



Qatar Football Association Competitions Regulations Age Categories

2024-2025

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First Section

Terms & Definitions



Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

Term	Definition
QFA	Qatar Football Association.
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association.
AFC	Asian Football Confederation.
Executive Committee	The Executive Committee of the QFA.
Age Categories Competitions	Means the pre-season competitions, leagues, cups and any other competitions organized by the QFA in Under 19, Under 17, Under 15, Under 14, Under 13 age categories.
Competition Committee	Is one of QFA's committees responsible for ensuring a smooth organization of all competitions.
Football Development Department	Is entrusted with the task of organizing all Age Category Competitions.
Players and Competitions Affairs Department	Is entrusted with the tasks of organizing football Competitions that are not within the authority of QSLM and players' registration.
National Teams Department	Is entrusted with the tasks of organizing and handling all matters related to the different national teams.
Disciplinary Committee	The first instance judicial body.
Appeal Committee	The appeal instance judicial body of the QFA responsible for hearing appeals against decisions from the Disciplinary Committee and the Ethics Committee that are not declared final.

Term	Definition
Referees Committee	Is one of QFA's standing committees formed to look into all matters regarding referees, in accordance with QFA's development strategy.
Sports Season	Means the period starting with the first official match in July and ending with the last official match in May.
Annual Circular	Means the circular issued by the QFA at the commencement of the sports season and related to the number of players and the registration format.
Circulars	Means the circulars that are issued by QFA and that include alterations applied to the Regulations, following the issuance of these Regulations, during the sport season, as deemed necessary.
Regulations	The statutes, regulations, codes, circulars and other directives issued by the QFA or QSLM as well as the Laws of the Game.
Club	A football club member of the QFA.
Official match	A match organized Under the auspices of the QFA or QSLM for all of the teams or Clubs Under their jurisdiction; the score has an effect on the rights of participation in other competitions unless the regulations in question stipulate otherwise.
Friendly Match	Means a match organized Under the auspices of the QFA or any other entity in Qatar for all of the teams or Clubs Under their jurisdiction; the score has no effect on the rights of participation in other competitions unless the regulations in question stipulate otherwise.
Pre-match	The time between the teams' arrival in the confines of the stadium and the whistle for kickoff from the referee.
Post-match	The time between the final whistle from the referee and the teams' departure from the confines of the stadium.
Administrative Staff	Means individuals who are responsible for their Club's administrative matters with respect to any Competition match.

Term	Definition
Technical Staff	Means individuals who are responsible for their Club's technical matters with respect to any Competition match.
Medical Staff	Consists of Club medical officials, provided they are authorized by ASPETAR.
Technical Suspensions	Automatic suspensions from the following match within the same category and competition, and the player is entitled to participate in another competition or age category, if eligible.
Disciplinary Suspensions	Suspending the player from the participation in all competitions and he is not eligible to participate in any competition unless serving the sanction.

Second Section Competitions

Article (1)

The sports season 2024/2025 starts on 01/07/2024 and ends on 30/06/2025.

1. Qatar Football Association organizes and manages the following tournaments:
 - a) First Division League (Under 13, 14, 15, 17, 19).
 - b) Second Division League (Under 13, 14, 15, 17, 19).
 - c) Cup Competitions (Under 13, 14, 15, 17, 19).
 - d) Pres-Season Competitions (Under 13, 14, 15, 19)
The competition regulations and format shall be issued later.
 - e) Grassroots Festivals: (Under 9, 10, 11, 12 - Maximum 9 festivals).
 - f) Pres-Season Festivals (Under 9, 10, 11, 12) The competition regulations and format shall be issued later.
2. The Qatar Football Association has the right to advance or delay the sports season, organize or cancel any other official competition, amend any official competition format in accordance with internal regulations of the QFA with observance of these regulations. It has the right to amend the specified dates of competitions or festivals during the sports season, if needed or for the public interest.
3. In the case of force majeure that prevents the continuation of the age categories and grassroots competitions during the sports season, the QFA has the right, according to the internal regulations, to take the appropriate decision as required by the public interest (approving the completed part of the competitions or postponing the completion of the competitions for the next season or canceling all competitions or any other option).

Article (2)

Age Categories First Division League (Under13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 17, Under 19)

1. All first division clubs participating in Age Categories League (10 clubs) (Under13, Under 14, Under 15) play this competition in a league format (one leg round).
2. Unified draw for all age categories first division league (Under13, Under 14, Under 15) with the draw of the first stage of the age categories first division league (Under 17, Under 19).
3. The matches of first division shall be held at the venues of the team firstly drawn in the draw or neutral venues or venues determined by the QFA.
4. In the event of tie points between two or more teams, Article 6 of these regulations shall be applicable to determine the final ranking of teams.
5. At the end of each category league fixtures (Under13, Under 14, Under 15) the teams ranked first shall be crowned champions of the first division league.
6. At the end of all age categories first division league fixtures (Under13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 17, Under 19) and following the calculation of the general ranking points per each club (Under13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 17, Under 19) the club at the bottom (final position) in the general ranking points standing shall be relegated to the second division for the next sports season.

Article (3)

Age Categories Second Division League (Under13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 17, Under 19)

1. All first division clubs participating in Age Categories League (7 clubs) (Under13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 17, Under 19) play this competition in a league format (three legs round-robin format).
2. Unified draw for all age categories second division league (Under13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 17, Under 19).
3. The matches of second division shall be held at the venues of the team firstly drawn in the draw or neutral venues or venues determined by the QFA.
4. In the event of tie points between two or more teams, Article 6 of these regulations shall be applicable to determine the final ranking of teams.
5. At the end of each category league fixtures (Under13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 17, Under 19) the teams ranked first shall be crowned champions of the second division league.
6. At the end of all age categories second division league fixtures (Under13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 17, Under 19) and following the calculation of the general ranking points per each club (Under13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 17, Under 19) the club at the top (first position) in the general ranking points standing shall promote to the first division for the next sports season.

