

1 Affiliation and Players' Ages :

All Clubs entering the tournament must be affiliated to their appropriate football association (FA).
Players must be eligible to play in the age group in which they played during the 2018/19 season.
Teams will be disqualified for fielding over-aged players.

2 Teams, Substitutes and Sending-offs :

U7, U8, U16, U18 & U24 events will be 5 a-side + 2 substitutes. All other age groups will be 6 a-side + 2 subs.
A list of players for each team must be handed in at the Registration Tent at least 15 minutes before their first KO time. A maximum of 2 guest players per team is allowed.

A substitute may only come onto the field of play when the referee gives permission. Once a substitute has come on in a game, the player replaced can take no further part in that game.

A player sent off the field of play by a referee shall take no further part in the tournament. The vacant place shall not be filled by a substitute for the remainder of that game. The offender shall not be eligible for a trophy should his/her team win or finish runner-up. A player receiving 2 yellow cards will receive an immediate one-match suspension.

3 Duration of Matches and Knock-out Phase Rules :

League matches for U7 to U13 age groups will be 8 minutes duration with no half-time.

League matches for U14 to U24 age groups will be 10 minutes duration with no half-time.

Knock-out matches will consist of two halves of 5 minutes. If scores are level after normal time, then there will be 4 minutes of sudden death extra time with the team scoring a goal winning the match. If no goal is scored in sudden death, then each team will take 3 penalties to decide the winner. If scores are level after the 3 penalties, then sudden death penalties will decide the outcome.

Finals : U9 to U13 will consist of two halves of 7 minutes with the U14 to U24 two halves of 8 minutes.

4 Match Ball & choice of End or KO including Penalty Shootouts :

The 1st named team will supply the match ball & kick off the match. The 2nd named team will choose ends.

5 The Points Scoring System :

There will be 3 points for a win, 2 points for a score draw and 1 point for 0-0.

If teams are level on points at the end of the league stage, goal difference will decide the position in the league. If goal differences are equal, then most goals scored will be taken into account. If teams are still level, the result between the teams will be taken into account. If teams are still level, then sendings-off and yellow cards will be considered. If teams are still level, the Organiser will swear and toss a coin to decide the winner.

6 Goal Kicks & Free Kicks :

For ALL age groups, goal kicks will be taken from the goal line. For U7 to U9 age groups, opposing players must retreat to the halfway line.

For U7 & U8 age groups, goalkeepers can kick the ball out directly from their hands (fly kicks). In all other age groups goalkeepers cannot kick directly from their hands but must either throw the ball out or roll it along the ground (not bouncing it) and kick it out. ALL Free Kicks are direct.

7 Back Pass and Off-side Rules :

For U7 & U8 age groups, the back pass rule will not apply. It will apply to all other age groups.

There will be no off-side in any of the tournament matches.

8 Conduct and Housekeeping :

Team managers will be held responsible for the behaviour of their players both on and off the field.

Each team will be provided with a black bin liner when registering and will be asked to ensure their players and supporters use this for any rubbish.

Please ensure that supporters and substitutes keep behind the respect pitch-side ropes. Only managers/coaches are allowed within the ropes.

9 Timekeeping, Colours and Match Balls :

Teams must be ready for their matches at the specified KO times. If not, they may forfeit the match.

The second named team will change/wear bibs if colours clash.

Match balls : Size 3 for U7/8/9, Size 4 for U10/11/12/13/14 and Size 5 for U15/16/18/U21.

10 Miscellaneous :

The referee's decision is FINAL - there are no appeals.

Any points or issues not covered by these rules shall be referred to the Tournament Committee whose decision shall be final.

***At all times, please remember that the main aim of our tournament is about the development of young footballers and the enjoyment of EVERYONE.
Thank you for your support and co-operation.***