



**Premier
League**

Handbook

Season 2017/18

Rules - Safeguarding,
Safer Recruitment and
Youth Development Rules



This extract from the 2017/18 Premier League Rules is issued to the recipient to provide him/her with a copy of the key provisions relating to his/her role. It is necessarily not complete and is not intended to provide the recipient with a copy of every single relevant Rule, nor should it be relied upon by the recipient to provide a complete record of his/her responsibilities, rights or obligations in a specific area (or the responsibilities, rights and obligations of his/her Club or colleagues). The recipient should always consult the full 2017/18 Premier League Rules to ensure that he/she is aware of such responsibilities, rights and obligations, a copy of which is available online at www.premierleague.com. If you have any questions about this extract or the 2017/18 Premier League Rules, please contact Jamie Herbert, Premier League Head of Legal – Football and Regulatory Services (on jherbert@premierleague.com).



Definitions And Interpretation

Definitions

In these Rules:

“Academy” means an establishment for the coaching and education of Academy Players operated by a Club in accordance with the requirements of this Section of the Rules and licensed by the PGB pursuant to Rule 18;

“Academy Player” means a male player (other than an Amateur Player, Non Contract Player (in The Football League) or a Trialist) who is in an age group between Under 9 to Under 21 and who is registered for and who is coached by, or plays football for or at a Club which operates an Academy pursuant to these Rules, save for any player who: (a) the Board is satisfied has developed technical, tactical, physical, psychological and social skills of such a level that he would not benefit from continued coaching in the Academy or participating or continuing to participate in its Games Programme (which includes, for the purpose of this definition, the league competition referred to in Rules 163 to 174); and (b) has entered into a written contract of employment in Form 20 with that Club;

“Activity” means any activity or series of activities, organised or arranged by or in the name of a Club, for Children and/or Adults at Risk (and/or to be attended by such individual(s));

“Adult at Risk” means an adult who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness and who is, or may be, unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect himself against significant harm or exploitation;

“Child” and **“Children”** mean any Person or Persons under the age of 18 years;

“Club” means an association football club in membership of the League and: (a) for the purposes of Rules E.40 to E.50 inclusive includes any club which is entitled to be promoted from The Football League to the League; (b) for the purposes of Rules A.1.46, A.1.52, A.1.168, and Sections F and H of these Rules (including any Forms prescribed therein) includes any Associated Undertaking, Fellow Subsidiary Undertaking, Group Undertaking, or Parent Undertaking of such Club; and (c) for the purposes of Section G of these Rules, Rules I.1 to I.7 and Rule J.3 (and including any Forms prescribed therein) includes any Associated Undertaking, Fellow Subsidiary Undertaking, Group Undertaking, Parent Undertaking or Subsidiary Undertaking of such Club;

“DBS” means the Disclosure and Barring Service, being a non-departmental public body of the Home Office which, amongst other things, processes requests for criminal records checks and barred list information, or any successor body which carries out its functions;

“Disclosure” means the service provided by the DBS to Persons registered with it;

“The Football Association” means The Football Association Limited;

Section A: Definitions and interpretation

“Form” means the appropriate form or substantially the same form as that prescribed in these Rules;

“Head of Safeguarding” means the member of Staff appointed to that role by each Club in accordance with Rule S.4;

“Lead Disclosure Officer” means the member of Staff appointed to that role by each Club in accordance with Rule S.21;

“the League” means the Football Association Premier League Limited;

“NSPCC Standards” means the Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport promoted by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children;

“Official” means any director, secretary, servant or representative of a Club, excluding any Player, Intermediary or Auditor;

“Parent” means a Person who has parental responsibility for a Child;

“Safeguarding Officer” means the member of Staff to whom safeguarding duties may be delegated by the Head of Safeguarding in accordance with Rule S.6;

“Season” means the period commencing on the date of the first League Match on the fixture list of the League’s first team competition and ending on the date of the last;

“Senior Safeguarding Lead” means the member of a Club’s board of directors appointed to that role by each Club in accordance with Rule S.3;

“Staff” means any employee of a Club or volunteer involved in any Activity on behalf of or with the authorisation of the Club and/or who works directly with (and/or has influence over) Vulnerable Groups (or acts on their behalf in any way);

“Vulnerable Groups” means both Children and Adults at Risk;



Clubs: Operations

Section 5: The Safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups and Safer Recruitment

Clubs' Policies and Procedures for the Safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups

- S.1. Each Club shall prepare, implement, review regularly and have reviewed by its local authority (where the local authority is prepared to do so) written policies and procedures for the safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups.
- S.2. Each Club's policies and procedures for the safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups shall:
- S.2.1. be in accordance with this Section of these Rules and shall have regard to any guidance issued by the League in respect of safe event management;
 - S.2.2. meet the NSPCC Standards; and
 - S.2.3. comply with any policy or guidance published by the League from time to time.

Roles and Responsibilities

- S.3. Each Club shall designate a member of its board of directors as its Senior Safeguarding Lead, who shall take leadership responsibility for the Club's safeguarding provision (in consultation with the Club's Head of Safeguarding) and actively champion safeguarding at board level. The name of the Club's Senior Safeguarding Lead shall be notified by the Club to the League in Form 17.
- S.4. Each Club shall designate at least one full-time member of Staff with the necessary skills and expertise as its Head of Safeguarding. The name of the Club's Head of Safeguarding shall be notified by the Club to the League in Form 17.
- S.5. The Head of Safeguarding shall:
- S.5.1. where possible, report directly to (and be managed by) the Senior Safeguarding Lead;
 - S.5.2. provide strategic leadership on safeguarding provision and issues within the Club;
 - S.5.3. review and approve the safeguarding provision for all Activities;
 - S.5.4. act as the first point of contact for any report or suspicion of abuse or concern relating to the welfare of a Child or Adult at Risk engaged in an Activity;
 - S.5.5. liaise regularly with and be guided by the advice of the relevant local and statutory authorities and the League with regard to issues concerning the safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups;
 - S.5.6. ensure strict compliance with the Club's policies and procedures for the safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups;
 - S.5.7. promote awareness within the Club of safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups and encourage and monitor the adoption of best practice procedures in that regard;
 - S.5.8. report on a regular basis on the effectiveness of, and the Club's compliance with, its policies and procedures for the safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups to the Senior Safeguarding Lead;

Section S: The Safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups and Safer Recruitment

- S.5.9. act as the lead Club Official in any investigation of an allegation of abuse of a Child or Adult at Risk;
- S.5.10. maintain the safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups Staff register for each Activity in such format as approved by the League;
- S.5.11. be made known to all Staff, and (in any handbook or the like which the Club produces to accompany any Activity) to Vulnerable Groups (and their Parents or carers) engaged in each Activity and be available in person or by telephone to Staff and to such Vulnerable Groups, their Parents and carers at all reasonable times;
- S.5.12. provide written instructions to Staff engaged in each Activity in respect of good practice and what they are required to do if they detect any sign of abuse of Vulnerable Groups, if they suspect such abuse is taking place or if they otherwise have concerns as to the welfare of a Child or Adult at Risk;
- S.5.13. provide guidance to and support for any member of Staff engaged in each Activity who reports suspected abuse of a Child or Adult at Risk or concerns as to their welfare; and
- S.5.14. be responsible for maintaining clear, comprehensive and up-to-date records of all allegations of abuse or poor practice (including, but not limited to, those subject to referral under S.13 and S.14), details of how such allegations are resolved and any decisions reached.

S.6. The Head of Safeguarding may, in relation to a specific Activity, if appropriate, delegate any of the responsibilities listed in to to one or more other members of Staff ("Safeguarding Officer(s)"). In such circumstances, the Head of Safeguarding must supervise the work of Safeguarding Officers and ensure that they are properly trained, and supported including, without limitation, by way of regular, minuted meetings with each Safeguarding Officer.

S.7. Each Head of Safeguarding and Safeguarding Officer shall:

- S.7.1. be trained in all issues affecting the safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups;
- S.7.2. be given a job description that properly records their responsibilities; and
- S.7.3. undertake in each calendar year continuing professional development training in the safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups, approved by the League, and maintain a record thereof.

Guidance

Clubs' attention is drawn to Youth Development Rule 186 which requires that an Academy Safeguarding Officer must be appointed to undertake the functions set out in Rule S.5.7 with regard to the Academy.

Staff

S.8. Staff shall in all dealings with and on behalf of Vulnerable Groups do what is reasonable in the circumstances of the case for the purpose of safeguarding or promoting the safety and welfare of the relevant individual(s).



Section 5: The Safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups and Safer Recruitment

- S.9. Each member of Staff shall be given regular training (in a form approved by the Head of Safeguarding) in the Club's policies and procedures for the safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups.
- S.10. Each member of Staff shall be given in writing:
- S.10.1. the name of the Club's Head of Safeguarding;
 - S.10.2. descriptions of what constitutes poor safeguarding practice, abuse or unsuitable behaviour towards a Child or Adult at Risk;
 - S.10.3. details of what he is required to do if there is any sign of poor safeguarding practice, abuse or unsuitable behaviour towards a Child or Adult at Risk or if there is a suspicion that such conduct is taking place; and
 - S.10.4. the League's 'Guidance for Safer Working Practice'.
- S.11. No Person shall be appointed as a member of Staff unless:
- S.11.1. he has completed and submitted to the Club a written application;
 - S.11.2. a written reference has been obtained by the Club from at least two referees named in the application;
 - S.11.3. he has applied to the DBS for Disclosure;
 - S.11.4. his Disclosure information has been received and the Club is satisfied that he is not unsuitable to work with Vulnerable Groups; and
 - S.11.5. his particulars have been entered in the Staff register referred to at Rule S.5.10.

Parental Consent

- S.12. The written consent of a Child's Parent shall be obtained:
- S.12.1. before the Child participates in an Activity (by the Parent completing and returning to the Head of Safeguarding a written parental consent form); and
 - S.12.2. if the Child is under the age of 16, before any images or footage of him are taken or used for any purpose whatsoever.

Guidance

While the consent of a Parent (or carer) is not required where images or footage are taken of an Adult at Risk, as a matter of good practice, Clubs should ensure that where such images or footage are to be taken, the Adult at Risk understands the implications of the images or footage being taken, especially if the images or footage are to be used by the Club (or anyone else) for promotional purposes, or otherwise made publicly available.

Notification of Referrals to External Agencies and Football Authorities

- S.13. On making any referral of an allegation or incident of suspected abuse of or unsuitable behaviour towards a Child or Adult at Risk to any external agency (including, without limitation, the police, the local authority or the DBS), the Head of Safeguarding or other Official making the referral shall notify the Senior Safeguarding Lead in writing and ensure that the Senior Safeguarding Lead is kept fully apprised of the progress of the referral and any subsequent investigation or action.

Section S: The Safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups and Safer Recruitment

- S.14. The Club shall notify the League and The Football Association (through the submission of the Affiliated Football Safeguarding Referral Form) of, and give the League and The Football Association such further information as they may require in respect of:
- S.14.1. any evidence obtained by the Club demonstrating the abuse of, or unsuitable behaviour towards, a Child or Adult at Risk, whether or not the evidence relates to: (a) conduct by a member of Staff in the performance of his duties as a member of Staff; or (b) a non-recent or recent allegation;
 - S.14.2. a third (or subsequent) incident or allegation of 'poor practice' (as defined in Affiliated Football's Safeguarding Procedures), whether similar in nature or otherwise, in relation to a Child or Adult at Risk involving the same member of Staff;
 - S.14.3. any referral it has made to any external agency (as described in Rule S.13); and
 - S.14.4. any investigation by such an external agency into suspected abuse of or 'unsuitable behaviour' towards a Child or Adult at Risk involved in an Activity of which the Club becomes aware, whether such investigation results from a referral made pursuant to Rule S.14.1 or otherwise,
- in each case, as soon as reasonably practicable, and in any event within 24 hours of the relevant evidence, incident or investigation being referred to the external agency (where such a referral is made).

Monitoring

- S.15. Each Club will permit the League to conduct at least three monitoring visits each Season to ensure compliance with this Section of these Rules, which will be attended by a Person appointed for this purpose by the League. Each Club shall ensure that each such Person is given access to all records kept in accordance with the requirements of this Section of these Rules and is able to meet Staff, Parents, Children, Academy Players, Adults at Risk and their carers.
- S.16. Such Person shall:
- S.16.1. give written feedback to the Club concerned on each monitoring visit made and, if appropriate, agree with the Club an action plan setting out actions to be taken by the Club to ensure compliance with this Section of these Rules;
 - S.16.2. report on each visit in writing to the League; and
 - S.16.3. at the end of each Season or as soon as practicable thereafter, present to the League and the Club a written annual report on the Club's compliance with this Section of these Rules.



Section 5: The Safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups and Safer Recruitment

- S.17. Where, as a result of its monitoring of Clubs in accordance with Rule S.15, receipt of a referral or notification in accordance with Rules S.13 and S.14, or otherwise, the League becomes aware of abuse of or unsuitable behaviour towards a Child or Adult at Risk by a member of Staff or otherwise holds concerns regarding a Club's handling of a matter relating to safeguarding, it may (in its absolute discretion) conduct a case review, either on its own or in conjunction with The Football Association. Where such a case review is undertaken, the League shall be entitled to have access to all records kept in accordance with the requirements of this Section of these Rules and shall be entitled to meet Staff, Parents, Children, Adults at Risk and their carers. Following such a case review, the League may make such directions to the Club concerned and/or propose such measures be put in place by the Club as it considers necessary, which must be adopted by the Club concerned in full.

Safer Recruitment

- S.18. The League will undertake all matters connected with the use of the Disclosure service for those Clubs not registered with the DBS.
- S.19. Clubs not registered with the DBS agree to be bound by any guidance or policy on the issue of safer recruitment published by the League from time to time.
- S.20. Each Club shall prepare, implement and review regularly a safer recruitment policy, which shall:
- S.20.1. be in accordance with this Section of these Rules; and
 - S.20.2. comply in full with any guidance or policy published by the League from time to time.
- S.21. Each Club shall designate a member of Staff as its Lead Disclosure Officer whose name shall be notified to the League in Form 17. The Lead Disclosure Officer shall:
- S.21.1. act as the Club's principal point of contact with the League on all matters connected with safer recruitment and the use of the Disclosure service;
 - S.21.2. liaise regularly with and be guided by the advice of the League on all matters concerning safer recruitment procedures and the use of the Disclosure service; and
 - S.21.3. ensure strict compliance by the Club with its safer recruitment policies.

Publicity

- S.22. Each Club shall publish in an easily accessible section of its website:
- S.22.1. a clear statement of the Club's commitment to safeguarding;
 - S.22.2. the name and contact details of the Club's Head of Safeguarding; and
 - S.22.3. a copy of the Club's policies and procedures referred to at Rule S.1.

Safeguarding Roles and Responsibilities (Rules S.3, S.4 and S.21)

**To: The Board
The Premier League**

From: Football Club

The following member of Staff has been designated as the Senior Safeguarding Lead:

Name

The following member of Staff has been designated as the Head of Safeguarding:

Name

The following member of Staff has been designated as Lead Disclosure Officer:

Name

Signed

Position

Date



Youth Development Rules

Youth Development Rules

General

Note: throughout this document binding Premier League Rules are shaded in light grey. Guidance and other notes are also included for the assistance of Clubs. Such guidance and notes do not, however, form part of the Rules.

Definitions

Rule 1 sets out definitions used in the Youth Development Rules. All other capitalised terms used in this section of the Rules are defined in Premier League Rule A.1.

1. In this Section of the Rules the following terms shall have the following meanings:
 - 1.1. **“Academy”** means an establishment for the coaching and education of Academy Players operated by a Club in accordance with the requirements of this Section of the Rules and licensed by the PGB pursuant to Rule 18;
 - 1.2. **“Academy Doctor”** means the Official referred to in Rule 103;
 - 1.3. **“Academy Financial Information”** means a budget for the following season, together with a comparison of the budgeted and actual figures for the previous season, all of which information shall be set out in the format to be prescribed by the League;
 - 1.4. **“Academy Management Team”** has the meaning set out in Rule 57;
 - 1.5. **“Academy Manager”** means the Person responsible for the strategic leadership and operation of a Club’s Academy, whose role and responsibilities are more particularly defined at Rules 59 to 65;
 - 1.6. **“Academy Performance Plan”** means a document which sets out:
 - (a) the goals, strategy and measurable short-term and long-term performance targets for all aspects of the work of the Club’s Academy, such strategy and performance targets to be consistent with the Club’s Vision Statement, Coaching Philosophy and Playing Philosophy; and
 - (b) without prejudice to the generality of paragraph a), how the Academy will deliver and integrate its Coaching, Education, Games and Sports Science and Medicine Programmes;
 - 1.7. **“Academy Player”** means a male player (other than an Amateur Player, Non-Contract Player (in The Football League) or a Trialist) who is in an age group between Under 9 to Under 21 and who is registered for and who is coached by, or plays football for or at a Club which operates an Academy pursuant to these Rules, save for any player who:
 - (a) the Board is satisfied has developed technical, tactical, physical, psychological and social skills of such a level that he would not benefit from continued coaching in the Academy or participating or continuing to participate in its Games Programme (which includes, for the purpose of this definition, the league competition referred to in Rules 164 to 175); and
 - (b) has entered into a written contract of employment in Form 19 with that Club;



General

Guidance

It is emphasised that Academy Players aged 17 or older may no longer be classified as such only where the Board approves an application by the Club in the light of all the circumstances relevant to the particular Academy Player and on such terms as the Board considers appropriate.

The duties of a Club in relation to the provision of an Education Programme, Safeguarding and Welfare, Social Development and Lifestyle Management continue.

Clubs' attention is drawn to Rule 78 which requires Clubs to develop and implement a procedure to enable the transition of Academy Players to the senior squad, and also to Rule 118.1 which provides that each Academy Player has access to coaching tailored to his individual needs. Any decision by a Club to cease treating an Academy Player as such where it is not reasonable to do so in the light of his overall development and skill level may be treated as being a breach of this Rule.

1.8. **"Academy Secretary"** means the Official referred to in Rule 66;

1.9. **"Academy Staff"** means those Officials of a Club employed or otherwise engaged to work in the Club's Academy;

Guidance

The term "employ" is used in the Rules with reference to Academy Staff, but it is accepted that the relationship need not necessarily be one of employment. For example, a Club may enter into a contract for services with Part Time youth coaches whereby no employment relationship will arise. Any references to "employ" or "employment" in this section of the Rules shall be interpreted accordingly.

1.10. **"Artificial Surface"** means a playing surface which in the reasonable opinion of the League meets the requirements of the FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf and:

- (a) any new outdoor Artificial Surface pitch installed by a Club which operates or applies to operate a Category 1 Academy must achieve the FIFA recommended two star rating under the FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf; and
- (b) any new indoor Artificial Surface pitch installed by a Club which operates or applies to operate a Category 1 Academy must achieve the FIFA recommended two star rating under the FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf;

Guidance

To achieve and maintain the FIFA two star rating under the FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf, the Artificial Surface pitch needs to be certified on an annual basis by a FIFA accredited agent.

Existing Artificial Surface pitches have a natural life span. Accordingly, as they reach the end of their natural life span, they should be replaced with pitches that achieve the necessary star rating under the FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf.

General

- 1.11. **“Audit Tool”** means the online application maintained by the League and approved by the PGB for the purpose of undertaking (in particular by the ISO) the evaluation and audit of Academies by the assessment of:
- (a) the extent to which a Club meets the criteria for Academies set out in these Rules;
 - (b) the extent to and manner in which a Club meets or exceeds the recommended best practice criteria which are set out in the Audit Tool; and
 - (c) its Productivity Profile;
- 1.12. **“Authorised Games”** means:
- (a) international matches arranged by a national association including preparation and trials therefor;
 - (b) matches in which the Academy Player plays for the Club holding his registration:
 - (i) in its first teams;
 - (ii) which are comprised in a Games Programme; or
 - (iii) which are comprised in Festivals or Tournaments, participation in which is limited to Academy teams or which are sanctioned by The Football Association or by a foreign national association;
 - (c) friendly matches organised by the Club holding the Academy Player’s registration and played at an Academy, participation in which is limited to Academy Players registered at an Academy or Trialists but excluding matches between two teams consisting of one Club’s Academy Players;
 - (d) friendly matches against any opposition played outside the season dates set out in the Games Programme Schedule in which the Academy Player plays for the Club holding his registration;
 - (e) matches organised by the English Schools Football Association or Independent Schools Football Association or an association affiliated to either of such Associations in which the Academy Player plays with the prior agreement of his Parents (in the case of an Academy Player under the age of 18 years), all participation in such matches to be notified by the Academy Player to the Club holding his registration;
 - (f) trial matches for other Clubs or Football League clubs in which the Academy Player plays with the prior written permission of the Club holding his registration; or
 - (g) any other match authorised by the Board;
- 1.13. **“Basic First Aid for Sport Qualification”** means the qualification of that name issued by or on behalf of The Football Association;



General

Guidance

The Basic First Aid for Sport Qualification (“BFAS”) is a course which has been developed and delivered by The FA since Season 2012/13.

The BFAS will need to be renewed every three years (it is hoped as part of the renewal of the main Academy coaching qualifications).

