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**POKÉMON FUTSAL**

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**YOUTH CUP**

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**COMPETITION RULES 2022/23**  
**FINAL VERSION**

## COMPETITION ORGANISERS

**Organising Association: The Football Association**

**Chair:** Mrs Debbie Hewitt

**Address:** Wembley Stadium, PO Box 1966, London SW1P 9EQ

**Telephone:** 00 44 844 980 8200

**Internet:** [www.TheFA.com](http://www.TheFA.com)

### **FA Pokemon Youth Futsal Cup Technical Committee**

The officers of this committee shall comprise a Chairman and at least two other appointed members, of whom a quorum of two shall be present at each meeting.

**Members:** Chairman: **Graeme Dell** – FA Futsal Committee Chair, **Andy Dyke** – FA Futsal Cup Operations.  
**David Reeve** – FA Futsal Cup Operations

### **FA Pokemon Youth Futsal Cup Local Organising Committee(s)**

The Local Organising Committee (LOC) email address for Local Qualifying Competitions (LQC) shall be as advertised by the respective County FA or approved organiser.

For all pathway stages beyond Local Qualifying Competitions (LQC), The FA Local Organising Committee (LOC) email address and all FA Pokemon Youth Futsal Cup administration queries is:

**YouthFutsalCup@theFA.com**



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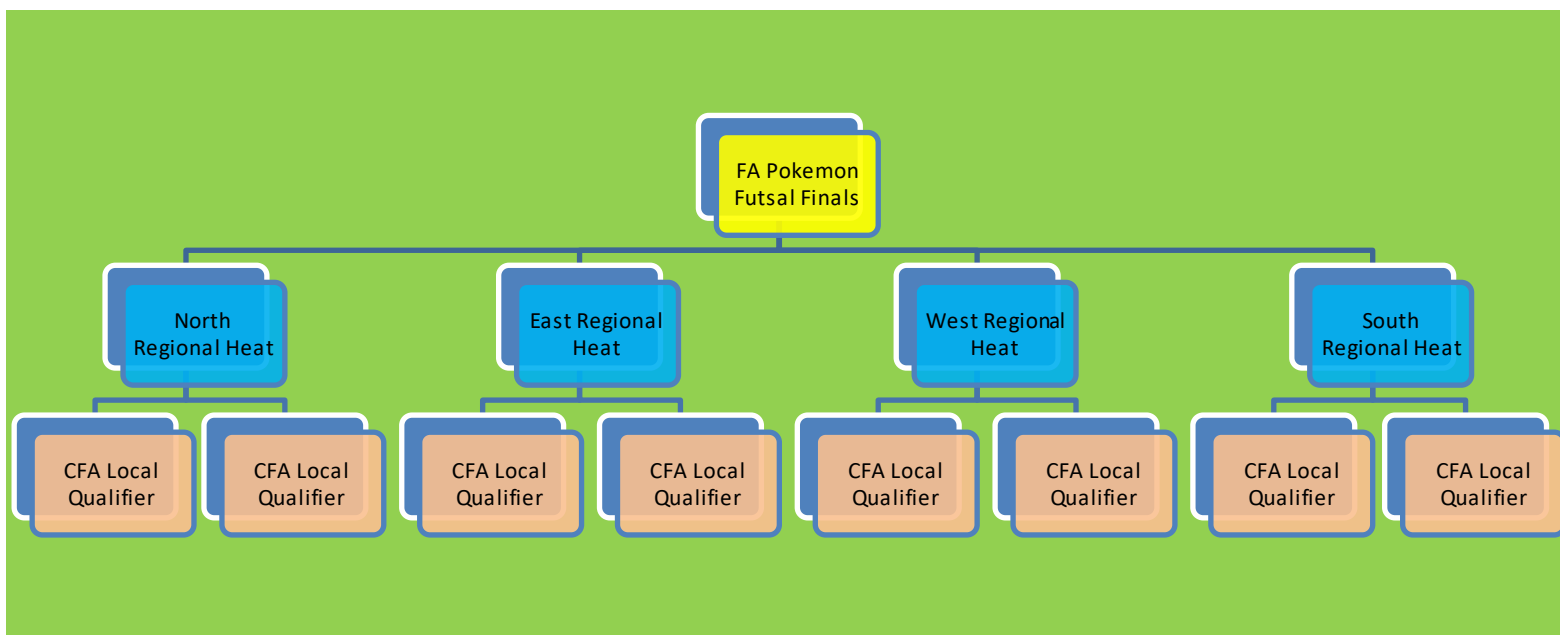
## PREAMBLE

1. The Competition pathway for The FA Futsal Cup comprises;

- CFA Local Qualifying Competitions,
- Regional Heats
- A Finals Tournament.

This journey, in whole or in part is known as The FA Pokemon Youth Futsal Cup 'pathway'.

2. Competition organogram:



This diagram is illustrative. The number of local qualifying competitions is dependent on the involvement of County Football Associations in the hosting of local heats and the age group categories that they cater for. Regional Final events will be dictated by the volume of Local Qualifying Competitions in each region. The winners of Regional Final events will filter into the National Finals where a 'Knock Out or 'Round Robin' Tournament shall be used to identify the National Champion. The Football Association of England (hereinafter referred to as the "The FA") are the overall host of The FA Futsal Cup 2022/23 and assume the role of the 'Organising association'.

3. Local Qualifying Competitions (LQC) will be operated by County FA's or by organisations acting under the direction of a CFA, hereinafter known as the Local Organising Committee (LOC). Responsibility for ensuring appropriate safeguards are in place sits with LOC for more information refer to Article 2.
4. For all stages beyond the LQC these rounds shall be run under the auspices of The FA who shall assume the role

of the LOC and as such take responsibility at this level to ensure appropriate safeguards are in place.

