

ELIGIBILITY OF PUPILS

1) Any day pupil in full attendance, i.e. two attendances per day, shall be eligible to play for their own school or for the local association of which their school is a member, provided they are within the age limit stipulated for the particular competition.

To take part in any of the competitions stated below, they must attain the age limit, specified in respect of the particular competition, on or after 1st January of the year in which the competition commences:

COMPETITION	AGE LIMIT
MIXED	
The Scottish Schools' Under 13 Shield	12
The Scottish Schools' Under 14 Shield	13
The Scottish Schools' Under 15 Trophy	14
The Scottish Schools' Under 15 Shield	14
The Scottish Schools' Under 16 Shield	15
BOYS ONLY	
The Scottish Schools' Under 13, 7-a-side Competition	12
The Scottish Schools' Senior Trophy	18
The Scottish Schools' Senior Shield	18
GIRLS ONLY	
The Scottish Schools' Under 14, 7-a-side Competition	13
The Scottish Schools' Under 15, 7-a-side Competition	14
The Scottish Schools' Under 15 Girls Shield	14
The Scottish Schools' Senior Girls Shield	18

In the above Girls Only Shield competitions, teams may be composed of players from two schools which are in close proximity.

The school which has the majority of players in the composite group shall be the designated school for administrative purposes.

Any schools wishing to exercise this dispensation must obtain permission from the appropriate Standing Committee prior to entering the competition.

In the interpretation of the above the following shall apply;

- (a) A pupil on the roll of a school at the beginning of vacation shall be deemed to be on the roll till the end of the vacation.
- (b) A pupil who has played in a Shield tie or ties shall, on being transferred to another school during the season, be eligible to play in Shield ties for his/her new school during the current season. In Boy's Shield competitions, a pupil shall not be eligible to participate in more than one Shield. In Girl's Shield competitions, a pupil may participate in both competitions in any one season.
Similarly, a pupil who played in the Primary Trophy, or Under 15 Trophy, or Senior Trophy for his/her association shall, on being transferred to a school playing under the jurisdiction of another association, be eligible to play in any of these competitions for his/her new association during the current season.

- (c) A pupil who has already played for his/her association in the Senior Trophy or Under 15 Trophy and who is transferred during the season to a college based course serving the schools in the area under the jurisdiction of that association, though situated in the area of, or provided by a neighbouring local education authority, shall be eligible to play only for that association, for which he/she has already played, till the end of the current season, provided that he/she remains on his/her school roll.
- (d) A pupil, who started his/her Secondary Education at the beginning of the School Year, is not eligible to participate in the Primary Trophy.

Exceptions to Player Eligibility – players who attend a Scottish FA Performance School may represent their school in Cup and Shield competitions. SFA Performance Schools may include no more than 3 Performance Players in any match day squad.

APPLICABILITY OF S.F.A. RULES

- 2) All matches will be governed by the rules of the Scottish Football Association except as stated hereunder:
 - (a) for matches in the Primary Trophy, Under 13 Shield, and Under 15 Girls Shield a size 4 ball shall be used.
 - (b) every match shall consist of two equal periods, the duration of each of which shall be as stated hereunder in accordance with the competition or competitions specified:
 - (i) Primary Trophy - 30 minutes.
 - (ii) Under 13 Shield, Under 14 Shield and Under 15 Girls Shield - 35 minutes.
 - (iii) Under 15 Trophy, Under 15 Shield, Under 16 Shield and Senior Girls Shield – 40 minutes
 - (c) in all cup and shield matches, five substitutes may be used from five nominated.
 - (d) at all ages, players substituted are able to re-join the match at a later stage.

ANNUAL COMPETITIONS

- 3) All trophies shall be competed for annually. At the conclusion of the final tie, the trophy for the competition shall be handed over to the representative of the winning association or school, who shall acknowledge receipt of the trophy and undertake to return it in good order and condition to the Secretary of the appropriate Standing Committee, when called upon to do so, and in any case not later than 1st April of the ensuing year.

When the final of a trophy is played on the home-and-home principle, if at the end of the two games the two contestants are equal in goals, the trophy shall be jointly held for the ensuing season by two Associations or Schools, each to have possession for half of the year. The names of both associations or schools thus concerned shall be engraved on the trophy as joint holders.

CONTROL OF COMPETITONS

4) Apart from power to deal with certain field offences and breaches of discipline (for which see Article 11 of the Constitution), the control and management of the competitions shall be vested in the Standing Committees designated in Article 11 of the Constitution. Each Standing Committee shall have discretionary power to add to or amend any rule or rules relating to the competitions under its control and management, provided:

(a) the said alteration is not repugnant to any decision of Council or of a General Meeting of the Association, and

(b) due notice of any such addition or amendment has been forwarded by the Secretary of the appropriate Standing Committee to each competing association or school.

