



اتحاد الإمارات العربية المتحدة لكرة القدم

UAE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

**ANNUAL CIRCULAR
FOR THE COMPETITIONS
1ST DIVISION – 2ND DIVISION –
3RD DIVISION – AGE GROUPS
2024 - 2025**



UAEFA COMPETITIONS





Second: Competitions Rules and Conditions

1. League Format, Match Starting List and Substitutions

No	Competition	Format	Match starting list				Number of substitutions						
			Starters	substitutes	Residents & Foreigners		Number	Opportunities					
					Number	Limit during match							
1	1 st Division League	A league of two rounds	11	9	8	6	5	3					
2	2 nd Division League	A league of two rounds			Open								
3	3 rd Division League	A league of two rounds			Open								
4	U21	Based on the number of participating clubs	11	7	8	6	7	7					
5	U18				Based on the number of participating clubs and geographical distribution	9			7	7	5		
6	U16									4	4	Open	
7	U15											Open	
8	U14	Open		Open									
9	U13	Based on the number of participating clubs and geographical distribution	7	7	4	4	7	7					
10	U12								Open				
11	U11								Open				
12	U10								Open				
13	Football Schools	Monthly Festivals	Open										

2. In the event that Residents and Foreigners are not registered on the match list, the club is entitled to complete the list with citizens, Sons of UAE Women, Passport Holders and Born in UAE, in all competitions.
3. For each match, three points shall be awarded for the win, one point for the draw and zero points for the loss.
4. If two (2) or more Clubs are equal in number of points, their position in the table shall be determined according to article (23) of Competitions Regulations.
5. Substitutions made during the halftime break do not count towards the three opportunities for substitutions indicated in the table.
6. Clubs participating in U13, U12, U11, U10 league, shall abide by the following:
 - 6.1 The number of players in the starting list as stated in the above table. If the number of players is less, a fine of AED 1,500 shall apply for each player.
 - 6.2 Each player must play at least one full half. A fine of AED 1,500 for each player shall apply, for violating this rule.
 - 6.3 The replaced player may not take part in the same match once again.
- 7. Age Groups Cups**
 - 7.1 UAE Cup
 - 7.1.1 The competition is mandatory for the age groups U21, U18, U16, U15 and U14.
 - 7.1.2 All stages of the competition will be held in a home-and-away format at the venues of clubs mentioned first.
 - 7.1.3 A draw shall be conducted to distribute the clubs in the match schedule.
 - 7.1.4 If the two competing clubs are tied in the total number of goals in the home and away matches in the competition stages, the penalty shootout rule will be applied after the regular time of the second leg to determine the winning team which will qualify for the next round.



7.2 Super Cup

- 7.2.1 The Super Cup competition is mandatory between the champions of the cup and the league.
- 7.2.2 If two clubs are tied at the end of regular time in the final match, the penalty shootout rule will be applied.
- 7.3 The rules regarding the match starting list as mentioned in the table above will be applied.
- 7.4 Substitutions made during the halftime break do not count towards the three substitution opportunities indicated in the table.



8. Minimum Number of Players to Start the Match

- 8.1 The Match may not be started with less than the number mentioned in the below table.
- 8.2 The number of players in the team may not decrease during the match below the number mentioned in the below table.
- 8.3 If, during the match, the number of players decreased below the number mentioned in the below table, the referee must give the club 15 minutes to complete the number of players. If the number is not completed, the referee must end the match.

No.	Competition	Minimum Number of Match Starters	Decrease in Number of Players during the Match
1	1 st Division League	7	7
2	2 nd Division League		
3	3 rd Division League		
4	U21		
5	U18		
6	U16		
7	U15		
8	U14		
9	U13		
10	U12		
11	U11	5	5
12	U10		



9. Number of Promoted and Relegated Clubs (1st Team Competitions)

No.	Competition	Promotion to higher Tier	Relegation to Lower Tier
		Ranking in the Table	Ranking in the Table
1	1 st Division League	Champion and Runner-up	The Bottom Two Clubs
2	2 nd Division League	Champion and Runner-up	The Bottom Two Clubs
3	3 rd Division League	The Top Four Clubs	

Duration of Match

No.	Competition	Duration of match	Number of Halves	Half-time
1	1 st Division League	90	2	15
2	2 nd Division League			
3	3 rd Division League			
4	U21			
5	U18			
6	U16			
7	U15	80	3	10
8	U14			
9	U13	75		
10	U12			
11	U11	60		
12	U10			



Third: Participations of Players

1. Participations of Players in 1st Team Competitions

No.	Competition	Citizens, Sons of UAE Women, Passport Holders, Born in UAE, Residents	Foreigner
1	1 st Division League	All players registered in the club lists at UAE FA, provided they have completed 16 years of age at the time of participation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All players registered in the team. All players registered in 2nd and 3rd Divisions, provided they were born on or after 2001. The number of players must not exceed (4).
2	2 nd Division League		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All players registered in the team. All players registered in 3rd Division, provided they were born on or after 2001.
3	3 rd Division League		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All players registered in the team.

