The FA Girls' U16s Youth Cup Competition Regulations 2017-18

1. Control of Competition - Rules and Regulations

1.1 The ownership, organisation, control and management of the Competition and any rights associated with it of any nature shall be vested entirely and exclusively in The Association.

1.2 The FA Women's Football Board, through The FA Girls' Talent Development Sub-Committee, shall have the power to make, delete and amend regulations for the organisation, control and management of the Competition as it, from time to time, deems expedient (the "Competition Rules") subject only to the authority of the Board where such matters relate to financial or commercial matters. **Unless explicitly provided for within the Competition Rules definitions of terms used within the Competition Rules are those included within the Rules of The Association for the relevant season.**

1.3 All Participants participating in any way in the Competition shall be bound by and comply with the Competition Rules (and any rules or regulations issued pursuant to the Competition Rules).

1.4 The FA Women's Football Board, through The FA Girls' Talent Development Sub-Committee, shall have the power in relation to the Competition and to make decisions on all matters arising out of or in relation to the organisation, control and management of the Competition (including as to eligibility and qualification) which shall be deemed decisions of the Board and shall be final and binding on all participants in the Competition. In relation to these and any other matters not specifically mentioned in the Competition Rules, The FA Women's Football Board, through The FA Girls' Talent Development Sub-Committee, shall have the power to take such action and make such decisions, orders, rulings and impose such penalties as it deems necessary and following such procedures as it considers appropriate.

1.5 A Club participating in the Competition shall have only such rights in relation to the Competition (and any match in the Competition) as are expressly granted to the Club under the Competition Rules or by The Association in writing.

1.6 In addition to any other action or penalty, The FA Women's Football Board, through The FA Girls' Talent Development Sub-Committee, shall have the power to disqualify any competing Club or Player for any competing Club(s), which it determines to have breached the Rules of The Association or the Competition Rules (and any rules or regulations issued pursuant to the Competition Rules), and the decision of the Board shall be final and binding.

2. Control of Competition - Commercial Contracts

2.1 In relation to each match in the Competition, The Association shall itself be exclusively entitled to, or otherwise to authorise or grant to others, rights of access to and attendance at the ground of the Home Club ("Access Rights") for the purposes of transmitting or filming or otherwise recording on or by any media, any audio and/or visual materials depicting or describing all or any part or parts of a match (the "Copyright Materials").

2.2 In relation to each match in the Competition, The Association shall itself be exclusively entitled throughout the world, or to grant to or otherwise authorise others:

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2.2.1 on a live, delayed, recorded or highlighted basis to broadcast or otherwise transmit by any method whatsoever (now known or hereinafter devised) the Copyright Materials by way of any and all forms of television or similar technology (now known or hereinafter devised) including, without limitation, free to air television, pay television, pay per view, “not-video-on-demand” internet or other on-line media and “video-on-demand” (the “Television Rights”).on a live or delayed basis to broadcast or to otherwise transmit the Copyright Materials (or audio) by way of radio broadcast or internet, or other on-line media or similar technology (now known or hereinafter devised) (the “Radio Rights”).

2.2.2 to use, sell, publish, distribute and otherwise exploit the Copyright Materials in any manner whatsoever including, without limitation, clip licensing, videos, videograms, CD Rom, CDI, internet or other on-line media (the “Footage Rights”).

2.3 In relation to each match in the Competition, The Association shall be exclusively entitled, either by itself or to authorise others, to use sell or otherwise exploit all commercial and other marketing rights associated with the Competition.

2.4 Clubs shall comply with the terms of all contracts entered into by The Association from time to time in relation to Access Rights, the Television Rights, the Radio Rights, the Footage Rights and the Marketing Rights (collectively the “Commercial Contracts”) in relation to the Competition.

2.5 Clubs shall provide access to grounds and provide all other rights, facilities and services as may be necessary to enable The Association to fulfil any Commercial Contracts.

2.6 The Clubs acknowledge that The Association may issue more detailed rules and regulations regarding the provisions of any Commercial Contracts and the Clubs agree that they shall be bound by such rules and regulations as amended from time to time by The Association.

2.7 Each Club undertakes to indemnify and keep indemnified The Association and its officers, directors, employees and authorised representatives from and against any claims for direct or consequential loss or damage by any party to any Commercial Contract caused or otherwise attributable to any failure or any breach by the Club fully to perform or observe its obligations and responsibilities under these provisions.

