

Annexure 13

Youth Club Championship

Article 1 - General

1. The Rules set out in this document, along with all relevant Football West Competition Rules and the FIFA Laws of the Game, apply to all teams participating in the Youth Club Championship (YCC).
2. Where a rule in the Football West Competition Rules appears to conflict with these rules, the rule in this document will prevail to the extent of the conflict or inconsistency.
3. Football West has ultimate discretion to amend the competition structure, team eligibility requirements, and participating age groups in response to the number of participating teams or any other relevant changes that may arise annually.
4. The Girls Youth Club Championship (YCC) and Boys Youth Club Championship (YCC) shall be conducted as separate competitions, independent of each other.
5. Bonus and deduction points shall be applied to the YCC Table in accordance with Article 6 of these Regulations.
6. Upon conclusion of the finals phase, and after the application of bonus and deduction points, the Club with the highest aggregate points across all its YCC age group teams shall be declared the Youth Club Champion.
7. For the purposes of these Regulations, the highest-ranked JDL team within each participating age group for a club shall be recognised as the team representing that club in the YCC.

Article 2 - Eligibility

1. The YCC is open to clubs that meet the established entry criteria provided below, including compliance with Football West's competition, development, and operational standards.
 - a. **Affiliation:** All clubs must accept and adhere to Football West's terms of affiliation.
 - b. **Sanctioning:** All teams, club-run competitions, and programs must be sanctioned by Football West.
 - c. **Underpinning MiniRoos Teams:** The Club must have at least one underpinning U12's team competing in Football West competitions.
 - d. **Technical Director:** The Club must have a Technical Director with a B-Diploma accreditation (or higher).
 - e. **Accredited coaches:** Clubs must have a C diploma coach appointed to each team participating in the YCC.
 - f. **Member Protection Officer:** The Club must appoint at least one trained Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO).
 - g. **First Aid:** The Club must appoint at least one trained and qualified First Aid Officer, to be present at the home venue for all home matches.
 - h. **Club Changer Status:** The Club must be registered on the Club Changer Platform and hold 1-star status (or higher).
 - i. Clubs must **field teams in all required age groups** of the JDL competition to participate in the YCC.
2. The competition includes both Boys and Girls YCC with eligible age groups as follows:
 - a. **Boys:** Under 14, Under 15, and Under 16.
 - b. **Girls:** Under 14 and Under 16.
3. Clubs must submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to participate in the YCC. Football West shall assess

all submissions against the established participation criteria and determine eligibility based on merit and compliance. Approval is at the sole discretion of Football West.

Article 3 - Competition Format

1. Football West will determine the structure and format of the Youth Club Championship in its sole and absolute discretion.
2. The competition structure may differ between the Boys and Girls competitions each year due to variations in the number of eligible clubs.
3. All teams shall play an equal number of matches throughout the competition to maintain a fair and balanced ranking system.
4. The YCC shall consist of two phases: a Group Phase and a Finals Phase.
5. The Group Phase shall follow a club-based format, where all age group teams from a club will compete against the corresponding age group teams from the same opposing club each match weekend.
6. The Finals Phase shall follow a team-based format, with each age group team ranked individually based on its results from the Group Phase.
7. In the Group Phase, match points shall be awarded as follows:
 - a. Three (3) points for a win
 - b. One (1) point for a draw
 - c. Zero (0) points for a loss
8. If two or more teams are equal on points at the conclusion of the Group Phase, the following tiebreaker criteria shall be applied in the order listed to determine the higher-ranking team:
 - a. the Team with the superior goal difference;
 - b. the Team with the higher number of goals scored;
 - c. the number of points gained in matches between the Teams concerned;
 - d. the superior goal difference in matches between the Teams concerned;
 - e. the Team with the lower number of Red Cards;
 - f. the Team with the lower number of Yellow Cards; or
 - g. the drawing of lots.

Article 4 - Competition Format - Boys YCC

1. **Group Phase**
 - 1.1. Clubs are allocated into four (4) groups as follows:
 - a. Two (2) groups of six (6) clubs
 - b. Two (2) groups of five (5) clubs
 - 1.2. In the groups with five clubs, an inter-group match is played between two clubs to ensure every team plays an equal number of matches.
 - 1.3. At the end of the Group Phase, teams progress to the Finals Phase as follows:
 - a. The top two (2) teams from each group advance to **Pool A**.

