

Red Sea Youth Cup Tournament Regulations

Red Sea Youth Cup

AQABA 2027 | AGE GROUP: PLAYERS BORN IN 2012 AND 2013 | 11-A-SIDE FOOTBALL

Introduction

These regulations govern team participation in the 2027 Red Sea Youth Cup in Aqaba. They set out the requirements for registration, the competition format, match administration, and discipline. The IFAB Laws of the Game for the 2026/27 season apply to 11-a-side matches. Where the Laws permit the tournament to establish its own arrangements, the relevant provisions of these regulations shall apply.

Article 1 | Organizing Authority and Scope

The Organizing Committee shall administer the tournament and apply these regulations. Registering a team constitutes acceptance of these regulations.

Matches shall be played on regulation football pitches. Each team may have no more than eleven players on the field at a time, including a goalkeeper.

Matches shall be managed by a refereeing team appointed by the Organizing Committee. During a match, the referee's decisions on facts connected with play shall be final.

Article 2 | Age Group and Player Eligibility

The tournament is for players born in 2012 or 2013.

A player's age shall be verified by passport or an officially approved identity document. The Organizing Committee may verify a player's details and documents before or during a match.

A player may not register or participate for more than one team in the tournament. The participation of an ineligible player shall be referred to the Organizing Committee for an appropriate decision.

Article 3 | Team Registration and Squad List

Each team may register a maximum of 18 players and two coaches.

Teams shall submit their final squad list and required documents by the deadlines announced by the Organizing Committee. No player may be added or replaced after the list has been approved without the Organizing Committee's written approval.

Before each match, the team coach shall submit a match sheet to the organizers, showing the players' names and numbers. Only players approved and listed on that match sheet may participate.

Players and coaches shall present their documents or identification cards when requested by the Organizing Committee or the refereeing team.

Article 4 | Competition Format and Team Standings

Sixteen teams shall participate, divided into four groups of four. Teams in each group shall play a single round-robin.

A win earns three points, a draw earns each team one point, and a loss earns no points. The teams finishing first and second in each group shall qualify for the quarter-finals.

The quarter-finals shall be played on a knockout basis, followed by the semi-finals, the third-place match, and the final. The schedule comprises 32 matches if the third-place match is played.

If a knockout match ends in a draw, qualification shall be decided directly by a penalty shoot-out, with no extra time, unless the Organizing Committee announces otherwise before the tournament begins.

Article 5 | Breaking Ties in the Group Stage

If two or more teams are level on points, their standings shall be determined in the following order:

Points earned in matches between the tied teams; then goal difference in those matches; then goals scored in those matches.

If the tie remains, goal difference in all group matches shall be considered, followed by goals scored in all group matches.

If the tie still remains, the teams' fair-play records, based on cards and disciplinary sanctions, shall be considered. If they remain tied, the Organizing Committee shall conduct a draw.

Article 6 | Match Duration and Minimum Number of Players

Each match shall consist of two 30-minute halves, with a 10-minute half-time interval. The referee shall determine any allowance for time lost in accordance with the circumstances of play.

A match shall not start or continue if either team has fewer than seven players, in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game.

Teams must arrive at the venue at least 20 minutes before kick-off to allow time for identity checks, warm-up, and access to the changing rooms. If a team is more than 10 minutes late for the scheduled kick-off, the Organizing Committee may declare it to have forfeited the match by a score of 0–3.

Article 7 | Ball, Kits, and Equipment

A size 5 ball shall be used in all tournament matches. The Organizing Committee shall provide the match ball.

Each team must bring at least two kits in contrasting colors. If the kits are similar, the team designated by the Organizing Committee shall wear its alternative kit.

Each player must wear a clear, fixed number matching the number recorded on the team's squad list. The goalkeeper must wear a kit that distinguishes them from the outfield players of both teams and from the refereeing team.

The safety requirements in the Laws of the Game shall apply. Equipment that may endanger the player or another person is not permitted.

Article 8 | Substitutions and Procedures

A maximum of six substitutions may be made, across three stoppages during the match. Substitutions shall take place when play is stopped, after the referee's signal, and in the substitution area or at the location designated by the fourth official.

A substituted player may return to play because this is a youth-category competition, subject to approval by the supervising body and the relevant association. The Organizing Committee shall announce any procedural restriction before the first match.

A substitute must be ready to enter and may not enter the field until the substituted player has left and the referee has given the signal.

Article 9 | Application of the Laws of the Game

The IFAB Laws of the Game 2026/27 shall apply to kick-offs; the ball in and out of play; offside; fouls; free kicks; penalty kicks; throw-ins; goal kicks and corner kicks; goalkeeper offences; and all other situations in play.

Penalty shoot-outs shall be conducted in accordance with the procedure set out in the Laws of the Game. The referee shall apply disciplinary sanctions during the match within the referee's authority.

A throw-in shall be awarded to the opposing team if the required method of taking it is not followed. Goal kicks and corner kicks shall be taken in accordance with the relevant Law. These provisions shall not be replaced by futsal or five-a-side football rules.

Article 10 | Discipline and Cards

In-match sanctions shall be applied in accordance with the Laws of the Game. A player who receives a red card shall be sent off and may not be replaced.

Cases involving a direct red card or serious misconduct shall be referred to the Organizing Committee or the Disciplinary Committee, which may impose additional sanctions based on the referee's report and the facts of the case.

Assault, threats, discrimination, verbal abuse, or causing disorder on or off the field are prohibited. Each team is responsible for the conduct of its players, technical staff, and accompanying persons.

Article 11 | Withdrawal, Failure to Appear, and Protests

If a team withdraws from a match or refuses to complete it without a reason accepted by the referee and the Organizing Committee, the matter shall be referred to the Committee to determine the result and sanction. The default result shall be a 0–3 loss unless the actual score is more unfavorable to the withdrawing team.

If a team fails to appear for two matches, the Organizing Committee may exclude it and determine the effect on the group results in a manner that preserves fair competition.

An administrative protest must be submitted in writing by a team representative to the Organizing Committee within one hour after the match ends, stating the grounds. Protests against the referee's discretionary decisions concerning facts of play shall not be accepted.

Article 12 | Responsibilities and Organizational Decisions

Each team shall uphold sportsmanship, respect referees, organizers, and opposing teams, and follow instructions regarding access to the field and technical areas.

The two registered coaches shall represent the team before the Organizing Committee. Only authorized persons may enter the field of play or the technical area.

The Organizing Committee has authority to interpret these regulations, decide on matters not addressed herein, and take the organizational decisions necessary to conduct the tournament. Such decisions shall be documented and communicated to the teams.

Article 13 | Awards

The champion team shall receive the trophy and medals. Medals shall also be awarded to the teams finishing second and third.

The Organizing Committee shall determine the individual awards and the method for selecting their recipients, and shall announce them to the teams before the closing of the tournament.

Article 14 | Final Provisions

Any matter not covered by these tournament regulations shall be governed by the Laws of Association Football issued by the International Football Association Board (IFAB), 2026/27.

Official Reference

The applicable reference is the IFAB Laws of the Game 2026/27, including the provisions on the number of players, substitutions, match duration, and the authority of the referee. The official edition is available at:

<https://www.theifab.com/laws-of-the-game-documents/>