



PARENTS & CARERS HANDBOOK

2024-2025

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WELCOME

Joining the Academy system is a wonderful opportunity for any young person, not only to develop as a footballer but also to have a positive experience regardless of progression as a player. On behalf of everyone at the English Football League (EFL), we wish your child good luck as they begin their journey.

You and your child should expect the quality of coaching, the standard of education and the all-round experience to be outstanding. We expect all Academy Players to show commitment to and respect for their fellow players of all ages, for their coaches and their Club, and for both the rules and the spirit of the game.

The EFL operates the Academy system on behalf of its Clubs, and also works closely with, the Premier League, The Football Association (FA) and the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA).

There are many things you will need to know as a parent or carer of an Academy Player.

This handbook is designed to provide you with an introduction to the Academy system and information on how it works. The rules that apply to Academies are called the Youth Development Rules and these may provide some more detailed information about some of the topics covered in this handbook. The Youth Development Rules can be found from page 33 of this document.

Further to the information in this guide, the PFA's Youth Advisory Service provides advice and information on the Academy system and offers an independent ear for young players and their parents. They can be reached by phone on **0161 236 0575** or email at youthadvisory@thepfa.co.uk. More information on the service and other places to get support including the PFA's Safety Net, can be found in section 7 (on page 24).



IMPORTANT ADVICE

Participating in the Academy system is an achievement to be proud of and, along with football development, should enrich childhood experiences and provide opportunities for holistic development. It is important to remember however that every Academy Player will, at some point, stop playing football in the Professional Club environment. This may be in a matter of months, a few years or after a career as a Professional with, for the vast majority of young players in the Academy system, departure from the Professional Club environment occurring without playing professionally.

Regardless of when release occurs, it is important that, from the start of a young person's time in an Academy, every effort is made to ensure that the young person does not feel defined by football progression or performance and is able to maintain interests outside of football. This can be termed as maintaining a broader identity. When release occurs whilst this will, in all likelihood, still be disappointing and represent a challenging time, such an approach should help to make the transition process easier. Academic research provides evidence to suggest that this advice can also help football performance.

The following table contains, what we would consider to be some very important advice to help ensure the young people involved in the Academy system have a positive and beneficial experience.

IMPORTANT ADVICE	HOW MIGHT THIS LOOK?
Ensure the young person does not feel defined by football performance or be solely identified as a footballer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensure the young person is not only referred to as a footballer who plays in an Academy b) Ensure conversation is not always about football performance c) Ensure the young person feels valued for who they are beyond football and not solely because they are involved at an Academy d) Ensure social media accounts/profiles do not extensively promote the young person as a footballer through over-professionalisation, promotion via parental account management, images in kit etc e) Encourage and recognise other hobbies, interests and activities which help to build a broader identity
Ensure the young person's only career option is not a footballer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensure academic attainment at school is maintained b) Ensure other options form a dual career pathway and are part of "Plan A" and are not a secondary "Plan B" c) Ensure the young person (and close friends/relatives) are aware that a very small minority of individuals have a sustained professional career as a footballer and there are associated challenges along the way
Ensure the young person maintains interest and friends outside the Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Encourage time for and engagement with other interests and hobbies b) Encourage time being spent with friends who are not involved in Academy football c) Ensure the young person understands that non-football activities can support football performance
Ensure the young person judges success in the Academy by being the best they can be and enjoying the experience. Recognise from the start that being released does not represent failure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Praising and encouraging doing your best (not necessarily being better than others) b) Ensuring enjoyment whilst being the best Player they can be c) Recognising there is a substantially greater number of Academy players than Professional Players in the EFL and PL and that the journey is more important than the destination

1. THE ACADEMY SYSTEM

OUR VISION

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

We want to produce more and better home-grown players and for the experiences in the Academy system to be enjoyable and positive in helping to develop the person as well as the player.

Our vision is to produce outstanding footballers capable of playing at the highest levels of the game while ensuring positive development outcomes and life-enriching experiences for all Academy Players who come through the Academy system.

We want our players to be technically excellent and tactically astute independent decision-makers on and off the field, equipped for a successful career as professional footballers. We want to develop the world's leading youth coaches, provide inspirational facilities and world-class support services.

OUR MISSION

WHAT WE DO

The aim of the Academy system is to help young players maximise their potential in football, education and life whilst providing a life-enriching experience for all.

It puts well-being and personal development at the heart of everything we do. Our aim is to develop well-rounded individuals as well as high quality players.

Clubs provide expert services, support and advice to Academy Players and their parents, and every young player should enjoy and value their Academy experience.

OPPORTUNITY

Participating in the Academy system is an achievement to be proud of, however it is important for your child to maintain a balance between the demands of life outside of football, including their education.

Support your child to maintain interests beyond the football pitch and manage expectations of a professional football career because only a few Academy Players will go on to become professional footballers. So wherever and whenever the journey in the Professional Football Academy / Club environment ends, we hope your child enjoys it.



THE PERFORMANCE PATHWAY

We call the development journey of an Academy Player in the Performance Pathway.

Players can join and leave at different ages or points and can progress into the professional game or another career. The Club coaches, backed by a wide range of other specialist services, support Academy Players through each phase of the Pathway.

THE PERFORMANCE PATHWAY HAS THREE PHASES

FOUNDATION PHASE	Under 9 (U9) to Under 11 (U11)
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PHASE	Under 12 (U12) to Under 16 (U16)
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PHASE	Under 17 (U17) to Under 21 (U21)

UNDERSTANDING ACADEMY CLASSIFICATION

Each Academy is independently audited and categorised from 1 to 4. The EFL works closely with its Clubs in between audits to ensure that standards are maintained and improved where required. The different categories of Academies reflect the type of programme provided.

The environment at an Academy will differ according to the categorisation, but all categories of Academy will have a track record of producing successful professional players. The Club will be able to provide you with their categorisation status.

ACADEMY CLASSIFICATION	DEFINITION	PERFORMANCE PATHWAY
CATEGORY 1	This is the highest classification awarded to an Academy. It is an elite environment where Academy Players are provided with additional access to coaching and the potential of full time education from U12. Category 1 Academies can recruit nationally from U14 provided the Academy Player is guaranteed access to a full time education programme.	U9 to U21
CATEGORY 2	This is an elite development environment where Academy Players are typically recruited locally but gain access to additional coaching opportunities and education support.	U9 to U21
CATEGORY 3	This is a development environment where Academy Players are provided with professional coaching and development opportunities	U9 to U21
CATEGORY 4	Academies focus on their coaching and educational support for Academy Players in the Professional Development Phase (U17 to U21) only.	U17 to U21

2. PARTICIPATION

JOINING THE ACADEMY SYSTEM

The first point of contact with a Club may be through a Scout.

WHAT IS A SCOUT?

A scout represents a Club and is responsible for identifying talented young players. Scouts must be registered with the Club who is responsible for ensuring high standards of behaviour. You should always confirm a scout's identity with the Club.



WHAT IS A FOOTBALL AGENT?

A Football Agent (formally known as an Intermediary) acts on behalf of a player or a Club and may represent a player or a Club in contractual negotiations.

Football Agents may not, either directly or indirectly, make any approach to, or enter into any agreement with a player in relation to any Football Agents activity before the first day of January in the academic year of the Player's sixteenth birthday. From this date, Football Agents may provide advisory services, but are not allowed to receive any payment for those services until the relevant Player is entering into their first or subsequent professional Contract with a Club and that Contract comes into force. The services of a Football Agent are not essential for a future in professional football.

The PFA also provide independent advisory services and can be contacted for advice and guidance for Academy Players of any age. Please see section 7 for further details.

GUIDANCE

Players entering into a contract with a Football Agent should consider taking independent legal advice or contacting the PFA particularly if they are unsure of any of the terms of the contract.

However, it is advisable to conduct thorough research before you sign with a Football Agent. Check the FA website for a list of all registered Football Agents or call the FA Football Agents enquiry line listed opposite.

Always date any document or the contract that you sign. Ensure you receive a copy of the document/contract on the day you sign.

If a Player is signed up to a Football Agent on an exclusive basis, he should not enter into a contract with another Football Agent at the same time as he may be liable to pay commission to two (or more) different Football Agents if he does so.



ACADEMY INDUCTION

Registration is when your child commits to a Club's Academy, and the Club commits to your child. All parties must complete a registration form. Your child remains attached to the Club for a period of time that depends on their age and joins an age group determined by the age they will be on 31st August.

Once registered as an Academy Player your child will no longer be able to play grass roots football if he is in the age group Under 12 or older. Your Club may provide the option to participate in some grassroots football for players in the age groups Under 9, Under 10 and Under 11 however this is at the Clubs discretion and your Club will notify you if this option becomes available.

The initial duration of the registration will be determined by the time of year when the Club approaches your child to register and the age group in which they would be registered.

DURATION OF REGISTRATION

U9, U10 and U11	Registration period of up to 1 year
U12, U14 and U16	Registration period of up to 1 year
U13 and U15	Registration period of up to 2 years

Once the registration is established it will continue thereafter for successive periods of a year (or 2 years) unless either the club and/or the player terminate in accordance with the youth development rules.

The EFL and the Club see registration as a crucial time when independent advice is important for Academy Players and their parents (see section 7).

CONTACTS

Football Agents in England are registered and monitored by The FA. You can contact them here:

The FA Football Agents enquiry line:
0844 980 8213

E-mail queries:
footballagentsqueries@thefa.com

Postal address:
FA Football Agents,
Wembley Stadium,
PO BOX 1966
SW1P 9EQ

SCHOLARSHIP OFFERS

A Scholarship is a 2-year agreement between the Club and the Academy Player which provides a full-time football development and education programme.

This is also sometimes referred to as an apprenticeship.

An offer of a Scholarship may be officially recorded at any time on or after 1st July between the Under 13 and Under 14 season. For those Academy Players in the Under 16 age group, it shall be offered on or before 31st December in your Under 16 season. Following receipt of this offer, a response is required within 28 days, otherwise it is considered that you / your child have not accepted the offer. Serious consideration should be given to undertaking this long-term commitment to a Club.

Information about the PFA Independence Youth Advisory Service available to you regarding registration and contractual offers can be found in section 7 (on page 24).

REGISTRATION PROCESS

Once the registration form is signed, the EFL will process the registration. If you and your child choose to cancel the agreement, you must contact the EFL within 7 days. Your child may be coached by, and play for, the Club during this initial 7-day period as they are officially registered with the Club.

INDUCTION

Your child's Academy will tell you about their provisions in respect of coaching, education and holistic support as well as what you can expect following registration at an Induction meeting. You will find out about your personal coaching and games programmes, and how your education programme and school liaison will be managed.

Induction is an important chance to get to know key people at the Academy, and for them to get to know you. Make the most of the opportunity to ask questions and to note names and contact details of staff.

APPROACHES AND CONTACTS

You and your child are not permitted to contact any other Premier League or EFL Clubs during the initial 7-day period, nor throughout the agreed registration period. Likewise, other Premier League or EFL Clubs, scouts and Football Agents must not make an approach to you, your child or any person connected with you / them.

At the end of each Season (except for an Academy player in the middle of a two year registration or been offered and accepted a scholarship or is currently registered on the full time training model) the Academy system provides Academy Players with an opportunity to consider their options, and a permitted time period to be contacted by, or to contact Clubs if they have chosen to leave an Academy, or if they have been released. However, please be aware that any approach or contact with or by another Club outside of this time period could be deemed a breach of the EFL's Rules.

INDUCEMENTS

Similarly, no club may attempt to induce players to register with it (whether by offering money or other benefit in kind to you, your child or anyone connected to you). This is called an inducement and you or your child must not accept any such inducement that is offered to you.

Any such inducements could be deemed a breach of the EFL Rules, and for clarity, this covers both the registration with a new club, or re-signing with a Club you may already be registered with.

Inducements can be wide ranging, from cash payments to the payment or reimbursement of accommodation or travel costs, it is however recognised that some expenses are legitimate, but must be recorded by the Academy. Should you have any doubts as to whether an inducement is being offered, you or your child should contact the EFL before proceeding. Remember, should you be found to have accepted an inducement, there could be serious ramifications for your career, including a potential sanction from the Leagues and /or termination or refusal of your registration.



CODE OF CONDUCT AND FA RESPECT PROGRAMME

Your child's registration means both you and they accept personal responsibility for maintaining standards of behaviour set out by your Club, Academy and the EFL and this was confirmed upon, at the point of registration, the signing of the Code of Conduct for Clubs, Academy Players and Parents. This Code of Conduct, which also outlines a commitment by the Club, can be found as Appendix B of the Youth Development Rules on page 34 of this handbook.

A number of years ago the FA introduced the Respect programme to try to ensure that a supportive and positive match day experience exists at all levels of youth football. Key to the development of young Players is that they enjoy the experience of playing and training and this is supported by the FA Respect programme (details of which can be found on the FA website).



TIME/DISTANCE REGULATIONS

Between Under 9 and Under 16, Academy Players can generally only be registered with a Club if they live within a limited travel time of the Club's location. From Under 17 to Under 21 there are no travel time restrictions and there is no travel limit for the Academy players engaged in the Full-Time Training Model at Category 1 Academies in the Under 14, Under 15 and Under 16 age groups.

Academy Classification	U9 to U11	U12 to U16	National Recruitment U14 to U16	National Recruitment U17 to U21
Category 1	1 Hour	1 ½ Hours	Full time	No restriction
Category 2	1 Hour	1 ½ Hours	Not applicable	No restriction
Category 3	1 Hour	1 ½ Hours	Not applicable	No restriction
Category 4	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	No restriction

Information about the PFA Independence Advisory Service available to you regarding registration and contractual offers can be found in **section 7**.



END OF SEASON PROCEDURES

Towards the end of each registration period, the Club will write to you and your child with its plan for registration for the next season(s). If the Club intends to renew the registration, you and your child must decide whether you want to accept or refuse their offer.

RENEWING YOUR REGISTRATION

If you are happy for your child to remain registered at the Club you do not need to take any action. Your Club will notify the EFL, and the registration will be retained for a further period (with the duration determined by your child's age).

DECLINING EXTENDED REGISTRATION

If you and your child choose to decline the offer of an extended registration period and seek for them to be released, you must inform both your Club and the EFL in writing by the first Saturday in June. Following receipt of confirmation from the EFL, your child will then be able to seek registration at another Club, subject to the Rules relating to travel distance.

If the offer of retention is refused and a new Club wishes to sign your child, they may have to pay compensation to previous Club(s) at which your child was registered. If your child is offered a professional contract and achieves a number of first team appearances, previous Club may also be entitled to claim extra payments.

Your child's club may offer a professional contract to commence from the age of 17 at any time from 1st November following the commencement of the Under 16 year.



COMPENSATION

Compensation is money paid by your child's new Club to their previous one to cover training and development costs if an offer of extended registration is declined. If compensation is due, and any amounts are not agreed between clubs, the new Club may be required to calculate compensation based upon an annual fixed fee which relates to the age group(s) the player was registered in and the category of Academy the player was registered with. The current fees are as shown in the table below.

Compensation for Academy Players who have been offered a scholarship by their club and for players in the Under 17 age group and older may be determined under the Regulations of the Professional Football Compensation Committee.

Academy Players and their parents are not liable for paying these fees, do not receive any money and will have no involvement in these conversations.

COMPENSATION FORMULA

Age	Cat 1	Cat 2	Cat 3
U9	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000
U10	£10,000	£8,750	£7,500
U11	£15,000	£12,500	£10,000
U12	£45,000	£30,000	£15,000
U13	£60,000	£40,000	£20,000
U14-16	£80,000 (per year)	£50,000 (per year)	£25,000 (per year)

CONTINGENCY FEES

In addition, should your child subsequently achieve a number of first team appearances, then their previous Club(s) may be entitled to additional fees known as contingency payments from the current Club. The fees are set according to divisional status.

Further information is set out in the Youth Development Rules.

REQUESTING RELEASE

During the registration period your child may only be released if all parties are in agreement (the Club, Academy Player and parents). You should initially raise any concern you have, which may have led to your child's desire to leave, with the Academy Manager. Any concerns regarding a safeguarding issue should be addressed to the Academy Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO).

As an alternative, any party may ask The Player Related Dispute Commission to provide a binding decision on a termination request by making a written application providing full reasons for the request. Detailed rules apply, full details of which can be obtained from the PFA.

If the reasons for requesting a binding decision includes a safeguarding issue, you should be aware that all poor practice safeguarding issues should be addressed to the Academy Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) as soon as a concern is identified. Safeguarding concerns will be dealt with separately from requests for release from registration.

You should be aware that compensation may be due to the Training Club should your child wish to register with a new club.

More information about feedback and communication, including the complaints process, can be found in section 8 (page 26).

MOVING TO ANOTHER ACADEMY

If your child is registered with one Academy and wishes to move to another Academy, you, your child and the two relevant Clubs will ordinarily be required to undergo an exit interview to talk through the circumstances of the proposed move.

This is a process that is intended to ensure that no Rules have been breached in relation to the move.

As part of this process, you, your child and the club that you wish to move to will also need to sign a declaration that no approach has been made to you prior to the relevant date, nor has any inducement been paid or offered to you, your child or anyone connected with you or your child to encourage them / you to move Academy.

Following this process, you may be required to provide certain documents and/or other information to the EFL to ensure that all rules have been complied with. As an example, phone records and bank statements covering the last year may be requested.

You should be aware that this process can potentially take a matter of weeks and while it is ongoing, you will not be able to train with or play for the new Club's Academy. We appreciate this can be inconvenient and can be a time of uncertainty, but it is extremely important part of ensuring the integrity of the Academy system and the EFL and Premier League Rules. We will endeavour to ensure the process is completed as soon as possible.

LEAVING THE ACADEMY

Release of an Academy Player from registration can be a difficult time. Academy Players and parents should remember that involvement in the programme is a tremendous achievement in itself.

If your child's Club does not wish to extend his registration, it is expected to provide support by, for example, helping identify opportunities to continue your child's football participation / development elsewhere. League Football Education (LFE) also provides support for players released at the end of their Scholarships.

Events are also hosted to provide support for Under 16 and Under 18 players who are not offered a Scholarship or Professional contract. Details of such events, called "Development Events", should be provided by the Club at the relevant time. Further information is provided on page 32.

Further details on opportunities to attend the U16 Assessment Trials and U18 Assessment Trials can be found on page 32.

3. ACADEMY PERFORMANCE PLAN

Each Academy has a performance plan which follows the Club's guiding principles, values, playing style and tactical approach. This encompasses a games programme, education programmes, sports science and medicine services support as well as coaching on the pitch. Your child's Academy has a designated team of specialist medical and sports science staff to provide a high level of medical care during training sessions and games. You and your child will be introduced to these specialist staff at the induction.



COACHING PROGRAMME

The age group your child is in will, to an extent, determine the coaching contact time they will receive.

The number of coaching sessions available should increase as they progress along the Performance Pathway. The Club will advise on which coaching programmes will be available to your child; these vary in terms of the number of hours of coaching received each week and when in the day those sessions take place (see Education Programme on page 22).

Close integration with education and welfare programmes will be paramount in building an effective coaching programme. The Club will continually monitor progression via regular performance reviews (see page 19).

N.B. These coaching contact times are a guide and the coach may adjust the weekly programme according to specific needs and the individual programme. The Coaching hours also include match time.

Academy Classification	Foundation Phase U9 to U11	Youth Development Phase U12 to U16	Professional Development Phase U17 to U21
Category 1	4 coaching hours per week rising to 8 hours for older Academy Players.	8 coaching hours per week rising to 12 hours for older Academy Players.	14 coaching hours per week reducing to 12 hours for Academy Players who have commitments to the professional squad during the Professional Development Phase.
Category 2	4 rising to 6	7 rising to 12	14 coaching hours per week.
Category 3	4	5 rising to 7	12 coaching hours per week.
Category 4	Not applicable	Not applicable	14 coaching hours per week reducing to 12 hours for Academy Players who have commitments to the professional squad during the Professional Development Phase Games Programme.