- b. The third (3rd) and fourth (4th) placed teams from each group advance to **Pool B**.
- c. All remaining teams advance to **Pool C**.

2. **Finals Phase Structure**

2.1. **Pools A and B (Eight-Team Pools)**

- a. Each pool will comprise eight (8) teams, seeded 1 to 8 based on Group Phase performance
- b. These groups will contest quarter-finals, semi-finals, and finals/placing matches within their groups.

2.2. **Pool C (Six-Team Pool)**

- a. Pool C consists of six (6) teams.
- b. This group will contest playoff matches, semi-finals, and finals/placing matches within their group.

3. **Pools A and B – Quarter-Finals**

3.1. Quarter-final match-ups are as follows:

- a. Quarter-Final 1: 1st seed vs. 8th seed
- b. Quarter-Final 2: 2nd seed vs. 7th seed
- c. Quarter-Final 3: 3rd seed vs. 6th seed
- d. Quarter-Final 4: 4th seed vs. 5th seed

3.2. The winners of the quarter-finals advance to **Semi-Final Group A** (1st–4th place bracket), and the losers advance to **Semi-Final Group B** (5th–8th place bracket).

4. **Pools A and B – Semi-Finals and Placement Matches**

4.1. **Semi-Final Group A (1st–4th Place Bracket)**

- a. Semi-Final A1: Winner of QF1 vs. Winner of QF4
- b. Semi-Final A2: Winner of QF2 vs. Winner of QF3
- c. The winners of Semi-Final A1 and A2 contest the Final for 1st and 2nd place, while the losers play in a 3rd/4th place playoff.

4.2. **Semi-Final Group B (5th–8th Place Bracket)**

- a. Semi-Final B1: Loser of QF1 vs. Loser of QF4
- b. Semi-Final B2: Loser of QF2 vs. Loser of QF3
- c. The winners of Semi-Final B1 and B2 contest a 5th/6th place playoff, while the losers contest a 7th/8th place playoff.

5. **Pool C – Finals Phase**

5.1. **Playoffs**

- a. The two (2) highest-ranked teams from the Group Phase in Pool C receive a bye into the Semi-Finals.
- b. The remaining four (4) teams contest playoff matches to determine the other two Semi-
- c. The four teams (seeds 3 to 6) play the following playoff matches:
 - i. 3rd seed vs. 6th seed
 - ii. 4th seed vs. 5th seed
- d. The winners of these matches advance to the Semi-Finals.
- e. The losers contest a 5th/6th place playoff.

5.2. Semi-Finals (Pool C)

- a. Each of the two bye teams (the top two seeds from the Group Phase) is drawn against one of the playoff winners.
- b. The Semi-Final pairings are determined by seeding, with the highest-ranked bye team facing the lower-seeded playoff winner.
- c. The winners of the Semi-Finals advance to the Pool C Final to decide 1st and 2nd place, while the losers contest a 3rd/4th place playoff.

6. Final Rankings and Points Allocation

- 6.1. Following the Finals Phase, teams shall be awarded points based on their final position, which shall contribute to their club's total points.
- 6.2. Points shall be allocated as follows:
 - a. 6th place in Pool C shall receive 1 point.
 - b. Points shall increase by one (1) point per position.
 - c. 1st place in Pool A shall receive 22 points.

Article 5 - Competition Format – Girls YCC

1. Group Phase

- 1.1. All clubs are allocated into a single group.
- 1.2. Each team plays five (5) matches to ensure fair ranking.

2. Finals Phase

- 2.1. At the conclusion of the Group Phase, teams are ranked in accordance with Article 3, Paragraph 7.
- 2.2. Based on these rankings, teams are drawn into quarter-final pairings.
- 2.3. In the quarter-finals:
 - a. All teams compete in quarter-final matches.
 - b. Winners advance to Semi-Final Group A, and losers advance to Semi-Final Group B.
- 2.4. Semi-Final Group A (Quarter-final Winners)
 - a. The four winning teams are seeded 1 to 4 based on their Group Phase ranking.

- b. The match-ups are:
 - i. Semi-Final A1: 1st seed vs. 4th seed
 - ii. Semi-Final A2: 2nd seed vs. 3rd seed
- c. The winners of Semi-Final A1 and A2 advance to the Final to determine 1st and 2nd place.
- d. The losers of Semi-Final A1 and A2 contest a 3rd/4th place playoff.

