

*YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
**PLAYERS' AND  
PARENTS' GUIDE***

*SEASON 2011 - 2012*





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[www.football-league.co.uk](http://www.football-league.co.uk)

### THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Wembley National Stadium, PO Box 1966, London SW1P 9EQ  
 T 0844 9808200 F 0844 9808201  
[www.TheFA.com](http://www.TheFA.com)

**NSPCC Child Protection Helpline** T 0808 800 5000

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## MISSION STATEMENT

The Football League Youth Development Department's overall purpose is to support and assist its Clubs in raising standards at Schoolboy and Youth level. We are a dedicated team who strive to provide high quality service and advice to players and parents alike.

The core values and objectives of the Youth Department are to provide a comprehensive monitoring and inspection structure based on agreed quality standards. We have regular get-together meetings and seminars with the Clubs to share ideas, best practice and provide Clubs with ongoing training and information relevant to the programme.

We report to our funding partners on the progress of the Youth Development programme. This is to ensure the continuity of the funding provided to the Clubs and to support them in all areas of Youth Development.

We would like to emphasise that we seek to provide fair and consistent consideration in all areas relating to Youth Development.

Our aim is to assist Football League Clubs to produce high quality players for the professional game both at domestic and international level.





# WELCOME

Welcome to The Football League's Youth Development Programme for Excellence. This brief handbook will provide you with information you may find useful to plan your season, understand your rights and the commitment involved in The Football League's Programme for Excellence.

The Football Association, through delivery of its Charter for Quality, handed the responsibility for the Programme for Excellence over to The Football League and the Premier League. This has led to the introduction of:

- An up-to-date, state of the art database for player registrations.
- A licensing system for Academies and Centres of Excellence.
- A monitoring and quality control system for all clubs, provided by the Leagues, culminating in individual annual reports.

The technical, social, moral and educational welfare of every player on the programme is of the highest priority to The Football League and is reflected in its policies in Child Protection and Equal Opportunities.

Only through the joint efforts of all the agencies involved in delivering football development in partnership with parents, guardians and the young players themselves, will this programme create the benefit and impact necessary in building for the future of English football.

It is hoped, through this handbook, you will gain a greater insight into the activities of The League at youth level. The Football League Youth Development Department's overall purpose is to support and assist its Clubs in raising standards at Schoolboy and Youth level.

*“The technical, social, moral and educational welfare of every player on the programme is of the highest priority to The Football League”*



## FIXTURES PROGRAMME

### ACADEMY GAMES PROGRAMME U18

|                                  |                                       |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Start Date                       | 20th August 2011                      |
| Christmas Break                  | 18th December 2011 – 6th January 2012 |
| Last League Fixture              | 21st April 2012                       |
| Premier Academy League Play-Offs | 5th May 2012                          |
| Premier Academy League Final     | 12th May 2012                         |

### ACADEMY GAMES PROGRAMME U9 – U15

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Start Date            | 4th September 2011                     |
| Christmas Break       | 19th December 2011 – 7th January 2012  |
| Winter Break          | 11th December 2011 – 29th January 2012 |
| Last Day of Programme | 10th June 2012                         |

### CENTRES GAMES PROGRAMME U9 – U16

|                  |                                      |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Start Date       | U9 – U15 & U16<br>4th September 2011 |
| Mid-Season Break | U9 – U15 & U16<br>11th December 2011 |
| Re-Commencement  | U9 – U15 & U16<br>29th January 2012  |
| End of Season    | U9 – U15 & U16<br>20th May 2012      |

### YOUTH ALLIANCE PROGRAMME U18

|                              |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Start Date                   | 6th August 2011    |
| Mid-Season Break (last game) | 17th December 2011 |
| Re-Commencement              | 7th January 2012   |
| End of Season (last game)    | 21st April 2012    |

### CONTINUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) FOR COACHES

For the youth coaches within the Football League Clubs Youth Development department to maintain their qualifications, they are to complete 5 hours CPD, FA accredited CPD to enable them to continue to work within the Youth Programme of Excellence.

CPD events will be arranged in conjunction with the FA and are held during the winter break.

Dates for the events are to be confirmed.

### F.A. YOUTH CUP U18

#### Qualifying Competition

Ties must only be played only in the week commencing:-

|                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Preliminary Round       | Monday 5th September 2011  |
| First Round Qualifying  | Monday 19th September 2011 |
| Second Round Qualifying | Monday 3rd October 2011    |
| Third Round Qualifying  | Monday 17th October 2011   |

#### Competition Proper

Ties to be played by the closing date:-

|                     |                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| First Round Proper  | Saturday 5th November 2011  |
| Second Round Proper | Saturday 19th November 2011 |
| Third Round Proper  | Saturday 17th December 2011 |
| Fourth Round Proper | Saturday 21st January 2012  |
| Fifth Round Proper  | Saturday 11th February 2012 |
| Sixth Round Proper  | Saturday 25th February 2012 |
| Semi Final 1        | Saturday 17th March 2012    |
| Semi Final 2        | Saturday 31st March 2012    |
| Final 1             | to be confirmed             |
| Final 2             | to be confirmed             |

### YOUTH ALLIANCE CUP U18

#### North Only

|                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Start Date (Round 1) | 5th November 2011 |
| Round 2              | 3rd December 2011 |
| Round 3              | 21st January 2012 |

#### South Only

|                          |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Start Date (Group Phase) | 8th October 2011  |
|                          | 15th October 2011 |
|                          | 22nd October 2011 |
|                          | 29th October 2011 |
|                          | 5th November 2011 |
| Round 2                  | 3rd December 2011 |
| Round 3                  | 21st January 2012 |

#### North & South Only

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Area Semi Finals | 18th February 2012 |
| Area Final Date  | To be confirmed    |
| Final Date       | To be confirmed    |

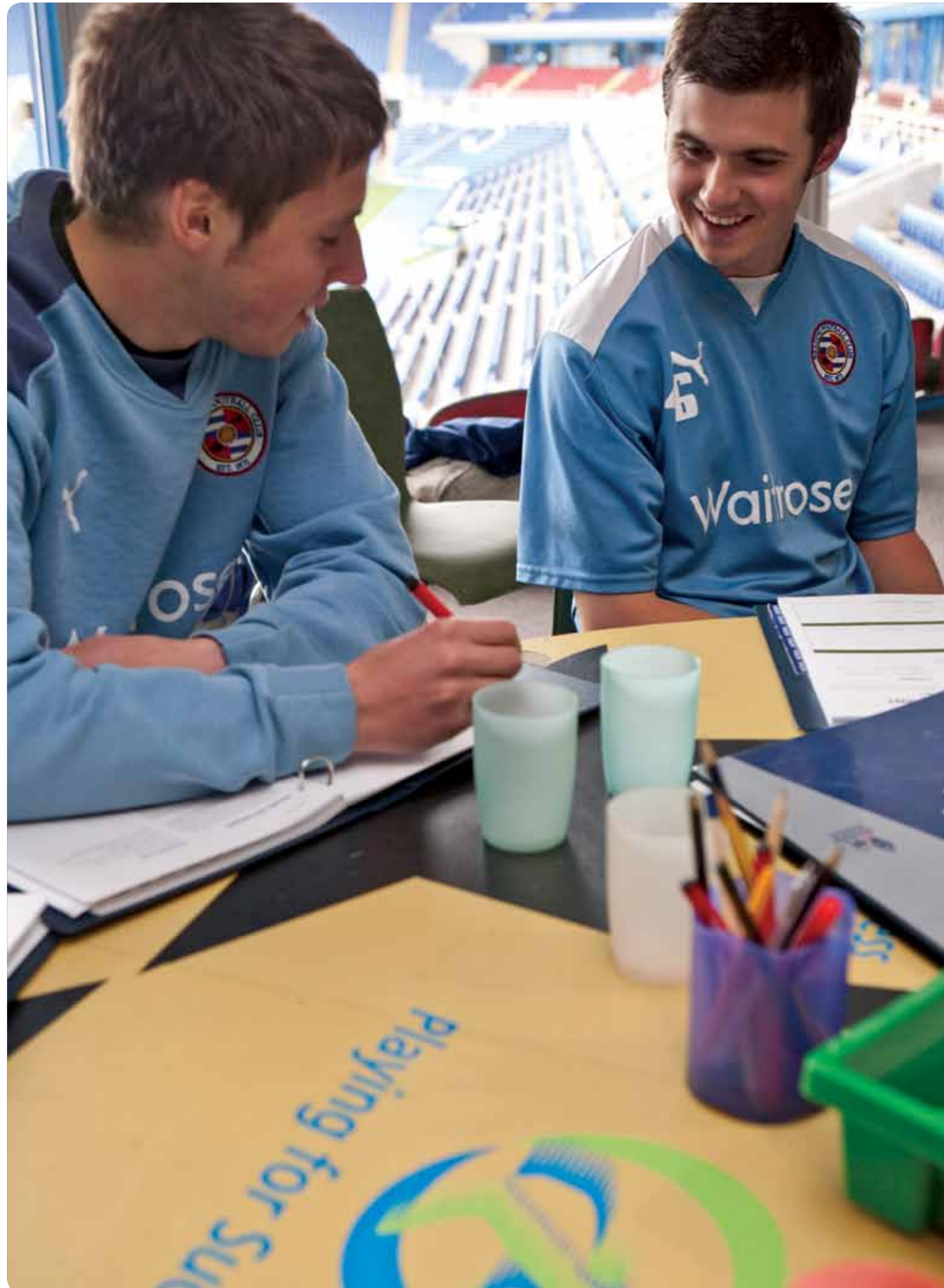


## KEY AGE GROUPS ELIGIBILITY

| AGE GROUP ELIGIBILITY                 |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Centre of Excellence Programme</b> | Age on 31st August in the year in question  |
| <b>F.A. Youth Cup</b>                 | Under 18 years on 31st August in the year in question   |
| <b>Youth Alliance</b>                 | Under 18 years on 31st August in the year in question   |
| <b>Academy League</b>                 | Under 18 years on 31st August in the year in question   |
| RETAIN/RELEASE                        |   |
| <b>Under 9 – Under 11 inclusive</b>   | On or before third Saturday in April, written intention to retain for the next season or cancel at end of season (Rule 66.1)  |
| <b>Under 12 – Under 14 inclusive</b>  | On or before third Saturday in April, written intention to retain for next two seasons or cancel at end of season (Rule 66.2) |
| <b>Under 16</b>                       | On or before 1st March, written intention to offer (Rule 69) scholarship/trainee terms  |
| <b>Window to view</b>                 | Second Saturday in May after giving written notice to Club who have offered to retain a player's registration (Rule 68)       |

## TRAINING & CONFERENCES

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| <b>FA Medical 'In-Service'</b>                    | To be confirmed |
| <b>FA Fitness &amp; Conditioning 'In-Service'</b> | To be confirmed |
| <b>Medical Conferences</b>                        | To be confirmed |
| <b>Fitness &amp; Conditioning Conference</b>      | To be confirmed |



## EDUCATION & WELFARE

### EDUCATION AND WELFARE STATEMENT

The opportunity for any Young Player to register at either an Academy or Centre of Excellence is a great achievement in itself.

Young Players of all ages must always be aware that some will become successful players and others will not. However, sooner or later they will all need to rely on their educational achievements.

