



## 2024-25 YEL League Regulations

### 1. England Accreditation and requirements of club officials & team contacts

#### (A) England Accreditation

(i) **A club must be England Accredited to be a member of the YEL.** Any club that does not hold an up to date England Accreditation will not be admitted/re-admitted into the league at the AGM with the exception of a newly formed club – see Regulation 1A(ii)

(ii) **Newly formed Clubs applying to the league** - Any application from a new club wishing to join the league that has not played previously in any other league and/or has been in existence for less than twelve months, will still be eligible to have their application considered. If they are accepted into the league, it will be on the understanding that they will have twelve months from the date of acceptance into the league to achieve England Accredited status. Any club failing to achieve England Accreditation in the prescribed timescale, will be removed from the league.

#### (B) Club Officials and Team Contacts

(i) **All executive club officials** – Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Welfare Officer - must be registered with the league on Scoreline with a first and last name, current email address and mobile contact number. One person cannot hold more than two of the executive club official roles – Chair, Secretary, Treasurer & Welfare Officer. For best practice, it is important that the Club Secretary and Club Welfare Officer are held by different individuals. This must be kept up to date throughout the season. Failure to do so will result in the fixtures for their club's registered teams being suspended until the regulation is complied with and a fine issued of up to £100 for failing to follow a management instruction..

(ii) **Club Official Scoreline email confirmation** - It is a requirement of the league that all club officials log into Scoreline using their email address as the username, prior to the start of the season (or during the season if the details change) as a validation that their contact details are correct. Failure to do so will result in the fixtures for their club's registered teams being suspended until the regulation is complied with and a fine issued of up to £100 for failing to follow a management instruction.

(iii) **Team Contacts/Managers listed on Scoreline** – No person can be entered as the main team contact on Scoreline for more than one team per playing day – YEL Saturday & YEL Sunday. Each team listed on Scoreline must have a unique contact – name, email

address and mobile number. Failure to do comply with this regulation will result in the fixtures for the team/s with the duplicate team contacts being suspended until the regulation is complied with and a fine of up to £100 will be issued for failing to follow a management instruction for each of the teams where a duplicate name has been used.

(iv) **Coach/Manager requirements for a registered YEL team** – As part of the YEL's parent County FA rules, each team playing in the YEL must have two coaches with in-date qualifications registered to the team on Club Portal who should be present at YEL organised matches and all training activities. Qualifications required to be compliant:

**Coach one:** must hold ALL of the following:

- In-date accepted DBS
- FA Level 1 / Introduction to Coaching Football (I2CF) Qualification (Min)
- In-date Safeguarding Children Course / Recertification
- In-date Introduction to First Aid in Football (IFAiF)

**Coach two:** must hold a minimum of the following:

- In-date accepted DBS
- In-date Safeguarding Children Course / Recertification
- In-date Introduction to First Aid in Football (IFAiF) OR In-date FA Sudden Cardiac Arrest Module & In-date FA Concussion Module

A **qualified** Coach or Manager **must** be present at training and fixtures (I2CF/SCC/IFAiF).

Team Officials (Manager/Coach/Assistant Manager/Assistant Coach) **must** have their photo uploaded to Club Portal.

A parent can stand in if either coach is not present provided they have an in date FA safeguarding children certificate and in date FA DBS.

Failure of a team to comply with this rule will result in the membership application to join the league being rejected. If a team is not compliant with this regulation during the season, it will receive a fine of up to £100 for failing to follow a management instruction and will have its fixtures withdrawn immediately until the team becomes compliant.

- (C) **Use of the term Academy in club or team name or on social media related to any YEL member club/team** – Any club or team found to be using the term 'academy' in their name or associated social media will not be accepted into the league or, if already a member club, will have their membership immediately revoked if they are found to be using the term during the season.