5. An FA Futsal Cup Finals event will be held as a standalone 'finals' weekend (event) where all final matches of each FA Futsal Cup strand will take place. Hereinafter referred to as the 'Final match'
6. Any rights that are not ceded by these rules to the LOC or any participating club shall belong to The FA.
7. Where these rules make reference to a gender they shall be deemed as gender neutral e.g; 'his' or 'he' shall equally be considered as 'her' or 'she' for the specificity of applying these rules to male and female competition strands.
8. Although The FA Pokemon Youth Futsal Cup has been established for several years, futsal in England still remains a format of football under development.
  - i. Clubs with sufficient registered player numbers to enter more than one team in each competition strand are therefore encouraged to do so to enable the futsal experience to be offered to as many players as possible.
  - ii. Where clubs enter more than one team in the same competition strand, specific rules apply to each entered team.

## **Article 1**

### **TITLE – THE FA POKEMON YOUTH FUTSAL CUP 2022/23**

1. The FA Pokemon Youth Futsal Cup competition framework comprises several strands for different age bands and genders.
  - a) Competition strands across The FA Pokemon Youth Futsal Cup are for boys and girls at u10, 12, 14 & 16.
  - b) Players may not play outside of their age banding as these strands allow sufficient scope of competitions to provide for all.
2. This competition shall be known as The FA Pokemon Youth Futsal Cup.
3. The ultimate winning male and female teams will be presented with a trophy and be known as The FA Pokemon Youth Futsal Cup Champions (age and gender specific) for the 2022/23 season.
4. 17 medals will each be presented to the winners and runners up of each of the male and female competitions, of which a maximum of 14 will be allocated to players and a maximum of 3 to team staff. The medal recipients will be those named on the team sheet for The Final match only.

5. One medal will be presented to each of the match officials in the Final match of each competition.

## **Article 2**

### **ENTRIES FOR THE COMPETITION**

1. All teams must enter the competition through The FA Pokemon Youth Futsal Cup pathway starting at the LQC level.
2. All competing teams shall be affiliated to their local County Football Association and must supply a County FA affiliation number as required on the competition entry form at the first point of registration.
  - i. Where a club enters more than one team in the same competition strand e.g: a senior and a further 'development' team, then the second or further teams shall be deemed affiliated to the County FA by their main club affiliation. Each competing team must register players uniquely and registered players may only play for the club team they are registered for and not more than one of the club teams entered.
3. A LQC must be registered with The FA under The FA Pokemon Youth Futsal Cup strand applicable not later than 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022.
4. Each LOC responsible for a competition pathway phase must ensure they adhere to The FA Pokémon Youth Futsal Cup Safeguarding Requirements (refer to Appendix 1) and ensure that appropriate procedures are in place. All participants, team officials, referees, volunteers and LOC officials shall be obligated to be governed by The FA Safeguarding Children Policy and its procedures.
  - i. A LQC Designated Safeguarding Lead shall be appointed and recorded in the Competition Log. They shall be accountable to the Competition Director.
5. Charging for entry into a LQC is at the discretion of the hosting CFA or designated partner. Once a team is accepted as entered by the LOC, there are no further entry charges for subsequent competition stages as a consequence of progression.
6. Teams shall expect to incur travel and other costs associated with competing in the latter stages of the Competition which shall all be their own responsibility. Neither the LOC nor The FA shall entertain claims for any associated costs, howsoever arising.

7. The LOC shall be responsible for determining the winner of their competition(s) pathway stage and to nominate the winning team to The FA for inclusion in the next phase of the specific competition, and within 7 days of the LQC concluding fixture. At each competition phase it will be necessary for the LOC to nominate their runner-up, in the unlikely event that the stage winner is unable to fulfil their qualification to the next stage of the competition. The FA shall provide a system whereby the identity of the winning team, runner up and the other participating clubs in the LQC can be submitted. It is imperative that CFAs provide this information.
8. CFAs will not be reimbursed for the staging costs of LQC until this information has been provided to the FA in full. The FA will reimburse a CFA £100 for each category of LQC heat staged. This payment is a single payment for age group and will not be increased if more than one age group heat is hosted.

### **Article 3**

#### **LOCAL QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS, REGIONAL FINALS & FINAL**

1. Teams entering the Competition via a LQC must confirm their entry application by sending the official LQC entry form, duly completed, to the respective LOC by the deadline set.
2. All Open Age FA Futsal Competition Pathway Clubs operating Youth teams must enter via the respective LQC operated by the County FA they are affiliated to or, if a LQC is not operated then the nearest LQC.
3. Teams may only enter one LQC
4. Where a club wishes to enter more than one team they must be entered in the same LQC and may not be known as a 2<sup>nd</sup> team or 'B' team but must be appropriately named to identify them with their affiliated club name.
  - i. Teams may not include the word or reference to 'elite' within their team or Club name and only Professional Game Club teams may use the word or reference 'Academy' within their name and are bound by the Professional Game Development Rules or those rules for WSL Academies.
  - ii. Such an additionally entered team must have its own register of players and those named players may not participate for any other team in the competition, even if the same club.
5. Players may not play for more than one team in the competition.
6. A player who has been registered with one team but who has not formed part of a match bench e.g; recorded on the competition stage official team sheet in the competition may be transferred with special permission from The FA.

