

Club Academy Scotland and Advanced Youth Programme

Regulations – Approved 11-02-2019

January 2019 – December 2019

**Age Categories - Under 11, Under 12, Under 13, Under 14, Under 15 and Under 16
(Under 17/18 (August – December))**

INTRODUCTION

- a) Club Academy Scotland (“CAS”) and the Advanced Youth Programme is a performance based youth football development programme organised and managed by the Scottish FA for clubs in membership of the Scottish Professional Football League (SPFL).
- b) For the start of Season 2019, clubs participating in the CAS programme and the Advanced Youth Programme have been organised in to a new grading structure on the basis of pre-determined Elite, Performance (Progressive), Performance and Advanced Youth criteria.
- c) The Scottish FA Professional Game Board will have specific responsibility in considering, devising and advancing criteria and such matters in the CAS or Advanced Youth Programme.
- d) The Scottish FA Licensing Committee will have specific responsibility for the verification of applicable criteria standards developed for implementation within the CAS programme.
- e) The Scottish FA’s CAS Assessment Panel (“Panel”) is a sub-committee of the Scottish FA’s Licensing Committee. The Panel has the power to deal with all matters relating to verifying applicable criteria standards developed for implementation in the CAS programme.
- f) The Club Academy Scotland games programme at age levels, Under 16 and 17/18s will be organised in the form of a tabulated League system. The Under 17/18 League system at Elite level for Season 2018-2019, will be used to determine the club eligible to participate in the UEFA Youth League (2019-20) as Scottish domestic youth champions. The Under 17/18 League System at Elite level for Season 2019/20 will be used to determine the club eligible to participate in the UEFA Youth League (2020/21).

1. Club Academy Scotland - Aims and Objectives

- a) To promote, foster and develop the game of Association football for elite and talented young players at age levels 11s, 12s, 13s, 14s, 15s, 16s and 17/18s.
- b) To develop a challenging performance environment and structure for Scotland’s elite and talented young players through the implementation, assessment and evaluation of agreed Club Academy Scotland standards.
- c) Observe and comply with the terms of the Scottish FA Performance Strategy.
- d) The provision and control of an organised youth development match programme for clubs participating in the Club Academy Scotland programme in accordance with the principles set out above.
- e) To develop world class standards in all areas of the Club Academy Scotland programme.

2. Applicable Elite, Performance (Progressive), Performance and Advanced Youth Grading

The full schedule of Club Academy Scotland Elite, Performance (Progressive), Performance and Advanced Youth criteria, and information related to the Scottish FA Grading Programme, is available in appendices separate from the Regulations document.

Compliance with Club Academy Scotland criteria will be the subject of regular audit and assessment. The Scottish FA reserves the right to carry out audit spot checks at clubs without prior notice.

In observing the terms of specified Club Academy Scotland criteria, clubs are obliged to formally notify the Scottish FA of variances which occur outside of designated audit windows.

3. Scope of Application

Clubs have already been awarded a grading level. The grading awarded will be reviewed in June 2019 after which time it will remain in place until the end of the 2020 season, unless, a) a club fails to meet its stated minimum criteria standard or b) a club applies for a lower grading level.

Clubs will be monitored against the minimum criteria provided by the clubs.

4. Games Programme

The Performance Director from time to time may make such recommendations to the Professional Game Board (PGB) in respect of invitations to such club(s) to participate at a specific level within the Games Programme. Such recommendations shall be considered by the PGB in its absolute discretion.

For the 2019 Season, the following Games Programmes will apply at the various levels;

Elite

Elite tier academies will play each other a minimum of two times and will play Performance (Progressive) tier academies once.

Performance (Progressive)

Performance (Progressive) tier academies will play each other and Performance tier academies a minimum of twice and will play Elite tier academies once.

Performance

Performance tier academies will play each other and Performance (Progressive) tier academies a minimum of twice and Elite clubs once.

Advanced Youth

Advanced Youth clubs will play each other a minimum of three times.

5. Players

a) Eligibility to Play in the Club Academy Scotland Programme –

Elite, Performance (Progressive) and Performance

A club will be permitted to register, by means of a Scottish FA “Non –Recreational Player Registration - Youth Form, a maximum of 105 players in total covering the Under 11 – Under 17/18 age categories during the season.

