

CHILDREN'S TOURNAMENTS/FESTIVALS - RULES (subject to change)

Protests regarding refereeing decisions will not be allowed under any circumstances.

The Tournament Organisers (Jeff Garner & Tony Hoskins) will adjudicate on general matters if and when necessary. Their decision will be final. Rules are subject to change as deemed necessary by the Tournament Organisers.

Any Manager/Coach/Physio reported by the referee to the Tournament Organisers for inappropriate behaviour will be asked to leave the playing area. Please ensure the appropriate parties are made aware of this rule which will be strictly enforced.

Only the Players, Manager, Coach or Physio are allowed on the pitch or the pitch perimeter. All spectators must remain in the stands.

Each group will consist of four teams. Each team in that group will play each other on a league basis with three points being awarded for the winner of each match and one point for each team when matches are drawn. The top two in each group will progress to the knockout stages of the "Trophy" competition and the bottom two in each group will be entered into the knockout stages of the "Plate" competition. Group positions will be decided by :

1. Highest number of points awarded.
2. Greatest goal difference where teams are level on points.
3. Greatest number of goals scored.
4. Least number of goals conceded.
5. Winner of the match between the relevant teams.
6. If an identical situation exists then the order will be decided by a penalty shoot-out consisting of three penalties for each team and then "sudden death" (a player cannot take two penalties in this situation).
7. Drawn matches in the knockout stages will be decided by a penalty shoot-out in the same format described in 6. However, if the "Final" of a competition is drawn then each team will take five penalties before the "sudden death" situation commences.

The tournaments will be run on the guidelines of the FA's rules for small-sided matches.

Match rules are as follows (subject to change) :

1. Matches will be 7-a-side ie one goalkeeper and six outfield players. Rolling substitutions allowed at anytime during a match but a team can only have seven players on the pitch at the same time.
2. Unless otherwise advised, matches will be of fifteen minutes duration (no half-times).
3. All free kicks are direct.
4. At free kicks, all players must retreat three metres from where the kick is being taken.
5. No shooting direct from the centre spot when a game commences or re-starts after a goal has been scored.

6. No offsides.
7. Outfield players are allowed in the "Goalkeepers Area".
8. In the U9's/U10's/U11's & U12's tournaments, the goalkeepers must roll out the ball underarm. The goalkeepers in the U7's & U8's events can kick from the hands in the conventional manner.
9. Goalkeepers cannot pick up the ball from a back pass. If this rule is infringed then a direct free kick will be awarded at the point where the infringement occurred.
10. Goalkeepers are not allowed to handle the ball outside of the area. A direct free-kick will be awarded at the point where any infringement occurs.
11. Goal-Kicks are to be taken anywhere along the bye-line and the ball has to leave the goalkeepers area before being touched by another player.
12. Throw-ins are to be taken in an underarm fashion (except Under 7's and Under 8's) and the ball is to be rolled along the ground. Players in the U7's and U8's events can throw-in in the conventional manner.
13. Penalty kicks will be taken from the designated spot.
14. During matches, the referee's decision is absolutely final at all times.
15. Any player booked twice in the competition will be subject to a 1 match suspension in his team's next match. This rule may be overturned by the Tournament Organisers (will basically depend on the severity of the offences) but their decision will be final.
16. Any player sent off in the competition will be subject to a 1 match suspension in his team's next match. This rule may be overturned by the Tournament Organisers (will basically depend on the severity of the offence) but their decision will be final.

Players must wear shinpads for the duration of each match.

No jewellery of any kind to be worn during matches.