BUDAPEST YOUTH CUP

TALENTS MEETING

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

COMPETITION RULES

U9

15–16 MAY 2027 · BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

2018 BIRTH YEAR / DRAFT FOR ORGANIZER REVIEW

FOUNDATION

PURPOSE & GENERAL RULES

1. § THE AIM OF THE TOURNAMENT

The Budapest Youth Cup provides high-quality international competition for players born between January 1 and December 31, 2018. It encourages professional exchange between leading European youth academies and promotes the sport, mutual respect and Fair Play.

2. § GENERAL RULES

The matches are governed by the rules of football applied in Hungary, consistent with the generally applicable FIFA Laws of the Game and the age-specific provisions of these regulations. In disputes of interpretation, the English-language rules prevail. By signing and submitting the entry form, each participating team confirms acceptance of the competition regulations. Teams are allocated to preliminary groups by a draw.

FAIR PLAY FIRST

International youth football, professional exchange and Fair Play are the guiding principles of the tournament.

ADMINISTRATION

ACCREDITATION & DATES

12 MAY
PLAYER & STAFF LIST

14 MAY · 22:00
LAST FORMAT UPDATE

3. § ACCREDITATION AND AGE VERIFICATION

Each participating team must send the player and staff list (name, date of birth and ID/passport number) to the Organizing Committee by May 12, 2027 (proposed deadline, subject to approval). At registration, the team must submit the entry form. The Competition Committee verifies players using photographic identification. At the opposing coach's request, any player must prove their identity and age before the match by presenting an ID card, student ID, player licence or passport. An overage-player protest cannot be lodged after kickoff. If a requested age check is not completed before the match, the opposing team is awarded a 3–0 win.

4. § MATCH VENUES AND DATES

Budapest Youth Cup 2027 will take place at UTE Sportközpont, 1046 Budapest, Tábor utca 24, on May 15–16, 2027. The Organizing Committee may change the group draw or match schedule until May 14, 2027, at 22:00 (proposed deadline); affected team leaders will be notified.

MATCH FORMAT

PITCH, BALL & EQUIPMENT

5. § FIELDS AND MATCH SPECIFICATION

1 × 17 min	DURATION	6 + 1	ON THE FIELD
50 × 30 m	PITCH SIZE	5 × 2 m	GOAL SIZE
Size 4	BALL	9 m	PENALTY SPOT
7 m	WALL DISTANCE	9 m	PENALTY AREA

Penalty area: 9 metres, measured from the goalposts towards the touchline and from the goal line. Games are 1 × 17 minutes with central timekeeping and FIFA-approved size-4 balls.

2027 PLAYING SURFACE TO BE VERIFIED

The 2026 U9 regulations specify artificial turf. Confirm the allocated pitch surface at UTE Sportközpont for the 2027 tournament.

MATCH OPERATIONS

PREPARATION & SUBSTITUTIONS

6. § PREPARING FOR MATCHES

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.

SQUAD ADMINISTRATION

PLAYERS & SUBSTITUTIONS

7. § PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTIONS

A team may register up to 14 players, all eligible to participate during the tournament. A club may enter two teams in the same age category, but players cannot transfer between those teams at any point during the event.

ROLLING SUBSTITUTIONS

Each team fields 7 players: 6 outfield players and 1 goalkeeper. Substitutions are unlimited, and any substituted player may return. Play need not stop for a substitution; all exchanges must be carried out legally at the halfway line.

14 PLAYERS
MAXIMUM SQUAD

6 + 1
MATCH FORMAT

PLAYING REGULATIONS

MATCH RULES & DISCIPLINE

8. § RULES OF PLAY

- The offside rule applies.
- The goalkeeper cannot handle a deliberate back-pass with their hands.
- A goal kick must be taken from the ground; the ball may not travel directly across the halfway line.
- From the touchline, the ball may be returned with a two-handed overhead throw or a flat pass below knee height. Neither restart may score directly.

YELLOW CARDS, RED CARDS AND SANCTIONS

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.

COMPETITION FORMAT

GROUP-STAGE RULES

9. § GROUP-STAGE MATCHES

The 2026 Hungarian U9 rules describe four preliminary groups: two with nine teams and two with eight. This structure is used as a planning basis only and must be confirmed for 2027. Teams play each other once within their group. A win earns 3 points, a draw 1, a loss 0.

3 PTS	1 PT	0 PTS
WIN	DRAW	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:

TIE-BREAK CRITERIA (APPLIED IN ORDER)

01 Head-to-head: points, goal difference, goals scored, then fewer goals conceded

02 Overall goal difference

03 Overall number of goals scored

04 Five penalties per team if still tied

COMPETITION FORMAT

PLACEMENT DIVISIONS I

10. § CLASSIFICATION AFTER GROUPS

After the preliminary round, teams enter placement divisions according to their group rankings. Each placement division plays a single round robin. The 2027 allocation and participant numbers must be approved by the Organizing Committee.

GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	FAIR PLAY
1st & 2nd	3rd & 4th	5th & 6th	7th–9th*

GOLD DIVISION — 8 TEAMS

The first- and second-placed teams from each of the four preliminary groups qualify for the Gold division (8 teams). Each team meets every other team once; points are awarded 3–1–0.

SILVER DIVISION — 8 TEAMS

Third- and fourth-placed teams qualify for the Silver division (8 teams). The same single round-robin format, ranking criteria and 3–1–0 points system apply.

CLASSIFICATION

Placement divisions are ranked by points. Any ties follow the criteria described on the next page; the Fair Play division size remains subject to confirmation.

COMPETITION FORMAT

PLACEMENT DIVISIONS II

BRONZE DIVISION — 8 TEAMS

The teams finishing fifth and sixth in each preliminary group qualify for the Bronze division (8 teams). Each plays every other team once under the same 3–1–0 points system.

FAIR PLAY DIVISION — SIZE TO CONFIRM

The 2026 U9 regulations place seventh- and eighth-ranked teams, plus ninth-ranked teams where applicable, in Fair Play placement matches. Its exact participant count and draw require confirmation for 2027.

COMMON TIE-BREAK RULES — ALL DIVISIONS

If two or more teams are level on points, classification follows these criteria in sequence: (1) head-to-head points, goal difference, goals scored and fewer goals conceded; (2) overall goal difference; (3) overall goals scored; (4) a penalty shootout, with five penalties taken by each side, if the tie remains unresolved.

IMPORTANT: SOURCE DISCREPANCY TO RESOLVE

The Hungarian U9 source implies 34 teams (2 × 9 and 2 × 8), which would produce 10 Fair Play entrants. The English source states 9. Confirm before publication.

GOVERNANCE

OFFICIALS & APPEALS

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.

ADMISSIBLE GROUNDS FOR PROTEST

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.

PROCEDURE AND FEE

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.

RECOGNITION

AWARDS & PRIZES

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:

1	2	3
CHAMPIONS	**RUNNERS-UP**	**THIRD PLACE**
TEAM TROPHY + MEDALS	TEAM TROPHY + MEDALS	TEAM TROPHY + MEDALS

Gold medals for first-place players, silver medals for second place and bronze medals for third place. Each of the three highest-placed teams receives the corresponding trophy.

DREAM TEAM

In each age category, the coaches nominate 7 outstanding players for the Dream Team. Every selected player receives a personalized trophy in recognition of their performance.

PARTICIPANT GIFTS

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.