## **2. Player registrations and numbers of registered players permitted per team/squad**

- (A) Subject to meeting eligibility requirements as set out in the YEL Rules, players of all age groups can play in the YEL on both Saturday and Sunday.
- (B) **REGISTRATION OF NEW PLAYERS ON WHOLE GAME SYSTEM** – Clubs/teams should use the full name of players (first full name and surname – no abbreviations or shortened form eg Robert Smith not Rob, Bob, Bobby, Robbie etc – middle names are not required) to assist in preventing duplication of players in the system.
- (C) **PLAYERS WISHING TO PLAY UP A YEAR** – All age groups – players will be permitted to play in a team a year above apart from a player that attains their sixth birthday during the season. They are not permitted to play up at U8.

- (D) **MAXIMUM NUMBERS OF PLAYERS IN EACH TEAM/SQUAD** – With the exception of U7s & U8s, the maximum number of players permitted by the YEL to be registered on the FA registration system for each team can be no more than double the number of players in the age format the team is playing in:

U7/U8	Unlimited
U9/U10 (7v7)	maximum of 14 players per squad
U11/12 (9v9)	maximum of 18 players per squad
U13/U14 (11v11)	maximum of 22 players per squad

Any team found to have numbers of players registered in excess of the maximum specified above will be referred to the YEL Discipline team and will be fined for failing to follow a management instruction. The team will also have fixtures removed until sufficient registrations are cancelled to become compliant with the maximum number of players as detailed above.

### 3. Match day requirements - Player ID, Team Sheets, Match returns on Full-Time

- (A) **Player ID** League ID of the intended participating players (U7-U14) must be produced by each team in the form of the official squad list downloaded from Whole Game System and given to the opposition coach/manager 15 minutes before the game. An ID check must then be carried out by means of calling the players in and checking them off against the photos/names on the squad list.

A mobile device can be used to generate the squad list. The only acceptable form on a mobile device is the squad list on the FA Player Registration System (WGS).

**Managers/coaches MUST have a back up paper copy of the official squad list downloaded from Whole Game System with them at all times.** Lack of signal, battery or device failure will NOT be accepted as a reason for an ID check not being completed.

- (i) When either team fails to carry out a player ID check prior to the start of the game in any YEL scheduled fixture, the match will be passed to the YEL Discipline team for consideration. **You must ring the YEL Gameday Hotline on the day and seek advice. You must also email the YEL Office – office@yelonline.com – within 24 hours of the official kick off time, to give a detailed account of the reason why the ID check was not completed. If no email is received and it is found an ID check was not completed, both teams will be sanctioned as per 3A(ii) below.**
- (ii) Any individual team failing or refusing to show player ID prior to the game starting will be classed as the offending team and deemed to have cancelled on the day. The opposition must follow the steps in Regulation 3A(i) otherwise they could also be classed as an offending team. An automatic fine will be applied to the offending team/s up to the maximum permitted in the YEL Rules of £100. Additional sanctions may be imposed by the YEL Discipline team including but not limited to, those within the YEL Postponement grid – Regulation 16 – and/or **the offending team/s having their fixtures removed for the remainder of the split season – December 31<sup>st</sup> if between September and up to and including December; May 31<sup>st</sup> if between January and up to and including May.**
- (iii) If it is found that neither team attempted to show valid Player ID prior to the start of the game, both teams will be fined up to the maximum permitted in the YEL Rules of £100 and the fixture declared void. **Both teams will have fixtures removed for the**

**remainder of the split season – December 31<sup>st</sup> if between September and up to and including December; May 31<sup>st</sup> if between January and up to and including May.**

- (iv) A player unable to produce league ID **MUST NOT** play. The YEL Football Admin Team or a YEL Respect Field Officer in attendance, have the authority to check cards before or after a match. Any team that does not have a player on a Player ID sheet and allows that player to play in any YEL organised game will be referred to the YEL Discipline Team and fined for playing an ineligible player along with any other sanctions are deemed to be appropriate.
  
- (B) Team Sheets** – Team sheets **MUST** be provided for ALL U9s upwards games where there is an officially appointed YEL referee. A Team sheet **MUST** be given to the officially appointed YEL referee 15 minutes **BEFORE** the match starts. Each team sheet **MUST** display the full name of the player and their shirt number. If there is no officially appointed YEL referee, a team sheet does not need to be presented to the acting match official. Any team that fails to give a team sheet to an official YEL referee prior to the game will be referred to the YEL Discipline team and, if found proven, will be fined in accordance with the fines tariff set out in the YEL Rules based on SCORY.
  
- (C) Match returns on Full-Time** – All teams (U7 to U14) must complete a Match Return on Full-Time for all YEL organised games – friendlies and competitive matches - within 24 hours of the advertised kick off time. Any team failing to complete a match return in full will be fined £5 for the first offence; £10 for the second offence; £20 for the third and subsequent offences. Any team that has two or more Match Returns outstanding will not only attract a fine for each incomplete return but will also have their fixtures suspended until the outstanding Match Returns are completed regardless of whether the fine/s have been paid or not
  
- (D) Reporting results – SMS text/Full-Time entry – Reminder of YEL Rule 21 (B)** – the result of the game must be reported to the league either by automated text or entry on full-time website, within 3 hours of the advertised kick off time. Failure to do so will result in a charge and fine for failing to follow a management instruction. Fines will be £5 for the first offence; £10 for the second offence; £20 for the third and subsequent offences.

## 4. Grounds

- (A)** All clubs are encouraged to provide changing room facilities. A minimum requirement is that there must be toilet facilities on site for the use of the teams, match officials and spectators. Failure to have these facilities in place will render the ground not fit for purpose and YEL clubs/teams will not be permitted to use the venue for YEL organised matches. Any team found to not be providing a minimum of toilet facilities on site will be fined for failing to follow a management instruction for each match that takes place/is found to have taken place, during the course of the season. The only exceptions to this rule will be:
  - (i) if the facilities are temporarily unavailable. Clubs will need to apply to the YEL Office for an exemption certificate which will be completed by the league and detail the start and finish date of any permitted exemption period.
  
  - (ii) If there is a detailed plan for facilities to be installed and there is a date by which the works will be completed. Clubs will need to apply to the YEL Office for an exemption certificate which will be completed by the league and detail the start and finish date of any permitted exemption period.

## 5. Kick off times

- (A) For Saturday and Sunday Mini Soccer, 9v9 & 11v11 earliest KO time for any game is 9am (see table below and subject to conditions set out in Regulation 6).
- (B) Once a referee has been appointed, the kick off time and/or the venue can only be changed with the agreement of both teams, the referee AND the YEL. The YEL reserves the right to insist the game goes ahead at the scheduled venue and kick off time. Should a game be moved within 10 day period prior to the game and the league is unable to find an alternative game for the referee, the home team will be fined an equivalent amount to the fee the referee would have received for officiating the game.
- (C) Home teams should check 10 days prior to the game to ensure that the kick off time and venue are available and correct on Full-Time to ensure accurate appointing of referees. Any team not adhering to this regulation may be subject to a fine for failing to follow a management instruction.

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Mini Soccer</b>	<b>9v9/11 a side</b>
Earliest KO time is 9am if agreed by both teams – see regulation 6	Kick off between 9am and 12.30pm	Kick off between 9am and 2.30pm
	<b>Default Kick Off Time 10am</b>	<b>Default Kick Off Time 11am</b>
<b>Sunday</b>		
Earliest KO time is 9am if agreed by both teams – see regulation 6	Kick off between 9am and 12.30pm	Kick off between 9am and 2.30pm
	<b>Default Kick Off Time 10am</b>	<b>Default Kick Off Time 11am</b>

## 6. Requirements for changes in kick off times – Supplementary YEL Regulation to Rule 20A of the YEL Rules

- (A) All matches will be set on the FA FULL-TIME website at a default kick off time. The home team has the right to bring the kick off time forward to 10am or move it back to a later time up until 2.30pm (12.30pm mini soccer) provided they notify the opposition and the league in order for Full Time to be updated ten days or more prior to the game. **If changes are to be made inside ten days of the date of the game, both teams, the league and any appointed referee must be in agreement.** If agreement cannot be reached, the game will remain at the default kick off time. It is the home team's responsibility to ensure they have a pitch available. If the normal home team venue is not available at this default kick off time, it is their responsibility to firstly, attempt to locate a suitable alternative pitch or, if one cannot be found, offer the away team the opportunity to host the match.
- (B) If the home team wishes to move the kick off time to a time earlier than 10am (earliest 9am for all formats) they must always seek the agreement of the away team regardless of the number of days prior to the date of the game. If agreement cannot be reached, the game must be played no earlier than 10am. The YEL operates a live up to date kick-off time system and it is a requirement that teams update Full Time.