Within the club, a Young Player can look forward to the support of staff with an expertise in educational matters. It is important, however, that the individual Young Player realises the need for him to make every effort to fulfil his potential and recognises the need to concentrate on his academic development as well as his football.

Every Club has people who can be asked for help on both education and welfare matters and every young Player should be aware of the identity of these staff members and should have no hesitation in asking for their help if required.

#### A Cale

Head of Player Development & Research  
The Football Association

### APPRENTICESHIPS

Football League Clubs sign young players from sixteen years of age on a two-year agreement a condition of which is that all players have to undertake an education programme, The Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence (ASE). League Football Education (LFE) manage ASE on behalf of The Football League and the Professional Footballers Association.

ASE offers each Apprentice the chance to fulfil his dream of becoming a professional footballer by providing an opportunity to develop footballing skills whilst gaining academic qualifications, which are viewed as essential by today's employers.

LFE work closely with Youth Development staff at Football League Clubs to support Apprentices in all aspects of the programme. This includes a level 3 NVQ, a coaching certificate delivered by the PFA and an education course that will be set at an appropriate level to meet individual needs and abilities. LFE has also developed extensive exit support arrangements for Apprentices that ultimately follow a different career path.

Our aim is "To be the leading provider of work based education within elite sport for the benefit of individual Apprentices, League Football and sport as a whole".

In delivering this mission statement LFE aim to give every Apprentice the best opportunity to achieve his own goals.

The ASE programme has been designed for those participating in sport at an elite level and is now embraced by a number of other sporting bodies as well as professional football.

Further information on LFE and the Apprenticeship programme can be obtained on our website [www.lfe.org.uk](http://www.lfe.org.uk)

We can also be contacted by e-mail [info@lfe.org.uk](mailto:info@lfe.org.uk) or by telephone 0870 458 9250.

#### Alan Sykes

Chief Executive  
League Football Education (LFE)



## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES



## THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The Football League Youth Development (FLYD) department fully supports the principles of equal opportunities and is committed to ensuring that all bodies are treated fairly and on an equal basis, regardless of gender, age, racial origin, culture, religious belief, disability or sexual identity.

FLYD wishes to have open access to all the services it offers and wishes to demonstrate equality in:

- i) The selection, recruitment and training of all those working on its behalf
- ii) The format and content of syllabuses, regulations and assessments
- iii) The preparation, production and distribution of all materials by FLYD.

FLYD will ensure equality through:

- i) The monitoring of practices procedures and data relating to the operations of its competitions, schemes and assessment materials
- ii) The modification of any existing Rules, which may serve to inhibit the needs and performance of those people participating in its programme.

In formulating its working procedures and producing materials, FLYD will seek to ensure that for its part, every reasonable effort is made in format, language and approach which, in relation to a persons gender, age, racial origin, culture, religious belief, disability or sexual identity is:

- i) Appropriate to all persons
- ii) Does have the same meaning for all
- iii) Implies openness of attitudes
- iv) Clearly states the assumptions of experience, knowledge and competence
- v) Clearly states the activities that will be required to be performed
- vi) Capable of being understood.

In furtherance of this policy, FLYD will work in co-operation with all appropriate national and local organisations and agencies to develop means of identifying and furthering an equal opportunities ethos in relation to materials and procedures adopted by its agents.

FLYD expects all Bodies acting on its behalf to adhere to this statement and the spirit in which it is written. FLYD and its professional staff will identify means of monitoring and responding to any actions of its agents that in the view of FLYD does not adhere to this statement and the spirit in which it is written.

# REGISTRATIONS GUIDANCE

All players registered in the programme for excellence, whether at Clubs running an Academy or a Centre of Excellence fall under the classification of players as detailed in the FA Charter for Quality and FA Rules on Youth, as Category 'A' players.

The categorisation of players is as follows:

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Category A</b> | International football                     |
|                   | Professional Clubs' junior and youth teams |
|                   | Centres football and coaching              |
| <b>Category B</b> | All schools football                       |
| <b>Category C</b> | Local youth leagues                        |
|                   | Community football activities              |

Players registered in Category 'A' are only permitted to play in games against players categorised in this group. Centres of Excellence are permitted to play matches against Category 'B' groups. Furthermore, a Centre of Excellence Manager is at liberty to authorise a Young Player to return to Category 'B' Football, if he is not in receipt of a sufficient number of games in Category 'A'.

The minimum number of authorised games for Centre of Excellence is 18 (Rule 113).

The Football League has a fully comprehensive, computerised system of registrations administered by the Player Administration department.

|                           |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Head of Department</b> | Debbie Birch               |
| <b>Assistant Manager</b>  | Louise Smith               |
| <b>Assistant</b>          | Gill Banks T: 0844 8269209 |

In order to assist you, the following information may be useful.

**i) Please ask, upon signing, the Club representative how many seasons the player is signing for.**

Signing a two-year or four-year form closes the window period.

Signing a YD6(A) closes the window period until the Player attains the age of 18.

**ii) Registration Periods (Rules 52 - 65)**

|   |                 |             |
|---|-----------------|-------------|
| <b>Under 9, 10, 11 and 12</b>           | One Year        | Form YD4    |
| <b>Under 13 – Under 14</b>              | Two Years       | Form YD4    |
| <b>Under 15 – Under 16</b>              | Two Years       | Form YD4    |
| <b>*Under 13 – Under 16</b>             | Four Years      | Form YD6    |
| <b>Under 13 – Under 18 years of age</b> | Up to Six Years | Form YD6(A) |

Any player signed on registration forms YD4 and YD6 can remain registered with the Club if agreed between all parties until the end of the player's full-time education.

Any player signed on registrations form YD6(A) will remain registered with the Club until the Player attains the age of 18.

\* Any player can sign form YD6 (full registration) on his 12th birthday. This could, therefore, take place during the Season he is classed as an 'Under 12' (including Year 7 at School).

**iii) End of Season Procedures (Rules 66 - 69)**

A 'window period' refers to the opportunity that exists for Young Players to trial or view other Clubs with whom he may wish to sign for subsequently.

There are set times, periods and methods of notification which must be abided by in order that a Young Player can exercise his right to view other Clubs.

Rules 67- 69 inclusive refer to players wishing to seek registration at other Clubs.

**iv) Closure of Window Periods**

Players signing a two or four-year registration are not entitled to exercise their option to view any other Club during the intervening years of the registration period.

Players signing a YD6(A) are not entitled to exercise their option to view any other Club during the registration period.

Players would only be able to take up the option at the end of the full registration period that applies to the registration form, which needs to be completed and signed.

**v) Termination of Youth Player Registration (Rules 71 - 75)**

The procedures are clearly outlined in these Rules.

If a player wishes to terminate his registration for any reason and move to another Club, then the Club holding the player's registration will be entitled to compensation for that player from the acquiring Club.

**vi) Approaches by and to Clubs (Rules 89 - 91)**

Any direct or indirect approaches by Clubs to players is a serious breach of Football League Rules and would invoke a hearing to discipline the offending Club.

Similarly, it is also against the Rules for players (or their representative) to approach Clubs.

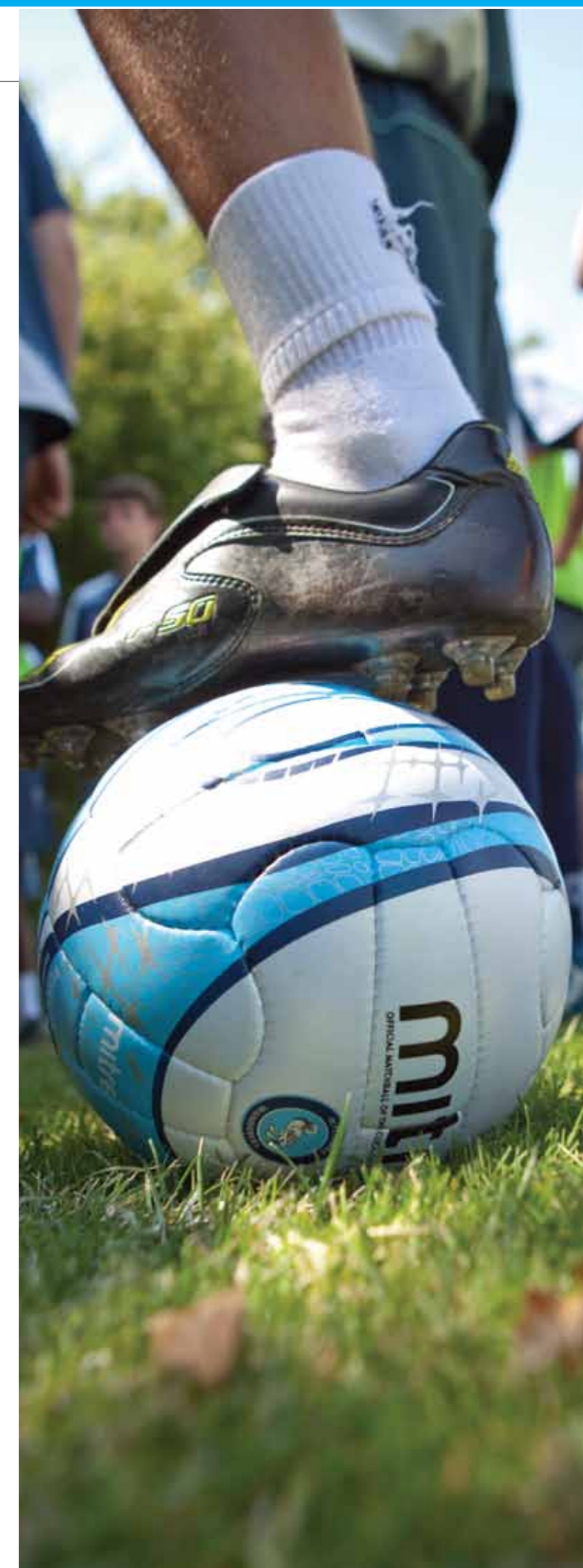
If you are approached by a Club, it is imperative to tell them that you as the Young Player or your son as the parent or representative is registered with another Club.

**vii) Travelling Times (Rule 62)**

Under 9 - Under 12 incl. must reside within one hour's travelling time from the Academy or Centre of Excellence.

Under 13 - Under 16 incl. must reside within one and a half hour's travelling time from the Academy or Centre of Excellence.

Any registrations submitted to The League of players who reside outside of these boundaries will not be accepted and the player therefore cannot be registered.





# INFORMATION FOR TRIALISTS

Football will always need new players at all levels whether filling International teams or playing on your local parks, the purpose of allowing players to trial at Clubs is to provide the opportunity for them to continue to improve and it is important that this is undertaken in appropriate environment. Please refer to the 'Rules and Regulations' at the back of this handbook.

Only a small number of young players achieve a professional contract, but many grow from the experience of spending time at a professional club. My message to you is - make the most of your opportunities and work hard at everything you do. If you give it your best shot, nobody can ask any more of you.

Be humble in victory and gracious in defeat but, most of all, enjoy playing football at whatever level.

Good Luck!

**Jim Briden**  
Youth Development Business Manager  
The Football League Trust



## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT RULES

All Football League Clubs have to abide by a set of stringent Rules. These Rules are intended to enable Clubs to fulfil the requirements of the Youth Development Programme both effectively and efficiently, prevent bad practice and provide a level playing field for all. Please refer to the 'Rules and Regulations' at the back of this handbook. The rules 43-46 specifically apply to trialists.