- 1.14. **“Category”** means one of the four categories into which each Academy shall be assigned in accordance with the criteria and procedures set out in this section of the Rules, and “Category 1”, “Category 2”, “Category 3” and “Category 4” shall be construed accordingly;
- 1.15. **“Charter for Academy Players and Parents”** means the information to be provided by the League to the Parent of each Academy Player upon each occasion of his registration for a Club and which will contain:
- (a) information about the consequences of the Academy Player becoming registered with a Club; and
 - (b) a summary of the Club’s obligations to the Academy Player, and the Academy Player’s obligations to the Club;
- 1.16. **“Chief Executive”** means the Official referred to in Premier League Rule J.1.1;
- 1.17. **“Club Board”** means those Directors of the Club whose particulars are registered under section 162 of the Act;
- 1.18. **“Coach Competency Framework”** means a document which sets out the key competencies and behaviours which the Club expects its Academy coaches to possess and demonstrate;
- 1.19. **“Coaching Curriculum”** means a Club’s coaching curriculum which must be set out in writing and include:
- (a) the technical, tactical, physical, psychological and social skills that the Club wishes its Academy Players to develop;
 - (b) the appropriate means of coaching Academy Players in order that they develop those skills (having due regard to their age); and
 - (c) specific coaching curricula for each Development Phase;
- 1.20. **“Coaching Philosophy”** means a written statement which sets out in detail (including by describing the content of individual coaching sessions for each Academy Player) the means by which the Club will coach its Academy Players in each age group so that they have the best opportunity to develop the technical, tactical, physical, psychological and social skills that the Club wishes players in each position on the pitch to acquire, as set out in the Club’s Playing Philosophy;
- 1.21. **“Continued Professional Development”** means ongoing training for Academy Staff, relevant to their discipline, of such quality, content and frequency as is necessary to ensure that each member of Academy Staff has the necessary knowledge and expertise in order to fulfil his role;

General

1.22. **“Core Coaching Time”** means between 8.30am and 5.30pm on Mondays to Fridays, save that in the Foundation Phase and Youth Development Phase it also includes between 9am and 5pm on Saturdays;

1.23. **“Core Condition”** means each of the individual Rules referred to below:

Rule Number	Description
29	Academy Performance Plan in place.
59-65	Academy Manager* (QUALIFICATIONS AND CONTRACT) *The Academy Manager Role can still be combined with the Head of Academy Coaching role as long as there is a Full Time Academy Operations Manager.
68-69	Head of Academy Coaching* (QUALIFICATIONS AND CONTRACT) *The Academy Manager role can still be combined with the Head of Academy Coaching role as long as there is an additional Full Time Academy Operations Manager.
66-67	Academy Secretary (CONTRACT)
108	Head of Education (QUALIFICATIONS AND CONTRACT)
87-93	Head of Sports Science and Medicine (QUALIFICATIONS AND CONTRACT)
109	Head of Recruitment (QUALIFICATIONS AND CONTRACT)
76-77 / 79-86	Senior Professional Development Coach (QUALIFICATIONS AND CONTRACT)
70-72 / 79-86	Coach 1 Foundation Phase (Lead Phase Coach): (QUALIFICATIONS AND CONTRACT)
70-72 / 79-86	Coach 2 Foundation Phase (QUALIFICATIONS AND CONTRACT)
70-72 / 79-86	Coach 1 Youth Development Phase (Lead Phase Coach): (QUALIFICATIONS AND CONTRACT)
70-72 / 79-86	Coach 2 Youth Development Phase (QUALIFICATIONS AND CONTRACT)
70-72 / 79-86	Coach 1 Professional Development Phase (QUALIFICATIONS AND CONTRACT)
70-72 / 79-86	Coach 2 Professional Development Phase (QUALIFICATIONS AND CONTRACT)
73-75 / 79-86	Goalkeeping Coach(es): (QUALIFICATIONS AND CONTRACT)
186	Academy Safeguarding Officer (CONTRACT)
94-96	Lead Sports Scientist (QUALIFICATIONS AND CONTRACT)



General

97-98	Lead Strength and Conditioning Coach (QUALIFICATIONS AND CONTRACT)
103	Medical
99	Senior Academy Physiotherapist (QUALIFICATIONS AND CONTRACT)
100-102	Registered Physiotherapist member of the Health and Care Professions Council and Sports Therapists (QUALIFICATIONS AND CONTRACT)
104-105	Performance Analyst 1 (CONTRACT)
104-105	Performance Analyst 2 (CONTRACT)
180-184	Education Programme in place for Full Time Training Model (FTTM) and Hybrid Training Model (HTM); includes monitoring academic progression.
303	Grass pitches. Note: The ISO will also report on the number and condition of grass pitches for this to be assessed in terms of the adequacy of available grass pitches and demand.
308	Floodlit outdoor Artificial Surface pitch site at the Academy.
303	Designated Goalkeepers (Grass) Training Area
309	Indoor Artificial Surface pitch
310	Changing Rooms
310	Washing and toilet facilities
311	Team meeting room on site (20 people)
312	Guest / Parents' Lounge (50 people)
313	Match Analysis Suite to hold 20 people (fully equipped)
315	Academy Administration Office space and facilities
315	Private meeting room on site
317	Classrooms for 20 people (min. 20 computers)
54	Each member of Academy Staff has an employment contract or a statement of terms of employment or in the case of a non-employee, a contract for services.
Other	The ISO will be asked to confirm also that the following are being addressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and Safety audit result at the current acceptable standard of a score at least 85% Safeguarding provisions: compliance with Rule S.

1.24. **“Development Action Plan”** means an individualised plan, developed and implemented in accordance with these Rules, for the professional development of an Academy coach;

General

Guidance

See further Rules 83 to 86.

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 1.25. | “Development Centre” means an establishment operated by a Club in England or Wales for the coaching of Children which is not an Academy and includes any such establishment by whatever name or title it is known; |
| 1.26. | “Development Phase” means the Foundation Phase, the Youth Development Phase or the Professional Development Phase as the context requires, and “Development Phases” means all of the former; |
| 1.27. | “Education Advisory Group” means the group consisting of two Persons appointed by the League, two appointed by The Football League, and an independent chair; |
| 1.28. | “Education Ombudsman” means an expert appointed by the League to undertake, amongst other things, the verification of Clubs’ Hybrid and Full Time Training Models to ensure that they comply with these Rules, and to advise the Education Advisory Group and PGB thereon. An Education Ombudsman shall either be an experienced educational practitioner or a coach who has extensive experience in youth development; |
| 1.29. | “Education Programme” has the meaning set out in Rule 180; |
| 1.30. | “Elite Player Performance Plan” means the document of that name dated May 2011 and presented to the General Meeting held on Thursday 2 June 2011; |
| 1.31. | “Emergency Action Plan” means a plan detailing the medical facilities and personnel who shall be available at each Club’s home matches in the Games Programmes, and the contingency plan for how any medical emergencies at such matches shall be dealt with; |
| 1.32. | “FA Advanced Youth Award” means the advanced qualification for Academy coaches to be developed and awarded by The Football Association; |

Guidance

The FA Advanced Youth Award contains a specialist element relevant to each Development Phase. Coaches will be required to hold the specialism relevant to the age group that they coach.

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 1.33. | “FA Youth Award” means the non-age specific qualification for Academy coaches awarded by The Football Association; |
| 1.34. | “Festival” means an event, which may be spread over more than one day, at which teams from three or more Clubs (or clubs) play a series of matches in an environment in which the matches are competitive but the results are not given any particular significance; |
| 1.35. | “Foundation Phase” means the Under 9 to Under 11 age groups inclusive; |
| 1.36. | “Foundation Phase Games Programme” means the games programmes organised by the League and the Football League for teams in each of the Under 9 to Under 11 age groups as set out in Rules 137 to 141; |



General

- 1.37. **“Full Time”** means, when applied to a role specified under these Rules, one where the working hours are at least 35 hours per week (subject to such additional hours as the Club may require). A Full Time role may be fulfilled by more than one Official (e.g. on a job-share basis) provided that the minimum hours stated above are undertaken;

Guidance

A Club will not be penalised should a member of its Academy Staff fulfilling one of the roles required by these Rules to be Full Time if working slightly less than 35 hours per week provided that the required outputs of that role are being satisfactorily delivered. See further, by way of comparison, Rule 52 and the guidance thereunder.

- 1.38. **“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;

- 1.39. **“Full Time Training Model”** means:

- 1.39.1. in the Professional Development Phase, a programme of coaching and education whereby the Academy Player’s academic education shall be scheduled to enable four hours of coaching per day (which may be split into two sessions of two hours each) to take place within the Core Coaching Time; and
- 1.39.2. in the Youth Development Phase, a programme which complies with the following:
- (a) the Academy Player shall receive within the Core Coaching Time a minimum of twenty hours of education;
 - (b) the Academy Player shall receive a significant amount of coaching within the Core Coaching Time. The exact amount of such coaching to take place within the Core Coaching Time is to be determined by the Club for each individual Academy Player. The Club shall demonstrate the amount of coaching is significantly more than the amount of coaching in the Core Coaching Time which the Club gives to its Academy Players engaged on the Hybrid Training Model. Full details must be set out in the Academy Player’s individual coaching plan referred to in Rule 118;
 - (c) no single coaching session shall endure for more than 90 minutes, and if there are two or more coaching sessions on a single day, there shall be a period of rest between each session sufficient to ensure that the Academy Player is fully rested, and of at least 90 minutes’ duration, unless the Academy Player’s individual coaching plan recognises that he may have shorter rest periods; and
 - (d) the Club’s delivery of the Full Time Training Model must comply with these Rules;

General

- 1.40. **“Futsal”** means the variant of association football that is played in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game as published from time to time by FIFA (with any such variation thereto as the League may from time to time determine), the current such Laws being available at:
http://resources.fifa.com/mm/document/footballdevelopment/refereeing/51/44/50/lawsofthegamefutsal2014_15_eneu_neutral.pdf
- 1.41. **“Games Programme”** means the Foundation Phase Games Programme, the Youth Development Phase Games Programme, or the Professional Development Phase Games Programme;
- 1.42. **“Games Programme Schedule”** means the period during which matches in the Games Programmes shall take place;

Guidance

The Games Programme Schedule incorporates two periods of “downtime” for matches in the Foundation Phase and Youth Development Phase Games Programmes. The first such period generally encompasses the last two weeks of July and the first two weeks of August, and the second encompasses two weeks over Christmas. The exact dates for each season’s period of downtime will be set out in the Games Programme Schedule when it is published by the League in the preceding season. A provisional date of 31 January in each season has been set for the publication of the Games Programme Schedule (although it may be subject to amendment thereafter but before the start of the following season to accommodate, for example, newly-classified or re-classified Academies).

The League will conduct at least two consultation meetings with Clubs per season to consider the Games Programme Schedule for the following season. The first of these will take place in the autumn, and the second in the early new year.

- 1.43. **“Head of Academy Coaching”** means the Official referred to in Rule 68;
- 1.44. **“Head of Education”** means the Official referred to in Rule 108;
- 1.45. **“Head of Recruitment”** means the Official referred to in Rule 109;
- 1.46. **“Hybrid Training Model”** means a programme of coaching and education whereby the coaching of an Academy Player primarily takes place outside the Core Coaching Time save that, subject to the provisions of these Rules, he may be released from attendance at school during the School Day for a maximum of half a day a week (if he is in the Foundation Phase) or two days a week (if he is in the Youth Development Phase);

Guidance

Clubs’ attention is drawn to Rule 198.2, pursuant to which they must provide all necessary additional educational support so that the Academy Player’s education is not prejudiced as a result of being released from school to undertake coaching during the Core Coaching Time.

- 1.47. **“Individual Learning Plan”** means an individual plan for each Academy Player setting out measurable objectives for the development that he needs to undertake and the means by which he will obtain those objectives;



General

1.48.	“Intermediate First Aid for Sport Qualification” means the qualification of that name issued by or on behalf of The Football Association;
1.49.	“ISO” means the independent standards organisation to be appointed from time to time by the PGB for the purposes of undertaking the ISO Audits;
1.50.	“ISO Audit” has the meaning set out in Rule 14;
1.51.	“Lifestyle Management Skills” means the personal and social skills and knowledge which it is considered desirable for Academy Players to develop, and training in Lifestyle Management Skills shall include (without limitation) training or coaching in the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) dealing with the media;(b) use of social media;(c) anti-doping;(d) gambling, anti-corruption and other matters of sporting integrity;(e) financial management;(f) equality and diversity;(g) wellbeing i.e. mental health and nutrition; and(h) further education and careers advice;
1.52.	“Multi-disciplinary Review” means a review of all aspects of a Academy Player’s football, athletic and educational performance and development and which shall include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) reports from all relevant Academy Staff (including from the coaching, education and sports science and medicine disciplines);(b) for Academy Players on the Full Time Training Model or the Hybrid Training Model, reports and educational data from the Academy Player’s school (and where the League requests, all Academy Players on the Part Time Training Model);(c) self-assessment by the Academy Player; and(d) short, medium and long-term targets for the Academy Player’s football, athletic and educational performance and development;
1.53.	“Part Time” means, when applied to a role specified under these Rules, one where the working hours are less than 35 hours per week. A Part Time role may be fulfilled by two or more Officials (e.g. on a job-share basis);

Guidance

No minimum number of hours is specified for Part Time roles required under these Rules. This is left to Clubs’ discretion. However, the League and the ISO will require to be satisfied that the required outputs and results are achieved by a Club’s staffing structure. See further, by way of comparison, Rule 52 and the Guidance thereunder.

General

- 1.54. **“Part Time Training Model”** means a coaching curriculum whereby the coaching of an Academy Player does not require him to miss any part of the School Day;
- 1.55. **“Performance Analysis”** means the analysis of the physiological, technical and tactical performance of each individual Player and, in a game, of the team as a whole. Performance Analysis shall be undertaken by means of such video and/or IT technology as the League shall from time to time determine;
- 1.56. **“Performance Analysts”** means the Officials referred to in Rules 104 and 105;
- 1.57. **“Performance Clock”** means the application utilised for recording, measuring, monitoring and evidencing all aspects of an Academy Player’s progression, development and education in accordance with the format and procedures to be set by the League;

Guidance

The Education Management System has been developed as a new function contained within the Performance Clock. It must be used for assisting the management of Academy Players’ educational attainment data, and reference to the Performance Clock in these Rules, particularly in the context of education, should be read accordingly.

- 1.58. **“Performance Management Application”** means the online support service to be developed and maintained by the League and utilised by each Club for the purposes of assisting the management of the Academy and recording and analysing data. Such data shall include (without limitation):
- (a) each Academy Player’s Performance Clock;
 - (b) key data on Academy Staff such as records of qualification and Continued Professional Development;
 - (c) such information as the League may from time to time require for the purposes of national or Category-wide benchmarking; and
 - (d) data received from The Football Association in respect of an Academy Player who plays for, or who is coached by The Football Association with a view to playing for, an England representative side;
- 1.59. **“Playing Philosophy”** means a written statement which sets out:
- (a) the principles, values, playing style and tactical approach of all of the Club’s teams (including its first team); and
 - (b) profiles detailing, for each age group and the first team, the Club’s desired technical, tactical, physical, psychological and social skills of players in each position on the pitch;
- 1.60. **“Productivity Methodology”** means the methodology developed by the League for analysing the registration and playing history of Players and, as a consequence thereof, for producing each Club’s Productivity Profile;



General

- 1.61. **“Productivity Profile”** means an analysis, produced by the League using the Productivity Methodology, of each Club’s track record in developing Academy Players, that is to say:
- (a) the extent to which Academy Players coached by or at its Academy have progressed to become established professional Players; and accordingly
 - (b) the extent to which the Club is successful in contributing to the development of established professional Players;
- 1.62. **“Professional Development Leagues”** means the leagues of that name managed, organised and controlled by the League (in the case of Clubs operating Category 1 and Category 2 Academies) or by The Football League (in the case of Clubs operating Category 3 and Category 4 Academies) and “Professional Development League 1”, “Professional Development League 2” and “Professional Development League 3” shall be construed accordingly;
- 1.63. **“Professional Development Phase”** means the Under 17 to Under 21 age groups inclusive;
- 1.64. **“Professional Development Phase Games Programme”** means the games programmes organised by the League and Football League for teams in the Professional Development Phase as set out in Rules 157 to 163;
- 1.65. **“Qualified Teacher Status”** means the accreditation which an individual must obtain in order to teach in state-maintained schools in England and Wales;
- 1.66. **“Scholarship Agreement”** means an agreement made between a Club and an Academy Player in PLYD Form 1;
- 1.67. **“School Day”** means the times when the pupils of a school are required to attend that school as determined by its governors;
- 1.68. **“Senior Academy Physiotherapist”** means the Official referred to in Rule 99;
- 1.69. **“Senior Professional Development Coach”** means the Official referred to in Rule 76;
- 1.70. **“Sports Science and Medicine Programme”** means an integrated, interdisciplinary programme for the provision of sports science and medical services and analysis as more particularly described in Rules 214 to 225;
- 1.71. **“Sports Therapist”** means a Person who holds at least an undergraduate degree in sports therapy;
- 1.72. **“Technical Board”** has the meaning set out in Rules 34 to 36;
- 1.73. **“Tournament”** means a grouping of competitive matches between three or more Clubs (or clubs) whose results are given significance (e.g. there may be a winner of the Tournament) and which are typically played together at one venue and over a short period of time (e.g. one day or a few days);

General

- 1.74. **“Training Camp”** means an event for the Academy Players of one Club and which lasts for one or more days and at which a variety of coaching and other on-pitch and off-pitch activities takes place;
- 1.75. **“Training Model”** means the Full Time Training Model, the Hybrid Training Model or the Part Time Training Model;
- 1.76. **“Trialist”** means a player playing in age groups Under 9 to Under 21 who is attending an Academy on trial under the provisions of Rules 237 or 238;
- 1.77. **“Vision Statement”** means a written statement of the Club’s desired culture, values, ambitions and strategic aims, and the behaviours and activities which the Club has adopted and will adopt (including within its Academy) in order to achieve the same;
- 1.78. **“Youth Development Phase”** means the Under 12 to Under 16 age groups inclusive; and
- 1.79. **“Youth Development Phase Games Programme”** means the games programmes organised by the League and Football League for teams in each of the Under 12 to Under 16 age groups, full details of which are set out in Rules 142 to 156.
2. For the purposes of this section of these Rules:
- 2.1. Academy Players shall be placed in one of 13 age groups commencing with age group Under 9 and ending with age group Under 21; and
- 2.2. the age group into which each Academy Player shall be placed shall be determined by his age on 31 August in the year in question, save in the case of players in the Under 21 age group, who must be under the age of 21 as at 1 January in the year in which the Season concerned commences (i.e. for Season 2017/18 born on or after 1 January 1996).

General

3. If a Club engages in the training and development of young players then it must:
- 3.1. obtain a licence to operate an Academy; and
- 3.2. operate its Academy in accordance with this section of the Rules.
4. The maximum term of a licence to operate an Academy shall be three years, unless revoked earlier in accordance with these Rules or extended by the PGB at its sole discretion.
5. There shall be four Categories of Academy.

Applications to Operate Academies

6. Each Club which operates or applies to operate an Academy shall give the League and the ISO access to such facilities, personnel, documents and records as they reasonably require in order to undertake their responsibilities under these Rules.



General

7.	A Club which wishes to operate (or continue to operate) a Category 1 Academy with effect from 1 July 2016 must: 7.1. have submitted to the PGB by 1 May 2015 a written application to do so, signed on behalf of the Club by an Authorised Signatory; and 7.2. submit to the League by 30 July 2015 evidence (in the form prescribed by the League from time to time) that it is compliant with the Core Conditions.
8.	The PGB, acting on the advice of the ISO, shall determine whether each applicant Club complies with the Core Conditions and notify each such Club of its determination by 1 September 2015.
9.	The PGB shall determine that a Club either: 9.1. does not comply with the Core Conditions, in which event the PGB shall not grant it a licence to operate a Category 1 Academy; or 9.2. complies with the Core Conditions, in which event the Club must by 30 September 2015 complete the Audit Tool.
10.	The ISO shall conduct an ISO Audit of each Academy at least once every three years (subject to any decision of the PGB that an ISO Audit shall be undertaken less frequently or any requirement of these Rules which provides for ISO Audits to be undertaken more frequently), the results of which shall be made available to the Club, the League and the PGB.
11.	The ISO will undertake an ISO Audit between October 2015 and March 2016 of each Club to which Rule 9.2 applies.
12.	Each applicant Club shall be given reasonable notice of the dates of its ISO Audit and may not change those dates save with the permission of the PGB, which shall only be granted if the PGB is satisfied there are exceptional circumstances which justify such a change.

Guidance

It is anticipated that the ISO will require to visit each Club for around three days in order to undertake its ISO Audit.

13.	Save where Rule 9.1 applies, the PGB shall not determine the applications to operate Category 1 Academies with effect from 1 July 2016 until all the ISO Audits undertaken pursuant to Rule 11 have been completed.
14.	In respect of each Club which applies for a licence to operate an Academy, the ISO shall undertake an analysis ("the ISO Audit") of the matters set out in Rule 1.11(a) to (c).

General

15. Where a Club which wishes to obtain a licence to operate (or to continue to operate) a Category 2, 3 or 4 Academy:
 - 15.1. the Club shall:
 - 15.1.1. submit to the League an application by the deadline stipulated by the League prior to the commencement of the relevant season;
 - 15.1.2. co-operate with the League's assessment (by whatever means) of the Club's compliance with the criteria applicable to the relevant Category;
 - 15.2. where the League is satisfied, acting reasonably, that the Club will meet the criteria applicable to the Category applied for, the League shall recommend to the PGB that the PGB award a provisional licence to operate an Academy for that Category;
 - 15.3. where the League is not satisfied that the Club will meet the criteria applicable to the relevant Category, the League may recommend to the PGB that the PGB award:
 - 15.3.1. a provisional licence to operate an Academy for such lower Category as appropriate having regard to the criteria which are met by the Club as evidenced by the application; or
 - 15.3.2. no provisional licence to operate an Academy at all;
 - 15.4. the PGB shall give due consideration to:
 - 15.4.1. a Club's application for a provisional licence to operate an Academy; and
 - 15.4.2. the recommendation of the League in accordance with Rule 15.3, and shall determine the Category of each Academy in respect of which it grants a provisional licence to operate an Academy, if any. A Club shall only have the right to make representations to the PGB in connection with its application for a provisional licence if Rule 15.3 applies.
16. The ISO Audit shall utilise the Audit Tool by assessing and recording thereon a score in respect of the matters set out in Rule 1.11(a) to (c).
17. Prior to an ISO Audit being presented to the PGB, the ISO shall:
 - 17.1. give to the Club a copy of it and of the ISO's recommendation as to whether the Club should be granted a licence to operate an Academy and if so what the Category of the Academy should be;
 - 17.2. thereafter hold a meeting with Officials of the Club and representatives of the League to discuss it; and
 - 17.3. consider any representations made by the Club or the League about the Club's ISO Audit and make all appropriate amendments to the ISO Audit consequent upon those representations.

Guidance

It is expected that the Club Officials who will attend the meeting with the ISO and the League referred to in Rule 17.2 will include the Academy Manager and the Chief Executive.



General

18. The PGB, having given due consideration to a Club's ISO Audit and recommendation and to the advice of the League, shall (where appropriate) issue all licences to operate Academies and shall determine the Category of each Academy in respect of which it grants a licence.
19. In determining the Category of each Academy the PGB will consider and rely upon an anonymised report from the ISO on all applications for the same Category, which shall include a comparison of the scores obtained by each applicant and their Malus Scores, and a recommendation by the ISO as to the Category to be awarded, together with reasons.
20. For the avoidance of doubt, a Club shall only have the right to make representations to the PGB in connection with its application for a licence to operate an Academy if it believes that the ISO Audit contains manifest error.
21. A Club may only appeal against the decision of the PGB not to issue it a licence to operate an Academy, or against the PGB's determination of the Category of its Academy, if that decision was:
 - 21.1. reached as a result of fraud, malice or bad faith;
 - 21.2. reached as a result of procedural errors so great that the rights of the Club have been clearly and substantially prejudiced;
 - 21.3. reached as a result of a perverse interpretation of the law; or
 - 21.4. one which could not reasonably have been reached by any tribunal which had applied its mind properly to the facts of the case.
22. Any appeal by a Club pursuant to Rule 21 shall be dealt with in accordance with Rule K (Arbitration) of the Rules of The Football Association.
23. A Club may not:
 - 23.1. re-apply for a licence to operate an Academy within three years of the determination by the PGB of an application made by it unless:
 - 23.1.1. the PGB is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances which justify a further application; and
 - 23.1.2. the Club bears any costs of the League, ISO and PGB reasonably incurred by any of those bodies in assessing and determining the Club's further application; or
 - 23.2. apply for a licence to operate an Academy higher than that which the Club is licensed to operate where those Clubs already operating in that higher Category are scheduled to be re-audited in the following season.

Guidance

Whether there are exceptional circumstances which justify a further application will be entirely at the discretion of the PGB. By way of example only, the following may be considered to be “exceptional circumstances”. However, each case will be judged on its own facts and accordingly there is no guarantee that even if the following apply the PGB will grant permission for a re-application.

The circumstances referred to above include a change in ownership or strategic priority within the Club leading to a significantly high level of commitment to and investment in the Academy. The Club would need to demonstrate an improvement in performance against targets, not simply plans to improve performance.

Rule 23.2 is intended to restrict, for example, a Club operating a Category 3 Academy applying to upgrade to operate a Category 2 Academy during Season 2016/17, as the ISO will be undertaking full audits of all Category 2 Clubs from the start of Season 2016/17 and in those circumstances it is reasonable to expect the Club seeking the upgrade to align with that process.

24. Upon a Club making a further application pursuant to Rule 23, the ISO shall conduct a further ISO Audit of the Club.

25. Any Club or Official making a false statement (whether made verbally or in writing) or falsifying a document in connection with:

- 25.1. an application for an Academy;
- 25.2. the League’s annual evaluation undertaken pursuant to Rule 38;
- 25.3. an ISO Audit; or
- 25.4. any other provision of these Rules,

shall be in breach of these Rules and shall be liable to be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of Section W of the Premier League Rules.