GAMES PROGRAMME

FOUNDATION PHASE: U9 TO U11

- Foundation Phase games are played locally, usually on Sundays, and may include regular festivals that involve 3 or more Clubs.
- The focus in this phase is fun and developing mastery of the ball, 1v1 skills and confidence through a holistic approach with the overarching aim to enhance their love for the game.
- Games take place on age-appropriate pitches. Matches are small-sided games for each age group.
- Subject to fitness, participation is in at least 50% of match playing time reasonably spread out in any one season.
- Category 1 and 2 Academies participate in a regional indoor season during December and February.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PHASE: U12 TO U16

- Youth Development Phase games are usually played at weekends and may include regular festivals throughout the season.
- Games are usually arranged on a regional basis, but Category 1 and 2 Academies may be involved in national and international competitions.
- Subject to fitness, in the Under 12 to Under 14 age groups participation is in at least 50% of match playing time reasonably spread out in any one season.
- Subject to fitness, in the Under 15 and Under 16 age groups players will play at least 20 'authorised games' per season and participate in at least 50% of the game time.
- The focus in this phase is on building technical skills, game understanding and tactical awareness.
- Academy Players may be introduced to tournament football from Under 12 to Under 16.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PHASE: U17 TO U21

The Professional Development Phase aims to prepare players for professional life in the Club's first team.

Depending on age and Academy Category, players will join a bespoke U18 League or a Professional Development League. In the league for category 3 and 4 Clubs up to 3 Under 19 Players can also participate for each team.

The vast majority of Under 18 League games take place on Saturdays.

Premier League 2 consists of Category 1 Academies, each playing a proportion of matches at the Club's main stadium. A Professional Development League is also provided for the Category 2 Clubs with a proportion of matches being played in the main stadium.

A development League which provides playing opportunities for players at some Category 3 and 4 Academies is also in operation.

FESTIVALS, TOURS AND TOURNAMENTS

Your child may have the chance to be involved in additional festivals, tours and tournaments, both domestically and abroad, some of which may be residential. These opportunities are designed to enhance playing experiences and help with technical and personal development.

The Club will provide specific details about these events as they are scheduled in the calendar.

4. PLAYER RECOGNITION SYSTEM (PRS)

Every Academy Player is issued with a personalised photo ID card as part of their registration. The League will send the card to your child once the registration forms (including an appropriate image) have been submitted and approved. The card is valid for 3 years.

The card is designed to make sure that we check who is playing, that they are in the correct age group and to record attendance at Academy fixtures. This helps to maintain a safe environment for Academy Players and staff. In order to participate in Academy fixtures and events, your child (or you or their coach) will need to have their card with them and available for inspection at all such Academy fixtures and events. Cards could be inspected before, during or after their matches by Games Programme Monitors who are deployed across the system.

Any lost or damaged cards must be reported to your Club immediately so that a new card can be printed and issued as soon as possible by the League.

The EFL will only record and store data deemed essential in fulfilling its role as a governing body and in support of its functions.



IN RESPECT OF PRS, ONCE REGISTERED, THE LEAGUE WILL ACCESS THE FOLLOWING REGISTRATION DATA IN ORDER TO PRODUCE PLAYER ID CARDS:

- Player name
- Player FAS ID
- Player image
- Player registration status

The data will be used to produce the ID card to verify Player eligibility at fixtures. All stored data will be held securely alongside existing player registration data. If a valid card cannot be produced by the Player or Club when requested, it will be reported to the League for further investigation.

THE FOUNDATION PHASE (U9 TO U11) GAME FORMATS

Age	Format	Pitch size (yards)	Goal size (feet)	Ball size
U9	4v4, 5v5, 6v6 or 7v7	30 x 20 to 40 x 30 (4v4 and 5v5) 50 x 30 to 60 x 40 (7v7)	12 x 6	3 (or 4 at the Home Club's preference)
U10	4v4, 5v5, 6v6 and 7v7	50 x 30 to 60 x 40	12 x 5 (4v4 and 5v5) 12 x 6 to 16 x 7 (7v7)	4
U11	7v7 or 9v9	50 x 30 to 60 x 40 (7v7) 70 x 40 to 80 x 50 (9v9)	12 x 6 to 16 x 7 (7v7) 16 x 7 (9v9)	4

THE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PHASE (U12 TO U16) GAME FORMATS

Age	Format	Pitch size (yards)	Goal size (feet)	Ball size
U12	11v11 (or 9v9 if both Clubs so agree)	90 x 60 (11v11) 70 x 40 to 80 x 50 (9v9)	21 x 7 (11v11) 16 x 7 (9v9)	4
U13	11v11	90 x 60	21 x 7	4
U14	11v11	90 x 60 to 100 x 60	21 x 7 to 24 x 8	5
U15	11v11	110 x 70	24 x 8	5

5. PLAYER DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESSION

Helping all Academy Players become independent decisions makers is one of the core aims of the Academy system. Athletic development, performance, lifestyle and psychology programmes will be delivered to enhance the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to become a professional footballer both on and off the field.

PERFORMANCE CLOCK

You and your child are entitled to regular feedback on progress and development at the Club. The Academy will use a the 'Performance Clock' to record, measure and monitor all aspects of progress.

The Performance Clock is a record of each player's personal performance data in areas such as the games programme, the coaching each player has received, the sport science data that has been collected (i.e. fitness data) as well as medical data (such as injuries sustained and rehabilitation undertaken) and possibly education information. The information that goes into each Player's Performance Clock is inputted via the Football Intelligence Platform (formerly the Performance Management Application (PMA)). Much of this information comes from the Player's multidisciplinary Performance Reviews (see opposite). The Player's Performance Clock is made available to players and parents by each Club.

If your child moves to another Club, they take the Performance Clock with them.



PERFORMANCE REVIEW FREQUENCY

Foundation Phase	Every 12 weeks
Youth Development Phase	Every 6 weeks
Professional Development Phase (U17 & U18)	Every 6 weeks
Professional Development Phase (U19 & U21)	Frequency to be determined by the club

PERFORMANCE REVIEWS

Every Academy Player's performance is reviewed regularly. A Performance Review assesses development against the targets set at previous Performance Reviews. It identifies the need for individual coaching, all-round athletic development, educational support, and it sets new performance targets. Each review is recorded on the Performance Clock.

Performance Reviews are conducted by a multidisciplinary team of experts employed by your child's Academy which may include the Head Coach, the Head of Education, the Club's sports scientist plus any other relevant Academy staff. You and your child will be provided with details of each Review and your child's coach will discuss future targets with you and your child on at least four occasions each season.

Your Academy will hold parents' evenings at least twice each season to discuss recent performance reviews in detail.

6. PLAYER CARE, SAFEGUARDING AND EDUCATION

WHAT IS PLAYER CARE?

Each category 1, 2 or 3 Academy has a Head of Player Care who coordinates the personal, social, and emotional development of Academy Players. They are also a point of contact for parents/carers or players who would like advice or support on a range of issues.

Alongside more formal education, Players will have the opportunity to take part in other programmes as part of the Clubs Personal Development and Lifeskills Plan. The Programme aims to improve the holistic development of Players during their time in the Academy and to prepare them for life inside and outside of football. Your child's Club, often through the Head of Player Care, will provide an extensive range of programmes including the following topics:

- Careers & Further Education Advice
- Equality & Diversity
- Financial Management
- Health & Nutrition
- Media Training
- Mental & Emotional Wellbeing
- Personal Integrity
- Social Media Awareness

League Football Education, a partnership between the EFL and the PFA, play a major role in facilitating these programmes within Clubs. We want to help Players achieve excellence at every level of their journey, ensuring we have a diverse and inclusive culture of continuous learning and that we are working in a collaborative way with Clubs and our Partners.

SAFEGUARDING AND PLAYER CARE

The EFL places great importance on safeguarding children and adults at risk and we believe that everyone has the right to enjoy football in a safe and inclusive environment. We have safeguarding rules in place that Clubs must follow to promote and protect the safety and welfare of children and young people.

Clubs safeguard their Academy Players in lots of different ways:

- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, however your child's Club has in place a Senior Safeguarding Manager and a Designated Safeguarding Officer. The members of staff fulfilling these roles are at the heart of our Clubs' development of young talent and can provide you with support and advice. It is important to know who your child's Club's Safeguarding Team is and how to contact them.
- Getting the right people involved. Your child's Club must make sure that they only work with suitable people and organisations who also believe in keeping children and young people safe.
- Creating a safe environment. Your child's Club has safeguarding policies, procedures and guidelines in place which everyone must follow.
- Empowerment and education. Your child's Club must make sure that people who work for them know what their responsibilities are by giving them regular training. The Club also has a responsibility to educate and empower children and young people by helping them understand their rights and where they can get help or advice if they need it.
- Working together and taking action. Your child's Club has a duty to take all concerns seriously and ensure that they are dealt with swiftly and appropriately.

GETTING ADVICE AND REPORTING CONCERNS

Our Safeguarding Team can be contacted by emailing safeguarding@efl.com or by calling **01772 325940** to speak to a member of the safeguarding team for advice, to raise a concern or to help you get in touch with your child's Clubs Safeguarding team.

IMAGES / VIDEO FOOTAGE – PARENTS AND PLAYERS UNDER 18 YEARS

Still images and recorded footage are used in many ways: for Club performance analysis, match-day programmes, as well as other publications and literature. Your child's Club will have an Images Policy.

You should ensure that you understand what the Images Policy for your child's Club is. As the parent/ legal guardian of the player you will be asked to sign a consent form to ensure that you understand how the images may be used.

If parents/carers have any concerns regarding the use of images they should contact the DSO.

SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS

You should be aware that your child's Club will have a policy and guidance for players, parents and staff on the use and misuse of social media sites, including Facebook and Twitter. It is important that you and your child understand what is acceptable and unacceptable.

Being registered with a professional Club means that your child has a responsibility to be a positive role model in all public communications, therefore, inappropriate comments about others, including; players, parents, staff, officials or the Club will be taken seriously, may result in disciplinary action and could result in dismissal.

Parents / carers may have seen in the media that there is a 'trend' by some young people to use social media to share inappropriate images of themselves or others. It is important to remember that on occasions the sharing of such images may be considered a criminal act. Parents should discuss with their children the risks associated with the misuse of instant imaging messaging services such as Snapchat; WhatsApp; Direct Messenger (Twitter) and Facebook (Direct Messenger).

The EFL are committed to safeguarding. Any young person found to be sending inappropriate images of other children may be reported to the police and FA Case Management Team. Although the majority of images are appropriate and are taken in good faith, images of children can be misused and children and young people may be put at risk as a result.

Parents / carers are asked to reinforce, with young players, the importance of safe use of social media systems to protect your own and other children.

Parents and players should ensure to read and understand the Clubs Social Media Policy.

NSPCC:

Adults can contact the **NSPCC helpline** by calling **0808 800 5000** or by emailing help@nspcc.org.uk to get advice or share their concerns about a child, anonymously if they wish. Trained professionals are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

CHILDLINE:

Childline is a free and confidential service for children and young people up to their 19th birthday. They are available any time, day or night. You can contact them by phone, by email or through their 1-2-1 counsellor chat service.

Visit their website for further advice or support www.childline.org.uk

THINKYOUKNOW:

Visit www.thinkuknow.co.uk for advice on internet safety and safe surfing. You can contact them confidentially if something has happened online which has made you/them feel unsafe, if you are worried about somebody else or to report online abuse.

It is important to familiarise yourself with your Club's policy on the use of social media sites. This policy will outline what is and what is not acceptable.

EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Your child's education is vitally important. Their education programme will help them achieve a productive and fulfilling career, both on and off the field. The Head of Education at your club oversees the programme and will:

- Liaise with your child's school to make sure their football commitments do not damage their levels of progress at school.
- Make sure your child follows a formal education programme that lets them achieve their academic potential and
- Offer advice on all aspects of the education programme.

TRAINING MODELS & PROVISIONS ACROSS THE PHASES

The training models used by Academies and other education related provisions can vary across the different "phases" of the Academy Pathway.

FOUNDATION PHASE: U9 to U11

In the Foundation Phase Academies operate a part time programme with full time school attendance and Academy attendance in the evening, at weekends and during holidays. Additionally, your child's Academy keeps in regular contact with your child's school to ensure Academy attendance is not having a detrimental impact on educational progress.

The Academy will report to you at least twice per year, outlining your child's progress in all areas of football development.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PHASE: U12 to U16

The Youth Development Phase offers three possible types of programme:

1 PART TIME

- School attendance is full time and, in the main, Academy attendance is in the evenings, at weekends and during holidays.
- The Academy will keep in regular contact with your child's school.

2 HYBRID

- Academy Players are released from school to attend the Academy for part of the weekly timetable, depending on age and the Club's programme.
- Agreement must be reached between the school, parents and Club describing the arrangements and the likely effect on the child's studies.
- Academies must work with schools to track academic progress, and they must provide extra help to ensure there is no detrimental effect on academic achievement.
- Information regarding educational progression should be recorded on at least a 12-weekly basis.

3 FULL TIME

- If Academy Players are offered a full-time place at an Academy, they receive both their football and education programmes through the Club. Their academic needs will be met by a local school.
- The Club will make a detailed assessment of educational needs and work closely with previous and new schools to ensure the curriculum meets both government requirements and the child's academic abilities.
- If Academy Players are offered a place on a full-time programme, the Club will also offer an extended registration that lasts up to the end of secondary school education.
- A full educational review will take place every 12 weeks and a copy will be sent to parents / carers.
- Information regarding educational progression should be recorded on at least a 12-weekly basis.
- A full-time place may involve living away from home in accommodation arranged by the Club for instance at a boarding school, Club boarding home or with a host family.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PHASE: U17 to U21

In the first two years of this phase, Academy Players must take an education component as part of their Scholarship.

Many Academy Players take the Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence; full details of this will be provided by both the Club and League Football Education (LFE).

A full educational review will take place every 12 weeks and will be recorded.

Although not compulsory, there may be education opportunities available after turning 18 to continue education. This may include higher level programmes, such as degree-level study.

Academy Players are expected to complete their education programme even if they sign a professional contract before the apprenticeship has run its course.

The club may offer your child a professional contract to commence from the age of 17 at any time from 1st November following the commencement of the under 16 year.



MEDICAL, CONCUSSION & HEADING

MEDICAL

The EFL and Premier League require a very high level of medical care for players within Academies. For example, all Academies must have an Emergency Action Plan written by the Academy doctor and must have staff who have specific First Aid and Primary Care qualifications.

CONCUSSION

Although Academies have a very high levels of medical care provision, parents and carers also have a very important role, especially when a player has sustained, or is suspected of having sustained, a concussive injury. On these occasions, players should not be left alone in the first 24 hours and the 'FA graduated return to play protocol' must be followed. This can be found at (thebootroom.thefa.com/resources/coaching/the-fas-concussion-guidelines).

HEADING

English football has introduced heading guidance that is aimed at reducing heading without impacting development of technique. The guidance has been produced using a precautionary approach to protect player welfare where scientific evidence is currently limited, but is constantly under review. Recommendations for heading vary depending on a player's age. Further information can be found at (www.thefa.com/news/2020/feb/24/updated-heading-guidance-announcement-240220).



SAFETY NET



Helping young players with the challenges of playing academy football



Find out more

PFA.OUR-SAFETY.NET

Register to access confidential advice, support and videos

PFA YOUTH ADVISORY SERVICE

Free, independent advice

Signing for an academy is an extremely exciting time for players and their families, but we know that the football journey can at times be complicated to navigate.

The Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) Youth Advisory team is dedicated to making that journey as easy and transparent by offering young players and their families free, impartial advice on all aspects of the academy system.

What is the PFA?

The Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) is the players' union for all current and former footballers and scholars in the Premier League, WSL and the English Football Leagues. We are entirely independent and not affiliated with leagues, clubs or governing bodies. Put simply, the PFA helps players at all levels navigate professional football.



Comprehensive support at all youth levels

From pre-academy, throughout the foundation, youth and professional development phases we're able to help.



Registrations & inductions
Contractual offers
FA & FIFA regulations
Scholarship offers



Compensation
Player welfare
Agents & intermediaries
End-of-season procedures

Questions we get asked:

When should the club tell us if a scholarship offer is being made or not?

How much game time should we be receiving?

Can my son play down or in the older age groups?

The club have made an offer of a scholarship to my son. What is this and how long do I have to decide whether to accept or not?"

Do I need to consider getting an agent?

Get in touch with the team

For free, independent advice, get in touch with the PFA Youth Advisory team. Even if you wish to remain anonymous, please reach out.

youthadvisory@thepfa.co.uk

0161 2360575

8. FEEDBACK

Close and regular communication between Clubs, Academy Players and parents helps to ensure an enjoyable and productive experience for everyone and minimises the risk of misunderstanding. Feedback helps Clubs to identify areas for improvement that will enhance the learning environment and the playing experience. Comments, suggestions and the raising of concerns help Clubs to manage risks and encourage better performance.



CLUB COMPLAINTS

You or your child should always raise any concern you or your child may have with the Club in the first instance. You should follow the process outlined below.

COMMUNICATION

Informally raise the issue with someone at the Club, such as your child's Coach, Designated Safeguarding Officer or Academy Manager; this may help to reach a satisfactory resolution quickly.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Each club is required to have its own complaints procedure for Academy Players and Parents. If the issue is not resolved informally, follow the Club's complaints procedure and put your complaint formally in writing to the relevant individual at the Club. This individual may be identified in the complaints procedure.

SAFEGUARDING COMPLAINTS

If the complaint relates to the welfare or safeguarding of a child/adult at risk then ensure you send (or at least copy) the complaint to the Club's Designated Safeguarding Officer.

Clubs are obliged to consider whether any safeguarding complaint is required to also be notified to the FA and EFL.

Regulations state that the Club shall notify the League and The Football Association of the abuse of, or unsuitable behaviour towards a Child or adult at risk, by any member of Academy Staff (including current, former or prospective members of Academy Staff). The concern may relate to the conduct or the performance of their duties as a member of Academy Staff; a non-recent or recent allegation; or a third (or subsequent) incident or allegation of 'poor practice'.

A notification by a Club to the FA and EFL is called a referral. Once a referral has been made:

- the FA's regulations mean it has the power to investigate safeguarding concerns and act against any participant who breaches its safeguarding policy and/or rules; and
- the EFL's role is limited to ensuring Club compliance with our safeguarding standards and regulations.

CONCLUSION OF THE CLUB COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

You should always follow the Club's complaints procedure to the end.

At the outcome of the Club complaints procedure then you may, of course, accept the outcome (in whatever form as agreed).

If, however, you consider that you have grounds to terminate the registration with the Club, you may apply to the Board of the EFL for cancellation of the registration in accordance with **Youth Rule 288**. Any such application will be referred to an independent commission (the Player Related Disciplinary Commission or PRDC). Taking a case to the PRDC should be looked at as a last resort because significant costs can be incurred.

PFA YOUTH ADVISORY SERVICE

At any stage it may be beneficial to seek independent advice which is available via the PFA Advisory Service (see Section 7 of this handbook) or, of course, your own specialist legal advice.

ROLE OF THE EFL

The EFL cannot itself resolve complaints regarding conduct of Clubs or their staff. However, the EFL may be able to assist in resolving such complaints and you should feel free to copy any complaint to the EFL. The EFL may then engage with you and/or the Club in an effort to try and resolve the issues amicably. Such messages to the EFL should be sent either to enquiries@efl.com or to the specific contact details on page 2.

Note: the EFL has its own complaints procedure which can be found on the EFL website (efl.co.uk) or you can request a copy be sent to you by contacting the [EFL businessoperations@efl.com](mailto:EFL_businessoperations@efl.com) - 01772 325800.

This procedure is for complaints regarding any actions of the EFL, and is not the procedure to follow for issues relating to Club practice.

IF YOU SEE IT OR HEAR IT, REPORT IT.

'It' is discrimination, in all its forms.
Racism. Homophobia, Misogyny. Disablism.
If you have seen it or heard it, follow
the QR code to report it to Kick It Out.
Together, we can put an end to it.



Take action today at kickitout.org



EFL EQUALITY STATEMENT

The EFL is committed to ensuring our environment is reflective and representative of the communities in which our Clubs serve and free from all forms of discrimination. We are dedicated to promoting equality on the grounds of any protected characteristic as defined in the Equality Act 2010.

Everyone has the right to be treated with dignity and respect, and the EFL is committed to eliminating all forms of discrimination incorporating direct, indirect, associated, or perceived discrimination and all forms of bullying, harassment and victimisation. The EFL actively promotes equality, inclusion and diversity and an ongoing commitment to tackling discrimination and hate crime on grounds of age, cultural background, class,

race, ethnicity, ability or disability, gender, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, faith, religion and marital status.

The EFL and member clubs introduced regulatory commitments for all clubs including academies to implement the Equality Code of Practice. The Equality Code of Practice sets out key areas all EFL clubs should look to address to ensure they are inclusive across all areas of their business. In June 2016 the EFL introduced ground-breaking new regulations aimed at tackling the under-representation of Black, Asian and Mixed Heritage managers and coaches employed by clubs. The EFL also introduced Academy Audits and promotes and supports work concerning other areas such as women and girl's attendance, LGBTQ+ awareness, mental health and other FA, PL and PFA led initiatives.