When on trial with a Club you are not permitted to trial for any other Club.

If you are unsure of any areas about Trialists, please do not hesitate to contact the Academy Manager/Head of Youth at the Club.

## YOUR COMMITMENT

When playing on or off the pitch, work hard and play to the best of your ability. Enjoy the coaching and the games, but be prepared to receive constructive evaluation and instruction to enable you to progress and improve. Attend all coaching sessions and games when scheduled and aim to play to a high standard. Most of all enjoy your football.

## IF YOU REGISTER

If your trial period has been a success and the Club offers you a full registration to become a Category 'A' player, there are a few things you must know.

As part of the registration process you will be asked to sign an official form which will be recorded on The League's database.

Signing forms at Category 'A' (professional Club) means that you will have limited opportunity to play in Category 'B' (schools) football and will not be eligible in Category 'C' (local league) football. Although in exceptional circumstances, players at Centres of Excellence may be allowed to play in Category 'C' football.

You will receive a code of conduct for you and your parent or guardian to sign, an example is provided on page 16 of this booklet.

You will then be committed to the Club and be expected to attend all coaching sessions and play in an official games programme against other professional Clubs in your age group.

Ensure you make the most of the opportunity and enjoy your football.

## THE CLUB'S COMMITMENT

You will gain access to good quality coaching, facilities and support services.

The Club will want you to express yourself and display your talents.

The maximum time you can spend on trial at any one Club in any one season is six consecutive weeks - it can be less, but not more. At the end of your trial period you will be given a report, verbal or written, and either be offered the chance to sign a full registration or complete a form which ends your trial.

It is the duty of the Club to approach and inform your local club of their intentions to offer you a trial.

Above all you deserve the opportunity and will be treated fairly.

## WHAT TO EXPECT

The challenge and excitement of being involved in a professional club is a handsome prospect.

The people you will be involved with are there to work in your best interest and pay the highest regard to your technical, medical and educational welfare.

### Trialists (Rules 43 - 46)

A trial period of a maximum of six consecutive weeks is allowed only.

Players are not duly obliged to remain at a Club on trial for six weeks nor is the Club obliged to retain the player on trial for the full six weeks - this is a maximum.

Travel times for trialists follow the Rules for registered players except in the Under 15 and Under 16 years whereupon players may attend a Club on trial (for six weeks maximum) outside of the one and a half hours' travel time.

Under 15 and under 16 players cannot sign a permanent registration from outside of the permitted travel time.

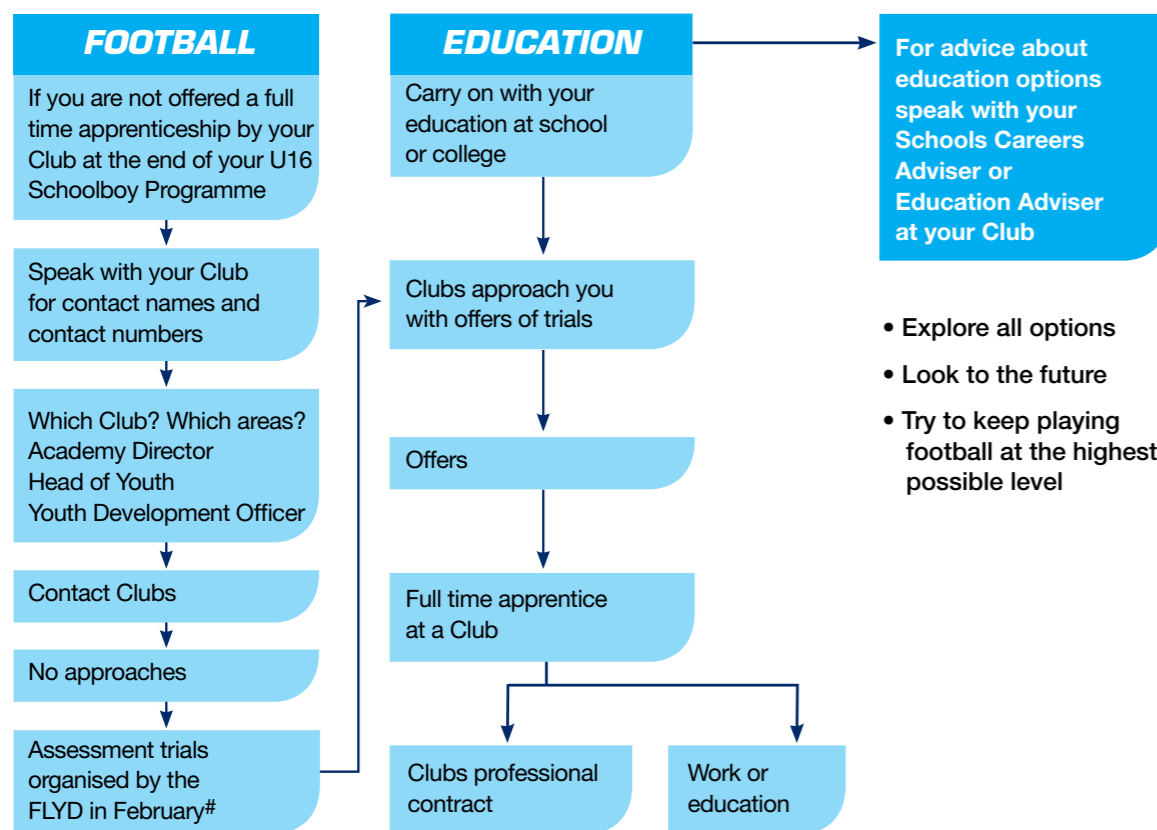
### Scholarships (Rule 76 - 87)

An offer of agreement can be made to a Young Player who resides outside of the prescribed travel limit in the final year of his full-time education.

# LOOK TO THE FUTURE

At the end of the U16 Programme for Excellence, should you not be selected to further your career as a professional footballer and the Club releases you, the following chart will hopefully enable you to look into other options available to explore:

If the club releases you...



# players must have been registered at a Football League Club during the 2011/12 season to attend the trials.

## THE CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

| NATIONAL AWARD | PATHWAYS               |                            |             |
|----------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Level          | Academic               | Applied Vocational         | Vocational  |
| Advanced       | GCE AS and A level     | Vocational A Levels        | NVQ Level 3 |
| Intermediate   | GCSE Grades A*-C       | GNVQ at Intermediate Level | NVQ Level 2 |
| Foundation     | GCSE Grades D-G        | GNVQ at Foundation Level   | NVQ Level 1 |
| Entry          | Common to all Pathways |                            |             |



### WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS?

Club Education and Welfare Officers or Education Officers are there to help. He/she knows you well and can put you in touch with other useful contacts.

Careers Service and Schools Careers will be able to put you in touch with local colleges and training providers.

Further Education Colleges are able to provide a range of questionnaires and computer packages which will help you to clear your thoughts on career directions and suitable courses of study.

Local Authorities' Sports Development Officers are worth speaking to regarding summer school work as a Play Leader or Sports Coach. This is a potential lead-in to employment.

Sport England produces leaflets on 'Careers in Sport Compendium' which includes information on jobs relating to all aspects of sports practice and management, for £5.00. If you wish to purchase one please contact 08705 210 255 (publication department).

# CODE OF CONDUCT

Most Clubs have their own Codes of Conduct for players, parents and coaches, however below is a copy of what you will be expected to sign when your son registers.

## FOR FOOTBALL ACADEMY/CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE PLAYERS OF COMPULSORY SCHOOL AGE

Prior to signing this Code of Conduct and registering the Player at its Football Academy/Centre of Excellence, full discussion has taken place and agreement has been reached between the Football Academy/Centre of Excellence, the Young Player and the parents/guardians as to the educational, technical and match programme to be provided by the Football Academy/Centre of Excellence to the Young Player.

EXAMPLE

(‘the Player’) FC Football Academy / Centre of Excellence (‘the Club’).  
 has the potential to become a footballer at the highest level and will be registered as a Young Player at the

Both the Young Player and the Young Player’s parents/guardians understand that the Club is committed to the Young Player’s well being, future development and realisation of potential, but that the level of achievement ultimately reached cannot be guaranteed.

In registering the Young Player at its Football Academy/Centre of Excellence, the Club, the parents/guardians and the Young Player agree to the following Code of Conduct.

### THE FOOTBALL CLUB AGREES TO PROVIDE

- a safe environment in which the Young Player can learn and develop without fear of abuse.
- medical screening, monitoring and support for the Young Player.
- a structured football learning programme, appropriate to the age, ability and growth of the Young Player.
- participation in football matches arranged or approved by The Football League.
- qualified coaching and related staff as determined by the rules governing Football Academies/Centres of Excellence.
- guidelines to the Young Player and parents/guardians on the best ways for them to contribute to the Young Player’s football and personal development.

- educational support in conjunction with the Young Player’s school to ensure the continued academic and personal development of the Young Player.
- regular communication and reports to the Young Player and parents/guardians on the Young Player’s progress.
- a Code of Conduct and Rules for its Football Academy/Centre of Excellence.

### THE YOUNG PLAYER AGREES TO

- attend the Football Academy/Centre of Excellence regularly and punctually, behave with self-discipline and give notice of and reason for any absence.
- practice the techniques and skills taught by the Football Academy/Centre of Excellence and attempt to apply them in matches.

- participate in football matches outside normal school hours only as specified by the Football Academy/Centre of Excellence.
- attend school regularly and punctually, complete school assignments and behave at school as at the Football Academy/Centre of Excellence.
- follow a lifestyle appropriate to development - spending leisure time positively; eating, drinking, relaxing and sleeping sensibly.
- adhere to the Club’s Code of Conduct and Rules for its Football Academy/Centre of Excellence.

### THE PARENTS/GUARDIANS AGREE TO

- encourage and help the Young Player meet targets, including this Code of Conduct and the Club’s Code of Conduct and Rules for its Football Academy/Centre of Excellence.
- support for the Young Player without pressure, praise good work and refrain from criticising lapses.
- set a good example for the Young Player.
- respect the opportunity given to the Young Player and not approach or permit any other person to approach any other Club during the currency of this registration except as allowed under the Rules and Regulations governing governing Football Academies/Centres of Excellence.
- communicate with the Football Academy/Centre of Excellence staff, keeping them informed about matters affecting the Young Player.
- permit the Young Player to play only in football matches outside normal school hours as specified by the Football Academy/Centre of Excellence.
- adhere to the Club’s Code of Conduct and Rules for its Football Academy/Centre of Excellence.