2.8 Nothing in the above shall be construed or interpreted so as to prevent or restrict Clubs, subject to applicable FIFA, UEFA or other rules or regulations or decisions of The Association, from entering into commercial arrangements in relation to matches in the Competition which do not in any way conflict with any Commercial Contracts and duties of Clubs as set out herein (and in any other rules or regulations issued by The Association in accordance with this paragraph).

3. Name / Logo and Images of the Competition and Images of the Cup

3.1 The Competition shall be called “The FA Girls’ U16 Youth Cup”, and will be referred to within these rules as The FA Girls’ Youth Cup.

3.2 Each Club shall include the Official Title at least once on all (if any) materials produced by or on behalf of it which relate to the Competition (including, but not limited to, tickets, programmes, press releases and (where possible) scoreboard displays) and (where

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possible) shall refer to the Official Title at least once over (any) public address system operating on the day of each FA Girls' Youth Cup match.

3.3 The Association may from time to time issue a FA Girls' Youth Cup Logo. The FA Girls' Youth Cup Logo may incorporate branding for the lead FA sponsor in this area.

3.4 In the Competition, each participating Club shall include The FA Girls' Youth Cup Logo on all FA Girls' Youth Cup communication materials produced by or on behalf of it.

3.5 The Association may from time to time issue images of The FA Girls' Youth Cup to Clubs. The ribbons attached to The FA Girls' Youth Cup in the image will incorporate branding for the lead FA Girls' Youth Cup sponsor if applicable.

3.6 If a Club which wishes to use an image of The FA Girls' Youth Cup it shall use the image issued by The Association and will follow any directions issued by The Association in relation to the use of such image.

4. Organisation of the Competition

4.1 Each round will be a straight knockout competition and clubs shall be drawn against each other on a geographical basis.

4.2 In the event of an odd number of teams in any given round, teams may be given a bye into the next round.

4.3 The quarters, semis and final will then be played.

5. Eligible Clubs

5.1 Participation in the Competition shall be open to:

5.1.1 All Clubs currently in The FA Girls' Regional Talent Club U16s Programme in the current season, sanctioned by The Association or an affiliated Association, as determined by The Association from time to time.

5.2 If a Club is removed from the FA Girls' Regional Talent Club League in which it is playing, once it has been accepted into the Competition, the Sub-Committee has the power to remove the Club from the Competition.

6. Draws for rounds and kick off times

6.1 The Clubs competing in each Round of the Competition shall be drawn in couples. The couples shall play a match subject to the Laws of the Game. The winners will compete in the next Round, the ties of which will be drawn in the same manner. This shall be continued until the Final of the Competition.

6.2 After the draw for each Round is made, notice shall be given to each Club of the name of its opponent Club. All matches in each Round shall be played on such date and at such time as the Sub-Committee shall determine.

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6.3 Immediately following publication by The Association of the draw for each Round, the Club first drawn must communicate with the opposing Club to agree a kick off time and notify The Association of the kick off time agreed by the two Clubs.

6.4 Clubs from the quarter final onwards can apply for travel expenses for away fixtures. 50p per mile round trip after the first 100 miles and £150 towards hotel expenses on receiving receipts, and only if the club has travelled over 325 miles round trip.

7. Venue for matches

7.1 Venue

7.1.1 The venue of each match will be that of the first drawn Club unless the consent of the Sub-Committee has been obtained to any change of venue.

7.1.2 A match shall not be played on a neutral ground without the consent of the Sub-Committee.

7.1.3 In any event, the Sub-Committee shall have the power to order that any match be played on an alternative ground or date, if it is considered appropriate and necessary. For ties switched from the ground of the Club first drawn, the Sub-Committee shall determine the financial conditions in which the tie shall be played.

8. Duration of matches

8.1 The duration of each match shall be 80 minutes.

8.2 The half-time interval shall be 15 minutes.

8.3 Both teams shall enter the field of play together five minutes prior to the kick-off time, along with the Match Officials.

9. Extra time, postponed and abandoned matches

9.1 Extra Time and Kicks from the Penalty Mark

9.1.1 When a match is drawn after 80-minutes, the winner shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the procedure adopted by The International Football Association Board.

9.2 Matches which are Postponed or Abandoned

9.2.1 When a match has been postponed, or is abandoned before the completion of 80-minutes and neither Club being at fault, it shall be played on the same ground on the next regional fixture weekend.