REPORTING DISCRIMINATION

The EFL has a reporting pathway to deal with any allegations of hate crime, prejudicial and/or discriminatory behaviour or conduct to ensure that all individuals can raise their issue through the channels explained in this handbook.

The EFL also works closely with Kick it Out which provides a reporting service for discriminatory behaviour through its 'kick it out app'. The free app provides users with the ability to confidentially report incidents they may see, hear or witness at a match.

By attaching video, photo and audio evidence to complaints this can help support investigations into discriminatory abuse and behaviour across football (for more information please visit www.kickitout.org or download the free app via the Apple or Android store).



FA EDUCATION AND WELFARE STATEMENT

(for Players and Parents / Carers)

Throughout my career in youth development I have been a strong advocate of our young players concentrating on their education both at school and when in our clubs. It is increasingly important that players can present themselves well off the pitch as well as perform on it.

So, congratulations in getting registered with an academy – that is a great achievement. I personally believe that some of the best players I have worked with have been able to have the self-discipline to achieve their potential both in their football and in the classroom. Whilst not everyone is an A grade student I feel there is usually a link amongst players who can apply themselves to give their best, whether it is working hard to get a B-tec or sitting A levels whilst playing in the Champions League – if you do your best to achieve either of these you are laying the foundations to be successful in your career and in your life.

Increasingly young professional footballers are continuing their education after 18 and for those who do not get professional contracts, their potential to go to University, do scholarships abroad or move into the

workplace with academic qualifications and having worked in an elite sporting environment gives you a brilliant start to your adult life. However great your career is, your working life until retirement age will be longer than your playing days – so get the foundations of a good education in place and ask the club what are the different courses available.

Clubs now have access to experienced staff with an expertise in educational and welfare matters as well as careers advice. Get to know these staff and impress them with your effort and application and they too, will then go the extra mile for you when you need to call upon them or seek their support.

A football academy is a tough but brilliant environment to be in. Good luck with your career and your continued learning.

John McDermott
FA Technical Director



LEAGUE FOOTBALL EDUCATION AND APPRENTICESHIPS

EFL clubs sign young players from 16 years of age on a two-year scholarship agreement, which includes a condition that they must study an education programme. On behalf of the EFL and the Professional Footballers' Association, League Football Education (LFE) deliver the Apprenticeship Programme that is undertaken by the vast majority of players.

The Apprenticeship offers each apprentice the chance to fulfil his dream of becoming a professional footballer by providing an opportunity to develop footballing skills, whilst gaining relevant academic qualifications which today's employers deem essential.

The education programme was designed for those participating in elite-level sport and is embraced by a number of professional and Olympic sports, as well as professional football.

LFE works closely with Academy staff at EFL clubs to support apprentices in all the education elements of the programme. This includes the Level 3 Sporting Excellence Professional (SEP) qualification, the UEFA C Coaching Certificate delivered by the FA and an education course that will be set at an appropriate level to meet individual needs and abilities.

LFE's responsibilities extend to the delivery of Life Skills to Under 9 to Under 21 players, staff, parents and carers. There is a vast programme that covers emotional wellbeing, discrimination, faith, finance, mental skills, personal development, sexual health and consent, social media, transferable skills, radicalisation and lifestyle education on key subjects such as gaming, gambling, alcohol and drugs.

Transition support is also provided after the completion of the apprenticeship, including tracking and monitoring of all past apprentices, assessment trials to help out of contract players find other clubs, assistance in securing USA Soccer Scholarships or University places, and links with organisations who place players at clubs in Europe and further afield alongside studying for HE qualifications.



LFE prides itself on providing an outstanding programme that empowers apprentices to fulfil their potential and be successful in life.

The excellent work conducted by LFE was endorsed by Ofsted during an inspection in February 2023, when LFE was awarded 'Outstanding' in all areas of inspection.

Further information on LFE and the Apprenticeship programme can be obtained at www.lfe.org.uk.

LFE can also be contacted by email at info@lfe.org.uk or by telephone on **01772 326870**.

Sarah Stephen
Chief Executive
League Football Education (LFE)



DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

As a collaboration between the EFL and Premier League, events are organised towards the end of the season for U16 Players who are, at that time, without the offer of a Scholarship. These events are typically residential and aim to provide continued sporting, educational, career and personal support. Expert speakers covering a variety of topics are sourced, and a variety of activities undertaken, to provide what is hoped will be a very useful experience to prepare for the future either within football or elsewhere.

TRIALS

The purpose of a trial is for the player to experience the Academy environment and for the club to view the player ahead of potentially offering him a period of registration. Usually the player's trial period at a Club lasts for up to 8 consecutive weeks, but this can be extended to a maximum of 12 weeks upon a clubs application to the League.

A trial may not be offered to any player who is on trial at another Academy or who is currently registered at another club (unless consent is given). Before a trial commences the required form YD8 must be completed and submitted to the League.

The maximum travel time for trials is 1 hour for Under 9 to Under 11 players. For players from Under 12 upwards please refer to Youth Development Rule 255.

UNDER 16 ASSESSMENT TRIALS

Under 16 Academy players may receive notice that the Club will not be offering them a scholarship registration. In order to provide an opportunity to obtain a further period of registration at a different club, the EFL stages Under 16 assessment trials, usually during the half term week in February. The assessment trials are attended by scouts from various clubs and education establishments and attendance at these events may provide an opportunity to join a new club or be offered a place at a college.

To be eligible to attend the trials your child must have been registered as an U16 at an Academy during the current season and be nominated to attend by the club. After all the trials have taken place, if any interest from the scouts has been registered with the EFL, you will be notified accordingly.

LFE U18 ASSESSMENT TRIALS

At the end of the two-year apprenticeship, if your child is not offered a further period of registration with your club, they may be able to attend the LFE Assessment Trials. Managed by League Football Education, in association with The EFL and The Professional Footballers' Association, the Assessment Trials provide an opportunity for players to be viewed by scouts from professional and non-league clubs. Held on a regional basis across three venues each year, the trials also attract representatives from European clubs and higher education institutions from both the UK and the USA.

To be eligible to attend the trials, players must have completed or be about to complete the Apprenticeship programme. Upon completion of the trials, LFE will notify players of any interest from scouts, within two weeks of the final trial date taking place.

For more information on the Assessment Trials, please visit

www.lfe.org.uk/assessment-trials

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GENERAL

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 Regulation 1 of the League Regulations.

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 Professional game Board of the Football Association (“PGB”) pursuant to Rule 15;
 - 1.2. **“Academy Doctor”** means the Official referred to in Rule 110;
 - 1.3. **“Academy Expenses Information”** means the following information, in the format to be prescribed by the League, and signed by a Club’s finance director:
 - (a) details of all amounts paid (directly or indirectly) over the preceding 12 months to or in respect of each of the Club’s Academy Players (in the Under 9 to Under 16 age groups) or their families, and each of the Club’s prospective Academy Players or their families, in each case whether or not those amounts relate to reimbursement or pre-payment of expenses or otherwise;
 - (b) confirmation that all expenses paid in the preceding year have been paid in accordance with the Club’s Academy expenses policy required by Rule 346.
 - 1.4. **“Academy Expenses Policy”** means the Club’s policy in respect of reimbursement or prepayment of legitimately incurred expenses to its current and prospective Academy Players (in the Under 9 to Under 16 age groups), which must:
 - (a) comply with any guidance issued by the League;
 - (b) be signed off by the Club’s board; and
 - (c) be submitted to the League.
 - 1.5. **“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;
 - 1.6. **“Academy Licence”** means a licence issued by the PGB to a Club to operate an Academy;
 - 1.7. **“Academy Licensing Criteria”** has the meaning set out in Rule 7;
 - 1.8. **“Academy Management Team”** has the meaning set out in Rule 61;
 - 1.9. **“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 63 to 69;
 - 1.10. **“Academy Nutritionist”** means the Official referred to in Rule 99;
 - 1.11. **“Academy Operations Manager”** means the Official referred to in Rule 71;
 - 1.12. **“Academy Performance Plan”** means a document which sets out: 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, where appropriate, details how the Academy will deliver and integrate its coaching, Education, Games and Sports Science and Medicine/Performance Support Programmes;
 - 1.13. **“Academy Player”** means a male player (other than an Amateur Player, Non-Contract Player (in the 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 182 to 189; and
 - (b) has entered into a Standard Contract with that Club;
 - 1.14. **“Academy Psychologist”** means the Official referred to in Rule 121;
 - 1.15. **“Academy Secretary”** means the Official referred to in Rule 72;
 - 1.16. **“Academy Self-Assessment Report”** has the meaning set out in Rule 8.2;
 - 1.17. **“Academy Staff”** means those Officials of a Club employed or otherwise engaged to work in the Club’s Academy;
 - 1.18. **“Annual ISO Audit”** means the process set out in Rule 17;
 - 1.19. **“Applicant Club”** has the meaning set out in Rule 347.
 - 1.20. **“Artificial Surface”** means a playing surface which in the reasonable opinion of the League meets the requirements of the FIFA Quality Programme for Football Turf and any new outdoor or indoor Artificial Surface pitch installed by a Club which operates or applies to operate a Category 1 Academy must achieve the ‘FIFA Quality’ rating under the FIFA Quality Programme for Football Turf;
 - 1.21. **“Audit Action Plan”** has the meaning set out in Rule 17.6;

1.22.	“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 Parent(s) (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 Premier League clubs in which the Academy Player plays with the prior written permission of the Club holding his registration; or (g) in respect of the Foundation Phase only, matches played for teams at the grassroots level, outside the Academy system; or (h) any other match authorised by the Board;
1.23.	“Basic First Aid for Sport Qualification” means the qualification of that name issued by or on behalf of The Football Association;
1.24.	“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;
1.25.	“Chief Executive” means the Official referred to in Regulation 16.15.1(c) (in the case of Championship Clubs) and the equivalent Official (for League One and Two Clubs);
1.26.	“Club Board” means those Directors of the Club whose particulars are registered under section 162 of the Act;
1.27.	“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;
1.28.	“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;
1.29.	“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;
1.30.	“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 their role;
1.31.	“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;
1.32.	“Development Action Plan” means an individualised plan, developed and implemented in accordance with these Rules, for the professional development of an Academy coach;
1.33.	“Development Centre” means an establishment operated by a Club in England or Wales for the coaching of Children which is not an Academy but provides development opportunities for talented young players who have the potential to become Academy Players and includes Pre-Academy Training Centres, Junior Training Centres and Senior Training Centres. This includes any such establishment by whatever name or title it is known;
1.34.	“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;

1.35.	“Duty of Care” means the responsibility of each Club to promote, protect and support the individual wellbeing of each Academy Player and member of Academy Staff, within the Academy, in accordance with the following pillars: (a) Education (see Rules 194 to 210); (b) Personal development and life skills (see Rules 211 to 214); (c) Inductions and transitions (see Rules 215 to 219); (d) Academy Player and Parent(s) voice (see Rules 220 to 221); (e) Safeguarding and mental and emotional wellbeing (see Rules 222 to 225); (f) Health and safety (see Rules 226 and 227); (g) Inclusion, diversity and equality (see Rules 228 and 229); and (h) Injury and medical (see Rules 230 to 237);
1.36.	“Educational Advisor” means, in respect of any Club in membership of the Premier League, experts appointed by the Premier League to support the delivery of education to Academy Players, and, in respect of any Club in membership of the League, means League Football Education;
1.37.	“Education Programme” has the meaning set out in Rule 194;
1.38.	“EHOC” means the ‘Elite Heads of Coaching’ programme provided by the Premier League for Heads of Coaching at Category 1, Category 2 and Category 3 Academies and in respect of which additional funding is available from the League in the event of Club participation;
1.39.	“Elite Academy Managers Development Programme” or “EAM” means the development programme provided by the League for Academy Managers;
1.40.	“Elite Player Performance Plan” means the document of that name dated May 2011;
1.41.	“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 training venues, and the contingency plan for how any medical emergencies at such matches and training shall be dealt with;
1.42.	“Emergency First Aid in Football” or “EFAIF” means the qualification of that name issued by or on behalf of the Football Association;
1.43.	“FA Advanced Youth Award” means the advanced qualification for Academy coaches which is awarded by The Football Association;
1.44.	“FA Youth Award” means the non-age specific qualification for Academy coaches awarded by The Football Association;
1.45.	“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;
1.46.	“Foundation Phase” means the Under 9 to Under 11 age groups inclusive;
1.47.	“Foundation Phase Games Programme” means the games programmes organised by the Premier League and the League for teams in each of the Under 9 to Under 11 age groups as set out in Rules 154 to 159;
1.48.	“Full ISO Audit” means the process set out in Rule 18;
1.49.	“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;
1.50.	“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;
1.51.	“Full Time Training Model” means: (a) 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 (b) in the Youth Development Phase, a programme which complies with the following: (i) the Academy Player shall receive within the Core Coaching Time a minimum of twenty hours of education; (ii) 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 129; (iii) 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 (iv) the Club’s delivery of the Full Time Training Model must comply with these Rules;

1.52.	“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: FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game Link
1.53.	“Games Programme” means the Foundation Phase Games Programme, the Youth Development Phase Games Programme, or the Professional Development Phase Games Programme;
1.54.	“Games Programme Schedule” means the period during which matches in the Games Programmes shall take place;
1.55.	“Head of Academy Coaching” means the Official referred to in Rule 74;
1.56.	“Head of Education” means the Official referred to in Rule 115;
1.57.	“Head of Recruitment” means the Official referred to in Rule 117;
1.58.	“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, Academy Players in the Youth Development Phase may be released from attendance at school during the School Day for the maximum equivalent duration of two days a week which, for the avoidance of doubt, may occur over more than two days in a week (for example, one full day and two half days);
1.59.	“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;
1.60.	“Induction and Transition Strategy” means the documented plan in place at each Club, agreed by the Technical Board, designed and implemented to support Academy Players in their arrival to and departure from the Club, for whatever reason and whatever age group;
1.61.	“Intermediate Trauma Medical Management in Football” or “ITMMiF” means the qualification of that name issued by or on behalf of The Football Association;
1.62.	“ISO” means Professional Game Academy Audit Company or such other independent standards organisation appointed from time to time by the PGB for the purposes of undertaking the ISO Audits;
1.63.	“ISO Audit” means an Annual ISO Audit, a Full ISO Audit or a Re-Audit;
1.64.	“Junior Training Centre” means a Development Centre operated by a Club in accordance with Rules 133 to 145 to provide opportunities for young players in between their Under 9 Year and their Under 16 year (inclusive), who are not registered Academy Players but who have the potential to become registered Academy Players;
1.65.	“Learning Management System” or “LMS” means the online system provided by the League for the upload and storage of educational data and information regarding Academy Players (currently known as the ‘Education Management System’);
1.66.	“Multi-disciplinary Review” means a review of all aspects of an Academy Player’s football, athletic and educational performance and development and which shall include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> reports from all relevant Academy Staff (including from the coaching, education and sports science and medicine/performance support disciplines); 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); self-assessment by the Academy Player; and short, medium and long-term targets for the Academy Player’s football, athletic and personal development ;
1.67.	“Parent Handbook” means the information to be provided by the League to the Parent(s) of each Academy Player upon each occasion of his registration for a Club and which will contain: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> information about the consequences of the Academy Player becoming registered with a Club; and a summary of the Club’s obligations to the Academy Player, and the Academy Player’s obligations to the Club;
1.68.	“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);
1.69.	“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;
1.70.	“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;
1.71.	“Performance Analysts” means the Officials referred to in Rules 111 and 112;
1.72.	“Performance Clock” means the application utilised for recording, measuring, monitoring and evidencing all aspects of an Academy Player’s progression and development in accordance with the format and procedures to be set by the League;

1.73.	“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): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> each Academy Player’s Performance Clock; such information as the League may from time to time require for the purposes of national or Category-wide benchmarking; and 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;
1.74.	“Personal Development and Life Skills Plan” means the individual development plan for each Academy Player delivered by his Club on an ongoing basis throughout the period of his registration and which will also include (without limitation) life skills training or coaching in the following areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> mental and emotional wellbeing; health and nutrition; careers and further education advice; transition support; financial management; use of social media; dealing with the media; anti-doping; gambling, anti-corruption and sporting integrity; personal integrity; and social skills;
1.75.	“Player Care” means the adoption of a holistic approach to personal and sporting development, supporting Academy Players to achieve their potential in and out of football;
1.76.	“Playing Philosophy” means a written statement which sets out: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the principles, values, playing style and tactical approach of all of the Club’s teams (including its first team); and 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;
1.77.	“Pre-Academy Training Centre” means a Development Centre operated by a Club in accordance with Rules 133 to 145 to identify young players who have the potential to become registered Academy Players upon the commencement of their Under 9 year;
1.78.	“Premier League 2” means the League of that name managed, organised and controlled by The Premier League;
1.79.	“Productivity Data” means an analysis, produced by the Premier League using the Productivity Methodology, as to the track record of Academies in developing Academy Players;
1.80.	“Productivity Methodology” means the methodology developed by the Premier League for analysing the registration and playing history of Players and, as a consequence thereof, for producing the Productivity Data and each Club’s Productivity Profile;
1.81.	“Productivity Profile” means an analysis, provided by the League using the Productivity Methodology, of each Club’s track record in developing Academy Players, that is to say: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the extent to which Academy Players coached by or at its Academy have progressed to become established professional Players; and accordingly; and the extent to which the Club is successful in contributing to the development of established professional Players;
1.82.	“Professional Development Leagues” means the leagues of that name managed, organised and controlled by the Premier League (in the case of Clubs operating Category 1 and Category 2 Academies) or by the 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;
1.83.	“Professional Development Phase” means the Under 17 to Under 21 age groups inclusive;
1.84.	“Professional Development Phase Games Programme” means the games programmes organised by the Premier League and League for teams in the Professional Development Phase as set out in Rules 175 to 181;
1.85.	“Qualified Teacher Status” means the accreditation which an individual must obtain in order to teach in state-maintained schools in England and Wales;
1.86.	“Re-Audit” has the meaning set out in Rule 18.8;
1.87.	“Scholarship Agreement” means an agreement made between a Club and an Academy Player in YD11;
1.88.	“School Day” means the times when the pupils of a school are required to attend that school as determined by its governors;

1.82A	“Scout” means any person employed or engaged by a Club (whether on a Full Time or Part Time basis and whether or not they are remunerated in any way for their services) whose duties include identifying to their Club players whose registration as Academy Players the Club may wish to secure;
1.82B	“Scout Identification Card” means a formal means of identification to be issued by each Club to each of its registered Scouts which shall include: (a) the name of the Club which employs the Scout; and (b) a photograph of the Scout.
1.89.	“Senior Academy Physiotherapist” means the Official referred to in Rule 106;
1.90.	“Senior Professional Development Coach” means the Official referred to in Rule 82;
1.91.	“Senior Training Centre” means a Development Centre operated by a Club in accordance with Rules 133 to 148 to provide opportunities for young players in between their Under 17 year and Under 23 year (inclusive), who are not registered Academy Players but who have the potential to become registered Academy Players or Contract Players;
1.92.	“Sports Science and Medicine/Performance Support Programme” means an integrated, interdisciplinary programme for the provision of sports science, medical services, performance support and analysis as more particularly described in Rules 238 to 243;
1.93.	“Sports Therapist” means a Person who holds at least an undergraduate degree in sports therapy;
1.94.	“Staff Registration System” means the online platform maintained by the leagues and updated by the Clubs to ensure an up to date record of those Academy Staff who are engaged in specific recognised disciplines (as communicated by the League from time to time) exists for the purpose of the Academy audit and league analysis;
1.95.	“Standards” has the meaning set out in Rule 7.2;
1.96.	“Technical Board” has the meaning set out in Rules 37 to 39;
1.97.	“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);
1.98.	“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;
1.99.	“Training Club” has the meaning set out in Rule 347;
1.100.	“Training Model” means the Full Time Training Model, the Hybrid Training Model or the Part Time Training Model;
1.101.	“Trialist” means a player playing in age groups Under 9 to Under 21 (inclusive) who is attending an Academy on trial under the provisions of Rules 256 or 257;
1.102.	“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;
1.103.	“Youth Development Phase” means the Under 12 to Under 16 age groups inclusive; and
1.104.	“Youth Development Phase Games Programme” means the games programmes organised by the Premier League and League for teams in each of the Under 12 to Under 16 age groups, full details of which are set out in Rules 160 to 174.
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 2023/24 born on or after 1 January 2002).