# YOUTH DEVELOPMENT RULES & REGULATIONS

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# YOUTH DEVELOPMENT RULES & REGULATIONS

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## SEASON 2011 - 2012

### DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

- 1 'Academy Manager' means the person responsible for the operation of a Club's Football Academy and 'Assistant Academy Manager' means a person assisting him.
- 2 Reference to following words in italics shall be construed in these Rules as follows:
  - 2.1 'a parent of a Youth Player' shall include reference to the mother, father, guardian or other person having parental responsibility for the Youth Player.
  - 2.2 'Associate' shall include:
    - 2.2.1 anyone of a close relationship with that person who in the reasonable opinion of the Executive is or is likely to be acting with that person;
    - 2.2.2 any company of which that person is a director or over which that person is able to exercise control or influence;
    - 2.2.3 any person who is an employee or partner of that person or is in close relationship with any such employee or partner;
    - 2.2.4 if that person, or any associate of that person, is a company, any holding company or subsidiary of its holding company, and any director or employee of that company or subsidiary or in a close relationship with any such director or employee; and
    - 2.2.5 if that person has an agreement or arrangement (whether legally binding or not) with any other person in relation to the exercise of their voting power in a Club or club or in relation to the holding or disposal of their interests in a Club or club, that other person.
- 3 'Authorised Games' means:
  - 3.1 international games arranged by a national association including preparation and trials therefor; or
  - 3.2 games in which the Youth Player plays for the Club holding his registration:
    - 3.2.1 in its first or reserve teams; or
    - 3.2.2 which are comprised in the games programme organised and administered in accordance with Rules 105-119; or
    - 3.2.3 which are comprised in youth tournaments participation in which is limited to Football Academy teams or which are sanctioned by the Football Association or by a foreign national association; or
  - 3.3 friendly games organised by the Club holding the Youth Player's registration and played at a Football Academy (and/or Centre of Excellence in respect of games organised on those weekends designated by the Executive under Rule 120), participation in which is limited to Youth Players' registered at a Football Academy (or Centre of Excellence as appropriate) or Trialists; or
  - 3.4 friendly games against any opposition played in the FA Premier Academy League close Season in which the Youth Player plays for the Club holding his registration; or
  - 3.5 games organised by the English Schools Football Association or Independent Schools Football Association or an association affiliated to either of such Associations in which the Youth Player plays with the prior agreement of his parents (in the case of a Youth Player under the age of 18 years) and the Club holding his registration; or
  - 3.6 trial games for other Clubs or Football/Premier League Clubs in which the Youth Player plays with the prior written permission of the Club holding his registration; or
  - 3.7 any other game authorised by the Board.
- 4 'Centre of Excellence' means a training establishment operated by a Club in accordance with these Rules.
- 5 'Centre of Excellence Manager' means the person responsible for the operation of a Club's Centre of Excellence.
- 6 'Club' shall include any association football club in membership of The League.
- 7 'club' shall include any association football club not in membership of The League.
- 8 'Development Centre' means any training establishment operated by a Club which is not a Football Academy or Centre of Excellence and includes any such establishment by whatever name or title it is known.
- 9 'The FA Premier Academy League' means the league of that name managed, organised and controlled by the FA Premier League (but controlled by The League) and governed by the Academy League Rules.
- 10 'Football Academy' means a training establishment operated by a Club in accordance with these Rules.



- 11 'Full-Time Education' means the education provided for registered pupils at primary or secondary schools or full time equivalent students at colleges of further education.
- 12 'Scholarship Agreement' means an agreement in writing made between a Club and a Youth Player in the relevant prescribed form.
- 13 'Youth Player' means a player (other than a Contract Player, a Non-Contract Player or a Trialist) playing in age groups Under 9 to Under 21 who is coached by or at or playing football for or at a Football Academy or a Centre of Excellence operated by a Club which holds his registration.
- 14 'Trialist' means a young Player playing in age groups Under 9 to Under 21 who is attending a Football Academy or a Centre of Excellence on trial under the provisions of Rule 43-46.
- 15 For the purpose of this Section of these Rules:
- 15.1 Youth Players shall be placed in one of 13 age groups commencing with age group Under 9 and ending with age group Under 21; and
- 15.2 the age group into which each Youth Player shall be placed shall be determined by his age on the 31st August in the year in question.
- 16 'FA Youth Coaches certificate' means:
- 16.1 in respect of coaching Under 9 to Under 12 - a Junior Certificate;
- 16.2 in respect of Coaching Under 13 to Under 16 - an Intermediate Certificate; and
- 16.3 in respect of Coaching Under 17 to Under 18 - a Senior Certificate
- and for the avoidance of doubt an FA Youth Coaches Certificate shall not be deemed to be a qualification for the purposes of Rule 136.

#### OPERATION OF FOOTBALL ACADEMIES, CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE AND SATELLITES

- 17 Subject to the requirements of this Section of these Rules, a Club may operate either a Football Academy or a Centre of Excellence.
- 18 With the prior written consent of the Board:
- 18.1 a Club which operates a Football Academy may also operate one satellite Football Academy; and
- 18.2 a Club which operates a Centre of Excellence may also operate one satellite Centre of Excellence, provided that a satellite Football Academy or a satellite Centre of Excellence may be attended only by Youth Players in age groups Under 9 to Under 16 inclusive and that at least once in each week of operation they are coached or play with Youth Players attending the Football Academy or Centre of Excellence operated by the Club.
- 19 The Club must be responsible for the training of all Youth Players registered with it at a Football Academy, Centre of Excellence or any satellite centre of the same.

#### LICENSING OF FOOTBALL ACADEMIES AND CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

- 20 A Club shall not operate a Football Academy or a Centre of Excellence unless it holds a current licence issued by the Board permitting it to do so.
- 21 An application for a Football Academy licence shall be made by completing and submitting to the Executive Form YD1 (together with the fee of £700 plus VAT).
- 22 An application for a Centre of Excellence licence shall be made by completing and submitting to the Executive Form YD1 together with a fee of £500 plus VAT, in the case of a Club entering the Season in The Football League Championship and £400 plus VAT for those Clubs entering the Season in the Football League 1 and Football League 2.
- 23 The Board shall issue a licence upon being reasonably satisfied that the applicant Club is able to comply with the requirements of these Rules.
- 24 A licence shall be valid for 5 years. Payment of annual validation fees shall be made for both Academies and Centres of Excellence by completing and submitting to the Executive Form YD1 together with a fee commensurate with those set out in Rules 21 and 22. The Board shall have the power to suspend a licence for such period as it thinks fit or to revoke the same if it is no longer satisfied that the Club holding the licence is able to comply with these Rules or if an Official employed by the Club at its Football Academy or Centre of Excellence is in breach of them.
- 25 A licence issued under the provisions of the Premier League Rules to a Club which is thereafter relegated to The League shall be treated for the purpose of these Rules as having been issued by The League.
- 26 A Club to which a Football Academy licence or a Centre of Excellence licence has been issued may, during its currency, surrender the same and shall do so if, in the case of a Club operating a Football Academy, it wishes to apply for a Centre of Excellence licence or, in the case of a Club operating a Centre of Excellence, it is successfully granted a Football Academy licence.

#### MONITORING OF FOOTBALL ACADEMIES, CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE AND SATELLITES

- 27 The League will monitor Football Academies, Centres of Excellence and satellites operated by Clubs to ensure compliance with these Rules and will, in particular, procure that each is visited at least three times each Season by a person appointed for that purpose by The League. Such person shall be entitled to have access to all records kept in accordance with the requirements of these Rules.
- 28 At least twice each Season such person will present to The League, to the Club concerned and, at its request, to the Football Association, a written report on monitoring visits made.
- 29 As soon as practicable after the end of each Season, such person will present to the Football Association, The League and the Club concerned a written annual report on each Football Academy, Centre of Excellence and satellite operated by Clubs.

#### FACILITIES AND ACCOMMODATION

- 30 Subject to Rule 135, the minimum facilities and accommodation to be provided by a Football Academy shall be:
- 30.1 grass pitches as set out in the following table of the various sizes specified under the provisions of Rule 31:
- | NUMBER OF TEAMS | NUMBER OF PITCHES |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 5 - 6           | 3                 |
| 7 - 8           | 4                 |
| 9               | 5                 |
| 10 or more      | 6                 |
- 30.2 1 outdoor Artificial Surface pitch;
- 30.3 1 indoor playing area measuring 60 yards by 40 yards;
- 30.4 private (*i.e.* not generally accessible) medical treatment and examination areas;
- 30.5 an adequate changing provision to accommodate the number of Youth Players taking part in games and coaching sessions;
- 30.6 adequate washing and toilet facilities for the exclusive use of Youth Players registered there;
- 30.7 separate adequate washing and toilet facilities for the exclusive use of visiting teams;
- 30.8 separate adequate changing rooms and washing and toilet facilities for the exclusive use of Match Officials;
- 30.9 separate adequate changing rooms and washing and toilet facilities for the exclusive use of physiotherapists and coaches employed at the Football Academy;
- 30.10 adequate homework and study area for the use of Youth Players registered there;
- 30.11 parents' lounge;
- 30.12 computerised registration and Youth Players' records; and
- 30.13 e-mail and internet links to The Football Association and The League.
- 31 The minimum facilities and accommodation to be provided by a satellite Football Academy shall be:
- 31.1 1 suitable playing area measuring 60 yards by 40 yards for each 40 Youth Players in age groups Under 9 to Under 12;
- 31.2 1 suitable playing area measuring 60 yards by 40 yards for each 30 Youth Players in age groups Under 13 to Under 14;
- 31.3 1 suitable playing area measuring 60 yards by 40 yards for each 20 Youth Players in age groups Under 15 to Under 16;
- 31.4 adequate changing, washing and toilet facilities for the number of Youth Players attending there; and
- 31.5 the facilities and accommodation required under the provisions of Rules 30.2, 30.4, 30.10, 30.11, 30.12 and 30.13.
- 32 The minimum facilities and accommodation to be provided at a Centre of Excellence and a satellite Centre of Excellence shall be:
- 32.1 a coaching area of a size considered by the Board to be appropriate for the number of Youth Players registered;
- 32.2 adequate changing, washing and toilet facilities for such number of Youth Players;
- 32.3 a separate treatment room;
- 32.4 speedy access to qualified medical assistance.