Article (4)

Age Categories Cup (Under13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 17, Under 19)

1. The age categories cup matches (Under13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 17, Under 19) to commence after the conclusion of the second division league first leg depending on the second division teams ranking by the end of the league first leg.
2. Match schedule to be drafted separately for each age category.
3. The age categories cup matches (Under13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 17, Under 19) shall be held at the venues of the team firstly drawn in the draw or neutral venues or venues determined by the QFA.
4. The age categories cup matches (Under13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 17, Under 19) shall be held in Knock-out format from one leg.
5. In case of draw in the 90 minutes of all age categories cup matches (Under13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 17, Under 19), the qualified teams to following round shall be determined directly by penalty Kicks.
6. Eight clubs participate in the preliminary stage of the age group categories competition (Under13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 17, Under 19). They are the clubs that obtained the third to tenth positions at the end of the first leg of the second division league according to the following:

Match Number	Competing Teams	
1	3rd position	10th position
2	4th position	9th position
3	5th position	8th position
4	6th position	7th position

7. The age categories cup Round of 16 matches (Under13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 17, Under 19) shall be held in absolute draw format as follows:

Match Number	Competing Teams	
5	Team A	Team B
6	Team A	Team B
7	Team A	Team B
8	Team A	Team B
9	Team A	Team B
10	Team A	Team B
11	Team A	Team B
12	Team A	Team B

8. The age categories cup quarterfinal round matches (Under13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 17, Under 19) shall be held in absolute draw format as follows:

Match Number	Competing Teams	
13	Winner...	Winner...
14	Winner...	Winner...
15	Winner...	Winner...
16	Winner...	Winner...

9. The age categories cup semi-final round matches (Under13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 17, Under 19) shall be held in absolute draw format between the winners in matches from 13 to 16 above as follows:

Match Number	Competing Teams	
17	Winner...	Winner...
18	Winner...	Winner...

10. The age categories cup final match (Under13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 17, Under 19) shall be held as follows:

Match Number	Competing Teams	
19	Winner from match 17	Winner from match 18

Article (5)

Criteria for determining the ranking in the league competition

For deciding the general ranking for teams from first to last for all stages of age categories (Under13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 17, Under 19) both first and second divisions league, the following criteria are applied:

1. Total of points in the matches between the concerned teams.
2. Difference of the scored goals in the match between the concerned teams.
3. Difference of goals in all matches.
4. The largest number of goals scored in all matches.
5. The largest number of victories in all matches.
6. Draw of lots.

Article (6)

Under 9 – born in 2016/2017 festivals

1. The Under 9 festivals shall be held in stages format (grassroots).
2. Each club is entitled to participate with maximum of 60 players and minimum of 30 players.
3. Each club is entitled to register 8 resident players for Under 8 category and 8 resident players for Under 9 category.
4. All registered players must be present before the festival commences.
5. Ensuring the presence of players and confirm the cards before the start of the festival.
6. Each player included in the starting list must participate in the festival for 15 minutes at least for his participation to be taken into account.
7. In the Under 8 category festivals, players are periodically switched between the goalkeeper position without any player being fixed in this position and without special goalkeeper kits.
8. Open number of substitutions during the festival.
9. The results of this category are calculated in all festivals from the first to the last with the system of participation assessment.

Grassroots Under 9 – born in 2016/2017

Status	
Maximum number of players	60 players
Minimum number of players	30 players
Number of substitutes	Open provided that each player must participate for at least 15 minutes
Festival duration	4 halves × 15 minutes = 60 minutes
The ball	Size 3
Field of play	Length 30 meters – Width 20 meters
Goals	4.50 meters × 1.80 meters

Distribution of points - Grassroots Under 9 – born in 2016/2017

Status	
Participation in the festival	One point per each participating player – minimum 15 minutes and maximum 60 points per category
Conduct & Administrative Aspect	Deduction from 2 points to 5 points: Players-technical staff-officials misconduct Studying such cases by the QFA Football Development Department
Maximum number of points per festival	60 points

Article (7)

Under 10 – born in 2015 festivals

Under 11 – born in 2014 festivals

Under 12 – born in 2013 festivals

1. Each club must participate with 3 teams.
2. Participation assessment:
 - a) 30 points are awarded to each club participating with (27) or more players. If the number of players is less than (27), one point is awarded for each player who meets the participation requirements (15) minutes.
 - b) Each player registered on the starting list during the festival must participate for a minimum of (15) fifteen minutes to count his participation in the festival.
 - c) One or more players from team (A - B) may participate with team (C) provided that two players shall participate instead of each missing player from team (C) to divide the playing time between them.
3. Technical Assessment: The technical assessment includes only teams (A) and (B).

Technical Assessment Points: Game Skills,
Players' awareness of the Game and Goalkeeper
Performance.

The total technical assessment points for the two clubs is 85 points, which are divided between both clubs according to preference as follows:

- a) 55 points for Team A, divided between both clubs.
- b) 30 points for Team B, divided between both clubs.