General	
3.	A Club that engages in the training and development of young players must: 3.1 have a valid Academy Licence; and 3.2 operate its Academy in accordance with the Academy Licensing Criteria.
4.	There shall be four Categories of Academy.
5.	The League may publish a list of Clubs operating an Academy, broken down by Category.

Applications to Operate Academies	
6.	Each Club shall: 6.1 give the League and the ISO access to such facilities, personnel, documents and records as they reasonably require; and 6.2 co-operate with the League and the ISO, in order for the League and the ISO to undertake their responsibilities under these Rules.
Academy Licensing Criteria	
7.	7. The Academy Licensing Criteria are as follows (together, the “Academy Licensing Criteria”): 7.1 7.1 A Club must adhere to the Rules including, but not limited to, the Rules the Rules that are designated by the ISO from time to time as: 7.1.1 “Safe To Operate” Rules; and 7.1.2 “Compliance” Rules. 7.2 7.2 A Club must perform its Academy operations in accordance with the standards for Academies implemented by the ISO in respect of the following (the “Standards”): 7.2.1 leadership and management; 7.2.2 coaching; 7.2.3 medicine/performance support; 7.2.4 education and Player Care; 7.2.5 pathway and productivity; and 7.2.6 safeguarding.
Applying for an Academy Licence	
8.	To apply for an Academy Licence, a Club must submit to the ISO the following documents (in the format required by the ISO): 8.1 a written application to operate a specific Category of Academy, signed on behalf of the Club by an Authorised Signatory; 8.2 a self-assessment report in respect of the Club's ability to adhere to the Safe To Operate Rules and Compliance Rules for the relevant Category of Academy (an “Academy Self- Assessment Report”); and, 8.3 any other documents or information requested by the ISO and/or which the Club wishes the ISO to take into account.
9.	The ISO shall review the information received from the Club under Rule 8, and carry out an on-site review of the proposed Academy, and conclude whether in the ISO's reasonable opinion the Club is prima facie capable of adhering to the Safe To Operate Rules and Compliance Rules for the relevant Category of Academy for which it has applied. The ISO shall send to the Club a written report setting out the basis for its findings.
10.	If the ISO concludes that the Club which has applied for an Academy Licence: 10.1 is prima facie capable of adhering to the Safe To Operate Rules and Compliance Rules for the relevant Category of Academy for which it has applied, the ISO shall inform the PGB of that conclusion; or 10.2 is prima-facie not capable of adhering to the Safe To Operate and Compliance Rules for the relevant Category of Academy for which it has applied, the Club shall be entitled to: 10.2.1 request a meeting with the ISO and the League to discuss the ISO's report; and, 10.2.2 respond in writing to the ISO's written report.
11.	Having regard to any steps pursuant to Rule 10.2, the ISO shall: 11.1 finalise its written report and send a further copy to the Club. The Club shall not be entitled to request a further meeting with the ISO; and 11.2 inform the PGB of its recommendations as to whether the Club is prima facie capable of adhering to the Safe To Operate Rules and Compliance Rules for the relevant Category of Academy for which it has applied.
12.	The ISO and/or the PGB may, at its discretion, request written representations from the League in respect of a Club's application for an Academy Licence.
13.	Following receipt of the ISO's recommendation, the PGB shall decide whether to grant to the Club an Academy Licence for a fixed time period. If the PGB: 13.1 does grant to the Club such an Academy Licence, the Club shall be subject to a Full ISO Audit during the term of the Academy Licence and the results of that Full ISO Audit shall be used by the PGB as a basis to determine whether to grant the Club a further Academy Licence or to allow the Club to continue to hold an Academy Licence; or 13.2 does not grant to the Club such an Academy Licence, the Club shall not be eligible to re- apply for an Academy Licence until the following Season unless otherwise authorised by the PGB. The PGB may set such conditions for the re-application as it considers appropriate (including that the Club covers the cost of any re-application).
14.	A Club shall only have the right to make representations to the PGB in connection with its application for an Academy Licence if it believes that the ISO's written report(s) contain any manifest error.

Grant of Academy Licence

15. An Academy Licence shall be granted on such terms as determined by the PGB and shall, subject to the PGB determining otherwise (including that an Academy Licence shall only be granted for a fixed period time), be valid from the date it is granted until such time as it is varied or revoked by the PGB or resigned by the Club.

Assessment of Academies

16. Each Club that holds an Academy Licence shall be subject to assessment by the ISO in respect of the Club's adherence to the Academy Licensing Criteria. Such assessment shall include:

- 16.1 16.1 an audit of the Club's adherence to the Safe To Operate Rules (and, at the ISO's discretion, to the Compliance Rules) to occur at least once per Season (an "Annual ISO Audit");
- 16.2 16.2 an audit of the Club's adherence to all of the Academy Licensing Criteria for the relevant Category of Academy (a "Full ISO Audit") to occur as often as the ISO considers necessary; and,
- 16.3 16.3 such other assessment (including the undertaking of an ISO Audit) as the ISO considers necessary.

ANNUAL ISO AUDIT

17. The process for an Annual ISO Audit shall be as follows:
- 17.1 The ISO shall write to the Club to inform it of the start date of the Club's Annual ISO Audit.
 - 17.2 By no later than ten days after receiving a notice pursuant to Rule 17.1, a Club must submit to the ISO an up-to-date Academy Self-Assessment Report in respect of the Safe To Operate Rules (and Compliance Rules, if so directed by the ISO) together with any other documents or information requested by the ISO and/or which the Club wishes the ISO to take into account.
 - 17.3 The ISO shall review the information received from the Club during the Annual ISO Audit and conclude whether in the ISO's reasonable opinion the Club is adhering to the Safe To Operate Rules (and, if applicable, the Compliance Rules). The ISO shall send to the Club a provisional written report setting out its findings.
 - 17.4 Upon receipt of the ISO's provisional report, the Club shall be entitled to:
 - 17.4.1 request and attend a meeting with the ISO to discuss the provisional report; and
 - 17.4.2 respond in writing to the ISO's draft report.
 - 17.5 Having regard to any steps taken pursuant to Rule 17.4, the ISO shall finalise its written report and send a copy to the Club. The Club shall not be entitled to request a further meeting with the ISO or to respond in writing to the final report.
 - 17.6 If, in its final report, the ISO concludes that the Club is not adhering to the Safe To Operate Rules (and, if applicable, the Compliance Rules), the ISO shall issue to the Club an action plan setting out what remedial steps the Club must take and the deadline(s) for the Club to do so (an "Audit Action Plan").
 - 17.7 By no later than the date(s) specified in the Audit Action Plan, a Club must submit to the ISO a written update as regards the remedial steps it has taken in response to the Audit Action Plan.
 - 17.8 The ISO shall review information received from the Club in response to the Audit Action Plan and conclude whether in the ISO's reasonable opinion the Club has taken satisfactory remedial steps or is on course to do so. If the ISO concludes that a Club has not taken satisfactory remedial steps or is not on course to do so, the ISO shall inform the PGB of that conclusion and may also:
 - 17.8.1 refer the Club to the League or the Premier League (where applicable) to take action, as a breach of these Rules; and/or
 - 17.8.2 refer the Club to the PGB to make such decision in respect of the Academy as the PGB sees fit (which may include, but is not limited to, taking one or more of the actions set out in Rule 27).
 - 17.9 The ISO may for as long as it considers necessary continue to monitor the remedial steps that a Club has taken in response to an Audit Action Plan. Such monitoring may include (but is not limited to) amending an Audit Action Plan and/or repeating the steps in Rules 17.7 to 17.8.

FULL ISO AUDIT

18. The process for a Full ISO Audit shall be as follows:
- 18.1 The ISO shall write to the Club to inform it of the start date of the Club's Full ISO Audit. The ISO shall give such notice to the Club no less than ten days before the proposed start date. The ISO may, at its discretion, agree to move the start date if reasonably requested to do so by the Club.
 - 18.2 By no later than three days before the start date of a Full ISO Audit, a Club must submit to the ISO:
 - 18.2.1 a completed and up-to-date Academy Self-Assessment Report in respect of all the Academy Licensing Criteria for the relevant Category of Academy; and,
 - 18.2.2 any other documents or information requested by the ISO and/or which the Club wishes the ISO to take into account.
 - 18.3 On the start date of the Full ISO Audit, the ISO shall attend the Club to carry out an on-site assessment of the Academy's performance as against the Standards. The ISO may attend the Club on such further days as it considers necessary in order to complete the on-site review.
 - 18.4 After completing its on-site review, the ISO (and Club) shall:
 - 18.4.1 follow the processes set out in Rules 17.3 to 17.8 as regards the Club's adherence to the Safe To Operate Rules and Compliance Rules; and,
 - 18.4.2 follow the processes set out in Rules 18.5 to 18.9 as regards the Club's performance in relation to the Standards.
 - 18.5 Further to Rule 18.4.2, the ISO shall conclude how in the ISO's reasonable opinion the Club is performing against the Standards. The ISO shall within 28 days of the on-site review (or longer if the ISO deems it necessary) send to the Club a provisional written report setting out its findings.
 - 18.6 Upon receipt of the ISO's provisional report, the Club shall be entitled to:
 - 18.6.1 request and attend a meeting with the ISO to discuss the provisional report; and,
 - 18.6.2 respond in writing to the ISO's provisional report.
 - 18.7 Having regard to any steps taken pursuant to Rule 18.6, the ISO shall:
 - 18.7.1 finalise its written report and send a copy to the Club. The Club shall not be entitled to request a further meeting with the ISO or to respond in writing to the final report; and,
 - 18.7.2 update the PGB, which shall then make such decision in respect of the Academy as the PGB sees fit (which may include, but is not limited to, taking one or more of the actions set out in Rule 27).
 - 18.8 If the Club's performance against the Standards is assessed to be either "inadequate" or "immediate review", the Club shall be subject to a further Full ISO Audit (which may be streamlined to assess specific Standards only) (a "Re-Audit") unless otherwise directed by the PGB.
 - 18.9 The process for a Re-Audit shall be the same as the processes for a Full ISO Audit set out in Rules 18.1 to 18.5 (as adjusted for the elements of the Full ISO Audit which are the subject of the Re-Audit). Following a Re-Audit, if the ISO's conclusion remains that the Club's level of performance is "inadequate" (or worse) in respect of the same Standards that were identified as such in the most recent Full ISO Audit, the ISO may:
 - 18.9.1 carry out a further Re-Audit of the Club and the Club shall bear all costs of the ISO which are reasonably incurred in connection with the further Re-Audit;
 - 18.9.2 refer the Club to the League or the Football League (where applicable) to take action, as a breach of these Rules; or
 - 18.9.3 refer the Club to the PGB to make such decision in respect of the Academy as the PGB sees fit (which may include, but is not limited to, taking one or more of the actions set out in Rule 27).

ISO'S GENERAL POWER TO REFER A BREACH OF THE RULES

19. Notwithstanding Rules 16, 17 and 18, the ISO may at any time:
- 19.1 refer a Club to the League or the Football League (where applicable) to take action, as a breach of these Rules; and/or
 - 19.2 refer the Club to the PGB to make such decision in respect of the Academy as the PGB sees fit (which may include, but is not limited to, taking one or more of the actions set out in Rule 27).

Changes to Academy Category

20. A Club may apply to upgrade the Category of its Academy for the next Season. The process for such applications shall be as follows:
- 20.1 A Club that seeks to upgrade the Category of its Academy for the next Season must submit a written application to that effect to each of the PGB (via the ISO) and the League or Football League. A Club's application must be received by no later than the deadline for applications, which shall be specified each Season by the League or Football League.
 - 20.2 A Club that submits an application in time shall, as soon as practicable, be subject to a Full ISO Audit in respect of its current Category of Academy. At the conclusion of this Full ISO Audit, the PGB shall make such decision in respect of the application as it sees fit.
 - 20.3 A Club may, at the discretion of the PGB, have the Category of its Academy upgraded on a provisional basis for the next Season. In such circumstances, the Club shall at the end of that next Season be subject to a further Full ISO Audit in respect of the upgraded Category of Academy at which it had been operating on a provisional basis. At the conclusion of this Full ISO Audit, the PGB shall make such decision in respect of the application as it sees fit.
21. For the purposes of Rule 20, a Full ISO Audit means the process set out in Rules 18.1 to 18.7 only. A Club shall not be entitled to a Re-Audit pursuant to Rules 18.8 to 18.9 following a Full ISO Audit undertaken in connection with an application to upgrade the Category of its Academy.

22. A Club that has its Academy status downgraded by the PGB may not re-apply for the same or higher Category status from which it was downgraded within one year of the PGB's determination unless:
- 22.1 the PGB is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances which justify an application; and
- 22.2 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 application.
23. Clubs participating in the League must operate a Category 4 Academy or higher:
- 23.1 23.1 in the case of Clubs in membership of the League in Season 2022/23, by no later than the start of Season 2024/25; and
- 23.2 23.2 in the case of Promoted Clubs becoming a member of the League from Season 2023/24 onwards, within two years of becoming a member of the League.
24. A Club (or club) will ensure that the Category status of its Academy is not lowered, or it does not cease to operate an Academy, in any Season during which it is a member of the League or is in receipt of the sums set out in Premier League Rule D.25.
25. A Club may only appeal against the decision of the PGB not to issue it an Academy Licence, or against the PGB's determination of the Category of its Academy, if that decision was:
- 25.1 reached as a result of fraud, malice or bad faith;
- 25.2 reached as a result of procedural errors so great that the rights of the Club have been clearly and substantially prejudiced;
- 25.3 reached as a result of a perverse interpretation of the law; or
- 25.4 one which could not reasonably have been reached by any tribunal which had applied its mind properly to the facts of the case.
26. Any appeal by a Club pursuant to Rule 25 shall be dealt with in accordance with Rule K (Arbitration) of the Rules of The Football Association.

Consequences for breaches of Rules 3 to 26

27. If 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 29, then the PGB may take one or more of the following actions:
- 27.1 vary or revoke the Club's Academy Licence;
- 27.2 suspend the Club's Academy Licence for such time as it shall determine during which the Club shall have the opportunity to ensure it becomes compliant with the relevant Rule;
- 27.3 determine that the Club's Academy shall have a lower Category than its current Category;
- 27.4 withdraw or suspend the Club's entitlement to any central funding provided for the purposes of youth development; or
- 27.5 require the ISO to undertake an ISO Audit of the Club's Academy as soon as reasonably practicable.
28. A Club that has its Academy Licence removed may not re-apply for an Academy Licence within three years of the PGB's determination unless:
- 28.1 the PGB is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances which justify a further application; and
- 28.2 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.
29. Any Club or Official making a false statement (whether made verbally or in writing) or falsifying a document in connection with:
- 29.1 an application for an Academy Licence;
- 29.2 the League's annual evaluation undertaken pursuant to Rule 36.2;
- 29.3 an ISO Audit; or
- 29.4 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 8 of the League's Regulations.
30. Without prejudice to Rule 27, any breach of Rules 3.2, 6, 29, 35.2, 45 to 53, 56, 58 to 60, 119, 120, 127 to 131, 133 to 136, 139 to 152, 157, 158, 172 to 174, 181 to 183, 191, 192, 194 to 210, 215, 218, 236 to 249, 263, 265, 266, 269 to 272, 278, 284, 287, 288, 300, 303, 306 to 308, 315 to 318, 337, 340, or 346 shall be liable to be dealt with under the provisions of Section 8 of the League's Regulations.

STRATEGY, LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF THE ACADEMY

Strategic Documents

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

Academy Performance Plan

32. Each Club which operates an Academy shall prepare and make available to the League and the ISO, as part of the self-assessment process referred to at Rule 8, its Academy Performance Plan.
33. 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.
34. The Club Board shall:
- 34.1 annually review and approve the Academy Performance Plan;
- 34.2 ensure that the Academy Performance Plan is communicated to all relevant Officials; and
- 34.3 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

35. Each Club which operates an Academy shall:
- 35.1 utilise the Performance Management Application from the date of its implementation by the League and record on it the data listed in Rule 1.73;
- 35.2 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
- 35.3 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.
36. Each Club which operates an Academy shall ensure that the Performance Management Application is available for access by the following individuals:
- 36.1 relevant Academy Staff; and
- 36.2 Parent(s) of its Academy Players aged 17 and younger, and the Academy Players themselves, in relation to information contained on the Performance Management

Technical Board

37. Each Club which operates an Academy shall establish a Technical Board.
38. 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:
- 38.1 the Chief Executive;
- 38.2 the Manager;
- 38.3 the Academy Manager;
- 38.4 any technical, football or sporting director employed by the Club;
- 38.5 such Officials as can give input from the following functional areas:
- 38.5.1 recruitment;
- 38.5.2 coaching; and
- 38.5.3 Professional Development Phase coaching; and
- 38.6 any other Official that the Club deems appropriate.
39. 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.

EFFECTIVE MEASUREMENT

Monitoring	
40.	The League shall conduct: 40.1 on-going monitoring of each Academy; and 40.2 an annual evaluation of each Academy which shall be made available to the Club, the ISO and, if required, the PGB.
41.	A Club shall be entitled to publish the results of its ISO Audit and the Category of its Academy.
Productivity Profile	
42.	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, Premier League clubs).
43.	The League may publish Productivity Data.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT, PLAYER DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESSION

Performance Clock	
44.	Each Club which operates an Academy: 44.1 shall maintain a Performance Clock for each of its Academy Players (updated within seven days of each performance that falls to be recorded) and ensure that it is made available to: 44.1.1 the Academy Player; 44.1.2 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); 44.1.3 the League; and 44.1.4 the ISO and 44.2 shall nominate a member of staff who shall be responsible for: 44.2.1 being the point of contact for the League for the Performance Management Application ("PMA"); 44.2.2 supporting and coordinating the training of Club users in using the PMA platform; and 44.2.3 supporting an annual review of data quality.
Individual Learning Plans and Multi-disciplinary Reviews	
45.	Each Club which operates an Academy shall ensure that it undertakes a Multi-disciplinary Review in respect of each Academy Player: 45.1 every 12 weeks (if he is in one of the Under 9 to Under 11 age groups); 45.2 every 6 weeks (if he is in one of the Under 12 to Under 18 age groups); and 45.3 with such frequency as is necessary according to his developmental needs (if he is one of the Under 19 to Under 21 age groups).
46.	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.
47.	Each Club which operates an Academy shall ensure that it conducts a meeting with each of its Academy Players: 47.1 no fewer than four times per Season (if he is in one of the Under 12 to Under 18 age groups); and 47.2 with such frequency as is necessary according to his development needs (if he is one of the Under 19 to Under 21 age groups).
48.	At the meetings referred to in Rule 47, the Club shall: 48.1 discuss with the Academy Player his Individual Learning Plan; and 48.2 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).
49.	Each Multi-disciplinary Review shall be recorded on the Academy Player's Performance Clock.
50.	Each Club which operates an Academy shall meet with the Parent(s) of each Academy Player under the age of 18 at least twice a year and provide to and discuss with the Parent(s) a detailed review of all aspects of the Academy Player's performance and development based on his most recent Multi-disciplinary Reviews.
51.	A written record of the discussion referred to in Rule 50 shall be given to the Parent(s) and noted on the Academy Player's Performance Clock.
52.	Each Club which operates an Academy shall, between 1 May and 30 June in each year, provide to the Parent(s) 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.
53.	Each Club shall permit a representative of the League to attend and access, via the PMA, Multi-Disciplinary Reviews if so requested by the League.