In order to be eligible to participate in a Club Academy Scotland match, a player will require to be registered for his club by means of Scottish FA “Non-Recreational Player Registration – Youth” form, with the exception of a player playing as a Trialist, in accordance with the terms of paragraph 5c) below.

A club’s complement of players may be supplemented by players registered on a Scottish FA Amateur or Professional Registration Form.

Advanced Youth

A Club in the Advanced Youth Programme will be permitted to register a maximum of 16 players per age level, on either a Scottish FA “Non –Recreational Player Registration - Youth Form, Scottish FA Amateur or Professional Registration Form.

The terms and conditions of the Scottish FA Registration Procedures apply.

It is recommended that players should be involved in at least 75% of fixtures.

b) **Applicable Age Levels in the Club Academy Scotland Programme**

Age Level 11s – Players born on or after 1st January, 2009
Age Level 12s – Players born on or after 1st January, 2008
Age Level 13s – Players born on or after 1st January, 2007
Age Level 14s – Players born on or after 1st January, 2006
Age Level 15s – Players born on or after 1st January, 2005
Age Level 16s – Players born on or after 1st January, 2004
Age Level 17/18s – Players born on or after 1st January 2002

In addition to the age levels defined above, clubs achieving Elite, Performance (Progressive) and Performance status (inclusive) will require to formally demonstrate, in writing, the operation of an organised programme for the sourcing and development of players' age 9 years and below

c) **Playing of Players without Registration**

No more than three (four for 8-a-side and 9-a-side matches) trial players (per team) may be allowed to participate in any Club Academy Scotland match. Each trial player may be allowed to participate in a maximum of five matches (ten matches at age level 11s) in the Club Academy Scotland programme for any one club providing he is otherwise eligible to do so.

Use of Overseas Trialists

Within the Club Academy Scotland programme it will be permitted for clubs to bring a maximum number of 10 overseas trial players per club to train and be assessed during the season.

A club may have the trial players visit Scotland no more than twice in the season and for a maximum of two weeks in total in any season, during which time he may play in no more than two Club Academy Scotland games within his relevant age group at 15s level during the two week period.

A club may list and play only two overseas trial players in a Club Academy Scotland match at any one time (i.e. leaving space for one Scottish trial player to be fielded in a match).

The proposed use of overseas trial players requires to be formally notified to the Scottish FA Registrations Department in writing, together with satisfactory evidence of approvals and welfare arrangements in each case. Such information should be provided at least 10 business days in advance of a player's proposed visit. For the avoidance of doubt, the Scottish FA must receive:-

1. The player's parent/guardian's written consent
2. The written consent of the player's overseas club, and
3. Details of accommodation and welfare information for the player whilst in transit and whilst in Scotland with the host club.

Upon receipt of the information above, the Scottish FA Registrations Department will contact the foreign national association and request consent for the player to play in Scotland during the period in question (NB. The 10 day period allows the Registrations Department sufficient time to pursue foreign association consent and also allows time for cancellation of arrangements by the club should consent not be provided).

d) **Participation in Schools' Football**

An Amateur Player Age Group 10-17 registered with a Club in full membership of the Scottish FA or in membership of an Affiliated Association may also play for his school team.

e) **Physical Development Exceptions - All Academies U13 – U15**

Clubs participating at Academy level are entitled to nominate ("in total") a maximum of three (3) registered players whom, for reasons of slower physical development, may be permitted to play at the age level immediately below their designated age category for a period of one season.

During this period any nominated player(s) must have their physical development closely monitored in tandem with sports science criteria.

Nominations in this regard must, in the first instance, be directed in writing to the Scottish FA, and may be submitted at any time during the course of the season.

f) **Physical Development Exceptions (Advanced Youth)**

Clubs participating at Advanced Youth level are entitled to nominate (“in total”) a maximum of three (3) registered players who, may be permitted to play at the age level immediately below their designated age category for a period of one season.

