

Rules Checklist

Rule	Description	Effect
<p>Rule 11.8 of the 2023/2024 SFA Handbook (pp. 248-249)</p> <p>Original Unilateral Extension Rule</p>	<p><i>“Subject to Paragraph 11.10 and Paragraph 11.12 of the Registration Procedures, the registration of an Amateur Player Age Groups 10-17 with an Elite level Club in the Club Academy Scotland Programme for Age Group 15 shall be brought forward to Age Group 16 for the following Season on the existing Registration Form and thereafter the registration of such Amateur Player with such Elite level Club for Age Group 16 shall be brought forward for the following and final Season at youth level on the existing Registration Form...”</i></p>	<p>Elite clubs were permitted to unilaterally extend a youth player’s registration for 2 additional seasons – which kept them at their club for 3 seasons in total.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They sign a form at Age Group 15 (1st year). • Club can extend it to cover Age Group 16 (2nd year). • Club can extend it to final year (3rd year). <p>Elite clubs could therefore extend a player’s registration, even if the player wanted to leave.</p> <p>There was no provision allowing players to trigger this extension, so that they stay even if the club doesn’t want them.</p>
<p>Rule 11.7 of the 2024/2025 SFA Handbook (p. 252)</p> <p>Amended Unilateral Extension Rule</p>	<p><i>“Subject to Paragraph 11.9 of the Registration Procedures, the registration of a Club Academy Scotland Player with an Elite level Club in the Club Academy Scotland Programme for Age Group 15 shall be brought forward to Age Group 16 for the following season on the existing Player Registration Form.”</i></p>	<p>Players at Elite clubs are now bound – up front – to a 2 year registration once they reach Age Group 15, covering Age Group 15 and Age Group 16.</p> <p>Players cannot sign a 1 year registration form at this age, even though they could at every previous age.</p> <p>This still locks them in as they turn 16, preventing another club offering a professional contract unless they pay Development Contribution.</p>

<p>Rule 11.6 of the 2024/2025 SFA Handbook p.252 (previously Rule 11.7 in the 2023/2024 SFA Handbook, p. 248)</p> <p>No-Poach Rule</p>	<p><i>“An Elite level Club in the Club Academy Scotland Programme (“Club A”) shall not register as a Club Academy Scotland Player in respect of any Season more than one Player who was registered as a Club Academy Scotland Player with the same Club in the Club Academy Scotland Programme (“Club B”) in the same or the immediately preceding Season in the same Age Group, unless Club A and Club B agree that Club A may sign more than one such Player in such circumstances...”</i></p>	<p>Elite clubs can only sign 1 player from each age group, from each other CAS club, in either the current season or the previous season.</p> <p>Example:</p> <p>Assume Club A is Aberdeen. Assume Club B is Hibernian.</p> <p>Aberdeen signs a 15 year old player from Hibernian the 2024/2025 season. Aberdeen now cannot sign another 15 year old player from Hibernian for the rest of the current season, and the entire next season. That means that current 15 year olds this season are now locked out, but also the current 14 year olds, who will be 15 next season.</p>
<p>Rule F24 (p. 55) and F35 (p. 57) of the Rules and Regulations of the SPFL</p> <p>Development Contribution</p>	<p>F24: <i>“Subject to Rules F25 and F36, in the event that a Player is Registered to another Club on or prior to his 23rd birthday, the Club to whom that Player was last registered shall be entitled to payment of a Development Contribution for the youth development of that Player if he was, during all or, where it is the case, part, of any Development Contribution Year in his Development Contribution Period, Registered to or associated with that Club.”</i></p> <p>F35: <i>“Any Development Contribution due shall be paid by the Club liable to make payment to the Club entitled to same with 14 days of the Secretary of giving notification of such liability to the liable Club.”</i></p>	<p>Clubs subject to SPFL rules must pay ‘development contribution’ to a club if they sign a youth player from that club. This can be due within 14 days of notification.</p> <p>This is not the same as Training Compensation which is an SFA rule (Paragraph 1.2, Annex 8 of the SFA 2024/2025 Handbook, p.303) which is only payable once a player turns professional (Paragraph 1.2.2, Annex 8). Training Compensation is inline with FIFA’s rules on development costs – the SPFL’s Development Contribution is additional to this.</p>

<p>Rule 5.2, Annex 9 of the 2024/2025 SFA Handbook (p. 307)</p> <p>Paragraph 30, Annex 1 of the Rules and Regulations of the SPFL (p. 133)</p> <p>SPFL Code of Conduct for Under 18 Players, Annex 7 of the 2024/2025 SFA Handbook (p. 300)</p> <p>No Approach Rule</p>	<p>SFA Rule: <i>“A Player who is registered as an Amateur Player with a Club participating within the Club Academy Scotland Programme, shall not, either directly or indirectly, make any approach to another Club.”</i></p> <p>SPFL Rule: <i>“A Player shall not directly or indirectly, whether through or by any third party, communicate with or approach any Club or other Football club or any Official or Player of a Club or other Football club with the object of seeking, negotiating or arranging the transfer of himself or another Player to any Club or other Football Club.”</i></p> <p>SFA parents rule: <i>“If appropriate (Players under 16 years of age), the parents/guardians agree to:</i></p> <p><i>Respect the opportunity given to the Player and not approach or permit any other person to approach any other club about the Player during the currency of the Player’s Scottish FA Registration.”</i></p>	<p>Academy players – and their parents – are banned from talking to other clubs to seek a transfer.</p>
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