STAFF

General	
54.	Each Club which operates an Academy shall establish a staffing structure for its Academy which shall: 54.1 subject to Rule 55 include the mandatory posts required by this section of the Rules for the Category applicable to its Academy; and 54.2 have regard to the guidelines and best practice set out in the Elite Player Performance Plan.
55.	Save for the Academy Manager, Senior Academy Physiotherapist, the physiotherapists described in Rule 103, Academy Doctor, Head of Safeguarding and the coaches described in Rules 76 and 77, 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.
56.	Each Club that operates an Academy shall ensure that the Staff Registration System is updated at the start of each Season, and within seven days of an applicable member of staff changing roles, joining or leaving the Club.
57.	The Club shall document its staffing structure in an organisational chart which shall: 57.1 show the reporting lines of each member of Academy Staff; and 57.2 be made available to Academy Staff, the League and the ISO.
58.	The relationship between a Club and each member of its Academy Staff shall be appropriately documented by way of: 58.1 an employment contract; 58.2 a statement of terms of employment pursuant to Section 1 of the Employment Rights Act 1996; or 58.3 in the case of a non-employee, a contract for services.
59.	Each member of Academy Staff shall be given: 59.1 a written job description (which may be contained in the document referred to in Rule 58); and 59.2 an annual performance appraisal.
60.	Each Club which operates an Academy shall: 60.1 provide Continued Professional Development to members of Academy Staff where required to do so pursuant to these Rules; and 60.2 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.
Academy Management Team	
61.	Each Club which operates an Academy shall establish an Academy Management Team which shall: 61.1 be led by the Academy Manager; and 61.2 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, the individual referred to at Rule 119, the Academy's Designated Safeguarding Officer, the Academy Operations Manager and the Academy Secretary.
62.	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.
Academy Manager	
63.	Each Club which operates an Academy shall employ a Full Time Academy Manager.
64.	The Academy Manager's appointment shall be approved by the Club Board.
65.	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.

66. The responsibilities of the Academy Manager shall include (unless otherwise approved by the Board):
- 66.1 guiding the development of the Club's Playing Philosophy, Coaching Philosophy and Coaching Curriculum;
 - 66.2 drawing up the Academy Performance Plan as set out in, and subject to the provisions of, Rule 33;
 - 66.3 implementing the Academy Performance Plan;
 - 66.4 advising the Club Board on:
 - 66.4.1 whether the Academy has met the performance targets set out in the Academy Performance Plan; and
 - 66.4.2 the action to be taken by the Club if the Academy has not met those performance targets;
 - 66.5 ensuring the effective use by all appropriate Academy Staff of the Performance Management Application and Performance Clocks, including ensuring that all relevant data is recorded thereon;
 - 66.6 the design, implementation and management of the Academy's Coaching Curriculum;
 - 66.7 ensuring that all Academy Staff undertake the Continued Professional Development required of them by this section of the Rules;
 - 66.8 being the line manager of the Head of Education, Head of Coaching and Head of Recruitment; and
 - 66.9 liaising with the Club's Manager as appropriate.
67. Subject to Rule 68 each Academy Manager must hold:
- 67.1 an up to date UEFA A Licence;
 - 67.2 an FA Youth Award; and
 - 67.3 an FA Advanced Youth Award.
68. A Club may appoint as Academy Manager a person who does not hold the qualifications set out in Rule 67 provided that the Head of Academy Coaching:
- 68.1 holds these qualifications;
 - 68.2 is tasked with overseeing the Coaching Curriculum; and
 - 68.3 is a member of the Academy Management Team and sits on the Technical Board.
69. 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 67, they must attend such training provided by The Football Association 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, current EFAiF or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board.
70. Each Club which operates an Academy must ensure that its Academy Manager enrolls and participates fully in the Elite Academy Managers Development Programme.

Academy Operations Manager

71. Each Club which operates a Category 1 Academy shall appoint an Academy Operations Manager, who shall be employed Full Time and shall have day-to-day responsibility for executive and operational issues within the Academy.

Academy Secretary

72. 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 or at least Part Time (in the case of a Club which operates a Category 3 or Category 4 Academy).
73. The Academy Secretary shall:
- 73.1 provide administrative support to the Academy Manager and the Academy Management Team;
 - 73.2 act as the point of contact between the Academy and the League for all administrative matters, including the submission of required information; and
 - 73.3 be familiar with all relevant provisions of these Youth Development Rules, as amended from time to time.

Head of Academy Coaching

74. Each Club which operates an Academy shall employ a Head of Academy Coaching who shall:
- 74.1 report to the Academy Manager;
 - 74.2 subject to Rule 66.6, have responsibility for delivery of the Academy's Coaching Curriculum;
 - 74.3 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;
 - 74.4 discharge the responsibilities with regard to Development Action Plans set out at Rules 89 to 91;
 - 74.5 hold at least an up to date UEFA A Licence, an FA Youth Award, and an FA Advanced Youth Award;
 - 74.6 hold a current Basic First Aid for Sport Qualification, current EFAiF or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board;
 - 74.7 have recent and relevant experience of coaching Academy Players in an Academy (or of a comparable environment);
 - 74.8 be employed Full Time in the case of a Head of Academy Coaching employed in a Category 1, Category 2 or Category 3 Academy and at least Part Time in the case of a Category 4 Academy;
 - 74.9 attend at least five hours of in-service training to be provided by the League each year;
 - 74.10 attend such training to be provided by The Football Association as is necessary to maintain the validity of the qualifications set out in Rule 74.5; and
 - 74.11 in conjunction with each of the Club's coaches, plan, deliver and monitor the delivery of individual development plans for each such coach.
75. In addition to the in-service training referred to in Rule 74.9, the Head of Academy Coaching must:
- 75.1 undertake Continued Professional Development organised by the Club;
 - 75.2 enrol and participate in the Elite Heads of Coaching Scheme operated by the Premier League; and
 - 75.3 complete the European Mentoring and Coaching Council Foundation Award within two years of the commencement of their employment.

Coaches

76. 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	3	3
Category 2	1	2	2
Category 3	1	1	2
Category 4	N/A	N/A	2

77. In addition to the coaches set out in Rule 76 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 130 are maintained.
78. 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:
- 78.1 78.1 in respect of the Youth Development and Professional Development Phase, hold at least an up-to-date UEFA A Licence; and
 - 78.2 78.2 in respect of the Foundation Phase, hold at least an up-to-date UEFA B Licence and the relevant age specific FA Advanced Youth Award.

Goalkeeping Coaches

79. 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 127, subject to the following minimum requirements:
- 79.1 a Club operating a Category 1 Academy shall employ at least two Full Time goalkeeping coaches; and
 - 79.2 a Club operating a Category 2 Academy shall employ at least one Full Time goalkeeping coach.
80. Each goalkeeping coach must:
- 80.1 attend at least five hours of in-service training to be provided by The Football Association each year;
 - 80.2 attend the first aid training for Academy coaches provided by The Football Association at least once every three years; and
 - 80.3 undertake Continued Professional Development organised by the Club.
81. Each goalkeeping coach must hold an up to date UEFA B Licence and a UEFA Goalkeeping Coaching B Licence.

Senior Professional Development Coach

82. 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:
- 82.1 for Category 1 and Category 2 Academies only, be full time;
 - 82.2 report to the Academy Manager;
 - 82.3 liaise with the Manager;
 - 82.4 hold a UEFA A Licence and the FA Advanced Youth Award with the age specific specialist element relevant to the Professional Development Phase;
 - 82.5 oversee on a day-to-day basis the Coaching Curriculum for the Under 19 to Under 21 age groups;
 - 82.6 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 84;
 - 82.7 contribute to the Multi-disciplinary Reviews of all Academy Players in the Professional Development Phase; and
 - 82.8 manage the Club's team which competes in the Professional Development League.
83. Each Club which operates a Category 3 or Category 4 Academy that does not appoint a Senior Professional Development Coach in accordance with Rule 82 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:
- 83.1 liaise with the Academy Manager;
 - 83.2 liaise with the Manager; and
 - 83.3 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 84.
84. 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.

Coaches: Qualifications and Professional Development

85. Each coach (excluding goalkeeping coaches to whom Rule 80 applies) must from the commencement of and throughout their employment hold:
- 85.1 an up to date UEFA B Licence (save where these Rules require a coach to hold an up to date UEFA A Licence);
 - 85.2 an FA Youth Award; and
 - 85.3 an up to date FA Advanced Youth Award with the age-specific specialist element relevant to the Development Phase which they coach.
86. 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, current EFAiF or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board
87. In addition to the in-service training referred to in Rule 86, each coach must undertake Continued Professional Development organised by the Club.
88. Each Club which operates an Academy shall prepare a Coach Competency Framework, which must be approved by its Technical Board.
89. 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 the coach, and agree with the coach the competencies and behaviours which they need to develop, and the activities which they will undertake in order to develop them, and the timeframe within which they will undertake them, and record the same in writing and give a copy to the coach.
90. 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.
91. 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

92. 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/Performance Support for the entire Club (and whichever they report to, they shall liaise closely with the other).
93. 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/Performance Support Programme for Academy Players is appropriately managed and delivered.

94. The Head of Academy Sports Science and Medicine shall be responsible for managing and delivering the Sports Science and Medicine/Performance Support Programme for all Academy Players registered with the Club.

95. The Head of Academy Sports Science and Medicine:
- 95.1 shall be either:
 - 95.1.1 a registered physiotherapist member of the Health and Care Professions Council;
 - 95.1.2 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
 - 95.1.3 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 and/or British Psychological Society accreditation; and
 - 95.2 shall have recent and relevant professional experience in a sports performance environment.

96. The Head of Academy Sports Science and Medicine shall hold either:
- 96.1 if they are a registered physiotherapist member of the Health and Care Professions Council or a registered medical practitioner, Advanced Trauma Medical Management in Football ('ATMMiF') or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the League; or
 - 96.2 if they are neither of the above, a current EFAiF or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the League.

97. 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 96.1 and 96.2 respectively) then the primacy of decisions regarding the clinical treatment of Academy Players shall rest with a physiotherapist or registered medical practitioner.

98. The Head of Academy Sports Science and Medicine must undertake Continued Professional Development organised by the Club or the League.

Academy Nutritionist

99. Each Club which operates a Category 1 Academy shall appoint or designate an existing member of Academy Staff to the role of Academy Nutritionist who:
- 99.1 shall be Part Time;
 - 99.2 shall be responsible for devising and implementing plans to promote nutrition and a healthy diet amongst Academy Players;
 - 99.3 shall provide advice to Academy Players and Staff on all aspects of nutrition; and
 - 99.4 shall be on the Sport and Exercise Nutrition Register ('SENr') or work under the direct management and supervision of an individual listed on the SENr.

Lead Sports Scientist

100. Each Club which operates a Category 1 or Category 2 Academy shall appoint a Full Time Lead Sports Scientist who shall:
- 100.1 hold at least a bachelor's degree in sports science (or another relevant discipline) from a recognised university;
 - 100.2 have recent and relevant professional experience in a sports performance environment;
 - 100.3 co-ordinate and lead the sports science services for the Academy;
 - 100.4 hold a current Basic First Aid for Sport Qualification, current EFAiF or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the League; and
 - 100.5 hold or be working towards holding British Association of Sport and Exercise Sciences accreditation.
101. 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.
102. The Lead Sports Scientist must undertake Continued Professional Development organised by the Club.

Lead Strength and Conditioning Coaches

103. Each Club which operates a Category 1 or 2 Academy shall employ a Lead Strength and Conditioning Coach who shall:
- 103.1 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;
 - 103.2 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/Performance Support Programme;
 - 103.3 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;
 - 103.4 hold a current Basic First Aid for Sport Qualification, current EFAiF or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board; and
 - 103.5 hold or be working towards accreditation by the UK Strength and Conditioning Association (or equivalent workshops run by any equivalent body).

104. The Lead Strength and Conditioning Coach must undertake Continued Professional Development organised by the Club.
105. In addition to the Lead Sports Scientist and the Lead Strength and Conditioning Coach, each Club which operates a Category 1 Academy shall employ a minimum of one additional Full-Time sports scientist or strength and conditioning coach who shall:
- 105.1 hold at least a bachelor's degree in sports science (or another relevant discipline) from a recognised university;
 - 105.2 hold a current Basic First Aid for Sport Qualification, current EFAiF or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board; and
 - 105.3 hold or be working towards holding British Association of Sport and Exercise Sciences accreditation.

Senior Academy Physiotherapist

106. Each Club which operates an Academy shall appoint a Senior Academy Physiotherapist who shall:
- 106.1 be employed on a Full Time basis;
 - 106.2 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 they have 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);
 - 106.3 have recent and relevant professional experience in a sports performance environment;
 - 106.4 if employed by a Club which operates a Category 1 or Category 2 Academy hold a current ATMMiF or if employed by a Club which operates a Category 3 or Category 4 Academy hold a current ITMMiF (or in either case an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board);
 - 106.5 co-ordinate and lead the physiotherapy service within the Academy;
 - 106.6 ensure that Rules 236.1 and 237 are complied with; and
 - 106.7 undertake Continued Professional Development organised by the Club.

Physiotherapists and Sports Therapists

107. In addition to the Senior Academy Physiotherapist referred to at Rule 106, each Club which operates a Category 1 Academy shall employ at least two Full Time physiotherapists who shall each be a registered physiotherapist member of the Health and Care Professions Council and (where their duties include clinical leadership at matches) hold a current ATMMiF. Each Club which operates a Category 2 Academy shall employ at least one such Full Time physiotherapist who meets these requirements.
108. 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.
109. Each physiotherapist and Sports Therapist must undertake Continued Professional Development organised by the Club and shall hold a current ITMMiF or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board.

Academy Doctor

110. Each Club which operates an Academy shall appoint an Academy Doctor who shall:
- 110.1 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);
 - 110.2 [not used];
 - 110.3 be available to assess and, if appropriate, undertake the treatment of any playing injuries suffered by an Academy Player;
 - 110.4 undertake Continued Professional Development;
 - 110.5 be available for consultation at the Academy on at least one occasion per week (in addition to any attendance at matches); and
 - 110.6 be responsible for the preparation of each Club's Emergency Action Plan.

Performance Analysts

111. Each Club which operates a Category 1 Academy shall employ a minimum of three Full Time Performance Analysts.
112. 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.
113. The Performance Analysts shall undertake Performance Analysis of Academy Players registered with the Club.
114. The Performance Analysts must undertake Continued Professional Development organised by the Club.

Head of Education

115. Each Club which operates an Academy shall appoint a Head of Education who shall:
- 115.1 report to the Academy Manager;
 - 115.2 have responsibility for:
 - 115.2.1 the organisation, management and delivery of the Club's Education Programme as set out in Rules 194 to 210;
 - 115.2.2 pursuant to Rule 195.5, the oversight of the Scholar education programmes including attendance at educational programme meetings, ensuring adherence to such programmes and, where required, taking appropriate action in the event that targets are not met;
 - 115.2.3 ensuring that Scholars are appropriately managed and supported in respect of the 'End Point Assessment' on the sporting excellence professional apprenticeship ('SEP');
 - 115.2.4 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);
 - 115.2.5 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
 - 115.2.6 ensuring all documents and records relating to the education of Academy Players required by these Rules are in place and up-to-date;
 - 115.3 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;
 - 115.4 ensure that the Academy's educational provision reflects the strategy and performance targets set out in the Club's Academy Performance Plan;
 - 115.5 hold Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) or Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (QTLS) 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);
 - 115.6 be Full Time (in the case of Category 1 and Category 2 Academies); and
 - 115.7 undertake Continued Professional Development organised by the Club.
116. Each Club which operates a Category 1 Academy shall, in addition to the Head of Education, employ one Person Full Time to support the delivery of the Academy's education programme.

Head of Recruitment

117. Each Club which operates an Academy shall employ a Head of Recruitment who shall:
- 117.1 report to the Academy Manager;
 - 117.2 have responsibility for the organisation, management and delivery of the Club's policies and procedures for the recruitment of Academy Players;
 - 117.3 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 245);
 - 117.4 be in possession of (or be actively working towards):
 - 117.4.1 the FA Leadership of Talent Identification & Development in Football for a Club operating a Category 1 Academy;
 - 117.4.2 the FA Advanced Principles of Talent Identification & Development in Football for a Club operating a Category 2 Academy; and
 - 117.4.3 the FA National Talent Identification & Scouting in Football for a Club operating a Category 3 or a Category 4 Academy,
 - 117.5 undertake at least five hours of in-service training each year;
 - 117.6 undertake Continued Professional Development organised by the Club; and
 - 117.7 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.

Interns

118. 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:
- 118.1 name, date of birth and contact details (phone number, address and email address);
 - 118.2 qualifications (both academic and sporting such as coaching qualifications);
 - 118.3 where the intern is a student, details of the intern's current course, including the institution at which they are enrolled, the name of the course, and the name and contact details of his tutor; and
 - 118.4 the contact details of a member of Academy Staff who is responsible for supervising the intern whilst they are at the Academy.

Player Care

119. Each Club which operates a Category 1, Category 2 or Category 3 Academy shall employ an individual with the necessary skills and expertise on a Full Time basis who shall be responsible for the management and delivery of the Personal Development and Life Skills Plan for Academy Players and the Induction and Transition Strategy, in addition to the other aspects of the Club's Duty of Care, including mental and emotional wellbeing of Academy Players.
120. Each Club which operates a Category 4 Academy shall nominate an existing member of Academy Staff to carry out the responsibilities referred to in Rule 119, above in addition to their other duties.

Academy Psychologist

121. Each Club which operates a Category 1 Academy shall employ one or more Academy Psychologist(s), who shall:
- 121.1 be Full Time (however more than one Person may be employed for this purpose to ensure that overall working hours are commensurate with one Full Time employee) for each Club which operates a Category 1 Academy; and
- 121.2 from Season 2025/26, be on the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC) Register of Health and Care Professionals.

Minority Candidates

- 121A. Each Club which operates an Academy shall comply with the provisions of Regulation 125 of the League Regulation (Minority Candidates).

COACHING

Coaching Curriculum

122. 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:
- 122.1 the Club's Vision Statement, Coaching Philosophy and Playing Philosophy;
- 122.2 the Club's Academy Performance Plan;
- 122.3 the minimum hours of coaching delivered; and
- 122.4 these Rules.
123. The Club's Coaching Curriculum shall be drawn up by the Academy Manager (or, in the circumstances set out in Rule 68, 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).
124. The Club's Technical Board shall approve the Club's Coaching Curriculum.

Coaching Hours

125. 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).
126. All other coaching in Academies shall take place over 40 weeks of each year.

127. 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, welfare and academic status) 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	8 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	Full Time, Hybrid
Category 2	Coaching hours per week	4 rising to 6 for older Academy Players	7 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	4	5 rising to 7 for older Academy Players	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

128. The maximum time in which Academy Players in the Foundation Phase can be engaged in a single coaching session is 120 minutes and there will be appropriate rest periods between each such session.
129. Each Club shall ensure that:
- 129.1 each Academy Player has access to an individual coaching plan tailored to his specific needs;
- 129.2 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
- 129.3 all coaching is recorded on the Academy Player's Performance Clock.
130. Each Club shall ensure that a coach to Academy Players and Trialists ratio of 1:10 is maintained for each coaching session (save that the ratio for Category 1 Academies using the Full Time Training Model shall be 1:8).
131. 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).
132. 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

133. Each Club which operates a Category 1, Category 2, Category 3 or Category 4 Academy may, with the consent of the League and subject to Rules 146 to 148, operate one or more Development Centres, to be located within:
- 133.1 one hour's travelling time of the location of its principal venue for the provision of coaching and education to Academy Players, where the Development Centre will be attended by players in the Foundation Phase age groups or lower; and
- 133.2 90 minutes travelling time of the location of its principal venue for the provision of coaching and education to Academy Players, where the Development Centre will be attended by players in the Youth Development Phase age group (and not by players in the Foundation Phase age groups or lower).
134. A Club may only permit a Child to attend its Development Centre where they reside within the following travel times from the Club's principal venue for the provision of coaching and education:
- 134.1 for Children in the Under 11 age group or below, one hour; and
- 134.2 for Children in the Under 12 to Under 16 age groups inclusive, 1.5 hours.
135. A Child being coached at a Club's Development Centre:
- 135.1 may not be registered for that Club;
- 135.2 may not play in matches for that Club and/or participate in training with that Club's Academy unless registered as a Trialist; and
- 135.3 will be free to play for other teams.