26. If, in breach of Rule 3.2, a Club fails to comply with any Rule in this section, or if a Club or Official makes a false statement or falsifies a document as set out in Rule 25, then the PGB may:

- 26.1. revoke the Club’s licence to operate an Academy; or
- 26.2. suspend the Club’s licence to operate an Academy for such time as it shall determine during which the Club shall have the opportunity to ensure it becomes compliant with the relevant Rule; or
- 26.3. determine that the Club’s Academy shall have a lower Category than its current Category;
- 26.4. withdraw or suspend the Club’s entitlement to any central funding provided for the purposes of youth development; and
- 26.5. in any of the above cases require the ISO to undertake an ISO Audit of the Club’s Academy as soon as reasonably practicable.

27. Without prejudice to Rule 26, any breach of Rules 3.2, 6, 25, 32.2, 42 to 50, 54, 55, 56.1, 116 to 120, 123.2, 127 to 129, 131, 132, 140, 141, 154 to 156, 163 to 165, 172, 173, 177, 178, 181 to 190, 194 to 205, 212, 217, 218, 224 to 230, 244, 246, 247, 250 to 252, 253, 258, 264, 267, 268, 279, 282, 285, 286, 287, 297, 298, 300, 301, 318, 321 or 325 shall be liable to be dealt with under the provisions of Section W of the Premier League Rules.



General

Guidance

Failure to comply with any of the Rules in this section, other than those specified in Rule 27 above, will not ordinarily lead to liability to disciplinary action under Section W. However, such failure to comply may be dealt with pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Club's Academy licence and may lead to the revocation, suspension or downgrading of that licence, or the withdrawal or suspension of central funding, pursuant to Rule 26.

The League considers that the Rules specified in Rule 27 are of such a nature that breach should open the possibility of disciplinary action under Section W because they impact upon other people or entities, and in particular, Academy Players and/or other Clubs.

Youth Development Rules

Strategy, Leadership and Management of the Academy

Strategic Documents

28. Each Club which operates an Academy shall document and make available to the League and to the ISO its Vision Statement, Playing Philosophy and Coaching Philosophy each of which shall be:
- 28.1. drawn up by the Technical Board; and
 - 28.2. annually reviewed and approved by the Club Board.

Academy Performance Plan

29. Each Club which operates an Academy shall prepare and make available to the League and to the ISO its Academy Performance Plan.

Guidance

See also Rule 9.2 which requires the Academy Performance Plan to be submitted as part of the Club's application to operate (or continue to operate) an Academy with effect from 1 July 2016.

30. The Academy Performance Plan shall be drawn up under the guidance of the Academy Manager in consultation with such Officials as the Club may consider appropriate (including, by way of example only, the Manager, the Chief Executive, the Academy Management Team and the technical director if the Club has appointed one and the Technical Board) and shall be reviewed annually by the Academy Manager.
31. The Club Board shall:
- 31.1. annually review and approve the Academy Performance Plan;
 - 31.2. ensure that the Academy Performance Plan is communicated to all relevant Officials; and
 - 31.3. measure the performance of the Academy each year against the objectives, strategy and specific performance targets set out in the Academy Performance Plan and ensure that appropriate action is taken if the performance targets have not been met.

Performance Management Application

32. Each Club which operates an Academy shall:
- 32.1. utilise the Performance Management Application from the date of its implementation by the League and record on it the data listed in Rule 1.58;
 - 32.2. ensure that the data held on the Performance Management Application which is within the Club's control is held securely and is only released to, or accessed by, those Persons who require access to it pursuant to any of these Rules; and
 - 32.3. provide the League with such information as it may from time to time require for the purposes of analysing and benchmarking on a national or Category-wide basis any aspect of the performance of Academy Players or Clubs.



Strategy, Leadership and Management of the Academy

33. Each Club which operates an Academy shall ensure that the Performance Management Application is available for access by the following individuals:
- 33.1. relevant Academy Staff; and
 - 33.2. Parents of its Academy Players aged 17 and younger, and the Academy Players themselves, in relation to information contained on the Performance Management Application which relates to that Academy Player (but excluding information which in the Club's reasonable opinion ought not to be so disclosed).

Technical Board

34. Each Club which operates an Academy shall establish a Technical Board.
35. The membership of the Technical Board shall consist of such Officials as the Club Board deems necessary in order for the Technical Board to properly perform the functions with which it is tasked by these Rules, and accordingly may include:
- 35.1. the Chief Executive;
 - 35.2. the Manager;
 - 35.3. the Academy Manager;
 - 35.4. such Officials as can give input from the following functional areas:
 - 35.4.1. recruitment;
 - 35.4.2. coaching; and
 - 35.4.3. Professional Development Phase coaching; and
 - 35.5. any other Official that the Club deems appropriate.
36. The Technical Board shall provide technical advice and support in the development of the Club's Playing Philosophy, Coaching Philosophy and Coach Competency Framework, and in the development, implementation and monitoring of the Academy Performance Plan.

Guidance

The Club may wish to give consideration to tasking the Technical Board with involvement in the following functions, in addition to those listed in the above Rule:

- defining the profile/role of the Senior Professional Development Coach;
- management of the transition of players into the first team squad;
- defining the Club's recruitment strategy (e.g. home-grown players vs external recruitment);
- playing opportunities for Academy Players at first team level; and
- any other functions which the Club deems appropriate.

Each Club may wish to give consideration to employing a technical director. The employment of a technical director is not mandatory.

Youth Development Rules

Effective Measurement

Academies: Licensing, Evaluation and Audit

37. Each Club which operates an Academy shall conduct an annual self-assessment of its Academy which shall:
- 37.1. be led by its Academy Manager;
 - 37.2. assess the extent to which the Club meets and/or exceeds the criteria pertaining to the relevant Category of Academy set out in this section of the Rules and in the Audit Tool;
 - 37.3. utilise the Audit Tool; and
 - 37.4. be made available to the League, the ISO and, if required, the PGB.
38. The League shall conduct:
- 38.1. on-going monitoring of each Academy; and
 - 38.2. an annual evaluation of each Academy which shall:
 - 38.2.1. consider the Club's annual self-assessment referred to in Rule 37 and its most recent Academy Financial Information;
 - 38.2.2. assess the extent to which the Club meets and/or exceeds the criteria pertaining to the relevant Category of Academy set out in this section of the Rules and in the Audit Tool;
 - 38.2.3. utilise the Audit Tool; and
 - 38.2.4. be made available to the Club, the ISO and, if required, the PGB.
39. A Club shall be entitled to publish the results of its ISO Audit and the Category of its Academy.

Productivity Profile

40. Each year the League will provide each Club which operates an Academy with an up to date Productivity Profile, benchmarked (on an anonymised basis) against other Clubs (and, if appropriate, Football League clubs).



Effective Measurement

Youth Development Rules

Performance Management, Player Development and Progression

Performance Clock

41. Each Club which operates an Academy shall maintain a Performance Clock for each of its Academy Players and ensure that it is made available to:
- 41.1. the Academy Player;
 - 41.2. his Parent (and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing the Club shall provide to the Academy Player and his Parent a copy of his Performance Clock if he ceases to be registered with the Club);
 - 41.3. the League; and
 - 41.4. the ISO.

Guidance

1. The Performance Clock records the player's progress throughout his development. The Performance Clock is an embedded application in the Performance Management Application. Information is carried forward year on year (and from club to club) to build into a comprehensive record of the player's development. The Performance Clock should provide a breakdown of the time spent in individual and team technical and practical development, matches played, sports science and medicine (including psychological and social development) and educational progression. The Performance Clock logs qualitative information and evidence documented by both coach and player relating to a player's successful progression in the above areas. The Performance Clock also evidences the Academy Player's Multi-disciplinary Reviews.
2. It should be noted that while there is scope within the Performance Clock for the Academy Player to give feedback and comments, the primary responsibility to maintain Performance Clocks lies with the Club. Any Club which fails to maintain its Academy Players' Performance Clocks, and make them available in accordance with Rule 41, may jeopardise its categorisation.

Individual Learning Plans and Multi-disciplinary Reviews

42. Each Club which operates an Academy shall ensure that it undertakes a Multi-disciplinary Review in respect of each Academy Player:
- 42.1. every 12 weeks (if he is in one of the Under 9 to Under 11 age groups);
 - 42.2. every six weeks (if he is in one of the Under 12 to Under 18 age groups); and
 - 42.3. with such frequency as is necessary according to his developmental needs (if he is one of the Under 19 to Under 21 age groups).

Guidance

Neither the Academy Player nor his Parent need be present at the Multi-disciplinary Review. See however the Club's obligations under Rules 44, 45 and 47 to 49.



Performance Management, Player Development and Progression

43.	Each Multi-disciplinary Review shall assess the performance and development of the Academy Player against his performance targets set at previous Multi-disciplinary Reviews. At the end of each Multi-disciplinary Review the Club shall update the Academy Player's Individual Learning Plan to take account of conclusions reached at the Multi-disciplinary Review.
44.	Each Club which operates an Academy shall ensure that it conducts a meeting with each of its Academy Players: <ul style="list-style-type: none">44.1. at least every 12 weeks (if he is in one of the Under 9 to Under 11 age groups);44.2. at least every six weeks (if he is in one of the Under 12 to Under 18 age groups); and44.3. with such frequency as is necessary according to his development needs (if he is one of the Under 19 to Under 21 age groups).
45.	At the meetings referred to in Rule 44, the Club shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none">45.1. discuss with the Academy Player his Individual Learning Plan; and45.2. take all appropriate action (for example by way of amending his Individual Learning Plan to set mutually agreed performance targets and/or such individual coaching, athletic development or educational support as may be necessary).
46.	Each Multi-disciplinary Review shall be recorded on the Academy Player's Performance Clock.
47.	Each Club which operates an Academy shall meet with the Parent of each Academy Player under the age of 18 at least twice a year and provide to and discuss with the Parent a detailed review of all aspects of the Academy Player's performance and development based on his most recent Multi-disciplinary Reviews.
48.	A written record of the discussion referred to in Rule 47 shall be given to the Parent and noted on the Academy Player's Performance Clock.
49.	Each Club which operates an Academy shall, between 1 May and 30 June in each year, provide to the Parent of each Academy Player under the age of 18 an annual written report on all aspects of the Academy Player's performance and development over the preceding season.
50.	Each Club shall permit a representative of the League to attend Multi-disciplinary Reviews if so requested by the League.

Guidance

It is recommended that one of the meetings referred to in Rule 47 is held at around the mid-season point and the other at the end of the season. The annual written report referred to in Rule 49 should form the basis of the end of season meeting.

Regular reviews of all aspects of an Academy Player's development are a key part of the Elite Player Performance Plan. Each periodic Multi-disciplinary Review will have input from each discipline within the Academy (coaching, education and welfare, and sports science and medicine).

The following best practice recommendations are made, which supplement the above minimum requirements.

Performance Management, Player Development and Progression

1. Multi-disciplinary Reviews should not only measure the Academy Player's progression against his own performance targets, but also benchmark his development against that of his peers.
2. The procedure for undertaking Multi-disciplinary Reviews with Academy Players should follow a standard protocol. The meeting should involve the head coach for the Academy Player's Development Phase and the Head of Education (particularly if the Club is providing education to the Academy Player), plus any other relevant Academy Staff (e.g. sports scientists) as required.
3. Similar protocols may be adopted for the meetings with Parents. Thus, it is recommended that the meeting is attended by the head coach for the Academy Player's Development Phase, the Head of Education and any other relevant Academy Staff.



Performance Management, Player Development and Progression

Youth Development Rules

Staff

General

51. Each Club which operates an Academy shall establish a staffing structure for its Academy which shall:
 - 51.1. subject to Rule 52, include the mandatory posts required by this section of the Rules for the Category applicable to its Academy; and
 - 51.2. have regard to the guidelines and best practice set out in the Elite Player Performance Plan.
52. Save for the Academy Manager and the coaches described in Rules 70 and 71, a Club need not employ those Academy Staff whose employment is mandatory for the Category of its Academy pursuant to these Rules provided that the Club is able to demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the League, the ISO or the PGB (whichever body is appropriate), that its staffing structure includes the same expertise and achieves the same results as if all the mandatory posts required by this section of the Rules were filled.

Guidance

The functions covered by the mandatory posts must be delivered by all Clubs operating an Academy. However, the League acknowledges that Clubs should have flexibility in the organisation of their staffing structure provided that the structure that is adopted delivers the same outputs and results as if the mandatory posts were filled.

The exceptions to this are the post of Academy Manager and the coaches set out in Rules 70 and 71: a Club must employ a Full Time Academy Manager in accordance with Rules 59 to 65 and coaches in accordance with Rules 70 and 71.

53. The Club shall document its staffing structure in an organisational chart which shall:
 - 53.1. show the reporting lines of each member of Academy Staff; and
 - 53.2. be made available to Academy Staff, the League and the ISO.
54. The relationship between a Club and each member of its Academy Staff shall be appropriately documented by way of:
 - 54.1. an employment contract;
 - 54.2. a statement of terms of employment pursuant to Section 1 of the Employment Rights Act 1996; or
 - 54.3. in the case of a non-employee, a contract for services.
55. Each member of Academy Staff shall be given:
 - 55.1. a written job description (which may be contained in the document referred to in Rule 54); and
 - 55.2. an annual performance appraisal.



Staff

56. Each Club which operates an Academy shall:
- 56.1. provide Continued Professional Development to members of Academy Staff where required to do so pursuant to these Rules; and
 - 56.2. take all reasonable steps to ensure that each member of Academy Staff who is required by these Rules to undertake Continued Professional Development does so.

Guidance

It is envisaged that CPD will be delivered partly by Clubs and partly externally (e.g. by The Football Association).

Academy Management Team

57. Each Club which operates an Academy shall establish an Academy Management Team which shall:
- 57.1. be led by the Academy Manager; and
 - 57.2. in addition to the Academy Manager, consist of such other Officials as the Club Board deems necessary in order for the Academy Management Team to properly perform the functions with which it is tasked by these Rules and otherwise, and which may accordingly include the Head of Education, the Head of Sports Science and Medicine, the Head of Recruitment, the Head of Academy Coaching and the Academy Secretary.
58. The Academy Management Team shall assist the Academy Manager in running the operations of the Academy in accordance with the Club's Academy Performance Plan.

Guidance

This Section of the Rules should be read subject to Rule 52. If a Club does not employ one of the Officials described in Rule 57.2, Clubs should consider including representation from the relevant functional area on the Academy Management Team.

Academy Manager

59. Each Club which operates an Academy shall employ a Full Time Academy Manager.
60. The Academy Manager's appointment shall be approved by the Club Board.
61. The Academy Manager shall report to the Chief Executive or to such other senior administrative Official of the Club as the Club Board shall approve.

Staff

62. The responsibilities of the Academy Manager shall include (unless otherwise approved by the Board):
 - 62.1. guiding the development of the Club's Playing Philosophy, Coaching Philosophy and Coaching Curriculum;
 - 62.2. drawing up the Academy Performance Plan as set out in, and subject to the provisions of, Rule 30;
 - 62.3. implementing the Academy Performance Plan;
 - 62.4. advising the Club Board on:
 - 62.4.1. whether the Academy has met the performance targets set out in the Academy Performance Plan; and
 - 62.4.2. the action to be taken by the Club if the Academy has not met those performance targets;
 - 62.5. ensuring the effective use by all appropriate Academy Staff of the Performance Management Application, Performance Clocks, and the Audit Tool, including ensuring that all relevant data is recorded thereon;
 - 62.6. the design, implementation and management of the Academy's Coaching Curriculum;
 - 62.7. conducting an annual self-assessment of the Academy in accordance with the provisions of Rule 37;
 - 62.8. providing all necessary assistance to the League in connection with its on-going monitoring and annual evaluations of the Academy and to the ISO in connection with the ISO Audits;
 - 62.9. ensuring that all Academy Staff undertake the Continued Professional Development required of them by this section of the Rules;
 - 62.10. being the line manager of the Head of Education, Head of Coaching and Head of Recruitment; and
 - 62.11. liaising with the Club's Manager as appropriate.

Guidance

It is acknowledged that some Academy Managers may also have important roles as coaches and that the above responsibilities may limit the time they have for coaching. As a consequence, the Academy Manager will be entitled to delegate some of his functions to other staff at the Academy to enable him to continue to undertake coaching. In particular, if the Academy Manager also has coaching responsibilities, Clubs may wish to give consideration to appointing an Operations Manager, being a senior administrator who will have day-to-day responsibility for many of the executive and operational issues of the Academy. However, it should be borne in mind that the Academy Manager will remain ultimately responsible for all of the above matters regardless of any delegation.

63. Subject to Rule 64, each Academy Manager must hold:
 - 63.1. an up to date UEFA A Licence;
 - 63.2. an FA Youth Award; and
 - 63.3. an FA Advanced Youth Award.



Staff

Guidance

An Academy Managers' development programme will be developed in conjunction with Clubs.

Rule 63.3 will be complied with regardless of which of the age-specific specialist element of the Award the Academy Manager holds, so long as he holds one.

64. A Club may appoint as Academy Manager a Person who does not hold the qualifications set out in Rule 63 provided that the Head of Academy Coaching:
- 64.1. holds these qualifications;
 - 64.2. is tasked with overseeing the Coaching Curriculum; and
 - 64.3. is a member of the Academy Management Team and sits on the Technical Board.

Guidance

Consideration is being given to a specific course/qualification for Academy Managers who do not hold the required coaching qualifications. This may become mandatory for such Academy Managers. Further guidance will be given to Clubs in due course.

65. The Academy Manager must undertake Continued Professional Development organised by the Club. In addition, where the Academy Manager holds a qualification set out in Rule 63, he must attend such training provided by The FA as is necessary to maintain the validity of that qualification and at least five hours of in-service training to be provided by the League every year and hold a current Basic First Aid for Sport Qualification or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board.

Academy Secretary

66. Each Club which operates an Academy shall appoint an Academy Secretary who shall be employed Full Time (in the case of a Club which operates a Category 1 or Category 2 Academy), and at least Part Time (in the case of a Club which operates a Category 3 or Category 4 Academy).
67. The Academy Secretary shall:
- 67.1. provide administrative support to the Academy Manager and the Academy Management Team;
 - 67.2. act as the point of contact between the Academy and the League for all administrative matters, including the submission of required information; and
 - 67.3. be familiar with all relevant provisions of these Youth Development Rules, as amended from time to time.

Guidance

This section of the Rules should be read subject to Rule 52.

Head of Academy Coaching

68. Each Club which operates an Academy shall employ a Head of Academy Coaching who shall:
- 68.1. report to the Academy Manager;
 - 68.2. subject to Rule 62.6, have responsibility for delivery of the Academy's Coaching Curriculum;
 - 68.3. be responsible for designing and delivering the Club's Continued Professional Development programme, which shall reflect the Club's Playing Philosophy and Coaching Philosophy and each coach's Coach Competency Framework for all the Club's Academy coaches;
 - 68.4. discharge the responsibilities with regard to Development Action Plans set out at Rules 84 to 86;
 - 68.5. hold at least an up to date UEFA A Licence, an FA Youth Award, and an FA Advanced Youth Award;
 - 68.6. hold a current Basic First Aid for Sport Qualification or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board;
 - 68.7. have recent and relevant experience of coaching Academy Players in an Academy (or of a comparable environment);
 - 68.8. be employed Full Time (in the case of a Head of Academy Coaching employed in a Category 1 or Category 2 Academy) or at least Part Time (in the case of a Category 3 or Category 4 Academy);
 - 68.9. attend at least five hours of in-service training to be provided by the League each year;
 - 68.10. attend such training to be provided by The FA as is necessary to maintain the validity of the qualifications set out in Rule 68.5; and
 - 68.11. in conjunction with each of the Club's coaches, plan, deliver and monitor the delivery of individual development plans for each such coach.
69. In addition to the in-service training referred to in Rule 68.9, the Head of Academy Coaching must undertake Continued Professional Development organised by the Club.

Guidance

It is recommended (and mandatory in the circumstances set out in Rule 64) that the Head of Academy Coaching will be a senior appointment in the Academy and a member of the Academy Management Team and sit on the Technical Board.

This section of the Rules should be read subject to Rule 52.



Staff

Coaches

70. Each Club which operates an Academy shall employ as a minimum the number of Full Time coaches for each Development Phase in accordance with the Category of its Academy as set out in the following table:

	Foundation Phase	Youth Development Phase	Professional Development Phase
Category 1	2	2	2
Category 2	1	2	2
Category 3	1	1	2
Category 4	N/A	N/A	2

Guidance

For those Clubs which operate a Category 3 or Category 4 Academy, the Academy Manager and Head of Academy Coaching may count towards the minimum numbers required under Rule 70. Further consideration will be given to this in due course as it is however best practice that they are not included in the count of coaches under Rule 70.

71. In addition to the coaches set out in Rule 70 each Club shall employ sufficient additional coaching staff (Full Time or Part Time) to ensure that the coach to Academy Players ratios set out in Rule 119 are maintained.

72. Each Club shall appoint one Full Time coach in each Development Phase who shall be the lead coach for that phase and be responsible for managing the delivery of coaching within it, and who shall hold at least an up to date UEFA A Licence.

Goalkeeping Coaches

73. Each Club which operates an Academy shall employ, either on a Full Time or Part Time basis, such goalkeeping coaches as are necessary to ensure that each Academy Player who is a goalkeeper receives the required hours of coaching set out in Rule 116.

74. Each goalkeeping coach must:
- 74.1. attend at least five hours of in-service training to be provided by The Football Association each year;
 - 74.2. attend the first aid training for Academy coaches provided by The Football Association at least once every three years; and
 - 74.3. undertake Continued Professional Development organised by the Club.

Staff

75. Each goalkeeping coach must hold an up to date UEFA B Licence and an FA Goalkeeping Coaching B Licence.

Guidance

This section of the Rules should be read subject to Rule 52.

Senior Professional Development Coach

76. Each Club which operates a Category 1 or Category 2 Academy shall (and a Club which operates a Category 3 or Category 4 Academy may) appoint a Senior Professional Development Coach who shall:
- 76.1. report to the Academy Manager;
 - 76.2. liaise with the Manager;
 - 76.3. hold a UEFA A Licence and the FA Advanced Youth Award with the age specific specialist element relevant to the Professional Development Phase;
 - 76.4. oversee on a day-to-day basis the Coaching Curriculum for the Under 19 to Under 21 age groups;
 - 76.5. manage the transition of Academy Players to the Club's senior squad in accordance with the Club's procedure for the same described in Rule 78;
 - 76.6. contribute to the Multi-disciplinary Reviews of all Academy Players in the Professional Development Phase; and
 - 76.7. manage the Club's team which competes in the Professional Development League.
77. Each Club which operates a Category 3 or Category 4 Academy that does not appoint a Senior Professional Development Coach in accordance with Rule 76 shall assign a member of the coaching staff responsible for the coaching of the Club's professional players to act as a liaison coach who shall:
- 77.1. liaise with the Academy Manager;
 - 77.2. liaise with the Manager; and
 - 77.3. manage the transition of Academy Players to the Club's senior squad in accordance with the Club's procedure for the same described in Rule 78.
78. Each Club which operates an Academy shall develop, implement and provide evidence of a procedure to enable the transition of Academy Players to its senior squad.

Guidance

This section of the Rules should be read subject to Rule 52.

