

OFC YOUTH PLAYER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Guidelines for the OFC U-15 Girls' Youth Development Tournament 2026 delivered in collaboration with UEFA Together

1. OVERALL OBJECTIVE

- 1.1 This development tournament delivered in collaboration with UEFA Together caters for OFC Under-15 Girls. By providing international matches in a tournament environment, this development tournament aims to complement the youth player pathway within the national associations.

2. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1 The national associations are responsible for the strict observation of the player eligibility rules. Each player taking part in the competition must be in possession of a valid passport or identity card of the country for which he is playing, containing a photograph and giving full particulars of his date of birth (day, month and year). Upon request, players who are in the process of acquiring the nationality of the country concerned may take part with both OFC's and UEFA's prior approval.
- The age limits are given in Annex 1.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 Responsibilities – UEFA

- a. Funding

UEFA has approved funding for this tournament project through the UEFA Together program.
- b. Travel

UEFA is responsible for arranging and covering the cost of all necessary international transport including transit accommodation and meals for the participating teams from the Member Associations of UEFA.

3.2 Responsibilities – OFC

- a. Implementation

OFC is responsible for implementing this tournament project in accordance with the UEFA Together Principles.
- b. Coordination

OFC is the host and will coordinate the visiting associations. OFC will ensure that the dates and logistics for this tournament are suitable.
- c. OFC is responsible for the following costs:
 - i) full-board accommodation for 16 players per team
 - ii) full-board accommodation for 4 staff members per team
 - iii) full-board accommodation for the referees, referee observer (if appointed), technical observer and (if applicable) OFC staff
 - iv) provision of a training pitch
 - v) costs relating to the organisation of matches
 - vi) Sharing matches through the Hudl Platform.
 - vii) presence of medical services during matches and training
 - viii) water for the teams during matches
 - ix) official dinner/lunch (optional)

- x) land transport for teams arriving in the country by plane.
- d. Travel

OFC is responsible for arranging and covering the cost of all necessary international transport for the participating teams from the Member Associations of the OFC and UEFA.
- e. Accommodation

OFC is responsible for the coordination and organisation of accommodation in Fiji for the participating associations. If possible, OFC will also organise storage, massage and meeting rooms (can be shared) for all teams.
- f. Meals and drinks

OFC is responsible for organising breakfast, lunch and dinner for the participating teams. A sufficient supply of water must be available for the participants at mealtimes. At all training sessions and matches, a sufficient quantity of water must be provided to the teams.
- g. Match Coordination Meeting
 - i) A match coordination meeting is held the day before match day 1. The tournament director, the technical observer, or an OFC staff member shall chair the meeting. The meeting addresses the following key points:
 - matchday organisation
 - match regulations
 - approval of kit colours
 - scheduling of training sessions.
 - ii) The presence of the following people is required at the organisational meeting:
 - participating teams' heads of delegation
 - teams' head coaches (for the first ten minutes) to discuss the match regulations
 - technical instructor
 - referee observer (if applicable)
 - tournament director.

Please refer to the organisational meeting agenda template to ensure that all necessary items are addressed.
- h. Media Activities
 - i) OFC may set up and manage a media accreditation programme to manage access and privileges of all media personnel and agencies.
 - ii) No representatives of the written press or radio journalists are allowed in the playing area or the area between the boundaries of the field and the spectators.
 - iii) Only a limited number of photographers, TV cameraman and technicians of the host broadcaster – all equipped with special permits for the event – are allowed in the area between the boundaries of the field and the spectators, where they will carry out their work in the specific locations assigned to them.
 - iv) A post-match flash interview and/or press conference may be conducted at the venue and must start no later than 15 minutes after the final whistle. At least the coach and captain of the Participating Association must be available for the flash interview and/or press conference.
 - v) The team dressing-rooms are off limits to representatives of the media before, during and after the match.

