

PLAYING RULES

General

1. The rules of the tournament are binding on all the competing teams
2. The tournament committee will allocate referees to all games and any decision made by the appointed referee relating to the laws of the game and this competition will be binding.
3. Any other disputes will be considered on the day by the tournament committee and their decision will be final and binding.
4. Cost per team entered will be £20/£35 (depending on age bracket)
5. Completed registration forms including players names and dates of birth must be handed into the tournament control area no later than 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the tournament or emailed in advance to admin@watfordfcgirls.com
6. If any player is found to be playing in an age group younger than their correct age their team will be disqualified from the competition.
7. U7/U8/U9's will be playing in a 5-a-side with a maximum squad of 8.
U10/U11/U12/U13/U14/U15/U16/18+ will be playing in a 6-a-side with a maximum squad size of 10
8. The first named team will kick off and must provide a match quality ball of the appropriate size for their age group. The match ball must be produced at registration for inspection.
9. If the referee decides that the kits of two competing teams clash, the second-named team will be required to change their shirts

Football Competition

10. The laws of the game of association football will apply with the following exceptions:
 - There will be no offside
 - Apart from the goal or free kicks, goalkeepers may only roll the ball out under arm from inside the penalty area, once they have full control of it. This rule will not apply to U7, U8, U9 and U10 age groups who may fly kick as usual.
 - For all age groups, U7, U8, U9 and U10 all goal kicks are to be taken from anywhere within the penalty area. For all other age groups goal kicks are to be taken from the goal line.
 - The back pass rule shall not apply to U7, U8, U9 and U10 age groups.
 - When a player is taking a free kick, goal kick or corner all opposing players must be at least 5 yards from the ball until it is in play. This all applies to the kick off and the restart after a goal has been scored.
 - Players may be substituted at any stoppage in play using the roll on/roll off system but permission must be obtained from the match referee prior to any substitution being made.
11. Teams in each age group will be divided into groups with each team playing a full programme against the other teams in their group.
12. Duration of all matches will be 8 minutes straight.

13. The result of each match will be taken to the control tent by the winning team manager. In the event of a draw the referee may ask either team to take the result.
14. Scores and league tables for U11's to over 18's will be displayed clearly at the tournament control tent.
15. In the league/group stages points will be awarded as follows:
 - 3 points for a win
 - 1 point for a draw
16. U7, U8, U9 & U10's will be played on a friendly basis.
17. U11's to over 18's – the top 2 teams from each group will progress to the cup competition
18. Where there is a tie, the following will apply
 - the result of the match between the two teams to decide
 - if the results are a draw goal difference to decide
 - if still level, goals scored to decide
 - if still level, a penalty shoot-out competition will decide
19. In the semi-finals and finals if the teams are drawn at the end of normal time, penalties will be taken by 5 players per team, followed by sudden death if required.
20. Any player that is cautioned twice or sent off throughout the competition shall take no further part in the competition

Any team being penalised for the behaviour of their officials or parents twice during the tournament will be expelled and their results expunged.

21. All teams must provide the committee with their shirt colour or both their home & away colours emailed to admin@watfordfcgirls.com
22. All players must wear shin pads or will not be allowed to take part in the tournament.
23. At the start of the game ends shall be decided by the toss of a coin. Play starts by regular KO (forward/back). The game shall be restarted in the same manner after a goal has been scored.
24. All player are allowed inside the D area. Goalkeepers are not allowed outside the D area
25. **Retreat line rule for U7, U8, U9 & U10's.** When the goalkeeper receives the ball, the opposition players 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 the goalkeeper plays the ball out of the penalty area.

Discipline and fair play

1. No member of the coaching staff is allowed on the pitch unless asked by the referee.
2. The team manager is responsible for controlling their player's parents and in case of abuse to the referee or opposing players the TEAM will be held responsible and be eliminated from the competition. (We will back the referee's decision without question). Any problems that you feel need addressing please come and see the head organiser at the control desk which you will be informed of on the day.

Parents & Spectators

1. Parents and spectators should respect officials and teams at all times
2. Please stand behind the FA respect barriers when watching
- 3 Only club officials are allowed near the changing facilities

Help us promote girls football by encouraging throughout