Nominations in this regard must, in the first instance, be directed in writing to the Scottish FA, and may be submitted at any time during the course of the season.

g) **Goalkeepers**

A goalkeeper may be permitted to play at the age level immediately below their designated age category for a period of one season.

h) **Approaches by and to Clubs**

Other than in accordance with Scottish Professional Football League Rules in relation to Commitment Letters, which must be strictly adhered to, a club shall not, either directly or indirectly, make any approach to or communicate with a player registered with another participating club or a player with whom another participating club has entered into a pre-registration agreement which remains current.

i) **Player Education / “In-Service” Training**

As a minimum requirement, clubs must ensure that players have access to supplementary educational provision and career planning services developed and provided by the Scottish FA Football Development Department.

Attendance at Scottish FA “in-service” training courses for club coaches and staff involved in the Club Academy Scotland programme is mandatory.

j) **Release of Players for National Squad Gatherings**

It is a mandatory obligation for clubs participating in the Club Academy Scotland programme to release players selected for Scottish FA National Squad gatherings.

6. **Format of Club Academy Scotland Matches**

Age level 11s,

The Club Academy Scotland programme will involve all participating clubs playing 1 x 8 a-side plus 1 x 5-a-side matches for the period February – December 2019.

8 -a-side matches will be played between teams comprising 7 outfield players and a goalkeeper.

The duration of matches played at 11s shall normally be 90 minutes.

The 8-a-side match will be split into a maximum of three periods of 30 minutes with a 5-minute interval between each period. The final 30 period minute period of a match will be divided into two periods of 15 minutes in the interests of fair play (e.g. inclement weather).

The 5-a-side match will be split into six periods of 12 ½ minutes, with a five minute interval between each period.

The Laws of the Game, as authorised by the International FA Board, relative to offside will not apply at age level 11s, however, the Laws of the Game relating to the pass back to the goalkeeper **will** apply.

At age level 11s a retreating line shall be introduced to help to develop the building of play from the defensive area:

- The retreating line shall be 12 yards from the goal line.
- The opposing team shall only be allowed to have one player in the defensive area when the goalkeeper has the ball in his hands.
- A second attacker can only enter the defensive area once the defending outfield player has taken his first touch of the ball.

Age Level 12s

For the period February – December 2019, clubs will play 1 x 9-a-side match and 1 x 5-a-side match.

9 -a-side matches will be played between teams comprising 8 outfield players and a goalkeeper.

The duration of matches played at 12s shall normally be 90 minutes.

The 9-a-side match will be split into a maximum of three periods of 30 minutes with a 5-minute interval between each period. The final 30 period minute period of a match will be divided into two periods of 15 minutes in the interests of fair play (e.g. inclement weather).

The 5-a-side match will be split into six periods of 12 ½ minutes, with a five minute interval between each period.

The Club Academy Scotland match programme at Age Levels 11s and 12s is only available for Elite, Performance (Progressive) and Performance Academies.

Age Levels 13s

At age level 13s, for the period January – June 2019, 1 x 9-a-side match, comprising 8 outfield players and one goalkeeper, and 1 x 5-a-side match, comprising 4 outfield players and one goalkeeper, will be played between teams.

The duration of matches played at 13s shall normally be 90 minutes.

The 9-a-side match will be split into a maximum of three periods of 30 minutes with a 5-minute interval between each period. The final 30 period minute period of a match will be divided into two periods of 15 minutes in the interests of fair play (e.g. inclement weather).

The 5-a-side match will be split into six periods of 12 ½ minutes, with a five minute interval between each period.

For the period August – December 2019, 1 x 11-a-side match will be played between the teams.

The 11-a-side match will be split into a maximum of three periods of 30 minutes with a 5-minute interval between each period. The final 30 period minute period of a match will be divided into two periods of 15 minutes in the interests of fair play (e.g. inclement weather).

Age Levels 14s, 15s, 16s and 17/18s

At age levels 14s, 15s and 16s, the Club Academy Scotland programme will involve all participating clubs playing 11-a-side matches for the period January 1st to December 31st 2019.

At age level 17/18s, the Club Academy Scotland programme will involve all participating clubs playing 11-a-side matches for the duration of Season 2018/19 and Season 2019/20.