- (C) Failure to inform the league of a change in kick off time prior to the game – Regulation 6(A) or 6(B), will result in a charge being raised for failing to follow a management instruction.

## 7. Home team responsibility

- (A) An Officer of the home Club must provide full particulars to the opposition of the **location, access to the ground, kick-off time, playing colours of the home team and location of the nearest AED at least 5 clear days prior to the date of the game.** If not provided, the away team must contact the YEL Office to advise. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in a fine for the home club/team in accordance with the Fines Tariff for failing to follow a management instruction.
- (B) (i) The home team must contact the appointed referee by Monday 8pm prior to the game or within 24hrs of the appointment being made if it is a late appointment. The game will only be deemed confirmed once the home team receives contact back from the referee. If the referee does not respond, the home team must use all contact information available – email, text & phone. If no response, the home team/club must contact the YEL Office no later than Thursday 5pm prior to the game to advise. Failure to confirm the game with the referee/advise the YEL Office will result in a fine for the home club/team in accordance with the Fines Tariff for failing to follow a management instruction.
- (ii) The YEL will endeavour to appoint an official YEL referee up to 5pm on the Wednesday prior to the game. The home team must use the appointed YEL referee unless agreed otherwise with the league 10 or more days in advance. If they refuse or attempt to stand down the referee, the matter will be referred to the YEL Discipline team and appropriate sanctions applied.
- (C) (i) **Weather related postponement (Opposition)** - It is the home team/club's responsibility to liaise with the opposition if there is likely to be a potential problem with playing on the day due to weather related issues. Discussions should take place either on the day or prior, regarding the potential of reversing the fixture BEFORE the game is postponed. Any decision made on the day of the game to postpone should be made as early as possible and the distance the opposition are travelling should be a deciding factor on the latest time contact needs to be made by. The match will not be deemed as postponed until the opposition team contact has acknowledged receipt of the information. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in a fine for the home club/team in accordance with the Fines Tariff for failing to follow a management instruction.
- (ii) **Weather related postponement (Referee)** - It is the home team/club's responsibility to contact the appointed referee to advise the game has been postponed. The match will only be deemed postponed when the referee acknowledges receipt of the information. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in a fine for the home club/team equivalent to the referee's fee and an additional fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff for failing to follow a management instruction.

## 8. Restrictions around the pitch on match day

- (i) Nobody is permitted to be behind either goals during a YEL organised game
- (ii) Managers, coaches and substitutes must be on the opposite side of the pitch to the spectators/supporters. Spectators/supporters must be behind the RESPECT barrier/line. The referee shall request everyone to abide by this regulation. The

referee shall report any team not adhering to this regulation and the team will be fined for failing to follow a management instruction.

- (iii) Assistant referees are not permitted to coach players during the course of the game. Referees will report any team infringing this regulation and the team will be fined for failing to follow a management instruction.

## 9. Start of season

WINTER SEASON – No earlier than Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2024

SPRING SEASON – No earlier than Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## 10. End of season

**Winter Season** – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024 (Play Offs/Final fixtures may be scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – at the discretion of the league or if League Regulation 16 Emergency Plan is in force)

**Spring Season** – League programme – Ends Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025 unless extended by the league; May is scheduled for cup competitions only – Official season end is Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025

## 11. YEL Awards

- (A) All teams finishing the Winter and Spring seasons as Champions, Runners-up or fair play winners shall be invited to attend one of the YEL Awards Days to celebrate their success. Each invited team that wishes to attend will be required to contribute towards the cost of hiring the presentation venue by purchasing a minimum of 25 tickets. If teams who are champions or runners-up choose not to attend but still wish to receive medals, they are required to make a payment: of Champions - £75 as a contribution towards the cost of the venue. Runners Up - £50 as a contribution towards the cost of the venue.