**Coaches: Qualifications and Professional Development**

79. Subject to Rule 80, each coach (excluding goalkeeping coaches to whom Rule 74 applies) must from the commencement of and throughout their employment hold:
- 79.1. an up to date UEFA B Licence (save where these Rules require a coach to hold an up to date UEFA A Licence);
 - 79.2. an FA Youth Award; and
 - 79.3. an up to date FA Advanced Youth Award with the age-specific specialist element relevant to the Development Phase which he coaches.
80. A coach employed by a Club prior to 1 July 2015 who does not hold a qualification required by Rule 79 shall acquire it by 30 July 2017.

Guidance

These Rules require the following Academy Staff to hold an up to date UEFA A Licence:

- Head of Academy Coaching (Rule 68.5);
- Senior Professional Development Coach (Rule 76.3).

81. Each coach (including goalkeeping coaches) must attend at least five hours of in-service training to be provided by the Football Association or League each year and hold a current Basic First Aid for Sport Qualification or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board.
82. In addition to the in-service training referred to in Rule 81, each coach must undertake Continued Professional Development organised by the Club.

Guidance

The League, The Football League and The FA will establish and maintain a national database of qualifications of coaches, and the in-service training they have undertaken.

83. Each Club which operates an Academy shall prepare a Coach Competency Framework, which must be approved by its Technical Board.
84. Each Club shall ensure that the Head of Academy Coaching provides to each of its Academy coaches (including goalkeeping coaches and the Senior Professional Development Coach) a Development Action Plan, that is to say the Head of Academy Coaching shall undertake an assessment of the competencies of each Academy coach and discuss this with him, and agree with him the competencies and behaviours which he needs to develop, and the activities which he will undertake in order to develop them, and the timeframe within which he will undertake them, and record the same in writing and give a copy to the coach.
85. The Club must record evidence that the actions referred to in the Development Action Plan have been undertaken, and review those actions within an appropriate period with the coach, and amend the Development Action Plan if necessary.
86. The Club shall ensure that the Head of Academy Coaching reviews, and if necessary amends, each coach's Development Action Plan with such frequency as is necessary.

Head of Academy Sports Science and Medicine

87. Each Club which operates a Category 1 and Category 2 Academy shall appoint a Full Time Head of Academy Sports Science and Medicine who shall report to either the Academy Manager or the Official who is responsible for Sports Science and Medicine for the entire Club (and whichever he reports to, he shall liaise closely with the other).
88. Each Club which operates a Category 3 or Category 4 Academy shall demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the League, the ISO or PGB (whichever body is appropriate) that its Sports Science and Medicine Programme for Academy Players is appropriately managed and delivered.

Guidance

A Club which operates a Category 3 or Category 4 Academy may choose to buy in support for this function on a Part Time basis.

89. The Head of Academy Sports Science and Medicine shall be responsible for managing and delivering the Sports Science and Medicine Programme for all Academy Players registered with the Club.
90. The Head of Academy Sports Science and Medicine:
- 90.1. shall be either:
 - 90.1.1. a registered physiotherapist member of the Health and Care Professions Council;
 - 90.1.2. a registered medical practitioner licensed to practise by the General Medical Council (and shall comply with the General Medical Council's requirements concerning annual appraisal, scope of practice, indemnity and revalidation of doctors) with a diploma in Sport and Exercise Medicine or equivalent or higher qualification; or
 - 90.1.3. the holder of at least a master's degree in sports science (or other relevant discipline) from a recognised university and have or be working towards British Association of Sport and Exercise Sciences accreditation; and
 - 90.2. shall have recent and relevant professional experience in a sports performance environment.

Guidance

Under Rule 90.1.2, where the Academy Doctor is not head of department the further qualification is still necessary if the doctor is providing independent unsupervised management in the area of Sport and Exercise Medicine.



Staff

91.	The Head of Academy Sports Science Medicine shall hold either:
91.1.	if he is a registered physiotherapist member of the Health and Care Professions Council or a registered medical practitioner, a current Football Association Advanced Resuscitation and Emergency Aid certificate or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board; or
91.2.	if he is neither of the above, a current Intermediate First Aid for Sport Qualification or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board.
92.	For the avoidance of doubt, if the Head of Academy Sports Science and Medicine is not a registered physiotherapist member of the Health and Care Professions Council or a registered medical practitioner (as set out in Rule 91.1 and 91.2 respectively) then the primacy of decisions regarding the clinical treatment of Academy Players shall rest with a physiotherapist or registered medical practitioner.
93.	The Head of Academy Sports Science and Medicine must undertake Continued Professional Development organised by the Club or the League.

Guidance

It is envisaged that the Person who is appointed to this role shall have had recent relevant experience (which will be assessed by the League and/or the ISO), including managerial experience in a sports science environment.

This section of the Rules should be read subject to Rule 52.

Lead Sports Scientist

94.	Each Club which operates a Category 1 or Category 2 Academy shall appoint a Full Time Lead Sports Scientist who shall:
94.1.	hold at least a bachelor's degree in sports science (or another relevant discipline) from a recognised university;
94.2.	have recent and relevant professional experience in a sports performance environment;
94.3.	co-ordinate and lead the sports science services for the Academy; and
94.4.	hold a current Basic First Aid for Sport Qualification or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board.
95.	Each Club which operates a Category 3 or Category 4 Academy shall demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the League, the ISO or the PGB (whichever body is appropriate) that it delivers sufficient and appropriate sports science services to its Academy Players.
96.	The Lead Sports Scientist must undertake Continued Professional Development organised by the Club.

Guidance

For Clubs' obligations generally regarding the provision of sports science and medicine, see Rules 214 to 225.

Staff

It is envisaged that the Person appointed to this role will have recent, relevant experience (which will be assessed by the League and/or the ISO). A Club which operates a Category 3 or Category 4 Academy may choose to buy in support for this function on a part time basis.

This section of the Rules should be read subject to Rule 52.

Lead Strength and Conditioning Coach

97. Each Club which operates a Category 1 or 2 Academy shall employ a Lead Strength and Conditioning Coach who shall:
- 97.1. in the case of a Category 1 Academy, be employed Full Time, and in the case of a Category 2 Academy, be employed at least Part Time;
 - 97.2. be responsible for providing to the Club's Academy Players appropriate strength and conditioning training and monitoring as part of the Sports Science and Medicine Programme;
 - 97.3. hold at least a bachelor's degree in sports science (or another relevant discipline) from a recognised university and have or be working towards British Association of Sport and Exercise Sciences accreditation;
 - 97.4. hold a current Basic First Aid for Sport Qualification or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board; and
 - 97.5. have attended the following workshops run by the UK Strength and Conditioning Association (or equivalent workshops run by any equivalent body):
 - 97.5.1. Foundation Workshop and Certification (Level 1);
 - 97.5.2. Weightlifting Workshop;
 - 97.5.3. Plyometric, Agility and Speed Workshop;
 - 97.5.4. Planning Effective Programmes Workshop; and
 - 97.5.5. report to the Lead Sports Scientist.
98. The Lead Strength and Conditioning Coach must undertake Continued Professional Development organised by the Club.

Guidance

It is recommended that Category 2 Academies employ the Lead Strength and Conditioning Coach on a Full Time basis, but the League acknowledges that this may not always be possible, therefore, the minimum role is stated to be Part Time.

This section of the Rules should be read subject to Rule 52.

Senior Academy Physiotherapist

99. Each Club which operates an Academy shall appoint a Senior Academy Physiotherapist who shall:
- 99.1. be Full Time in the case of a Category 1, Category 2 or Category 3 Academy and at least Part Time in the case of a Category 4 Academy;



Staff

- 99.2. be a registered physiotherapist member of the Health and Care Professions Council (save that a Club which operates a Category 3 or 4 Academy may continue to employ as its Senior Academy Physiotherapist any Person so employed at the time of these Rules coming into force who does not hold the qualifications specified in this Rule provided that he has successfully completed the Football Association's Diploma in the Treatment and Management of Injuries course or an equivalent or higher qualification. Any Person appointed thereafter must hold the qualifications specified by this Rule);
- 99.3. have recent and relevant professional experience in a sports performance environment;
- 99.4. if employed by a Club which operates a Category 1 or Category 2 Academy hold a current Football Association Advanced Resuscitation and Emergency Aid certificate or if employed by a Club which operates a Category 3 or Category 4 Academy hold a current Intermediate First Aid for Sport Qualification (or in either case an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board);
- 99.5. co-ordinate and lead the physiotherapy service within the Academy;
- 99.6. ensure that Rules 224.1 and 225 are complied with; and
- 99.7. undertake Continued Professional Development organised by the Club.

Guidance

This section of the Rules should be read subject to Rule 52.

Physiotherapists and Sports Therapists

- 100. In addition to the Senior Academy Physiotherapist referred to at Rule 99, each Club which operates a Category 1 or Category 2 Academy shall employ at least one Full Time physiotherapist who shall be a registered physiotherapist member of the Health and Care Professions Council and (where his duties include attendance at matches) hold a current Football Association Advanced Resuscitation and Emergency Aid certificate.
- 101. Any Sports Therapist employed by a Club must be subject to the management and supervision of a registered physiotherapist member of the Health and Care Professions Council and (where his duties include attendance at matches) hold a current Football Association Advanced Resuscitation and Emergency Aid certificate.
- 102. Each physiotherapist and Sports Therapist employed pursuant to Rules 100 and 101 must undertake Continued Professional Development organised by the Club and each such physiotherapist shall hold a current Intermediate First Aid for Sport Qualification or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board.

Guidance

All Sports Therapists must have a doctor or paramedic registered with the Health and Care Professions Council working alongside them on match day in the Professional Development Phase. At Category 3 and Category 4 the foregoing shall apply unless a Sports Therapist holds a current Intermediate First Aid for

Staff

Sport Qualification. For younger age groups, Rule 225 applies.

Sports Therapists are not currently eligible to be registered with the Health and Care Professions Council. It is likely that this may change in the year or two and that if and when it does, an amendment to the Rules will be proposed to require all Sports Therapists working within Clubs to be so registered.

This section of the Rules should be read subject to Rule 52.

Academy Doctor

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 103. | Each Club which operates an Academy shall appoint an Academy Doctor who shall: |
| 103.1. | be a registered medical practitioner licensed to practise by the General Medical Council (and shall comply with the General Medical Council's requirements concerning annual appraisal, scope of practice, indemnity and revalidation of doctors); |
| 103.2. | be available to assess and, if appropriate, undertake the treatment of any playing injuries suffered by an Academy Player; |
| 103.3. | undertake Continued Professional Development; |
| 103.4. | be available for consultation at the Academy on at least one occasion per week (in addition to any attendance at matches); and |
| 103.5. | be responsible for the preparation of each Club's Emergency Action Plan. |

Guidance

- Whether the Academy Doctor should be Full Time or Part Time has not been specified, it being recognised that the role may be fulfilled by a doctor who also has responsibilities for the professional squad, or who has other professional responsibilities outside the Club.
- See also Rules 224 and 225 concerning the medical cover at coaching and matches.
- The League will gather and share best practice in relation to Emergency Action Plans.
- This section of the Rules should be read subject to Rule 52.

Performance Analysts

- | | |
|------|---|
| 104. | Each Club which operates a Category 1 Academy shall employ a minimum of two Full Time Performance Analysts. |
| 105. | Each Club which operates a Category 2 Academy shall employ a minimum of two Performance Analysts, one on a Full Time basis, and the other at least Part Time. |

Guidance

For Category 2 Academies, the Performance Analysts could be, for example, a student undertaking a Masters degree in a sports science related field who is on a placement as part of their Masters course.

- | | |
|------|--|
| 106. | The Performance Analysts shall undertake Performance Analysis of Academy Players registered with the Club. |
| 107. | The Performance Analysts must undertake Continued Professional Development organised by the Club. |



Staff

Guidance

This section of the Rules should be read subject to Rule 52.

Head of Education

108. Each Club which operates an Academy shall appoint a Head of Education who shall:
- 108.1. report to the Academy Manager;
 - 108.2. have responsibility for:
 - 108.2.1. the organisation, management and delivery of the Club's Education Programme;
 - 108.2.2. the educational progression of all Academy Players registered with the Club (subject to the duties of any educational establishment at which an Academy Player's education is taking place);
 - 108.2.3. ensuring that the education of an Academy Player engaged on the Hybrid or Full Time Training Model is not prejudiced as a result of his being so engaged; and
 - 108.2.4. ensuring all documents and records relating to the education of Academy Players required by these Rules are in place and up-to-date,
 - 108.3. undertake benchmarking of the educational progression of each year group of Academy Players engaged on the Hybrid and Full Time Training Models against national data, and make the result of that benchmarking available to the League;
 - 108.4. ensure that the Academy's educational provision reflects the strategy and performance targets set out in the Club's Academy Performance Plan;
 - 108.5. hold Qualified Teacher Status and have relevant experience (in the case of Category 1 and 2 Academies) or, as a minimum, possess a teaching qualification or further education teaching qualification (in the case of Category 3 and Category 4 Academies);
 - 108.6. be Full Time (in the case of Category 1 and Category 2 Academies); and
 - 108.7. undertake Continued Professional Development organised by the Club.

Guidance

See also:

1. Rule 210 which requires each Club to nominate a member of Academy Staff to be responsible for the management and delivery of the Club's programme to educate Academy Players in Lifestyle Management Skills. It is recommended (although not mandatory) that the Head of Education and Welfare is tasked with this.
2. Rule 212 pursuant to which the Head of Education and Welfare or other appropriate Official must manage the Club's exit/release strategy.

This section of the Rules should be read subject to Rule 52.

Head of Recruitment

109. Each Club which operates an Academy shall employ a Head of Recruitment who shall:
- 109.1. report to the Academy Manager;
 - 109.2. have responsibility for the organisation, management and delivery of the Club's policies and procedures for the recruitment of Academy Players;
 - 109.3. have responsibility for the recruitment and training of the Club's Scouts (including taking all reasonable steps to ensure that they comply with the requirements regarding qualifications, registration and Continued Professional Development set out at Rule 226);
 - 109.4. be in possession of such qualification as the League may require from time to time;
 - 109.5. undertake at least five hours of in-service training each year;
 - 109.6. undertake Continued Professional Development organised by the Club; and
 - 109.7. be Full Time in the case of Category 1 and Category 2 Academies, and at least Part Time in the case of Category 3 and 4 Academies.

Guidance

1. Ideally a Club's strategy for talent identification and recruitment should flow from its Vision Statement and Playing Philosophy and be fully integrated into its Academy Performance Plan and the multi-disciplinary approach to youth development envisaged by the Elite Player Performance Plan. Clubs may wish to document a recruitment strategy which sets out:
 - the profile of the players it seeks to recruit in each age group, having regard to the desired technical, tactical, maturation, social and psychological characteristics required at each age;
 - its target groups (e.g. local v national recruitment, players attending Development Centres or local schools/boys' clubs etc);
 - synchronisation between coaches and recruiters to ensure that, for example, assessment procedures match those by which the Academy's existing Academy Players are assessed, and that new recruits transit easily into the Academy environment;
 - a strategy for late developers (including the Academy's own Academy Players whose maturation rates are slow but who eventually catch up with their peers); and
 - ensuring accurate scouting records are maintained.Clubs may then wish to develop an activity plan to implement the recruitment strategy.
2. With regard to Rule 109.4 above, it is envisaged that a new qualification for Scouts will be developed in due course.
3. This section of the Rules should be read subject to Rule 52.

**Interns**

110. The Head of Academy Sports Science and Medicine must ensure that the Club records and, if requested, makes available to the League, the following details of every intern working within the Academy:
- 110.1. name, date of birth and contact details (phone number, address and email address);
 - 110.2. qualifications (both academic and sporting such as coaching qualifications);
 - 110.3. details of the intern's current course, including the institution at which he is enrolled, the name of the course, and the name and contact details of his tutor; and
 - 110.4. the contact details of a member of Academy Staff who is responsible for supervising the intern whilst he is at the Academy.

Guidance

Clubs' attention is also drawn to Section S of the Premier League Rules: Safeguarding. Clubs must ensure that these Rules are complied with in respect of any intern to whom they are applicable. Clubs must also ensure that they comply with all applicable legislation, including that concerning the national minimum wage.

Youth Development Rules

Coaching

Coaching Curriculum

111. Each Club which operates an Academy shall prepare (and make available to the League and to the ISO on request) a Coaching Curriculum which shall have regard to:
- 111.1. the Club's Vision Statement, Coaching Philosophy and Playing Philosophy;
 - 111.2. the Club's Academy Performance Plan;
 - 111.3. sections 6.6 – 6.8 of the Elite Player Performance Plan (save as regards the reference to minimum hours of coaching, as to which see Rule 116); and
 - 111.4. these Rules.
112. The Club's Coaching Curriculum shall be drawn up by the Academy Manager (or, in the circumstances set out in Rule 64, the Head of Academy Coaching) who shall consult with all appropriate Club Officials (which may include the Manager, the Chief Executive, coaching staff, the Academy Management Team and the Technical Director if the Club has appointed one).
113. The Club's Technical Board shall approve the Club's Coaching Curriculum.

Guidance

Reference is made in the Rule to sections 6.6 to 6.8 of the Elite Player Performance Plan, which set out further detail about the Coaching Curriculum in each Development Phase.

It is recommended that the Coaching Curriculum gives particular consideration to desired outcomes and the coaching strategies needed to achieve them at each Development Phase.

See also Rule 62.6 (role of Academy Manager in the Coaching Curriculum) and Rule 68.2 (role of the Head of Academy Coaching).

Coaching Hours

114. The coaching of age groups Under 15 and older in Category 1 and Category 2 Academies shall take place over 46 weeks of each year, such weeks to be determined by reference to the Games Programme Schedule (including the two periods set out therein during which no matches in the Foundation Phase and Youth Development Phase Games Programmes shall take place).
115. All other coaching in Academies shall take place over 40 weeks of each year.



Coaching

116. Save as otherwise permitted by the PGB, the minimum hours of coaching to be delivered by Academies each week to each Academy Player (subject to his fitness) and the permitted Training Model per Category and per Development Phase are as follows:

		Foundation Phase	Youth Development Phase	Professional Development Phase
Category 1	Coaching hours per week	4 rising to 8 for older Academy Players	10 rising to 12 for older Academy Players	14 reducing to 12 for Academy Players who have commitments to the professional squad during the Professional Development Phase
	Permitted Training Model	Part Time, Hybrid	Part Time, Hybrid, Full Time	Full Time
Category 2	Coaching hours per week	3 rising to 5 for older Academy Players	6 rising to 12 for older Academy Players	14 reducing to 12 for Academy Players who have commitments to the professional squad during the Professional Development Phase
	Permitted Training Model	Part Time	Part Time, Hybrid	Full Time
Category 3	Coaching hours per week	3	4 rising to 6 for older Academy Players (See Guidance below)	12
	Permitted Training Model	Part Time	Part Time	Full Time
Category 4	Coaching hours per week	N/A	N/A	14 reducing to 12 for Academy Players who have commitments to the professional squad during the Professional Development Phase Games Programmes
	Permitted Training Model	N/A	N/A	Full Time

Coaching

Guidance

1. The above hours of coaching are the minimum the Rules require per week, subject to the Academy Player's fitness. It is acknowledged, however, that Academies can alter these hours as they see fit, provided that the above stated hours are achieved on average over each six or 12 week Multi-disciplinary Review period (as relevant). As regards "subject to fitness", this includes not only where an Academy Player is recuperating from injury, but also where in the opinion of the coaching staff and/or the medical and sports science staff, his coaching hours need to be reduced for him to receive adequate rest and recovery and/or avoid overuse injuries.

Coaching in the above tables refers to on-the-pitch coaching (and for the avoidance of doubt excludes time in matches). It is expected that Clubs will need to spend additional time in other environments off the pitch in order to work with Academy Players to assist them in developing the key technical, tactical, physical and psychological and social skills.

Where an Academy falls short of providing its Academy Players with the above hours of coaching, the Academy will need to demonstrate that despite this, its Academy Players are being provided with a proper Coaching Curriculum. This can be demonstrated by the progression of the Academy Player at each stage of the development process.

2. For Category 3 Clubs in the Youth Development Phase, the hours stated above should be applied as follows:
U12 and U13: 4 hours
U14: 5 hours
U15 and U16: 6 hours
3. A Club may be permitted to operate a Training Model in a particular Development Phase other than as set out in the table in Rule 116. This would need to be approved in advance by the PGB (who may take advice from the Education Advisory Group).

117. The maximum time in which Academy Players in the Foundation Phase can be engaged in a single coaching session is 90 minutes and there will be appropriate rest periods between each such session.

118. Each Club shall ensure that:

118.1. each Academy Player has access to an individual coaching plan tailored to his specific needs;

118.2. each Academy Player is made aware of his individual coaching plan (and any changes thereto) as soon as reasonably practicable in advance of his being coached in accordance with it; and

118.3. all coaching is recorded on the Academy Player's Performance Clock.

119. Each Club shall ensure that a coach to Academy Players and Trialists ratio of 1:10 is maintained for all coaching sessions (save that the ratio for Category 1 Academies using the Full Time Training Model shall be 1:8).

120. Each Club shall ensure that each Academy Player in age groups Under 9 and older participates at least once a year in a Festival (or other coaching event such as a Training Camp or a Tournament) which lasts for at least two days.



Coaching

121. Each Club shall ensure that each of its coaches plans each coaching session by setting out the learning objectives which the session is designed to achieve and the coaching which will be given in order to achieve them.

Development Centres

122. Each Club which operates a Category 1, Category 2 or Category 3 Academy may operate one or more Development Centres, to be located within one hour's travelling time of the location of its principal venue for the provision of coaching and education to Academy Players.
123. A Child being coached at a Club's Development Centre:
- 123.1. may not be registered for that Club;
 - 123.2. may not play in matches for that Club unless registered as a Trialist; and
 - 123.3. will be free to play for other teams.
124. Clubs which operate Development Centres shall keep an attendance record of all the Children who participate in coaching sessions thereat.
125. Each Development Centre operated by a Club may be inspected from time to time by the League and by the ISO.
126. Without prejudice to the generality of Rule 125, the inspection referred to in that Rule may include:
- 126.1. inspection of the facilities provided; and
 - 126.2. assessment of whether the coaching provided at the Development Centre is in accordance with the Club's coaching syllabus.
127. No Club shall cause or permit a Child 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.
128. No Club shall cause or permit a team representing its Development Centre to play football against a team representing another Club (or a Football League club).

Guidance

The above Rules are based on the existing provisions concerning Development Centres. It is proposed that further consultation is undertaken with Clubs to explore and redefine the future role of Development Centres.

Youth Development Rules

Games Programme

General

129. Save as permitted by the Board, Clubs shall not affiliate to any other youth leagues or enter any cup competitions except The Football Association Youth Challenge Cup.
130. An Academy Player whose registration is held by a Club which operates an Academy shall play football only in a Games Programme or in Authorised Games and in coaching and training games (participation in which is limited to registered Academy Players and Trialists) organised by and played at an Academy.
131. A Club which operates an Academy shall not require, cause or allow an Academy Player whose registration it holds to play football except as permitted by Rule 130.
132. Each Club which operates an Academy shall record in each Academy Player's Performance Clock:
- 132.1. each match in which he has played; and
 - 132.2. his playing time in each match.

Guidance

With regard to Rule 132.1, the matches which are to be recorded on an Academy Player's Performance Clock include all Authorised Games in which he plays.

The Performance Clock may be used to record other playing information about the Academy Player, e.g. substitutions, cautions, position played in. It forms part of the Performance Management Application.

133. In all matches that form part of the Games Programme, each Club is required to ensure that all participating Academy Players wear a shirt bearing a clearly visible number on the back, which corresponds to the number allocated to the relevant Academy Player on any teamsheet submitted in accordance with these Rules or otherwise.

