



# COMPETITION RULES AND REGULATIONS

## 1- REGULATIONS

The present **Villarreal Yellow Cup Summer 2026** tournament shall be governed by the FIFA Laws of the Game and by the regulations currently in force of the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF), except for the specific modifications provided for in these Regulations.

## 2- COMPETITION SYSTEM

A group phase will be played between the participating teams, which will play against each other. The final rankings in the group phase will decide which teams will advance to the final phase.

A minimum of 4 matches is guaranteed.

## 3- SCORING

- Match won: 3 points.
- Match drawn: 1 point.
- Match lost: 0 points.

In the event that two or more teams are tied at the end of the group stage, the qualification criteria shall be as follows:

- Overall goal difference (goals scored minus goals conceded).
- Teams with the highest number of goals scored.
- Results in head-to-head matches.
- Fair Play (total number of cards received).
- If the ties remain tied after applying all the tie-breaking criteria, the outcome shall be decided by a random draw supervised by the organisation.

Matches in the final phase will be played as one-legged ties and in the event of a draw, a penalty shoot-out will be held.

- 7-a-side: Best of 3 penalties.
- 11-a-side: Best of 5 penalties.

The penalty kick takers and goalkeepers in the penalty shoot-out must be players who have finished regular playing time on the field of play.

## 4- MATCH DURATION

### GROUP STAGE

- 7-a-side: 1 period of 25 minutes.
- 11-a-side: 1 period of 40 minutes.

### GOLD STAGE

- 7-a-side: 2 periods of 20 minutes.
- 11-a-side: 2 periods of 25 minutes.

### SILVER STAGE

- 7-a-side: 1 period of 25 minutes.
- 11-a-side: 1 period of 40 minutes.

(Except for the final, which will be played in 2 periods of 20 minutes (7-a-side) and 2 periods of 25 minutes (11-a-side).

### BRONZE STAGE

- 7-a-side: 1 period of 25 minutes.
- 11-a-side: 1 period of 40 minutes.

**Half-times** in matches with two periods will take place on the field of play and will be 4 minutes long.

The schedules shall be strictly adhered to.  
Teams must be ready 10 minutes before each match.

**Failure of a team to appear for a match** shall result in a 3-0 defeat, awarded in favour of the opposing team.

If a team is **expelled** from or **withdraws** from the competition, its remaining matches shall be declared as 3-0 defeats.

Adverse weather conditions: In the event of wind gusts affecting and disadvantaging one of the two teams, both teams shall switch sides after half of the regulation time for the respective phase of the tournament has been completed.

## 5- SUBSTITUTIONS

Substitutions must always be authorised by the referee.

Each team shall have a maximum of three substitution windows, during which they may make as many changes as they deem appropriate.

Substitutions made during half-time shall not be considered as being part of a substitution window.

A team may use the opposing team's substitution windows to replace the maximum number of players possible.

## 6- AGE GROUPS

### 7-A-SIDE

**Prebenjamín (U8)** (Born in 2019/2018)

**Benjamín Year 1 (U9)** (Born in 2017)

**Benjamín Year 2 (U10)** (Born in 2016)

**Alevín Year 1 (U11)** (Born in 2015)

**Alevín Year 2 (U12)** (Born in 2014)

**Girls (U13)** (Born in 2015/2014/2013)

### 11-A-SIDE

**Infantil (U14)** (Born in 2013/2012)

**Cadete (U16)** (Born in 2011/2010)

**Juvenil (U18)** (Born in 2009/2008)

**Girls (U16)** (Born in 2012/2011/2010)

## 7- EXCEPTIONS

In the Benjamín Year 1 (U9) age group, a maximum of two players born in 2016 can be registered.

In the Alevín Year 1 (U11) age group, a maximum of two players born in 2014 can be registered.

In the Girls (U13) age group, a maximum of two players born in 2012 can be registered.

In the Girls (U16) age group, a maximum of two players born in 2009 can be registered.

In the Juvenil (U18) age group, a maximum of two players born in 2007 can be registered.

## 8- DOCUMENTATION

All teams must have provided the tournament organisers with the supporting documentation (full name, date of birth, ID/Passport) of their players **fifteen days prior to their arrival** at the competition in order to verify the list of footballers and activate the private or federative medical insurance that will cover the competition.