136. Clubs which operate Development Centres shall keep an attendance record, proof of home address (and any subsequent change(s) of address) and date of birth of all players who participate in coaching sessions thereat, which it shall provide to the League and/or the Football Association on request.
137. Each Development Centre operated by a Club may be inspected from time to time by the League and by the ISO.
138. Without prejudice to the generality of Rule 137, the inspection referred to in that Rule may include:
- 138.1 inspection of the facilities provided; and
- 138.2 assessment of whether the coaching provided at the Development Centre is in accordance with the Club's coaching syllabus.
139. 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.
140. Subject to Rules 146 to 148, below, no Club shall cause or permit a team representing its Development Centre to play football against a team representing another Club (or a Premier League club)
141. Prior to a Child attending a Development Centre for the first time, the Club operating that Development Centre must:
- 141.1 provide details to the Child's Parent(s) of the status and purpose of the Development Centre, the fact that attendance by the Child at the Development Centre does not preclude the Child from playing for or training with any other Development Centre or (subject to Rule 135) any other Club or team and confirmation that his attendance confers no rights on the Club in relation to his registration, and obtain a signed notification from the Parent(s) that they have received and accept such details; and
- 141.2 provide to the Child's Parent(s) a copy of any guidance on Development Centres produced by the League.
142. No Club shall induce or attempt to induce a Child to attend its Development Centre by offering him, or any Person connected with him, whether directly or indirectly, a benefit or payment of any description whether in cash or in kind
143. No Club is permitted to make payment of any kind to a Child attending a Development Centre or his Parent(s) (whether directly or indirectly).
144. Whereas team travel arrangements will be permitted, no Club is permitted to provide or otherwise arrange for individual transport for a Child attending a Development Centre to travel to or from their home or school and any training or match venue.
145. Clubs that operate Development Centres must comply with the provisions of the League's Safeguarding Standards in respect of each Development Centre they operate.

Pre-Academy Training Centres

146. Each Club which operates a Category 1, Category 2 or Category 3 Academy may operate one or more Pre-Academy Training Centres, provided that:
- 146.1 teams representing the Pre-Academy Training Centre:
- 146.1.1 may participate in matches against teams so long as they are not associated with a Club's Academy, a Premier League club's academy or a Pre-Academy Training Centre (save that matches may be played against other Pre-Academy Training Centre teams from 1 January of the Under 8 season with prior approval of the League, to be requested at least seven days prior to the proposed match);
- 146.1.2 may not take part in matches or attend tours that require an overnight stay; and
- 146.1.3 may not wear the Club's first team match kit in any match.
- 146.2 contact sessions for each Child attending a Pre-Academy Training Centre does not exceed:
- 146.2.1 for Children in the Under 7 year or below, two per week; and
- 146.2.2 for Children in the Under 8 year, three per week; and
- 146.3 matches must comply with the Football Association's Laws of the Game for Small-Sided Football; and such Pre-Academy Training Centres may be located on the same site as the location of its principal venue for the provision of coaching and education to Academy Players and incorporate coaching from coaches employed by the Academy, provided that any individuals delivering such coaching comply with such minimum qualification levels as stipulated by the League from time to time.

Junior Training Centres

147. Each Club which operates a Category 1, Category 2 or Category 3 Academy may operate one or more Junior Training Centres, provided that:
- 147.1 teams representing the Junior Training Centre:
- 147.1.1 may, subject to Rule 147.1.2 below, participate in matches against any teams that are not associated with a Club, Premier League club or Development Centre;
- 147.1.2 may only participate in matches against teams representing other Junior Training Centres, a Club's Academy or a Premier League club's academy with the prior approval of the League to be requested at least seven days prior to the proposed match;
- 147.1.3 matches comply with the Football Association's Laws of the Game (for example, in relation to pitch size and number of players on the pitch); and
- 147.1.4 such Junior Training Centres may be located on the same site as the location of its principal venue for the provisions of coaching and education to Academy Players and incorporate coaching from coaches employed by the Academy, provided that any individuals delivering such coaching comply with such minimum qualification levels as stipulated by the League from time to time; and
- 147.2 no Club may provide training, coaching, or matches at a Junior Training Centre for any player not in between their Under 9 year and their Under 16 year (inclusive).

Senior Training Centres

148. Each Club which operates a Category 1, Category 2, Category 3 or Category 4 Academy may operate one or more Senior Training Centres, provided that:
- 148.1 teams representing the Senior Training Centre may participate in matches against teams that are not associated with a Club's Academy or a Premier League club's academy. For the avoidance of doubt, teams representing the Senior Training Centre may participate in matches against other Senior Training Centres;
- 148.2 no Club may provide training, coaching, or matches at a Senior Training Centre for any player below the Under 17 age group;
- 148.3 matches must comply with the FA's Laws of the Game (for example, in relation to pitch size and number of players on the pitch); and
- 148.4 such Senior Training Centres may not be located on the same site as the location of the Club's principal venue for the provision of coaching and education to Academy Players and should not incorporate coaching from coaches employed by the Academy and other Academy Staff unless it has been approved by the League and provided that any individuals delivering such coaching comply with such minimum qualification levels as stipulated by the League from time to time.

GAMES PROGRAMME

General

149. 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.
150. 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, subject to Rule 159, in coaching and training games (participation in which is limited to registered Academy Players and Trialists) organised by and played at an Academy.
151. 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 150.
152. Each Club which operates an Academy shall record in each Academy Player's Performance Clock:
- 152.1 each match in which he has played; and
- 152.2 his playing time in each match.
153. 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 team sheet submitted in accordance with these Rules or otherwise.

Foundation Phase Games Programme

154. The Premier 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).
155. The 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.

156. The Games Programmes referred to in Rules 154 and 155 shall consist of matches which:
- 156.1 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);
- 156.2 subject to Rule 156.3 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);
- 156.3 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;
- 156.4 shall take place during the Games Programme Schedule;
- 156.5 may include matches against representative county schoolboy sides (being sides selected by the English Schools' Football Association);
- 156.6 shall be played outdoors, save in respect of:
- 156.6.1 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
- 156.6.2 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; and.
- 156.7 shall 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 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.

157. Each Club which operates a Category 1, Category 2 or Category 3 Academy:
- 157.1 must participate fully in the Foundation Phase Games Programme; and
- 157.2 may organise and participate in additional Authorised Games of the types listed in paragraphs c), d), f) and h) of that definition only (which shall be notified to the Premier League (if the Club operates a Category 1 or Category 2 Academy) no later than 72 hours before they are scheduled to take place).
158. 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 157.2 such playing time to be reasonably spread out over the Season.
159. Academy Players in the Foundation Phase, with the prior approval of their Club, may train and play for teams at grassroots level, outside the Academy system.

Youth Development Phase Games Programme

160. The Premier 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 Premier 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.
161. The 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.
162. The Games Programme for Category 1 Clubs referred to in Rule 160 shall include the Under 13, Under 14 and Under 15 Premier League National Cups, participation in which shall not be mandatory.
163. 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.

164. The Games Programmes referred to in Rules 160 and 161 shall consist of matches which shall:
- 164.1 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);
- 164.2 (in the case of the Games Programme referred to in Rule 160) 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:
- 164.2.1 in order that each Club can participate meaningfully in the Games Programme; and
- 164.2.2 for matches in the Under 13, Under 14 and Under 15 Premier League National Cups.
- 164.3 (in the case of the Games Programme referred to in Rule 161) 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);
- 164.4 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 169), with the number of such Festivals and Tournaments increasing for the older age groups in the Youth Development Phase;
- 164.5 take place during the Games Programme Schedule;
- 164.6 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
- 164.7 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

165. The Premier 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.
166. Save for any matches played abroad pursuant to Rule 169, the Games Programme for Category 1 Clubs referred to in Rule 165 shall:
- 166.1 166.1 be constituted either on a national basis or, if a majority of those Clubs (and Premier League clubs) which operate Category 1 Academies so determined by no later than 31 March in the preceding Season, on a regional basis (as that term is defined in Rule 167; and
- 166.2 166.2 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).
167. The Games Programme for Category 2 Clubs referred to in Rule 165 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).
168. Matches in the Games Programmes for Category 1 and Category 2 Clubs referred to in Rule 165 shall, unless the board of the Premier League 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.
169. As part of the Youth Development Phase Games Programme, the Premier 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.
170. The 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).
171. Matches played pursuant to Rules 165 to 170 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

172.	Each Club which operates a Category 1, Category 2 or Category 3 Academy: 172.1 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 172.2 may organise and participate in additional Authorised Games of the types listed in paragraphs (c), (d), (f) and (h) of that definition only (which shall be notified to the Premier 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).
173.	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 172.2, the Academy Player's playing time to be reasonably spread over the Season.
174.	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 172.2). Participation in a match shall for the purposes of this Rule mean playing at least 50% of the game time.
Professional Development Phase Games Programme	
175.	The Premier 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.
176.	The 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 177.3) how that Games Programme should be delivered.
177.	The Games Programmes organised by the Premier League and the League pursuant to Rules 175 and 176 will be constituted on the following geographical bases: 177.1 Category 1: a national league and a regional league (depending on age group) 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); 177.2 Category 2: 177.2.1 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 Premier League clubs) which operate Category 2 Academies; 177.2.2 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 177.3 Categories 3 and 4: 177.3.1 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 League in its absolute discretion and having regard to those Premier League clubs (and Clubs) which operate Category 3 and 4 Academies.
178.	Matches in the Professional Development Phase Games Programme organised under Rule 175: 178.1 shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game (and for the avoidance of doubt shall be in the 11v11 format); 178.2 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; 178.3 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 and, in accordance with the IFAB Protocol, up to one 'concussion substitute' and/or one 'additional substitute' (as appropriate) from those substitutes listed on the team sheet); 178.4 shall consist of competitive leagues and Tournaments; and 178.5 may include an optional Futsal programme organised by the Premier League (for Clubs operating Category 1 and Category 2 Academies) in the months of December, January and February.
179.	Matches in the Professional Development Phase Games Programme organised under Rule 176: 179.1 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); 179.2 shall be for Players in the Under 18 age group (and younger) only, save that up to three Players in the Under 19 age group may be named on the team sheet for a match; 179.3 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); 179.4 shall consist of competitive leagues and/or Tournaments; and 179.5 may include an optional Futsal programme organised by the Premier League in the months of December, January and February.
180.	Further provisions binding on Clubs competing in the Leagues referred to in Rule 178.4 shall be set out in the rules of those Leagues.

181.	Each Club which operates an Academy: 181.1 must participate fully in the Professional Development Phase Games Programme; and 181.2 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).
Premier League 2 and Professional Development League	
182.	Each Club which operates a Category 1 Academy shall compete in Premier League 2 as part of the Professional Development Phase Games Programme.
183.	Each Club which operates a Category 2 Academy shall compete in the Professional Development League 2 as part of the Professional Development Phase Games Programme, unless it is able to demonstrate to the League that its starting 11s in its first team matches during the preceding Season in the Premier League, the League Competition (including play off matches), the EFL Cup, The Football Association Challenge Cup, the EFL Trophy, the UEFA Europa League and/or UEFA Champions League included on average at least five Players in the Under 21 age group or younger.
184.	Each Club which operates a Category 3 or Category 4 Academy may compete in the development league to be organised by The League as part of the Professional Development Phase Games Programme.
185.	The Premier League will organise Premier League 2, which shall consist of a national league competition played on a competitive basis
186.	The Premier League will organise the Professional Development League, 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 of the Premier League 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 the Professional Development League).
187.	The 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 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.
188.	Further provisions binding on Clubs competing in Premier League 2 and the Professional Development League shall be set out in the rules of those Leagues.
189.	The League will in addition organise international matches (which may take place by way of Tournaments) for teams competing in Premier League 2 and the Professional Development Leagues.
Games Programme: Postponement etc. of Matches	
190.	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 them to the match) who shall be empowered to instruct that such match be cancelled, postponed or abandoned only if they consider 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 League notice in writing to that effect.
191.	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 190, any Club which causes the cancellation, postponement or abandonment of such a match will be in breach of these Rules
192.	The Board shall have power to specify the equipment and facilities to be provided by Clubs for the playing of matches between Academies.
193.	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.

DUTY OF CARE

Education	
194.	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 up to the Under 21 age group who are not regular members of the Club's first team squad is supported effectively and which:
194.1	is appropriate to the Category of its Academy;
194.2	complies with all applicable requirements set out in this section of the Rules; and
194.3	is evaluated by the Club within each Training Model and/or Development Phase to ensure it is meeting its objectives as set out therein.
195.	Each Club which operates an Academy shall ensure that each of its Academy Players receives a formal Education Programme which:
195.1	is appropriate to his age and Training Model;
195.2	meets his specific academic needs;
195.3	complies with all legal requirements;
195.4	is structured to ensure that his academic development is not compromised as a result of his being coached by the Club's Academy;
195.5	in the case of an Academy Player who is entered into a Scholarship Agreement with the Club, consists of the SEP and an educational programme approved by the League (which must include an academic or vocational qualification approved by the League and be subject to ongoing quality assurance by the League); and
195.6	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.
196.	Each Academy Player's educational progression under his Education Programme shall be recorded electronically and be made available to the League.
197.	Each Club which operates an Academy shall nominate a member of staff who shall be responsible for:
197.1	liaising with the school at which Academy Players are being educated;
197.2	ensuring that any issues concerning an Academy Player's education arising from that liaison are addressed to the satisfaction of the school;
197.3	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 performance and educational data are obtained from his school, recorded electronically and be made available to the League; and
197.4	co-ordinating and delivering the SEP.
Reports on Educational Progression	
198.	Each Club which operates an Academy shall provide progress reports to the Parent(s) of each Academy Player in the Youth Development Phase to whom it provides a Full Time or Hybrid Education Programme and Scholars in the Professional Development Phase.
199.	The progress reports shall:
199.1	detail the educational progression of the Academy Player; and
199.2	be provided as and when necessary, but as a minimum at least once every 12 weeks.
Delivery of the Education Programme	
PART TIME TRAINING MODEL	
200.	Each Club which operates an Academy shall, in respect of each of its Academy Players being trained under the Part Time Training Model, make contact in writing with the Academy Player's school on a minimum of three occasions in each academic year to:
200.1	inform the Academy Player's school that he is being so trained;
200.2	if the League so requests, obtain from the Academy Player's school his school reports and, where possible, educational attainment data;
200.3	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 electronically; and
200.4	liaise with the school on two occasions in each academic year 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.
HYBRID TRAINING MODEL	
201.	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 202.2 and, from Season 2025/26, have a full-time Head of Education.

202.	Each Club which operates an Academy shall, in respect of each of its Academy Players being trained under the Hybrid Training Model:
202.1	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;
202.2	provide to the Academy Player such additional educational support (to be detailed in the written agreement referred to in Rule 202.5) 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 Time;
202.3	obtain from the Academy Player's school his school reports and, where possible, educational attainment data;
202.4	monitor the Academy Player's academic progression (including by use of the information obtained from the Academy Player's school pursuant to Rule 202.3) and record the information obtained pursuant to Rule 202.3 electronically in a timely fashion and at least every 12 weeks (to coincide with dates of his Multi-disciplinary Reviews);
202.5	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 outline the compensatory education which will be provided by the Club;
202.6	ensure that the Academy Player follows a curriculum which reflects the 'Progress 8' measurement of educational assessment and attainment (save that where there are educational reasons why an Academy Player requires an amended curriculum to be followed, the League may grant dispensation from this requirement, subject to the approval of an Educational Advisor);and
202.7	liaise with the school at least every 12 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.
FULL TIME TRAINING MODEL	
203.	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 204 to 209 and which is approved in advance by the League.
204.	The education element of the Full Time Training Model must comply with these Rules and be structured in accordance with one of the three options set out below or in accordance with such other proposals as the League may approve.
205.	Each Club which operates the Full Time Training Model must:
205.1	unless otherwise approved by the League, only enable Academy Players in the Under 12 and Under 13 age groups to participate in the Full Time Training Model where they reside within 90 minutes of the Club's principal training venue;
205.2	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;
205.3	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);
205.4	ensure that there is in place a written agreement between the Club, each Academy Player engaged on the Full Time Training Model, his Parent(s) and his school which sets out full details of his education and Coaching Curriculum;
205.5	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;
205.6	ensure that appropriate staff/student ratios are utilised for all educational activity in which the Academy Player is engaged;
205.7	ensure that each Academy Player follows a curriculum which reflects the 'Progress 8' measurement of educational assessment and attainment (save where there are educational reasons why an Academy Player requires an amended curriculum to be followed, the League may grant dispensation from this requirement, subject to the approval of an Educational Advisor);
205.8	obtain from the Academy Player's school his school reports and, where possible, educational attainment data;
205.9	monitor the Academy Player's academic progression (including by use of the information obtained from the Academy Player's school pursuant to Rule 205.8) and record the information obtained pursuant to Rule 205.8 electronically in a timely fashion and at least every 12 weeks (to coincide with dates of his Multi-disciplinary Reviews);
205.10	permit the League to conduct reviews with Academy Players in the Under 12 to Under 18 age groups, as required; and
205.11	pursuant to Rule 195.5, ensure that Scholars are provided with sufficient time and support to prepare for the 'End Point Assessment'.
206.	Without prejudice to the generality of Rule 40, each Club which operates the Hybrid or Full Time Training Model must in respect of each such Training Model:
206.1	not do so unless the League has pre-approved and annually certified its proposed delivery of the Training Model;
206.2	permit the League 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
206.3	forthwith implement any changes to its delivery of the Training Model that the League may require.
207.	If the League is not satisfied that a Club's delivery of the Hybrid or Full Time Training Model complies with these Rules:
207.1	it may refuse to an application to register an Academy Player on it; and
207.2	the Board may exercise its powers set out in Rule 295.

208. 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 either Form YD4A or YD4B (as appropriate) signed on behalf of the Club by an Authorised Signatory and submit a copy to the League within five days of it being entered into.
209. 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(s) 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.
210. 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 there is a proposed change in circumstances for an Academy Player (for instance, changing to/from the Full Time Training Model or Hybrid Training Model or Part Time Training Model), forthwith inform the League of the change in Form YD4C and provide such evidence as the League may require to show that the Academy Player and his Parent(s) consented to the change.

Personal Development and Life Skills Plans

211. Each Club which operates an Academy shall establish a Personal Development and Life Skills Plan to support the holistic development of each of its Academy Players and Academy Players up to the age of the Under 21 age group.
212. The programme referred to in Rule 211 shall ensure that each Academy Player and Players up to the age of the Under 21 age group 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.
213. Each Academy Player shall engage in the activities referred to in Rule 212 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.
214. 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.

Inductions and Transitions

215. Each Club shall arrange a pre-season induction event for Academy Players and their Parent(s) and there shall be at least one such induction event per Development Phase and on every occasion that a new Academy Player joins the Club.
216. The induction meeting referred to in Rule 215 shall provide such information to the Academy Players and their Parent(s) as is necessary in order for them to understand the coaching and, if relevant, education that the Academy Player will receive from the Club.
217. Each Club which operates an Academy shall permit a representative of the League to attend such induction meetings on request.
218. The Code of Conduct set out in Appendix B shall be binding on all Academy Players registered on a YD4, (and their Parent(s)) 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.
219. Each Club which operates an Academy shall devise and implement an Induction and Transition Strategy.

Academy Player and Parent Voice

220. Each Club which operates an Academy shall devise and implement one or more mechanisms to invite and receive feedback from Academy Players and their Parent(s)
221. Clubs shall establish, maintain and, when necessary implement a complaints procedure for Academy Players and Parent(s), a copy of which shall be submitted to the League.

Safeguarding and Mental and Emotional Wellbeing

222. Each Club shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that it protects the welfare of each of its Academy Players and Players up to the Under 21 age group who continue to train with the Academy on a regular basis by offering support for his wellbeing and pastoral care generally.
223. Each Club which operates an Academy shall devise a mental and emotional wellbeing action plan to include details of support available and a referral process for concerns, in accordance with such guidance issued by the League from time to time.
224. The provisions of Section 11 of the Regulations: Safeguarding apply to Academies and Development Centres.
225. Without prejudice to the generality of Rule 224 each Club shall appoint an Academy safeguarding officer who shall:
- 225.1 undertake the functions set out in Regulation 120 specifically with regard to the Academy; and
 - 225.2 liaise with the Club's Head of Safeguarding.

Health and Safety

226. Clubs and Academy Staff shall observe and comply with any guidance issued by the League in respect of health and safety management and any breach thereof shall be treated as a breach of these Rules.
227. Clubs shall ensure that their Academy Players are insured in accordance with advice circulated by the League from time to time.

Inclusion, Diversity and Equality

228. Each Club bound by these Rules must comply with the League Code of Practice regarding equality and diversity. Each Club which operates an Academy and is in membership of the Premier League must comply with Premier League Rule J.4.
229. Each Club which operates an Academy shall deliver training for its Academy Players and Academy Staff on equality, diversity and inclusion each Season.