Performance Analysis

134. Each Club operating a Category 1 or Category 2 Academy shall:
- 134.1. have such technical facilities as are necessary to undertake the Performance Analysis required of it by Rule 134.2;
 - 134.2. undertake Performance Analysis (including, in the case of a Club which operates a Category 1 Academy, by undertaking GPS evaluation in the Professional Development Phase and in the Youth Development Phase if the Full Time Training Model is utilised) of training activity and matches in the Youth Development Phase Games Programme, the Professional Development Phase Games Programme and the Professional Development League;
 - 134.3. use the results of such Performance Analysis in its monitoring of the coaching and development of Academy Players in the Youth Development Phase and the Professional Development Phase; and
 - 134.4. make available to the League such Performance Analysis data as it reasonably shall require to undertake the benchmarking of data for that Academy against national trends.



Games Programme

135. Each Club operating a Category 3 or Category 4 Academy shall comply with Rule 134 but only in respect of players in the Under 17 to Under 18 age groups.
136. Subject to a Club complying with Rule 134 or 135 (as appropriate depending on the Category of its Academy), and to a sufficient number of Clubs (and Football League clubs) likewise complying, the League will make available to it benchmarked data derived from comparing the Performance Analysis data it has submitted to the League with that submitted by other Clubs (on an anonymised basis).

Guidance

The League will produce further detail of the proposed national programme of Performance Analysis for the older Academy age groups. The proposals in this regard will be presented to Clubs in due course. If Clubs approve these proposals, then (subject to Club approval) a requirement will be inserted in the Rules for Clubs to contribute information to this national programme.

Foundation Phase Games Programme

137. The League will organise a games programme for teams in each of the Under 9 to Under 11 age groups of Clubs operating Category 1 and 2 Academies (and for the avoidance of doubt teams from both Categories shall participate together in this games programme).
138. The Football League will organise a Games Programme for teams in each of the Under 9 to Under 11 age groups of Clubs operating Category 3 Academies.
139. The Games Programmes referred to in Rules 137 and 138 shall consist of matches which:
- 139.1. shall be competitive but whose results (except in the case of Tournaments) shall not give any particular competitive significance between Academies (for example, no league table or the like shall be produced);
 - 139.2. subject to Rule 139.3 shall be organised on a local basis so that, as far as reasonably possible, no team has to travel more than one hour to an away match (save that longer travel times may be necessary in order that each Club can participate meaningfully in the games programme);
 - 139.3. may be played in Festivals organised on a local, regional or national basis and each Club which operates a Category 1 Academy shall organise and host a minimum of three Festivals per season;
 - 139.4. shall take place during the Games Programme Schedule;
 - 139.5. may include matches against representative county schoolboy sides (being sides selected by the English Schools' Football Association);
 - 139.6. shall be played outdoors, save in respect of:
 - 139.6.1. Clubs operating Category 1 or 2 Academies when, during the second half of December and the whole of both January and February, they shall be played indoors; and
 - 139.6.2. Clubs operating Category 3 Academies when, during the second half of December and the whole of both January and February, they may be played indoors.
 - 139.7. shall consist of matches played in accordance with the following formats (save that some matches played indoors may be played as Futsal games):

Games Programme

Age group	Team size	Pitch size (yards)	Goal size (feet)	Ball size
Under 9	4v4, 5v5, 6v6 or 7v7	30x20 to 40x30 (4v4 and 5v5) 50x30 to 60x40 (7v7)	12x6	3 (or 4 at the Home Club's option)
Under 10	4v4, 5v5, 6v6 and 7v7	30x20 to 40x30 (4v4 and 5v5) 50x30 to 60x40 (7v7)	12x6 (4v4 and 5v5) 12x6 to 16x7 (7v7)	4
Under 11	7v7 or 9v9	50x30 to 60x40 (7v7) 70x40 to 80x50 (9v9)	12x6 to 16x7 (7v7) 16x7 (9v9)	4

The participating Clubs shall endeavour to agree which of the above formats shall be utilised, but in default of agreement the home Club shall decide.

Guidance

The League will organise a regional indoor programme during the second half of December, and the entirety of January and February. In particular, a programme of Futsal will be delivered for Category 1 and Category 2 Academies. Clubs will be free to apply to organise Authorised Games outside pursuant to Rule 140.2.

The League will organise Tournaments (lasting more than one day) for each of the Under 9, Under 10 and Under 11 age groups in the May or June of each year (and in scheduling them it will be borne in mind that June is often the month when Academy "downtime" occurs). The Tournaments so arranged for the Under 11 age group will include teams from clubs in countries other than England and Wales.

In order to deliver the Foundation Phase Games Programme to all Clubs, the target travel time of 1 hour may be exceeded from time to time, in particular in order to accommodate those Clubs whose home "locality" is small.

Both Leagues will co-operate to create cross-Category Festivals from time to time which shall include all Categories of Academy and be regionally based.

A six-week programme of Festivals of Futsal and other small-sided indoor football for each age range in the Foundation Phase will be staged. This programme will run from November to February and be organised on a basis of five regions (North East, North West, Midlands, London and South West, and London and South East). A Futsal tournament involving a regional qualification process culminating in a national finals event will be organised for each of the Under 9, Under 10 and Under 11 age groups.

140. Each Club which operates a Category 1, Category 2 or Category 3 Academy:
- 140.1. must participate fully in the Foundation Phase Games Programme; and
 - 140.2. may organise and participate in additional Authorised Games of the types listed in paragraphs c), d), f) and g) of that definition only (which shall be notified to the League (if the Club operates a Category 1 or Category 2 Academy) no later than 72 hours before they are scheduled to take place).



Games Programme

Guidance

The Games Programme Schedule will incorporate free weeks (in addition to those referred to in Rule 179) during which no fixtures will be arranged by the League. This will allow Clubs to organise additional fixtures pursuant to Rule 140.2. In addition, Clubs will be able to rearrange fixtures in the Foundation Phase Games Programme in order to attend tournaments and Festivals provided suitable notice is given, the integrity of the Games Programme is maintained, and a suitable date for the rearrangement of the fixture is agreed.

141. Each Club shall ensure that each of its Academy Players in the Foundation Phase shall, subject to fitness, participate in at least half the playing time in any one Season of matches in the Foundation Phase Games Programme and any other matches organised by the Club pursuant to Rule 140.2 such playing time to be reasonably spread out over the season.

Guidance

An Academy Player in the Foundation Phase may still play for his school team or school representative county side.

When assessing whether Rule 141 has been complied with, each Academy Player's playing time over the course of the season will be assessed and an average calculated (i.e. the Academy Player need not play in half the time of every match). In addition, Rule 141 requires that the playing time is spread relatively evenly over the course of the fixture programme. This is to ensure Clubs do not try to backload playing time at the end of the season simply to ensure the average is met.

Youth Development Phase Games Programme

142. The League will organise a games programme for teams in each of the Under 12 to Under 14 age groups of Clubs operating Category 1 and 2 Academies (and for the avoidance of doubt teams from both Categories shall participate together in this games programme). The League will also organise a games programme for teams in the Under 15 age group of Clubs operating Category 1 Academies and of those Category 2 Academies wishing to participate.
143. The Football League will organise a games programme for teams in each of the Under 12 to Under 14 age groups of Clubs operating Category 3 Academies.
144. The games programme for Category 1 Clubs referred to in Rule 142 shall include the Under 13, Under 14 and Under 15 Premier League National Cups, participation in which shall not be mandatory.
145. Each Club must inform the League by 30 April in each year whether it wishes to compete in the Under 13, Under 14 and Under 15 Premier League National Cups the following season.

Games Programme

146. The games programmes referred to in Rules 142 and 143 shall consist of matches which shall:
- 146.1. be competitive but whose results (save for matches in the Under 13, Under 14 and Under 15 Premier League National Cups) shall not be given any particular competitive significance between Academies (for example, no league table or the like shall be produced);
 - 146.2. (in the case of the games programme referred to in Rule 142) be organised on a regional basis so that as far as reasonably possible no team has to travel more than two hours to an away match save that longer travel times may be necessary:
 - 146.2.1. in order that each Club can participate meaningfully in the games programme; and
 - 146.2.2. for matches in the Under 13, Under 14 and Under 15 Premier League National Cups.
 - 146.3. (in the case of the games programme referred to in Rule 143) be organised on a local basis so that as far as reasonably possible no team has to travel more than one hour to an away match and/or regional basis so that as far as reasonably possible no team has to travel more than two hours to an away match (save that in both cases longer travel times may be necessary in order that each Club can participate meaningfully in the games programme);
 - 146.4. shall include one or more Festivals or Tournaments for each Club organised on a regional, national or international basis (which may include matches organised pursuant to Rule 151), with the number of such Festivals and Tournaments increasing for the older age groups in the Youth Development Phase;
 - 146.5. take place during the Games Programme Schedule;
 - 146.6. be played outdoors, except for matches for age groups Under 12 to Under 15 during the second half of December and the whole of both January and February involving teams of Category 1 and Category 2 Academies, which shall be played indoors; and
 - 146.7. consist of matches played in accordance with the following formats (save that some matches played indoors may be played as Futsal games):

Age group	Team size	Pitch size (yards)	Goal size (feet)	Ball size
Under 12	11v11 (or 9v9 if both Clubs so agree)	90x60 (11v11) 70x40 to 80x50 (9v9)	21x7 (11v11) 16x7 (9v9)	4
Under 13	11v11	90x60	21x7	4
Under 14	11v11	90x60 to 100x60	21x7 to 24x8	5
Under 15	11v11	110x70	24x8	5



Games Programme

Guidance

In order to deliver the Youth Development Phase Games Programme to all Clubs, the target travel time of two hours may be exceeded from time to time, particularly in order to accommodate those Clubs whose home geographical "region" is small.

- | | |
|------|--|
| 147. | The League shall organise a games programme for teams consisting of Academy Players in the Under 16 age group of Clubs operating Category 1 Academies, and another for teams of Academy Players in these age groups of Clubs operating Category 2 Academies. |
| 148. | Save for any matches played abroad pursuant to Rule 151, the games programme for Category 1 Clubs referred to in Rule 147 shall:

148.1. be constituted either on a national basis or, if a majority of those Clubs (and Football League clubs) which operate Category 1 Academies so determine by no later than 31 March in the preceding Season, on a regional basis (as that term is defined in Rule 149; and

148.2. be competitive but whose results shall not be given any particular competitive significance between Academies (for example, no league table or the like shall be produced). |
| 149. | The games programme for Category 2 Clubs referred to in Rule 147 shall be organised on a regional basis, that is to say so that as far as reasonably possible no team has to travel more than two hours to an away match (save that longer travel times may be necessary in order that each Club can participate meaningfully in the games programme). |
| 150. | Matches in the games programmes for Category 1 and Category 2 Clubs referred to in Rule 147 shall, unless the Board otherwise permits, be played on Saturdays and arranged so that as far as possible a Club's fixtures in it mirror those of its teams in the Professional Development Phase Games Programme. |
| 151. | As part of the Youth Development Phase Games Programme, the League shall organise matches (which may be organised as Tournaments) against teams from clubs in membership of a national association other than The Football Association or the Football Association of Wales. Such matches shall be organised regularly for Clubs operating Category 1 Academies and from time to time for Clubs operating Category 2 Academies. |
| 152. | The Football League shall organise a games programme for teams consisting of players in the Under 15 and Under 16 age groups of Clubs operating Category 3 Academies, to be played on a regional basis so that as far as reasonably possible no team has to travel more than two hours to an away match (save that longer travel times may be necessary in order that each Club can participate meaningfully in the games programme). |

Games Programme

153. Matches played pursuant to Rules 147 to 152 shall, when played outdoors, be played in accordance with the following format:

Team size	Pitch size (yards)	Goal size (feet)	Ball size
11v11	110x70	24x8	5

154. Each Club which operates a Category 1, Category 2 or Category 3 Academy:
- 154.1. must participate fully in the Youth Development Phase Games Programme (save that participation in the Under 13 and Under 14 Premier League National Cups is voluntary); and
- 154.2. may organise and participate in additional Authorised Games of the types listed in paragraphs c), d), f) and g) of that definition only (which shall be notified to the League (in the case of a Club operating a Category 1 or Category 2 Academy) no later than 72 hours before they are scheduled to take place).

Guidance

The Games Programme Schedule will incorporate free weeks (in addition to those referred to in Rule 179) during which no matches will be arranged by the Leagues. This will allow Clubs to organise additional matches pursuant to Rule 154.2.

155. Each Club shall ensure that each of its Academy Players in the Under 12 to Under 14 age groups shall, subject to fitness, participate in half the playing time of matches in the Youth Development Phase Games Programme and any other matches organised by his Club pursuant to Rule 154.2, the Academy Player's playing time to be reasonably spread over the season.
156. Each Club shall ensure that each of its Academy Players in the Under 15 to Under 16 age groups shall, subject to fitness, participate in at least 20 matches per season (being matches in the Youth Development Phase Games Programme or any other matches organised by his Club pursuant to Rule 154.2). Participation in a match shall for the purposes of this Rule mean playing at least 50% of the game time.

Guidance

An Academy Player in the Youth Development Phase may still play for his school team or school representative county side.

When assessing whether Rule 155 has been complied with, each Academy Player's playing time over the course of the season will be assessed and an average calculated (i.e. the Academy Player need not play in half the time of every match). In addition, Rule 155 requires that the playing time is spread relatively evenly over the course of the fixture programme. This is to ensure clubs do not try to backload playing time at the end of the season simply to ensure the average is met.



Professional Development Phase Games Programme

157. The League will organise two games programmes, one for teams of Clubs operating Category 1 Academies and one for teams of Clubs operating Category 2 Academies.
158. The Football League will organise a games programme for teams of Clubs operating Category 3 and Category 4 Academies, and following such consultation determine with those Clubs in its absolute discretion what games programme(s) should be developed for those Clubs, Rules relating to the games programme and (subject to Rule 159.3) how that games programme should be delivered.
159. The games programmes organised by The League and The Football League pursuant to Rules 157 and 158 will be constituted on the following geographical bases:
- 159.1. Category 1: a regional league, with some matches played on a national basis and some international matches against teams representing clubs in membership of national associations other than The Football Association or the Football Association of Wales (and such matches may be played either in England or abroad);
 - 159.2. Category 2:
 - 159.2.1. in two leagues, each of which shall be constituted on a geographical basis (for example one league of northern based teams and one of southern based teams), the exact constitution of each league to be determined by the Board in its absolute discretion having regard to those Clubs (and Football League clubs) which operate Category 2 Academies;
 - 159.2.2. where practical, international matches against teams representing clubs in membership of a national association other than The Football Association or the Football Association of Wales (and such matches may be played either in England or abroad); and
 - 159.3. Categories 3 and 4:
 - 159.3.1. in two or more leagues, each of which shall be constituted on a geographical basis (for example one league of northern based teams and one of southern based teams), the exact number of leagues and their geographical constitution to be determined by The Football League in its absolute discretion and having regard to those Football League clubs (and Clubs) which operate Category 3 and 4 Academies.

Games Programme

160. Matches in the Professional Development Phase Games Programme organised under Rule 157:
- 160.1. shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game (and for the avoidance of doubt shall be in the 11v11 format);
 - 160.2. shall be for Players in the Under 18 age group (and younger) only, save that a Club may name in its team sheet a goalkeeper in the Under 19 age group;
 - 160.3. shall only have five substitutes named on the team sheet (and for the avoidance of doubt up to three substitutes may enter the field of play);
 - 160.4. shall consist of competitive leagues and Tournaments; and
 - 160.5. may include of an optional Futsal programme organised by the League (for Clubs operating Category 1 and Category 2 Academies) in the months of December, January and February.
161. Matches in the Professional Development Phase Games Programme organised under Rule 158:
- 161.1. shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game (and for the avoidance of doubt shall be in the 11 v 11 format);
 - 161.2. shall be for Players in the Under 18 age group (and younger) only, save that up to two Players in the Under 19 age group may be named on the team sheet for a match provided they are:
 - 161.2.1. a goalkeeper; or
 - 161.2.2. registered as a Scholar and are only continuing as a Scholar beyond the age of 18 because of injury or other extenuating circumstances as approved by the League of which the Club is a member in accordance with that League's relevant procedures;
 - 161.3. shall only have five substitutes named on the team sheet (and for the avoidance of doubt all five substitutes may enter the field of play);
 - 161.4. shall consist of competitive leagues and/or Tournaments; and
 - 161.5. may include an optional Futsal programme organised by the League in the months of December, January and February.
162. Further provisions binding on Clubs competing in the leagues referred to in Rule 160.4 shall be set out in the rules of those leagues.
163. Each Club which operates an Academy:
- 163.1. must participate fully in the Professional Development Phase Games Programme;
 - 163.2. may organise and participate in additional Authorised Games (which shall be notified to the relevant League no later than 72 hours before they are scheduled to take place).



Games Programme

Professional Development League

164. Each Club which operates a Category 1 Academy shall compete in Professional Development League 1.
165. Each Club which operates a Category 2 Academy shall compete in Professional Development League 2 unless it is able to demonstrate to the League that its starting 11s in its first team matches during the preceding season in those competitions set in Rule L.9.1 to Rule L.9.5 included on average at least five Players in the Under 21 age group or younger.
166. Each Club which operates a Category 3 or Category 4 Academy may compete in the development league to be organised by The Football League.
167. The League will organise Professional Development League 1, which shall consist of a national league competition played on a competitive basis.
168. The League will organise Professional Development League 2, which shall consist of a league or leagues played on a competitive basis organised on a regional basis, the composition of such regional league(s) to be at the absolute discretion of the Board who shall so far as reasonably possible determine the composition of each such league to ensure that each Club has to travel no more than three hours to each match (save that longer travel times may be necessary in order that each Club (or club) can participate meaningfully in Professional Development League 2).

Guidance

Clubs who operate Category 2 Academies have expressed a desire to have some element of their Games Programme in the Professional Development Phase organised on a national basis, and not just on a regional basis as set out in Rule 168. The League will work to develop this proposal further.

169. The Football League will, if required, organise (or procure the organisation of, for example, through the Football Combination or Central League) Professional Development League 3, which shall consist of a league or leagues played on a competitive basis and organised on a regional basis, the composition of such regional league(s) and the minimum number of matches to be played by each Club to be at the absolute discretion of The Football League who shall so far as reasonably possible determine the composition of each such league to ensure that each Club (or club) has to travel no more than three hours to each match (save that longer travel times may be necessary in order that each Club (or club) can participate meaningfully in Professional Development League 3). For the avoidance of doubt teams of Clubs operating Category 3 and Category 4 Academies shall compete together in Professional Development League 3.
170. Eligibility in each of the Professional Development Leagues shall be limited to players in age group Under 21 or younger, save that each Club may nominate on its team sheet for any match in a Professional Development League no more than:
- 170.1. one older goalkeeper; and
- 170.2. the number of older outfield players determined pursuant to Rule 171.

Games Programme

171. The number of older outfield players referred to in Rule 170 shall be determined in respect of each Professional Development League by such number as a majority of the Clubs (and Football League clubs) who compete in it so determine by no later than 31 March in the preceding Season (and in any case shall be no fewer than three and no greater than five).
172. At least three matches in the Professional Development League shall be played at the Club's Stadium, and other matches may be played at an alternative ground subject to the approval of the Board or The Football League (as appropriate). Such alternative grounds may include a pitch at the Club's Academy provided that it is floodlit, has a fenced off pitch and provides a spectator area.

Guidance

The Board will need to be satisfied, prior to approving any alternative ground (including one at an Academy) that it provides satisfactory facilities for the playing of matches in the Professional Development League. Such facilities include the pitch, floodlight levels, changing rooms for the teams and Match Officials, and spectator areas. Further consultation on these issues will be undertaken in due course.

173. Unless otherwise authorised by the Board, matches in the Professional Development Leagues shall be played on Saturdays, save that the home Club shall, subject to the rules of the Professional Development Leagues, have discretion to change the date and kick-off time of a match to Friday evening, or any time on Sunday or Monday.
174. Further provisions binding on Clubs competing in the Professional Development League shall be set out in the rules of those leagues.
175. The League will in addition organise international matches (which may take place by way of Tournaments) for teams competing in Professional Development Leagues 1 and 2.

Games Programme: Postponement etc. of Matches

176. A match in the games programme between Academy teams in age groups Under 9 to Under 16 inclusive shall not be cancelled, postponed or abandoned except with the written consent of the Board or on the instructions of the officiating referee (or if the officiating referee is a minor, the official of the county FA who has accompanied him to the match) 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 the match in which event the Club at whose ground the match should have been played shall within seven days give to the Board notice in writing to that effect.
177. 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 176, any Club which causes the cancellation, postponement or abandonment of such a match will be in breach of these Rules.



Games Programme

178. The Board shall have power to specify the equipment and facilities to be provided by Clubs for the playing of matches between Academies.
179. 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 Academy teams, such weekends being devoted to international development, selected players' courses and in-service training of coaches and staff.

Youth Development Rules

Education and Welfare

General

180. Each Club which operates an Academy shall establish an Education Programme which shall set out the activities to be undertaken by the Club to ensure that the education of its Academy Players and Players under the age of 21 is supported effectively and which:
- 180.1. is appropriate to the Category of its Academy;
 - 180.2. complies with all applicable requirements set out in this section of the Rules; and
 - 180.3. is evaluated by the Club within each Development Phase to ensure it is meeting its objectives as set out therein.
181. Each Club which operates an Academy shall ensure that each of its Academy Players receives a formal Education Programme which:
- 181.1. is appropriate to his age and Training Model;
 - 181.2. meets his specific academic needs;
 - 181.3. complies with all legal requirements;
 - 181.4. is structured to ensure that his academic development is not compromised as a result of his being coached by the Club's Academy;
 - 181.5. in the case of an Academy Player who is entered into a Scholarship Agreement with the Club, consists of either the advanced apprenticeship framework for sporting excellence (AASE) or any other programme of education approved in writing by the League; and
 - 181.6. shall continue notwithstanding that the Academy Player signs a professional contract and which shall comply with the requirements of the Education and Skills Act 2008 with regard to education and training.

Guidance

In relation to Rule 181.5 any other programme of education approved in writing by The Football League will be in conjunction with the PFA.

182. Each Academy Player's educational progression under his Education Programme shall be recorded on his Performance Clock.
183. Each Club which operates an Academy shall nominate a member of staff who shall be responsible for:
- 183.1. liaising with the school at which Academy Players are being educated;
 - 183.2. ensuring that any issues concerning an Academy Player's education arising from that liaison are addressed to the satisfaction of the school; and
 - 183.3. ensuring that for Academy Players on the Full Time and Hybrid Training Models (and where the League requests, for Academy Players on the Part Time Training Model) each Academy Player's school reports and educational data are obtained from his school and recorded on his Performance Clock.



Education and Welfare

Guidance

Clubs' attention is drawn to the Guidance note under Rule 1.57: the Education Management System is a function contained within the Performance Clock. It must be used for assisting the management of Academy Players' educational attainment data, and reference to the Performance Clock in these Rules, particularly in the context of education, should be read accordingly.

- 184. Each Club shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that it protects the welfare of each of its Academy Players and Players under the age of 21 by offering support for his wellbeing and pastoral care generally.
- 185. The provisions of Section S of the League's Rules (concerning the Safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups and Safe Recruitment) apply to Academies and Development Centres.
- 186. Without prejudice to the generality of Rule 185 each Club shall appoint an Academy safeguarding officer who shall:
 - 186.1. undertake the functions set out in Rule S.5.7 specifically with regard to the Academy; and
 - 186.2. liaise with the Club's Head of Safeguarding.
- 187. Clubs and Academy Staff shall observe and comply with any guidance issued by the League in respect of safe event management and any breach thereof shall be treated as a breach of these Rules.
- 188. Clubs shall ensure that their Academy Players are insured in accordance with advice circulated by the League from time to time.
- 189. Clubs shall establish, maintain and, when necessary, implement a complaints procedure for Academy Players and Parents, a copy of which shall be submitted to the League.
- 190. The Code of Conduct set out in Appendix 12 shall be binding on Academy Players of compulsory school age attending Academies and their Parents and on Clubs and Officials and any breach thereof by such Academy Players or by Clubs or Officials shall be treated as a breach of these Rules.