- vi) OFC may issue additional Media Regulations specifying the media requirements. All Participating Associations shall fully comply with these regulations and ensure that their Delegation Members and any other persons acting on behalf of the Participating Association also comply.
- i. Filming
 - i) OFC shall film each match of the tournament from the main stand (or another suitable location with a clear view of the pitch).
 - ii) OFC will provide video footage of matches involving their team via the Hudl Platform, for the sole purpose of technical analysis only, to each participating team's head of delegation, the referee observer (if applicable) and the technical instructor.
 - iii) All matches that are filmed by participating associations or local broadcasters cannot be livestreamed on any platforms including social media
 - iv) Notwithstanding OFC's exclusive broadcast rights, the Participating Associations shall be entitled to film video recordings of the following activities, using one (1) camera and for technical analysis purposes only.
 - all matches, including its own team and opposing teams;
 - training sessions of its own team only
 - v) All filming activities by Participating Associations are subject to availability of space and infrastructure at each match and training venue and prior written approval from OFC. At match venues, priorities on allocation of filming area will be given to the host broadcaster, followed by the teams that are playing the match and then non-playing teams.
- j. Photographs

OFC shall provide UEFA with high-resolution photographs (including a group picture) for possible use on UEFA.com and in official UEFA publications.
- k. Referees

The OFC is responsible for appointing the referees. It will appoint promising young referees if available. A referee observer may be appointed by the OFC to supervise the referees and conduct post-match analysis meetings. Development tournaments also serve to develop promising young referees by offering them the opportunity to referee international youth matches. The referees complete a referee's report after each match.
- l. Balls

For each team, OFC will provide at least:

 - i) 12 match balls for each match; and
 - ii) 12 match balls for each training.
- m. Budget

OFC is responsible for ensuring that it carries out all of its responsibilities within the budget agreed with UEFA as part of OFC's application.

3.3 Responsibilities – host (OFC)

a. Security

The host is responsible for order and security before, during and after the match.

b. Transport

The host is responsible for arranging all domestic transport for the participating teams and visiting OFC and UEFA officials, including transport from and back to the airport if applicable.

c. Medical services

The host must ensure an appropriate medical service at matches, including:

- i) stretchers (which must be kept by the substitutes' benches)
- ii) a sufficient number of stretcher-bearers
- iii) an ambulance
- iv) medical personnel on stand-by.

d. Pitches

The host is responsible for arranging match and training pitches.

All teams must be able to train on a training pitch with the same surface (artificial or natural grass) as the match pitches. Training grounds can be shared by the participating teams.

e. Ball boys/girls

To ensure the smooth running of games, the host must provide ball boys/girls for each match.

f. Insurance

- i) The host must have public liability and indemnity insurance cover. Such insurance cover must involve an appropriate sum for injury and damage to persons and property and correspond to the specific responsibilities', circumstances of the Organising Association. The policies must fully cover all risks concerned with staging of the tournament. OFC must be named as an insured party on the policies and provided with the certificates of currency one week before the tournament commences.

g. Commitments

The participating associations will have no authority to commit OFC to any obligations, without written consent.

3.4 Responsibilities – participating associations

a. Travel and accommodation

Participating associations are responsible for:

- i) the full costs for any additional Delegation Members;
- ii) visa costs for all Delegation Members
- iii) the full costs incurred by any flight changes, cancellations, name changes and excess luggage for all Delegation Members;
- iv) incidental costs and expenses incurred by all Delegation Members during the course of their stay in the host country, and any costs incurred by any persons carrying out duties on their behalf.
- v) Laundry costs at the accommodation
- vi) Re-fuelling of the team vehicles to be provide by OFC and for any damages to the vehicles

b. Insurance

Participating associations are responsible for ensuring that all members of their delegation have travel, medical and indemnity insurance.

c. Visas

Participating associations are responsible for identifying any members of their delegation who require a visa to enter New Zealand or any territory they pass through on the way and from the tournament and for applying for visas in good time.

d. Disciplinary

The participating associations will be responsible for disciplinary matters arising for its delegation members, not covered in these guidelines.

4. TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

1 May: Latest arrival of the teams – Training sessions

2 May: Rest day – training sessions – tournament welcome

3 May: Rest day – training sessions – Match Coordination Meeting

4 May: Match Day 1 Kick-off 10:00, 13:00, 16:00 + training sessions for teams with bye

5 May: Rest day – training sessions

6 May: Match Day 2 Kick-off 10:00, 13:00, 16:00 + training sessions for teams with bye

7 May: Rest day – training sessions

8 May: Match Day 3 Kick-off 10:00, 13:00, 16:00 + training sessions for teams with bye

9 May: Rest day – training sessions

10 May: Match Day 4 Kick-off 10:00, 13:00, 16:00 & 19:00 played simultaneously + friendly match TBC

11 May: Rest day – training sessions

12 May: Match Day 5 Kick-off 10:00, 13:00, 16:00 & 19:00 played simultaneously + friendly match TBC

13 May: Earliest departure of the teams

4.2 The tournament schedule may be slightly modified with OFC's prior approval.

4.3 Education workshops may be added by OFC

4.4 All teams must arrive no later than two days before their first match and leave as soon as possible after their last match.