7. If a player has been a named substitute in a qualifying match but has not played they shall be treated as if they had played.
8. No player over the age of 15 as at midnight on 31 August 2022 may participate in this competition.
9. **Male Talent Pathway** – Professional Game Academies may enter this FA competition in accordance with the Professional Game Youth Development Rules. Players registered during the 2022/23 season with a PL or EFL Club as an ‘Academy player’ under the EPPP regulations may not play for another club in this competition as defined by the Professional Game Youth Development Rules ([www.thefa.com](http://www.thefa.com)). *Note: An ‘Academy Player’ is a defined term within The FA Rules.*
  - i. A player who has reached the age of 14 years old and whose registration is held by a PL or EFL Academy as a ‘Scholar’ under the EPPP regulations and as defined by the Youth Development Rules may play in this competition for a Club or team other than that to which they are registered provided that the club holding their Scholarship registration as set out in the EPPP has provided written agreement from the Academy Director to another participating club, an original of which must be lodged by the participating club with the LOC as appropriate at the time of registration. *Note: A ‘Scholar’ registered with an Academy is a defined term within The FA Rules.*
  - ii. Where such a situation as in b. above occurs, that player may not play for their Academy team in this competition if entered.
  - iii. Clubs not abiding by the requirement of FA Rules and/or Regulations will be deemed to be in breach and may be subject to disciplinary action.
10. **Female Talent Pathway** - Clubs or teams from the FA Regional Talent Clubs (RTC) may enter this competition in the relevant female category.
  - i. *Players who hold a dual-registration between an RTC and a grassroots club may choose to participate in the competition for either one of the two clubs they are registered to. They must only participate for one club within the competition.*
  - ii. *An RTC player must have written permission from the RTC Technical Director should they wish to participate for their grassroots club.*
  - iii. *FA Girls Emerging Talent Centre (ETC) players may participate in this competition as part of their grassroots club team, but an FA licenced ETC or team of ETC players are not permitted to enter the competition.*
11. Upon acceptance by the LOC administrator of a team's entry application the team administrator (as defined on the entry application form) will be assigned access to the Whole Game System via their club name and FAN number. The designated team administrator shall be responsible for uploading player registrations by the deadline date set for the competition by the LQC.
12. Teams qualifying from a LQC to a Regional Heat of the competition shall confirm their



participation to the respective LOC within 7 days of qualifying. All participating teams will be required by the LOC to submit a squad list at least 24 hours prior to the staging of the Regional Heat. Failure to upload a minimum of 5 players by 23:59hrs on the day before the first fixture will automatically eliminate the applicant team from the competition.

13. It is a condition of entering the competition, that participating teams shall automatically undertake:
  - i. to observe these rules and to ensure that the members of its delegation and its players also observe these rules and the principles of fair play;
  - ii. to accept the decisions passed by the bodies and officials of the LOC under the terms of these rules;
  - iii. to accept the use and/or sublicense by the LOC, recordings and broadcast of the images, names and records of players and officials and those of participating associations that may appear in connection with the competition as a whole.
  - iv. to accept all the arrangements made by The FA.

## Article 4

### ORGANISATION OF REGIONAL HEATS AND THE FINAL

1. The FA is responsible for organising, hosting and staging all competition pathway stages beyond the LQC's, namely Regional Heats and The Final match of the Competition. The FA will set up a LOC as an internal operating division of the competition for each stage.
2. All qualified teams must register with the Competition Director or appointed competition organiser at the venue by the date and time specified by the LOC.
3. Teams are to make their own way to and from the designated venue and they must ensure that:
  - i. The team manager attends the team managers meeting as required and advised;
  - ii. All members of the playing squad named on Form 1 must arrive at the venue by the registration time advised in the event instructions. Teams failing to meet this criteria may be expelled from the competition stage at the discretion of the Competition Director or, may be fined and The FA reserves the right to require that participating teams provide a team's Bond that can be retained in the event of the non-appearance of that team.
  - iii. It is the responsibility of each team and the team's management to ensure that all players are at the Venue Call Point (VCP) **10 minutes** prior to the designated kick-off time for each of their scheduled fixtures advised in the event schedule and/or the team

managers meeting.

- iv. The VCP will be notified to team managers at the designated team managers meeting prior to each event.
4. Any team that is not at the VCP **10 minutes** prior to the designated kick-off time for each of their scheduled fixtures advised in the event schedule and/or at the team managers and/or does not adhere to the official match countdown protocols may forfeit that game and the opponents awarded the points. The referee's decision will be final.
5. The LOC will not be held responsible or be obliged to accommodate any delays howsoever arising from a teams' travel issues on the day.

## Article 5

### VENUES, DATES AND KICK-OFF TIMES

1. The venues, dates and kick-off times of each competition pathway stage shall be notified by the LOC not less than 7 days in advance.
2. Kick-off times and pitch allocation for all matches shall be confirmed, subject to notified changes in the prior 7 days, by the LOC at the event team managers meeting.
3. All Competition pitches will comply with the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game.
4. The following pitch dimensions shall be observed for the various competition stages:
  - i. LQC – minimum of 30m x 15m with a 1.0m minimum run off.
  - ii. Regional Finals onwards – minimum of 30 x 15m with a 2.0m minimum run off.
  - iii. The guidance in i. and ii. above in respect of run-off dimensions is advisory. Each competition pathway phase LOC in collaboration with the facility provider shall be responsible for conducting and recording a facility health & safety risk assessment prior to the start of competition. This shall be recorded in a Competition Log and agreed with the Competition Director.
5. Where possible all matches will be played indoors on a plastic or wooden surface. In exceptional circumstances Local Qualifying Competition matches may be permitted to be played outdoors. Permission must be granted via the FA Pokemon Youth Futsal Cup Technical Committee and only where **all of** the following criteria is met.:
  - i. Futsal size goals must be used.
  - ii. A futsal ball must always be used as the designated match ball.
  - iii. Players are only permitted to wear flat soled shoes, no studs.