## STAFF REQUIREMENTS

- 33 No person shall be employed in any capacity whatsoever at a Football Academy, a Centre of Excellence, a satellite Football Academy or a satellite Centre of Excellence unless:
- 33.1 that person has completed and submitted to the Manager of the Football Academy or Centre of Excellence at which or at whose satellite he seeks to be employed a self-certification form in Form YD2;
- 33.2 they have completed a Criminal Record Bureau ('CRB') check to the satisfaction of the Football Association; and
- 33.3 his particulars are held on Form YD3 and maintained at the Football Academy or Centre of Excellence at which or at whose satellite he is employed.
- 34 There shall be made available for inspection by a duly appointed officer of The League at all reasonable times:
- 34.1 forms YD2 in respect of all members of staff currently employed at the Football Academy or Centre of Excellence;
- 34.2 any certificate issued by the CRB; and
- 34.3 the staff register.
- 35 At each Football Academy and Centre of Excellence operated by a Club, a member of staff trained in child protection issues shall be given specific responsibility for the same and in particular shall:
- 35.1 prepare and ensure strict compliance with a written child protection policy based on and incorporating the principles set out in The League's Child Protection Policy;
- 35.2 maintain the staff register, making it available for inspection as required;
- 35.3 liaise with Youth Players, parents, staff, the police, the Social Services Department of the Local Authority, The League and other relevant persons and Bodies in relation to child protection issues;
- 35.4 promote awareness of child protection issues generally and encourage and monitor the adoption of best practice procedures in that regard.
- The minimum qualification for such member of staff shall be the satisfactory completion of a Child Protection Awareness Training Programme approved by The League.
- 36 Staff employed at Football Academies or Centres of Excellence and their satellites as Academy Managers, Heads of Youth, Centre of Excellence Managers, Heads of Education and Welfare, coaches or physiotherapists and all staff assisting them or any of them in the performance or their duties shall each calendar year undertake a minimum of 18 hours continuing professional development training provided by the Club and approved by The League and shall maintain a record of the same for inspection by an officer of The League on demand.
- 37 The minimum staffing levels of Football Academies shall be:
- 37.1 1 Academy Manager (full-time) who shall (subject to Rule 136) hold a current Academy Manager Licence;
- 37.2 1 Assistant Academy Manager for age groups Under 9 to Under 16 inclusive (full-time) who shall (subject to Rule 136) hold a UEFA 'A' Coaching Award and who shall undertake such refresher courses as required by the FA from time to time.
- 37.3 1 Chartered Physiotherapist or a registered member of the Health Professions Council (Full-Time);
- 37.4 1 Full-time Physiotherapist (or more than 1 together employed on a full-time equivalent basis) who in each case shall:
- 37.4.1 be a chartered Physiotherapist and registered with The Health Professions Council entitling them to use the title 'physiotherapist';
- 37.4.2 be registered with The Health Professions Council entitling them to use the title 'physiotherapist';
- 37.4.3 hold a degree in sports therapy and/or be registered with The Health Professions Council entitling them to use the title 'sports therapist'; or
- 37.4.4 where appointed prior to 1st June 2011, have passed The Football Association Diploma in the Treatment and Management of Injuries Course (or its equivalent);
- 37.5 1 Head of Education and Welfare (full-time) who shall be a qualified teacher who has taught at a primary or secondary school or college of further education;
- 37.6 1 qualified medical practitioner (on call);
- 37.7 a sufficient number of coaches (full or part-time) to provide a minimum of one coach to every 10 Players for each coaching session; the minimum qualification for such coaches shall be a UEFA 'B' Coaching Award or FA Level 2 Coaching Award and Modules 1, 2 and 3 of the FA Youth Award and such coaches shall undertake such refresher courses as required by the FA from time to time. (subject to Rule 136);
- 37.8 at each game at least one coach (holding the UEFA 'B' Coaching Award or FA Level 2 Coaching Award and Modules 1, 2 and 3 of the FA Youth Award and having undertaken such refresher courses as required by the FA from time to time) together with at least one other Club employee whose details have been included on Form YD2 and YD3 and who has been CRB checked in accordance with Rule 33; and
- 37.9 1 specialist goalkeeper coach (full or part-time).

- 38 The minimum staffing levels of Centres of Excellence shall be:
- 38.1 1 Centre of Excellence Manager (full-time) who shall (subject to Rule 136) hold the UEFA 'A' Coaching Award and who shall undertake such refresher courses as required by the FA from time to time;
- 38.2 a sufficient number of coaches (full or part-time) to provide a minimum of one coach to every 10 Players for each coaching session; the minimum qualification for such coaches shall be a UEFA 'B' Coaching Award (subject to Rule 136) or FA Level 2 Coaching Award and Modules 1, 2 and 3 of the FA Youth Award and such coaches shall undertake such refresher courses as required by the FA from time to time;
- 38.3 at each game at least one coach (holding the UEFA 'B' Coaching Award or FA Level 2 Coaching Award and Modules 1, 2 and 3 of the FA Youth Award and having undertaken such refresher course as required by the FA from time to time) together with at least one other Club employee whose details have been included on Form YD2 and YD3 and who has been CRB checked in accordance with Rule 33; and
- 38.4 Physiotherapist or a registered member of the Health Professions Council who shall: -
- 38.4.1 be a chartered Physiotherapist and registered with The Health Professions Council entitling them to use the title 'physiotherapist';
- 38.4.2 be registered with The Health Professions Council entitling them to use the title 'physiotherapist';
- 38.4.3 hold a degree in sports therapy and/or be registered with The Health Professions Council entitling them to use the title 'sports therapist'; or
- 38.4.4 where appointed prior to 1st June 2011, have passed The Football Association Diploma in the Treatment and Management of Injuries Course (or its equivalent); and
- 38.5 1 specialist goalkeeper coach (full or part-time).
- 39 Where there is a designated Head of Youth or Youth Team Coach for a Centre of Excellence programme (full-time) they shall hold the UEFA 'A' Coaching Award and who shall undertake such refresher courses as required by the FA from time to time.
- 40 The minimum staffing levels of satellite Football Academies and satellite Centres of Excellence shall be determined by the Board from time to time.
- 41 All Football Academy and Centre of Excellence staff engaged in coaching youth players must attend a Football Association Emergency Aid Training Course every 3 years.
- 42 A Physiotherapist qualified as required by Rules 37.3, 37.4 or 38.4 or a coach who holds the Football Association's Diploma in the Treatment and Management of Injuries or a member of staff who holds a current recognised First Aid at Work (or equivalent) qualification shall be present at all coaching sessions and games taking place at Football Academies or Centres of Excellence.

## TRIALS

- 43 Subject to the conditions set-out in Rule 44, a Trialist may attend a Football Academy or Centre of Excellence for up to 6 consecutive weeks in any one Season without being registered provided that:-
- 43.1 at least 7 days' prior written notice to that effect shall be given to any junior club of which such Trialist is a member; and
- 43.2 Upon a Trialist attending a Football Academy or Centre of Excellence, his particulars shall be notified forthwith to The League by sending to the Executive Form YD8 duly completed.
- 44 The conditions referred to in Rule 43 are as follows:
- 44.1 a trial may be offered or given by a Club to anyone in age groups Under 9 to Under 12 inclusive who has his permanent residence within one hour's travelling time of the Club's Football Academy or Centre of Excellence;
- 44.2 a trial may be offered or given by a Club to anyone in age groups Under 13 and Under 14 who has his permanent residence within one and a half hour's travelling time of the Club's Football Academy or Centre of Excellence at which the trial is undertaken except that this condition shall not apply to a Youth Player in age group Under 14 who is exercising his entitlement under either Rule 67 or Rule 69 to seek registration as a Youth Player at a Football Academy or Centre of Excellence of another Club (or club);
- 44.3 a trial may not be offered or given to anyone:
- 44.3.1 who is on trial at another Football Academy or Centre of Excellence; or
- 44.3.2 whose registration is held by another Club or club except with the written consent of such Club or club;
- 44.4 any questions or dispute concerning the travelling time requirements in this Rule shall be determined by the Board in its absolute discretion; and
- 44.5 a Club may during the period of 1st January to 31st May in any Season offer a trial to a player in their Under

16 year who was, prior to the date of commencement of the Trial, a Youth Player at a Club (or club) but whose registration as a Youth Player has been cancelled with no claim for compensation rights. The Club shall at the commencement of the Trial ensure that the player provides to the Club a completed Form YD8B providing:-

44.5.1 his full personal details (as required by the Form); and

44.5.2 details of all Clubs (or clubs) with whom that Player:-

a) has trialled since his release from his former Club (or club); and

b) is currently trialling

and the Club shall promptly submit to the League a copy of that Form YD8B. For the avoidance of doubt the player may trial at more than one Club (or club) concurrently provided that details of all Clubs (or clubs) are set out in Form YD8B.

45 If a Trialist attending a Football Academy or Centre of Excellence is injured so that he cannot be coached or play football or if the period of his trial is interrupted by any other occurrence, application may be made in writing to the Board to extend the period of his trial, giving full reasons therefor, and the Board shall have the power to extend such period on such terms as it may think fit.

46 Upon a Trialist's period ending, notice to that effect shall be given to The League by sending to the Executive Form YD8a duly completed.

#### PRE-REGISTRATION AGREEMENTS

47 Subject to the provisions of Article 12 of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players, on or after 1st January in any Season a Club may enter into a pre-registration agreement with a Player who does not reside within one and a half hours' travelling time of its Football Academy or Centre of Excellence provided that such a player is then:

47.1 in his Under 16, Under 17 or Under 18 year; and

47.2 in Full Time Education; and

47.3 not registered with another Football League Club or club.

48 A pre-registration agreement shall be in Form YD9 and shall include an undertaking by the Club to enter into a Scholarship Agreement with the player upon the Club having acquired the Youth Player's registration and:

48.1 in the case of a Youth Player in his Under 16 year, upon having reached the statutory school leaving age applicable in England; or

48.2 in the case of a Youth Player in his Under 17 or Under 18 year, upon his ceasing Full Time Education.

Unless authorised in writing by the Board, a breach of such an undertaking will constitute a breach of these Rules.

49 Clubs shall submit to the Executive copies of all pre-registration agreements within 5 days of their being entered into.

50 A written coaching programme shall be annexed to each pre-registration agreement and the Player shall not be coached by or at the Club's Football Academy or Centre of Excellence or participate in its games, tours or tournaments until the programme has been approved in writing by the Board and then only to the extent set out in the programme.

#### REGISTRATION OF YOUTH PLAYERS

51 Except for Trialists attending trials in accordance with Rule 43 and Players with whom a Club has entered into a pre-registration agreement in accordance with Rule 47, no Player shall be coached by or at a Football Academy or Centre of Excellence or participate in its games, tours or tournaments unless the Club operating the same holds his registration.

52 Subject to Rules 69, 71 and 75, Youth Players in age groups Under 9, Under 10, Under 11, Under 12, Under 14 and Under 16 shall be registered for 1 year and those in age groups Under 13 and Under 15 for 2 years.

53 The registration of Youth Players will be undertaken by The League. A fee of five pounds shall be payable by a Club for each new registration.

54 Youth Player registrations undertaken by the Premier League which are held by Clubs relegated to The League shall be treated as having been undertaken by The League, provided all circumstances surrounding that registration comply with these Rules, failing which The League shall be at liberty to reject that registration unless otherwise determined by The Board.

55 An application for the standard registration of a Youth Player at a Football Academy or Centre of Excellence shall be made by completing and submitting to the Executive Form YD4 signed on behalf of the Club by an authorised signatory within 14 days of the Youth Player's signature, together with a copy of the code of conduct referred to in Rule 133 duly signed on behalf of the Youth Player and his parent.

56 An application for the full registration of a Youth Player at a Football Academy or Centre of Excellence may be made at any time after a Player's twelfth birthday with his parents' consent so as to expire at the end of his full-time education by completing and submitting to the Executive Form YD6 within 14 days of the Player's signature together with a copy of the code of conduct referred to in Rule 133 duly signed on behalf of the Youth Player and his parent.

57 An application for the extended registration of a Youth Player at a Football Academy or Centre of Excellence may be made at any time after a Player's twelfth birthday with his parents' consent so as to expire at such time as he attains the age of 18 years by completing and submitting to the Executive Form YD6(A) within 14 days of the Player's signature, together with a copy of the code of conduct referred to in Rule 130 duly signed on behalf of the Youth Player and his parent.

58 An application in the form YD4, YD6 or YD6(A) shall be refused if it is made in respect of a Player with whom a Club, other than the applicant Club, has entered into a pre-registration agreement which remains current.

59 Except in the case of an application in YD4 or YD6 made to enable a Club and a player forthwith to enter into a Scholarship Agreement, a Club and player shall not be entitled to make an application for that player to be registered as a Youth Player unless he is at the time of the application in Full Time Education.

60 The maximum numbers of Youth Players registerable by a Club at any one time are as follows:

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| Age groups Under 9 to Under 14 inclusive  | 30 in each age group |
| Age groups Under 15 to Under 16 inclusive | 20 in each age group |
| Age groups Under 17 to Under 21 inclusive | 15 in each age group |

61 No Club shall be permitted to register any Youth Player in the Under 9 age group before the third Saturday in April immediately preceding his Under 9 year.