5. MATCH FORMAT

5.1 The tournament shall be played in a group stage only.

5.2 OFC will divide the 9 participating associations shall be divided into three groups: The teams in the three groups will be designated as follows:

Group A	Group B	Group C
A1	B1	C1
A2	B2	C2
A3	B3	C3

5.3 The matches shall be played in accordance with the following schedule drawn up by OFC. The first named team is considered the home team (Team A):

Match Day 1	Match Day 2	Match Day 3	Match Day 4	Match Day 5
A1 v A2	A1 v A3	A2 v A3	Friendly match TBC	Friendly matches
A3 Bye	A2 Bye	A1 Bye	Match for the 7 th place	
B1 v B2	B1 v B3	B2 v B3	Match for the 5 th place	
B3 Bye	B2 Bye	B1 Bye	Match for the 3 rd place	
C1 v C2	C1 v C3	C2 v C3	Final	
C3 Bye	C2 Bye	C1 Bye		

- 5.4 Each match will comprise of three thirds of 25minutes. The interval between each third will last 7 minutes.
- 5.5 If the scores are level at the end of normal time, no extra time will be played.
- 5.6 At the end of each game kicks from the penalty mark will take place regardless of the score (with five penalty kicks for each team - sudden death system if the score is still equal).
- 5.7 Points system
- 3 points are awarded for a full-time win
 - 1 point is awarded for a full-time draw
 - 0 points are awarded for a full-time defeat
- 5.8 Determining a winner
- The ranking of each team in each group shall be determined as follows:
 - greater number of points obtained in all group matches;
 - superior goal difference in all group matches;
 - greater number of goals scored in all group matches.
 - If two [2] or more teams are equal on the basis of the above three criteria, their rankings shall be determined as follows:
 - greater number of points obtained in the group matches between the teams concerned;
 - superior goal difference resulting from the group matches between the teams concerned;
 - greater number of goals scored in all group matches between the teams concerned;
- 5.9 Each team may use five substitutes in the course of the match. The use of substitution boards (preferably electronic) to indicate the substitution of players is compulsory. Substitution boards must be numbered on both sides.
- 5.10 Disciplinary matters
- A player who is given a red card will not be suspended for the next match. Likewise, a player who is given two yellow cards during the tournament will not be suspended for the next match.
 - Where a red card is issued, the player cannot participate in the remainder of the match, but can be substituted.
 - In the event of unsporting conduct during the tournament, the tournament director must submit a written report to the relevant national association so that an appropriate course of action can be decided upon.

6. PLAYERS AND STAFF

6.1 Player lists

- Each participating association must complete a player list:

- i) OFC Member Associations shall submit their Player list in COMET; and
 - b. The Provisional List with at least 18 players and head coach will be submitted by Tuesday 24 March 2026 (New Zealand Date).
 - c. The Official Team List with a maximum of 16 players and at least 4 team officials will be submitted by Tuesday 21 April 2026 (New Zealand Date).
- 6.2 Playing time and player protection
- a. To underline the development nature of these tournaments, each player must play at least 160 minutes across the four matches.
- 6.3 Staff
- a. In order to maximise the development of players and staff during these tournaments, the preferred staff roles accompanying each team should include:
 - i) a head coach
 - ii) an assistant coach
 - iii) a goalkeeper coach
 - iv) team manager

7. CONTACT

- 7.1 Should you require further information or have any specific questions concerning this development tournament, please feel free to contact:

Name and Role	Email	Mobile
Michael Song <i>Host & Teams Organisation</i>	michael@oceaniafootball.com	+64 211350726
Regan Cameron <i>Host & Teams Organisation</i>	regan.cameron@oceaniafootball.com	+64 2108534939
Sachin Lal <i>Teams Organisation</i>	sachin.lal@oceaniafootball.com	+64 21431871

Annex 1: Development Tournament Rules – Overview

	Girls U-15
Participating Member Associations	9 (COK, FIJ, NCL, NZL, SAM, SOL, TAH, TGA, UEFA: 1)
Upper age limit (date of birth)	01/01/2011
Lower age limit (date of birth)	31/12/2012
Substitutions	5 subs max
Player protection (match duration)	3 x 25'
Minimum playing time per player (compulsory)	160'
Minimum number of match days	5
Technical observer	Appointed by OFC
Referee observer	Appointed by OFC
Referees	OFC referees to be appointed
Penalties	Penalties at full-time
COMET player registration	Yes