Rules for Inter-School Competitions.

Management.

1. The laws of the game shall be those of the Football Association except as otherwise stated.
2. The entire control and management of Competitions shall be vested in the Council.
3. The Council shall have the power to deal, as they deem fit, with any competing school or association which may be proved guilty of any breach of the rules of the association.
4. All teams must be under the direct and sole control of the teachers of the school and the training and tuition of teams by anyone other than a teacher or a registered AOTT shall lead to disqualification.
5. a. the cups presented by LSFA shall be offered for annual competition among the affiliated associations in full membership. In the event of any of the competitions being discontinued, the trophy shall be returned to the donors.

b. The number of medals presented to teams participating in cup finals shall be as follows:

eleven-a-side competitions: a maximum of 16 medals per team.

nine-a-side competitions: a maximum of 12 medals per team

seven-a-side competitions: a maximum of 10 medals per team

six-a-side competitions: a maximum of 9 medals per team

five-a-side competitions: a maximum of 8 medals per team

Extra medals may be purchased at a cost of £2 per medal.

c. For teams competing in the U12 mixed, U13 mixed, U14 mixed, U15 mixed, U16 boys, U19 boys, U12 girls, U14 girls, U16 girls and U19 boys cup competitions, there shall be an entry fee of £10 for each competition payable to the LSFA Secretary or Treasurer by the date of the Annual General Meeting. The entry fee shall be reviewed at the Annual General Meeting.

Eligibility of Players.

1. Only players who are bona fide scholars on the roll of the school, being affiliated to a local association, and meeting the age requirements set out below, shall be allowed to take part in competitions. The ages stated are at midnight between the previous 31 August and 01 September.

Under 12 mixed: over the age of 11 years and under the age of 12 years

Under 13 mixed: over the age of 12 years and under the age of 13 years

Under 14 mixed: over the age of 13 years and under the age of 14 years

Under 15 mixed: over the age of 14 years and under the age of 15 years

Under 16 boys: over the age of 15 years and under the age of 16 years

Under 19 boys: over the age of 16 years and under the age of 19 years

Under 12 girls: over the age of 11 years and under the age of 12 years

Under 14 girls: over the age of 12 years and under the age of 14 years

Under 16 girls: over the age of 14 years and under the age of 16 years

1. No player shall be allowed to play for more than one school in the competitions during any one season without the consent of Council.
2. Should any school have any doubts as to the eligibility of any player taking part in any of these competitions, it shall lodge a complaint in writing to the LSFA Secretary within 48 hours of the final whistle of the game. If the Council deems it necessary, it shall have the power to call upon the school to which the player belongs or for which the player played to prove that the player is qualified according to the rules and, failing satisfactory proof, the offending school may be disqualified from the competition.
3. All discipline reports regarding dismissals (red cards) or cautions (yellow cards) must be sent to the English Schools’ Football Association by post (ESFA, 4 Parker Court, Staffordshire Technology Park, Stafford, ST18 0WP) or by email ([competitions@esfa.co.uk](mailto:competitions@esfa.co.uk)) by the match official and a copy should be sent to the LSFA Secretary.

Arrangements for Matches.

1. All matches, except for U12 mixed group matches, shall be played on the knock-out principle as drawn by Council and published on the LSFA Website ([www.lancashireschoolsfa.org.uk](http://www.lancashireschoolsfa.org.uk)).

The duration of matches shall be as follows:

U12 mixed: 25 minutes each way

U13 mixed: 35 minutes each way

U14 mixed: 35 minutes each way

U15 mixed: 40 minutes each way

U16 boys: 40 minutes each way

U19 boys: 45 minutes each way

U12 girls: 25 minutes each way

U14 girls: 35 minutes each way

U16 girls: 40 minutes each way

Extra time of 10 minutes each way (5 minutes each way at Under 12 and 7 minutes each way at Under 13) shall be played if a match ends in a draw. Should the scores remain equal at the conclusion of extra time, the result shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark (taken in accordance with the recommendations of FIFA and published in the Laws of the Game).