4. Skill Competition Assessment: Each club nominates (3) different players in each festival to participate in the skill competition.
5. The skill determination and number of attempts are sent to the clubs with the festival schedule.
The best player from both clubs gets (4) points, the second gets (3) points, the third gets (2) points, and the rest of the players get zero points.
6. The player is not allowed to participate in the skill competition more than twice during the festivals, and if any player participates for the third time, his result will be revoked and (5) five points will be deducted from the total assessment of his category in the same festival.
7. Match Result Assessment: The winning team in any match (A - B - C) gets two points, the draw gets one point, and the loser gets zero points.
8. After the commencement of the match, it is not acceptable by any means to have less than 5 players on the field of play. In the event the number of players on the field of play is less than 5, the referee shall end the game and submit detailed report in this regard considering the relevant team lost the match with zero assessment and the opponents' team is granted 75% of the match technical assessment points (approved).
9. The results of this age category in all festivals from the first to the last by means of the festival assessment system are calculated according to the approved assessment system (total participation assessment points) technical assessment, skill competition and match result assessment.

Grassroots Under 10 – born in 2015 (6 players + goalkeeper) festivals**Grassroots Under 11 – born in 2014 (6 players + goalkeeper) festivals**

Status	Team A	Team B	Team C
Number of Players	6 + Goalkeeper	6 + Goalkeeper	6 + Goalkeeper
Minimum	6 + Goalkeeper	6 + Goalkeeper	6 + Goalkeeper
Number of Teams	Maximum 3 teams		
Substitutions	Maximum 7 players		
Match Duration	40 minutes – two halves – 10 minutes halftime		
Ball	Number 3 - Number 4		
Football Field	Length: 40-45 meters / Width: 25-30 meters		
Penalty Mark	Distance of 8 meters from the goal line		
Goal Size	4,50 m × 1,80 m		

Grassroots Under 12 – born in 2013 (6 players + goalkeeper) festivals

Status	Team A	Team B	Team C
Number of Players	6 + Goalkeeper	6 + Goalkeeper	6 + Goalkeeper
Minimum	6 + Goalkeeper	6 + Goalkeeper	6 + Goalkeeper
Number of Teams	3 teams		
Substitutions	Maximum 7 players		
Match Duration	40 minutes – two halves – 10 minutes halftime		
Ball	Number 4		
Kick-off	Indirect		
Football Field	Length: 45-50 meters / Width: 30-35 meters		
Indirect	Distance of 9 meters from the goal line		
Offside Law	Implementation of this law starting from the disjointed line located at a distance of (13) meters from the goal line		
Goal Size	5.90 m × 2.0 m		



Third Section Matches



Article (8)

Match Duration

Duration of the matches shall be decided as follows (provided that, the half- time interval shall be (15) fifteen minutes between the two halves starts from the whistle of the end of the first half to the whistle of the start of the second half):

1. Duration of the matches in Under 17 and Under 19 Leagues is (90) ninety minutes divided into two halves, each half (45) forty-five minutes.
2. Duration of the matches in Under 15 League is (80) eighty minutes divided into two halves, each half (40) forty minutes.
3. Duration of the matches in Under 14 League is (70) seventy minutes divided into two halves, each half (35) thirty-five minutes.
4. Duration of the matches in Under 13 League is (60) sixty minutes divided into two halves, each half (30) thirty minutes.
5. Duration of the matches for the grassroots festivals are determined in Articles from 6 and 7.

Article (9)

Number Of Players & Age Categories Match Procedures (Under13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 17, Under 19)

1. The team consists of (11) eleven players, one of whom is the goalkeeper. It is not allowed to start the match with (11) eleven players, and it is not allowed that the number of players be fewer than (7) seven

players during the match. If the number of players is fewer than (7) players during the match, the referee ends the match and the Disciplinary Code shall be applicable in this matter.

2. Number of the substitutes on the bench for age categories must not exceed (12) players.
3. Subject to Paragraph (5), each team in all age categories competitions (from U13 to U19), can substitute up to maximum of (7) players within (3) stoppages during the match, taking into consideration that the match halftime period is not counted among the stoppages.
4. In the event of violating the substitution procedures stipulated in Paragraph 3, the Disciplinary Code shall be applicable.
5. Subject to paragraphs (1) and (3), each team in the league competition only for U13, U14 and U15 categories must make a compulsory substitution in the halftime of three (3) players. In the event of failure to implement the compulsory substitution, the match shall in any case be resumed with the second half and the Disciplinary Code shall be applicable.
6. The match start list should be delivered to the match officials and match coordinator 30 minutes prior to the match kick-off time and in the event of delay, the Disciplinary Code shall be applicable.
7. To participate in any official match, and before the start of the match, each player has to show his accreditation card issued by QFA to the referee for confirmation. Officials of two teams are allowed to attend and verify players' accreditation cards.
8. A player shall be removed from the match list in

the event he wasn't present with his team directly before the kick-off time.

9. No player shall be included in the match start list after the match kick-off.
10. The club is fully liable in the event that a player registered on the match list as a substitute player leaves the venue.
11. Subject to Article (11) Paragraph (4), the age categories head coach, the team relevant coach and official shall be included in the match list and any of the technical staff members, officials or medical staff members shall be removed from the start list in the event he/she wasn't present with his team directly before the kick-off time.
12. Subject to Article (11) Paragraph (4), no technical staff members, officials or medical staff members may be added to the match start list immediately after the beginning of the match.
13. After the match kicks-off, the players and officials registration cards shall be returned to each team after the end of the match with the match report.
14. The player names' list can be amended for the official match and this can be done after providing names list of the official match to the referees and before the start of the match as follows:
 - a) In case that one of the eleven (11) players included in the official list is unable to participate in the match, he will be substituted by a player from the substitutes list prior to the match kick-off. In this case, this amendment is not considered as a substitution.

- b) In case that one of the substitutes is unable to participate, he will be substituted by a registered player from the list of players in the QFA records.
 - c) In case that the goalkeeper is unable to participate, whether he is main or substitute, he will be substituted by a registered player from the list of players in the QFA records.
15. The list of players participating in the match (match start list) must be completed by the end of the match and inserted in the comet electronic system.
16. In all cases and during all competitions, the clubs are exclusively liable for complying with the QFA rules and regulations, in particular those related to the players' eligibility to participate in matches as well as the number of resident players.
17. To avoid wasting time, if a team requests a substitution during a match by "handing the substitution card to the match coordinator/referee assessor/referees, ensuring that the player's name and number match the starting list, calling the match referee and signaling for the substitution" and then the team withdraws the substitution request, the team loses one of the permitted opportunities to make substitutions during the match, except in the event of a serious injury to a player or the expulsion of a player.
18. During age categories final matches and league fixtures, which are immediately followed by a crowning ceremony, the following individuals shall be banned from ascending to the podium:
 - a) any player of both teams was expelled (red card) for disciplinary reasons.

- b) Any of the technical staff members, team officials or medical staff were expelled during the match.
19. All staff in the age categories must review, adhere to and work in accordance with the Child Protection Document and the Guidance and Code of Conduct Document. In the event of a violation of both documents, the Disciplinary Code shall be applicable in addition to any technical sanctions proposed by the QFA Football Development Department and approved by the Qatar Football Association.

Article (10)

The Number Of Players And The Procedures For Matches Of The Grassroots Festivals.

1. The clubs shall be distributed into two groups for the grassroots festivals during the sports season 2024/2025 as follows:
 - A. Group A: Al Ahli – Al Khor – Al Duhail – Al Duhail – Al Rayyan – Al Sadd – Al Arabi – Al Gharafa – Al Wakra – Umm Salal – Qatar
 - B. Group B: Al Kharaitiyat – Al Sailiya – Al Shahania – Al Shamal – Al Markhiya – Lusail – Mesaimeer – Muaither
2. The grassroots teams (Under 9, Under 10, Under 11, Under 12) consist of different number of players which were determined in the Articles 6 and 7 above. It is not allowed by any means to reduce the number of players on the field of play than the required number to commence the match with the exception for the injury assessed by technical staff approved by the QFA Football Development Department or medical staff approved by Aspetar or

in the event of red cards, provided that the number on the field of play will not be less than (5) players for Under 10, Under 11 and Under 12.

In the event the number of players was less than 2 players, the referee shall end the game with zero assessment and submit a detailed report. With regard to Under 9 category, the number should not be less than thirty (30) players, and if it is less than thirty (30) players, the participation assessment for the category will be zero (0).

3. The match duration, number of players and number of substitutes in the grassroots festivals are stipulated in Articles 6 and 7.
4. Each player is eligible to participate in only one match per festival with the exception of the participation in cases of use.
5. The club has the right to include any player from the same category who did not participate in other matches at the same festival.
6. The referee and match coordinator will check the players' cards.
7. A player is removed from the match list if he is registered on the starting list and is not present with his team at the kick-off of the match for the Under 10, Under 11 and Under 12 categories and at the start of the festival for the Under 9 category.
8. A player registered on the match list (A-B) and did not participate in the game is entitled to participate in the next match.
9. No club has the right to add any player to the starting list for the match after the kick-off of the match or after the start of the Under 9 festival.

10. At the end of the matches for the Under 10, Under 11 and Under 12 categories, immediately and without any delay and before leaving the field, the players of both teams who have finished the match meet with the referee in the middle of the field to shake hands with the referee and shake hands with the players of the opposing team (the club mentioned first in the table stands to the left of the referee and begins the handshake):
 - a) In the event that one or more players from one of the two teams are not present, three (3) points will be deducted from the total team assessment points in the match or from the category points if the team does not have enough points in the match during the same festival.
 - b) In the event that all players from one of the two teams are not present, five (5) points will be deducted from the total team assessment points in the match or from the category points if the team does not have enough points during the same festival, with the necessity of writing a detailed report on the subject for study and the possibility of imposing additional sanctions on the club.
11. After the end of the match, the team official must receive a copy of the referee's report after signing it and a copy of the starting list for both teams and the player cards of his club from the match referee and match coordinator.
12. The players' kits must be complete and in accordance with the legal specifications and the jersey numbers must be clear.
13. The matches of all grassroots festivals shall be held on the venues of the team mentioned first in the

- schedule or on neutral venue or on any other venue specified by the Qatar Football Association.
14. Assessment of player participation in the festival: The player's participation in the festival is calculated in the event of participation for no less than (15) fifteen minutes of play in the match or festival in the Under 9 category.
15. In the grassroots festival matches, the assessment result is considered zero (0) for any team with a deduction of five (5) points from the total points of the category in the same festival in the following cases:
 - a) The team fails to arrive at the venue after fifteen (15) minutes from the scheduled kick-off time, unless the reason for the absence is beyond the club's control, in which case the Qatar Football Association will take the appropriate decision.
 - b) The legal number of players is not complete after fifteen (15) minutes from the scheduled kick-off time.
 - c) The club mentioned second in the table refuses to change the players' kits in the event that the two teams' colors are similar.
 - d) If the original player cards are not available before the match.
16. If any team withdraws from the same category repeatedly, the same sanction referred to in paragraph one (1) shall be applied (deducting five "5" points from the total points of the category in the same festival) and a fine of (6000) QAR shall be imposed on the club only.
17. In the matches of the Grassroots Festivals, the assessment result shall be considered zero (0) for the team with a deduction of ten (10) points from the

total points of the category in the same festival with a fine of 10,000 QAR imposed on the club and a fine of 5000 QAR imposed on the coach and a fine of 5000 QAR imposed on the official in the following cases:

