



## **TOURNAMENT RULES & REGULATIONS 2024**

### **UNDER 7, UNDER 8, UNDER 9, UNDER 10, & GIRLS AGE GROUPS TO U16s.**

- 1. THE TOURNAMENT IS FOR CLUB SIDES IN THE UNDER 7 TO UNDER 10 AGE GROUPS, WHO MUST BE AFFILIATED TO A COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION. PLAYERS AGE RESTRICTIONS AS PER FA INSTRUCTIONS (I.E. UNDER 7s MUST STILL BE 6, UNDER 8s MUST STILL BE 7, 9s MUST STILL BE 8, UNDER 10's MUST STILL BE 9 AT MIDNIGHT 31ST AUGUST 2023 PLAYERS MUST HAVE REACHED THEIR 6TH BIRTHDAY BY 31ST AUGUST 2023 TO PARTICIPATE.**
- 2. U9 BOYS & GIRLS, U10 BOYS & GIRLS, U12G, U14G & U16G (7v7) TEAMS SHALL CONSIST OF A MAXIMUM OF 12 PLAYERS PER GAME AND A MINIMUM OF 6 PLAYERS, OF WHICH 7 PLAYERS CAN BE ON THE FIELD OF PLAY AT ANY ONE TIME. U7 & U8 (5v5) TEAMS SHALL CONSIST OF 10 PLAYERS PER GAME AND A MINIMUM OF 4 PLAYERS OF WHICH 5 PLAYERS CAN BE ON THE FIELD OF PLAY AT ANY ONE TIME. SUBSTITUTIONS CAN BE MADE AT ANY TIME DURING THE PLAY AND AT HALF TIME WITH THE REFEREE'S PERMISSION. A PLAYER PREVIOUSLY SUBSTITUTED CAN RETURN TO THE GAME ONLY AS A FURTHER SUBSTITUTION.**
- 3. ALL AVAILABLE SQUAD PLAYERS SHOULD BE USED IN GAMES.**
- 4. THE MAXIMUM SIZE OF THE PITCH SHALL BE A MAXIMUM OF 60 YARDS X 40 YARDS FOR 7 A SIDE\* SEE NOTE FOR U14 TO U16 GIRLS .**
- 5. THE PENALTY BOX WILL BE 18 YARDS X 10 YARDS.**
- 6. EACH TEAM MUST PROVIDE A SIZE 3 FOOTBALL IN RESPECT OF UNDER 7, 8, 9 & 10 AGE GROUPS AND GIRLS.**
- 7. THE GOAL SIZE IS 12FT X 6 FT (WITH NET).**
- 8. PLAYERS WILL BE RESTRICTED TO A MAXIMUM OF 60 MINUTES, FOR UNDER 7 & UNDER 8 AGE GROUPS, AND 90 MINUTES FOR UNDER 9 & UNDER 10 AND GIRLS IN ANY ONE DAY. THERE WILL BE A MAXIMUM 5 MINUTES HALF TIME BREAK.**
- 9. NO RESTRICTIONS ON THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS ALLOWED IN THE PENALTY AREA.**
- 10. NORMAL THROW-IN RULES AS PER LAWS OF MINI SOCCER.**
- 11. KICK-OFF AS NORMAL.**
- 12. ALL FREE KICKS ARE DIRECT.**
- 13. PENALTIES TO BE TAKEN FROM A MARK 8 YARDS FROM THE GOAL LINE OPPOSITE THE CENTRE OF THE GOAL**
- 14. NO OFFSIDE RULE.**
- 15. KICK-OFF, CORNERS, FREE KICKS: OPPONENTS MUST BE 5 YARDS AWAY.**
- 16. GOALKEEPER CAN HANDLE ANYWHERE IN THE PENALTY AREA.**
- 17. NO STEP RESTRICTIONS.**
- 18. GOAL KICKS. A PLAYER OF THE DEFENDING TEAM KICKS THE BALL FROM ANY POINT WITHIN THE PENALTY AREA. ON EVERY GOAL KICK, OPPONENTS MUST RETREAT TO THEIR OWN HALF UNTIL THE BALL IS IN PLAY. THE DEFENDING TEAM DOES NOT HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE OPPOSITION TO RETREAT AND HAS THE OPTION TO RESTART THE GAME BEFORE SHOULD THEY CHOOSE TO. THE BALL IS IN PLAY WHEN IT HAS BEEN KICKED.**
- 19. MULTIPLE SUBSTITUTIONS (PLAYERS MAY RE-ENTER PLAY HAVING BEEN SUBSTITUTED)**
- 20. ALL OTHER RULES APPLY AS NORMAL.**
- 21. NO HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS.**