- iv. Shall not be played on grass or an AGP, only on a hard surface.
  - v. A thorough risk assessment must be prepared ensuring that the safety of all, specifically the child, is foremost in the venue considerations.
6. The Futsal ball used shall be in accordance with the provisions of the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game and the referee's decision shall be final. A ball of identical specification, manufacture and branding shall be used in each game of the same competition phase.
    - i. At the Regional Final stage onwards an official FA Pokemon Youth Futsal Cup competition match ball shall be provided to the LOC by The FA in sufficient number and to include warm-up balls to each team. These balls shall remain the property of The FA at all times.
  7. All matches shall kick off on the allocated pitch and at the scheduled time as defined by the LOC, other than in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the Competition Director.
  8. The LOC shall be responsible for ensuring a full Risk Assessment of the Venue and Event and take required measures to prevent or mitigate the transmission of COVID 19 virus.
  9. The LOC shall be responsible for dressing the venue in accordance with the published guidance issued by The FA Futsal Cup Operations Manager.

## Article 6

### WITHDRAWAL, PENALTY FOR FAILING TO PLAY AND REPLACEMENT

1. The entered teams shall undertake to play all of their matches until eliminated and/or all of their scheduled matches are concluded.
2. If a team refuses to play, it may be disqualified from the competition as a whole and all prior results nullified.
3. Depending on circumstances and the decision of the Event Technical Committee, any team that withdraws, or if through the fault of any participating team, a match cannot take place or be played in its entirety, the Event Technical Committee shall declare that the match be forfeited (*awarding victory and the resultant three points to the named opponent as well as the score of 3-0, or, greater depending on the score in the match at the time of an abandonment*) and may also exclude the team concerned from the competition and if so, nullify all prior results. The FA may take any other action deemed necessary.
4. The Event Technical Committee may take whatever action is deemed necessary in the case of force majeure.

## Article 7

### EVENT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

1. The Event Technical Committee (ETC) shall be appointed by the LOC and is responsible for

organising the Competition phase in accordance with The FA Rules. The ETC shall be overseen by the appointed Competition Director.

2. The ETC may, if necessary, appoint a bureau and/or a sub-committee to deal with emergencies. Any decision taken by the bureau or sub-committee shall come into effect immediately, but shall be subject to confirmation by the Competition Director at the earliest reasonable opportunity.
3. The ETC shall draw up and publish, not less than 7 days prior to the event commencement date, the rules for the Competition phase, giving all due consideration of current FA Rules.
4. The responsibilities of the ETC includes, but is not limited to:
  - i. Supervising general preparations, deciding on the match system, the draw and forming groups.
  - ii. The process to determine a winner and runner-up
  - iii. Fixing the dates and venues and choosing pitch allocations
  - iv. Determining kick-off times
  - v. Choosing the competition futsal ball (as applicable) and the stipulated technical material;
  - vi. Stipulating team colours
  - vii. Match official's appointments
  - viii. Settling cases of force majeure
  - ix. Disciplinary actions, in accordance with the rules
  - x. Judging protests and taking appropriate steps to verify their admissibility
  - xi. Dealing with every other aspect of the LQC that is not the responsibility of any other body under the terms of these rules.
5. The decisions taken by the LOC ETC are final and binding.

## **Article 8**

### **DISCIPLINARY MATTERS**

1. The participating teams undertake to comply with The FA Disciplinary Code in force and the relevant circular(s) issued. In addition, the teams agree notably to:
  - i. Respect the spirit of fair play and non-violence;
  - ii. Behave accordingly;

## **Article 9**

### **PROTESTS**

1. All protests must be lodged in the time frame indicated herein and accompanied with a Protest Bond of £50.00 in cash which shall only be returned in the event of a successful protest. A receipt shall be immediately issued by the Competition Director upon receipt of the payment. A payment must be accompanied by a written protest.
2. Unless otherwise stipulated in this Article, protests shall be submitted in writing to the Competition Director or appointed competition manager as advised in the team managers meeting within 20 minutes of the end of a match.
  - i. Protests submitted outside the specified deadline shall be disregarded and the Protest Bond forfeited.
3. Protests regarding a specific match may only be lodged by the competing teams.
4. Protests regarding the eligibility of players for any match shall be submitted in writing to the Competition Director no later than 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the respective teams 1<sup>st</sup> game in the LQC or any round thereafter.
5. Protests regarding the state of the pitch and its surroundings, markings, goals or futsal balls shall be made in writing to the Competition Director or appointed competition manager before the commencement of the first game and only by the named manager of the team lodging the protest.
6. No protests may be made against the referee's decisions connected with play, such decisions being final.
7. If a frivolous or irresponsible protest or appeal is lodged, the ETC may impose a fine or take any other action deemed appropriate.
8. Teams may not take disputes to a civil court. If a protest outcome decision is subject to Appeal, the appellant shall undertake to submit any such disputes to the jurisdiction of The FA-
9. Once the Competition has finished, any protests regarding the sporting procedure during the competition shall be disregarded.

## **Article 10**

### **APPEALS**

1. A team which has lodged a protest and who is not satisfied with the outcome as advised by the Competition Director may lodge an Appeal.
2. A team which is impacted by the outcome of a decision following a protest by another team may lodge an Appeal.
3. An Appeal may be lodged on one of the following grounds only;

- i. An Appeal 'on the day' by a team against a decision of the Competition Director.
  - ii. An Appeal made against a decision of the LOC.
4. The two appeal grounds 3i) & 3ii) are mutually exclusive and therefore a team can only Appeal under one of the grounds noted.
5. For the avoidance of doubt, an Appeal cannot be made against a referee's decision on the field of play.

