/or Team will be permitted to add an additional two Players onto the field of play (noting that one additional Player must be removed in the event that the aggregate goal difference between both Clubs and/or Team is less than 10 goals).

2.2 In regard to the 5v5 format, the following rules shall apply:

(a) kick-ins, will apply;

(b) when a goal kick is awarded, the nearest opposing Team Player must be on the halfway line of the football pitch until such time as the goal-kick is taken along the ground;

(c) Players' heading of the Match ball is strongly discouraged;

(d) If a player passes the ball back to their goalkeeper, the goalkeeper may pick the ball up with their hands, however will not be able to pass the ball back to the same player. If this does occur, a free kick will be awarded to the opposing team.

(e) all registered Players who are eligible to participate in a Match must play in at least 2 quarters of each match;

(f) in the event of an injury (g) will take precedence over (e).

(g) substitutions will be carried out on a 'rolling-on and rolling-off basis';

(h) feeder players, in accordance with the Youth Football Rules, will be permitted; and

(i) any interference or disruption by way of the Match ball impacting the netting or tensing wires above the field of play, that gives an unfair advantage to either team, as perceived by the match official, will result in a drop ball from the point of the initial kick.

2.3 In regard to the 7v7 format, the following rules shall apply:

(a) when a goal kick is awarded, the nearest opposing Team Player must be on the offside line of the football pitch until such time as the goal-kick is taken along the ground;

(b) Players' heading of the Match ball is strongly discouraged;

(c) all registered Players who are eligible to participate in a Match must play in at least 50% of each match;

(d) in the event of an injury (e) will take precedence over (c).

(e) substitutions will be carried out on a 'rolling-on and rolling-off basis';

(f) feeder players, in accordance with the Youth Football Rules, will be permitted; and

(g) any interference or disruption by way of the Match ball impacting the netting or tensing wires above the field of play, that gives an unfair advantage to either team, as perceived by the match official, will result in a drop ball from the point of the initial kick; and

(h) the offside rule shall apply from the offside line.

2.4 In regard to 9v9 format, but specifically only in relation to the under 12 and under 14 age categories, the following rules shall apply:

(a) the offside rule shall apply;

(b) heading of the ball by Players shall be permitted;

(c) substitutions will be carried out on a 'rolling-on and rolling-off basis';

(d) feeder players, in accordance with the Youth Football Rules, will be permitted;

(e) any interference or disruption by way of the Match ball impacting the netting or tensing wires above the field of play, that gives an unfair advantage to either team, as perceived by the match official, will result in a drop ball from the point of the initial kick.

2.5 In regard to 11v11, but specifically only in relation to the under 14 and under 16 age categories, the following rules shall apply:

(a) all Matches will be played 11-aside;

(b) in accordance with UEFA development guidelines;

(i) each Club and/or Team may use all substitutes during the course of a Match;

(ii) a Club and/or Team is permitted to make as many substitutes as it so desires during the first half of a Match;

(iii) for the purposes of the Under 14 category only, Players who are substituted during the course of the second half of a Match may return to the field of play if a Club/Team still have a remaining substitution opportunity;

(iv) any number of substitutions may be carried out at half time or during a water break;

(v) during the second half, a Club and/or Team shall only be permitted to stop the game for a maximum of 3 substitution opportunities in addition to any predetermined water breaks;

(vi) all substitutions will be made with the prior permission of the Match Official;

(c) all eligible Players who are included on the Match team sheet must play at least once in the Match;

(d) recording of all Players' playing time is to be encouraged; and

(e) feeder players, in accordance with the Youth Football Rules, will be permitted.

3. Table of Formats

3.1 Under the powers conferred by the Youth Football Rules on the GFA Football Development Team, the following amendments will be made to the format of the Matches of GFA Youth Competitions, namely:

Age Cat.	U8	U10		U12		U14		U16
Format	5v5	5v5	7v7	7v7	9v9	9v9	11v11	11v11
Max. Teams/club	2	2		2		2		2
Max. Squad size	10	10	12	12	15	15	18	18
Min. Squad size (no feeder team)	8	8	10	10	12	12	14	14
Min. Squad	6	6	8	8	10	12	14	12

size (with feeder team)								

3.2 During all GFA Youth Competition league format Matches, the Football Development Team, together with any Match appointed delegates acting on behalf of the GFA Football Development Team will have full powers to implement all pertinent rules contained in this GFA Handbook.

3.3 League tables will be available for all Championships and all Development Leagues on the COMET system.Football Development TeamFootball Development Team

3.4 Results in the Under 8 competitions as 1-0 for a win and 0-0 for a draw

4. Expectations

4.1 All recommendations included in these ancillary provisions to the Youth Football Rules will be reviewed by the GFA Football Development Team from time to time during the football season.

4.2 In accordance with the Youth Football Rules, and for the avoidance of any doubt, a maximum number of 5 non-Gibraltar Eligible Players will be permitted to be registered by a Club and/or Team in GFA Youth Competitions.

4.3 All disciplinary aspects such as, Cautions, Dismissals etc. must be referred to the GFA Football Development Team for prior resolution.

4.4 The GFA's expectations are that the conduct and behaviour of coaches and/or managers, together with our Club and/or Team personnel, should be exemplary. Inappropriate language or behaviour, interference with Players, or excessive celebrations will be deemed a violation of the 'coaches code of conduct' and as such will constitute a form of Misconduct, and subject to the Disciplinary Regulations. Player behaviour must also be controlled at all times.

4.5 Club and/or Teams will be responsible for the behaviour of spectators and/or parents/guardians. Any conduct contrary to this, will constitute a form of Misconduct, and subject to the Disciplinary Regulations.

4.6 Equal playing time for all Players, especially in 5v5 and 7v7 formats must be encouraged.

5. GFA Youth Cup Competitions

5.1 In cup format competitions and/or specific football festivals will be organised by the GFA Football Development Team as the football season's calendar permits.

5.2 As soon as possible after each draw is made, notice shall be given to each Club and/or Team 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 GFA Football Development Team may determine.

5.3 All players must play for their registered team in cup competitions within the same age category.

5.4 Notwithstanding Rule 5.3, feeder players (in accordance with the Youth Football Rules) may participate in cup format competitions for a team in a higher age category, provided they do so for only one nominated team in accordance with Rule 6 (8) (c) of the Youth Rules

5.5 For the avoidance of doubt, any reference to Cup Competition includes the Youth Rock Cup, Shield, Plate or otherwise.

5.6 All ties played are on a 1 match basis (knockout system) or in a home and away format. To the extent that at the end of the respective draw, the aggregate score line between both Teams is equal, the Match will proceed to a penalty shootout.

6. Provisions on Qualifications and Eligibility of Players

6.1 For the avoidance of doubt, a Player shall not in the same football season play for more than one Club and/or Team in the same cup format competition.

6.2 A Player who has been suspended may play in a postponed, drawn or replayed Match after the term of their suspension has expired.

6.3 A substitute who is not used in any Match in a cup format competition will be entitled to Play for the Club and/or Team in the same football season provided that Player has adhered to and complied with all transfer and registration requirements set out in this GFA Handbook (particularly the Status and Transfer Regulations and Youth Football Rules.)

6.4 In order to be eligible to play in cup format competitions, all Players must have been registered correctly for said competition. Squad lists can be resubmitted if there is a change to the league squad list by 12pm at least 48 hours before the first Youth Rock Cup fixture.