

TOURNAMENT RULES

1. Competition Format

1.1. This Competition is the Welwyn Garden City Youth FC Tournament and is affiliated to and sanctioned by the Hertfordshire County Football Association.

1.2. The competition is by invitation only. Applications will only be considered upon receipt of a fully completed entry form and cleared payment. Entries will be confirmed by the Tournament Organiser at least seven days prior to the tournament.

1.3. A festival format will run for boys' teams U6s, U7s and U8s. The festival will not collect or record any results or league tables and all participating players will receive a memento.

1.4. The competition is a tournament format for boys' teams U9s to U15s featuring results, league tables, a knock out stage and a winner for each age group. Trophies will be awarded to the winning squad, and medals to the runner-up squad.

2. Age Groups, Squads & Player Qualification

2.1. Age groups will relate to the 2018/19 season.

2.2. Each team shall register a squad of players on the day of the competition.

2.3. Each team may register a squad of up to eleven players.

2.4. Each registered player shall only play for one team on the same day of the tournament.

2.5. Clubs should apply the principle of only including players who are registered to the club at the time of the competition. League registration cards (or proof of guest players' age) may be requested.

2.6. Girls and boys can play in the same mixed team up to and including U15's.

2.7. No player should play who is more than two years younger than any other player in the squad.

2.8. Each team shall appoint an adult as 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.

2.9. All players must wear shin pads and appropriate footwear.

2.10. In the Under 6's section it will be the responsibility of the Team Manager to ensure that players have attained the age of 6 by 31st August 2019 six as per FA rules.

3. Duration of Matches & Balls

3.1. All matches will be 10 minutes in duration with no half time.

3.2. All teams are responsible for considering players' playing time does not exceed the FA's guidelines on maximum playing time for children.

3.3. In each match the first named team will provide an appropriate quality and correct sized match ball; U6s to U9s size3, U10s to U14s size4, U15s size 5.

3.4. In the event of a clash of colours, the second named team should provide alternative shirts. Herts FA advise against the use of bibs on health and safety grounds. If you use bibs you do so at your own risk and must be agreed by both teams and the referee prior to a game starting.

4. Scores & Results

4.1. For the U6s, U7s and U8s Festival there will be no results, league tables or knockout stage.

4.2. The tournament (U9s and older) will be played on a League basis with three points for a win and one point for a draw. If a team fails to fulfil a fixture three points are awarded to their opponents with a score recorded as 1-0. All teams will qualify for the knockout stage.

4.3. For 12-team tournaments the top two teams from each 6-team group will qualify for the Claret Cup, with the bottom four teams from each group qualifying for the Blue Cup.

4.4 For 6-team tournaments all teams will qualify for the knockout stage with the top two teams qualifying straight to the semi-finals. The third placed team will play against the sixth placed team to qualify to play

against the first placed team in the semi-final. The fourth placed team will play against the fifth placed team to qualify to play against the first placed team in the semi-final.

4.5 The number of teams qualifying for the knockout stage of the tournament may depend on the total entries and number of league groups at each age group and will be confirmed on the day of the tournament at registration. If two or more teams finish equal on points for a qualification position then positions will be decided using the following criteria in this order a) goal difference b) goals scored c) disciplinary performance with 1 point for a yellow card and 3 for a red card (lowest score winning) d) results between the teams in question e) penalty shootout.

4.6. The first named team will be allowed to select the goal that they wish to attack.

4.7. The second named team shall be awarded the kick off.

4.8. All knockout matches will be decided by the teams scoring most goals during normal time, if the score is equal after normal time, extra time of 4 minutes will be played. If the score is equal after extra time a penalty shootout will decide the winner.

4.9. In all penalty shootouts all players who were on the field of play at the end of extra time shall take a penalty alternating with their opponents. The highest score from the penalties will win. If at the end of the penalties, the scores remain equal, then it will go to sudden death. In sudden death, the next kicks will be taken by the players on the field of play in the same order.

5. Playing Rules

5.1. The Laws of association football related to mini soccer and youth football will apply (to be as close to the regular rules played) except where provided for in the playing rules as set out below:

5.2. U6-U8 and U12-U15 teams will play in 5-a-side format. U9-U11 Teams shall play in 6-a-side format.

5.3. Substitutes are roll on, roll off from those named on the registration form. A substituted player can return in the same match. Referees must be informed of and allow substitutions. The number of substitutions made during a game is unlimited.

5.4. Goal Kicks will be taken from on the edge of the penalty area

5.5. In age groups that normally play mini-soccer, U6-U10 inclusive, opponents must retreat to the half-way line.

5.6. For all dead ball restarts opponents must be at least 5 metres away from the ball.

5.7. Indirect kick-ins will be awarded against the team that puts the ball out of play to the sidelines.

5.8. All free kicks are direct.

5.9. There is no off side.

5.10. The ball should not exceed crossbar height; in the event of the ball going above crossbar height, the offending team will have a free kick awarded against them. Should the ball rebound off the goal frame and exceed the crossbar height, play will continue as usual.

6. Players, Officials and Supporters Conduct

6.1. This competition uses the yellow and red card system.

6.2. An accumulation of two yellow cards on a single day in the competition will result in the player being suspended from the next match.

6.3. Two yellow cards in one match equal a red card and the player will be sent off.

6.4. A player who receives a red card (either straight red or for two yellow cards in the same match) will not be permitted to take any further part in the competition.

6.5. All cautions and red cards will be reported to the relevant county football association.

6.6. Welwyn Garden City Youth FC fully supports the FA Respect campaign. Any player, official or supporter that does not abide by the FA respect guidelines will be asked to leave and may be reported to the relevant county football association.

7. Protests and Appeals

7.1. Any protest shall be referred to the organising committee whose decision shall be final.

7.2. Any appeals can be lodged with the Herts FA in accordance with their rules