

## **REGULATIONS OF THE BALTIC YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE 2023**

### **1. Goals and objectives**

1.1 The Baltic Youth Football League (hereinafter – League) for the clubs' U15 division (2008 year of birth) and U-16 division (2007 year of birth) teams are staged with the following purposes:

- to determine the League winners and best footballers;
- to develop and raise the popularity of football;
- to improve the sports skills of football players, referees, and coaching staff;
- to give a young players experience of international matches.

### **2. Tournament Management**

2.1. The League for the best four clubs of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia will be organized by Latvian Football Federation in cooperation with Lithuanian Football Federation and Estonian Football Association. League is managed by Organizing Committee, which includes Latvian FF Sporting director, Lithuanian FF Managing Director and Estonian FA Sporting Director.

### **3. Venue and time**

3.1 Tournament games are staged in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. All stadiums are equipped with natural or artificial grass pitches. In the winter and early spring matches should take place in the indoor stadiums (halls).

### **4. Competition Participants**

4.1 4.1 BYL consist of participants: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place winners teams in the top national youth championship for the players, born in 2008.

4.2 4.2 BYL consist of participants: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place winners teams in the top national youth championship for the players, born in 2007.

4.3 Each club shall participate with minimum of 18 and a maximum of 30 players. During the season all participants use the COMET system. A list of the players containing the names, dates of birth, playing positions, and the shirt numbers that the players will be wearing throughout the tournament shall be sent to the tournament host association one week before the start of the tournament at the latest. The participating club may submit changes to this list after the group stage of the tournament. All players taking part in the matches must be in possession of a valid passport or ID card containing a picture, date of birth, and nationality, as well, if required as valid Covid-19 vaccination, test, or recovery certificate.

4.4 In the U15 division players are eligible to play in the competition if they were born on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007. Each club can include in the application unlimited number of the players born in 2009 and players who were born on or after 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2006.

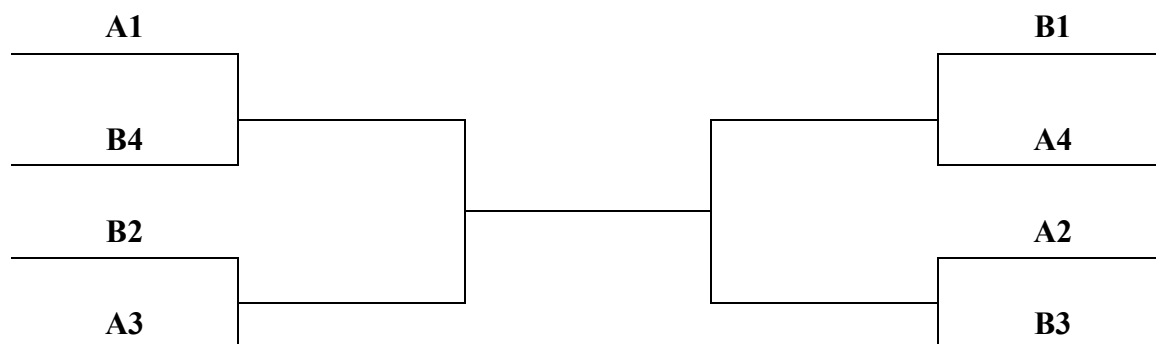
4.5 In the U14 players are eligible to play in the competition if they were born on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008. Each club can include in the application unlimited number of the players born in 2010 and players who were born on or after 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2007.

4.6 In the U15 division, only one player born in 2009 and up to 5 (five) players born on or after 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2006 can be included in the match sheet, but only 1 (one) can participate on the field.

- 4.7 In the U14 division, only one player born in 2010 and up to 5 (five) players born on or after 1st of August 2007 can be included in the match sheet, but only 1 (one) can participate on the field.
- 4.6. Maximum number of players in match sheet – 18, substitutes on the bench – 7, staff members on the bench – 8.
- 4.7. 7 substitutions are allowed, but no more than three stoppages are allowed to make substitutions during the second half. If both teams make substitutions at the same time, it will be counted as a pause for both teams. Only if a serious injury occurs (team doctor decision), a player may be substituted after the 3 substitution pauses have been used. A player who has been substituted may not take part in the match again. Substitutions made at halftime will not be counted as substitution pauses.
- 4.8. A player as well as club official who is given a red card will be suspended for the next match. Likewise, a player and/or club official who is given two yellow cards during one game will be suspended for the next match. A player and/or club official who is given two yellow cards during the playoff phase and group phase matches will be suspended for the next match (suspension will not apply after the group phase and to the final match). In case of serious offenses, the Organizing Committee is entitled to augment this punishment.
- 4.9. A maximum of one outfield player may be replaced upon submission of written medical evidence of illness or injury to the tournament organizer. The replaced player can take no further part in the tournament and no other outfield player may be replaced. However, goalkeepers may be replaced at any time during the tournament upon submission of written medical evidence of illness or injury to the tournament organizer.
- 4.10. Each participating club is responsible for its own insurance coverage.
- 4.11. Spectators are not allowed to enter the stadium if there is not enough space and a minimum of 100 stationary seat requirement. Also, the match can be arranged without a spectators by National FA decision, due to safety reasons or disciplinary cases.