9.2.2 If the match be again postponed or abandoned it shall be played on the next regional fixture weekend and will take priority over regional fixtures.

9.2.3 Matches abandoned through the fault of the Clubs shall be dealt with by the Sub-Committee.

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9.3 The Sub-Committee shall have the power to vary these arrangements if it is deemed necessary.

9.4 Any Club failing to fulfil a fixture shall be dealt with by the Sub-Committee.

10. Reporting results

10.1 Each Club participating in a Cup Match shall respond to the Full-Time automated result Shorts Message Service (SMS) within 30-minutes of the match concluding.

11. Facilities and equipment

11.1 Dimensions of Field of Play and Ground Facilities

11.1.1 In the Competition all matches shall be played on a natural grass pitch or artificial grass pitches may be used provided the pitch is listed on The Associations register of artificial grass pitches and with the prior consent of The Association. This should be requested at the time of entry to the Competition in each Season, provided that the artificial turf meets the following conditions:-

i. the pitch shall be surfaced with an artificial grass surface that has laboratory type approval according to the FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf (2009 edition) – FIFA Recommended One Star quality level or the International Artificial Turf Standard (2009 edition) and have satisfied the performance and construction requirements at the time of its last annual assessment. The pitch must be retested every close season and certificates must be provided to the Association by 1st August each season.

ii. the artificial grass pitch, including run-offs, shall be one continuous playing surface and shall be green in colour. All line markings shall be white and in accordance with the Laws of Association Football. Any other temporary lines must be removed prior to any FA competition match. The manufacturer of the carpet should be contacted to advise on the painting of temporary lines and the correct method of removing lines.

iii. the home Club shall allow their opposition the opportunity to use the pitch and train on the surface two hours prior to the kick-off and there must not be another game or event on the pitch following the training period. If it is intended to water the pitch before the match, the pitch shall be watered prior to the training period.

iv. the Club using the artificial grass pitch shall advise their opposition at least 10 days before the match of limitations or recommendations on the types of boot or stud that may be used on the surface.

v. the Club shall provide all necessary assistance and data relating to player assessments, injury records, maintenance etc as requested by The FA, FIFA or UEFA.

11.1.2 The dimensions of the field of play for all matches shall be as follows:

Maximum length: 100 yards (91 metres)

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Maximum breadth: 60 yards (56 metres)

The playing surface should be prepared and maintained to a reasonable standard. No Club shall alter the dimensions of its pitch during the season.

11.1.3 Goal nets must be used in all matches.

11.1.4 Dressing and washing accommodation must be separate for each team and Match Officials. Dressing Rooms must have heating, hot water and be secure and independent of any public access. Dressing room areas must be cleaned and maintained to a satisfactory standard.

11.1.5 Entrances and exits must be provided to cater for the anticipated attendance. Access for emergency services must be provided.

11.1.6 Each Club shall provide separate areas adjacent to the pitch for the sole use of Team Officials, medical staff and substitutes. Such designated areas shall be clearly marked "Home" and "Away", have direct access to the pitch, be located as near as possible equidistant from the halfway line and be under cover. The team benches should also comply with Competition Rule 18.

11.1.7 Hospitality for Visiting Club Officials must be provided in a designated area.

11.1.8 Ladies and Gentlemen's toilets, other than those used by players and Match Officials, must be provided for spectators throughout the duration of ties.

11.1.9 A technical area is to be provided. The technical area extends one metre on either side of the designated seated area and extends forward up to a distance of one metre from the touch-line. Markings are to be used to define this area.

11.2 Playing Condition of the Ground

11.2.1 Each Club must take every precaution to ensure that its ground is in a fit playing condition. In the event of doubt regarding the condition of the pitch, the Home Club shall immediately notify The Association to enable a Match Official to conduct a pitch inspection.

11.2.2 If in doubt as to the fitness of the ground for play, it is the Home Club's responsibility to contact the referee in sufficient time to save the expense of unnecessary journeys being incurred by Clubs.

11.2.3 Subject to this Rule, the Referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches.

11.2.4 The Referee must report to the ground 90 minutes before the time of kick-off. If necessary, the Home Club or The Association may, by notice, require the Referee to visit the ground more than 90 minutes before the time of kick-off any time during the season.