1. Results of all matches should be forwarded within 3 days of the match by both teams taking part in the match, preferably by email, to the LSFA Secretary and the LSFA Competition Secretary.
2. A visiting school shall reserve the right to play on the date offered if 7 days’ notice is not given. Schools must be willing to accept a Saturday fixture if this is made necessary by the time limit.
3. The Council shall have the right to exercise direct control of all the arrangements and finances connected with the cup finals in each competition.
4. The match referee shall decide as to the fitness of the ground or other conditions over which neither team has control. Schools shall not mutually arrange to play a match in lieu of a cup tie, but, if for any reason a match is not completed, it must be replayed for the full length of time. Abandoned or postponed games shall be played on a date to be mutually arranged. Failing a mutual arrangement, the Council shall fix the date.
5. If it is deemed inadvisable to play for the full length of time, the team managers of the competing teams together with the match referee may decide that the duration of the match shall be not less than 20 minutes each way for U12 competitions, 30 minutes each way for U13 and U14 competitions, 35 minutes each way for U15 and U16 competitions and 40 minutes each way for U19 competitions. The points to be considered in shortening a game shall be adverse weather conditions, the state of the ground or other extenuating circumstances. Such decisions to shorten the match must be agreed before the game by the team managers of both teams and the match referee.
6. Pitch sizes are recommended as follows:

Age group Type Length/Width

Under 12 7v7 60 yards by 40 yards

Under 12 9v9 80 yards by 4o yards

Under 13 11v11 90 yards by 55 yards

Under 14 11v11 90 yards by 55 yards

Under 15 11v11 100 yards by 60 yards

Under 16 11v11 100 yards by 60 yards

Under 19 11v11 110 yards by 70 yards

Goalposts are recommended as follows:

Age group Type Height/Width

Under 12 7v7 6 feet by 12 feet

Under 12 9v9 7 feet by 16 feet

Under 13 11v11 7 feet by 21 feet

Under 14 11v11 7 feet by 21 feet

Under 15 11v11 8 feet by 24 feet

Under 16 11v11 8 feet by 24 feet

Under 19 11v11 8 feet by 24 feet

Matches may be played on artificial grass pitches i.e. 3G pitches and advancements introduced thereafter.

1. A size 5 ball shall be used in all competitions over and including the Under 15 age group. A size 4 ball shall be used in the Under 12 and Under 13 age group. A size 4 ball shall be used in the U14 age group unless mutually agreed to be a size 5. Corner flags and goal nets should be provided for all games.
2. A maximum of 5 substitutes may be used by each team in eleven-a-side matches and a maximum of 3 substitutes may be used by each team in small-sided matches. Repeated substitutions are allowed in all competitions up to and including the Under 19 age group. A player who has been substituted during a match becomes a substitute and may, in turn, replace another player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the FA Laws of the Game.
3. The home school must appoint the match officials up to and including the semi-final stage. In the event of no qualified assistant referees being available, each school must be prepared to provide an assistant referee who will act under the instruction of the match referee. Schools should make every effort to appoint suitably-qualified match officials from their local referees’ association. All semi-final matches should have three suitably qualified match officials. The Council will appoint and pay for all match officials for cup finals.
4. All questions of eligibility, qualification of competitors or the interpretation of rules shall be referred to the Council but no objections relative to the ground, goalposts or other appurtenances of the ground shall be entertained by the Council unless a protest in writing is made to the match official before the commencement of the match. All protests must be lodged to the LSFA Secretary within 5 days of the match and accompanied by a cheque for £10 payable to LSFA. The fee shall be forfeited if the protest is considered frivolous.
5. The cup competitions shall be arranged so that the finals take place in May.
6. The executive sub-committee shall be empowered to deal with any matters not provided for in these rules.
7. These rules may be altered only at the Annual General Meeting, at a Special General Meeting or by Council to conform with essential ESFA and /or FA Rules.