## **5. Competition system**

- 5.1. The matches will be played in two groups according to the league system, i.e., each team plays with each once.
- 5.2. Three points will be awarded for the win, one point for a draw.
- 5.3. If two or more teams are equal on points the following criteria are applied to determine the rankings:
- result in matches played among teams in question (number of points, goal difference, number of goals scored);
  - superior goal difference in all the matches;
  - higher number of goals scored in all the matches;
  - minimum number of Fair-play points (red card – 3 points, yellow card – 1 point);
- 5.4. After the group stage, quarter-finals (two matches) should take place in April and semi-finals (two matches) should take place in May-June. Final (one match) should take place in June. In the knockout stage, the higher-ranked team in the group stage plays the second match at the home match venue.
- 5.5. Matches in the knockout stage:



5.6. U-15 division matches last 2x40 minutes. Break between halves 10 minutes

U-16 division matches last 2x45 minutes. Break between halves 15 minutes

5.7. Penalty kicks are possible in knock-out stage if the result of the two matches of the knock-out stage is a draw (no extra time).

5.8. The matches are played in conformity with the Laws of the Game approved by IFAB and these regulations. All teams must respect the principles of Fair play and Respect.

## 6. Issues connected with the arrangements

### 6.1. Match balls:

- At least three match balls with marks of the FIFA Quality Programme should be make available per match;
- The host club (association) must provide a minimum of 5 training balls to all participating teams, which should be of the same type, brand and quality as those used for the matches.

6.2. Medical care and transportation - at all matches there will be trained medical personnel and transportation arranged if needed.

6.3. Match recordings - the host club (association) must record all matches on video in live broadcast and deliver all recordings free of charge to the other participants. The match recordings must be ready for the teams not later than 2 days after each match day.

6.4. Water – The host club (association) will provide each team of 20 litres of water per one match free of charge.

6.5. The clubs shall inform the organizers about their kit colours before the start of the league or not later than 3 days before the match. The colours for the matches shall be communicated to the teams before the start of the tournament.

6.6. Prizes - the winner will be awarded with cup and medals, however, the runner up of the tournament will be awarded only with medals.

## 7. Referees

7.1. The host association appoints referees (referee, two assistant referees, fourth official and referee observer).

- 7.2. Referee's report (in English) - the referee shall deliver a report directly after each match to the host association. This report shall contain information regarding goals, expulsions, cautions and other matters of interest for the Organizing Committee and the tournament administration.

## **8. Control and Disciplinary Committee**

- 8.1. A Control and Disciplinary Committee (Organizing Committee) will be appointed before the start of the tournament and shall consist of one representative from each participating association. The member of the host association shall be the chairman.
- 8.2. The Committee shall be called when needed, either by the Chairman or any of the other members.
- 8.3. The Committee shall deal with protests, disciplinary measures and other matters concerning the tournament, which are not mentioned in these regulations. A member of the Committee shall not take part in dealing with matters concerning his own association.
- 8.4. During the meetings written notes shall be taken and distributed to all members.
- 8.5. Protests against the validity of a match shall be put verbally to a member of the Committee, not later than one hour after the match concerned and in writing until midnight (00:00) on the same day. Protests shall be dealt with as soon as possible and the Committee's decisions are final.

## **9. Financial provisions**

- 9.1. The visiting associations will cover their own travelling to the match venue.
- 9.2. The host association (club) bears all the expenses for the match organizational arrangements and match recordings.
- 9.3. The host association has all commercial and media rights for the tournament, and is authorized to exploit these relating to the tournament and matches.

## **10. Unforeseen Circumstances and matters not mentioned in the regulations**

- 10.1. Any matters not provided for in these regulations, such as cases of force majeure, will be decided by the associations in question. Such decisions are final.
- 10.2. Any unforeseen matters not mentioned in the regulations such as but not limited to: protests, disputes, unsporting behaviour will be reviewed by Control and Disciplinary Committee (Organizing Committee).

Latvian Football Federation	Lithuanian Football Federation	Estonian Football Association
-----------------------------	--------------------------------	-------------------------------

General secretary:

General secretary:

General secretary: