

The Sports Tours Amateur Football Tournament Rules

1. Management of the Tournament

Tournaments shall be governed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association (The FA). Matches shall be played in accordance within the Laws of the game as determined by the International Football Association Board.

2. Eligible Clubs and Entry Fee

The Tournaments shall be open to all affiliated clubs that have the approval of their County / National Association.

The entry fees will be as follows:

Boys

- Boys Under 7s & Under 8s (5 A Side) - £99 per team
- Boys Under 9s & Under 10s (7 A Side) - £149 per team
- Boys Under 11s & Under 12s (9 A Side) - £159 per team
- Boys Under 13s & Under 14s (11 A Side) - £195 per team
- Boys Under 15s (11 A Side) - £235 Per Team

The participating Clubs will be listed on a separate form and sent to The FA. League representative sides, Schools District sides and teams from Schools of Excellence will not be permitted to enter the Tournaments. No Academy and Schools of Excellence players are permitted to take part.

3. Management Committee and Powers

A Management Committee shall be appointed to organize the Tournament consisting of:

| Name | Position |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Mr. R Thompson | Chairman |
| Mr. T Fowles | Fixture Secretary |
| Mr. G Littlechild | Discipline Secretary |
| Ms. S Brace | Registration Secretary |
| Mr. M. Torr | Results Secretary |
| Mr. J Boyden | Welfare Officer |

The management committee will have the power to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Tournaments and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Tournaments, including any not provided for by the Rules.

The management committee shall adjudicate in all cases of dispute, protest or complaint.

Other Members may be co-opted if required.

Due to the fact that this tournament is classified as a "Small Tournament / Festival" by the FA the Management Committee's decision shall be final and no appeals can be taken to the FA.

4. Age Groups, Squads & Player Qualification

The Tournaments shall be divided into the following age groups:

- Under 7s (5 a side mini football)
- Under 8s (5 a side mini football)
- Under 9s (7 a side mini football)
- Under 10s (7 a side mini football)
- Under 11s (9 a side football)
- Under 12s (9 a side football)
- Under 13s (11 a side football)
- Under 14s (11 a side football)
- Under 15s (11 a side football)
- Under 16s (11 a side football)

The age qualification date shall be 31st August for all age groups. However, non-English teams with birth months of January – December will be allowed to play in the age-appropriate group. Before taking part, each Club shall produce a list of players eligible to participate (together with their dates of birth, and School year).

All players shall be bona fide Members of their Club and shall register for only one team in the tournament. Each registered player shall only play for one team throughout the duration of the tournament. Clubs with two or more teams of the same age group taking part in the tournament are not allowed to move players from team to team.

Each team shall appoint a manager. The manager shall be responsible for their team being registered on arrival and being available to play on the correct pitch at the correct time. The manager is also responsible for adherence to the tournament rules and communication of the rules to their squads' players and supporters.

Each team must not have a squad greater than double the size of the team per age.

All players must wear shin pads and appropriate Footwear.

5. Colours and Ball Sizes

No player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or wear dark shirts – should you colours clash then bibs will need to be worn.

Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from other players and the match officials.

In the event of a clash of colours the second named Club (in the draw shall change).

Each Club shall register its first and second choice colours at least 56 days prior to the commencement of the Tournaments.

Ball sizes will be size 3 for Under 7, 8, 9, size 4 for Under 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and size 5 for Under 15 & 16's.

6. Arrangement of Tournaments

The Tournaments will be played on a League basis with the Clubs divided into groups of one or more.

To ensure all teams play the same games and minutes, no semi-final or final matches will be played. The two teams who finish first and second in the league will be declared the winners and runners-up of the tournament.

In the event of one or more teams pulling out of the tournament before 75% of their fixtures have been completed, then their records will be expunged. In the event of one or more teams pulling out of the tournament after 75% of their fixtures have been completed, then a 3-0 win be awarded to their remaining opponents. Three points shall be awarded for a win and one point for a draw.

In the event of any Clubs being level on points for a winner/runner-up position in a group, the final position shall be decided by one of the following methods (depending on pitch space and the teams'agreements):

1. The match result between the two teams
2. Penalty kicks

If Penalty Kicks are to be taken, this will be the Procedure:

- The referee chooses the goal at which the kicks will be taken.
- The referee tosses a coin and the team whose captain wins the toss chooses to go first or second.
- The referee keeps a record of the kicks being taken.
- Subject to the conditions explained below, both teams take five kicks.
- The kicks shall be taken alternately by the teams.
- If, before both teams have taken five kicks, one has scored more goals than the other could score even if it were to complete its five kicks, no more kicks are taken.
- If, after both teams have taken five kicks, both have scored the same number of goals, or have not scored any goals, kicks continue to be taken in the same order until one team has scored a goal more than the other from the same number of kicks.
- A goalkeeper who is injured while kicks are being taken from the penalty mark and is unable to continue as a goalkeeper may be replaced by a named substitute provided his team has not used the maximum number of substitutes permitted under the competition rules.
- With the exception of the foregoing case, only players who are on the field of play at the end of the match, which includes extra time where appropriate, are allowed to take kicks from the penalty mark.
- Each kick is to be taken by a different player, and all eligible players must take a kick before any player can take a second kick.
- An eligible player may change places with the goalkeeper at any time when kicks from the penalty mark are being taken.
- All players, except the player taking a kick and the two goalkeepers, must remain on the halfway line.
- The goalkeeper who is the teammate of the kicker must remain on the field of play, outside the penalty area in which the kicks are being taken, on the goal line where it meets the penalty area boundary line.
- Unless otherwise stated, the Laws of the Game and the International F. A. Board Decisions apply when the kicks from the penalty mark are being taken.

7. Duration of Matches

All matches will have a duration as determined by the numbers of teams entered per age group, but will be no longer than 20 minutes each way (Under 7s & 8s – 5 a side), 25 minutes each way (Under 9s & 10s – 7 a side), 30 minutes each way (Under 11s & 12s 9 a side) 30 minutes each way (Under 12s – 11 a side), 35 minutes each way (Under 13s & 14s – 11 a side), 40 minutes each way (Under 15s & 16s – 11 a side).

If required and necessary, the duration of the half-time interval shall be up to a maximum of 5 minutes at maximum in all matches.

Each team will play up to the maximum playing time per day, as stipulated by The FA:

- U7 – U8: up to 60 minutes per day
- U9 – U10: up to 90 minutes per day
- U11 – U12: up to 120 minutes per day
- U13 – U16: up to 150 minutes per day

8. Tournament Rules

U7 + U8

- All games to be played in the 5-a-side Red arenas.
- No corner kicks or throw ins.
- No offside
- No head height rule
- Back-pass rule will be strictly enforced.
- When the ball hits the back fence (Behind the goal ONLY), play will be restarted from the Goalkeeper
- Goalkeepers can kick the ball out of their hands (when the ball is in play). When the ball is out of play, the goalkeeper must take the goal kick from the floor to be re-enter play. Goal keepers may take as many steps as they need.
- Retreat rule to be enforced (i.e when the ball is out of play, opposite players must retreat inside their own half, until the ball is back in play).
- All free kicks are direct. Opponents must stand 5 yards away from the ball. Offences committed inside the opponent's penalty area will result in the awarding of a penalty.

U9 – U16

- Corner kicks and throw-ins are to be enforced for all age groups. No kick-ins are permitted (from a throw in position).
- U9 + U10s only – retreat rule to be enforced (i.e. when the ball is out of play for a goal kick, opposite players must retreat inside their own half, until the ball is back in play).
- Back-pass rule will be strictly enforced.
- Offside rule applies only to age groups U11 – U16.
- Most free kicks are direct (except Offsides etc). Opponents must stand 10 yards away from the ball. Offences committed inside the opponent's penalty area will result in the award of a penalty.

The Sports Tours

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9. Pitch, Goal and Ball Sizes

