

COMPETITION RULES – U8



BUDAPEST YOUTH CUP
TALENTS MEETING

1. § THE AIM OF THE TOURNAMENT

The aim of the Budapest Youth Cup is to organize international competitions for youth football players born between January 1, 2018, and December 31, 2018, within structured frameworks, ensuring high-quality matches. It also aims to facilitate discussions filled with outstanding professional content, exchanges based on current international trends in pre-academy football cultures both domestically and across Europe. Promoting the popularity of the sport is essential both domestically and internationally. This includes upholding the principle of Fair Play and promoting fair play behavior.

2. § GENERAL RULES

The matches of the Budapest Youth Cup shall be governed by the rules of football applied in Hungary, which comply with the generally applied rules of FIFA. In the event of any dispute regarding the rules, the English-language regulations or their interpretation shall prevail. By signing and submitting the entry form, participating teams in the Budapest Youth Cup acknowledge, understand, and fully agree with the regulations of the competition. Teams registered for the Budapest Youth Cup shall be assigned to various groups through a random draw.

3. § ACCREDITATION, VERIFICATION OF AGE GROUPS

Every team participating in the Budapest Youth Cup must send the list of players and staff (name, date of birth, ID/passport number) to the Organizing Committee of the Budapest Youth Cup by May 20, 2026. Prior to the start of the tournament, the entry form must be submitted during registration to the competition committee. The competition committee verifies players with photographic identification documents. At the request of the opposing team's coach, every player must be able to provide identification before the match, with particular attention to age, by presenting a photo ID, student ID, player's license, or passport. Teams may not submit protests for overage players after the start of the match. Therefore, it is the responsibility of every team coach to verify the age of their players. If this is not done upon request by the opposing team's coach before the match, the opposing team wins the match by a score of 3:0.

4. § VENUES AND DATES OF MATCHES

The official organizing committee of the Budapest Youth Cup has the right to change the group assignments and match dates until 22:00 on May 22, 2026. In the event of any changes, the respective team leaders will be informed in due time.



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5. § FIELDS, GAME DURATION, PLAYING AREAS, GOALS

Budapest Youth Cup U8 fields have natural grass covering.

Game Duration:	1x17 minutes (central timekeeping)
Number of Players:	4+1
Ball Size:	size 4 FIFA-approved balls
Field Dimensions:	40m x 20m
Goal Size:	3x2 meters
Penalty Area:	A 6-meter radius from the outer edge of the goalposts
Distance from Penalty Spot:	7 meters
Distance of the defensive wall in case of a free kick:	5 meters

6. § PREPARATIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF MATCHES

Regarding Player Attire

Every player's jersey must be numbered, and this number must correspond to the number listed on the team roster. The numbers should be on the back of the jersey. Two players on the same team cannot use the same number in a single match. If the referee decides that one team needs to change its jersey (for better distinguishability), then that team must change its jersey to a different color, particularly if it is listed second in the official match announcement. It is recommended that every team ensures they have at least two sets of jerseys in different colors to prevent any issues.

Before the Match

Every team must be on the field 10 minutes before kickoff. The team leader must ensure that their players are ready to play the match. This is the personal responsibility of the team leader. It is mandatory for every player to wear shin guards. The referee checks the shoes and other equipment before the start of the match, and if found to be too dangerous, they may require them to be changed. Teams are responsible for the completeness and safety of their equipment, as well as the behavior of their supporters.



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7. § MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS, SUBSTITUTIONS

A team can register up to 12 players for the Budapest Youth Cup. Every registered player can participate in the Budapest Youth Cup.

A sports organization can enter 2 teams within a particular age group. Players from one team cannot switch to the other team throughout the tournament.

Substitutions

5 players (4 outfield players and 1 goalkeeper). The number of substitutions is unlimited. A substituted player can be re-entered at any time. The game does not need to be stopped for substitutions. Each substitution must take place legally at the halfway line.

8. § RULES OF MATCHES, PENALTIES

Application of FIFA rules to respective age groups:

- The offside rule is not valid
- The goalkeeper cannot handle back-passes with their hands
- During goal kicks, the ball must be played from the ground only and cannot be kicked directly across the halfway line
- The ball can be put into play along the sideline with an overhead two-handed throw or a flat pass below the knees, neither of which can directly result in a goal.

Yellow or red card warnings and their consequences:

In the case of an offense warranting a warning, the offending player shall be cautioned with a yellow card. Receiving a second yellow card in the same match results in automatic expulsion (red card), and the player cannot return to the field for the remainder of the match, leaving the team with fewer players. The expelled player can participate in the next match. Serious or violent infractions and misconduct towards opponents—particularly the use of abusive or racist language—result in immediate expulsion (red card). Deliberate striking or kicking, as well as attempts thereof, also lead to automatic expulsion (red card). Expulsion from a match does not entail suspension from the following match, and yellow cards do not accumulate. In cases of egregious, severe infractions, the Budapest Youth Cup Arbitration Board decides on the player's further eligibility for the tournament.



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9. § RULES OF MATCHES IN THE GROUP STAGE

Teams participating in the Budapest Youth Cup are divided into four groups. The teams play round-robin matches, meaning each team in the group plays against every other team in the group once. Three points are awarded for a win, one point for a draw, and no points for a loss.

