



# FA Youth Review Update

Summary of the New Competition Pathway

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The following slides will summarise the new competition pathway that young players will experience and how these changes will be phased in over the coming 3 seasons from the 2013-2014 season

This player pathway will lend itself to the development and learning of our young players as they prepare their progression into the 11v11 game



# 2015 - 2016 season

From season 2015/16, the following competition pathway will be in place:

|      |   |
|------|---|
| U7   | No League tables published. No single eight-month long season. Three trophy events allowed per mini-season. |
| U8   | No League tables published. No single eight-month long season. Three trophy events allowed per mini-season. |
| U9   | No League tables published. No single eight-month long season. Three trophy events allowed per mini-season. |
| U10  | No League tables published. No single eight-month long season. Three trophy events allowed per mini-season. |
| U11  | No League tables published. No single eight-month long season. Three trophy events allowed per mini-season. |
| U12+ | League tables allowed   |



# Competition Structure

## Child Friendly Competition

Following the research around the Country, including focus groups with young people and child development experts, it was found that the adult pathway of an eight month long season was not necessarily the best mechanism to support player development and enjoyment.

## Age Specific Guidance Booklets

- U7/U8 Guidance Booklet
- U9/U10 Guidance Booklet
- U11/U12 Guidance Booklet
- FA Youth Review Schools' Guide



# Examples of Fixtures & Competition

## Development Matches

- Matches in which 2 teams compete without recording or publishing of scores
- Developing players individually and as a collective squad through player rotation, equal playing time and trying new positions on the pitch
- Games are played in accordance to the FA Laws of the Game and league rules

## Trophy Events

- Set number of Trophy Events in a 26 week season dependant on age group
- Competition can last over a maximum number of set weeks dependant on age group
- League is permitted to be as flexible as it can be with these events
- Several different competitions and trophy formats



# Trophy events

## U7 AND U8

Even the youngest children will benefit from having the opportunity to play for a little cup, two or three times a season. Children of this age are very ego-centric and can only see the 'here and now' and certainly not the outcome of something in eight months time.

This competition can take place over a two-week period and, for example, can include a little knockout cup event. This means that over a typical 26-week season, six weeks of this will be focused competition.

## U9 AND U10

As children grow developmentally and cognitively, the periods of competition can increase a bit further as their views of the world start to widen. They can start to interpret results in a more meaningful way.

This competition can take place over a four-week period and, for example, can include group stages and a cup final. This means that over a typical 26-week season, 12 weeks of this will be focused competition.

## U11

Children can now start to understand whether a team beats them because they tried harder or they were better players, something they can't often do before this age. As they prepare for secondary school, peer influences start to come into play.

This competition can take place over a six-week period and, for example, can include a Champions League style event. This means that over a typical 26-week season, 18 weeks of this will be focused competition.

## BUILDING THE FOCUS ON COMPETITION AS THE CHILDREN GET OLDER

Six weeks of trophy events in 26 week season

12 weeks of trophy events in a 26 week season

18 weeks of trophy events in a 26 week season



# Development Matches explained

## Central venue development Festivals

- Teams meet in one place
- Compete in a variety of games in one session (am or pm)
- Aim for each child to play their maximum playing time in one session (U7s/U8s = 40 mins, U9s/U10s = 60 mins, U11s/U12s = 100 mins)

## Home and away development matches

- Traditional format of home and away fixtures
- Can be arranged by managers or fixed by the league

## Club Festival Days

- Teams rotate the hosting of festivals with local teams
- Dates and locations are published and supported by the league



# Competition Matches & Trophy Events

## Champions League

- Teams divided into equal groups
- Series of round robin fixtures
- Top teams progress to 'Champions League' other teams progress to 'Europa League'

## Place Competition (2 week competition)

- Teams divided into equal groups and play round robin to determine their place (week 1)
- Placed teams from all groups play off against each other in the second round robin to determine overall position (week 2)

## Festivals and Round Robins

- Central venue
- Play several matches
- Teams play a range of fixtures alleviate pressure of winning when only playing in one match





# Competition & Trophy Events

## Cup Events

- Traditional Cup Events to complement existing League Cups
- Additional Plate/Vase competitions to ensure more fixtures
- Provide teams more chance to experience cup competition against similar level opponents

## Ladder competition

- Organisation of fixtures to allow several matches against teams of the same ability and geographical area
- Teams can challenge opponents above and below them on the ladder
- Emphasis on ,more equal games and avoidance of high scoring games



# Thinking ahead

- From the 2015-2016 season this will be the complete pathway for youth football across the Country. On the completion of the phasing in process a robust and child friendly system allowing progression and enjoyment will be in place for all of our young players.

| Age group | Maximum format | Recommended pitch size (yds) | Ball size | Ideal goal size | Approach to Competition                         |
|-----------|----------------|------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|---|
| U7        | 5v5            | 40x30                        | 3         | 12x6            | 3 x Trophy Events over two weeks each           |
| U8        | 5V5            | 40x30                        | 3         | 12x6            | 3 x Trophy Events over two weeks each           |
| U9        | 7v7            | 60x40                        | 3         | 12x6            | 3 x Trophy Events over four weeks each          |
| U10       | 7v7            | 60x40                        | 4         | 12x6            | 3 x Trophy Events over four weeks each          |
| U11       | 9v9            | 80x50                        | 4         | 16x7            | 3 x Trophy Events over six weeks each           |
| U12       | 9V9            | 80x50                        | 4         | 16x7            | Any varieties inc. one season long league table |
| U13       | 11v11          | 90x55                        | 4         | 21x7            | Any varieties inc. one season long league table |
| U14       | 11V11          | 90x55                        | 4         | 21x7            | Any varieties inc. one season long league table |
| U15       | 11V11          | 100x60                       | 5         | 24x8            | Any varieties inc. one season long league table |
| U16       | 11V11          | 100x60                       | 5         | 24x8            | Any varieties inc. one season long league table |
| U17       | 11v11          | 110x70                       | 5         | 24x8            | Any varieties inc. one season long league table |
| U18       | 11v11          | 110x70                       | 5         | 24x8            | Any varieties inc. one season long league table |

