

SOLUTION

5 & 7 a side Game Formats with both Age Cut Off Solutions shown

SEPTEMBER 1ST AGE CUT OFF SOLUTION

Age Bracket & Game Format recommendation

Contact	2011		2012		2013	
	Game Format	Age Bracket	Game Format	Age Bracket	Game Format	Age Bracket
Junior	11 a side	U19 before Jan 1st 2011	11 a side	16 to U19 before Sept 1st 2011	11 a side	16 to U19 before Sept 1st 2012
Youth	5 a side	U17 before Jan 1st 2011	5 a side *	14 to U17 before Jan 1st 2012 **	7 a side	13 to U16 before Sept 1st 2012
Cadet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5 a side	10 to U13 before Sept 1st 2012

* With potentially one or two friendly tournaments for teams to trial 7 a side and prepare for 2013

** 2012 is a bridging year and new age limits will be in affect for Youth football in 2013. This gives teams time to plan for 2013 and ensures players are not suddenly removed from Youth without having sufficient lead time and knowledge.

JANUARY 1ST AGE CUT OFF SOLUTION

Age Bracket & Game Format recommendation

Contact	2011		2012		2013	
	Game Format	Age Bracket	Game Format	Age Bracket	Game Format	Age Bracket
Junior	11 a side	U19 before Jan 1st 2011	11 a side	16 to U19 before Jan 1st 2012	11 a side	16 to U19 before Jan 1st 2013
Youth	5 a side	U17 before Jan 1st 2011	5 a side *	14 to U17 before Jan 1st 2012	7 a side	13 to U16 before Jan 1st 2013
Cadet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5 a side	10 to U13 before Jan 1st 2013

* With potentially one or two friendly tournaments for teams to trial 7 a side and prepare for 2013

How age brackets fit in with school years

	School Year	Description of students age	What the Age Bracket would need to be to include students from this school year	Game Format
Key Stage 2	Yr 3	7 year olds turning 8 throughout year	U8	
	Yr 4	8 year olds turning 9 throughout year	U9	
	Yr 5	9 year olds turning 10 throughout year	U10	
Key Stage 3	Yr 6	10 year olds turning 11 throughout year	U11	Cadet
	Yr 7	11 year olds turning 12 throughout year	U12	Cadet
	Yr 8	12 year olds turning 13 throughout year	U13	Cadet/Youth(when 13)
Key Stage 4	Yr 9	13 year olds turning 14 throughout year	U14	Youth
	Yr 10	14 year olds turning 15 throughout year	U15	Youth
	Yr 11	15 year olds turning 16 throughout year	U16	Youth/Junior(when 16)
Key Stage 5	Yr 12	16 year olds turning 17 throughout year	U17	Junior
	Yr 13	17 year olds turning 18 throughout year	U18	Junior
	Uni 1	18 year olds turning 19 throughout year	U19	Junior

Justification for changes

RED text are considerations. GREEN are mitigating points.

Proposal 1: Introduce younger age bracket (CADET) for contact football as 5 a side

Points:	Considerations & Mitigations
Many young people want to play the contact version of the sport and are not interested in flag	Clubs will have to buy specific equipment for the younger age group as current equipment for Junior/Youth most likely won't fit. This is mitigated by the competition not starting until 2013, therefore giving teams enough time to raise funds/apply for grants, recruit players. Depending on demand, the competition can either be run in the same format Flag is at present where a central location is chosen and tournaments are run every month. If demand by 2013 is high, then the competition can be run with regional tournaments as Youth currently is.
It will introduce the core skills of blocking and tackling at a younger age - therefore in the future improving the level of those skills at age levels above	