CUP PRINCIPLE

5) Matches shall be played on the cup principle, the association or school drawn first in the ballot having choice of ground, except in the case of the following ties;

(a) the finals of the Senior Trophy, the under 15 Trophy and the Primary Trophy, which shall be single games at venues determined by the Management Committee.

(b) The semi-final and final ties of the Shield Competitions which shall be played on neutral grounds or on the home-and-home principle, as determined by the Management Committee after consultation with the schools concerned.

DISTINGUISHING COLOURS

6) Associations and schools must play in their distinguishing colours, which must be intimated to the Secretary of the appropriate Standing Committee with entry. When teams have the same or very similar colours, the visiting team shall play in their registered colours and the home team shall change.

TEAM SHEETS

7) Team sheets bearing the names and player ID Numbers and years of birth (together with schools in competitions involving local associations) of the players shall be exchanged by the representatives of the teams before the commencement of each match and a duplicate copy of each given to the referee, who shall enter the result of the match in both sheets and sign them. These team sheets shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the appropriate Standing Committee (indicated on the sheets) by the representatives of the winning association or school, within three days of the match.

DRAWS AND REPLAYS

8) In all Shield and National Trophy knock out matches, if the teams are level at the end of regulation play, then the result will be determined by kicks from the penalty mark. No extra time will be played.

PRIORITY OF MATCHES

9) The Secretary of the appropriate Standing Committee shall intimate to each association or school the name of the association or school against which it is drawn and the date by which the tie must be played. The home association or school shall have the right to decide the date on which the tie shall be played. Notification shall be sent by home association or school to the visiting association or school giving date, time and venue, not less than 7 days prior to chosen date. Any association or school wishing to obtain postponement of a tie for any reason other than weather conditions, must submit the reason in writing to the Secretary of the appropriate Standing Committee by the first post of the fourth day preceding the date of the match. The Secretary shall submit the reasons given to a sub-committee, whose decision shall be final.

Senior Trophy, Under 15 Trophy and Shield ties shall have priority over local ties and local association league games. Any Association(s) or School(s) deemed to be responsible for the inordinate delay of the fulfillment of a tie shall be liable to be removed from the Competition.

GROUND - CHOICE OF SUITABILITY

10) As soon as possible and not less than seven days before the date chosen for the match, the representative of the home association or school shall intimate to the representative of the visiting association or school the ground on which it is intended that the tie should be played. Should the ground proposed by any home association or school be considered unsuitable by the opposing association or school, the latter may appeal to the appropriate Standing Committee. The latter shall then decide upon the suitability of the proposed ground and, if necessary, shall make arrangements for the tie to be played on another ground.

In ties involving the last 8 teams in all National Competitions, a grass pitch or third generation (or more recent) artificial pitch must be used. In the event of its non-availability of such a pitch to the home school then that school must find a suitable grass pitch at another venue.

NOTE: In addition, in the last eight of the national inter Association competitions, an enclosed pitch must be used unless by mutual consent.

REFEREES - APPOINTMENT AND POWERS

11) The home association or school shall submit the name of the proposed referee to the visiting association or school.

To Scottish Shield ties, after 4th round, shall be appointed a qualified referee who is not a member of staff or pupil in either of the schools concerned.

Referees for semi-final and final ties shall be appointed by the appropriate Standing Committee. Should the referee appointed fail to appear, the associations or schools concerned should agree upon one at the ground, and the person so acting shall have all the powers of a duly appointed referee.

The referee shall have the power to decide upon the condition or suitability of the ground for play or upon conditions over which neither side has any control. In addition, he shall have full authority over the play and also over the players during the progress of the game and until they have left the field. If, in his opinion, any player or responsible official is guilty of an offence, breach of rule, misdemeanor or any other form of improper conduct, it shall be his duty to report the circumstances to the Secretary of the appropriate Standing Committee as soon as possible.

PROTESTS AND OBJECTIONS

12) Protests, including those relating to ineligibility of players, must be submitted in writing by the representative of the protesting association or school to the Secretary of the appropriate Standing Committee, not later than three days after the match.

In addition to this, any objection relating to the ground, goal-posts, etc., must be intimated in writing to the referee before the commencement of the game.

The home association or school is held responsible for the conduct not only of its own players and officials, but also of the spectators and for the general observance of the conditions implied in the laws of the game.

All written protests submitted must be accompanied by a fee of thirty pounds which may be forfeited at the discretion of the appropriate Standing Committee.

13) An official of this Association or of a local association, or representatives of the latter, or of a school, who is also a member of a Standing Committee will automatically retire from a meeting of any of the above mentioned committees when any matter relating to his team, local association or school is under consideration.

AWARD OF MEMENTOES

14) Suitably inscribed mementoes of an appropriate number for the competition shall be awarded to the association or school teams competing in the final tie of each competition. Mementoes in excess of the appropriate number may be awarded only with special permission of, and under conditions laid down by, the appropriate Standing Committee.