



9v9 – Information Sheet

Last updated: 20/01/2012
Last Reviewed: 20/01/2012



All this information has previously appeared on the League website, League newsletter and mentioned at League meetings. This document has just put all the information together in one place.

When was 9v9 decided by the member clubs?

At the League meeting on the 8th June 2011. the membership voted unanimously to introduce 9v9 at the U11 age-group for the 2012/2013 season. Since then, Sheffield & Hallamshire CFA have met with local authorities, who have said that they can provide 9v9 pitches for next season (2012/13)

Mechanics for the League

Squad size: Maximum of 14 – Minimum of 7 (This is to be voted on by the member clubs, but this comes out of the questionnaire response – see below)

One team = one result

At the end of the current season (2011/12), teams will be promoted/relegated as they would normally be. The teams will then be divided into divisions as normal. At this stage, without knowing how many teams will be in the League and how many clubs will be running 2 or more teams how the divisions will be worked out. The concept of mirrored divisions has been considered, until the applications are in, we can't decide on this.

Timescales of change

Format	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
U7	5v5	5v5	5v5	5v5	5v5
U8	6v6	5v5	5v5	5v5	5v5
U9	7v7	7v7	7v7	7v7	7v7
U10	7v7	7v7	7v7	7v7	7v7
U11	9v9	9v9	9v9	9v9	9v9
U12	11v11	9v9	9v9	9v9	9v9
U13	11v11	11v11	11v11	11v11	11v11
U14	11v11	11v11	11v11	11v11	11v11
U15	11v11	11v11	11v11	11v11	11v11
U16	11v11	11v11	11v11	11v11	11v11

Funding:

Sport England Small Grants Programme, 100% funding for goals
(http://www.sportengland.org/funding/small_grants.aspx)

Football Foundation: Grow The Game (potentially for additional 9v9 teams)
<http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/apply/grow-the-game/> and also Build the game (<http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/apply/build-the-game/>)

Questionnaire Response

The League and Sheffield & Hallamshire County FA sent out a questionnaire to all member clubs approximately six weeks ago regarding 9v9 for next season. Below is the response to that questionnaire.

1. Do you have the facilities to hold a 9v9 pitch, either through alternate coloured lines on top of an 11v11 pitch or a stand alone pitch? (*Suggested size is 80x50 yards – Length max – 85, min – 70 and Width max – 55, min – 45*)
Yes – 79% **No – 21%**
2. Is your club in a position to purchase a new set of 9v9 goals? (*7x16ft*) at a cost of £384.00 (PVC) £804.00 (Aluminium)
Yes – 52% **No – 48%**
3. What support would your club require from your league and Sheffield FA if 9v9 is implemented?
No Problems – 28% **Finances – 59%** **Pitch – 13%**
4. What are your team's thoughts on Central Venue Facilities to conduct 9v9 games? **Yes – 21%** **No – 79%**
5. What are your thoughts on 9v9 and below i.e. Mini Soccer all being played on Saturdays? (*Only 11v11 is played on Sundays*)
Yes – 38% **No – 62%**
6. Do you think it should be one game equals one result?
Yes - 80% **No – 20%**

7. Do you think clubs should have two games and the combined result of both is the overall score?

Yes – 20%

No – 80%

8. What sort of squad size do you think you should have?

12 players – 20%

13 players – 5%

14 players – 55%

15 players – 5%

16+ players - 15%

FA Frequently Asked Questions:

From:

<http://www.thefa.com/Leagues/~//media/Files/PDF/Leagues/Your%20Kids%20Your%20Say/FA%20Youth%20Development%20Proposals%20-%20Frequently%20Asked%20Questions.ashx>

Q. Why are The FA making changes?

A. The FA are constantly looking to evolve and develop the game of football as the game changes. Many years ago the game was played in a W-Formation and since that time it has evolved into different set ups and today we even see Barcelona playing a 1-4-6-0 formation with no recognised centre forward. Other changes include much more of a possession-based approach to being successful and we need to make sure our game evolves at the same rate.

There hasn't been a real in-depth look at youth football since the introduction of Mini-Soccer in 1999 and it was timely that the system was given a modernisation.

Q. Is this all because the England Senior team didn't do very well at the last World Cup?

A. The below expectation performance of the senior team at the World Cup hasn't been the catalyst for change; discussions were already taking place for about 8 months before the world Cup in 2010.

It is also noted that if we win Euro 2012 that the youth system still requires a modernisation, regardless of the performance of the national team. The Spanish, despite winning the Euro 2008 and World Cup 2010 are still changing and moving their grassroots system forwards, having just increased the year group they play 9v9.

Q. Consultation has been done but you haven't spoken to me or my clubs?

A. The consultation on what youth football should look like has taken place over the last two years, including 35 individual County FA meetings where they invited youth leagues in to the discussion along with 16 regional roadshows involving lots of debate with clubs, leagues and coaches. The FA is sorry if you haven't made any of the events personally but is confident that a broad enough crosssection of people within the game has been spoken to for their views, which The FA has listened to.

Q. How did you capture the views of children?

A. 50 focus groups of children in the 8-12 years age range, from Devon to Durham have been undertaken, which consist of groups of 10-14 players coming together for 45 minute in-depth interviews about what they like and don't like about football, why they play the game and what changes they would make. It was felt that it was vitally important we heard the views of the children in this matter. The focus groups were parent and coach-free so as to avoid any contamination of the data and conducted by a National Development Manager with a Masters Degree unit in Research Methods in Education, supported by County FA Development Staff, most of which have Degrees in Sport, including research methods.

Q. But you haven't spoken to every player?

A. Realistically that task would be impossible, however, simply ask your children "why do you play football?" and we are confident the results won't be too far away! The focus groups were then followed up with academic research which was found to support all the feedback from the children – that they are driven to play for intrinsic reasons, such as loving the game and that trying their hardest was important than winning, and not extrinsic things, such as trophies and medals. For further reading, please see Daniel Pink – Drive as an example.

Q. Changing the goalposts to be more appropriate makes sense, how are we going to pay for it?

A. Of course, if new sets of goalposts are needed to be purchased for 9v9 there may be a cost incurred. Please go to Sport England's Small Grants Programme for 100% funding on the cost of goalposts. There is a further £1m ring-fenced funding via the Football Foundation which will pay 50% towards the cost of goalposts as well. Up and down the country, many youth leagues and clubs have set up schemes to support purchasing these as well, and in these economic times its vital we pull all of the sources of funding together so that cost isn't an added challenge. Please work with your local County Development Manager, based at the County FA, to get advice with funding. The goal sizes for 9v9 are 16x7' or 21x7' and we have deliberately opted for two sizes. Based upon the current financial climate, it would be remiss to state that children must use one size and with many school pitches and sites having 'youth' size goals, many reflect this already and there is no need to purchase additional goals.

Q. And what about pitches?

A. Not being blessed with a huge stock of pitches we can give up, we have to be smarter with how we use existing space. Leagues that have already

implemented 9v9 have used a variety of different solutions. This includes playing box-to-box on an existing pitch and coning-in either side of the pitch, playing with different coloured lines marked on a pitch or across an existing big 11v11 pitch. Some leagues have worked out they only needed 3 pitches to service 12 clubs and not every club needed a home pitch to play on. Some have been playing central venue and all teams comes to one place.

Q. Can we reallocate pitches across a town?

A. Of course, it might need a whole town approach to this and if there are several sites with several different formats being played on, it might be worth designating different sites for different formats of the game, your FA Regional Facilities Manager and County Development Manager can help you with this.

Q. Can we use 3G artificial turf pitches?

A. Absolutely, these could be the best surface children ever learn to play the game on as the ball always runs flat, doesn't get stuck in mud and other than snow, there is unlikely to be games called off. As with the above three questions, work with your County Development Manager to help get access to these pitches. If these pitches can be used for World Cup Qualifiers and Champions League matches, they are certainly good enough for local youth football! However, this refers to 3G pitches only, not sand-based artificial pitches.

Q. So what does a pitch look like? How can we work with our Local Authorities to get them?

A. The FA will provide diagrams of the pitch markings, size of penalty area and all the things you need to know. The FA, through the network of Regional Facilities Managers will work with the Local Authorities, Boroughs and other pitch providers to ensure they get all the support they require.

opportunity to help grow the game.

If this sounds like you, then please contact Matt Handley on 0114 241 4992 or email matthew.handley@sheffieldfa.com