The duration of matches played at 13s and 14s shall normally be 90 minutes. It is mandatory that matches be split into a maximum of three periods of 30 minutes with a 5-minute interval between each period. The final 30 period minute period of a match will be divided into two periods of 15 minutes in the interests of fair play (e.g. inclement weather).

The format of matches at Age Level 15s and 16s shall be 90 minutes split into two periods of 45 minutes.

The format of matches at Age Level 17s/18s shall be 90 minutes split into two periods of 45 minutes.

At Age Levels, Under 11, Under 12, Under 13, Under 14 and Under 15, rolling substitutions may be made throughout the match. This shall be extended to age levels Under16 and Under17/18 should the Club Academy Scotland games programme not be in tabulated format.

The Scottish FA reserves the right to organise the Club Academy Scotland games programme at Under 16 and Under 17/18s in a tabulated League format.

a) Match Ball Sizes

A size 4 football should be used for all matches at age levels 11s, 12s and 13s. At all other age levels in the Club Academy Scotland programme, a size 5 FIFA approved football shall be used.

b) Coaching, Advice and Tuition (All Age Levels)

At the conclusion of each period of play, the coaches of each participating club shall be permitted to offer coaching, advice and tuition to players. In addition, the match referee and where applicable, the Referee Observer in attendance, shall also be permitted to offer advice on the Laws of the Game and the reasons for decisions that have taken place during the preceding period of play.

7. Format, Organisation & Governance of Club Academy Scotland League System (Age Level 17/18s) (August 2019)

a) Format of 17/18s League System

For Season 2018/19, a system of officially tabulated and recorded League matches will be organised within the 17/18s programme as follows: -

All 17/18s League matches will be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

A referee and two assistant referees will be appointed to officiate at all fixtures within the Elite Games Programme, with all other category matches being officiated by referee only.

Substitutions

In accordance with the Laws of the Game, a club will be permitted to make a maximum of five substitutions (from seven available substitutes) during the course of a 17/18s League match.

For the avoidance of doubt, a player substituted during a 17/18s League fixture may take no further part in that match.

b) Organisation of Under 16 and Under 17/18s League System – Elite Games Programme

The Club Academy Scotland Under 17/18s League system will be directed and administered by the Scottish FA Events & Competitions Department.

A separate set of Competition Rules, for the Elite Games Programme, will be provided to participating clubs by the Scottish FA Events and Competitions Department.

Official team line templates and related match / venue control documentation will be provided to participating clubs prior to the commencement of the League programme.

A system of weekly e-circular communications including results and League table updates will be implemented to assist and support clubs within the programme. Match results and League tables will be published by the Scottish FA via its website.

c) Organisation of Under 16 and Under 17/18s League System – Performance (Progressive) & Performance Games Programme

The Club Academy Scotland Under 16 and Under 17/18s League system will be directed and administered by the Scottish FA Performance Department.

Official team line templates and related match / venue control documentation will be provided to participating clubs prior to the commencement of the League programme.

A system of weekly e-circular communications including results and League table updates will be implemented to assist and support clubs within the programme Match results and League tables will be published by the Scottish FA via its website.

d) Organisation of Under 16 and Under 17/18s League Systems – Advanced Youth Games Programme

The Club Academy Scotland Under 16 and Under 17/18s League system will be directed and administered by the Scottish FA Performance Department.

Official team line templates and related match / venue control documentation will be provided to participating clubs prior to the commencement of the League programme.

A system of weekly e-circular communications including results and League table updates will be implemented to assist and support clubs within the programme Match results and League tables will be published by the Scottish FA via its website.

e) Governance of Under 16 and Under 17/18s League System

As an integral part of the Club Academy Scotland youth development programme, the Under 16 and Under 17/18s League system will be governed by the administration in accordance with the terms of these regulations, the Laws of the Game and Scottish FA Articles of Association.

Responsibility for the governance of Club Academy Scotland is vested with the PGB In keeping with the terms of Board Protocols.