Induction Events

- 191. Each Club shall arrange a pre-season induction event for Academy Players and their Parents and there shall be at least one such induction event per Development Phase.
- 192. The induction meeting referred to in Rule 191 shall provide such information to the Academy Players and their Parents as is necessary in order for them to understand the coaching and, if relevant, education that the Academy Player will receive from the Club.
- 193. Each Club which operates an Academy shall permit a representative of the League to attend such induction meetings on request.

Education and Welfare

Reports on Educational Progression

194. Each Club which operates an Academy shall provide progress reports to the Parent of each Academy Player to whom it provides a Full Time Education Programme.
195. The progress reports shall:
- 195.1. detail the educational progression of the Academy Player; and
 - 195.2. be provided as and when necessary, but as a minimum at least once every 12 weeks.

Guidance

With regard to Rule 195.2, Rule 42.2 states that Academy Players in the Under 12 to Under 18 age groups shall receive a Multi-disciplinary Review every six weeks. The educational progress report need only be undertaken once every 12 weeks (i.e. not for each Multi-disciplinary Review) but must be undertaken as part of a Multi-disciplinary Review.

Delivery of the Education Programme

196. **Part Time Training Model**
- Each Club which operates an Academy shall, in respect of each of its Academy Players being trained under the Part Time Training Model:
- 196.1. inform the Academy Player's school that he is being so trained;
 - 196.2. if the League so requests obtain from the Academy Player's school his school reports and, where possible, educational attainment data;
 - 196.3. use the information obtained (if any) to monitor the Academy Player's academic progression by reference to his school reports and, where possible, educational attainment data, and record it on his Performance Clock; and
 - 196.4. liaise with the school on a regular basis in order to discuss and address any issues concerning the Academy Player's education which have risen or may arise as a consequence of his being trained at the Club's Academy.

Guidance

The Part Time Training Model may be used by Category 1, 2 and 3 Academies in the Foundation Phase (Under 9 to Under 11), and by Category 2 and 3 Academies in the Youth Development Phase: see further Rule 116.

The Part Time Training Model envisages that coaching will take place outside the Core Coaching Time, but Clubs should nevertheless establish good communication with each Academy Player's school, obtain his school reports and, where possible, educational attainment data, monitor and record his academic progression on his Performance Clock, and address any relevant issues which arise as a result of the Academy Player being coached at the Academy (and in particular any conflict between the demands of his coaching and those of his education).

197. **Hybrid Training Model**
- Each Club which operates the Hybrid Training Model must appoint a sufficient number of appropriately qualified teaching staff to provide the educational support referred to in Rule 198.2.



Education and Welfare

198. Each Club which operates an Academy shall, in respect of each of its Academy Players being trained under the Hybrid Training Model:
- 198.1. undertake all necessary liaison and co-operation with the Academy Player's school to ensure that the required element of coaching can take place within the Core Coaching Time;
 - 198.2. provide to the Academy Player such additional educational support (to be detailed in the written agreement referred to in Rule 198.5 as shall be necessary to compensate for teaching he has missed, and to ensure that his education is not adversely affected, as a result of being released from school to undertake coaching during the Core Coaching Team;
 - 198.3. obtain from the Academy Player's school his school reports and, where possible, educational attainment data;
 - 198.4. monitor the Academy Player's academic progression (including by use of the information obtained from the Academy Player's school pursuant to Rule 198.3) and record the information obtained pursuant to Rule 198.3 on his Performance Clock in a timely fashion and at least every 12 weeks (to coincide with dates of his Multi-disciplinary Reviews);
 - 198.5. enter into a written agreement with the Academy Player's school and Parent which sets out details of the delivery of the Hybrid Training Model to the Academy Player, including weekly timetables, the likely impact on the Academy Player's education, and any additional educational support to be provided by the Club; and
 - 198.6. liaise with the school at least every six weeks in order to discuss and address any issues concerning the Academy Player's education which may arise or have arisen as a consequence of his being so trained.

Guidance

The Hybrid Training Model may be used by Category 1 Academies in the Foundation Phase (Under 9 to Under 11), and by Category 1 and Category 2 Academies in the Youth Development Phase: see further Rule 116.

Clubs' attention is drawn to the following comments in section 7.3.1 of the EPPP. Although these comments refer to the Foundation Phase, they are relevant to the Hybrid Training Model generally.

"It is assumed that the majority of the coaching will be delivered after school and at weekends. Flexing the season will also enable Academies to gain greater access to players. It is recommended that wherever possible and particularly in the case of Category 1 Academies where the contact time is highest, the after school sessions are established inside the Core Coaching Time and this may require some negotiation with schools and parents to establish the programme effectively. Close liaison with schools to ensure that players are managing the joint workloads is appropriate but no other specific education interventions are being proposed in this phase."

199. Full Time Training Model

Each Club which operates an Academy shall, in respect of each of its Academy Players in the Youth Development Phase being trained under the Full Time Training Model, ensure that it provides the Academy Player with coaching and education in accordance with a programme which complies with Rules 200 to 205 and which is approved in advance by the League.

Education and Welfare

200. The education element of the Full Time Training Model must comply with these Rules and be structured in accordance with one of the four options set out below or in accordance with such other proposals as the League may approve.
201. Each Club which operates the Full Time Training Model must:
- 201.1. enter into an agreement with any school at which its Academy Players are being educated setting out the obligations of the Club and the school in respect of the education of those Academy Players;
 - 201.2. ensure that Academy Players in the Under 12, Under 13 and Under 14 age groups being educated at schools are fully integrated with other pupils of their age, which obligation shall include (without limitation) attending lessons with such other pupils according to the school's normal timetable (save where the Academy Players are being coached in the Core Coaching Time in accordance with these Rules);
 - 201.3. ensure that there is in place a written agreement between the Club, each Academy Player engaged on the Full Time Training Model, his Parent and his school which sets out full details of his education and Coaching Curriculum;
 - 201.4. ensure that the Education Programme of each such Academy Player provides him with a minimum of 20 hours' education during each week of the school term;
 - 201.5. ensure that appropriate staff/student ratios are utilised for all educational activity in which the Academy Player is engaged;
 - 201.6. ensure that each such Academy Player's education is tailored to his academic ability and attainment targets and meets national guidelines;
 - 201.7. obtain from the Academy Player's school his school reports and, where possible, educational attainment data; and
 - 201.8. monitor the Academy Player's academic progression (including by use of the information obtained from the Academy Player's school pursuant to Rule 201.7) and record the information obtained pursuant to Rule 201.7 on his Performance Clock in a timely fashion and at least every 12 weeks (to coincide with dates of his Multi-disciplinary Reviews).

Guidance

With regard to Rule 201.8 pursuant to Rule 42.2 Academy Players in the Under 12 to Under 18 age groups must receive a Multi-disciplinary Review every six weeks. The requirement in Rule 201.8 must be undertaken at every second such Multi-disciplinary Review.

202. Without prejudice to the generality of Rule 38, each Club which operates the Hybrid or Full Time Training Model must in respect of each such Training Model:
- 202.1. not do so unless the PGB has pre-approved and annually certified its proposed delivery of the Training Model;
 - 202.2. permit the League and PGB to monitor and assess its delivery of the Training Model, including in respect of an individual Academy Player, in order to ensure that it complies with these Rules; and
 - 202.3. forthwith implement any changes to its delivery of the Training Model that the League or PGB may require.



Education and Welfare

Guidance

The League and PGB may take advice from the Education Advisory Group (and utilise the Education Ombudsmen) in connection with the assessment pursuant to Rule 202.

In the case of concerns over a Training Model which has been previously approved, it is anticipated that in the first instance an action plan to address any issues would be drafted, and the Club Support Manager or Education Ombudsman would work with the Club over a specific period to put the recommendations in place. Accordingly, Rule 203 below would be regarded as a last resort.

- | | |
|------|---|
| 203. | If the League is not satisfied that a Club's delivery of the Hybrid or Full Time Training Model complies with these Rules:
203.1. it may refuse to an application to register an Academy Player on it; and
203.2. the Board may exercise its powers set out in Rule 274. |
| 204. | If a Club wishes to engage an Academy Player on the Full Time Training or Hybrid Model (whether or not the Academy Player is already registered with the Club), it shall complete and submit to the Board either PLYD Form 5A or PLYD Form 5B (as appropriate) signed on behalf of the Club by an Authorised Signatory. |
| 205. | If the registration of an Academy Player on the Full Time Training Model is terminated by the Club or by the Board of its own volition, or if he changes to another Training Model, the Club shall, unless his Parent agrees otherwise, continue to provide to him until the end of the academic year in which he reaches the age of 16 education and accommodation in accordance with the arrangements made at the time of he was first engaged on the Full Time Training Model. |

Guidance

The Full Time Training Model may be used by Category 1 Academies in the Youth Development Phase, and must be used by all Academies in the Professional Development Phase: see further Rule 116.

Form PLYD 5A must be used for all Academy Players whom the Club wishes to engage on the Full Time Training Model. If the Academy Player is not already registered with the Club, Form PLYD 5 (Academy Player Registration Application) must also be completed and submitted to the League (see Rule 258). If the Academy Player is already registered with the Club, Form PLYD 5 need not also be submitted. Clubs' attention is drawn to the undertakings that they must give under PLYD 5.

The four options referred to in Rule 200 are set out below. This list of options is not exhaustive, and Clubs are free to develop other models which deliver the same results as the options set out in the Elite Player Performance Plan.

Each Club's proposals for how it will deliver the Full Time Training Model must be approved in advance by the League. The League may also check each Club's delivery of the Full Time Training Model in order to verify that it is in accordance with these Rules and with the pre-approved proposals, and in order to verify that no Academy Player's education is being prejudiced as a result of his being prejudiced as a result of his being engaged on the Full Time Training Model. Clubs' attention is drawn to Rules 273 and 274 in this regard.

Option 1

Clubs may enter into contractual relationships with an identified school or schools at which Academy Players receive their education.

The relationship will need to be flexed in terms of the amount of time that Academies would require Academy Players to be available for daily coaching. The school day will need to be flexed to accommodate the Coaching Curriculum whilst ensuring that boy's educational development does not suffer.

Education and Welfare

Specific tutor support for the Education Programme will be required for all Academy Players engaged in the Full Time Training Model over and above the normal curriculum. Additional tutor support will need to be individually tailored to the Academy Players' needs.

Clubs will need to decide how and where Academy Players will be coached. The optimum environment is at the Club's dedicated training facilities but this will require a school in Education Option 1 to be in close proximity to the Club's training facility so that the Academy Players can move easily between the school and the Club. With the Full Time Training Model, the school will need to be in close proximity to the training ground or else the training will need to be accommodated at the school.

The other major consideration for Clubs which operate Category 1 Academies will be the need to provide dedicated housing, house parents and a secure environment in which to live and work whilst staying with the Club. This will need to apply to all Academy Players who live outside a short commute from their Club's training ground.

Option 2

In this option, Clubs may choose to develop and extend their own educational facilities at the training ground and, in effect, develop an onsite school facility. For Clubs which operate a Category 1 Academy, accommodation would still be required on or near the training ground to house the Academy Players and the associated social and welfare support would need to be factored into the delivery of this approach. Clubs may continue to contract an educational partner/provider but the schooling would take place at the Club.

Option 3

Clubs may wish to establish their own schools. These schools may be general in their recruitment with specialist classes or groups of classes catering for the Academy Players' specialist needs. In this Education Option the same issues regarding the location of the school on or near the training ground remain relevant as does the need to provide appropriate housing and care.

Option 4

Where two or three Academies are clustered together, especially in urban areas, it may be possible to identify a single school where each of the Clubs sends their Academy Players. This school would then become the hub for the Academies. The Coaching Curriculum may be split between the training ground and the school premises subject to the location of the school in relation to the Club.

Further guidance in respect of education in the Professional Development Phase, where all Clubs must utilise the Full Time Training Model, is set out in paragraph 7.3.3 of the Elite Player Performance Plan:

All Clubs in the Professional Development Phase will be required to deliver the Full Time Training Model. Academy Players will have access to training up to four hours a day in two separate sessions. The season will be developed increasingly to mirror the professional game so there will be less opportunity to flex the season for purposes of creating greater coaching contact time during the summer months.

Clubs which operate Category 1 and 2 Academies will have the necessary infrastructure at their training grounds to enable them to provide formal education provision for Academy Players in the Under 17 and Under 18 age groups which may be delivered principally at the training ground rather than offsite at a school or college.

This approach envisages the delivery of the formal education components at the training ground in purpose built facilities and as part of an integrated flexible weekly programme which compliments and supports the Coaching Curriculum. The delivery of the formal Education Programme may be either through fully qualified in house staff or through an outside provider who is able to meet the needs and demands of the integrated programme. Delivering the Education Programme in this way will provide maximum flexibility allowing coaches to flex and stretch the Coaching Curriculum to suit the particular needs of each Academy Player.



Education and Welfare

Category 3 and 4 Academies will not necessarily be equipped to provide the formal education component at the training ground. Category 3 and 4 Academies may choose to deliver the formal education provision off site at a local education provider. This will require Heads of Education to ensure that as flexible an Education Programme as possible can be created in partnership with a school/college so that coaches can gain access to the required time for coaching.

206. Each Club which operates an Academy shall notify the League, in such a manner as the League shall from time to time specify, of the Training Model on which each of its Academy Players is engaged and, if an Academy Player changes to the Hybrid Training Model or Part Time Training Model, forthwith inform the League of the change and provide such evidence as the League may require to show that the Academy Player and his Parent consented to the change.

Welfare, Social Development and Lifestyle Management

207. Each Club which operates an Academy shall establish a programme to educate each of its Academy Players in Lifestyle Management Skills.
208. The programme referred to in Rule 207 shall ensure that each Academy Player trained under the Full Time Training Model and/or in the Professional Development Phase has the opportunity to engage in activities outside the Academy which will encourage him to take an active part in the community and develop an understanding of good citizenship.
209. Each Academy Player shall engage in the activities referred to in Rule 208 unless he has good cause not to do so and each Club shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that each of its Academy Players does so engage.
210. Each Club which operates an Academy shall nominate a member of Academy Staff to manage and deliver the said programme.
211. Each Club shall nominate an Official to be responsible for the welfare and supervision of Academy Players engaged on the Part Time Training Model or Hybrid Training Model, while they are present at the Club's facilities.

Player Exit/Release Strategy

212. Each Club which operates an Academy shall devise and implement a programme, to be managed by its Head of Education and Welfare or other appropriate Official to assist its Academy Players released from the Academy at completion of their Under 16, Under 17 or Under 18 year in circumstances where it appears they will not be joining another Club (or club).
213. Any such programme in respect of Academy Players being released at the completion of their Under 18 year shall be designed so that it dovetails with the support programme for such released Academy Players to be operated by the League.

Youth Development Rules

Sports Science and Medicine

Sports Science and Medicine Programme

214. Each Club which operates an Academy shall establish a Sports Science and Medicine Programme (in accordance with the criteria set out in these Rules which apply to the Category of its Academy) for the benefit of its Academy Players.
215. Each Club's Sport Science and Medicine Programme shall be managed by its Head of Academy Sports Science and Medicine (in the case of a Club which operates a Category 1 or Category 2 Academy) or by an appropriately qualified Official (in the case of the Club which operates a Category 3 or Category 4 Academy).
216. The Sports Science and Medicine Programme of each Club should detail the planned provision to each of its Academy Players of at least the following areas:
- 216.1. sports science (including physiology, biomechanics, physical testing and measurement);
 - 216.2. physiotherapy (including hydrotherapy and sports massage);
 - 216.3. medical services (including the prevention and treatment of injury and diet and nutrition);
 - 216.4. Performance Analysis; and
 - 216.5. psychology.
217. The progress and development of each Academy Player under the Sports Science and Medicine Programme (including without limitation the results of the tests set out in Rule 218, and full details of any injuries, the treatment thereof, and the length of any period of rehabilitation) shall be noted in his Multi-disciplinary Review and recorded in his Performance Clock.
218. Each Club which operates an Academy shall ensure that each of its Academy Players undergoes the following tests to measure physical and physiological fitness (as such tests are defined in the Audit Tool):
- 218.1. age-appropriate medical and physical screening;
 - 218.2. anthropometric assessments;
 - 218.3. physiological/fitness testing;
 - 218.4. movement and posture/functional screening;
 - 218.5. predictive testing of size and shape/maturation measurement (save that a Club operating a Category 4 Academy shall not be obliged to conduct such tests);
 - 218.6. psychological profiling (Category 1 Academies only); and
 - 218.7. monitoring of physical exertion (Category 1 Academies only),
- and shall submit to the League such information as it may from time to time require in order to establish a national database of athletic development.
219. Subject to a Club complying with Rule 218, the League will make available to it (on an anonymised basis) benchmarked data derived from the information provided to it by all Clubs.



Sports Science and Medicine

220.	Each Club which operates an Academy shall ensure that each of its registered Academy Players on the Full Time Training Model is registered with an NHS general practitioner for the provision of general medical services, using the address at which he resides.
221.	Each Club which operates an Academy shall ensure that details of all injuries suffered by its Academy Players and of all rehabilitation are recorded and provided to the League and The FA in order that a national audit of injury and rehabilitation may be maintained.
222.	Subject to a Club complying with Rule 221, the League will make available to it benchmarked data derived from the national audit of injury and rehabilitation.
223.	Each Club which operates an Academy shall ensure that it has in place an Emergency Action Plan, and that all relevant Academy Staff are aware of its contents, and that it provides a copy of it in advance of all its home matches in the Games Programmes to its opponents.

Guidance

For the avoidance of doubt, the Emergency Action Plan should be produced in addition to the Club's Medical and Safety Action Plan (see Premier League Rule O.16). All members of the Academy's medical staff should be made aware of the contents of the Club's Medical and Safety Action Plan.

See Rule 103.5: the Academy Doctor shall be responsible for the preparation of his Club's Emergency Action Plan. The League will assist with the sharing of Emergency Action Plans.

224.	Each Club which operates an Academy shall ensure that there is available at all games involving Academy teams appropriate first aid or primary care provision and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing or to any Rules applicable to an Authorised Game, that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">224.1. a doctor who holds a current Football Association Advanced Resuscitation and Emergency Aid certificate or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board or paramedic (in the case of a Club which operates a Category 1 or Category 2 Academy) or a physiotherapist who holds the Intermediate First Aid for Sport qualification or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board (in the case of a Club which operates a Category 3 or Category 4 Academy) is present at each game in the Professional Development Phase Games Programme;224.2. a doctor or physiotherapist who holds the Intermediate First Aid for Sport qualification or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board is present at each venue at which matches in the Foundation Phase and Youth Development Phase take place; and224.3. a defibrillator is maintained at each venue at which matches are played and at which coaching takes place.
------	--

Sports Science and Medicine

Guidance

Rule 81 requires each coach to hold a current Basic First Aid for Sport Qualification or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board. Thus, all coaches attending matches in all of the Development Phases should hold this qualification. Knowledge of how to use a defibrillator is a requirement of the Basic First Aid for Sport Qualification. Accordingly, the net effect of these Rules is that there must be somebody present at all games who knows how to use a defibrillator.

Each Club's Emergency Action Plan should include details of the members of Academy Staff required by Rules 224.1 and 224.2.

225. A physiotherapist qualified as set out in Rule 99.2 or Rule 100 or a coach who holds the Football Association's Diploma in the Treatment and Management of Injuries or an equivalent or higher qualification or a member of staff who holds a current emergency first aid qualification awarded by The FA, the British Red Cross, St John Ambulance (or by another entity provided it is approved by the Health and Safety Executive as an emergency first aid qualification) shall be present at all coaching taking place in Academies (without prejudice to the requirements of Rule 224).



Youth Development Rules

Talent Identification and Recruitment

Scouts: Qualifications

226. Each Club which operates an Academy shall ensure that each of its Scouts whose duties include the identification of Academy Players whose registration the Club may wish to secure (in addition to complying with the provisions of Section Q of the Premier League Rules):
- 226.1. is in possession of such qualification as the League may require from time to time;
 - 226.2. understands and complies in full with the Premier League Rules, these Rules and the Code of Conduct for Scouts; and
 - 226.3. undertakes Continued Professional Development each year.
227. Each Club shall ensure that, where the relevant Scout's duties include those referred to in Rule 226, in addition to complying with the Scout registration requirements of Section Q of the Premier League Rules, it provides evidence to the League within five days of employing or engaging the Scout that the Scout holds the qualification required by Rule 226.1, and the League shall register the Scout where it is satisfied that the registration requirements of Section Q have been complied with and the Scout holds the qualification required by Rule 226.1.

Scouts: Attendance at Matches

228. Each Club which operates an Academy shall permit the Scouts of other Clubs to attend at matches played in the Games Programmes provided that:
- 228.1. the Club which has employed or engaged the Scout notifies both Clubs involved in the match of the Scout's proposed attendance by no later than 12 noon on the last Working Day before the published date of the match; and
 - 228.2. the Scout is able to produce on demand to the home Club the identification card issued to him by his Club in accordance with the Premier League Rules.
229. Each Scout shall inform the home Club of his arrival at a match.
230. Each Club which operates an Academy shall prepare and produce a document setting out the process of how Scouts employed by that Club should approach Academy Players (and other players) and the process thereafter. Such process should comply in full with the Premier League Rules, these Rules and the Code of Conduct for Scouts and should build upon the training that the Scout received while obtaining the relevant scouting qualification referred to in Rule 226.1.



Talent Identification and Recruitment

Registrations and Provision of Information by the League

231. Upon receiving an application by a Club to register an Academy Player, the League shall immediately provide to the Academy Player's Parent a copy of these Rules and of the Parent's Charter.
232. Subject to Rule 233, the League will undertake the registration (which shall be backdated to the date of application) of the Academy Player if:
- 232.1. seven days have elapsed from the date the League receives the application referred to above; and
 - 232.2. during that time, the League has not been contacted by the Academy Player or his Parent to inform the League that he no longer wishes to be registered as an Academy Player for that Club,
- and in such circumstances, the Academy Player may be coached by and play for the Club during the period of seven days referred to in Rule 232.1. The provisions of Rules 297 to 300 shall apply during the period referred to in Rule 232.1.
233. Without prejudice to its powers of inquiry under Section W of the Premier League Rules, prior to undertaking any registration of an Academy Player, the League may, in its absolute discretion, request:
- 233.1. any Official of the Club seeking to register the Academy Player, any Official of a Club with which the Academy Player has previously been registered, the Academy Player himself and/or his Parent(s) to appear before it to answer questions; and
 - 233.2. such Persons or any Club (or club) to produce documents,
- in each case, to ensure that there has been no breach of Rules 297 to 300.
234. Where a request is made by the League in accordance with Rule 233, the League may, in its absolute discretion, stay the registration of the Academy Player until it is satisfied that there has been no breach of Rules 297 to 300 (and, in such circumstances, the Academy Player may not be coached by or play for the Club seeking to register him until the League notifies the Academy Player and the Club that the registration has been undertaken).
235. If the Academy Player directly or indirectly contacts another Club, and such contact results in the Academy Player becoming registered with that other Club without the consent of the Club referred to in Rule 231, the other Club shall be presumed to have breached Rule 297.

Guidance

Rule 231

The League will where possible send the Rules and Charter to Parents by email with a read-receipt, or by recorded delivery if no email address is provided.