62 Youth Players in age groups Under 9 to Under 12 inclusive must reside within one hour's travelling time and subject to Rule 63 those in age groups Under 13 to Under 16 inclusive within one and a half hours' travelling time of the Football Academy or Centre of Excellence at which they are registered. Any question or dispute concerning the travelling time requirement in this Rule shall be determined by the Board in its absolute discretion. Should a Youth Player, move residence outside of the permitted travelling time for any reason and wish to seek registration with another Club (or club), compensation rights shall be held by the former Club for that Player.

63 A Player in age groups Under 14 to Under 16 inclusive who resides more than one and a half hours' travelling time from the nearest Football Academy or Centre of Excellence may be registered as a Youth Player there subject to the following conditions:

63.1 an application for the registration of a Youth Player under the provisions of this Rule shall be accompanied by a written coaching programme which shall include full particulars of any coaching the Player will receive at or in the locality of his place of residence;

63.2 the coaching programme shall be designed so as to ensure that it does not cause the Player to be absent from school;

63.3 in the case of a Youth Player registered under the provisions of this Rule at a Football Academy, the Head of Education and Welfare shall make enquiries of the Youth Player's school at least 4 times each Season during the currency of his registration so as to satisfy himself that the Youth Player's best interests are being served by the coaching programme and that it is not adversely affecting his education; the result of each enquiry shall be reported in writing to the Academy Manager or Head of Youth/Centre of Excellence Manager who in the event of an adverse report shall apply to the Board for the cancellation of the Youth Player's registration;

63.4 in the case of a Youth Player registered under the provisions of this Rule at a Centre of Excellence, the enquiries of the school and any application for the cancellation of the Youth Player's registration shall be made by the Centre of Excellence Manager; and

63.5 unless any other travelling arrangements have been submitted to and approved in writing by or on behalf of the Board, on the occasion of each visit by the Youth Player to the Football Academy or Centre of Excellence at which he is registered he shall be accompanied on both the outward and the return journey by his Parent.

64 An application to register a Youth Player shall be refused if:

64.1 the Youth Player the subject of the application is in age groups Under 10, Under 11 or Under 12; and

64.2 the registration of that Youth Player was held by another Club ('the Former Club') within the period of 12 months prior to the making of the application; and

64.3 the Former Club had given notice to that Youth Player under the provisions of Rules 66.1 or 66.2 that it intended to retain his registration; and

64.4 the Club making the application had within the said period of 12 months registered two Youth Players in each of the age groups Under 10, Under 11 or Under 12, whose registrations had been held by the Former Club.

65 On or before the third Saturday in April in every year each Club shall send to the Executive a list in Form YD5 containing the names of each of the Youth Players whose registration it then holds (other than those who have entered Scholarship Agreement whose names are included in the list required by The League's Regulation 66), indicating which it retains, which it intends to retain and which it intends to terminate with effect from the second Saturday in May next following.



## END OF SEASON PROCEDURE

- 66 Except in the case of a Youth Player who has been offered and has accepted a Scholarship Agreement with a Club or a Youth Player whose registration has been extended under the provisions of Rule 70:
- 66.1 on or before the third Saturday in April in every year in which his registration is held, each Club shall give or send to each of its Youth Players in age groups Under 9 to Under 11 notification in writing as to whether it intends to retain or to terminate his registration with effect from the second Saturday in May next following; and
- 66.2 on or before the third Saturday in April in every year in which his registration is held, each Club shall give or send to each of its Youth Players in age groups Under 12 and Under 14 notification in writing as to whether it intends to retain his registration for the next two Seasons or terminate his registration with effect from the second Saturday in May next following.
- 67 A Youth Player who receives notification under Rule 66.1 or Rule 66.2 of his Club's intention to terminate his registration shall be at liberty, following receipt of such notification, to seek registration as a Youth Player at the Football Academy or Centre of Excellence of any other Club (or club).
- 68 A Youth Player who receives notification under Rule 66.1 or Rule 66.2 of his Club's intention to retain his registration shall likewise be at liberty after the second Saturday in May next following receipt of such notification, to seek registration as a Youth Player at the Football Academy or Centre of Excellence of any other Club or club provided that:
- 68.1 by the 30th April next following receipt of the notification he has given written notice to his Club and the Executive terminating his registration; and
- 68.2 he has received the Executive's written acknowledgement of the same.
- 69 On or before 1st March in the year a Youth Player has reached the statutory school leaving age applicable in England, each Club shall give or send to each of its Youth Players in age group Under 16 notification in writing as to whether or not it intends to offer him a Scholarship Agreement upon him ceasing full-time education. Any Youth Player in age group Under 16 who has not received an offer to enter into a Scholarship Agreement by 1st March shall thereafter be at liberty to seek registration as a Youth Player at the Football Academy or Centre of Excellence of any other Club (or club).

## EXTENSION OF YOUTH PLAYER REGISTRATION

- 70 With his and his Parent's consent, at any time after a Youth Player's twelfth birthday his registration may be extended until such time as he completes his Full-time Education by completing and submitting to the Secretary Form YD6.

## TERMINATION OF YOUTH PLAYER REGISTRATION

- 71 Subject to Rule 73, the registration of a Youth Player who has not entered into a Scholarship Agreement with a Club shall terminate upon the happening of the earliest of the following events:
- 71.1 in the case of a youth Player registered in accordance with Rule 55 (YD4), on the Youth Player attaining the Statutory School Leaving age applicable in England; or
- 71.2 in the case of a Youth Player registered in accordance with Rule 56 (YD6), on the Youth Player completing his full-time education; or
- 71.3 in the case of a Youth Player registered in accordance with Rule 57 (YD6(A)), on him attaining the ages of 18 years; or
- 71.4 the receipt by the Executive, at any time, of a mutual cancellation notification in Form YD7 (cancellation with no compensation rights) or Form YD10 (cancellation with compensation rights retained) duly completed and signed by the Youth Player and his parent and on behalf of the Club holding his registration; or
- 71.5 the receipt and acknowledgement by the Executive of the Youth Player's notice duly given in accordance with the provisions of Rule 68.1; or
- 71.6 the second Saturday in May next following the receipt by the Executive of Form YD5 upon which his Club has indicated its intention to terminate the Youth Player's registration with effect from that date; or
- 71.7 the expiry, surrender, suspension or revocation of the Football Academy or Centre of Excellence licence of the Club holding the registration.
- 72 The Board shall have power at any time to cancel the registration of a Youth Player upon the written application of either:
- 72.1 the Youth Player (or, if the Youth Player is a Child, his Parent on his behalf); or
- 72.2 the Club holding his registration.
- 73 The Board shall refer an application to the FDC in accordance with the provisions set out in Regulation 77 and Appendix III of The Football League Regulations.
- 74 Upon a Youth Player's registration terminating by virtue of the provisions of Rule 71.4, the Club shall provide him with a copy of Form YD7 or YD10 as evidence thereof.
- 75 The registration of a Youth Player who has entered into a Scholarship Agreement with a Club shall terminate on the termination of that agreement or, if earlier, upon such Youth Player becoming a Contract Player.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

- 76 On or after 1st January in the year in which he attains the age of 14 years and in any event on or before the 1st March in his Under 16 year, a Club may make an offer in writing to enter into a Scholarship Agreement with a Youth Player whose registration it holds.
- 77 A Club may likewise offer to enter into a Scholarship Agreement with a Youth Player in age group Under 16 who is seeking registration under the provision of Rule 69.
- 78 Any offer made under the provisions of Rules 76 or 77 shall be made in writing, a copy of which shall be sent to the Executive by the Club making the offer within 5 days of it being made.
- 79 A Youth Player receiving a written offer shall respond thereto within 28 days, in writing, to the Club making the offer. A copy of the Youth Player's response shall be sent to the Executive within 5 days of receipt. Where the Youth Player wishes to accept the offer the Club and the Youth Player may conclude a Scholarship Agreement at any time thereafter (and lodge the same with the Executive within 5 days of it being made) to take effect from the expiry of the Youth Player's applicable YD4, YD6 or YD6(A) registration unless otherwise agreed between the Club and Youth Player.<sup>1</sup>
- 80 A Youth Player who fails to respond as required by Rule 79 shall be deemed to have not accepted the offer.
- 81 A Club may enter into a Scholarship Agreement with a Youth Player:
- 81.1 whose Youth Player registration it holds; or
- 81.2 whose Youth Player registration is not held by another Club or club; and
- 81.3 (except in the case of a Youth Player who has entered into a Scholarship Agreement with another Club (or club) which has been cancelled by mutual agreement) who is under the age of 18 years; and
- 81.4 who has reached the statutory school leaving age applicable in England (or in accordance with Rule 79 above).
- 82 A Youth Player who enters into a Scholarship Agreement with a Club:
- 82.1 shall be entitled to receive such allowances as shall be determined by the Board from time to time; and
- 82.2 shall be required to complete a programme of education suitable to his particular needs which shall be designed by LFE and agreed by the Youth Player, his parents and the Club and submitted to and approved in writing by The League.
- 83 A Club may at its discretion pay for all or part of the cost of lodgings for a Scholar providing:-
- 83.1 no payment is made direct to the Scholar; and
- 83.2 no payment shall exceed the rate determined from time to time by the Board.
- 84 Upon entering into a Scholarship Agreement with a Youth Player, a Club shall within 5 days submit a copy of the same to the Executive.
- 85 Any Youth Player whose Scholarship Agreement is terminated by the Club giving him 14 days notice cannot subsequently sign a registration form or play for a Club until after a lapse of two years except with the consent of the Club for which he was registered as a Scholar or on payment of a compensation fee by any Club from whom he signs to the Club for whom he was registered as a Scholar, such compensation to be determined in accordance with the principles set out in Rule 97.
- 86 Where:-
- 86.1 a Club and Youth Player enter into a Scholarship Agreement that contains a provision whereby the Youth Player will, either:-
- 86.1.1 prior to; or
- 86.1.2 concurrently with,
- the termination of the Scholarship Agreement become a Contract Player at that Club (the 'Contract Provision'); or
- 86.2 a Club and Youth Player agree to amend a Scholarship Agreement already entered into to introduce a provision in the same form as that set out in Rule 86.1 above (the 'Amendment'); and
- 86.3 the Contract Provision or Amendment specifies the length of any such contract and sets out all of those details that are required pursuant to Regulation 60.4,
- then (but not otherwise) any application of the Youth Player to cancel his Scholarship Agreement with the Club in accordance with Clause 13 of that Scholarship Agreement shall be null and void. The Club shall not be required to execute a mutual cancellation notification and lodge the same with the League. The Youth Player shall remain registered with the Club and continue to be bound by (and he shall observe) the terms of the Scholarship Agreement as if such Scholarship Agreement did not contain any provision entitling the Youth Player to seek the cancellation of his Registration without just cause. Nothing in this Rule 86 shall prejudice any right of a Youth Player to terminate a Scholarship Agreement by virtue of a serious or persistent breach of the Scholarship Agreement by the Club or the Club's right of appeal in relation thereto.
- 87 The provisions of Regulations 60.7 to 60.12 (as appropriate) shall apply in the case of Scholars.