### **Appeal A**

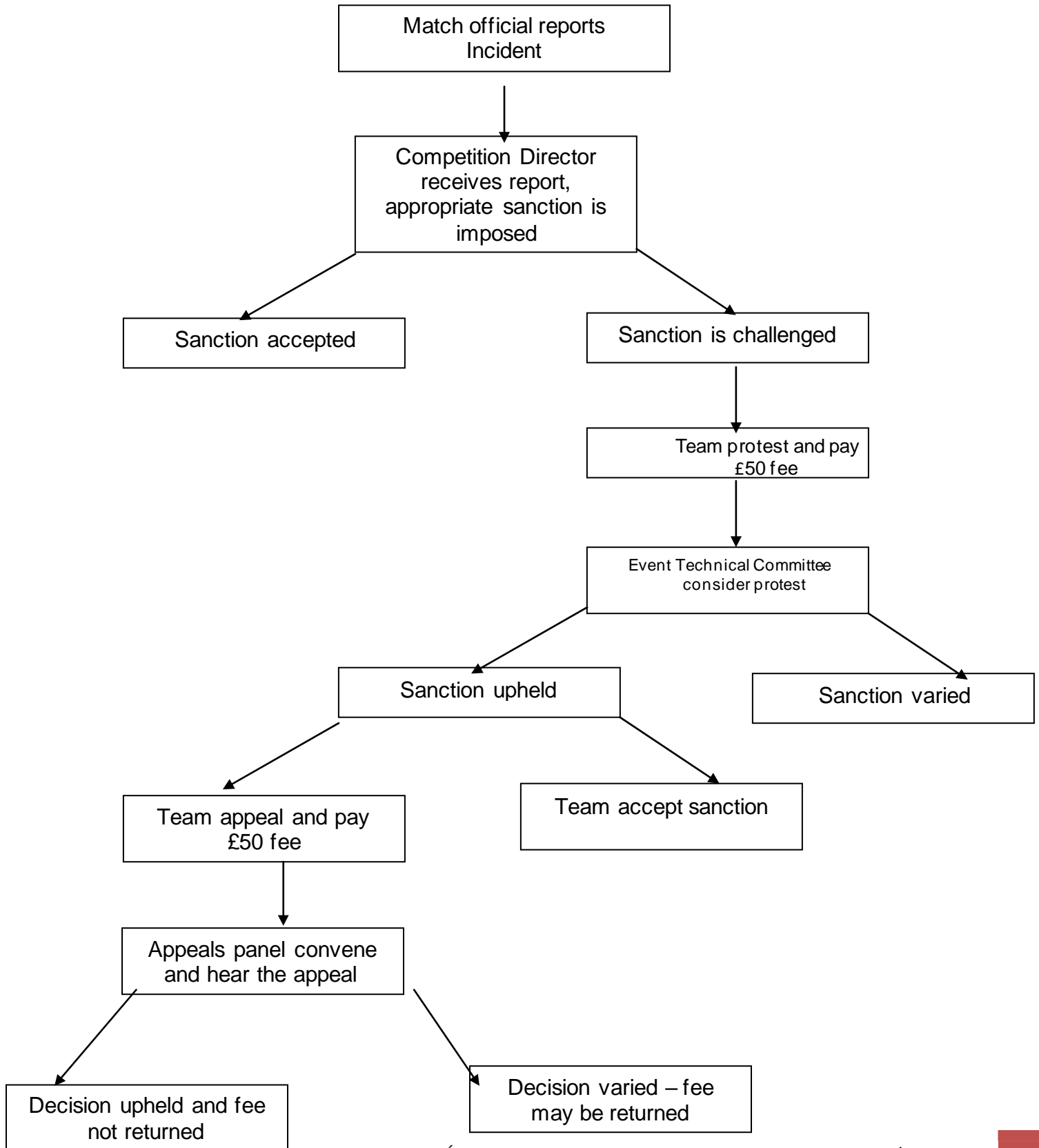
1. An 'on the day' Appeal against a decision made by the Competition Director:
  - i. A participating team (the appellant) can Appeal against a decision of the Competition Director by completing 'FORM A' within 30 minutes of the decision being notified to the team accompanied by a £50.00 cash Appeal Bond. The appellant may obtain 'FORM A' from the LOC control and must immediately notify the Competition Director or competition manager of their intention to Appeal against the decision as soon as the notification is received. The Appeal must be lodged with the Competition Director.
  - ii. The ETC will hear the Appeal and their decision will be final and binding and will be notified by the Competition Director.
    - For the avoidance of doubt there can be no further appeal made against this decision by the appellant.

### **Appeal B**

2. A participating team can Appeal against a decision of the LOC by lodging an Appeal to the Disciplinary Department at The Football Association and this must be lodged not more than 7 days after the original decision was made by the LOC. The Appeal must be written in English and be accompanied by a non-returnable fee of £50.00 sterling. Cash will not be accepted. The Appeals Panel will be made up of representatives of The Football Association who are not members of the LOC and in accordance with FA Rules.
3. An appeal must set out the grounds under which the team believes the decision to be unfair based only on one of the following grounds:
  - i. That the decision making body has come to a decision on the facts of the case which no reasonable body could have reached; or,
  - ii. That the decision making body imposed a punishment, without reasons, not conforming with the Schedule Guide to recommended punishment; or,
  - iii. That the decision making body imposed an award, order or any other sanction which

is excessive.