2.5. Semi-Final Group B (Quarter-final Losers)

- a. The four losing teams are seeded 1 to 4 based on their Group Phase ranking.
- b. The match-ups are:
 - i. Semi-Final B1: 1st seed vs. 4th seed
 - ii. Semi-Final B2: 2nd seed vs. 3rd seed
- c. The winners of Semi-Final B1 and B2 contest a 5th/6th place playoff.
- d. The losers of Semi-Final B1 and B2 contest a 7th/8th place playoff.

3. Final Rankings and Points Allocation

- 3.1. Following the Finals Phase, teams are awarded points based on their final position, contributing to their club's total points.
- 3.2. Points are allocated as follows:
 - a. 8th place receives 2 points.
 - b. Points increase by two (2) points per position.

Article 6 - Players

- 1. All players must be registered with Football West and meet the age eligibility criteria for their respective division.
- 2. A player may not represent more than one club in the Youth Club Championship within the same season.
- 3. A player who has participated in another club's Youth Cup or Senior Competition within the same season is ineligible to play in the Youth Club Championship.
- 4. To be eligible to participate in the quarter-finals, semi-finals, or final, a player must have been listed on a team list and eligible to play for that team in at least five (5) matches during the league season.
- 5. Players eligible for a lower age group may play in that lower age group, provided that no more than two (2) players play for the lower age group team on any given weekend.
- 6. Exception for goalkeepers: A goalkeeper may be permitted to play outside these eligibility restrictions if Football West determines that no other eligible goalkeeper is available. A medical certificate may be required.
- 7. Any breach of player eligibility rules shall result in a forfeit of the match in which the ineligible player participated.

Article 7 - Match Officials

- 1. Each Club is responsible for 50% of Match Official fees. Football West will determine the fees payable and publish the rates prior to the commencement of each Competition Season on Football

West's website.

2. Representatives from each Team must liaise with each other to ensure that the Match Official(s) receive payment in cash of the Match Official fees on the day of the Match.
3. Football West in its sole and absolute discretion will allocate a Match Official(s) to a relevant match. No Club may request the attendance or non-attendance of any particular Match Official.
4. In the event that a Match Official is unable to be allocated to a Match by Football West, or in circumstances where no Match Official allocated to a Match is ready and able to commence a Match within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled kick-off time, then the home Club must allocate a Match Official.
5. If a Match Official is appointed by the home Club in accordance with Paragraph 4, that Match Official must be at least two years older than the age group of the Teams playing in that relevant Match.
6. A Match Official arranged by the Home Club in accordance with paragraph 4 will assume the same powers and responsibilities as an official Match Official for the duration of the Match.
7. In the absence of one or both assistant Match Officials, each Team must provide a Club assistant Match Official to assist the allocated Match Official. If either Club does not comply, then the Match must not proceed. In such a circumstance, Article 3 of the Community Competition Rules will apply.
8. If an appointed Match Official postpones or delays a Match for any reason, that Match Official must, within three (3) Business Days of the Match date, submit a report in writing to Football West which sets out the reasons for his decision to postpone or delay the Match. Where a Match is postponed, the appointed Match Official is entitled to receive 50% of the prescribed Match fee and 100% of the Match fee if the Match is delayed whether that Match is subsequently completed or abandoned entirely.
9. When a Match is forfeited by a Club for any reason, that Club must pay the Match Official 100% of that Match Official's prescribed Match fee, unless the forfeiting Club informed Football West in writing of its decision to forfeit the Match at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the scheduled kick-off.
10. If a Match is abandoned for any reason, the Match Officials are entitled to receive 100% of the Match fee payable by the Club or Clubs responsible for that Match's abandonment.

Article 8 – YCC Bonus / Deduction Points

The below table stipulates the bonus points Clubs can receive to their total Youth Club Championship Table. Bonus points will be attributed at different times throughout the Season at the sole and absolute discretion of Football West. Bonus points will be reviewed each year and may be adjusted to encourage Clubs to focus on other categories.

