



# MEMORANDUM

Reference: M25-17

**To:** All Member Clubs  
**From:** Football South Coast Board  
**Date:** 25 September 2025  
**Subject:** Under 18 Competition Update

Dear Members

As part of the October 2024 Board Summary Update, the board advised that in relation to the Under 18s competition, consideration had been given to (a) adverse impacts on junior clubs fielding teams as a result of senior-only clubs entering this competition, (b) the need to promote development pathways across integrated clubs, and (c) impacts on Youth Grade competitions.

We have undertaken a further review of the Under 18 competition and wish to advise that from 2026, only clubs with a current junior base will be accepted into the Under 18 competition.

The current Premier League Youth Grade structure facilitates the registration of players from age 16 to 20 in line with the Men's Premiership Competition rules. It has become clear that players are required to play multiple games across each weekend to facilitate shortages of players within Youth Grade competitions, which could potentially impact player welfare.

With respect to pathway development, we consider age-based football for an increasing time frame for youth players to be in the best interests of the game.

The FSC Board