**Discipline process flow chart**





## Article 10 a

### DISCIPLINE SANCTIONS

1. A player who is sent from the field of play is suspended for the next match in the competition pathway. The ETC is entitled to augment this sanction in accordance with the standard match suspension tariff outlined below:
  - Receiving a second 'yellow card' in the same match – 1 Match suspension
  - Denying a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity – 1 Match suspension
  - Use of offensive, insulting or abusive gestures – 2 Match suspension
  - Attempting to kick or strike another player – 3 Match suspension
2. Any action deemed to be serious foul play (as highlighted below) will incur a tariff equivalent to permanent exclusion from the that stage of the competition and will also be considered by The FA for further disciplinary charges and sanctions in line with FA Rules and Regulations in force at the time of the event:
  - Kicking or striking another player
  - Use of offensive or insulting or abusive language or gestures directed at match officials
  - Spitting
  - Head butting Assault
  - Refusing to leave the field of play when ordered
  - Causing a match to be abandoned
  - Any offences where the offender has also acted in a discriminatory manner for reasons of ethnic origin, colour, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability.
3. Throughout each individual stage of the competition (e.g. LQC, Regional Heats, and The Final) a player who receives three (3) cautions (yellow cards) shall automatically be suspended for the next match within the competition. Once a team progresses into each new phase of the competition the yellow card count will be reset to zero and will start again for each player; yellow cards will not be carried forward into the next stage of the competition. For the purpose of clarity, red cards and their accompanying disciplinary sanction will carry forward into following stages of the competition.
4. If a player receives further cautions after his suspension this will be considered by the ETC and could result in a further suspension.
5. All suspensions incurred in the competition will only be served in The FA Futsal Cup strands.

## Article 11

### MATCHES TO PLAYED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FIFA LAWS OF THE GAME

1. All matches shall be played in accordance with the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game save for local competition amendments defined within Article 12 herein only.
2. In the event of a dispute or any discrepancy in the interpretation of the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game, the English version is authoritative.

## Article 12

### DURATION OF MATCHES, EXTRA TIME, DETERMINING THE WINNER

1. LQC and Regional Heat matches shall consist games of not less than 15 minutes but not more than 40 minutes in duration. All Games of more than 15 minutes duration should have a minimum of a 5- minute interval).
  - i. Subject to the competition format adopted by the LOC to suit the number of entrants and local constraints, it shall be permissible for a LQC to operate to either running or stop-clock but the competition must be consistent across all matches and must take into consideration the number of games to be played by each team in quick succession as applicable.
2. The Final match in the competition shall be played fully in accordance with the FIFA Futsal Laws of The Game with a minimum of 15 per half using a to running clock format and a half time break of at least 5 minutes.
  - i. If, in accordance with the provisions of these rules, extra time is required to decide the **Final match** that is level at the end of normal playing time, it shall always consist of two equal periods of five minutes played to a Running Clock protocol. If the match is still level after extra-time the match shall be decided by kicks taken from the penalty mark in accordance with the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game. Should the scores still be level after the initial **three** penalty kicks per team have been taken the penalties shall continue in rotation under the 'sudden death' principle.
3. At all competition pathway stages prior the Final match a mini-league principle will be applied. Mini-league winners will be decided by:
  - i. **Points attained**, if teams are equal on points then by;
  - ii. **Goal difference**, if teams are still equal then by;
  - iii. **Goals scored**, if teams are still equal then by the;
  - iv. **Head to head** results, and if that result was a draw then by the;
  - v. **Drawing of lots**, under the control of the LQC Competition Director

4. The duration of a mini-league shall be determined by the LQC Competition Director, but shall conclude at least 8 days prior to the notified next pathway stage.
5. Where in a competition pathway stage prior the Final match, the score of a final game is level at full-time and both participating teams cannot be separated under the application of Regulation 4 (i to iv inclusive) above, the specific match shall be decided by kicks taken from the penalty mark in accordance with FIFA Futsal Laws of The Game, to avoid the drawing of lots.
  - i. Should the scores still be level after the initial three penalty kicks per team have been taken the penalties shall continue under the 'sudden death' principle.

## **Article 13**

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ORGANISING ASSOCIATION AND THE PARTICIPATING TEAMS**

1. All participants in the competition, regardless of their function, are required to hold adequate insurance cover (£10,000,000) which is provided through their County FA affiliation.
2. The LOC are required to hold adequate insurance cover (£10,000,000).

## **Article 14**

### **CONDUCT – Participating Teams**

1. Each participating team shall be responsible for:
  - i. The conduct of the members of its delegation (officials and players), and of any person carrying out duties on its behalf throughout the Competition.
  - ii. Completing the registration of players by the date stipulated and confirming team staff details at the team managers meetings.
  - iii. Fulfilling the accreditation requirements for players and staff as outlined by the LOC.
  - iv. Attending the team managers meeting at each appropriate stage of the qualification pathway.
  - v. Submission of a team bond if required as outlined by the LOC for the Final match.
  - vi. Ensuring all players submitted on the team sheet for the fixture(s) arrive at the venue before the LOC designated player registration time. *Players arriving after the LOC*

*deadline may not be registered to play. Teams who do not present with a minimum of three players by the advised player registration time will be struck from the respective stage of the competition.*

- vii. The medical and hospital requirements for their own players.
- viii. Concluding compulsory health, accident and travel insurance cover for all the members of its delegation.
- ix. Ensuring teams are at the VCP 10 minutes prior to the start of their matches.

## **Article 15**

### **ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS**

#### **1. Teams**

- i. Players cannot register or play for more than one team in The FA Pokemon Youth Futsal Cup.
- ii. Any player currently serving a suspension issued by The FA or a County FA will not be eligible to play in the event / respective game (s) until that suspension is expired.
- iii. Player registrations are collated and recorded by the LOC which requires club officials to collect and verify player ID. These ID documents may be requested for inspection during the play phase of the competition so copies should be brought to each venue by the team official.
- iv. Any team found guilty of fielding an ineligible player shall forfeit the match(es) in which the player(s) has/have participated and the team may be excluded from the competition. Where the opposing team has won, the result shall stand. Where the team found guilty of fielding ineligible player(s) was the match winner the result shall be overturned and a 3-0 victory and associated points awarded to the opponent. Where ineligible player(s) have played in all games of a competition, all results of the guilty team shall be cancelled.