11.3 First Aid

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11.3.1 It is the responsibility of the Home or Host Club to ensure that First Aid facilities, equipment and a stretcher are available for all matches and a fully qualified person is available to administer First Aid.

12. Club colours

12.1 Where the colours (shirts, shorts or stockings) of the two competing Clubs are similar the Away Club must change.

12.2 In the event of the Clubs not agreeing upon the colours to be worn, the Referee shall decide. Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from the other players, and the Match Officials.

12.3 Clubs' colours must not clash with the black and white outfit worn by the Match Officials.

12.4 Players' shirts shall be clearly numbered on the back in accordance with the Official Team Sheet. No change of numbers during the match shall be allowed except on a change of Goalkeeper or where a player has been required by the Referee to change her shirt because of a blood injury. The Captain of each team shall wear a distinguishing armband to indicate her status.

12.5 Advertising may be worn on players' clothing in accordance with the Rules of The Association.

12.6 The inclusion of any reference whatsoever in or on clothing or equipment of a Youth team to a product or service or other activity which is detrimental to the welfare, health or general interest of young persons, or is otherwise considered inappropriate having regard to the age of the players, is prohibited.

13. Provision concerning players

13.1 Each team participating in a match shall represent the full available strength of each competing Club.

13.1.1 Each Club shall provide a list of names of players taking part in the game (including the names of the substitutes) to the Referee and a representative of their opponents in the presence of the Referee at least 45 minutes, in all matches prior to the Final, and 60 minutes in the Final, before the time of kick-off (the "Official Team Sheet"). Any Club failing to do so will be liable to be fined by the Sub-Committee a sum not exceeding £100.

13.1.2 Should any nominated player or substitute sustain an injury after the submission of the Official Team Sheet to the Referee and before the kick-off, she may be replaced without fine if she is injured warming up after the exchange of the Official Team Sheet, provided the Referee and opponents are informed before the commencement of the match.

13.2 A maximum of seven substitutes may be nominated. A Club may at its discretion use five of those seven substitute players at any time in a match. Repeated substitutions are not permitted. Substitution can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission. Prior to the substitution being made the Club must identify to the Match Officials the number of the player out and the player in, in accordance with the Official Team Sheet.

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13.3 A player shall not play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same season.

13.4 All players must have been eligible to play in the original tie in order to play in a replayed or postponed match; however a player who has been suspended according to the disciplinary procedures under the Rules of The Association may play in a postponed, or replayed match after the term of her suspension has expired.

13.5 In all Rounds of the Competition a player shall be a "registered player" of her Club under the Rules of the Competition.

13.6 For season 2017-18, a player must have been born on or after 1st September 2001 and before 31st August 2003.

14. Validity of players' qualifications

14.1 The Sub-Committee shall have power to call upon a Player, and/or the Club to which she is registered, or for which he played, to prove that the Player is qualified according to the Competition Rules.

14.2 Failing satisfactory proof, the Sub-Committee may disqualify such Player, and may remove the Club from the Competition, and impose such other penalty as it considers appropriate. The Sub-Committee shall also have the power to impose penalties against Clubs already knocked out of the Competition.

14.3 It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any Player signing a registration form for that Club has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any Player aged 10 and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

15. Team benches

15.1 In all Rounds of the Competition, the number of Clubs players and Officials seated on the team benches, in the designated technical area, must not exceed 11.

15.2 Only one person has the authority to convey tactical instructions to the players during the match. This person shall be the Team Manager or the Team Coach. He/she is allowed to move to the edge of the technical area to issue instructions to his/her team.

15.3 All Team Officials and substitutes seated on the bench shall be listed on the Official Team Sheet when it is submitted to the Match Officials. Only those persons listed on the Official Team Sheet shall be permitted in the technical area.

15.4 The occupants of the technical area must behave in a responsible manner at all times. Misconduct by occupants of this area will be reported by the Referee to The Association, who shall have the power to impose sanctions as deemed fit.

15.5 With the exception of the Team Manager, the Team Coach and any substitutes who are warming up or warming down, all other personnel are to remain seated on the Team bench. The Team Manager or Team Coach is allowed to move to the edge of the technical area to issue instructions to his/her team.

16. Provisions concerning match officials

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16.1.1 Match Officials shall be appointed by the home club, except in the final where they will be appointed by the Football Association. Neither past nor present members of either of the contending Clubs shall be eligible.