The team with the highest number of points during the group stage will be ranked first, the second-highest will be ranked second, and so on. If two or more teams have the same number of points in the group stage, their ranking will be determined by the following criteria in succession:

1. Head-to-head results
 - 1.a.) Number of points
 - 1.b.) Goal difference
 - 1.c.) More goals scored
 - 1.d.) Fewer goals conceded
2. Goal difference
3. More goals scored
4. If these factors do not resolve the tie, a penalty shootout of 5 penalties each will follow.

10. § RULES OF MATCHES IN THE PLACEMENT MATCHES

Gold group

Based on the results after the group the top 1st and 2nd-placed teams from each group, (total of 8 teams), play round-robin matches in the Gold group. Therefore, each team in the group will play against every other team in the same group once. Three points are awarded for a win, one point for a draw, and no points for a loss.

During the playoff matches, the team with the highest number of points will be ranked first, the second-highest will be ranked second, and so on. If two or more teams have the same number of points in the playoff matches, their ranking will be determined by considering the following criteria in succession:

1. Head-to-head results
 - 1.a.) Number of points
 - 1.b.) Goal difference
 - 1.c.) More goals scored
 - 1.d.) Fewer goals conceded
2. Goal difference
3. More goals scored
4. If these factors do not resolve the tie, a penalty shootout of 5 penalties each will follow.



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Silver group

Based on the results of the group stage, the 3rd and 4th teams from each group, (total of 8 teams), play round-robin matches in the Silver group. Therefore, each team in the group will play against every other team in the same group once. Three points are awarded for a win, one point for a draw, and no points for a loss. During the playoff matches, the team with the highest number of points will be ranked first, the second-highest will be ranked second, and so on. If two or more teams have the same number of points in the playoff matches, their ranking will be determined by considering the following criteria in succession:

1. Head-to-head results
 - 1.a.) Number of points
 - 1.b.) Goal difference
 - 1.c.) More goals scored
 - 1.d.) Fewer goals conceded
2. Goal difference
3. More goals scored
4. If these factors do not resolve the tie, a penalty shootout of 5 penalties each will follow.

Bronze group

Based on the results of the group stage, the 5th and 6th place teams from each group (8 teams in total) will advance to the Bronze group, where they will compete in a round-robin format. Therefore, each team in the group will play against every other team in the same group once. Three points are awarded for a win, one point for a draw, and no points for a loss. During the playoff matches, the team with the highest number of points will be ranked first, the second-highest will be ranked second, and so on. If two or more teams have the same number of points in the playoff matches, their ranking will be determined by considering the following criteria in succession:

1. Head-to-head results
 - 1.a.) Number of points
 - 1.b.) Goal difference
 - 1.c.) More goals scored
 - 1.d.) Fewer goals conceded
2. Goal difference
3. More goals scored
4. If these factors do not resolve the tie, a penalty shootout of 5 penalties each will follow.



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Fair Play group

Based on the results of the group stage, the 7th and 8th teams from each group, play round-robin matches in the Fair Play group. Therefore, each team in the group plays against every other team in the same group once. Three points are awarded for a win, one point for a draw, and no points for a loss. In the placement matches, the team with the most points will be ranked first, the team with the second-highest number of points will be ranked second, and so on. If two or more teams have the same number of points in the placement matches, their ranking will be determined by the following criteria, considered sequentially:

1. Head-to-head results
 - 1.a.) Number of points
 - 1.b.) Goal difference
 - 1.c.) More goals scored
 - 1.d.) Fewer goals conceded
2. Goal difference
3. More goals scored
4. If these factors do not resolve the tie, a penalty shootout of 5 penalties each will follow.



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11. § MATCH OFFICIALS

The referees of the Budapest Youth Cup are accredited referees. Every match of the Budapest Youth Cup is approved by the official Competition Committee of the Budapest Youth Cup or its delegates. Each match is officiated by one referee.

12. § SPORTS ARBITRATION BOARD

The decisions of the referee are final based on the facts of the match and the game situations. No appeals can be made against the decisions of the referee. Appeals cannot be based on perceived errors of the referee.

1. If the opposing team's players cannot provide personal identification, player licenses, or passports – IN THIS CASE, AN APPEAL CAN BE MADE BEFORE THE MATCH!
2. If the match is interrupted for any reason other than weather conditions or force majeure.

The appeal must be submitted in writing, in Hungarian or English, to the Competition Center within 60 minutes after the match. The appeal must be signed by the team leader. The fee for the appeal is €1,000, which must be paid in cash upon submission of the appeal. If the Sports Arbitration Board upholds the appeal, the amount will be refunded.

13. § AWARDS AND PRIZES

At the conclusion of the matches held within the framework of the Budapest Youth Cup, the top-performing teams in the Gold Division will receive the following awards:

1st place team: each player will receive a gold medal, and the team will be awarded the winner's trophy.

2nd place team: each player will receive a silver medal, and the team will be awarded the runner-up trophy.

3rd place team: each player will receive a bronze medal, and the team will be awarded the third-place trophy.

During the tournament, a "Dream Team" will be selected in each age group, consisting of 5 outstanding individual performers, based on recommendations from the coaches. Each member of the Dream Team will receive a personalized trophy in recognition of their performance.

All participants of the Budapest Youth Cup, regardless of their final ranking, will receive a gift package as a token of appreciation for their participation.