- a) If the club provides data for a player with false information in good faith.
 - b) Including a player who is not eligible to play in the team list in good faith.
 - c) Violating the system of players' participation in matches in good faith.
 - d) Allowing any player to participate after a decision is issued not to participate by the QFA or one of its committees in good faith.
18. In the matches of the Grassroots Festivals, the assessment result is considered zero (0) with a deduction of fifteen (15) points from the total points of the category in the same festival, with a fine of 20,000 QAR being imposed on the club and the coach and official being permanently removed from the QFA records in the following cases:
- a) If the club deliberately provides false information for a player.
 - b) Deliberately including a player who is not eligible to play in the team list.
 - c) Violating the system of players' participation in matches in good faith.
 - d) Deliberately allowing any player to participate after a decision has been issued by the QFA or one of its committees not to participate.
19. In the event that a club withdraws from the Grassroots Festival or any pre-season festival or any tournament organized by the QFA, a fine of:

- a) Any Grassroots Festival (all categories): 50,000 QAR.
 - b) Any category of Grassroots categories in any festival: 10,000 QAR.
20. During the Grassroots Festivals, any team mentioned second in the match schedule that wears a kit other than the color specified for it (the main or reserve uniform) will be fined 2000 QAR, with an emphasis on not canceling the match due to that, and each team will receive its own assessment points.
21. During the Grassroots Festivals, the referee will not use yellow or red cards for players, coaches and officials, and will rely on warning and guidance. He may also expel any player from the field at any time and ask the coach to include a substitute player if there are substitutes on the team bench.
22. In the event that the player commits a violation (physical or verbal assault...), the same procedures stated in "Paragraph 21" will be taken, with the necessity of recording this in the referee's report and attaching a separate report, and the Disciplinary Committee will take the appropriate sanction in this regard.
23. The technical supervisor, who is considered the first person responsible for the match, has the right to order the expel of any player and any member of the technical, administrative and medical staff before, during and after the match if there is a violation that requires that, and a separate report will be submitted for this purpose.
24. It is strictly forbidden for both the technical and administrative staff or any of the team and sector staff to stand in the technical area or object to the decisions of the referees and organizers or shout or

direct the players and confiscate their decisions and negatively affect the development of the player's personality and his creativity as instructions shall be given to the players before the match and during halftime only.

In the event of the first violation, a warning will be issued with the deduction of (5) points from the total points of the category and the coach and official will be notified of the deduction and if the violation is repeated for the second time, (10) additional points will be deducted and the violator will be excluded from the field with a separate report submitted in this regard to implement the Disciplinary Code.

25. All employees of the grassroots sector must review, adhere to and work with what is stated in the Child Protection Document and the Guidance and Code of Conduct Document. In the event of a violation of what is stated in both documents, the Disciplinary Code shall be applicable in addition to any technical sanctions proposed by the QFA Football Development Department and approved by the Qatar Football Association.

Article (11)

Number Of Technical, Administrative And Medical Staff Members

1. During Age Categories Competition, Maximum number of members of the administrative and technical staffs entitled to sit on the substitutes bench is (7) seven as follows:
 - a) (1) administrative staff
 - b) (5) technical staff

- c) (1) medical staff
2. During Grassroots Competitions, Maximum number of members of the administrative and technical staffs entitled to sit on the substitutes bench is (5) five as follows:
 - a) (1) administrative staff
 - b) (3) technical staff
 - c) (1) medical staff
3. The designation identified on the cards of the technical and administrative staff should be followed and are only accepted as per the relevant game or by means of an official letter issued by the QFA.
4. Head of each Age Categories Sector or Team Manager are allowed to sit on the substitute bench without adding their names in match list (after submitting his accreditation card issued by the QFA). Accreditation cards should be issued for them and they are not allowed to commit any unsporting behavior before, during and after the match. The medical staff are allowed to enter to the field if the referee allowed so. Only one person at specified times from the administrative and technical staffs is authorized to convey tactical instructions to the players during the match within the boundaries of the technical area.

Article (12)

Calculation Of Points In Age Category Matches

Points in any match or competition are calculated as follows:

- a) (3) Three points are given to the winning team.
- b) (1) One point is given to each of the two drawing teams.
- c) (0) Zero is given to the losing team.

Article (13)

Points calculation and general ranking rules for the age categories leagues

1. the method of calculating the general ranking points for the age categories leagues after the conclusion of all age categories leagues fixtures shall be applied as followed:
 - First place = total of clubs +1
 - Second place = total of clubs - 1
 - Third place = total of clubs - 2
 And so on..... following the same system.
2. The results of league shall be calculated only and no other competitions.
3. The general ranking points shall be added together per each category (from Under 13 to Under 19) and then a general ranking standing points table per each club shall be drafted.
4. In the event of tie in general ranking points between two or more teams in all positions from the first to the last, the following criteria shall be applicable:
 - A. Total number of actual points from all age categories league fixtures (from Under 13 to Under 19).

- B. Total number actual points from the direct encounters between the relevant teams during the age categories leagues (from Under 13 to Under 19).
- C. Goal difference from the direct encounters between the relevant teams during the age categories leagues (from Under 13 to Under 19).
- D. Goal difference from all age categories league matches (from Under 13 to Under 19).
- E. Greatest number of goals scored from all age categories league matches (from Under 13 to Under 19).
- F. Draw conduct.

Article (14)

Points calculation and general ranking rules for the grassroots festivals

the clubs and general ranking in grassroots shall be assessed as follows:

1. The results of each festival shall be sent to clubs including points and ranking.
2. The results of all festival for all categories are the sum of the points obtained by the club through the assessment of this category.
3. After the conclusion of all festivals, the club ranked 1st of each category is decided by total of points collected from its participation in all festivals.
4. Through the final ranking table for the sports season for each category, a general ranking points table for each category is drafted.

