

Horsford F.C. Tournament 2026 Rules

- 1. **Equipment:**
 - a. No studded boots, moulded boots, or blades are to be worn on the day.
 - b. All players must wear astro turf boots/trainers.
 - c. Shin pads covered with socks must be worn.
 - d. All teams must bring a set of bibs or alternative shirts in the event of a colour clash.
 - e. All teams must bring a match ball, and the home team listed on the fixture shall use their ball as the match ball.
- 2. **Prohibited Items:**
 - a. No dogs, cycles, or scooters are permitted on site.
 - b. No smoking or vaping on site.
 - c. No alcohol to be brought on site.
- 3. **Player Registration:** All teams must register a maximum of 8 players on the tournament registration form, which must be completed on the portal prior to the commencement of play.
- 4. **Player Participation:** Players can only be registered for one team in the morning session, and one team in the afternoon session.
- 5. **Retreat Rule:** The retreat rule applies from the Under 7's to Under 10's age groups.
- 6. **Heading:** Heading the ball is not permitted in Under 7's to Under 10's age groups. Heading the ball in the penalty area will result in an indirect free kick on the edge of the penalty area closest to the offence. Elsewhere on the pitch will be an indirect free kick at the point of the offence.
- 7. **Substitutes:** Substitutes are roll-on, roll-off and can be made at any time during the game at the referee's discretion.
- 8. **Kick off:** A team cannot score directly from the kick off. The ball can go forwards or backwards.
- 9. **Match Duration:**
 - a. Each game will last for 10 minutes one way, with stoppage time to be determined by the referee.
 - b. In the event of a match progressing into extra-time (semi-final and final ties), 5 minutes shall be played one way.
 - i. If the match is still undecided after extra-time, the match will be determined by a penalty shoot-out (5 penalties followed by sudden death).
 - ii. During a penalty shootout, only the players on the pitch at the end of extra-time will be allowed to participate in the penalty shootout. No change of goalkeepers will be allowed.
- 10. **Points System:** During the league stage, 3 points will be awarded for a win, 1 point will be awarded for a draw.
- 11. **Semi-finals Qualification:**
 - a. In all age groups, a minimum of two teams from each group will qualify to enter the semi-finals.
 - b. The winner of Group A will play the runner-up in Group B and vice-versa.
 - c. In the event of there being one group in a particular age group, the top four will go through to semi-finals where 1st will play 4th in one semi-final tie and 2nd will play 3rd in the other.
- 12. **Goalkeeper Rules:**
 - a. The Goalkeeper will only be allowed to handle the ball in the penalty area.
 - b. Any player may enter and play the ball within the penalty area.
 - c. The Goalkeeper can leave the penalty area and will then be treated as a normal outfield player.
 - d. After catching/picking up the ball during open play, the Goalkeeper must play the ball to any player on their team by an underarm roll along the ground, or any kick other than a drop kick/half volley.
 - e. When the ball is in the Goalkeeper's hand during open play, if the Goalkeeper decides to place the ball on the floor, it becomes live and can then be tackled by an opposition player.
 - f. Incorrect distribution of the ball when in the Goalkeeper's hand (i.e. drop kick, half volley or any roll not played along the ground) will result in a direct free kick to the opposition, two yards outside the penalty area.
 - g. If the ball leaves the field of play for a goal kick, the goalkeeper can distribute it via an under-arm roll along the floor. If they choose to place the ball on the floor to kick, it becomes live and they can be tackled by an opposition player.
 - h. Goalkeeper cannot pick up a back-pass; if they do, then a direct kick will be awarded to the opposing team from two yards outside of the area.
- 13. **Corners and Throw-ins:**
 - a. There shall be normal corner kicks.
 - b. Under 7 to Under 10: Can dribble-in or pass-in.
 - c. Under 11 and above: A throw-in is completed by an under-arm roll-in along the ground.
- 14. **Height Restrictions:** There will be no height restrictions.
- 15. **Free Kicks:** All free kicks are direct except for a deliberate header in Under 7's to Under 10's; defending players must retreat 2 yards.
- 16. **Group Positions:** Group positions will be determined by:
 - a. The number of points accrued.
 - b. Teams level on points will be separated by goal difference.
 - c. Teams level on goal difference will be separated by the most number of goals scored.
 - d. Teams level on goals scored will be separated by the result between the tied teams.
 - e. If the teams are still tied, group position will be determined by a penalty shootout.
- 17. **Match Results:** All match results must be submitted via the Tournify website. All managers will be sent a personalised link for the team they are managing allowing them to submit each result.
- 18. **Discipline:** Any player sent off will be reported to the Organising Committee and will take no further part in the remainder of the tournament. He or she cannot be replaced by another representative of the club.
- 19. **Committee Decisions:** All decisions made by the Organising Committee are final and not open to appeal.
- 20. **Fair Play:** Fair Play is to be encouraged by officials, players, and supporters of all clubs at all times.