<sup>1</sup> Note, the definition of Scholar is set out in the Regulations and stipulates that he must be 16 or over, so a Young Player will not be regarded as a Scholar until his Scholarship Agreement comes into effect.

## APPEAL

- 88 An appeal by a Youth Player or a Club under the provisions of the Scholarship Agreement (as may be amended from time-to-time) shall be commenced by notice in writing addressed to the other party to the agreement and to the Executive.

## APPROACHES BY AND TO CLUBS

- 89 A Club shall not either directly or indirectly make any approach to or communicate with:
- 89.1 a Youth Player registered by another Club (or club) at its Football Academy or Centre of Excellence; and/or
- 89.2 a Youth Player with whom another Club (or club) has entered into a pre-registration agreement which remains current.
- 90 A public statement made by an Official or Agent of a Club expressing interest in a Youth Player whose registration is held by another Club (or club) or a Player with whom another Club (or club) has entered into a pre-registration agreement which remains current shall be deemed for the purpose of Rule 89 to be an indirect approach in breach thereof.
- 91 Except as permitted by Rules 67 and 68, a Youth Player whose registration is held by a Club shall not, either directly or indirectly, make any approach to another Club or club.

## INDUCEMENTS

- 92 Subject to Rules 47, 76 and 94:
- 92.1 no Club shall induce or attempt to induce a Player to become registered as a Youth Player by that Club by offering him (or his Associate) or any Person connected with him, either directly or indirectly, a benefit or payment of any description whether in cash or in kind;
- 92.2 no Club shall likewise induce or attempt to induce a Youth Player to enter into a Scholarship Agreement and in particular no Club shall pay or offer to pay to a Youth Player upon his entering into a Scholarship Agreement an allowance in excess of the allowance referred to in Rule 82.1; and
- 92.3 no Youth Player shall, either directly or indirectly, accept (or cause or permit his Associate to accept) any such inducement.
- 93 An agreement resulting from any such offer and acceptance (as outlined in Rule 92 above) shall not be enforceable by either the Club or the Youth Player unless registered in accordance with Section 6 of the Regulations.

## PROFESSIONAL CONTRACT

- 94 A Club may, not earlier than him attaining the age of 15 years, offer a Youth Player registered with that Club a Contract as a Contract Player upon his attaining the age of 17 years. Where a Youth Player wishes to accept the offer of a Contract as a Contract Player, the Club and the Youth Player may conclude a Contract in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 60 at any time thereafter (and lodge the same with the Executive within 5 days of it being made) to take effect from a date on or after the date on which the Youth Player attains the age of 17 years.<sup>2</sup>

## COMPENSATION

- 95 The registration of a Youth Player at a Football Academy or at a Centre of Excellence shall impose an obligation on the applicant Club to pay to the former Club compensation for the training and development of that Player if prior to the date of the application for registration:
- 95.1 the registration of that Youth Player was held by another Club (or FA Premier League Club) ('the Former Club'); and
- 95.2 the Former Club indicated in its list sent to the Executive under Rule 65 (or, in the case of a FA Premier League Club, the FA Premier League,) its intention to retain the registration of that Youth Player; or
- 95.3 the Scholarship Agreement had been terminated at the Youth Player's request save where done so as a result of the failure on part of the Club to comply with the obligations of the Scholarship Agreement; or
- 95.4 the Former Club had offered to enter into a Scholarship Agreement with the Player which offer the Player has not accepted.
- 96 The new registration of a Contract Player shall likewise impose an obligation on the Club next holding his registration to pay to the Former Club compensation for the training and development of that Youth Player if the former Club:
- 96.1 had held that Player's registration as a Youth Player; and
- 96.2 had offered to enter into a Scholarship Agreement with him which offer he had not accepted; or
- 96.3 had entered into a Scholarship Agreement with him; and either

<sup>2</sup> Regulation 55.1 provides that no player under the age of 17 years may be registered as a contract player and that any contract signed by a person under the age of 18 should be countersigned by a parent or guardian. Accordingly, no registration will be issued until the 17th birthday.

- 96.4 the Scholarship Agreement had been terminated at the Youth Player's request save where done so as a result of the failure on part of the Club to comply with the obligations of the Scholarship Agreement; or
- 96.5 in accordance with the terms thereof the Former Club had offered him a contract as a Contract Player which offer he had not accepted.
- 97 The amount of compensation shall be:
- 97.1 such sum as shall have been agreed between the applicant Club and the Former Club or in default of agreement; or
- 97.2 such sum as the Football League Appeals Committee on the application of either Club shall determine by applying the principles in The League's Regulation 65 as if the out of contract Player was the Youth Player in question, the compensation fee was compensation paid under this Rule, and the transferor Club was the former Club.

## LEARNING PROGRAMME

- 98 Each Football Academy and Centre of Excellence shall prepare and maintain a learning programme for Youth Players encompassing technical training and educational development. The programme shall identify objectives and the extent to which they are achieved, shall be based on the advice given from time to time by the Football Association.

## EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- 99 Each Football Academy shall provide appropriate and adequate educational support for its registered Youth Players at primary, secondary and tertiary levels.
- 100 It may do so by means of an arrangement with one or more schools or other educational establishments in which event:
- 100.1 such arrangement shall be notified to and approved by The League; and
- 100.2 upon the arrangement being approved, it shall be the duty of the Head of Education and Welfare to liaise with the establishments concerned so as to procure that the best interests of Youth Players attending them are served.
- 101 Any offer made by a Club to a Youth Player to register him as a Contract Player shall be conditional upon such Youth Player continuing an appropriate programme of education.

## RELATIONSHIP WITH SCHOOLS

- 102 With the approval of the Youth Player's parents, each Head of Education and Welfare shall consult the school at which each Youth Player attending his Football Academy is a pupil in the best interests of the Youth Player's technical, educational, academic and social welfare.

## COACHING REQUIREMENTS

- 103 The minimum length of coaching sessions (excluding games) required to be provided to registered Youth Players at Football Academies in each week during the Season shall be:
- |                                 |                                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Age groups Under 9 to Under 11  | 3 hours (divided into 2 sessions) |
| Age groups Under 12 to Under 16 | 5 hours (divided into 3 sessions) |
| Age groups Under 17 to Under 21 | 12 hours                          |
- (excluding Youth Players who are members of a Club's first team squad)
- 104 The minimum length of coaching sessions (excluding games) required to be provided to registered Youth players at Centres of Excellence in each week during the Season shall be:-
- |                                 |                                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Age groups Under 9 to Under 16  | 3 hours (divided into 2 sessions) |
| Age groups Under 17 to Under 21 | 12 hours                          |

## GAMES PROGRAMME

- 105 Each Football Academy shall participate in the games programme to the minimum extent of fielding a team in each age group from Under 9 to Under 14 inclusive.
- 106 A match in the games programme between Football Academy teams in age groups Under 9 to Under 16 inclusive shall not be cancelled, postponed or abandoned except with the written permission of the Board of the organising Body or on the instructions of the officiating referee who shall be empowered to instruct that such match be cancelled, postponed or abandoned only if he considers that the pitch is unfit for or if adverse weather conditions preclude the playing of a match in which event the Club at whose ground the match should have been played shall within 7 days give to the Secretary of the FA Premier League notice in writing to that effect.
- 107 Except in the case of an Under 9 to Under 16 games programme match which, without either participating Club being at fault, is cancelled, postponed or abandoned under the provisions of Rule 106, any Club which causes the cancellation, postponement or abandonment of such a match will be in breach of these Rules.



- 108 The Board shall have the power to specify the equipment and facilities to be provided by Clubs for the playing of matches between Football Academies and the safety of spectators attending them.
- 109 Football Academies or Centres of Excellence shall not affiliate to any other youth leagues or enter any cup competitions except the Football Association Youth Challenge Cup.
- 110 A Youth Player whose registration is held by a Club which operates a Football Academy shall play football only in Authorised Games and in coaching and training games organised by and played at The Football Academy participation of which is limited to Youth Players registered there or Trialists.
- 111 A Club which operates a Football Academy shall not require, cause or permit a Youth Player whose registration it holds to play football except as permitted by Rule 110.
- 112 Subject to Rules 115 and 116 the number of Authorised Games to be played in any Season by a Football Academy Youth Player shall be:

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Age groups Under 9 to Under 11  | Minimum 18<br>Maximum 30 (all small-sided) |
| Age groups Under 12 to Under 16 | Minimum 18<br>Maximum 30                   |
| Age groups Under 18             | Minimum 24<br>Maximum 42                   |
| Age groups Under 19 to Under 21 | Minimum 24<br>Maximum 42                   |

- 113 The minimum number of authorised games played in any Season by a Centre of Excellence Youth Player shall be 18 games, in all age groups.
- 114 For the purpose of Rule 112, 'small-sided' means 8 a-side, unless otherwise authorised by the Board.
- 115 If because of injury or other extenuating circumstances a Youth Player is unable to play the minimum number of Authorised Games required by the provisions of Rule 112, the Board shall have power to vary the requirement upon the Club holding his registration making application in writing to that effect, giving full reasons therefor.
- 116 For the purpose of Rule 112, there shall be excluded from the number of Authorised Games:
- 116.1 games played in preparation for international games arranged by a National Association;
- 116.2 games played in youth tournaments of the description set-out in Rule 3.2.3;
- 116.3 friendly games of the description set-out in Rule 3.4; and
- 116.4 games played for a Club's first team.
- 117 A Centre of Excellence Manager will organise and administer a games programme for Youth Players at his Centre of Excellence comprising:
- 117.1 international games including preparation and trials therefor;
- 117.2 professional clubs' youth and junior teams other than Football Academy or Centre of Excellence teams;
- 117.3 games between Centres of Excellence fixtured by The League;
- 117.4 coaching games; and
- 117.5 games with school teams.
- 118 A Centre of Excellence Manager may permit a Youth Player registered at his Centre of Excellence to play games in local youth leagues and to participate in professional clubs' community football activities if insufficient games of the description set out in Rule 117 are available for that Youth Player.
- 119 The number of games of any description in which a Youth Player registered at a Centre of Excellence shall be allowed to participate in any one Season shall not exceed 60.
- 120 In consultation with the Football Association, a minimum of four weekends each Season will be identified by The League upon which there will be no fixtures for Football Academy or Centre of Excellence teams, such weekends being devoted to international development, selected Players' courses and in-service training of coaches and staff. The Executive may from time to time designate a number of weekends out of the four weekends specified above as opportunities for Clubs to participate in festivals and/or friendly fixtures between Football Academies and Centres of Excellence.
- 121 Each Football Academy Manager and Centre of Excellence Manager shall cause a record to be kept of games in which their Youth Players participate. Before each match between Football Academies the team book provided by the League shall be correctly and properly completed in respect of each participating team and signed by the Official in charge of it.