**22. IN SOME INSTANCES, A GIRLS TEAM MAY PLAY AGAINST A BOYS TEAM IN THE SAME COMPETITION. GIRLS TEAMS WILL BE GIVEN A ONE YEAR DISPENSATION ADVANTAGE – IE. AN U11 GIRLS TEAM MAY PLAY AN U10 BOYS TEAM. FORMAT MUST BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE YOUNGEST TEAM.**

**RULES 28 & 29 THEN 31 TO 55 APPLY.**

#### **MINI SOCCER BACK PASSES**

**IF THE KEEPER PICKS UP THE BALL AFTER A BACK PASS FROM ONE OF HIS/HER OWN PLAYERS A DIRECT FREE KICK WILL BE AWARDED. IT NEEDS TO BE TAKEN ON THE EDGE OF THE PENALTY AREA AND IN LINE WITH WHERE THE KEEPER PICKED UP THE BALL. THE BALL IS IN PLAY WHEN IT IS KICKED DIRECTLY OUT OF THE PENALTY AREA.**

#### **UNDER 11 & U12 AGE GROUPS 9v9**

**THE FA RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:**

**FOLLOW THE STANDARD 11v11 LAWS OF THE GAME EXCEPT:**

- **SIZE OF PITCH: USE JUNIOR SIZE PITCH 80M/50M AND JUNIOR GOALS 16x7FT**
- **SUBSTITUTES: 5 ROLL ON ROLL OFF SUBS ALLOWED PER GAME.**
- **PLAYING TIME: MAXIMUM 120 MINS IN ANY ONE DAY**
- **ANYTHING NOT COVERED ABOVE, FA STANDARD CODE OF RULES FOR YOUTH LEAGUES SHOULD APPLY**

#### **UNDER 13 – UNDER 16 AGE GROUPS, 11v11**

**23. THE TOURNAMENT IS FOR CLUB SIDES IN THE UNDER 11 TO UNDER 16 AGE GROUPS, WHO MUST BE AFFILIATED TO A COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION. REPRESENTATIVE SIDES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO ENTER THE TOURNAMENT.**

**24. TO BE REGISTERED FOR THE TOURNAMENT, PLAYERS MUST BE OVER 10 YEARS OF AGE AT THE 1ST SEPTEMBER 2023.**

**25. TEAMS SHALL CONSIST OF 11 PLAYERS, WITH UP TO 5 NAMED SUBSTITUTES PER GAME. SUBSTITUTIONS CAN BE MADE AT ANY TIME DURING A STOPPAGE PLAY OR AT HALF TIME WITH THE REFEREE'S PERMISSION. A PLAYER WHO HAS BEEN SUBSTITUTED DURING A MATCH HIMSELF 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.**

**26. MATCHES WILL BE A MAXIMUM 30 MINUTES EACH WAY FOR THE AGE GROUPS UP TO UNDER 14 AND A MAXIMUM 40 MINUTES EACH WAY FOR THE UNDER 15 & 16 AGE GROUP.**

**27. WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO ENSURE EVERY TEAM PLAY THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF FOOTBALL PERMITTED BY THE F.A ON EACH DAY OF THE EVENT IN WHICH THEY PARTICIPATE OR QUALIFY. IN MOST CASES, TEAMS OF THE SAME AGE ARE DIVIDED INTO GROUPS (THE NUMBER IN EACH GROUP WILL DEPEND ON THE NUMBER OF TEAMS IN THAT AGE GROUP) TEAMS AGED UNDER 11 AND OLDER WILL PLAY A LEAGUE FORMAT AND IN MOST CASES THE WINNER AND RUNNER UP OF EACH GROUP WILL GO THROUGH TO A KNOCK-OUT STAGE TO DETERMINE THE EVENTUAL WINNERS. AS PER FA REGULATIONS PLAYERS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO PLAY MORE THAN 150 MINUTES IN ANY DAY. FULL DETAILS WILL BE ADVISED IN THE TOURNAMENT PROGRAMME.**