Rule 235

The presumption set out in this Rule is rebuttable if the new Club can establish to the satisfaction of the Board that it did not in fact breach Rule 297.

Talent Identification and Recruitment

Time/Distance Rules

236. Subject to Rule 265, each Club which operates an Academy shall be permitted to register Academy Players who reside within the travel times measured from the location of the Club's principal venue for the provision of coaching and education set out in the following table.

Permitted recruitment time/distance			
	Foundation Phase	Youth Development Phase	Professional Development Phase
Category 1	1 hour	No limit for Academy Players engaged in the Full Time Training Model; 1 ½ hours for all other Academy Players in the Youth Development Phase.	no limit
Category 2	1 hour	1 ½	no limit
Category 3	1 hour	1 ½	no limit
Category 4	N/A	N/A	no limit

Any question or dispute concerning the travelling time requirements in this Rule, and whether permission should be granted to register the relevant Academy Player, shall be determined by the Board.

Trials

237. Subject to the conditions set out in Rules 238 and 244, a Trialist may attend an Academy for up to six consecutive weeks in any one season without being registered provided that:
- 237.1. at least seven days' prior written notice to that effect shall be given to any junior club of which such Trialist is a member; and
 - 237.2. before the trial commences his particulars shall be notified forthwith to the League by sending to the Board PLYD Form 2 duly completed, together with proof of his home address and date of birth in such form as is required by the Board.
238. In the case of the Trialist in one of the age groups Under 9 to Under 16, a Club may apply to the Board for permission to extend the period of six weeks referred to in Rule 237 for an initial additional period of six weeks, and then for a further period of six weeks thereafter.



Talent Identification and Recruitment

239.	An application to extend a trial period must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none">239.1. made by the Club at least two weeks before the Trialist's trial period is due to expire;239.2. accompanied by such information and assurances as the League may require; and239.3. consented to by the Trialist and his Parent.
240.	An application to extend a trial period shall only be granted by the League if it is satisfied as to arrangements put in place by the Club for the welfare and education of the Trialist.
241.	A Trialist may not register with another Club (or club) during the initial six week trial period but may at any time terminate an extended trial period to which he is subject.
242.	Rule 41 (Performance Clocks) and Rule 42 (Multi-disciplinary Reviews) shall apply with regard to Trialists.
243.	Each Club shall give the League all such access to information and Persons as it may require in order to monitor the welfare and progression of Trialists and to determine whether to grant an application to extend a trial period.

Guidance

The Education Ombudsman may be asked to advise on the actual and proposed arrangements put in place by the Club to provide for the educational progression of any Trialist in respect of whom an application under Rule 243 is made.

244.	The conditions referred to in Rule 237 are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">244.1. a trial may be offered or given by a Club to anyone in age groups Under 9 to Under 11 inclusive who has his permanent residence within one hour's travelling time of the Club's Academy;244.2. a trial may be offered or given by a Club which is permitted to recruit nationally (because it operates a Category 1 Academy and is permitted to recruit nationally pursuant to Rule 236) to anyone in age groups Under 12 and Under 13;244.3. a trial may be offered or given by any Club to which Rule 244.2 does not apply to anyone in age groups Under 12 and Under 13 who has his permanent residence within one and a half hours' travelling time of the Club's Academy;244.4. a trial may be offered or given by a Club to anyone in age groups Under 14 to Under 16 inclusive;244.5. subject to Rule 244.6.2 a trial may be offered or given by one or more Clubs to an Academy Player in age group Under 16 who has been informed by the Club holding his registration that it will not offer to enter into a Scholarship Agreement with him, any such trial or series of trials may not in the aggregate exceed six weeks;
------	--

Talent Identification and Recruitment

- 244.6. a trial may not be offered or given to anyone:
- 244.6.1. who is on trial at another Academy; or
 - 244.6.2. whose registration is held by another Club (or club) except with the written consent of such Club (or club) or in the case of an Academy Player who is exercising his entitlement under either Rule 269, Rule 270 or Rule 271 to seek registration as an Academy Player at the Academy of another Club (or club).

Any question or dispute concerning the travelling time requirements in this Rule shall be determined by the Board in its absolute discretion.

245. If a Trialist attending an Academy 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 to the Board in writing to extend the period of his trial, giving full reasons therefor, and the Board shall have power to extend such period in such terms as it may think fit.
246. If before the date upon which a Trialist's trial period is due to end his trial is terminated, notice to that effect shall be given to the League by sending to the Board PLYD Form 3 duly completed.
247. Upon a Trialist commencing a trial, the League may provide to him and his Parent a copy of these Rules and such other information as the League considers relevant.
248. Where a Club makes an application to the League in PLYD Form 5 that an Academy Player who is a Trialist with that Club at the time of the application be registered as an Academy Player with that Club, the relevant trial will be immediately deemed cancelled by the League and the provisions of Rules 231 to 235 shall apply.

Pre-Registration Agreements

249. Subject to the provisions of Art. 19 of the FIFA Regulations on 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 Academy provided that such a player is then:
- 249.1. in his Under 16, Under 17 or Under 18 year; and
 - 249.2. in Full Time Education; and
 - 249.3. not registered with another Club or Football League club.
250. A pre-registration agreement shall be in PLYD Form 4 and shall include an undertaking by the Club to enter into a Scholarship Agreement with the player upon the Club having acquired the player's registration and
- 250.1. in the case of a player in his Under 16 year, on or after the last Friday in June in the academic year in which the Academy Player reaches the age of 16; or
 - 250.2. in the case of a 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.



Talent Identification and Recruitment

- 251. Clubs shall submit to the Board copies of all pre-registration agreements within five days of their being entered into.
- 252. A written Coaching Curriculum shall be annexed to each pre-registration agreement and the player shall not be coached by or at the Club's Academy or participate in its matches, tours, Festivals, Training Camps or Tournaments until the programme has been approved in writing by the Board and then only to the extent set out in the programme.

Registrations

- 253. Except for Trialists attending trials in accordance with Rule 237, and players attending Development Centres and players with whom a Club has entered into a pre-registration agreement in accordance with Rule 249, no player shall be coached by or at an Academy or participate in matches, tours, Festivals, Training Camps or Tournaments in which the Club operating that Academy is involved unless that Club holds his registration.

Guidance

The League intends to introduce a scheme of player identification in the form of ID cards during Season 2017/18 for matches that form part of the Games Programme and Academy coaching sessions to monitor compliance with Rule 253 (among others). It is also intended that a protocol for the implementation of the scheme will be issued to all Clubs before the start of the Season. While a breach of the protocol during Season 2017/18 will not constitute a Rule breach, any failure by a Club or Academy Player to comply with the terms of that protocol or any other facet of the player identification scheme may constitute evidence of a breach of Rule 253.

- 254. Subject to Rule 255, players in age groups Under 9, Under 10, Under 11, Under 12, Under 14 and Under 16 shall be registered for one year and those in age groups Under 13 and Under 15 for two years.
- 255. The registration of an Academy Player shall endure until the last Friday in June in the academic year in which he reaches the age of 16 if:
 - 255.1. he is engaged in the Full Time Training Model; or
 - 255.2. the Club has made an application to the Board to this end, having offered to engage the Academy player on the Full Time Training Model and the Academy Player having rejected this offer for sound educational reasons. In such a case the Board shall enquire into the circumstances and satisfy itself as to the bona fides of the application, and if so satisfied shall have the power to determine that the Academy Player's registration should so endure.
- 256. The registration of Academy Players will be undertaken by the League.
- 257. Registrations of Academy Players undertaken by The Football League which are held by Clubs promoted 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.

Talent Identification and Recruitment

258. An application for the registration of an Academy Player at an Academy shall be made by completing and submitting to the Board PLYD Form 5 signed on behalf of the Club by an Authorised Signatory together with a copy of both the Code of Conduct referred to in Rule 190 and proof of both the Academy Player's home address and date of birth in such form as is required by the Board. The completed PLYD Form 5 must be submitted to the Board by the Club within five days of signature by the Academy Player.

Guidance

The League may require that further information and/or documents be submitted at the same time as PLYD Form 5 to facilitate the scheme referred to in the Guidance to Rule 253. Such information/ documents may include, by way of example, a current photograph of (and/or biometric data relating to) the Academy Player.

259. A Club shall request each Academy Player (or if he is a minor his Parent) to complete PLYD Form 6 at the same time that he completes PLYD Form 5. If he does so the Club shall submit the completed PLYD Form 6 to the Board at the same time that it submits PLYD Form 5. If the Academy Player or his Parent (as applicable) elects not to complete PLYD Form 6, he should nevertheless submit PLYD Form 5 to the Board forthwith.

260. An application in PLYD Form 5 shall be refused if it is made in respect of a player with whom a Club (or club), other than the applicant Club, has entered into a pre-registration agreement which remains current.

261. Except in the case of a Scholar, a player shall not be registered as an Academy Player unless he is in Full Time Education.

262. The Board may from time to time direct the minimum number of Academy Players to be registered by each Club in each age group, and each Club shall comply with any such direction.

263. The maximum numbers of Academy Players registrable 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 and Under 16 inclusive:	20 in each age group
Age groups Under 17 and Under 18:	30 across both age groups
Age groups Under 19 to Under 21 inclusive:	15 in each age group

264. No application to register any Academy Player in the Under 9 age group may be signed by the Academy Player before the third Saturday in May immediately preceding his Under 9 year.



Talent Identification and Recruitment

265. 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 Academy may be registered as an Academy Player at the nearest Club which operates an Academy of the appropriate Category subject to the following conditions:
- 265.1. an application for registration of an Academy Player under the provisions of this Rule shall be accompanied by a written Coaching Curriculum which shall include full particulars of any coaching the Academy Player will receive at or in the locality of his place of residence;
 - 265.2. the Coaching Curriculum shall be designed so as to ensure that it does not cause the Academy Player to be absent from school;
 - 265.3. in the case of an Academy Player registered under the provisions of this Rule at an Academy, the Head of Education shall make enquiries of the Academy Player's school at least four times each season during the currency of his registration so as to satisfy himself that the Academy Player's best interests are being served by the Coaching Curriculum and that it is not adversely affecting his education; the result of each enquiry shall be reported in writing to the Academy Manager who in the event of an adverse report shall apply to the Board for the cancellation of the Academy Player's registration; and
 - 265.4. 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 Academy Player to the Academy at which he is registered he shall be accompanied on both the outward and the return journey by his Parent.
266. An application to register an Academy Player shall be refused if:
- 266.1. the Academy Player is in age groups Under 10, Under 11 or Under 12;
 - 266.2. the registration of that Academy Player was held by another Club or Football League club ("the former Club") within the period of 12 months prior to the making of the application;
 - 266.3. the former Club had given notice to that Academy Player under the provisions of Rules 268.1 or 268.2 that it intended to retain his registration; and
 - 266.4. the Club making the application had within the said period of 12 months registered two Academy Players in age groups Under 10, Under 11 or Under 12 whose registrations had been held by the former Club,
- unless the Club making the application and the former Club agree otherwise.
267. On or before the third Saturday in May in every year each Club shall send to the Board a list in PLYD Form 7 containing the names of each of the Academy Players whose registration it then holds (other than those who have entered into a Scholarship Agreement whose names are included in the list required by Rule U.32), indicating which it retains, which it intends to retain and which it intends to terminate with effect from the first Saturday in June.

Talent Identification and Recruitment

End of Season Procedure

268. Except in the case of an Academy Player who has been offered and has accepted a Scholarship Agreement in accordance with Rule 278:
- 268.1. on or before the third Saturday in May in every year in which his registration is held, each Club shall give or send to each of its Academy Players in age groups Under 9 to Under 11 PLYD Form 8 notifying him whether it intends to retain or to terminate his registration with effect from the first Saturday in June; and
 - 268.2. on or before the third Saturday in May, each Club shall give or send to each of its Academy Players in age groups Under 12 and Under 14 PLYD Form 9 notifying him whether it intends to retain his registration for the next two seasons or to terminate it with effect from the first Saturday in June.
269. An Academy Player who receives notification under Rule 268.1 or Rule 268.2 of his Club's intention to terminate his registration shall be at liberty following receipt of such notification to seek registration as an Academy Player at the Academy of any other Club (or club).
270. An Academy Player who receives notification under Rule 268.1 or Rule 268.2 of his Club's intention to retain his registration shall likewise be at liberty after the first Saturday in June to seek registration as an Academy Player at the Academy of any other Club (or club) provided that:
- 270.1. by the first Saturday in June he has given written notice to his Club and the Board terminating his registration; and
 - 270.2. he has received the Board's written acknowledgement of the same.
271. An Academy Player in age group Under 16 who has not received an offer to enter into a Scholarship Agreement by 31 December shall thereafter be at liberty to seek registration as an Academy Player at the Academy of any other Club (or club) and, in such circumstances (save where the Academy Player concerned remains in Full Time Education beyond his Under 16 year), the Club that holds his registration shall not be entitled to receive compensation from any Club (or club) that subsequently registers the Academy Player for its training and development of that Academy Player, in accordance with Rule 326.

Termination of Registration

272. Subject to Rule 273, the registration of an Academy Player who has not entered into a Scholarship Agreement with a Club shall terminate upon the happening of the earliest of the following events:
- 272.1. the Academy Player completing his Full Time Education;
 - 272.2. the receipt by the Board at any time of a mutual cancellation notification in PLYD Form 10 duly completed and signed by the Academy Player and his Parent and on behalf of the Club holding his registration;
 - 272.3. the receipt by the Board of the Academy Player's notice duly given in accordance with the provisions of Rule 270.1;



Talent Identification and Recruitment

272.4.	the first Saturday in June following the receipt by the Board of PLYD Form 7 upon which his Club has indicated its intention to terminate the Academy Player's registration; or
272.5.	the expiry, surrender, suspension or revocation of the Academy licence of the Club holding the registration.
273.	The Board shall have power at any time to cancel the registration of an Academy Player:
273.1.	upon the written application of either:
273.1.1.	the Academy Player or, if the Academy Player is a Child, his Parent on his behalf (and one of the grounds, but not the only ground, on which such an application may be made is that the categorisation of the Club's Academy has been lowered pursuant to Rule 26.3); or
273.1.2.	the Club holding his registration; or
273.2.	of its own volition in the circumstances set out in Rule 274.
274.	If the Board is not satisfied that a Club is complying with any one or more of the Rules concerning the Hybrid or Full Time Training Model, or if it is of the view that the education of an Academy Player engaged on the Hybrid or Full Time Training Model is being prejudiced as a result of his engagement thereon (regardless of whether the Club is in compliance with these Rules) it may, either of its own volition or on the written application of an Academy Player who is affected thereby (or of his Parent on his behalf if he is a Child):
274.1.	cancel the registration of the Academy Player; or
274.2.	order that the Academy Player be deemed to be engaged on one of the other Training Models.
275.	The Board will not exercise its powers set out in Rule 274 without having first given the Club, the Academy Player and his Parent the opportunity to make representations to it.
276.	The Board shall determine such an application in such manner as it shall think fit and, in particular, shall have power to appoint one or more suitably qualified Persons to enquire into all the circumstances of the application (adopting such procedures as are considered appropriate) and to report to the Board, recommending whether the application should be granted or refused. If the application is granted, the Board may impose conditions (e.g. as to compensation) on the cancellation of the registration.
277.	Upon an Academy Player's registration terminating by virtue of the provisions of Rule 272.2, the Board shall provide him with a copy of PLYD Form 10 as evidence thereof.

Talent Identification and Recruitment

Scholarships

278. On or after 1 January in the year in which he attains the age of 14 years and in any event on or before 31 December in his Under 16 year, a Club may offer to enter into a Scholarship Agreement with an Academy Player whose registration it holds.
279. Failure by a Club to honour any offer of a scholarship made pursuant to Rule 278 without reasonable cause shall render that Club liable to disciplinary action pursuant to Section W of the Premier League Rules.
280. A Club may likewise offer to enter into a Scholarship Agreement with an Academy Player in age group Under 16 who is seeking registration under the provisions of Rule 271.
281. A club which operates a Category 4 Academy may only offer to enter into a Scholarship Agreement with:
- 281.1. anyone who is not an Academy Player; or
 - 281.2. an Academy Player in age group Under 16 who is seeking registration under the provisions of Rule 271
- but only on or after 1 January in his Under 16 Year.
282. Any offer made under the provisions of Rules 278 or 280 shall be in PLYD Form 11, a copy of which shall be sent to the Board by the Club making the offer within five days of it being made.
283. An Academy Player receiving an offer in PLYD Form 11 shall respond thereto within 28 days by completing and submitting to the Club making the offer PLYD Form 12, a copy of which shall be sent to the Board by the Club within five days of receipt. An Academy Player who does not accept the offer shall be at liberty after the first Saturday in June following his Under 16 year to seek registration at any other Club (or club).
284. An Academy Player who fails to respond as required by Rule 283 shall be deemed to have not accepted the offer.
285. A Club may enter into a Scholarship Agreement with an Academy Player if:
- 285.1. it holds his registration; or
 - 285.2. his registration is not held by another Club (or club); and
 - 285.3. (except in the case of an Academy Player who has entered into a Scholarship Agreement with another Club (or club) which has been cancelled by mutual agreement) he is under the age of 18 years; and
 - 285.4. the Scholarship Agreement commences no earlier than the last Friday in June in the academic year in which the Academy Player reaches the age of 16.
286. An Academy Player who enters into a Scholarship Agreement with a Club shall be:
- 286.1. entitled to receive such remuneration as shall be determined by the Board from time to time; and
 - 286.2. required to complete his Education Programme (as defined in PLYD Form 1).



Talent Identification and Recruitment

287. The registration of an Academy Player who enters into a Scholarship Agreement with a Club shall be effected by completion of and submission to the Board of Football Association Form G(4), signed on behalf of the Club by an Authorised Signatory, together with copies of the Academy Player's Scholarship Agreement, the initial duration of which must not exceed two years, and birth certificate.
288. If the parties to a Scholarship Agreement have agreed in writing that they will enter into a contract of employment in Form 19 prior to or immediately upon the termination of the Scholarship Agreement, and provided that the written agreement between them specifies the length of the contract and full details of all the remuneration and benefits payable under it, the Club shall not be obliged to complete and sign a mutual cancellation notification upon the Academy Player's application for cancellation of his registration pursuant to clause 13.1 of the Scholarship Agreement. If the Club chooses not to cancel the Academy Player's registration, the Academy Player shall remain registered with the Club and the Scholarship Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.
289. **Appeal against Termination**
An appeal by an Academy Player under the provisions of clause 10.3 or by a Club under the provisions of clause 12.3 of PLYD Form 1 shall be commenced by notice in writing addressed to the other party to the agreement and to the Board.
290. **Appeal against Disciplinary Decision**
An appeal by an Academy Player under the provisions of paragraph 3.3.2 of the Schedule to PLYD Form 1 shall be commenced by notice in writing addressed to the Club and to the Board.
291. Appeals pursuant to Rule 289 or Rule 290 shall be conducted in such manner as the Board may determine.
292. The Board may allow or dismiss any such appeal and make such other order as it thinks fit.
293. **Order for Costs**
The Board shall have power to make an order for costs:
293.1. in determining appeals under Rule 289 or Rule 290; and
293.2. if any such appeal, having been commenced, is withdrawn.
294. The Board shall have power to determine the amount of any such costs which may include, without limitation, those incurred by the League in the conduct of the appeal.
295. Costs ordered to be paid as aforesaid shall be recoverable:
295.1. in the case of a Club, under the provisions of Rule E.27; or
295.2. in the case of an Academy Player, as a civil debt.

Talent Identification and Recruitment

296. **Further Appeal**

Within 14 days of a decision of the Board given under the provisions of Rule 292 either party may by notice in writing appeal against such decision to the Premier League Appeals Committee whose decision shall be final.

Approaches by and to Clubs and Inducements

297. A Club shall not, either directly or indirectly, make any approach to or communicate with:

297.1. an Academy Player registered with another Club (or club); or

297.2. a player with whom another Club (or club) has entered into a pre-registration agreement which remains current.

298. A public statement made by an Official of or Intermediary for a Club expressing interest in an Academy 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 297 to be an indirect approach in breach of that Rule.

299. Except as permitted by Rules 269, 270 and 271, an Academy Player whose registration is held by a Club shall not, either directly or indirectly, make any approach to another Club (or club).

300. Except that a Club may, not earlier than 1 January next following the commencement of his Under 16 year, offer an Academy Player a contract as a Contract Player upon his attaining the age of 17 years and subject to Rules 249 and 278:

300.1. no Club shall induce or attempt to induce a player to become registered as an Academy Player by that Club by offering him, or any Person connected with him, either directly or indirectly, a benefit or payment of any description whether in cash or in kind;

300.2. no Club shall likewise induce or attempt to induce an Academy Player to enter into a Scholarship Agreement and in particular no Club shall pay or offer to pay to an Academy Player upon his entering into a Scholarship Agreement remuneration in excess of the remuneration referred to in Rule 286.1;

300.3. no Academy Player shall, either directly or indirectly, accept any such inducement.



Talent Identification and Recruitment

Youth Development Rules

Facilities

Facilities							
301.	Each Club which operates an Academy shall ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 301.1. it provides as a minimum the facilities and accommodation set out in Rules 303 to 317; and 301.2. if it operates a Category 1 Academy, such facilities and accommodation are available for the exclusive use of its Academy at all times when it requires access to them in order to comply with these Rules. 						
302.	Save where otherwise indicated, or with the permission of the Board, the facilities and accommodation set out in Rules 303 to 317 shall be provided at the Club's principal venue for the coaching and education of Academy Players.						
303.	Grass pitches <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="background-color: #2c3e50; color: white; padding: 5px;">Category 1</td> <td style="padding: 5px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A sufficient number of grass pitches of the appropriate sizes (as required by the Rules relating to Games Programmes and with goals sized as required by the Rules relating to Games Programmes) to enable the Club to play all its matches in the Games Programmes and fulfil its commitments under these Rules as regards coaching. b) One floodlit grass pitch enclosed with perimeter fencing and with designated areas for spectator attendance (save that if a Club is unable to obtain planning permission for floodlighting then the requirement for floodlighting shall be waived); c) A designated area (on grass) for the coaching of goalkeepers. </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #2c3e50; color: white; padding: 5px;">Category 2 and 3</td> <td style="padding: 5px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A sufficient number of grass pitches of the appropriate sizes (as required by the Rules relating to Games Programmes and with goals sized as required by the Rules relating to Games Programmes) to enable the Club to play all its matches in the Games Programmes and fulfil its commitments under these Rules as regards coaching. b) A designated area for the coaching of goalkeepers. </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #2c3e50; color: white; padding: 5px;">Category 4</td> <td style="padding: 5px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A sufficient number of grass pitches of the appropriate sizes (as required by the Rules relating to Games Programmes and with goals sized as required by the Rules relating to Games Programmes) to enable the Club to play all its matches in the Games Programmes and fulfil its commitments under these Rules as regards coaching. b) A designated area (on grass) for the coaching of goalkeepers. </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A sufficient number of grass pitches of the appropriate sizes (as required by the Rules relating to Games Programmes and with goals sized as required by the Rules relating to Games Programmes) to enable the Club to play all its matches in the Games Programmes and fulfil its commitments under these Rules as regards coaching. b) One floodlit grass pitch enclosed with perimeter fencing and with designated areas for spectator attendance (save that if a Club is unable to obtain planning permission for floodlighting then the requirement for floodlighting shall be waived); c) A designated area (on grass) for the coaching of goalkeepers. 	Category 2 and 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A sufficient number of grass pitches of the appropriate sizes (as required by the Rules relating to Games Programmes and with goals sized as required by the Rules relating to Games Programmes) to enable the Club to play all its matches in the Games Programmes and fulfil its commitments under these Rules as regards coaching. b) A designated area for the coaching of goalkeepers. 	Category 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A sufficient number of grass pitches of the appropriate sizes (as required by the Rules relating to Games Programmes and with goals sized as required by the Rules relating to Games Programmes) to enable the Club to play all its matches in the Games Programmes and fulfil its commitments under these Rules as regards coaching. b) A designated area (on grass) for the coaching of goalkeepers.
Category 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A sufficient number of grass pitches of the appropriate sizes (as required by the Rules relating to Games Programmes and with goals sized as required by the Rules relating to Games Programmes) to enable the Club to play all its matches in the Games Programmes and fulfil its commitments under these Rules as regards coaching. b) One floodlit grass pitch enclosed with perimeter fencing and with designated areas for spectator attendance (save that if a Club is unable to obtain planning permission for floodlighting then the requirement for floodlighting shall be waived); c) A designated area (on grass) for the coaching of goalkeepers. 						
Category 2 and 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A sufficient number of grass pitches of the appropriate sizes (as required by the Rules relating to Games Programmes and with goals sized as required by the Rules relating to Games Programmes) to enable the Club to play all its matches in the Games Programmes and fulfil its commitments under these Rules as regards coaching. b) A designated area for the coaching of goalkeepers. 						
Category 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A sufficient number of grass pitches of the appropriate sizes (as required by the Rules relating to Games Programmes and with goals sized as required by the Rules relating to Games Programmes) to enable the Club to play all its matches in the Games Programmes and fulfil its commitments under these Rules as regards coaching. b) A designated area (on grass) for the coaching of goalkeepers. 						
304.	Each Club shall take all reasonable steps to maintain each grass pitch used by its Academy at all times when such pitches are required by the Academy for matches or coaching.						



