

Executive Summary

There have been numerous enquiries from all stakeholders of the football industry regarding specifications of youth balls. The most frequently asked questions relate to appropriate sizes, circumferences and weights of balls for players of different age group and whether there are uniform guidelines for production and use of footballs.

In an effort to provide guidance to these stakeholders, the Football Quality Programme at FIFA has conducted extensive research into the existing market and provided an overview of recommendations for different ball sizes to be used in youth football for different age groups. The aim of this document is to provide a consolidated overview of the existing standards and guidelines used in different countries as well as to provide guidance on recommended sizes for the footballs to be used at youth level.

The final list of recommendations includes an addition of three new youth footballs to the two existing size 4 and size 5 Quality Programme balls.

Note: these recommendations are not compulsory. They are based on market research as well as significant consultation with member associations, clubs and manufacturers and are meant to provide universal guidelines for all stakeholders.

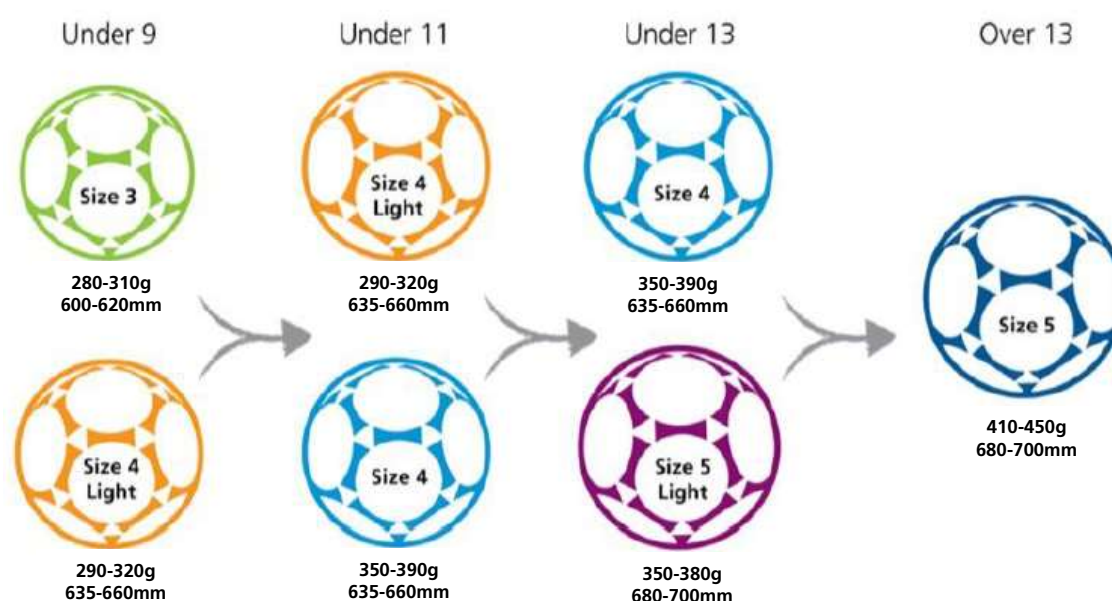


Figure 1: Recommended development route for ball sizes and masses

		Youth Balls			Laws of the Game & FQP	
		Size 3	Size 4 Light	Size 5 Light	Size 4	Size 5
Circumference (mm)	min	600	635	680	635	680
	max	620	660	700	660	700
Mass (g)	min	280	290	350	350	410
	max	310	320	380	390	450

Table 1: overview of recommended youth balls alongside existing test criteria for Laws of the Game compliant balls.