2. Participations of Players in Age Groups Competitions

No.	Competition	Citizens, Sons of UAE Women, Passport Holders, Born in UAE, Residents
4	U21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All players registered in this age group. All players registered in the club lists, provided they have completed 16 years and do not exceed 21 years of age.
5	U18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All players registered in this age group. All players born in 2009.
6	U16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All players registered in this age group. All players born in 2010 and 2011
7	U15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All players registered in this age group. All players born in 2011 and 2012.
8	U14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All players registered in this age group. All players born in 2012 and 2013.
9	U13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All players registered in this age group. All players born in 2013.
10	U12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All players registered in this age group. All players born in 2014.



		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• (2) players born in 2012 (from 1 September to 31 December)
11	U11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All players registered in this age group.• All players born in 2015.• (2) players born in 2013 (from 1 September to 31 December)
12	U10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All players registered in this age group.• All players born in 2016.• (2) players born in 2014 (from 1 September to 31 December)

3. The rules for the participation of foreign players apply if the club participates with two teams.
4. It is allowed to have a goalkeeper from any category in any competitions, except the category of Foreigners.
5. If the goalkeeper is sent off or leaves the field of play due to an injury and all substitutions have been exhausted, the club is allowed to field any outfield player from the registered match list as a substitute goalkeeper.
6. If a club participates in one of the age groups with two teams (A, B), players registered in team (A) competitions are not allowed to participate in team (B) competitions and vice versa. If this rule is violated, the violation will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee and the offending club is considered to have lost the match a 0-3 score. In addition, a fine of AED 10,000 will be imposed on the club.
7. Players of the U15 and U14 teams are allowed to participate in the higher age group competition, provided that the player participates every 24 hours. If clubs violate this rule by engaging the player, a fine of AED 6,000 will be imposed on the club. In addition, the club is considered to have lost the match in which the player took part with a 0-3 score.



Fourth: Participation and Fees

1. The participation fees (in AED) in various competitions are as follow:

No.	Participation Fee	Details
1	10,000	Participation fee for affiliated clubs
2	10,000	First Division League
3	5,000	Second Division League
4	5,000	Third Division League
5	7,000	U21
6	7,000	U18
7	7,000	U16
8	6,000	U15
9	6,000	U14
10	5,000	U13
11	5,000	U12
12	4,000	U11
13	4,000	U10
14	3,000	Football Schools

2. Each club shall deposit the annual participation fee and the participation fees in various competitions in UAE FA Bank Account and submit the proof of payment via (FA-Net).

Fifth: Match Organization

1. The host club is responsible for providing ambulance, security, ball kids and flag bearers for each match played in its venue, as well as the kids who escort the players to the field of play.
2. The coordinator and ball kids should be present two hours before kickoff of the match.
3. The ball kids and flag bearers should wear a uniform that is different from the players' and referees' attires.
4. The required numbers during the match are as follows:

No.	Competition	Ambulance	Security (police – Private)	Ball Kids & Flag Bearers	Laborer
1	1 st Division League	2	10	8	4
2	2 nd Division League	1	4	4	2
3	3 rd Division League	1	4	4	2
4	Age Groups	1	4	4	2

Sixth: Pitch Dimensions

1. The matches of UAE FA competition shall be played in pitches with the following dimensions:

No.	Competition	Field of play		Goal		Ball size	Offside
		Length	Width	Height	Width		
1	1 st Division League	100-110	64-75	2.44	7.32	5	Apply
2	2 nd Division League						
3	3 rd Division League						
4	U21						
5	U18						
6	U16						
7	U15						
8	U14						
9	U13	60	40	2	6	4	Not apply
10	U12						
11	U11	50	35	2	5	4	
12	U10						

2. Suitable rooms shall be provided for participating teams and referees, closer to the field of play.
3. The goal shall be fixed, not movable.

Seventh: Members of Technical, Administrative and Medical Staff Allowed to sit in Substitutes Bench

- The following numbers of members are allowed to sit in the substitutes bench, provided they are registered in the match list.

Competition		1 st Division	2 nd Division	3 rd Division	Age Groups
Numbers		10	7	7	7
Mandatory Designations	Technical	Head Coach, Assistant Coach or Goalkeeper Coach			
	administrative	Administrator, Manager, or Supervisor			
	Medical	Doctor, physiotherapist or paramedic		Doctor, physiotherapist, paramedic or nurse	

- In case of violation, quality control shall apply.

Eighth: Awards

- At the end of the season, the club that finishes in first place shall be crowned champion. The following awards are granted:

No.	Competition	Awards		
		Trophy	Golden Medal	Prize Money
1	1 st Division League	1	40	Decided by Board of Directors, if any
2	2 nd Division League	1	40	
3	3 rd Division League	1	40	
4	U21 League	1	40	
5	U18 League	1	40	
6	U16	1	40	
7	U15	1	40	
8	U14	1	40	
9	U13	1	35	Not exist
10	U12	1	35	
11	U11	1	35	
12	U10	1	35	

- Each club participating in U13, U12, U11 and U10 competitions shall receive 35 medals.
- For cup competitions, the number of medals mentioned in the table above will be awarded to the first and second place teams, along with trophy for the champion.

Ninth: General Provisions

- The provisions of Competitions Regulations and other relevant UAE FA regulations shall apply to any matters not provided in this circular.
- All arising violations shall be referred to the Disciplinary Committee or Quality Control Officer, as the case may be.