5. The general ranking points shall be granted as follows:
 - a) First place = total of clubs + 1
 - b) Second place = total of clubs - 1
 - c) Third place = total of clubs - 2
 And so on..... following the same system.
6. The table of the general ranking points for grassroots is prepared for all clubs through the total points of the general ranking for all categories.
7. The first club of the second group in grassroots shall be ranked 11th in the general ranking points table.
8. In the event that two or more clubs are equal on any position in the general ranking points table, the following criteria shall be applied respectively:
 - a) Actual total points for all festivals and for all categories.
 - b) The actual total points for all categories during the direct encounters (festival) between two clubs or more.
 - c) The club with higher total technical assessment points during all festivals of categories U10, U11 and U12.
 - d) The club with higher total players' participation assessment points during all festivals of categories U10, U11 and U12.
 - e) Draw.
9. At the end of the sports season, the club ranked 10th in the general standing table of Group A, shall be placed in Group B in the following sports season.

10. At the end of the sports season, the club ranked 1st in the general standing table of Group B, shall be placed in Group A in the following sports season.

Article (15)

Participation & Use

1. It is not allowed to use a player from one of the grassroots categories to play with the higher category.
2. It is not allowed to use a player from the grassroots Under 12 to play with the age category Under 13 in the league games, with the exception of the goalkeeper. A goalkeeper from the Under 12 category may be called upon to participate in the Under 13 league matches, provided that paragraphs 7 and 9 are observed and that he does not participate as a player under any circumstances.
3. It is allowed to use a player from the grassroots Under 12 to play with the age category Under 13 in the cup competitions.
4. It is allowed to use open number of players from one age category to play with the higher age category starting from Under 13 to the Under 19 taking into consideration paragraphs 2, 3, 5 and 6 according to the club and the player best interest.
5. It is allowed to use maximum 3 players from Under 19 in the Olympic team matches and it is allowed to use an open number of players from Under 19 in the first and second division club matches taking into consideration the competitions regulations of both Olympic League and the first team competitions for the first and second division clubs.

6. It is not allowed to use players from Under 17 in the Olympic team and in the first team.
7. Age categories players (from Under 13 to Under 17) and grassroots Under 12 players who actually participated in any match, these players are not allowed participate in any other game unless the elapse of two (2) days commences from the day the player participated in the match and they are eligible to participate in the next game on the 4th day from the date of the last game he played (i.e. if the player participated in a game on Friday, then he is entitled to participate in another game effective from Monday).
8. In the event of requesting a player from Under 17 to play with the Olympic or first teams, the club should first upgrade him to Under 19.
9. The actual participation of the grassroots Under 12 players, the age categories Under 13, Under 14, Under 15 and Under 17 players is considered when participating during any part of the game at any time.
10. The actual participation of the Under 19 players is considered when participating for more than one half.
11. The Under 19 player who participated either with his age category team or the (first & Olympic) category during one half or less of the game, he is entitled to participate in the next game as per the regulations of the competition regulations of the first and second division clubs and Olympic team.
12. The Under 19 player who actually participated either with his age category team or the first division team or the second division team or Olympic team category, he is entitled to participate in the next game on the third day from the date of

the game he played (i.e. if the player participated in a game on Friday, then he is entitled to participate in another game effective from Sunday) taking into consideration Paragraph (5).

Article (16)

The QFA is entitled (if needed) to reschedule the time and venue of the competitions fixtures (league, cup...) provided to notify the clubs sufficiently in advance of the date specified.



Fourth Section

Players Affairs

Article (17)

National And Resident Players

At the beginning of each sports season, each club is allowed to register a number of players as follows:-

1. (30) Thirty players for Under 19 team.
2. (30) Thirty players for Under 17 team.
3. (25) twenty-five players for Under 15 team.
4. (25) twenty-five players for Under 14 team.
5. (25) twenty-five players for Under 13 team.
6. (30) Thirty players for each grassroots category.
7. Taking into consideration the above paragraphs from 1-5, the club is entitled to register an additional number of players (in age categories from Under 13 to Under 19) in the following cases:
 - a) Registration of a number equal to the number of players joined the European project of the same category with the right to freeze and maintain the extra players cards during the registration periods stipulated in Article 20.
 - b) Registration of a number equal to the number of injured players and shall miss the matches for six months by means of Apetar report with the right to freeze and maintain the extra players cards during the registration periods stipulated in Article 20.

Article (18)

Number of Resident Players

1. Each club is allowed to register and the participation of five (5) resident players in Under 19 category.
2. In Age Categories Competitions (Under 13 to Under 17): each club is allowed to register eight (8) resident players in each category within the QFA records – the participation of (inclusion in the match start list) seven (7) resident players in each category.
3. In grassroots festivals: Each club is allowed to register eight (8) resident players in each grassroots category – the participation of resident players is stipulated in Articles 6 to 7.

Article (19)

Promoting/Upgrading Players

1. From the Under 9 Grassroots category, the player can be upgraded from category to another in accordance with his performance where each case shall be studied separately and approved by QFA Football Development Department as pr the club request.
2. After the end of the Grassroots Festivals, a player from the Grassroots U12 category cannot be promoted to the U13 category.
3. The upgraded player can not to be reregistered in lower category after his actual participation in the matches.