Injury and Medical

230. Each Club which operates an Academy shall ensure that each of its Academy Players undergoes the following tests to measure physical and physiological fitness (in accordance with any guidance issued by the League from time to time):
- 230.1 age-appropriate medical and physical screening;
 - 230.2 anthropometric assessments;
 - 230.3 physiological/fitness testing;
 - 230.4 movement and posture/functional screening;
 - 230.5 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);
 - 230.6 psychological profiling (Category 1 Academies only);
 - 230.7 cardiac screening for Academy Players in the Under 15 age group and above;
 - 230.8 medical examinations on all its Academy Players registered on Scholarship Agreements in accordance with the requirements laid down in Regulation 59; and
 - 230.9 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.
231. Subject to a Club complying with Rule 230, the Premier League will make available to it (on an anonymised basis) benchmarked data derived from the information provided to it by all Clubs;
232. 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.
233. 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 Premier League and the Football Association in order that a national audit of injury and rehabilitation may be maintained.
234. Subject to a Club complying with Rule 233, the Premier League will make available to it benchmarked data derived from the national audit of injury and rehabilitation.
235. 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.

236. Each Club which operates an Academy shall ensure that there is available at all games involving Academy teams appropriately trained pitch-side medical personnel to provide player first aid, and pre-hospital care and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing or to any Rules applicable to an Authorised Game, that;

236.1 in respect of each match in the Professional Development Phase Games Programme, Clubs must ensure the following qualified individuals be present at the venue:

Academy Category	Individuals who must be present
Category 1	<p>Home Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a doctor who holds a current ATMMiF or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board; a paramedic and ambulance; and a physiotherapist (or Sports Therapist) who holds a current ATMMiF or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board <p>Away Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A doctor, physiotherapist or Sports Therapist who holds a current ATMMiF or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board.
Category 2	<p>Home Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a doctor who holds a current ATMMiF or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board or a paramedic and (for Premier League Clubs) an ambulance; and a physiotherapist (or Sports Therapist) who holds a current ATMMiF or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board <p>Away Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A doctor, physiotherapist or Sports Therapist who holds a current ATMMiF or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board.
Category 3	<p>Home Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a doctor who holds a current ATMMiF or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board; or a physiotherapist (or Sports Therapist) who holds a current ITMMiF or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board <p>Away Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A doctor, physiotherapist or Sports Therapist who holds a current ITMMiF or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board.
Category 4	<p>Home Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a doctor who holds a current ATMMiF or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board; or a physiotherapist (or Sports Therapist) who holds the ITMMiF or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board <p>Away Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A doctor, physiotherapist or Sports Therapist who holds a current ITMMiF or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board.

236.2 In respect of each match in the Foundation Phase and Youth Development Phase, Clubs must ensure the following qualified individuals be present at the venue:

Academy Category	Individuals who must be present
Category 1	<p>Home Team</p> <p>A doctor, physiotherapist or Sports Therapist who holds a current ATMMiF or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board</p> <p>Away Team</p> <p>A doctor, physiotherapist or Sports Therapist who holds a current ITMMiF or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board.</p>
Category 2	<p>Home Team</p> <p>A doctor, physiotherapist or Sports Therapist who holds a current ITMMiF or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board.</p> <p>Away Team</p> <p>A doctor, physiotherapist or Sports Therapist who holds a current ITMMiF or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board.</p>
Category 3	<p>Home Team</p> <p>A doctor, physiotherapist or Sports Therapist who holds a current ITMMiF or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board.</p> <p>Away Team</p> <p>A doctor, physiotherapist or Sports Therapist who holds a current ITMMiF or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board.</p>

236.3 a defibrillator and trauma equipment are maintained and accessible at each venue at which matches are played and at which coaching takes place.

237. Without prejudice to the requirements of Rule 235, the following qualified individuals shall be present at all venues at which coaching takes place:

A list of the trauma equipment required by Clubs will be provided prior to the commencement of the Season.

Academy Category	Individuals who must be present
Category 1	a physiotherapist or a Sports Therapist with a current ITMMiF or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board.
Category 2	a physiotherapist or a Sports Therapist with a current ITMMiF or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board.
Category 3	a member of staff who holds a current EFAiF or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board.
Category 4	a member of staff who holds a current EFAiF or an equivalent or higher qualification approved by the Board.

SPORTS SCIENCE AND MEDICINE PERFORMANCE SUPPORT

Sports Science and Medicine/Performance Support Programme

238. Each Club which operates an Academy shall establish a Sports Science and Medicine/Performance Support 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.

239. Each Club's Sport Science and Medicine/Performance Support 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).

240. The Sports Science and Medicine/Performance Support Programme of each Club should detail the planned provision to each of its Academy Players of at least the following areas:

- 240.1 physical development;
- 240.2 medical services;
- 240.3 diet and nutrition;
- 240.4 Performance Analysis; and
- 240.5 psychology.

241. The progress and development of each Academy Player under the Sports Science and Medicine/Performance Support Programme (including without limitation the results of the tests set out in Rule 230, 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.

Performance Analysis

242. Each Club operating a Category 1 or Category 2 Academy shall:

- 242.1 have such technical facilities as are necessary to undertake the Performance Analysis required of it by Rule 242.2;
- 242.2 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;
- 242.3 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
- 242.4 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.

243. Each Club operating a Category 3 or Category 4 Academy shall comply with Rule 242 but only in respect of players in the Under 17 to Under 18 age groups.

244. Subject to a Club complying with Rule 242 or 243 (as appropriate depending on the Category of its Academy), and to a sufficient number of Clubs (and Premier League Clubs) likewise complying, the Premier League may 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).

TALENT IDENTIFICATION AND RECRUITMENT

Scouts: Qualifications	
245.	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 this section of these Rules: 245.1 is in possession of such qualification as the League may require from time to time; 245.2 understands and complies in full with these Rules and the Code of Conduct for Scouts; and 245.3 undertakes Continued Professional Development each year.
245A.	The League shall register a Scout and shall notify the applicant Club to that effect upon being satisfied that: 245A.1 the Scout holds the qualification required by Rule 245.1; 245A.2 the Scout is not currently registered as the Scout of another Club.
245B.	At the start of each season each Club shall issue a Scout Identification Card to each of its registered Scouts.
245C.	Except during the period of five days referred to in Rule 246, no Club shall employ a Scout who is not registered with the League pursuant to Rule 245A unless it has made an application to register them which has yet to be determined.
245D.	Upon a Club which operates an Academy ceasing to employ or engage a registered Scout, it shall within five days thereof: 245D.1 give notice to that effect to the League who shall thereupon remove their name from the register; and 245D.2 return their Scout Identification Card to the League.
245E.	Scouts shall conduct themselves in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Scouts set out in Appendix A.
245F.	Each Club which operates an Academy shall take all reasonable endeavours to ensure that its Scouts comply in all respects with Rule 245E and the Code of Conduct for Scouts.
246.	Each Club shall ensure that, where the relevant Scout's duties include those referred to in Rule 245, in addition to complying with the Scout registration requirements of these 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 245.1, and the League shall register the Scout where it is satisfied that the registration requirements of this section of these Rules have been complied with and the Scout holds the qualification required by Rule 245.1.
Scouts: Attendance at Matches	
247.	Each Club which operates an Academy shall permit the Scouts of other Clubs to attend matches played in the Games Programmes provided that: 247.1 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 Normal Working Day before the published date of the match; and 247.2 the Scout is able to produce on demand to the home Club their Scout Identification Card.
248.	Each Scout shall inform the home Club of their arrival at a match.
249.	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 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 245.1.
Scouts: Disciplinary Action	
249A	Any breach by a Scout of Rule 245E shall amount to a breach of these Rules and the League shall be entitled to take disciplinary action against the Scout and/or their Club for such breach in accordance with Section 8 of the League's Regulations. In addition to the sanctions available under Section 8, an additional sanction of the removal of a Scout's registration shall also be available at the conclusion of the disciplinary proceedings, should a breach be held to exist.
249B	Any breach by a Club of Rule 245C or Rule 245F shall amount to a breach of these Rules and the League shall be entitled to take disciplinary action against the Club for such breach in accordance with Section 8 of the League's Regulations. In addition to the sanctions available under Section 8, an additional sanction of the removal of a Scout's registration shall also be available at the conclusion of the disciplinary proceedings, should a breach be held to exist.
Registrations and Provision of Information by the League	
250.	Upon receiving an application by a Club to register an Academy Player, the League shall immediately provide to the Academy Player's Parent(s) a copy of these Rules and the Parent's Handbook.
251.	Subject to Rule 252, the League will undertake the registration (which shall be backdated to the date of application) of the Academy Player if: 251.1 seven days have elapsed from the date the League receives the application referred to above; and 251.2 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 251.1. The provisions of Rules 315 and 318 shall apply during the period referred to in Rule 251.1

252.	Without prejudice to its powers of inquiry under Section 8 of the Regulations, prior to undertaking any registration of an Academy Player, the League may, in its absolute discretion, request: 252.1 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 252.2 such Persons or any Club (or club) to produce documents, in each case, to ensure that there has been no breach of Rules 315 to 318.
253.	Where a request is made by the League in accordance with Rule 252, 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 315 to 318 (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).
254.	Subject to Rules 289 to 291 and 304, 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 with whom he is registered, the other Club shall be presumed to have breached Rule 315.

Time/Distance Rules

255.	Subject to Rule 285, 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.
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	Permitted Recruitment time/distance		
	Foundation Phase	Youth Development Phase	Professional Development Phase
Category 1	1 hour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No limit for Academy Players engaged in the Full Time Training Model between the Under 14 and Under 16 age groups; 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

256.	Subject to the conditions set out in Rules 257 and 263, a Trialist may attend an Academy for up to eight consecutive weeks in any one season without being registered provided that: 256.1 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 the Trialist's school; and 256.2 before the trial commences his particulars shall be notified forthwith to the League by sending to the League: (a) Form YD8 duly completed; (b) proof of his home address and date of birth in such form as is required by the League; and (c) a photographic image of the Trialist in such format as is required by the League.
257.	In the case of the Trialist in one of the age groups Under 9 to Under 16, a Club may apply to the League for permission to extend the period of eight weeks referred to in Rule 256 for an additional period of four weeks.
258.	An application to extend a trial period must be: 258.1 made by the Club at least one week before the Trialist's trial period is due to expire; 258.2 accompanied by such information and assurances as the League may require; and 258.3 consented to by the Trialist and his Parent(s).
259.	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.
260.	A Trialist may not register with another Club (or club) during the first seven weeks of the initial eight week trial period but may at any time terminate an extended trial period to which he is subject.
261.	Rule 44 (Performance Clocks) and Rule 45 (Multi-disciplinary Reviews) shall apply with regard to Trialists.
262.	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.

263. The conditions referred to in Rule 256 are as follows:
- 263.1 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;
- 263.2 a trial may be offered or given by any Club 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 or for a player that a Club proposes to register under Rule 285 ;
- 263.3 a trial may be offered or given by a Club to anyone in age groups Under 14 to Under 16 inclusive;
- 263.4 subject to Rule 263.5.2 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 eight weeks;
- 263.5 a trial may not be offered or given to anyone:
- 263.5.1 who is on trial at another Academy; or
- 263.5.2 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 289, Rule 290 or Rule 291 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 League in its absolute discretion.
264. 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 League in writing (at least one week before the Trialist's trial period is due to expire) to extend the period of his trial, giving full reasons therefor, and the League shall have power to extend such period in such terms as it may think fit.
265. 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 League YD8A duly completed.
266. 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.
267. Where a Club makes an application to the League in Form YD4 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 250 to 254 shall apply.

Pre-Registration Agreements

268. Subject to the provisions of Art. 19 of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players, on or after 1st January in any season a Club may enter into a pre-registration agreement with a player who does not reside within one and a half hours' travelling time of its Academy provided that such a player is then:
- 268.1 in his Under 16, Under 17 or Under 18 year; and
- 268.2 in Full Time Education; and
- 268.3 not registered with another Club or Premier League club (except in circumstances where the Board grants approval for the player to remain registered at his current Club until the agreement takes effect).
269. A pre-registration agreement shall be in Form YD9 and shall include an undertaking by the Club to enter into a Scholarship Agreement with the player upon the Club having acquired the player's registration and:
- 269.1 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
- 269.2 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.
270. Clubs shall submit to the League copies of all pre-registration agreements within five days of their being entered into, which must include:
- 270.1 Form YD4 signed on behalf of the Club by an Authorised Signatory;
- 270.2 proof of both the player's home address and date of birth in such form as is required by the Board (with any subsequent change(s) of address to be submitted by the Club to the League); and
- 270.3 a photographic image of the player in such format as is required by the Board.
271. 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

272. Each Club shall ensure that only Academy Players registered with that Club, Trialists attending Trials in accordance with Rule 256, and players with whom the Club has entered into a pre-registration agreement in accordance with Rule 268 shall be coached by or at that Club's Academy or participate in matches, tours, Festivals, Training Camps or Tournaments in which the Club operating that Academy is involved.

273. Each Club must ensure that every player who represents it in a match, Festival, Tournament or any other event that forms part of the Games Programme is able to produce at that event, on request by the League, a valid registration card issued by the League (which shall include any form of digital registration card issued by the League).
274. Subject to Rule 275, 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.
275. 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:
- 275.1 he is engaged in the Full Time Training Model; or
- 275.2 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.
276. The registration of Academy Players will be undertaken by the League and all registrations are subject to the approval of the League.
277. Registrations of Academy Players undertaken by the Premier League which are held by Clubs relegated to the League shall be treated as having been undertaken by the League provided all circumstances surrounding that registration comply with these Rules, failing which the League shall be at liberty to reject that registration unless otherwise determined by the Board.
278. An application for the registration of an Academy Player at an Academy shall be made by completing and submitting to the League:
- a) Form YD4 signed on behalf of the Club by an Authorised Signatory;
- b) a copy of the Code of Conduct referred to in Rule 218;
- c) proof of both the Academy Player's home address and date of birth in such form as is required by the League (with any subsequent change(s) of address to be submitted by the Club to the League); and
- d) a photographic image of the Academy Player in such format as is required by the League.
- The completed Form YD4 must be submitted to the League by the Club within five days of signature by the Academy Player.
279. A Club shall request each Academy Player (or if he is a minor his Parent(s)) to complete the ethnicity monitoring questionnaires at the same time that he completes Form YD4. If he does so the Club shall submit the completed ethnicity monitoring questionnaire to the League at the same time that it submits Form YD4. If the Academy Player or his Parent(s) (as applicable) elects not to complete the questionnaire, he should nevertheless submit form YD4 to the League forthwith.
280. An application in YD4 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.
281. Except in the case of a Scholar, a player shall not be registered as an Academy Player unless he is in Full Time Education.
282. 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.
283. 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. |
284. 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.
285. A player in age groups Under 12 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:
- 285.1 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;
- 285.2 the Coaching Curriculum shall be designed so as to ensure that it does not cause the Academy Player to be absent from school;
- 285.3 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 themselves 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
- 285.4 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(s).

286. An application to register an Academy Player shall be refused if:
- 286.1 the Academy Player is in age groups Under 10, Under 11 or Under 12;
 - 286.2 the registration of that Academy Player was held by another Club or Premier League club ("the Former Club") within the period of 12 months prior to the making of the application;
 - 286.3 the Former Club had given notice to that Academy Player under the provisions of Rules 288.1 or 288.2 that it intended to retain his registration; and
 - 286.4 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.
287. On or before the third Saturday in May in every year each Club shall send to the League a list in Form YD5 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 Regulation 67.1), indicating
- 287.1 which it retains;
 - 287.2 which it intends to retain; and
 - 287.3 which it intends to terminate (with effect from the first Saturday in June).

End of Season Procedure

288. Except in the case of an Academy Player who has been offered and has accepted a Scholarship Agreement in accordance with Rule 304:
- 288.1 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 Form 30 notifying him whether it intends to retain or to terminate his registration with effect from the first Saturday in June; and
 - 288.2 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 Form 30 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.
289. An Academy Player who receives notification under Rule 288.1 or Rule 288.2 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).
290. An Academy Player who receives notification under Rule 288.1 or Rule 288.2 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:
- 290.1 by the first Saturday in June he has given written notice to his Club and the League terminating his registration; and
 - 290.2 he has received the League's written acknowledgement of the same.
291. An Academy Player in age group Under 16 who has not received an offer to enter into a Scholarship Agreement by 31 December or who has been notified in writing by his Club that such an offer will not be forthcoming 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 347.

Termination of Registration

292. Subject to Rule 293, 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:
- 292.1 the Academy Player completing his Full Time Education;
 - 292.2 the receipt by the League at any time of a mutual cancellation notification in Form YD7 or YD10 duly completed and signed by the Academy Player and his Parent and on behalf of the Club holding his registration;
 - 292.3 the receipt by the League of the Academy Player's notice duly given in accordance with the provisions of Rule 290.1;
 - 292.4 the first Saturday in June following the receipt by the League of Form YD30 upon which his Club has indicated its intention to terminate the Academy Player's registration; or
 - 292.5 the expiry, surrender, suspension or revocation of the Academy licence of the Club holding the registration.
293. Where a club is relegated to the National League (a 'Former Football League Club'), the club shall be entitled to retain the registration of any Academy Players registered at the date of relegation, and such registrations shall automatically terminate upon the happening of the earliest of the following events:
- 293.1 the Club ceases to operate an Academy in accordance with these Rules; or
 - 293.2 on 30 June immediately after the second Season following relegation (unless by that date the Club has been promoted back to the Football League).

294. The Board shall have power at any time to cancel the registration of an Academy Player:
- 294.1 upon the written application of either:
 - 294.1.1 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 27); or
 - 294.1.2 the Club holding his registration; or
 - 294.2 of its own volition in the circumstances set out in Rule 295.
295. 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(s) on his behalf if he is a Child):
- 295.1 cancel the registration of the Academy Player; or
 - 295.2 order that the Academy Player be deemed to be engaged on one of the other Training Models.
296. The Board will not exercise its powers set out in Rule 295 without having first given the Club, the Academy Player and his Parent(s) the opportunity to make representations to it.
297. 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. For the avoidance of doubt the ability to determine any application, and any conditions relating thereto, shall continue notwithstanding any expiry of the registration after the date of the original application.
298. Upon an Academy Player's registration terminating by virtue of the provisions of Rule 292.2, the League shall provide him with a copy of Form YD7 or YD10 as evidence thereof.

Scholarships

299. From the 1 July between his Under 13 and Under 14 year 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.
300. Failure by a Club to honour any offer of a scholarship notified to the League in accordance with Rule 303 without reasonable cause shall render that Club liable to disciplinary action pursuant to Section 8 of the League's Regulations.
301. 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 291.
302. A Club which operates a Category 4 Academy may only offer to enter into a Scholarship Agreement with:
- 302.1 anyone who is not an Academy Player; or
 - 302.2 an Academy Player in age group Under 16 who is seeking registration under the provisions of Rule 291, but only on or after 1 January in his Under 16 Year.
303. Any offer made under the provisions of Rules 299, 301 or 302 shall be in Form 33, a copy of which shall be sent to the League by the Club making the offer within five days of it being made. In addition, any offer of scholarship to a player registered with a club not in membership of the League or Premier League shall be sent to the League by the Club within five days of such offer being made.
304. An Academy Player receiving an offer in Form 33 shall respond thereto within 28 days by completing and submitting to the Club making the offer Form 34, a copy of which shall be sent to the League 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).
305. An Academy Player who fails to respond as required by Rule 304 shall be deemed to have not accepted the offer.
306. A Club may enter into a Scholarship Agreement with an Academy Player if:
- 306.1 it holds his registration; or
 - 306.2 his registration is not held by another Club (or club); and
 - 306.3 (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
 - 306.4 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.
307. An Academy Player who enters into a Scholarship Agreement with a Club shall be:
- 307.1 entitled to receive such remuneration as shall be determined by the Board from time to time; and
 - 307.2 required to complete his Education Programme (as defined in the Scholarship Agreement).