**28. IN THE GROUP, 3 POINTS WILL BE AWARDED FOR A WIN AND 1 POINT FOR A DRAW. WHERE TEAMS FINISH LEVEL ON POINTS, FOR A QUALIFYING PLACE THE HEAD TO HEAD SCORE BETWEEN THE RELEVANT TEAMS WILL APPLY. THE MATCH(ES) BETWEEN EACH OTHER WILL BE THE DECIDING FACTOR. IN THE EVENT OF A DRAW DURING THEIR HEAD TO HEAD MATCH(ES), THE GOALS CONCEDED BETWEEN TEAMS WILL BE CONSIDERED. SHOULD ALL DETAILS BE AN ABSOLUTE TIE A PENALTY SHOOT-OUT WILL DECIDE THE WINNER OF EACH GROUP OR DECIDES WHICH TEAM PROGRESSES 5 PENALTY KICKS (11 A SIDE), 3 PENALTY KICKS**

**(MINI SOCCER). IF THESE RESULTS IN A TIE, THE SHOOT-OUT WILL CONTINUE ON A 'SUDDEN DEATH' BASIS, WITH ALTERNATING PENALTY KICKS UNTIL A WINNER IS FOUND. THIS METHOD OF DECIDING MATCHES BY THE TAKING OF PENALTY KICKS WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD DECISION, CONTAINED IN THE LAWS OF THE GAME. WHERE A BEST RUNNER-UP/3RD PLACED TEAM IS TO QUALIFY FOR THE KNOCKOUT STAGE AND GROUPS COMPRISE OF UNEQUAL NUMBERS OF TEAMS THE RESULT WILL BE DECIDED BY THE TEAM WHO HAVE DROPPED THE LEAST NUMBER OF POINTS. WHERE THIS IS EQUAL THE RESULT WILL BE DECIDED FIRSTLY BY HEAD TO HEAD RESULTS AND THEN BY GOALS SCORED IN BOTH CASES PROPORTIONATE TO THE NUMBER OF GAMES PLAYED (AN AVERAGE WOULD BE TAKEN). WHERE THIS IS EQUAL A PENALTY SHOOT AS DESCRIBED ABOVE WILL TAKE PLACE.**

- 29. WHERE APPLICABLE THE TOURNAMENT WILL BECOME A STRAIGHT KNOCKOUT COMPETITION FROM QUARTER/SEMI-FINAL STAGES. IN THE EVENT OF A DRAW AT THE END OF NORMAL TIME A PENALTY SHOOT-OUT WILL DECIDE THE WINNER ON THE SAME BASIS AS RULE 29 ABOVE.**
- 30. UNDER 11 TO 14 AGE GROUPS SHALL PROVIDE A SIZE 4 MATCH BALL. UNDER 15 & 16 AGE GROUP SHALL PROVIDE A SIZE 5 MATCH BALL.**
- 31. EACH TEAM SHALL PROVIDE ONE ASSISTANT REFEREE FOR EACH OF THEIR MATCHES, AND BE AVAILABLE FOR THE REFEREE PRIOR TO KICK OFF FOR INSTRUCTION.**
- 32. THE HALF TIME INTERVAL SHALL NOT EXCEED 5 MINUTES.**
- 33. OFFICIAL REFEREES WILL BE APPOINTED FOR ALL TOURNAMENT MATCHES.**
- 34. THE FULL SQUAD OF EACH TEAM OF EACH AGE GROUP WILL RECEIVE MEMENTOES. THE WINNING TEAM FOR AGE GROUPS UNDER 7 AND ABOVE WILL RECEIVE A TROPHY, WHICH THEY WILL KEEP.**
- 35. REFEREES SHALL RETURN TEAM/RESULTS SHEETS TO THE TOURNAMENT ORGANISERS AT THEIR RESORT.**
- 36. ALL TEAMS MUST BE READY AT THE APPOINTED TIME AND VENUE OF EACH MATCH; OTHERWISE THEY MAY BE LIABLE TO FORFEIT THE MATCH.**
- 37. ALL TEAMS SHALL HAVE NUMBERED KITS AND MUST HAVE A CHANGE OF STRIP IN THE EVENT OF A COLOUR CLASH, IN WHICH CASE THE SECOND NAMED TEAM IN THE PROGRAMME SHALL BE REQUIRED TO CHANGE. BLACK KITS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.**
- 38. ANY CASES OF PLAYER MISCONDUCT DURING THE TOURNAMENT WILL BE REPORTED TO THE APPROPRIATE COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION. 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.**
- 39. EACH TEAM WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BEHAVIOUR OF ITS PARENTS AND SUPPORTERS ON THE TOUCHLINE DURING THE TOURNAMENT MATCHES. ANY CASES OF MISCONDUCT WILL BE REPORTED BACK BY REFEREES AND WILL BE DEALT WITH BY THE COMMITTEE AND REPORTED TO THE APPROPRIATE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.**
- 40. A PLAYERS AGE GROUP REFERS TO THE AGE GROUP FOR WHICH HE PLAYS IN THE 2023/24 SEASON WHICH REQUIRES HE IS UNDER THAT AGE ON 31ST AUGUST 2023.**
- 41. TEAMS SHOULD BRING WITH THEM TO THE TOURNAMENT THE ORIGINAL OF THEIR OWN LEAGUE PLAYER REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS, WHICH MUST INCORPORATE A COLOUR PHOTOGRAPH OF EACH PLAYER. IF**