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It will grow the sport to a younger audience, providing more BAFA members, raising more awareness of the sport as a whole	
Hopefully assist getting parents involved earlier into Clubs - as due to the younger age of being involved, parents will bring children to training and greater chance of involvement through life of young persons career at the club. Often not happening as when players are 14-19 parents will drop off or let kids get themselves to training/games.	
Proposal 2: Change game format of Youth contact	
Points:	Considerations & Mitigations
Better development progression for players to then move up to 11 a side, especially in the development of lineman and QB's which are sorely lacking in this country. This new structure will provide a better progression than the current 5 a side stright to 11 a side (no lineman in 5 a side to 5 lineman required in 11 a side).	Some teams struggle at present to field 5-a-side teams, and teams currently only need to register 10 players to compete in the upcoming season. Expect Rules to state that teams need to register 14 players to compete in an upcoming season. Mitigation is the length of time programs have to adjust. Also over time, with CADET teams feeding up into YOUTH teams, this will assist with numbers (always easier to move a player up through your age groups than get a brand new person into the sport)
7 a side game will be more interesting & tactical	
Encourages more players to be invovled in the sport as squads will have to be slightly bigger	Clubs will require more equipment. With over a years time to manage this, it gives clubs time to submit for Sport England funding, as well as look at other avenues of grants/fund raising. Maybe Kick Start can be involved as well to help existing clubs? Going from 5v5 to 7v7 requires 4 more sets of kit, although many clubs already register more than 10 players and therefore wouldn't need to purchase any more kit than they already have.
Proposal 3: Change age brackets and align age cut offs with school years	
Points:	Considerations & Mitigations
There is a lot of demand for age brackets to align with school years from teams at present	Is there a difference in school year cut offs in Scotland? Needs to be clarified, but even if so, it will surely be closer than current 1st Jan date and we can't have different cut offs per country, so with most teams in England we must go with majority. There are many coaches who want cut offs to be in alignment with school years. For the sport to grow eventaully we'll have to get some traction into schools (just like rugby is growing more and more due to being in schools and part of the cirriculum). National teams cut offs are based on 1st Jan of the competition year, therefore we would be out of alignment on that front. We must do what is right locally first before worrying about Nationally. Due to GB only having a few camps a year, it is not difficult player eligibility dates when promoting camps. do not foresee this as a cause of concern.
Call for 17 year olds to not be allowed to play with 14 year olds as is the case in 2011 season (previous CLOC even query this being legal as they state it isn't and asking when it was changed for 17 year olds to be allowed to play in the Youth category!)	Questions have been raised of a 14yr old v 17yr old? Isn't this the same of a 16yr old v 19yr; & 10yr old v 13yr old? Why don't we keep the formats as they are, just introduce the Cadet level. Cadet 11-14, Youth 14-17 and Junior 16-19, all of with cut off as 1st January. The difference between 16 & 19 vs 14 & 17 is when young people grow/change. By 16, a lot (not everyone we agree) have gone through puberty. With the range of 14-17 (4 years) the differences can be, and often are, a lot greater. The CADET age range is for 10/11/12 year olds. YOUTH age range is 13/14/15, and JUNIOR 16/17/18/19. Obviously there is always some cross over, to allow coaches some flexibility, but this is what the overall structure is aimed at. The main reason for NOT leaving it as is, is that JUNIOR teams are getting squeezed. If players can play Youth until 17 and Seniors at 18, clubs dont see the value of a Junior team. Obviously in terms of development, we don't think anyone can say that a player should go from 5-a-side with kids straight to Seniors. It's our responsibility as an organisation to make sure the structure provides the best developmental pathway.
Will increase the number of teams in both junior and youth as teams are prevented from fielding just one team or the other due as seen at present due to the current overlap of ages.	Not guaranteed, and some teams may struggle to now field a Junior team if they were to date skipping that team. Nothing is guaranteed, but we find it hard to believe that clubs will run a Youth team for 13/14/15 year olds and then tell them to come back for Senior football at 18. Teams will create Junior teams if they have Senior & Youth teams and currently skipping a step doesnt do the club or players any good. The structure will force clubs to have the right developmental structure in place. As a league we have to define/set the right way to do things, and YOUTH TO SENIOR is definitely not it!!!
Will increase junior player development in 11 a-side kitted as players would be given three full years in 11 a-side. At present a team could field a youth 5 a-side contact team and transfer graduating 17 year old youth players directly into senior football the following year when the player turns 18 thus bypassing junior football altogether.	
Allows for a potential of 10 years of contact football, providing substantial development through Cadet to Youth to Juniors before reaching Seniors. Standards of footballing skills should be increased, making the sport safer for participants.	
Aligning with school age brackets will allow school teams to be set up easier as it will fit in with their current structure	This doesn't align with rest of BAFANL game though, so school teams may struggle to play in the league due to most of season happening outside of school terms. This is true to a point, but training for the season occurs Jan-Apr, which is in school term, and teams can continue to train over the summer and playing in matches (as students do now with their local teams).
Aligning with school age brackets will allow friends from the same school not to be separated onto different aged teams (some playing Youth, some playing Junior)	