Facilities

305. The League shall inspect the Academy grass pitches of each Club which operates a Category 1 or Category 2 Academy at least twice a year, and of each Club which operates a Category 3 Academy from time to time.
306. Each Club shall take such steps as the Board may require if the Board is not satisfied that a pitch is being maintained to an adequate standard.
307. Without prejudice to the generality of Rule 304, each Club shall ensure that the quality of its pitches used for matches in the Games Programme is not adversely affected by coaching taking place on them.

Guidance

Because of Rule 307, Clubs may need to have a greater number of pitches than the bare minimum necessary to fulfil matches in the Games Programme.

308. Artificial Surface Pitch

Categories 1 and 2

One floodlit outdoor Artificial Surface pitch (save that if a Club is unable to obtain planning permission for floodlighting then the requirement for floodlighting shall be waived). It is recommended and mandatory with effect from 1 July 2016 that this pitch complies with Rule K.15.

Categories 3 and 4

Access to one floodlit outdoor Artificial Surface pitch (which need not be at the principal venue).

309. Indoor area for training and the playing of matches

Note: ideally a Club's indoor facility should be located at its principal venue for the coaching of Academy Players and any new facility must be located at the principal venue. It is accepted, however, that a number of Clubs have existing indoor facilities which are located elsewhere, or that it may be impossible for a Club's indoor facility to be located at its principal venue for planning reasons. In such cases, where the Board is satisfied that the Club's indoor facility may be located other than at its principal venue, there shall also be a requirement that the Rules relating to the maximum travel time from an Academy Player's residence to the coaching venue are complied with.

Categories 1 and 2

One indoor Artificial Surface pitch measuring a minimum of 60 yards by 40 yards which shall be owned by the Club (or alternatively the Club must have a legally enforceable agreement with the owner of the facility for its use by the Club, expiring not earlier than the end of the current Season) and which shall be for the exclusive use of the Academy at all times. (Note: an indoor pitch which complies with the size requirements set out in Rule K.15 is recommended).

Facilities

Categories 3 and 4	Access to one indoor Artificial Surface pitch measuring 60 yards by 40 yards during the months of November to April. Alternatively, the pitch may measure 30 yards by 20 yards but if so the Club shall only be permitted to coach the following maximum numbers of Academy Players at any one time:
	Age groups Under 9 to Under 14 inclusive: 18 in each age group
	Age groups Under 15 and Under 16 inclusive: 15 in each age group
	Age groups Under 17 to Under 21 inclusive: 12 in each age group

Guidance

The Premier League and Football League are consulting on the requirements for Category 3 Clubs' indoor facilities to have an Artificial Surface.

310. Changing rooms and washing facilities

Categories 1 to 4	a) suitably-sized changing rooms equal in number to the number of teams (including visiting teams) playing at the Academy at any one time so that each such team has exclusive use of a changing room;
	b) a sufficient number of washing and toilet facilities, of a suitable quality, for the exclusive use of all registered Academy Players;
	c) a sufficient number of separate washing and toilet facilities, of a suitable quality, for the use of visiting teams;
	d) a sufficient number of separate changing rooms and washing and toilet facilities, of a suitable quality, for the exclusive use of Match Officials (with separate male and female facilities); and
	e) (in the case of Category 1 and Category 2 Academies only) a sufficient number of changing rooms and washing and toilet facilities, of a suitable quality, for the exclusive use of therapists and coaches employed at the Academy and other relevant Academy Staff.

Guidance

Sufficient and suitable facilities must be provided at all venues. Thus, if a Category 3 or Category 4 Academy utilises an Artificial Surface pitch or an indoor pitch which is located away from its principal venue, it must ensure that there is substantial compliance with this Rule 310 with regard to changing room and washing facilities.

A changing room may not be used as any of the other rooms (e.g. team meeting room) required by these Rules.

311. Team meeting room

Categories 1 to 4	A dedicated room large enough to hold 20 people and equipped with individual desks (one per Person), audio/visual projection equipment and a large screen, internet access and computers.
------------------------------	---

Guidance

In Category 3 and 4 Academies, this room:

- need not be located at the principal venue; but
- if it is so located (but not otherwise), may also be used as the guest lounge described in Rule 312.



Facilities

312.	Guest lounge	<p>Categories 1 to 4</p> <p>A guest lounge for the use of Parents at each training session and match that is open to Parents. The guest lounge shall be large enough to hold 50 people and have access to refreshments and toilet facilities.</p> <p><i>Note: in Category 3 and 4 Academies, this room may also be used as the team meeting room described in Rule 311 provided that it is large enough.</i></p>
313.	Match analysis suite	<p>Categories 1 and 2</p> <p>A room large enough to hold 20 people and equipped with such appropriate video and IT technology as is necessary to undertake, and present the results of, Performance Analysis.</p> <p>If the facility is shared with the professional squad, access for the Academy sufficient for its purposes needs to be clearly demonstrated.</p> <p>Category 3</p> <p>A match analysis suite is recommended but not mandatory.</p>
314.	Medical facilities	Such medical facilities as the Club requires to deliver its Sports Science and Medicine Programme.

Guidance

Each club should carefully consider provision of facilities suitable for the medical practice undertaken at each venue. In general, a medical consulting room should be not less than 16 square metres and should be larger if it includes a separate area for the examination couch.

There should be provision for:

- Privacy sufficient to ensure confidentiality of consultation;
- Desk, examination couch and equipment to facilitate medical examinations to include:
 - Thermometer;
 - Sphygmomanometer;
 - Otoscope and ophthalmoscope;
 - Stethoscope;
- Electronic or paper medical records in secure format;
- Secure/lockable filing system;
- Secure/lockable storage for any medicines;
- Sufficient provisions for all aspects of medical treatment to be undertaken including:
 - Protocols and equipment for the provision of Basic Life Support and if not provided elsewhere;
 - Protocols and equipment sufficient for Advanced Trauma and Life Support;
- Basin with hot and cold water, provision of hand cleansers, clinical taps, hand drying facilities and all necessary provision for effective infection control procedures;
- Provision of space and seating for person accompanying examinee;
- Flooring and fittings of materials which can be cleaned to meet infection control standards;
- Telephone.

Facilities

315. Administration office space

Categories 1 to 4	<p>a) Such office space and access to IT, email and the internet as each member of Academy Staff requires in order to perform the responsibilities set out in his job description;</p> <p>b) A private meeting room.</p>
--------------------------	--

Guidance

For Category 3 and Category 4 Academies, these can be provided at a place other than the principal venue (e.g. at the Club's Stadium).

316. Academy Player accommodation

Categories 1 to 4	<p>Sufficient and adequate accommodation for all registered Academy Players and Trialists under the age of 18 not residing with their Parents. Clubs shall comply with any guidelines about Academy Player accommodation published by the League from time to time and with all applicable legal requirements in relation to the provision of such accommodation.</p> <p>Such accommodation shall be located in as close proximity as is reasonably practicable to the Club's principal venue for the coaching and education of Academy Players and to the place at which Academy Players undertake their education (if this is not the principal venue).</p>
--------------------------	---

Guidance

Clubs may provide such accommodation by lodging students with private households (subject to compliance with all applicable legal requirements including as to DBS checks) or by operating their own dedicated facilities (such as hostels).

317. Classrooms

Category 1	<p>A minimum of three classrooms which shall each:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contain sufficient desks for 20 students; • contain 20 computers with access to the internet; and • conform in all respects with any requirements for classrooms issued by the Department for Education.
Category 2	<p>A minimum of two classrooms which shall each:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contain sufficient desks for 20 students; and • contain 20 computers with internet access. <p>At least one of the classrooms must conform in all respects with any requirements for classrooms issued by the Department for Education.</p>
Categories 3 and 4	<p>Access for Academy Players and Trialists to a study area large enough to hold 20 people and which contains at least 20 computers with internet access.</p>



Facilities

Guidance

In Category 3 and 4 Academies, this may also be used as the team meeting room provided that the timetabling of lessons in the classrooms allows.

Flexibility will be accorded to a Club's provision of classrooms depending on the number of Academy Players that are engaged in each Training Model.

Clubs which operate a Category 3 or Category 4 Academy who have in place an artificial pitch which does not meet the requirements of such a pitch as defined in Rule 1.10 may continue to use such a pitch until the end of its natural life. Thereafter however, they must use a pitch which complies with the definition.

Youth Development Rules

Finance and Expenses

Finance

318. Each Club which operates an Academy shall by 1 July in each year submit to the League its budgeted Academy Financial Information for its Academy for the following season.
319. Each Club which operates an Academy shall by 1 September in each year submit to the League its actual Academy Financial Information for its Academy for the previous season together with the budgeted Academy Financial Information for that season.
320. The Academy Financial Information required by Rule 318 shall be submitted in the format required by the League.
321. The League may, at its discretion, require (and the Club shall deliver), such further information and explanations as it deems fit in connection with the Academy Financial Information submitted by the Club pursuant to Rules 318 and 320.
322. The League shall have the power to obtain an independent audit of a Club's Academy Financial Information submitted pursuant to these Rules.
323. Each Club's Academy Financial Information shall be assessed by the Board in order to determine whether to award to the Club a grant from the Professional Youth Game Fund.

Guidance

The League will produce benchmarked Club by Club information (on an anonymised basis) with regards to expenditure on youth development on an annual basis.

The League will keep the Academy Financial Information provided to it pursuant to Rules 318 and 320 confidential save that:

1. the League may disclose the Information if properly required to do so by law or by any regulatory authority;
2. the League may disclose the Information to the ISO or the PGB (and if it does so, the League shall use all reasonable endeavours to ensure that the ISO or PGB keeps the Information confidential);
3. the League may disclose the Information to any Person or entity retained to undertake an audit of a Club's Academy Financial Information pursuant to Rule 322 (and if it does so, the League shall use all reasonable endeavours to ensure that the Person or entity so retained keeps the Information confidential); and
4. the League may use the Information to develop and publish benchmarked information on an anonymised basis.

Expenses

324. Without prejudice to Rules 297 to 300, each Club that operates an Academy shall be permitted to reimburse Academy Players and their Parents for actual expenses legitimately incurred as a direct result of the Academy Player's participation in the activities of the Academy, in accordance with such guidance as is issued by the Board to Clubs from time to time.



Finance and Expenses

325. Without prejudice to Rules 297 to 300, no payment of any kind may be made by a Club to an Academy Player or his Parent (whether directly or indirectly) outside the terms of the guidance issued by the Board in accordance with Rule 324, without the express prior consent of the Board.

Youth Development Rules

Compensation

Compensation

326. The registration of an Academy Player at an Academy shall impose an obligation on the applicant Club or Football League club ("the Applicant Club") to pay compensation for the training and development of that Academy Player to any Club or Football League club which previously held his registration ("the Training Club") provided that:
- 326.1. the Training Club had indicated in PLYD Form 7 (or, in the case of a Football League club, the equivalent Football League form) its intention to retain the Academy Player's registration; or
 - 326.2. the Training Club had offered to enter into a Scholarship Agreement pursuant to Rule 278 with the Academy Player; or
 - 326.3. the Academy Player sought registration at the Applicant Club because he had moved residence outside the permitted travelling time from his last Training Club; or
 - 326.4. save where Rule 271 applies, the Training Club and Academy Player mutually agreed to terminate the Academy Player's registration pursuant to Rule 272.2 and agreed that the Training Club should retain the right to receive compensation should the Academy Player sign for another Club (or club); or
 - 326.5. the Board has made a determination to that effect pursuant to Rule 276; and
 - 326.6. in all the above cases, the Training Club held a valid licence to operate an Academy in accordance with these Rules (or to operate a Football Academy or Centre of Excellence in accordance with the Rules pertaining to youth development which these Rules replaced).
327. The amount of compensation referred to in Rule 326 shall be:
- 327.1. such sum as shall be due pursuant to this section of the Rules; or
 - 327.2. as regards the compensation payable by the Applicant Club to the most recent Training Club, such sum as shall have been agreed between them.
328. Rules 330 to 340 govern the compensation due in respect of an Academy Player who is in, or about to enter, any age group between Under 9 and Under 16 at the time when he is first registered with the Applicant Club save for an Academy Player to whom Rule 329.2 applies.
329. In default of agreement between the Applicant Club and the Academy Player's most recent Training Club, the Professional Football Compensation Committee shall (in accordance with the provisions of Appendix 11) determine the compensation payable to the latter in respect of an Academy Player:
- 329.1. who is in any age group between Under 17 and Under 21 when he is registered for the Applicant Club; or
 - 329.2. to whom the Training Club made an offer of a Scholarship Agreement pursuant to Rule 278.



Compensation

330. The compensation due in respect of an Academy Player to whom Rule 328 applies shall consist of an initial fee payable to the most recent Training Club (and to be paid within seven days of the Academy Player being registered for the Applicant Club) and, if the Academy Player is in age group Under 12 or older, contingent compensation is payable to all qualifying Training Clubs in accordance with these Rules.
331. The initial fee referred to in Rule 330 shall be calculated by:
- 331.1. multiplying the applicable annual fixed fee (or fees) calculated in accordance with Rule 332 by the applicable number of years; and
 - 331.2. adding thereto any initial fee (capped at such sum as would have been payable when calculated in accordance with this section of the Rules) paid by the most recent Training Club when it acquired the registration of the Academy Player.
332. In Rule 331:
- 332.1. the “applicable annual fixed fee” means the fee set out in the table in Rule 333 referable to:
 - 332.1.1. the age group of the Academy Player during any year that he was registered with the Training Club; and
 - 332.1.2. the Category of the Training Club’s Academy during that year; and
 - 332.2. the “applicable number of years” means the number of years for which the Academy Player was registered for the Training Club (subject to Rule 339).

Guidance

There may be two “applicable fixed fees”. For example, if an Academy Player was registered with a Category 2 Training Club from the age of Under 9 to Under 16, then the applicable fixed fee is £3,000 for each of his initial three years of development (totalling £9,000) and £25,000 for each of the five subsequent years (totalling £125,000) making a total initial fee of £134,000.

333. The applicable annual fixed fees by reference to the age group of the Academy Player and the Category of Academy are as follows:

Age group of the Academy Player	Category of the Academy of the Training Club at the relevant time	Applicable Annual Fixed Fee
Under 9 to Under 11	All Categories	£3,000
Under 12 to Under 16	Category 1	£40,000
Under 12 to Under 16	Category 2	£25,000
Under 12 to Under 16	Category 3	£12,500

Compensation

Guidance

In order to give effect to the compensation Rules under the EPPP, Clubs' previous Football Academies and Centres of Excellence will have a "deemed", retrospective categorisation to give effect to the provisions for fixed fee compensation in respect of the years up until the coming into force of the Rules. The following applies:

Status	Deemed retrospective Category for the purposes of calculating compensation (in respect of the period up until the end of Season 2011/12)
Club operated a licensed Football Academy which is placed into Category 1 under the new Rules (all Category 1 Clubs will be the subject of an ISO audit by no later than 31 May 2012)	Category 1
Club operated a licensed Football Academy which is not placed into Category 1 under the new Rules.	Category 2
Club operated a licensed Centre of Excellence	Category 3

334. The contingent compensation referred to in Rule 330 shall consist of:
- 334.1. appearance fees calculated by reference to the number of First Team Appearances (up to a maximum of 100) made by the Academy Player for the Applicant Club or any other Club or Football League club for whom the Academy Player subsequently becomes registered (including by way of a Temporary Transfer or other loan) and to the divisional status of the relevant Club as set out in the table in Rule 335;
 - 334.2. if the Academy Player's registration is transferred prior to his twenty-third birthday to a club affiliated to a national association other than The FA (save for any Welsh club which is a member of the League, The Football League or the National League), 20% of any Compensation Fee, Loan Fee and Contingent Sum that the Applicant Club receives which is in excess of:
 - 334.2.1. any amounts of training compensation and/or solidarity payment paid to the Applicant Club and the Training Club pursuant to the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players; and
 - 334.2.2. the actual sum (if any) paid by the Applicant Club to the Training Club to acquire the Academy Player's registration;
 - 334.3. 5% of all Compensation Fees (and transfer fees, where applicable), Loan Fees and Contingent Sums paid in respect of:
 - 334.3.1. all future transfers of the Academy Player's registration to Clubs (or clubs) in membership of the League, The Football League or the National League; and
 - 334.3.2. all future transfers on loan to a club affiliated to a national association other than the Football Association (save for any Welsh club which is a member of the League, The Football League or the National League).



Compensation

Guidance

Clubs will be obliged to pay contingent compensation as it falls due in accordance with Rule V.36 (payment within seven days of the triggering event).

335. The appearance fees referred to in Rule 334.1 are as follows:

Number of First Team Appearances	Divisional Status of the Club			
	Premier League Club	Football League Championship Club	Football League 1 Club	Football League 2 Club
10	£150,000	£25,000	£10,000	£5,000
20	£150,000	£25,000	£10,000	£5,000
30	£150,000	£25,000	£10,000	£5,000
40	£150,000	£25,000	£10,000	£5,000
50	£150,000	£25,000	£10,000	£5,000
60	£150,000	£25,000	£10,000	£5,000
70	£100,000	£25,000	£10,000	£5,000
80	£100,000	£25,000	£10,000	£5,000
90	£100,000	£25,000	£10,000	£5,000
100	£100,000	£25,000	£10,000	£5,000

336. In Rule 334:

- 336.1. "First Team Appearance" means an appearance either in the starting eleven or as a playing substitute in a first team fixture in the Premier League, the Football League Championship and Football Leagues 1 and 2 (including play-offs), the Football League Cup, the FA Cup, the Football League Trophy, the UEFA Europa League or the UEFA Champions League;
- 336.2. in the event that the Academy Player's registration at a Club (or Football League club) is terminated (whether by effluxion of time, cancellation, transfer or otherwise) prior to his having made sufficient appearances to trigger one of the payments set out in Rule 335, that Club (or Football League club) shall pay a pro rata amount to the relevant Training Club(s) and the obligation to pay future sums pursuant to that Rule shall transfer to any new Club (or Football League club) for whom the Academy Player subsequently becomes registered; and
- 336.3. "Compensation Fee", "Loan Fee" and "Contingent Sum" shall be interpreted to exclude compensation payable pursuant to Rule 326.

Compensation

337. Reference in Rules 334 and 336 to the transfer or termination of an Academy Player's registration shall be interpreted to include transfers or terminations of his registration after he has ceased to be an Academy Player and Clubs who subsequently sign the Academy Player shall be bound to comply with Rules 334.1 and 334.3 and for the avoidance of doubt the original Applicant Club shall not be liable to the Training Club in respect of:
- 337.1. any appearance fees payable pursuant to Rule 334.1 and due in respect of appearances made by the Academy Player after he has ceased to be permanently registered for the Applicant Club; or
- 337.2. sums payable pursuant to Rule 334.2 and 334.3 arising from transfers in respect of which the Applicant Club was not the Transferor Club.
338. Any agreement between a Club and another Club (or club) as to the compensation payable on the transfer of a registration, whether pursuant to Rule 327.2 or otherwise, may not take effect so as to vary the contingent compensation payable pursuant to this section of the Rules to any other Club (or Football League club).
339. If an Academy Player has spent part only of any year at the Training Club, the amount of compensation in respect of that year shall be calculated pro rata (taking into account whether or not the Training Club's Academy was operational or not during the Close Season or any part of it).
340. If the Academy Player has been registered for a Training Club for part only of the period between the start of his Under 12 year to the conclusion of his Under 16 year, the amount of contingent compensation payable to that Training Club calculated in accordance with these Rules shall be paid pro rata to the Training Club.

Guidance

Rule 340 covers the following situations:

1. Where an Academy Player has been registered for only one Training Club but not for the entirety of the period from the start of his Under 12 year to the conclusion of his Under 16 year; and
2. Where the Academy Player has been registered for more than one Training Club during the period.

In either case, the Training Club(s) receive(s) contingent compensation pro rata to the period that it/they held the Academy Player's registration.

341. The compensation set by the Professional Football Compensation Committee in respect of an Academy Player to whom Rule 329 applies shall be determined in accordance with the Committee's Regulations (set out at Appendix 11).



Compensation

342.	The new registration of a Contract Player under Premier League Rule U.17 shall impose an obligation on the Club next holding his registration to pay to the former Club (or club) compensation for the training and development of that Player if the Club (or club):
342.1.	had held that Player's registration as an Academy Player;
342.2.	had offered to enter into a Scholarship Agreement with him which offer he had not accepted; or
342.3.	had entered into a Scholarship Agreement with him; and either
342.3.1.	the Scholarship Agreement had been terminated at the Player's request; or
342.3.2.	in accordance with the terms thereof the former Club (or club) had offered him a contract as a Contract Player which offer he had not accepted.
343.	The amount of compensation payable pursuant to Rule 342 shall be:
343.1.	such sum as shall have been agreed between the applicant Club (or club) and the former Club; or
343.2.	such sum as the Professional Football Compensation Committee on the application of either Club (or club) shall determine pursuant to Rule 341.
344.	Any agreement between Clubs or between a Club and a Football League club as to the amount of compensation payable shall be in writing, and a copy provided to the League within five days of being entered into.
345.	All compensation (including instalments thereof and contingent sums) payable to a Club or Football League club shall be paid by the Applicant Club into the Compensation Fee Account.

Guidance

The fees set out in Rules 333 and 335 are to be revised annually by the PGB.

The Regulations of the Professional Football Compensation Committee referred to in Rule 341 are in Appendix 11 to Premier League Rules. They remain unchanged as regards the calculation of compensation for:

- Academy Players in the Under 18 and older age groups;
- an Academy Player with whom the Training Club had agreed to enter into a Scholarship Agreement; and
- an Academy Player with whom the Applicant Club enters into a Scholarship Agreement.



Premier League

30 Gloucester Place
London W1U 8PL
premierleague.com

T +44 (0) 20 7864 9000
F +44 (0) 20 7864 9001
E info@premierleague.com

The Football Association Premier League Limited
Registered Office: 30 Gloucester Place, London, W1U 8PL. No. 2719699 England