



When Are Children Permitted to Play in Competitive Matches?

Children must be 8 years old at 31st August to be able to play in a league. This means where scores are recorded and a table of teams kept. Players who are under-7 and under-8 can play friendly matches against other teams in the same league but scores and points must not be recorded.

This is detailed in the updated Mini-Soccer handbook which is available at <http://www.cornwallfa.com/Governance/rulesandregs/>

Age Ranges For Players Under 16 Years old

FA Rule 4 Extract -

[a] Children not registered in the programme for excellence. The following provisions apply to children not registered in the programme for excellence:

[vi] Age Brackets

[a] A child in the age ranges Under7, U8, U9,U10,U11,U12,U13,U14,U15 must not play and shall not be permitted, or encouraged to play, in a match where any other player is older or younger by 2 years or more than that person"

[b] To play in a Under 18 age bracket competition the player must have achieved the age of 15 on or before 31st August of the playing season

[c] To play in an open age competition a player must have achieved the age of 16.

Age When A Child Can Play In 9v9 and 11v11

From next season a child who is not 10 years old as at midnight on 31st August is not allowed to play in a match between sides of more than seven players in that playing season. Those children who are younger than ten years old as described can only play in a match according to the 'Laws of the Game - Mini Soccer' or in other formats of small sided football approved by The FA. The rule was previously age nine.

The FA Rule Change in full is:

"A child who has not attained nor will have attained the age of ten as at midnight on 31st August in a playing season shall not play, and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play, in a match between sides of more than seven players in that playing season. Such children shall only play in a match according to the 'Laws of the Game - Mini Soccer' or in other formats of small sided football expressly approved by The Association from time to time. The particular age ranges for such activity are subject to amendment by the Council from time to time."