THE TEAMS OWN LEAGUE PLAYER REGISTRATION DOCUMENT DOES NOT INCLUDE A 'PHOTOGRAPH BASED' SYSTEM, THEN THE TEAM MUST BRING WITH THEM TO THE TOURNAMENT ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTARY PROOF OF IDENTITY AND/OR AGE. (I.E., PASSPORT OR CONFIRMED PHOTOGRAPH AS DETAILED BY R & T TOURS IN THE CONFIRMATION OF BOOKING PACK) OF EACH OF THEIR REGISTERED PLAYERS, IN THE EVENT OF ANY QUERIES, THESE WILL BE INVESTIGATED BY THE COMMITTEE.

42. A PLAYER CAN BE REGISTERED FOR ONE TEAM ONLY IN THE TOURNAMENT. ALL PLAYERS MUST BE REGISTERED PRIOR TO THEIR FIRST TOURNAMENT FIXTURE. ONCE HIS TEAM HAS BEEN ELIMINATED, HE CAN TAKE NO FURTHER PART AT ANY AGE GROUP. CLUBS WITH TWO OR MORE TEAMS OF THE SAME AGE GROUP TAKING PART IN THE TOURNAMENT MAY NOT SWAP PLAYERS BETWEEN TEAMS. ANY TEAM FOUND GUILTY OF BREAKING RULES 39, 40 AND 42 OR 47 MAY BE ELIMINATED FROM THE TOURNAMENT.
43. ALL COMPLAINTS ARE TO BE MADE TO THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE, WHOSE DECISION WILL BE FINAL. THE COMMITTEE WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY COMPLAINTS RELATING TO REFEREES DECISIONS. THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE FOR THE TOURNAMENT WILL BE DETAILED IN THE TOURNAMENT PROGRAMME. THEY WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL ASPECTS OF THE TOURNAMENT. FOR SHORT TERM TOURNAMENTS OF THIS NATURE ALL DECISIONS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ARE FINAL AND ANY APPEALS TO THE FA WILL BE DIFFICULT TO OPERATE IN SUCH TIGHT TIMESCALES.
44. THE COMMITTEE SHALL HAVE THE POWER TO DEAL WITH ANY MATTERS ARISING, NOT PROVIDED FOR IN THESE RULES.
45. THE COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT AMEND THESE RULES.
46. THE COMMITTEE REGRETS THEY CANNOT ACCEPT LIABILITY FOR PLAYERS OR SPECTATORS INJURIES, OR LOSS OR DAMAGE TO PROPERTY. THE COMMITTEE STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT ALL CLUBS PARTICIPATING IN THE TOURNAMENT SHOULD TAKE OUT APPROPRIATE INSURANCE COVER FOR THEIR PLAYERS.
47. IF ANYONE IS FOUND CAUSING WILFUL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY, THE CLUB ASSOCIATED WITH THE OFFENDING PERSON(S) WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIM/HER AND ANY DAMAGE CAUSED.
48. ALL RULES NOT COVERED ABOVE WILL BE AS PER THE F.A HANDBOOK
49. THE RULES OF THE TOURNAMENT ARE BINDING ON ALL TEAMS TAKING PART.
50. ALL TEAMS MUST HAVE SUITABLE FIRST AID KITS.
51. A PLAYER WHO HAS NOT ATTAINED THE AGE OF 10 AS AT MIDNIGHT ON 31ST AUGUST 2023 SHALL NOT BE PERMITTED OR ENCOURAGED TO PLAY IN A MATCH BETWEEN SIDES OF MORE THAN 7 PLAYERS IN THAT PLAYING SEASON. A PLAYER IN THE AGE RANGES UNDER 7 TO U16 MAY PLAY IN A MATCH PLAYING BOYS AND GIRLS.
52. ALL CLUBS SHOULD BE AWARE OF FA CHILD PROTECTION POLICIES. ALL PERSONNEL TRAVELING WITH THEIR PARTY SHOULD BE VETTED PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.
53. ALL TEAMS THAT ENTER THE TOURNAMENT MUST PLAY ALL GAMES THEY ARE ALLOTTED – IN THE EVENT OF A 'NO-SHOW' 3 POINTS WILL BE AWARDED TO THE TEAM THAT DOES SHOW OR SUCH ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE AS DEEMED NECESSARY INCLUDING REMOVAL FROM THE COMPETITION.
54. NO ALCOHOL WILL BE PERMITTED AT PITCHSIDE FOR THE DURATION OF THE TOURNAMENT.
55. IN ALL AGE GROUPS TEAMS MAY CHOOSE TO PLAY ON A NON-COMPETITIVE BASIS IN THE TOURNAMENT PROGRAMME WHILE ATTENDING THE TOURNAMENT, ANY TEAM WHO SELECT THIS OPTION WILL BE CLEARLY HIGHLIGHTED IN THE TOURNAMENT PROGRAMME AS PLAYING ON A NON-COMPETITIVE BASIS. ALL FIXTURES WILL BE MARKED AS A FRIENDLY FIXTURE.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH FA REGULATIONS R & T TOURS HAS A CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER.