## 12. Referees fees

Mini Soccer - £15 fixed fee

9v9 - £25 fixed fee

11v11 - £30 fixed fee

## 13. Referees

Referees MUST be over the age of 18 (14 if being appropriately qualified/approved by the YEL) and assistant referees over 16 (14 if being appropriately qualified/approved by the YEL)

## 14. Postponement

- (A) **Postponement of a match due to the pitch condition (to be read in conjunction with league regulation 7(C))** - If a game is postponed due to condition of the pitch, the away team may offer a suitable alternative. Every avenue should be explored, within reason, to get the game played on the appointed day within one hour of the scheduled KO time either home or away BEFORE the match is postponed. Failure to reverse the game will result in it being referred to the YEL Discipline Team where the details surrounding the

postponement will be examined. If the match is postponed the YEL Office will rearrange it. The YEL reserves the right to reverse the fixture if it is rearranged.

- (B) **Postponement of a match due to school activity** - If a match is to be postponed due to a school activity, it is the team manager's responsibility to provide a list of each player, the event that they are taking part in and the time of the event and send it to the YEL Office – office@yelonline.com - If the information is not received by the YEL Office by the date of the game, the cancellation may be processed as an on the day cancellation.
- (C) **Postponement of a Spring season fixture** – When a home team cancels a Spring league fixture, the YEL reserves the right to reverse the fixture, should it be rearranged, which may include a midweek date. First cancellations will cease to be available from May 1<sup>st</sup>. Any match cancelled from May 1<sup>st</sup> onwards will be treated as an on the day cancellation and will be referred to the YEL Discipline Team
- (D) **Postponement of a Winter season fixture** – When a home team cancels a Winter Spring league fixture, the YEL reserves the right to reverse the fixture, should it be rearranged. First cancellations will cease to be available from December 1st. Any match cancelled from December 1st onwards will be treated as an on the day cancellation and will be referred to the YEL Discipline Team
- (E) **Postponement of a YEL Organised friendly – 7 days or more prior to the game:** Friendly games can be cancelled without penalty and will not count as a cancellation. **6 days or less prior to the game:** Any friendly games cancelled will attract a fine as per the postponement grid (League Regulation 16) and be counted as a cancellation.

## 15. Emergency plan for the conclusion of a season

- (A) This plan will come into force at the discretion of The YEL Board if:
  - (i) The Board considers that there is a possibility that a season will not be concluded and that its introduction will be in the best interests of the competition and the majority of member teams.
  - (ii) Notice of a decision to bring the Emergency Plan into force will be notified to clubs/teams 14 days prior to it commencing.
- (B) **U7s & U8s** – Matches in these age groups, if not already concluded, will finish on the date set under League regulation 10.
- (C) **U9s to U11s** - The FA rules permit three competitive events. The YEL have one during each of the Winter season and Spring seasons and also a cup competition. If not already concluded, these will finish on the date set under League regulation 10 and the table finalised at that point. The only two exceptions to this would be:
  - (i) If a play off game is required and this will be at the discretion of the league. The league's decision will be final.
  - (ii) If a team has ONE game left and it affects the Champion/Runners Up position. Teams who have TWO or more games left at the end date of the season will NOT play those games and the table will be finalised as of the end date of the season.
  - (iii) The league reserves the right to schedule midweek games on a 3G surface during December for the Winter Season and during May for the Spring Season. Any midweek fixture not fulfilled during December (Winter Season) and May (Spring Season) will be treated as a cancellation on the day by the defaulting team and the match referred to the YEL Discipline Team