Article (20)

Registration & deregistration of players

1. Age categories registration and deregistration periods from Under 13 to Under 19:
 - a) First registration period: from the beginning of the season to 01 September 2024
 - b) Second registration period: 06 October to 06 November 2024
 - c) Third registration period: 01 December 2024 to 05 January 2025
 - d) Fourth registration period: 23 February to 12 March 2025
2. The QFA may extend, delete or change the duration of the above-mentioned periods as required by the public interest.
3. The club may supplement its list of players at any time during the season, subject to registration provisions.
4. If an age category player (U13-U19) was removed permanently from the European project at any time during the sports season (by means of an official letter from Aspire Academy) the club is entitled to reactivate his card taking into consideration the terms of Article 23.

5. If an age category player (U13-U19) was cured and treated from the injury at any time during the sports season (by means of an official letter from Aspire Academy) the club is entitled to reactivate his card taking into consideration the terms of Article 21.
6. From Under 8 to Under 12 (grassroots): It is allowed to register and deregister players during the whole sports season. The QFA opens the registration window for the Grassroots Under 7 category, starting from 01/01/2025.



Fifth Section Awards



Article (21)

Age Categories League Awards (Under 13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 17, Under 19)

QFA shall provide the following awards

1. Age Categories First Division League:
 - a) First place: Competition trophy, gold medals and prize money.
 - b) Second place: Silver medals and prize money.
 - c) Third place: Bronze medal and prize money.
2. Age Categories Second Division League:
 - a) First place: Competition trophy, gold medals and prize money.
 - b) Second place: Silver medals and prize money.
 - c) Third place: Bronze medal and prize money.

Article (22)

Age Categories Cup Competition Awards (Under 13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 17, Under 19)

QFA shall provide the following awards:

1. First place: Competition trophy, gold medals and prize money.
2. Second place: Silver medals and prize money.

Article (23)

Age Categories Pre-Season Competition Awards (Under 13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 19)

QFA shall provide the following awards:

1. First place: Competition trophy and gold medals.
2. Second place: Silver medals.

Article (24)

The award is granted to the club that wins first position in the general ranking points table for the grassroots festivals from the under 10 to the under 12 category and for the age category leagues from the under 13 to the under 19 category.

When preparing the general ranking points table, the club that wins first position among the second division clubs in the grassroots sector and the age categories sector is placed at the eleventh position.

In the event that two or more clubs are tied for first position, the criteria are applied in the following sequence:

1. The club that received the fewest sanctions.
2. The club that fielded the most youth players (born in 2006- 2007- 2008 and 2009) in the first team matches during the league and Amir Cup competitions.

Article (25)

Fair Play Award

QFA allocates a fair play award to the best club in the age categories sector that receives the fewest sanctions and suspensions. The QFA Football Development Department, in cooperation with the QFA Competitions, Club and Player Affairs Department, determines the controls and conditions for obtaining the award.

Article (26)

Top Goal Scorer Award in the age categories leagues from Under 13 to Under 19

To determine the ranking of the top goal scorers, only the goals scored in the relevant category league will be taken into count, and in the event that one or more players are equal in the number of goals scored, the criteria are applied in the following sequence:

1. The player who has scored the most goals in the highest division league competition in which he can play.
2. The player who was granted fewer disciplinary sanctions.
3. The player who participated in more playing minutes during all sports season matches.
4. Draw.

Article (27)

Best Goalkeeper Award in the age categories leagues from Under 13 to Under 19 for first division clubs. The QFA Football Development Department determines the best and the following points are taken into consideration:

1. The goalkeeper from the clubs ranked 1st to 6th in the league.
2. The goalkeeper who was granted fewer disciplinary sanctions.
3. The goalkeeper who participated in more playing minutes during all sports season matches.

Article (28)

Grassroots Festivals Awards

1. General Ranking Excellence Shield: First place in the general ranking points table for: a trophy or shield of general excellence and a financial reward.
2. Grassroots festivals awards - Group A
 - a) First place of each category during festivals: Trophy and Gold medals
 - b) Second place of each category during festivals: Trophy and Silver Medals
 - c) Third Place of each category during festivals: Trophy and Bronze Medals
3. Developed Club Award
The award is granted to the club that comes in eleventh place in the overall points table of the Grassroots Sector Festivals: Cup.

Article (29)

Grassroots Pre-Season Festival Awards (Under 9, Under 10, Under 11, Under 12)

1. First place: Competition trophy and gold medals.
2. Second place: Silver medals.



Sixth Section

Referees

Article (30)

1. The appointed referees officiate the matches organized by the QFA.
2. Clubs are not entitled to identify certain referee to run the matches or request to change an appointed referee or remove certain referee from running their matches.

Article (31)

The referee submits his report on the match that has managed in a period not exceeding (24 hours) twenty-four hours from the end of the match, explains in it details of the events that took place in the match
Holidays are not counted within this period.

Article (32)

1. If the appointed referee is unable to attend the match or has been injured before or during the match and fourth referee, who substitutes the referee of the match or any of the assistant referees, is injured, the first assistant referee shall act as a main referee and second assistant referee shall act as first assistant referee.
2. The matches may be officiated by only two referees (referee and first assistant).

3. If the appointed referees are unable to attend the grassroots matches, both teams shall agree on choosing one of the coaches to officiate the match. In the event of no agreement reached, the match coordinator shall toss a coin to determine the referee.

Article (33)

The referee has the absolute power to suspend, end or cancel the match due to external factors, weather conditions, intervention of spectators or any reason he deems to be binding. This is done in consultation with the match coordinator or referee assessor in the age categories matches, while the consultation will be with the technical supervisor and the referee assessor in the grassroots festivals. The referee has to submit a comprehensive report within a period not exceeding (24) twenty-four hours from suspension or cancellation of the match.