**NOTES: ALL AGE GROUPS: MAXIMUM SQUAD SIZES, TEAM REGISTRATIONS & MAX PLAYING TIMES:**

**5 A SIDE AND 7 A SIDE TEAMS CAN HAVE A MAXIMUM OF 14 PLAYERS IN THE SQUAD PER TEAM.**

**9V9 TEAMS CAN HAVE A MAXIMUM OF 16 PLAYERS IN THE SQUAD PER TEAM.**

**11 A SIDE TEAMS CAN HAVE A MAXIMUM OF 20 PLAYERS IN THE SQUAD PER TEAM.**

**PLAYERS CANNOT BE ADDED OR CHANGED TO A TEAM REGISTRATION FOR THE TOURNAMENT ONCE THE FIRST BALL OF THE FIRST DAY HAS BEEN KICKED BY THE TEAM.**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ONCE A SQUAD IS CHOSEN AND REGISTERED FOR A TEAM YOU CANNOT CHANGE PLAYERS INTO A DIFFERENT TEAM WITHIN YOUR OWN SQUAD ONCE THE FIRST BALL OF THE FIRST DAY HAS BEEN KICKED BY THE TEAM (IE. LIONS PLAYER CANNOT CHANGE TO A TIGERS TEAM) ETC.**

**IN MOST CASES, TEAMS OF THE SAME AGE ARE DIVIDED INTO GROUPS (THE NUMBER IN EACH GROUP WILL DEPEND ON THE NUMBER OF TEAMS IN THAT AGE GROUP) TEAMS WILL PLAY A LEAGUE FORMAT AND IN MOST CASES THE WINNER AND RUNNER UP OF EACH GROUP WILL GO THROUGH TO A KNOCK-OUT STAGE TO DETERMINE THE EVENTUAL WINNERS. AS PER FA REGULATIONS PLAYERS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO PLAY MORE THAN 60 MINS (U7 & U8) 90 MINS (U9 & U10) 120 MINS (U11 & U12) OR 150 MINS (U13 TO U16) IN ANY DAY. IN ORDER TO MINIMISE TIME WAITING AT THE GROUNDS AND ALLOW TIME TO ENJOY THE FACILITIES OF THE HOLIDAY RESORT, IN GENERAL AT R&T EVENTS U7 & U8 PLAY 60 MINUTES, U9 & U10 PLAY 80 MINUTES, U11 TO U16 PLAY 100 MINUTES PER DAY. SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT INDIVIDUAL EVENTS AND FULL DETAILS WILL BE ADVISED IN THE TOURNAMENT PROGRAMME.**

**IN THE EVENT OF EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH AS LOW TURNOUT IN SOME AGE GROUPS, WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO COMBINE CONSECUTIVE AGE GROUPS TO FORM ONE COMPETITION I.E. UNDER 7 & UNDER 8 TOURNAMENT, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A BETTER COMPETITION.**

**\*U14, U15 AND U16 GIRLS IN SOME CIRCUMSTANCES MAY PLAY 7V7 SIDED FOOTBALL ON 9V9 SIDED PITCHES.**