## YOUTH PLAYERS' WELFARE

- 122 Officials employed by Clubs at their Football Academies and Centres of Excellence shall at all times maintain an awareness of the provisions of Part I of the Children Act 1989 and any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force\* and, subject thereto, shall in all dealings with or on behalf of a Youth Player do what is reasonable in all the circumstances of the case for the purpose of safeguarding or promoting the Youth Player's welfare.
- 123 Medical data, including Football Association research shall be as detailed in Appendix I Section B of these Rules. Football Academies shall, upon request to that effect, make available to the Football Association, The League and other Football Academies research data and information, ensuring at all times that the anonymity of Youth Players is preserved.
- 124 Football Academies and Centres of Excellence shall screen, profile, monitor and record key aspects of a Youth Player's physiological growth and development in accordance with medical criteria published from time to time by the Football Association.
- 125 Clubs shall ensure that Youth Players are insured in accordance with advice circulated by The League from time to time. Clubs shall ensure that any Youth Players aged between 8 and 16 years who sustain injury whilst playing or training for his Club shall be provided with adequate medical treatment.
- 126 Clubs shall establish, maintain and, when necessary implement a complaints procedure for Youth Players and parents.
- 127 An Academy/Centre of Excellence Youth Player over the age of 15 years on 1st September in any given Season may only play football for a Club's first team in that Season with the written permission of his school's Head Teacher and the approval of the Board.

## COMMUNICATIONS WITH PARENTS

- 128 Upon a Player being registered by a Club, the Club will provide to him and his parents a copy of these Rules and any explanatory booklet and guidelines published by or approved by The League.
- 129 Each November and March during the currency of the registration of a Youth Player under the age of 18 years, Football Academies and Centres of Excellence shall provide to the parents and Youth Players (and, in the case of Youth Players who are in receipt of full-time education, their Head Teachers) a written report on the Youth Player's progress with regard to both football and academic skills.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

- 130 The Code of Conduct set-out in the Football League Youth Development Players and Parents Guide shall be binding on all Youth Players of compulsory school age attending Football Academies and Centres of Excellence and their parents and or Clubs and Officials and any breach thereof by such Youth Players or by Clubs or Officials shall be treated as a breach of these Rules.

## DEVELOPMENT CENTRES

- 131 A Club shall not operate a Development Centre more than one hour's travelling time from its Football Academy or Centre of Excellence. Any dispute between Clubs arising in consequence of this Rule shall be determined by the Board.
- 132 No Club shall cause or permit a Player whose registration is held by another Club (or club) or with whom another Club (or Club) has entered into a pre-registration agreement which remains current to attend its Development Centre.
- 133 No Club shall cause or permit a team representing its Development Centre to play football against a team representing the Development Centre of another Club.

## DISCIPLINE

- 134 Any breach of these Rules by a Club, an Official or a Youth Player shall be dealt with by the Executive (under The League's Rules) which shall have the power to designate the breach as a strict liability offence and to impose fixed penalties, unless the Board decides to suspend or revoke the Club's licence under the provisions of Rule 24, or to refer the matter to a commission or to The Football Disciplinary Commission.

## TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

- 135 Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 24, a Football Academy licence shall not be suspended or revoked on the ground that the Club to which it has been issued has not provided the indoor playing area described in Rule 30.3 if its time for doing so has been extended by the Technical Control Board of the Football Association.
- 136 The various qualifications required of Football Academy and Centre of Excellence staff under Rules 37 and 38 shall be acquired, at the latest, within 18 months of the commencement of employment or 18 months of the introduction of the qualification requirement in these Rules, whichever is the later.

\*which would now include part 2 of the Children Act 2004



## APPENDIX 1

### Section A

#### STAFF IN FOOTBALL ACADEMIES

##### 1 Qualifications of Medical Staff

###### 1.1 Academy Doctor

The Academy Doctor shall be either:

- The full-time Club Doctor; or
- a Doctor who shall be itinerant or part-time and have no duties or responsibilities for the Club's First Team Squad.

###### 1.2 Academy Physiotherapists

2 full-time physiotherapists be employed by an Academy to provide the medical services stated in the medical criteria governing Academy status. One shall be a full-time Chartered Physiotherapist or a registered member of the Health Professions Council, the second shall be full-time who shall be either an additional Chartered Physiotherapist or a registered member of the Health Professions Council or a Therapist who holds the FA's Diploma in the Treatment and Management of Injuries. (Note: The second post can be of full-time equivalent status through the employment of 2 or 3 physiotherapists holding the stated qualifications.)

###### 1.3 Coaching Staff - Medical Training Recommendation

Every Coach must have attended an FA Emergency Aid Course (valid for 3 years).

Each Team should have in attendance for all games a representative who holds the following medical qualifications:

- FA Emergency Aid Training Attendance Certificate (valid for 3 years)
- FA Recognised Valid First Aid Qualification (valid for 3 years)

### Section B

#### MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR FOOTBALL ACADEMIES

##### 1 Medical Screening

Football Academies to conduct medical screening of Academy players in the form of:

- Cardiovascular Screening
- Cardiological Screening
- a) 'On' Entry (9 Years Old or at Any Age up to 16 Years Old)

Each registered Academy player to undergo a medical examination by the Academy doctor that includes standard cardiovascular system assessments. Referral for specific cardiological assessment test to be organised by the Academy Doctor where there are clinical indications following the medical examination in line with 'The FA Cardiological Screening Policy on Entry'. All costs incurred for these specific tests to be met by the Academy.

###### b) U17 Age Group Screening

All U17 age group players to be given the opportunity to undergo cardiological assessment free of charge financed by the Joint FA/PFA Funding mechanism.

FA Regional Cardiology Units and Consultant Cardiologists for Scholars Cardio-Vascular Screening to be used for Academy screening.

##### 2 Medical Records

Up to date Medical Records for all Academy players to be maintained and securely controlled by Academy Medical Staff. Total player confidentiality to be observed. The Medical Record content to be designed by The FA Medical Education Centre for use by Academy medical staff.

##### 3 Advisory Visits

Visits to be made by the staff of The FA Medical Education Centre to Academies to advise on medical procedures and provide an opportunity for feedback from Academy Medical Staff.

##### 4 Medical Insurance or Managed Care for Academy Players

The medical insurance or managed care cover should be of an adequate level to offer the young player expedient and quality diagnostic procedures and, where necessary, specialist assessment, treatment, surgery or rehabilitation when accidents have occurred or injuries have been sustained.

The insurance or managed care policy should offer benefits for the following medical provision for both 'Personal Accident' and 'Injury' sustained by an Academy player:

- Full diagnostic services and clinical investigative procedures
- Medical expenses for medical, surgical, specialist fees, hospital, Nursing Home, nursing attendance charges, physiotherapy costs, residential hospital services costs and ambulance hire.
- All forms of 'injury' should be covered, both 'traumatic' and 'non-traumatic' in nature.
- There should be no 'excess' to each claim.

##### 5 Medical Research Requirement

The Academy Medical Staff to comply with and actively undertake The Football Association's Medical Research Projects currently involving:

###### 5.1 An Audit of Injuries in Academy Football - Longitudinal Study

This research project to cover Academy players of all age groups in order to:

- Identify the prevalence of injuries in specific age-group Academy players
- To identify potential injury risk factors of young players To reduce the prevalence of injury through preventative strategies
- To correlate injury patterns with measurements taken in 5.2 below.

###### 5.2 Orthopaedic Musculo-Skeletal Evaluation Research - Longitudinal Study Academy young players to be evaluated by Academy Medical Staff using a standardised Orthopaedic Musculo-Skeletal Evaluation programme devised by The FA Medical Education Centre in conjunction with Academy Medical Staff.

- To establish age specific measurement norms and ranges
- To identify orthopaedic/biomechanical abnormalities in young players that may predispose injuries in specific age groups in Academy Football and later in Professional Football.

##### 6 In-Service Medical Training

The guidelines regarding the provisions outlined in this paper will be provided to Football Academy Medical Staff as part of their annual 36 hours specific in-service medical training provided by The Football Association.



## APPENDIX 2

### THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY STATEMENT

The Football League is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all Member Clubs, staff, volunteers, partner agencies and commissioned services to share this commitment.

The aims of The Football League Safeguarding Policies are to:

- Develop a positive and pro-active approach to safeguarding in order to best protect all children, young people and vulnerable adults who play football or engage in associated activities, enabling them to participate and achieve in an enjoyable and safe environment.
- Facilitate the provision of a range of child protection and awareness training for Member Clubs in conjunction with, and supported by, The Football Association and the NSPCC and in line with guidance from Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs).
- Demonstrate best practice in the area of safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people.
- Promote ethical work with children and young people.
- Work towards achieving the National Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport devised by the Child Protection in Sport Unit of the NSPCC.
- Support Member Clubs to work towards achieving the above National Standards.

The key principles underpinning this Policy Statement are that:

- The welfare of children and young people is, and must always be, the paramount consideration.
- All children, young people and vulnerable adults have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religious belief or sexual identity.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- Working in partnership with children, young people and their parents/carers is an essential element of our work.

The Football League is committed to working together with Children's Services Departments, and Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB's) in accordance with their procedures and in line with the most recent HM Government guidance – Working Together to Safeguard Children (2010). In addition the Football League is committed to working together with agencies within football to create a safer environment in which all can enjoy the game.

Where The Football League believes, or is informed from a member club that circumstances exist which may harm any child(ren), young person(s), or vulnerable adult(s), or poses or may pose a risk of harm to them, The Football League will refer the matter to The F.A. Case Management Unit for investigation and action in accordance with the appropriate F.A. Disciplinary Procedures or, if appropriate, to a statutory agency such as the Police or Children's Social Care Team for further investigation.

Whilst The Football League will refer matters of concern relating to risk or harm or acts of abuse towards children to the appropriate authorities, it does not investigate disclosures. It does however, have a role in responding to general complaints and/or complaints of poor practice. The Football League will work together with agencies both inside and outside football, as appropriate, in order to deal with, respond to or refer on complaints in line with the Safeguarding Complaints Procedure.

In order to safeguard children and fulfil the duty of care incumbent upon Clubs and The League, all staff working with children and young people must:

- Be subject to a rigorous recruitment process upon employment.
- Complete The League's Self-Certification Form (YD2).
- Hold a current FA Enhanced CRB which provides clearance for work in football or, new staff must agree to undertake an FA Enhanced CRB check. Currently the FA Case Management System provides guidance on the acceptance of CRB disclosures subject to the conditions of Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (1974).
- Ensure at least one club representative attends The Football League Safeguarding Children Workshop each season as part of the process for continuous professional development in safeguarding.
- The Coalition Government has confirmed that until all appropriate legislation has been introduced and any new arrangements are established, the existing responsibilities of employers and the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) will remain. This means that if a club dismisses or removes a member of staff/volunteer from working with children and/or vulnerable adults (from a position which is legally defined as a regulated activity) because they have harmed (or put at risk) a child or vulnerable adult, they are legally obliged to make a referral to the ISA. Clubs must inform the Football League Child Protection Advisor that a referral to ISA has been made.

Ann Hussey – Football League Child Protection Advisor  
 Telephone 0844 826 5188  
 Email – [ahussey@footballleague.co.uk](mailto:ahussey@footballleague.co.uk)

# YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PLAYERS' AND PARENTS' GUIDE CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT

I, on behalf of my son, .....

who is registered at ..... Football League Club,

can verify that I am in receipt of the **Football League Youth Development Players' and Parents' Guide 2011-2012**.

Signed .....  
 (Parent / Guardian)

Print Name .....

Date .....

To be completed and detached then returned to the Academy Manager/Head of Youth.

TEAR ALONG PERFORATION





## **PLAYER'S CLUB CONTACT DETAILS**

Club: .....

### **CONTACT DETAILS:**

Name of Academy Manager / Head of Youth: .....

Phone number: .....

Name of Coach: .....

Fixtures Venue: .....

Training Venue: .....

### **NOTES**

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