## Article 16

### PLAYERS' LISTS

1. Each participating team shall register not more than 30 players before the date set by the LOC for the teams entry point of the competition.
2. A team list of not more than 14 players shall be submitted from the teams registered player pool on using Form 1 for each phase of the competition and be submitted at team registration of each phase of the competition.
3. The numbers on the back of the players shirts shall correspond with the numbers indicated on the official team list (Form 1); this list of 14 players shall show the full surname(s), first name(s), date of birth, shirt number and player registration reference as recorded on the WGS.
  - i. The shirt number 1 shall be allocated to one of the goalkeepers. Only these 14 players (except in exceptional cases recognised by the ETC) will be permitted to take part in the respective phase of the competition.
4. According to the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game, and the development principles of this competition, the maximum number of substitutes permitted is nine. The number and method of substitutions shall be in accordance with the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game.
5. For the Final match each participating finalist will receive a maximum of 17 accreditations (14 for the listed players and 3 for their officials).
6. Not more than twelve people (three officials (of which one must be the holder of a valid FA First Aid certificate to be recorded at each team managers meeting of the respective competition pathway stage) and nine players) shall be allowed to sit on the substitutes' bench. A suspended player will not be allowed to sit on the substitutes' bench.
7. All players will need proof of ID at the event. Once this registration has been completed players may be asked for proof of identification through spot checks at the event. Failure to produce this documentation may result in a team and/or a player being removed from the competition.
8. A listed player may only be replaced on the official team list (Form 1) in the event of serious injury up until the point of team registration at each competition pathway stage.

## Article 17

### REGULATIONS GOVERNING EQUIPMENT & KIT AT FIFA AND / OR FA COMPETITIONS

1. The participating teams shall undertake to comply with The FA Equipment Regulations in force.
2. Players and officials are not allowed to display political, religious, commercial or personal messages in any language or form on their playing or team kit, equipment (including kit bags, beverage containers, medical bags, etc.) or body for the duration of their time in the stadia or any other areas where accreditation is required to enable access.
3. Each team should wear the official team colours, as recorded in its official application form to participate and Form 1. No player including the goalkeeper shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts (solid colours).
4. Teams participating in the Competition must submit to the LOC at the team managers meeting the first and second uniforms their teams are scheduled to wear during the Competition including the goalkeeper clothing alternatives
5. As well as its official team uniform each team should attend with a reserve uniform of a different colour to that of their first preference strip. The colour of this reserve uniform should also be stipulated on the application form to participate, and should be of a contrasting colour to that of the official uniform. The reserve uniform should be taken to each match and should be submitted for approval at the team managers meeting at the start of each competition pathway stage.
6. Whenever, in the opinion of the LOC, the colours of the uniforms of the two opposing teams or match officials are considered likely to cause confusion the away team (named second on the draw) will wear their reserve uniform, or alternatively changes will be made in accordance with the decision made by the ETC.
7. The uniforms of the two goalkeepers should be of colours which contrast clearly with the uniforms of the two teams and the match officials.
8. Players will not be permitted to participate in a game, although listed on an official team sheet where the player is not in an identical strip to that listed on Form 1.
9. Throughout the Competition phase each player must wear a number which has been allocated to that player on the official team list (Form 1). The numbering must be in a contrasting colour to the shirt and players may not wear a number allocated to another player on the official team sheet (Form 1).
10. Team Managers and those officials sitting on the team bench should be dressed in appropriate attire and should be in a contrasting colour to either team. Jeans/denims may not be worn by those on the bench.

11. Clubs are reminded of The FA kit regulations prohibiting sponsor advertising on replica kit as associated with certain sponsors e.g. gambling or alcohol.

## **Article 18**

### **REFEREES & MATCH OFFICIALS**

1. The referees officiating at the matches in the competition shall be appointed by the relevant coordinator / Competition Director of the competition pathway.
2. The decisions of the coordinator / LOC Referees Coordinator are final and are not subject to appeal.
3. Prior to the start of each match both teams shall declare the 5 starting players on the match form (Form 1) and return it to the match officials not less than 10 minutes prior to kick off.
4. After each match, the referee shall complete and sign the official match sheet. The referee shall ensure both team managers sign the match report prior to handing it over to the Competition Director immediately after the match who will then issue a copy to both competing teams
5. On the report form, the referee shall note all incidents before, during, and after the match in as much detail as possible, such as:
  - i. Misconduct of players, leading to caution or expulsion
  - ii. Unsporting behaviour of officials, supporters and of any person acting on behalf of an organisation at a match
  - iii. Any other incidents

## **Article 19**

### **TECHNICAL RULES FOR THE COMPETITION**

1. Designated male and female competitions will be held although in line with FA Regulations Mixed Gender participation is permitted in some circumstances.
2. A LQC shall be run in a format defined by the LOC to determine a County winner in the respective competition. The LQC shall satisfy the stipulated requirements of these rules.
3. Each Regional Final will be structured by the LOC to achieve a fair competition and subject to the number of sub-regional (LQC) qualifying teams, to determine an outright winner to progress to the Final event

# Appendix 1

## Safeguarding Children Requirements

### Introduction

Local Qualifying Competitions (LQC) will be operated by County FA's or by organisations acting under the direction of a CFA, hereinafter known as the Local Organising Committee (LOC). Responsibility for ensuring appropriate safeguards are in place sits with the LOC.

This document outlines the requirements that LOC must comply with. The FA reserves the right to monitor compliance by LOC with the requirements set out in this document and to require LOC to provide any documents or information requested.