Youth Club Championship – Bonus Points			
Category	Purpose	Description	Points
Coach Education & Development	Ensure YCC Head Coaches and the Youth Technical Director maintain direct engagement with Football West & Football Australia through structured education sessions, improving coaching standards across the competition.	<p>Football West will conduct at least two (2) coaching education workshops during the season.</p> <p>Dates and additional sessions will be confirmed by Football West as the season progresses.</p> <p>Attendance must be in person to qualify for points.</p>	<p>+2 Club Championship Points per session for each YCC Head Coach in attendance.</p> <p>+2 Club Championship Points per session for the club's nominated Youth Technical Director in attendance.</p> <p>Football West will track attendance at each session.</p> <p>Clubs do not need to submit documentation; points will be allocated automatically based on attendance records.</p>
Player Education & Welfare	Encourage clubs to implement a holistic education model that supports player development beyond on-field training.	Clubs will receive points for delivering player education workshops for all YCC teams during the season. Workshops must cover topics relevant to player development and be conducted by	Clubs will receive +5 Championship Points for each session , up to a maximum of +10 Club Championship Points upon

		<p>suitably qualified professionals. Topics include (but are not limited to):</p> <p>Health & Performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrition for Athletes (Accredited Dietitians/Nutritionists) • Strength & Conditioning (Certified Strength & Conditioning Coaches) • Injury Prevention & Recovery (Physiotherapists, Sports Medicine Professionals) • Sports Science & Performance Data (Sports Scientists, Performance Analysts) • Women's Health in Sport (Sports Doctors, Women's Health Physiotherapists) <p>Player Wellbeing & Personal Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health & Wellbeing (Registered Psychologists, Mental Health Professionals) • Leadership & Captaincy Development (Leadership Coaches, Experienced Captains) • Time Management & Study Balance (Career Coaches, Educators) 	<p>successful completion of both required education sessions.</p> <p>Clubs must submit session details through a Football West-provided online submission form, ensuring consistency and ease of verification.</p> <p>The form will require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session details (date, location, presenter information). • Attendance list for all YCC teams. • Presentation materials or key discussion points. <p>Submission deadline for consideration is 31 August 2025.</p> <p>Football West will review submitted documentation to ensure the content is relevant and aligns with development objectives before awarding points.</p> <p><i>If a club is unsure whether a session qualifies for bonus points, they should contact Football West for clarification before delivery.</i></p>
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Youth Club Championship (All Tiers) – Deduction Points			
Category	Purpose	Description	Points
Competition Integrity	To enforce accountability and maintain the integrity of the competition.	If a club's teams across all age groups in the YCC forfeit two matches during the season (forfeits counted cumulatively).	A deduction of three (3) Club Championship Points for every two matches forfeited.
Policy	To ensure all club tournaments and programs follow sanctioned competition protocols and maintain fairness.	If a club participating in the YCC conducts a tournament/club program that is not officially sanctioned by Football West.	A deduction of (22) Club Championship Points and exclusion from participation in the following season.
Fair Play	Fair play ensures that players compete respectfully and within the rules, promoting sportsmanship and integrity on the field.	Each red card accumulated by any player or official from a team competing in the YCC will count as a deduction. This includes red cards received by the team during the regular home and away season.	A deduction of (1) Club Championship Point for each red card.
Sideline Behaviour	Proper sideline behaviour upholds respect, supports fair play, and contributes to a positive competitive atmosphere.	A Club is at risk of losing points if a participating team is found guilty of an offence, including verbal abuse or inappropriate behaviour by a spectator or Club Associate linked to that team. This applies to incidents occurring during the regular season or YCC matches, as determined by Football West.	A deduction of (2) Club Championship Points .
Respect for Match Officials	Respect for match officials is fundamental to upholding their authority and ensuring the integrity of the competition.	If the red card is for Offence No. 19, 21 or 22 as outlined in the Disciplinary & Grievance Regulations. This includes red cards received by the team during the regular home and away season.	A deduction of (6) Club Championship Points .

		If a player, team official, or spectator is found guilty of making uninvited contact with a match official. This includes red cards received by the team during the regular home and away season.	A deduction of (12) Club Championship Points .
		If a player, team official, or spectator is found guilty of assaulting a match official. This includes red cards received by the team during the regular home and away season.	A deduction of (22) Club Championship Points .
Behaviour & Values	Upholding clear behavioural standards and shared values is essential for maintaining fairness, respect, and a positive environment throughout the competition.	If a player or official is found guilty of serious violent conduct resulting in a sanction of four (4) or more matches/weeks. This includes breaches incurred during the regular home and away season and YCC matches, as determined by Football West.	A deduction of (12) Club Championship Points .
		If a player, official, or spectator is found to breach the Football West Code of Conduct resulting in a sanction of three (3) or more matches/weeks. This includes breaches incurred during the regular home and away season and YCC matches, as determined by Football West.	A deduction of (12) Club Championship Points .