- (D) **U12s to U14s** - The season will conclude on the date specified in League Regulation 10 and positions will be finalised with games unplayed, remaining unplayed. The only two exceptions to this would be:
- (i) If a play off game is required this will be at the discretion of the league. The league's decision will be final.
  - (ii) If a team has ONE game left and it affects the Champion/Runners Up or relegation position. However, if that game is against a team that has TWO or more games left to play, the game will NOT be rescheduled and the season will be concluded and the positions at the end of the season will be finalised. If the single game is deemed by the league to be in the interest of the competition, it will be scheduled for a specific date after the stated end of the season. If the game is not played on or before that date for whatever reason, the positions will be finalised - no further extension will be permitted.
- (E) In fairness to all affected teams - U9s to U14s - and in the spirit of fair play, the league reserves the right to schedule fixtures at 3G venues for the final games to try and ensure that as many of these games as possible affecting titles, promotion and relegation are concluded.
- (F) Teams will be expected to play at these venues even though some may not be close to the original home team's ground.
- (G) Any team has the right not to switch a fixture to a YEL organised 3G surface and choose to keep the fixture on the scheduled date at the original home venue stated on Full-Time; However, should the game not go ahead for weather reasons or any reason over which the home team had control, the game will NOT be rescheduled and it will be referred to the YEL Discipline Team where the match may be awarded to the away team.
- (H) As a gesture to both teams, the league will pay for the cost of the hire of the venues. The only condition to the YEL paying for the venue is that the league set the kick off times as some may need to be scheduled in the afternoon.
- (I) If the league is unable to secure a 3G venue, the fixture will be scheduled for the original home venue and (G) above will not apply.
- (J) Under this Emergency Plan, once a game has been scheduled by the league, any cancellation by a team will be considered by the Discipline Team

## 16. Postponement Grid

- (A) The YEL Discipline Team has the right to investigate any failure to fulfil a fixture and impose whatever penalty the rules allow. The penalties in the table below will be followed by the YEL Discipline Team; however, they may be disregarded where a club/team has been formally warned as to its future conduct.
- (B) If the Home Team is unable to provide a pitch due to weather conditions, the away team will have the option to offer an alternative pitch and the original home team would be expected to provide good reason to the YEL Discipline Team should they be unable to accept this offer.
- (C) The postponement grid applies to the Winter season and then starts again in the Spring season.

	Notice Received	Administration charge	Game Awarded
1 <sup>st</sup> Cancellation	28 or more days	£5	No
	14-27 days	£10	No
	10-14 days	£15	No
	2-9 days	£20	No
	Day prior to game	£25	No
	Day of game	£25	Yes
2 <sup>nd</sup> Cancellation	28 or more days	£15	Yes
	14-27 days	£20	Yes
	10-14 days	£25	Yes
	2-9 days	£30	Yes
	Day prior to game	£35	Yes
	Day of game	£35	Yes
3 <sup>rd</sup> & subsequent Cancellation	28 or more days	£25	Yes
	14-27 days	£30	Yes
	10-14 days	£35	Yes
	2-9 days	£40	Yes
	Day prior to game	£45	Yes
	Day of game	£45	Yes

## 17. Teams wishing to play up a year

In order for an existing YEL team to be considered for playing up a year, they must make the request by email to the YEL Office and agree to both of the conditions below:

- (i) Be in agreement to play the whole period from Sept to May in the upper age group
- (ii) Accept that the team will initially be placed in Level 2 or higher of the age group above at the discretion of the league.

## 18. Play Off Matches

(i) The league reserves the right to arrange play off games at the end of each season for any U9 teams upwards who finish a league in joint position for Champions or Runners Up

(ii) The match will be played at the ground of the original away team if a neutral venue is not provided.

(iii) If the play off involves three teams in a three way play off, the league will decide on the venue based on home matches played.

(iv) Unless notified by the league, play off matches will be played over the standard time period for the age group.

(v) Should the scores be level at the end of the normal period of play, the result will be a draw and the league position will be shared – ie Joint Champions or Joint Runners Up.

**(vi) THERE WILL BE NO EXTRA TIME OR TAKING OF PENALTIES TO DECIDE A 'WINNER'**

(vii) NOTE: Shared Runners Up does not automatically guarantee promotion for both/all teams on equal points.