8. Match Venues, Dates, Kick-off Times and the Fulfilment of Fixtures

- a) Venues for matches played in the Club Academy Scotland and Advanced Youth programmes must be selected strictly in accordance with the terms of applicable Elite, Performance (Progressive), Performance and Advanced Youth grading criteria.
- b) The quality of pitches used within the Club Academy Scotland games programme shall be subject to a marking system determined by the match referee.
- c) Clubs are required to formally notify, in writing, the Scottish FA of the venues at which their matches will be played, and must officially register (by means of a match facilities pro-forma) their list of proposed playing facilities prior to the commencement of the season, subject to the above.
- d) Matches in the Club Academy Scotland programme will be scheduled for and will normally be played on a Saturday (age levels 11s, 13s and 15s) and Sunday (age levels 12s, 14s and 16s). Under 17/18 matches in the Elite, Performance (progressive) and Performance levels will normally be played on Fridays. The matches played in the Advanced Youth level will normally be played on Sundays. The Scottish FA reserves the right to permit matches to be played on other days subject to the substantiated written request of competing clubs.
- e) The Scottish FA reserves the right to co-ordinate the kick-off times of all matches played in the Club Academy Scotland programme.
- f) **The fulfilment of scheduled fixtures in the Club Academy Scotland and Advanced Youth programmes is mandatory.**

In circumstances where a club is required to postpone or re-schedule a Club Academy Scotland fixture, formal written notice must be communicated to the club's opponent and the Scottish FA within three working days of the date of the originally scheduled fixture. An official Club Academy Scotland pro-forma will be supplied in this regard. As a courtesy to opponents, Clubs wishing to take part in tournaments that fall on scheduled Club Academy Scotland fixture dates must give a six week period of notice of participation in a tournament, Rescheduled dates for any fixtures that are required to be postponed, must be agreed and communicated to the Scottish FA before permission to attend tournaments is considered.

Failure to fulfil Club Academy Scotland fixtures will result in the review of a club's status within the programme, or other financial sanctions as deemed appropriate.

9. Appointment of Match Officials

The Scottish FA shall appoint, through a designated Regional Referee Co-ordinator, a match referee for all matches played in the Club Academy Scotland programme. The Scottish FA shall decide the tariff for referees at the commencement of each season.

10. Responsibility of Home Clubs

It is the responsibility of the home club to advise the Scottish FA, the Regional Referee Co-ordinator and referee of the agreed venue, date and time of kick-off for matches played in the Club Academy Scotland programme.

Notification shall be made in writing at least one week in advance of the match and, in all cases, not less than three working days before the match. Alterations to the venue, date and time of kick-off must also be notified by the home club to its opponents, the referee and the Scottish FA.

11. Discipline

Players having received three cautions for breaches of discipline in the Club Academy Scotland programme will automatically be subject to a one-match ban. A similar one-match ban will also be applied for any sending-off offence.

Suspensions will be recorded and effective in all Club Academy Scotland matches for which the player is eligible.

At the interval of any Club Academy Scotland match, **which is not tabulated**, a team which has had a player or players sent off, may introduce substitute players in order to return to a full complement of 11 (where applicable) to start the next period. A player sent off in a Club Academy Scotland match may not play any further part in that match.

Matters of repeated indiscipline by players or clubs will be investigated by the Scottish FA as an integral part of the on-going assessment and evaluation of the Club Academy Scotland programme, its stated aims and objectives.

12. Team Scouts

Team Scouts of clubs participating in Club Academy Scotland will require to complete and sign the Scottish FA's "Team Scout Registration Form" agreeing to adhere to the Scottish FA's Articles, Registration Procedures, as agreed or amended from time to time by the Scottish FA, for approaching players of Scottish Youth FA clubs or other Affiliated National Association clubs. Team Scouts will also require to be in attendance, as and when required, at an approved course run by the Scottish FA on the Scottish FA Protocol and any other matters concerning the duties, responsibilities and obligations on Team Scouts in relation to but not solely limited to the approach to players and clubs.

13. Technical Review and Assessment Form

Every match played in the Club Academy Scotland and Advanced Youth programmes will be subject to the completion of a Technical Review and Assessment form by the appointed match referee, respective Head Coaches and, for Elite Academy matches, the designated Scottish FA Technical Observer.