Seventh Section

Document of the guidelines and code of conduct controls for clubs, technical, administrative and medical staff members of the age categories and grassroots

Article (35)

General Administrative and Technical Guidelines and Controls

1. The Qatar Football Association determines the maximum allowable date for coaches and officials to return from annual leave at the beginning of the sports season, as well as the maximum allowable date for the start of training sessions for age categories and grassroots sectors in the clubs.
2. All technical and administrative staff members working in the age categories and grassroots sectors must adhere to the guidelines issued by QFA regarding attendance at meetings and participation in theoretical and practical workshops.
3. Due to the importance of stability in the age categories and grassroots technical staff, clubs must close the renewal file or terminate coaches' contracts by 31 May. Clubs are not allowed to terminate the services of age categories and grassroots coaches for technical reasons during the sports season, even after granting annual leave.
4. Except in emergency cases, coaches should not be granted leave during training sessions or competitions in the sports season.
5. Clubs are not allowed to assign coaches employed under the Ministry of Sports and Youth to coaching tasks with any of the club teams participating in official competitions. Each coach with an official job degree must be issued an accreditation card to access the venues.
6. Considering paragraphs 7, 5, and 8, all technical staff members working in the age categories and grassroots sectors must fulfill their training duties according to their assigned job grade.
7. Coaches from age categories and grassroots sectors are not allowed to work with the first team technical staff, except in emergency cases and with the approval of the Qatar Football Association. If the club wishes to retain a coach within the first team technical staff, they must change their job grade.
8. At the beginning of the sports season, clubs can assign age categories sector coaches (from under 14 to under 19 years old) to any category within the same sector. Similarly, clubs can assign grassroots sector coaches (from under 9 to under 13 years old) to any category within the same sector.
9. Upon the approval by the QFA Football Development Department on the technical and administrative staff members at the beginning of sports season, clubs cannot change assignments until the end of the sports season. Clubs cannot obtain more than two cards for the same coaching task during the sports season, regardless of the reasons.
10. Administrative, technical, and medical staff members must respect their work responsibilities and avoid interference.
11. Clubs, along with the head of the age categories sector, coaches, officials and their assistants, must be keen to create a safe environment for players, free from discrimination or disrespect, encouraging self-expression and initiative. Refer to the AFC document on child protection.

12. Clubs must prioritize the safety of players and all personnel in the age categories and grassroots sectors during training sessions and competitions.
13. Administrative, technical, and medical staff members must be present well in advance for the training sessions, ensuring proper field preparation and distribution of necessary tools and equipment.
14. Clubs should consistently motivate players to attend training sessions, avoiding interruptions that may affect their physical and skill levels.
15. Work to increase the annual workload by adding more training units, without reducing training time. Provide sufficient time for each training unit to enhance players' skills, with a minimum of 60 minutes and a maximum of 90 minutes for all categories.
16. Coaches should prepare in advance for training sessions based on the club's technical program and strategy approved by the QFA Football Development Department.
17. Clubs must seek approval from the Qatar Football Association before allowing coaches to appear in visual media or participate in TV sports programs and match analysis, ensuring no negative impact on their primary duties.
18. Officials and coaches are strictly prohibited from transporting players from their homes or schools before or after training sessions or matches using their private vehicles. The responsibility for this lies with the club and through the designated means of transportation.

Article (35)

Specific Guidelines for Competition Venues

1. Preference for Venues with Stands: All clubs are encouraged to hold age categories category matches in stadiums equipped with stands. Alternatively, if stands are available in a stadium not typically used for youth matches, their location should be adjusted to allow parents and other spectators to watch matches in comfortable conditions. Clubs without stands or unable to relocate should take the necessary steps in this regard, and the Qatar Football Association will provide support.
2. During Grassroots Festivals: Host clubs must, as much as possible, allocate a suitable area for parents to watch matches in comfortable conditions. All necessary measures must be taken to prevent them from being near the benches of both teams or interfering with the match.
3. Field Planning/Marking: All clubs must ensure that the field/fields are marked according to the competition requirements and emphasize the marking of the technical area in youth category competitions.
4. Warm-up Procedures: During age category matches, and in the absence of a second field for warm-up before the start of the second match on the same field, and to avoid delaying the second match, after coordination with the match coordinator, each team (only 11 starting players + only the coach) may perform warm-up exercises without a ball inside the first match field in an area determined by the match coordinator and the match officials (this could be behind the goal line and on the side line of the field).

Article (36)

Specific Guidelines and Conduct for the Team Bench:

1. Unauthorized Persons on the Bench: During all age categories and grassroots competitions, sitting on the bench is prohibited for any unauthorized person, including any coach or official from the same club who is not authorized to do so (venue accreditation card or original letter from the QFA).
2. Unauthorized Personnel on the Team List: A club that includes any technical or administrative staff members who are not eligible to be with the team on the bench on the starting match list shall be fined, and the coach or official shall be suspended in addition to points deduction in grassroots festivals.
3. Prohibited Conduct on the Bench: During the match, eating, drinking coffee, or tea on the bench is prohibited for players, technical staff, administrative staff, and medical staff.
4. The use of mobile phones on the bench by players, technical staff, administrative staff, and medical staff is prohibited during the match, except in emergency cases for the team manager.

Eighth Section Final Provisions

Article (37)

FIFA rules and regulations are applicable to all competitions organized by the QFA as well as the executive regulations & decisions issued by the QFA in this regard.

Article (38)

The QFA Executive Committee alone has the right to interpret any article of these regulations.

Article (39)

These regulations supersede all previous regulations and rules issued by The QFA in 2023/2024 sports season.

Article (40)

These Regulations have been approved and ratified by the QFA Executive Committee on 01/07/2024. These Regulations came into force from the date of issuance unless being annulled or amended by the QFA Executive Committee.



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