Important: A player may not play for two different teams, even if they belong to the same club. Such conduct shall be sanctioned with a 3-0 defeat awarded in favour of the opposing team.

The procedure for filing a claim is:

1. Notify the referee of the incident and have it recorded in the match report where it was detected.
2. Submit all relevant evidence to the match table staff, who shall forward it to the tournament organisers.

## 9- REFEREES AND STAFF

All matches shall be officiated by **referees** appointed by the Valencian Association of Referees, acting with full independence from the tournament organisers.

The referee holds the highest and exclusive authority on the field of play and is the only official competent to apply the Laws of the Game, interpret the regulations during the match, and make technical or disciplinary decisions, including the temporary or permanent suspension of the match in cases of serious or repeated unsporting behaviour.

The determination of disciplinary consequences following the match shall fall under the jurisdiction of the Competition Committee.

The **match table staff** shall perform solely administrative and organisational functions, without any authority over the sporting conduct of the match.

Their duties will be:

- To record events that occur during the match by preparing the official match report, which must be signed by the coaches of the participating teams and the referee.
- To provide information on the tournament regulations and their correct organisational application.
- To assist the referee in communication tasks with the team benches.
- To relay to the tournament organisers the match results, incidents noted in the report, and any other relevant information.

The match table staff shall not intervene in technical, disciplinary, or refereeing decisions, nor shall they have the authority to modify, alter, or influence decisions made by the referee.

Under no circumstances shall they be held responsible for the sporting outcome of the match or for the refereeing decisions taken during it.

## 10- SANCTIONS

A direct red card for violent or serious unsporting behaviour shall result, at a minimum, in a one-match suspension. In other cases, the referee shall determine whether the card entails a suspension for the next match.

The Competition Committee may extend the sanction up to expulsion from the tournament, depending on the severity of the offence.

Sanctions may be appealed to the Competition Committee before the conclusion of the phase of the tournament currently being played.

## 11- TROPHIES AND PRIZES

Trophies shall be awarded to the champions and runners-up of the Gold Stages and to the champions of the Silver Stages. Awards shall also be given to the top scorers and MVPs of each category.

For the Top Scorer (Pichichi) Trophy, goals scored in the group stages and the Gold Stage shall be counted. In the event of a tie, the award shall go to the player whose team progresses furthest in the competition.

## 12- COMPETITION COMMITTEE

It shall be composed of a current or former football player, a representative of the tournament organisers, an active coach, and a lawyer specialised in sports law. They shall review all incidents of the matchday, and their decisions shall be final and binding.

## 13- BALLS AND KIT

The organisers shall provide the balls for the matches, but shall **NOT supply balls for warm-ups.**

In the event of a kit clash in terms of colour, the team designated as the away side in the schedule shall change its kit.

## 14- BEHAVIOUR AND FAIR PLAY

Each club shall be responsible for the behaviour of its players, staff, and family members.

The tournament is governed by the principles of integrity, respect, and fair play promoted by FIFA, UEFA, the RFEF, and the FCCV. All teams, players, coaches, and accompanying personnel must maintain exemplary sporting conduct both on and off the field, respecting the Laws of the Game, refereeing decisions, opponents, and the organisers, while ensuring the prevention of violence, racism, xenophobia, and intolerance in sport.

Any conduct contrary to the spirit of fair play may be sanctioned by the Competition Committee, including expulsion from the tournament in cases of serious or repeated offences.

## 15- INSURANCE

All team delegates must ensure that their players are covered by private or federative medical insurance, both on and off the field of play.

The organisers shall not be held responsible for any loss, theft, or damage suffered by participants or accompanying persons outside the scope of the insurance contracted for the competition.

All participants are covered by accident insurance during the sporting activity of the tournament, provided they are correctly registered before the established deadline (**8. DOCUMENTATION**). The coverage includes medical expenses for up to 90 days from the date of the accident. Travel by public or private transport is excluded. It will be possible to extend this insurance by notifying the tournament organization for its management and processing

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The organisers reserve the right to modify match times, venues, or the competition format due to force majeure, adverse weather conditions, or duly justified organisational circumstances.