



24 SENIOR SHIELD 25

Senior Shield

Competitions Regulations



SENIOR SHIELD



Name of the Competition

1. The Competition shall be officially called the “2024-25 Senior Shield”. The Football Association of Hong Kong, China Limited (hereinafter referred to as the “**HKFA**”) reserves the rights to add the name of the Title Sponsor or to change the entire competition name into the name of the Title Sponsor.

Governance of the Competition

2. The Senior Shield shall be wholly governed by HKFA.

General Provisions

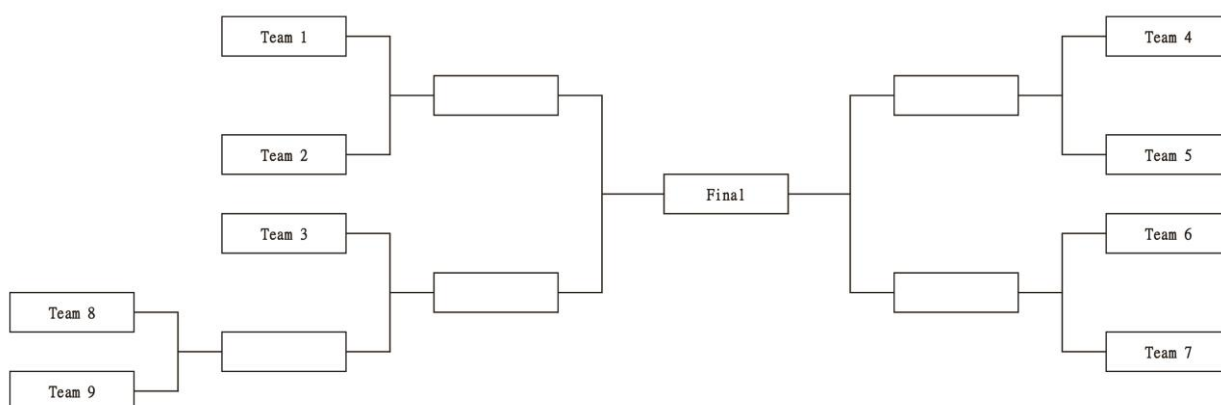
3. Unless otherwise stated in these Regulations, 2024-25 Hong Kong Premier League Competition Regulations shall apply.
4. Unless otherwise stated in these Regulations, the current HKFA Constitution, rules, regulations, codes, guidelines, circulars or directives in force at the time of the Competition are binding for all parties participating and involving in the Competition (including but not limited to the players, team officials, referees or competition staff, etc).

Club Entry & Participation

5. The participating teams of 2024-25 Hong Kong Premier League shall participate in Senior Shield. Each participating club shall not send more than one team to participate. The HKFA Board has the right to invite local or foreign teams to participate in the Competition.
6. With the approval of at least two-thirds of attending directors, the HKFA Board may reject the application filed by any team for participation in the Competition.

Playing Format and Related Arrangement

7. Each participating team shall send its best team to play. Otherwise, it shall submit a report specifying the reason to the Secretariat of HKFA.
8. The Senior Shield will be played under single knockout format (please refer to the chart below). The pairings of the first match of the participating teams shall be determined by a draw. The participating teams that advanced to the semi-finals of the 2023-24 Senior Shield will be the seeded teams and will directly advance to the quarter-finals, while the seeded team will not play against another seeded team in the quarter-finals.





9. Each Match shall last ninety (90) minutes, comprising two (2) periods of forty-five (45) minutes, with a half-time interval of fifteen (15) minutes. When a match ends in a tie after completion of the 90-minute period, the match shall go into extra time which is comprising two (2) periods of fifteen (15) minutes. If the result is still draw, a penalty shoot-out as defined in the Laws of the Game will be applied to determine the winner of the match.
10. The substitution arrangement for each team in each match is as follows:
 - 10.1 Each team has a maximum of five substitutes;
 - 10.2 Each team has a maximum of three substitution opportunities (If both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as a used substitution opportunity for each team. Multiple substitutions by a team during the same stoppage in play count as one used substitution opportunity);
 - 10.3 Each team may have additionally substitution opportunity at half-time.
 - 10.4 If the match needs to go to extra time, the substitution arrangement for each team is as follows:
 - 10.4.1 If a team has not used its maximum number of substitutes or substitution opportunities, the unused substitutions and opportunities may be used in extra time;
 - 10.4.2 Each team has one additional substitute and one additional substitution opportunity in extra time;
 - 10.4.3 Each team may make substitutions in the period between full-time and the start of extra time, or at half-time in extra time, the substitution will not be regarded as a substitution opportunity.
 - 10.5 The Competition will introduce the additional permanent concussion substitutions in accordance with Law of the Game. When the team's medical staff indicates to the referee that the injured player has suffered or is suspected of concussion, the team can use a "concussion substitute". When a "concussion substitution" is used, the opposing team then has the option to use an "additional substitution" for any reason. The relevant arrangements will be implemented in accordance with Law of the Game.
11. HKFA has the right to change or alter the competition system based on the number of participating teams or other special reasons and reserves the right to modify the competition system if necessary.
12. If any team withdraws from the Competition, the completed match record will not be affected and the remaining match schedule will continue according to the fixture.



Match Venue and Fixture

13. HKFA is responsible for the venue arrangement.
14. HKFA shall be responsible for drawing up the fixtures of the Competition and the Participating Clubs shall play in all their matches so arranged. The fixture list containing match information including but not limited to the match dates, kick-off times, venues, Home Teams (first-named) and Visiting Teams (last-named) shall be disseminated by HKFA to participating clubs before the commencement of a season. HKFA reserves the right to make change to the fixture.

Match Balls and Equipment Regulations

15. HKFA reserves right of ball deals and provide the official balls for matches.
16. Participating teams shall comply strictly with the HKFA Equipment Regulations.

Eligibility of Players

17. The same player shall only participate in this Competition for one club in the same season. (The player who is fielded in the match will be counted as participation. It will not be counted as participation if the player is only listed in the start list but not be fielded in the match)

Trophy and Medal

18. The Senior Shield trophy is the property of HKFA.
19. The Champion shall receive the Senior Shield trophy, and the trophy shall return to HKFA in good condition two months before the final match of 2025-26 Senior Shield. HKFA reserves the right to recourse to the champion team for related repair costs if the trophy is damaged during the retention period.
20. The Champion shall be awarded a replica of the trophy for retention, and forty-five (45) commemorative medals.
21. The Runners-up shall be awarded forty-five (45) medals.
22. The player of the match in the final shall be awarded a trophy.

Violation of the Regulations

23. If any participating club and its team officials or players violate these Regulations or other misconduct, the relevant matter will be referred to the Disciplinary & Ethics Committee for handling.



Languages

24. In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the English and Chinese version of these Regulations, the Chinese version shall be authoritative.

Amendment and Interpretation of the Regulations

25. HKFA Board shall have the right to make amendments, additions, deletions and to interpret any articles in these Regulations.

-- End --



SENIOR SHIELD





SENIOR SHIELD