16.1.2 In the event of any of the Match Officials failing to arrive or being incapacitated, the two Clubs shall agree to a substitute.

16.2 The fees and expenses of all Match Officials to officiate in any match shall be paid by the Club upon whose ground the match takes place, except in the final where they will be paid by The Football Association.

16.3 The Home Club must notify the Match Officials of the precise details of the match, this is to include a map with the location of the ground indicated, kick-off time, colours of both teams and other necessary details. Such information must be sent to be received by the Match Officials not later than five days prior to the match who must acknowledge receipt.

16.4 The duties of the Match Officials shall be as defined in the Laws of the Game.

17. The FA Girls' Youth Cup / finalist medals

17.1 The Cup is the property of The Association. When the winning Club has been ascertained, The Association shall deliver the Cup to such Club, which shall be responsible for its return to The Association on or before the first day in March in the ensuing year in good order and condition. Should the Cup be lost, destroyed or damaged by fire or any other cause whilst under the care or custody of the Club the latter shall refund to The Association the amount of its current insured value or the cost of thorough repair in addition to any other penalty which the Sub-Committee may impose.

17.2 In addition to the Cup, The Association shall present 20 medals to playing staff and officials of both Clubs in the Final. When a player taking part is ordered to leave the field of play for misconduct, the medal to which she may be entitled may be withheld at the discretion of the Sub-Committee.

18. Provisions concerning protests

18.1 All issues relating to the interpretation of the Competition Rules, shall be referred to The FA Women's Football Board whose decision shall, subject to Rule 30, be final and binding. The Board shall consider any such matter in such manner and following such procedures as it considers appropriate. The Board shall not be bound by any enactment or Rule of Law relating to the admissibility of evidence in proceeding before a Court of Law.

18.2 Where a Club wishes to protest that there has been a breach of the Competition Rules, such protest must be made in writing and must contain the particulars of the grounds upon which it is made. The protest must be received by The Association, accompanied by a fee of £100, within two days of the match to which it relates (Sundays not included). The fee may be forfeited to The Association in the event of the protest not being sustained.

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18.3 The FA Women's Football Board may make such orders as it considers appropriate in relation to any issue or protest referred to it. The Board may make such orders as it considers appropriate as to the costs incurred by the parties or The Association.

18.4 Any protest relating to the ground, goal posts or bars or other appurtenances of the game shall not be considered by The FA Women's Football Board unless an objection has been lodged with the Referee and the Home Club at least one hour before the official time of the kick-off. The Referee shall require the Home Club to correct the cause of the objection, if this is possible without unduly delaying the progress of the match.

18.5 Where an objection has been lodged with the Referee and Home Club as above, a protest must be made to The Association and neither objection nor protest may be withdrawn, except by leave of The FA Women's Football Board.

18.6 The Association shall send a copy of any protest to the Club protested against, which shall lodge a defence to the protest with particulars of the defence within two days of receipt of the protest.

18.7 Members of The FA Women's Football Board directly connected with a Club concerned in a protest shall not have any involvement in the consideration of the matter.

18.8 A Club, or player or any person connected with the management of the Club may be summoned to attend at a hearing of a protest. A Club may be represented by one or more persons. A Barrister or Solicitor may represent a Club only with the prior written consent of The FA Women's Football Board. Any person summoned to attend a hearing of a protest must attend personally and shall not be legally represented except with the prior written consent of the Sub-Committee.

19. Provisions concerning appeals

19.1 A Club that is expelled from the Competition may appeal against that decision to an appeal board comprising of 3 members of The FA Women's Football Board selected by the Chairman of the FA Women's Football Board or her nominee. Any such appeal shall only be permitted on one or more of the following grounds:

19.1.1 The Sub-Committee misinterpreted/failed to comply with the procedures relevant to the hearing of the charge.

19.1.2 The Sub-Committee came to a decision on the facts of the case which no reasonable body could have reached; or

19.1.3 The Sub-Committee imposed a sanction that is excessive.

19.2 Any appeal must be made in accordance with such procedures as may be determined by The Association from time to time.

19.3 For the avoidance of doubt, a Club may not appeal against any penalty imposed on it other than expulsion from the Competition.

20. Notices

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All notices required to be given to The Association by any of these Competition Rules shall be addressed to the Womens and Girls Delivery Coordinator, at the offices of The Association.

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