### LOC are required to:

- Provide the name and contact details for your Designated Safeguarding Lead;
- Confirm that they will adhere to The FAs Safeguarding Children Policy, for all aspects of The FA Pokemon Youth Futsal Cup, and that this policy has been (or will be) shared with participating teams; and
- Complete the Planning Checklist (shown below)

<b>Planning Checklist – Mandatory Safeguarding Requirements</b>			
<b>Safeguarding Practice</b>	<b>In place: Yes/No (delete as appropriate)</b>	<b>Key considerations</b>	<b>Actions to take (use this column to identify actions you need to take)</b>
<b>Communication of the Safeguarding Policy</b>	Yes/No	Ensure that every team participating in the tournament is aware of The FA Safeguarding Children Policy and its requirements for participation.	
<b>Designated Safeguarding Lead</b>	Yes/No	Appoint a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who has had the appropriate background checks and training. Ensure all participating teams know how and why to contact the DSL.	
<b>Reporting Concerns</b>	Yes/No	Ensure you have effectively communicated the requirements for those working on and participating in the competition as to how to raise safeguarding concerns with the DSL and the process that the DSL will adopt if concerns are reported.	
<b>Safer Recruitment</b>	Yes/No	Ensure that the relevant checks have been done on those working for your organisation in eligible roles directly with children.	
<b>Standard of behaviour / Code of Conduct</b>	Yes/No	Ensure you have made clear the standard of behaviour required at the competition, via The FA Respect Codes of Conduct, and how breaches of this Code will be managed e.g. players / aggressive and abusive spectators or coaches	



<b>Medical Emergency Action Plan – including First Aid</b>	Yes/No	Ensure your policy communicates the medical emergency action plan and that this is clearly documented. Ensure participating clubs/teams are clear that it is their responsibility to work with parents/carers to manage any medical conditions /medication requirements for children.	
<b>Lost/missing children</b>	Yes/No	Ensure you have venue specific protocols in respect of lost/missing children and this is shared with competition staff/volunteers/teams and spectators.	
<b>Official Photographers/ Media</b>	Yes/No	Ensure you have a clear position on the taking of photographs/filming and clear signage to indicate this position. Where photography/filming is permitted informed consent must be obtained from parents/carers by the LOC. This consent and the photos/film must be retained in line with GDPR requirements. Ensure clear signage where photography/filming is not permitted (e.g. changing areas). Official photographers must have photo ID and be briefed appropriately.	

**LOC are also expected to consider how they will manage:**

**Venue suitability** - risk assess the venue e.g. insurance, location of pitches, changing areas, supervision, traffic/crossing roads to pitches etc.

**Consent to participate** - Ensure participating teams know it is their responsibility to (i) gain consent from parents/carers, for their children to participate and travel, (ii) have emergency parent/carer contact information and information on any medical condition/medication and or additional needs, in order that these can be managed appropriately

**Staff Ratios** - Ensure that you/the participating teams have the right adults-to-children ratio, based on the age of the children involved, the degree of risk involved/any children with additional needs in the group.

**Complaints** - Ensure there is clear guidance on how to raise concerns or complaints.

**Additional guidance and helpful links**

**Designated Safeguarding Lead**

As part of your Policy and to ensure that safeguarding concerns are managed effectively, your organisation must have a named Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). All concerns about a child should be reported directly to the DSL.

With support from your organisation, the DSL should plan, and risk assess the event from a safeguarding point of view. This includes overseeing safer recruitment; communicating the safeguarding requirements to participating teams, such as the code of conduct and the event safeguarding briefing; managing poor practice complaints and referring any serious concerns.

For more details on the role of a Designated Safeguarding Lead, please see The FA's guidance notes on appointing a welfare officer [here](#).

## Reporting Concerns

Serious safeguarding concerns and suspected child abuse must be referred to The FA Safeguarding Team via [safeguarding@thefa.com](mailto:safeguarding@thefa.com).

Further information on reporting concerns in football, information sharing and recording concerns, can be found via - [The FA's How to report Safeguarding Concerns](#)

It is important to ensure that all concerns are recorded accurately and fully. Reports of concerns should include:

- The nature of the concern
- Where/who it was reported to
- How the concern was responded to
- What the outcome of the report was

## The FA Pokemon Youth Futsal Cup Standards of behaviour

Outline clearly the standards of behaviour expected by the staff, volunteers you employ and/or deploy, as well as the participating teams and their officials, this is key to supporting a fun and safe football environment. So too is the ability to deal swiftly and fairly with any inappropriate behaviour.

Therefore, The FA Respect Codes of Conduct must be provided to your staff, volunteers, the coaches, parents/carers and players. These should make clear the behaviour that is expected and what is unacceptable and how it will be dealt with.

This should include a procedure for managing any inappropriate behaviour by spectators, who do not curb their behaviours when asked to do so by competition referees and organisers. There should be a procedure for removing any players from the competition, where appropriate, if they demonstrate persistent inappropriate or unsafe behaviours. This might involve the parent/carer needing to collect or take the player home, or the relevant team supervising the player, if it is not possible for them to be collected by a parent/carer.

Visit [The FA's Respect Code of Conduct](#) for more information.

## Medical Emergency Action Plans

You should ensure that there is a Medical Emergency Action Plan for the competition venue, so you can react effectively in the event of a serious (life threatening) medical incident. This should include who is responsible for contacting Emergency Services, the location of the nearest Accident and Emergency Services and access to trained first aiders on site. For further information and available courses: <http://www.thefa.com/about-football-association/st-georges-park/discover/discover/medical>

## Complaints

Your organisation should have procedures in place for dealing with complaints, whether from a child, staff member, parent/carer, volunteer or coach, in respect of any competition activity. Your complaints process should be communicated to participating teams and be available for anyone attending the event. You should provide support to any staff member or volunteer who deals with complaints.