308.	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 League 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 by such evidence as the League may require to demonstrate that the Academy Player may take up employment in the United Kingdom.
309.	If the parties to a Scholarship Agreement have agreed in writing that they will enter into a Standard Contract (as that term is defined in Regulation 64.2) 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.
APPEAL AGAINST TERMINATION	
310.	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 the Scholarship Agreement shall be commenced by notice in writing addressed to the other party to the agreement and to the League.
APPEAL AGAINST DISCIPLINARY DECISION	
311.	An appeal by an Academy Player under the provisions of paragraph 3.3.2 of the Schedule to the Scholarship Agreement shall be commenced by notice in writing addressed to the Club and to the League and dealt with in accordance with Regulation 74.
312.	Appeals pursuant to Rule 310 or Rule 311 shall be referred to the Player Related Dispute Commission.
313.	The Player Related Dispute Commission may allow or dismiss any such appeal and make such other order as it thinks fit.
FURTHER APPEAL	
314.	Within 14 days of a decision of the Board given under the provisions of Rule 313 either party may by notice in writing appeal against such decision to the League Appeals Committee in accordance with Regulation 75, whose decision shall be final.
Approaches by and to Clubs and Inducements	
315.	A Club shall not (without the prior written consent of either the Club (or club) at which the Academy Player is registered or with whom the player has entered into a pre-registration agreement), either directly or indirectly, make any approach to or communicate with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 315.1 an Academy Player registered with another Club (or club); or 315.2 a player with whom another Club (or club) has entered into a pre-registration agreement which remains current.
316.	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 315 to be an indirect approach in breach of that Rule.
317.	Except as permitted by Rules 289, 290, 291 and 304 an Academy Player whose registration is held by a Club shall not, either directly or indirectly, make any approach to another Club (or club).
318.	Except that a Club may, not earlier than 1 November 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 268 and 299: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 318.1 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; 318.2 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 307.1; and 318.3 no Academy Player shall, either directly or indirectly, accept any such inducement.
319.	Clubs should ensure that Academy Players and their parent(s) are made aware that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 319.1 Pursuant to Rule 284, no application to register an 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; and 319.2 any document(s) presented to and/or signed by the Academy Player and their parent(s) prior to this date shall not in any way bind the Academy Player to register at the Club.

FACILITIES

Facilities	
320.	Each Club which operates an Academy shall ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 320.1 it provides as a minimum the facilities and accommodation set out in Rules 322 to 333; and 320.2 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.
321.	Save where otherwise indicated, or with the permission of the Board, the facilities and accommodation set out in Rules 322 to 333 shall be provided at the Club's principal venue for the coaching and education of Academy Players.

322.	Grass pitches <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #1a3d4d; color: white;">Category 1</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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); and c) a designated area (on grass) for the coaching of goalkeepers. </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #1a3d4d; color: white;">Categories 2 and 3</td> <td> <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; and b) a designated area for the coaching of goalkeepers. </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #1a3d4d; color: white;">Category 4</td> <td> <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; and b) a designated area (on grass) for the coaching of goalkeepers. </td> </tr> </table>	Category 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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); and c) a designated area (on grass) for the coaching of goalkeepers. 	Categories 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; and 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; and b) a designated area (on grass) for the coaching of goalkeepers. 				
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323.	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.										
324.	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.										
325.	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.										
326.	Without prejudice to the generality of Rule 323, 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.										
327.	Artificial Surface pitch <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #1a3d4d; color: white;">Categories 1 and 2</td> <td>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 measures 105 metres in length and 68 metres in breadth, unless otherwise permitted by the League.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #1a3d4d; color: white;">Categories 3 and 4</td> <td>Access to one floodlit outdoor Artificial Surface pitch (which need not be at the principal venue).</td> </tr> </table>	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 measures 105 metres in length and 68 metres in breadth, unless otherwise permitted by the League.	Categories 3 and 4	Access to one floodlit outdoor Artificial Surface pitch (which need not be at the principal venue).						
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328.	Indoor area for training and the playing of matches <p>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.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #1a3d4d; color: white;">Categories 1 and 2</td> <td>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. <i>(Note: an indoor pitch which complies with the size requirements set out in Regulation 13 is recommended).</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #1a3d4d; color: white;">Categories 3 and 4</td> <td>Access to one indoor 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: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">Age groups Under 9 to Under 14 inclusive:</td> <td>18 in each age group</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">Age groups Under 15 and Under 16 inclusive:</td> <td>15 in each age group</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">Age groups Under 17 to Under 21 inclusive:</td> <td>12 in each age group</td> </tr> </table> </td> </tr> </table>	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. <i>(Note: an indoor pitch which complies with the size requirements set out in Regulation 13 is recommended).</i>	Categories 3 and 4	Access to one indoor 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: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">Age groups Under 9 to Under 14 inclusive:</td> <td>18 in each age group</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">Age groups Under 15 and Under 16 inclusive:</td> <td>15 in each age group</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">Age groups Under 17 to Under 21 inclusive:</td> <td>12 in each age group</td> </tr> </table>	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
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329.	Changing rooms and washing facilities	<p>Categories 1 to 4</p> <p>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.</p> <p>b) a sufficient number of washing and toilet facilities, of a suitable quality, for the exclusive use of all registered Academy Players;</p> <p>c) a sufficient number of separate washing and toilet facilities, of a suitable quality, for the use of visiting teams;</p> <p>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 in the case of Category 1 and Category 2 Academies only, with appropriate arrangements made at Category 3 and Category 4 Academies to facilitate the changing requirements of both male and female Match Officials); and</p> <p>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;</p>
330.	Team meeting room	<p>Categories 1 to 4</p> <p>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.</p>
331.	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 330 provided that it is large enough.</i></p>
332.	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. If the facility is shared with the professional squad, access for the Academy sufficient for its purposes needs to be clearly demonstrated.</p> <p>Categories 3 and 4</p> <p>match analysis suite is recommended but not mandatory.</p>
333.	Medical facilities	Such medical facilities as the Club requires to deliver its Sports Science and Medicine / Performance Support Programme.
334.	Administration office space	<p>Categories 1 to 4</p> <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 their job description; and</p> <p>b) a private meeting room.</p>
335.	Academy Player accommodation	<p>Categories 1 to 4</p> <p>Sufficient and adequate accommodation for all registered Academy Players and Trialists under the age of 18 not residing with their Parent(s). 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>
336.	Classrooms	<p>Category 1</p> <p>A minimum of three classrooms which shall each:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> contain sufficient desks for 20 students; contain 20 electronic devices with access to the internet; and conform in all respects with any requirements for classrooms issued by the Department for Education. <p>Category 2</p> <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> <p>Categories 3 and 4</p> <p>Access for Academy Players and Trialists to a study area large enough to hold 20 people and which contains at least 20 electronic devices with internet access.</p>

FINANCE AND EXPENSES

Finance	
337.	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.
338.	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.
339.	The Academy Financial Information required by Rule 337 shall be submitted in the format required by the League.
340.	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 337 and 339.
341.	The League shall have the power to obtain an independent audit of a Club's Academy Financial Information submitted pursuant to these Rules.
342.	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.
343.	Each Club which operates an Academy must comply with the minimum funding requirements as communicated by the League from time to time.
Expenses	
344.	Without prejudice to Rules 315 to 318, each Club that operates an Academy shall be permitted to reimburse Academy Players, Trialists and their Parent(s) for actual expenses legitimately incurred as a direct result of the Academy Player's or Trialists participation in the activities of the Academy, in accordance with such guidance as is issued by the League to Clubs from time to time.
345.	Without prejudice to Rules 315 to 318, no payment of any kind may be made by a Club to an Academy Player or his Parent(s) (whether directly or indirectly) outside the terms of the guidance issued by the Board in accordance with Rule 344, without the express prior consent of the League.
346.	Each Club that operates an Academy shall submit to the League:
346.1	by 1 July in each year, its Academy Expenses Policy for the upcoming season; and
346.2	by 1 September in each year, its Academy Expenses Information.

COMPENSATION

Compensation	
347.	The registration of an Academy Player at an Academy shall impose an obligation on the applicant Club or Premier League club (" the Applicant Club ") to pay compensation for the training and development of that Academy Player to any Club, Premier League club or Former Football League Club (in respect of such period as that club were a member of the Football League) which previously held his registration (the " Training Club ") provided that:
347.1	the Training Club had indicated in Form 30 (or, in the case of a Premier League club, the equivalent Premier League form) its intention to retain the Academy Player's registration;
347.2	the Training Club had offered to enter into a Scholarship Agreement pursuant to Rule 299 with the Academy Player;
347.3	the Academy Player sought registration at the Applicant Club because he had moved residence outside the permitted travelling time from his last Training Club;
347.4	save where Rule 291 applies, the Training Club and Academy Player mutually agreed to terminate the Academy Player's registration pursuant to Rule 292.2 and agreed that the Training Club should retain the right to receive compensation should the Academy Player sign for another Club (or club); or
347.5	the Board has made a determination to that effect pursuant to Rule 297; and
347.6	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).
348.	The obligation in Rule 347 to pay compensation to a Former Football League Club shall not apply in the following circumstances:
348.1	the registration of an Academy Player is released from a Former Football League Club in accordance with Rule 293.2; or
348.2	the Former Football League Club ceases to operate an Academy in accordance with these Rules.
349.	Where the Applicant Club is in both a lower division and has an Academy of lower Category than the Training Club as at the time that the Academy Player joins it, the obligation in Rule 347 to pay compensation shall be varied as follows:
349.1	where the Academy Player is registered with the Applicant Club within 12 months of his being registered to the Training Club, the Applicant Club shall be obliged to pay the contingent compensation (referred to in Rule 354) but not any initial training costs fee (as referred to in Rule 354); or
349.2	where the Academy Player is registered with the Applicant Club in circumstances where at least 12 months have elapsed since he was registered as an Academy Player with any Club or club, there shall be no obligation on the Applicant Club to pay any compensation (whether by way of initial training costs fee or contingent compensation).

350. Where Rule 349 applies and the Academy Player subsequently ends his registration with the Applicant Club and registers as an Academy Player at another Academy which is either operated by a Club in the same or a higher division or is an Academy of the same or higher Category than the original Training Club (the "Further Club"), the Further Club shall be obliged to pay compensation (both to the initial training costs fee and contingent compensation) to the original Training Club in respect of the Academy Player's time at that club, in accordance with the provisions of Rules 349 and 350.
351. The amount of compensation referred to in Rule 347 shall be:
 351.1 such sum as shall be due pursuant to this section of the Rules; or
 351.2 as regards the compensation payable by the Applicant Club to the most recent Training Club, such sum as shall have been agreed between them.
352. Rules 354 to 365 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 353.2 applies.
353. 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 4 of the Regulations) determine the compensation payable to the latter in respect of an Academy Player:
 353.1 who is in any age group between Under 17 and Under 21 when he is registered for the Applicant Club; or
 353.2 to whom the Training Club made an offer of a Scholarship Agreement pursuant to Rule 299.
354. The compensation due in respect of an Academy Player to whom Rule 352 applies shall consist of an initial training costs 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 contingent compensation as is payable to all qualifying Training Clubs in accordance with these Rules.
355. The initial training costs fee referred to in Rule 354 shall be calculated by:
 355.1 multiplying the applicable annual fixed training costs calculated in accordance with Rule 356 by the applicable number of years; and
 355.2 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.
356. In Rule 355:
 356.1 the "applicable annual fixed training costs" means the sums set out in the table in Rule 357 referable to:
 356.1.1 the age group of the Academy Player during any year that he was registered with the Training Club; and
 356.1.2 the Category of the Training Club's Academy during that year; and
 356.2 the "applicable number of years" means the number of years for which the Academy Player was registered for the Training Club (subject to Rule 364).

357. The applicable annual fixed training costs 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 1	Category 2	Category 3
Under 9	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000
Under 10	£10,000	£8,750	£7,500
Under 11	£15,000	£12,500	£10,000
Under 12	£45,000	£30,000	£15,000
Under 13	£60,000	£40,000	£20,000
Under 14 to Under 16	£80,000 (per year)	£50,000 (per year)	£25,000 (per year)

358. The contingent compensation referred to in Rule 354 shall consist of:
 358.1 appearance fees calculated by reference to the number of First Team Appearances made by the Academy Player for the Applicant Club or any other Club or Premier League club for whom the Academy Player subsequently becomes registered (including, with effect from the commencement of Season 2015/16 only, 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 360;
 358.2 subject to Rule 359, appearance fees shall be calculated up to a maximum of 100 First Team Appearances;
 358.3 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 Football Association (save for any Welsh club which is a member of the League, the Premier League or the National Division of the National League), 20% of any Compensation Fee, Loan Fee and Contingent Sum that the Applicant Club receives which is in excess of:
 358.3.1 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
 358.3.2 the actual sum (if any) paid by the Applicant Club to the Training Club to acquire the Academy Player's registration;
 358.4 5% of all Compensation Fees, Transfer Fees, Loan Fees and Contingent Sums paid in respect of all future transfers of the Academy Player's registration (whether permanent or temporary) to Clubs (or clubs) in membership of the League, the Premier League or the National Division of the National League;
 358.5 5% of all Loan Fees and Contingent Sums paid in respect of 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 Division of the National League).
359. For the purposes of calculating the contingent compensation referred to in Rule 354, First Team Appearances made in excess of 100 and up to a maximum of 200 (the "Additional Appearances") will result in contingent compensation being payable in circumstances where one or more of a Player's Additional Appearances are played for a Club (or clubs) in a higher division than one or more of the Player's first 100 First Team Appearances. In such circumstances the Additional Appearances will be treated as if they had formed part of the Player's first 100 First Team Appearances, with the result that an additional compensation fee will be due which is equal to any difference in the compensation paid in respect of the Player's first 100 First Team Appearances and any Additional Appearances of a higher value (starting with the lowest compensated appearance).
360. The appearance fees referred to in Rule 358.1 are as follows:
 360.1 Premier League: £30,000;
 360.2 EFL Championship: £2,500;
 360.3 EFL League One: £500; and
 360.4 EFL League Two: £250.
361. In respect of Rule 358:
 361.1 "First Team Appearance" means:
 361.1.1 an appearance either in the starting eleven or as a playing substitute in a first team fixture in the Premier League, the EFL Championship and EFL Leagues 1 and 2 (including play-offs), the EFL Cup, the FA Cup, the EFL Trophy, the FIFA Club World Cup, the UEFA Europa Conference League, the UEFA Europa League or the UEFA Champions League; and
 361.1.2 where a player is subject to a Temporary Transfer or other loan from a Club or Football League club to a foreign club, an appearance for a foreign club in league or domestic cup competition, the FIFA Club World Cup or the UEFA Europa Conference League, UEFA Europa League or the UEFA Champions League;
 361.2 361.2 the contingent compensation shall be payable upon the earlier of:
 361.2.1 every 10 First Team Appearances played by the Player;
 361.2.2 the end of each Season; or
 361.2.3 the termination (whether by effluxion of time, cancellation, transfer or otherwise) of the Academy Player's registration at a Club (or Premier League Club).
 For the avoidance of doubt, in the event of a termination of an Academy Player's registration, the obligation to pay future sums pursuant to that Rule shall transfer to any new Club (or Premier League club) for whom the Academy Player subsequently becomes registered; and
 361.3 "Compensation Fee", "Transfer Fee", "Loan Fee" and "Contingent Sum" shall be interpreted to exclude compensation payable pursuant to Rule 347.
362. Reference in Rules 358 and 361 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 358.1 and 358.4 and for the avoidance of doubt the original Applicant Club shall not be liable to the Training Club in respect of:
 362.1 any appearance fees payable pursuant to Rule 358.1 and due in respect of appearances made by the Academy Player after he has ceased to be permanently registered for the Applicant Club; or
 362.2 sums payable pursuant to Rule 358.3 and 358.4 arising from transfers in respect of which the Applicant Club was not the Transferor Club.
363. 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 351.2 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 Premier League club).

364.	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).
365.	If the Academy Player has been registered for a Training Club for part only of the period between the start of his Under 9 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.
366.	The compensation set by the Professional Football Compensation Committee in respect of an Academy Player to whom Rule 353 applies shall be determined on the application of either Club and in accordance with the Committee's Regulations (set out at Appendix 4 of the Regulations).
367.	The new registration of a Contract Player under Regulation 61 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): 367.1 had held that Player's registration as an Academy Player; 367.2 had offered to enter into a Scholarship Agreement with him which offer he had not accepted; or 367.3 had entered into a Scholarship Agreement with him and either: 367.3.1 the Scholarship Agreement had been terminated at the Player's request; or 367.3.2 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.
368.	The amount of compensation payable pursuant to Rule 367 shall be: 368.1 such sum as shall have been agreed between the applicant Club (or club) and the former Club; or 368.2 such sum as the Professional Football Compensation Committee on the application of either Club (or club) shall determine pursuant to Rule 366.
369.	Any agreement between Clubs or between a Club and a Premier League club or Former 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.
370.	All compensation (including instalments thereof and contingent sums) payable to a Club, Premier League or a League Club shall be paid by the Applicant Club into the Transfer Fee Account.

APPENDIX A – CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SCOUTS

1. The function of a Scout is to identify to their Club players with whom that Club may wish to enter into negotiations with a view to securing their registration. Scouts are not themselves entitled to enter into any such negotiations nor are they able to make promises to or offer inducements to any players whom they approach.
2. Scouts are employed by and represent their Clubs and are Officials within the meaning of the Regulations of the League by which they are bound.
3. Scouts must therefore be familiar with the Regulations and in particular these Rules relating to Youth Development. They must maintain an awareness of and at all times comply with the Regulations and Rules setting out the circumstances in which their Club may make an approach to a Player or Academy Player (as defined in the Regulations) whose registration is held by another football club.
4. When acting in the course of their duties a Scout shall at all times carry the formal means of identification issued to them by their Club and shall produce the same upon demand.
5. Scouts are responsible for the conduct of their contacts and shall be liable for any act or omission by a contact which constitutes a breach of the Regulations.
6. Scouts shall conduct themselves in a manner befitting their role as Officials of their Clubs and shall take all possible steps to promote the reputation of the game of association football and to prevent it being brought into disrepute.
7. A Scout shall forthwith disclose to their Club the nature and extent of any direct or indirect interest they may have in any transaction or arrangement involving their Club and they shall account to the Club for any benefit which either directly or indirectly they derive therefrom.
8. A Scout shall conduct themselves at all times in an ethical and professional manner and shall observe the highest standards of integrity and fair dealing.

APPENDIX B – CODE OF CONDUCT FOR CLUBS, ACADEMY PLAYERS AND THEIR PARENT(S)

(Youth Development Rule 218)

The following Code applies to each Club, Academy Player registered on EFL Form YD4 and their Parent(s) and sets out the standards expected of each party. By signing this Code, each party agrees to abide by it, and any breach of this Code (as determined by the English Football League) may be deemed a breach of Youth Development Rule 218.

1. THE CLUB AGREES TO:

- (a) provide a safe and inclusive environment in which the Academy Player can learn and develop free from abuse, bullying, mistreatment and discrimination in any form;
- (b) ensure all Staff receive regular safeguarding training approved by the Club's Designated Safeguarding Officer and have been subject to safer recruitment procedures;
- (c) protect the welfare of the Academy Player, including their mental and emotional wellbeing;
- (d) ensure medical screening, monitoring and support for the Academy Player;
- (e) provide a structured football learning programme, appropriate to the age, ability and growth of the Academy Player;
- (f) provide participation in football matches arranged or approved by the EFL as part of the Games Programme;
- (g) provide trained and qualified coaching and other staff and facilities as determined by the Youth Development Rules;
- (h) provide guidelines to the Academy Player and Parent(s) on the best ways for them to contribute to the Academy Player's football and personal development;
- (i) provide compensatory education and support (in consultation with the Academy Player's Parent(s) and school) for the continued academic and personal development of the Academy Player which, appropriate to their educational needs and training model;
- (j) provide regular communication and reports to the Academy Player and Parent(s) on their progress;
- (k) provide any additional code of conduct and/or rules for its Academy

2. THE ACADEMY PLAYER AGREES TO:

- (a) attend the Academy regularly and punctually, behave with self-discipline and give notice of and reasons for any absence;
- (b) practise the techniques and skills taught by the Academy and attempt to apply them in matches;
- (c) maintain their academic progression and attainment;
- (d) follow a lifestyle appropriate to development – spending leisure time positively; eating, drinking, relaxing and sleeping sensibly;
- (e) communicate with the Academy staff, keeping them informed about any matters affecting them;
- (f) never engage in abusive, bullying, violent or discriminatory behaviour in any form, including whilst online; and
- (g) adhere to any code of conduct issued by the Club and/or any rules for its Academy.

3. THE PARENT(S) AGREE TO:

- (a) support the Academy Player to meet targets, including this Code and any code of conduct issued separately by the Club and/or any rules for its Academy;
- (b) support the Academy Player without pressure, praise good work and refrain from criticising lapses;
- (c) set a good example to the Academy Player;
- (d) not approach or engage in communication, either directly or indirectly, with another Academy whilst the Academy Player is registered with an Academy, save as permitted by the Youth Development Rules;
- (e) communicate with the Academy staff to resolve any issues of concern and to keep them informed about any matters affecting the Academy Player;
- (f) adhere to any code of conduct issued by the Club and/or any rules for its Academy.

We, the undersigned, agree to the Code of Conduct

[Signature blocks for Club, Player and Parent(s)]