| Age Group | Maximum Permitted Format | Min Pitch Size | | Max Pitch Size | | Recommended Goal Size | Ball Size |
|-----------|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| | | YARDS | METERS | YARDS | METERS | | |
| U7 | 5 v 5 | 30 x 20 | 27.45 x 18.3 | 40 x 30 | 36.3 x 27.45 | 12 x 6 | 3 |
| U8 | 5 v 5 | 30 x 20 | 27.45 x 18.3 | 40 x 30 | 36.3 x 27.45 | 12 x 6 | 3 |
| U9 | 7 v 7 | 50 x 30 | 45.75 x 27.45 | 60 x 40 | 54.9 x 36.6 | 12 x 6 | 3 |
| U10 | 7 v 7 | 50 x 30 | 45.75 x 27.45 | 60 x 40 | 54.9 x 36.6 | 12 x 6 | 3 |
| U11 | 9 v 9 | 70 x 40 | 64 x 36.6 | 80 x 50 | 73.15 x 45.75 | 16 x 7 | 4 |
| U12 | 9 v 9 | 70 x 40 | 64 x 36.6 | 80 x 50 | 73.15 x 45.75 | 16 x 7 | 4 |
| U13 | 11 v 11 | 90 x 50 | 82.3 x 45.75 | 100 x 60 | 91.44 x 54.9 | 21 x 7 | 4 |
| U14 | 11 v 11 | 90 x 50 | 82.3 x 45.75 | 100 x 60 | 91.44 x 54.9 | 21 x 7 | 4 |
| U15 | 11 v 11 | 90 x 50 | 82.3 x 45.75 | 110 x 70 | 100.58 x 64 | 24 x 8 | 5 |
| U16 | 11 v 11 | 90 x 50 | 82.3 x 45.75 | 110 x 70 | 100.58 x 64 | 24 x 8 | 5 |
| U17 | 11 v 11 | 100 x 50 | 91.44 x 45.75 | 130 x 100 | 118.87 x 91.44 | 24 x 8 | 5 |
| U18 | 11 v 11 | 100 x 50 | 91.44 x 45.75 | 130 x 100 | 118.87 x 91.44 | 24 x 8 | 5 |

Note: Age-groups can play below the maximum playing format

10. Substitutes

Mini Soccer teams 'Under 7s – Under 16s are permitted to make any number of substitutions at anytime with permission of the match official.

A player who has been substituted during a match himself / herself becomes a substitute and may, in turn, replace another player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football."

11. Reporting Results

The match referee shall be responsible for notifying the Management Committee of the result of each match at its conclusion.

12. Match Officials

Registered Referees and Assistant Referees' where possible, will be appointed by the Management Committee. Where assistant referees are not appointed, each team shall provide a club assistant referee.

13. Protest and Complaints

All questions of eligibility, qualification of players or interpretation of Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee, but no objection relative to the dimensions of the pitch, or other appurtenances shall be entertained by the Management Committee, unless a protest is lodged with the match referee before the commencement of the match.

All protests and complaints relative to particular matches in the tournaments shall be made in writing to the Tournament Secretary within 60 minutes of the conclusion of the match. No complaint in relation to decisions taken by a referee in a match shall be entertained.

14. Trophies

The following trophies / awards will be made to the winner / runners-up, and participants.

| | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Winners: | Trophy to retain |
| Runner Up | Trophy to retain |
| Participants: | Participation Award |

15. Rules Binding

The Rules of the Tournaments are binding on the Clubs taking part.

16. Misconduct

All cases of misconduct on the field of play will be reported immediately by the referee to the Management Committee.

Red & Yellow Cards;

- A player who is dismissed from the field of play for any reason apart from violent conduct, serious foul play, threatening, abusive, indecent or insulting words or behaviour shall be suspended automatically for one match in the Tournament immediately following the match in which he was sent off. This includes two yellow cards received within the same match or a straight red card.
- A player who is dismissed from the field of play for violent conduct, serious foul play, threatening, abusive, indecent or insulting words or behaviour whether he has previously been cautioned in the match or not, shall be suspended automatically for two matches. This commenced immediately following the match in which he was sent off. Save for spitting at another person who will be suspended from the tournament and reported to The Football Association.
- All extraordinary incident should be reported to The Football Association. In exceptional circumstances the Football Association may deem it necessary to impose a greater sanction.

17. Abandoned Games

Any game in which a referee has abandoned shall be reviewed immediately by the management committee. If the management committee are satisfied that the match was abandoned due to the conduct of one team or its club member (s) or player (s) they shall be empowered to award the points for the match to the opponents and also take action on the offenders. In the case of the match being abandoned due to the conduct of both teams and their club member (s), the management committee shall rule all points of the match as void and also take action on the offenders and their club. No fine (s) can be applied by the management committee for an abandoned match.

18. Number of Players

If any club cannot field a full team from the start of the game, the opposition can only play with one additional player.

19. Costs and Insurance

The Management Committee will be responsible for the payment of the following costs and insurance: Referee's Fees, Ground Hires, Trophies, First Aid Cover, and Presentation Evenings.

All clubs must have valid personal accident cover for all players registered with them. The player's personal accident insurance must be in place prior to the club taking part in the tournament and shall be at least equal to the minimum recommended cover determined by their respective football association.

