



# Respect



## **BUNTINGFORD COUGARS YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB 5-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT RULES**

*THE ORGANISERS OF THE BUNTINGFORD TOURNAMENT TAKE PRIDE IN HOSTING A FRIENDLY EVENT THAT APPLIES THE F.A. RESPECT INITIATIVES FOR A SAFE AND POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY THE GAME.*

*WE HAVE ZERO TOLERANCE TO ABUSIVE BEHAVIOUR TO OTHERS AT OUR TOURNAMENT INCLUDING OUR REFEREES AND VOLUNTEERS. ANYONE DISPLAYING ABUSIVE BEHAVIOUR WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO LEAVE THE VENUE IMMEDIATELY AND THE TEAM THAT THEY ARE ASSOCIATED WITH MAY BE DISQUALIFIED AND REPORTED TO THEIR COUNTY FA.*

*PLEASE JOIN US IN SUPPORTING ALL OF OUR REFEREES, PARTICULARLY OUR YOUNG REFEREES.*

*PLEASE ENSURE EVERY PERSON STANDS AT LEAST ONE METRE AWAY FROM THE TOUCHLINE DURING PLAY.*

### **1. Tournament Format**

- 1.1. This event is the Buntingford Cougars 5-A-Side Tournament and is affiliated to and sanctioned by the Hertfordshire County FA.
- 1.2. Tournament entries will only be considered upon receipt of a fully completed entry with paid and cleared payment. Entries will be confirmed by the Tournament Organiser at least seven days prior to the tournament.
- 1.3. All teams' entries must confirm their club's county FA affiliation number.
- 1.4. The tournament is played as a Trophy Event for Under7's and older featuring results, league tables, a knock out stage (for qualifying teams) and an overall winner for each age group. There is also a friendly festival format for Under6s and Under7s.

### **2. Age Groups, Squads & Player Qualification**

- 2.1. Age groups will relate to the current season just played prior to the tournament i.e. each team will play in the age group they have been playing in from the previous September.
- 2.2. Each team shall register up to a maximum of nine players on the day of the tournament.
- 2.3. Each registered player shall only play for one team on the same day of the tournament.
- 2.4. Clubs should apply the principle of only including players who are registered to the club at the time of the tournament although squads will be allowed up to two "guest" players to allow for new players that have recently joined their club. League registration cards or proof of guest players' age may be requested. This rule is to discourage the practice of an elite team being specifically convened to compete in this tournament.
- 2.5. This tournament allows boys teams, mixed teams that contains boys and girls and teams that contains all girls. In the girls section all players must be female.
- 2.6. No player should play who is more than two years younger than any other player in their team.
- 2.7. 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, officials and supporters.

### **3. Duration of Matches & Balls**

- 3.1. All matches will be 12minutes. There is no half time. Knockout matches that are level after full time are decided by penalties.
- 3.2. Teams are responsible for ensuring players playing time does not exceed the FA's guidelines on maximum playing time.
- 3.3. The first named team provides a match quality ball of the correct size; U6's-U9s size3, U10-U14s size4 and U15s+ size5.
- 3.4. If there is a colour clash the second named team should wear an away strip or bibs.

### **4. Scores & Results**

- 4.1. The tournament will be played on a League basis with three points for a win and one point for a draw.
- 4.2. If a team fails to fulfil a fixture three points are awarded to their opponents with a score recorded as 1-0.
- 4.3. The number of teams qualifying for the knockout stage of the tournament will 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.

4.4. If two or more teams finish equal on points for a qualification place, 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.

4.5. In knockout matches, if the score is equal after normal time a penalty shootout will decide the winner.

4.6. In all penalty shootouts five players who were on the field of play at the end of extra time shall take a penalty. The highest score from the five penalties will win. If at the end of five penalties, the scores remain equal, it will go to sudden death with the same five players participating in the same order.

4.7. During a penalty shootout only squad players and the two teams coaching staff are allowed on the pitch. No persons whatsoever are permitted to stand behind the goal during a penalty shootout.

## **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. A maximum of five players per team will be allowed on the field of play with a minimum of four subject to the rule below.

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 allow each substitution. The number of substitutions made during a game is unlimited.

5.4. There is no off side.

5.5. All free kicks are direct.

5.6. Goal Kicks can be taken from any point in the penalty area.

5.7. For all dead ball restarts opponents must be at least five metres away from the ball.

5.8. For age groups Under11's and older – if the ball goes over the head height of the referee then a free kick will be awarded to the opponents of the team that touched the ball last. The exception to this rule is if the ball travels over head height as a result of a goalkeeper's save or a clear deflection off any player or goalpost, in which case play continues.

5.9. If an 'over head height' offence occurs inside the offending player's own penalty area a free kick will be awarded to the opponents which must be taken outside the penalty area.

5.10. For age groups up to and including Under10's the ball IS ALLOWED over head height (normal rules).

5.11. In Under11's and older, where the head height rule applies, throw ins will be under arm. In Under6s to Under 10s throw ins will be as per normal FA rules.

5.12. For age groups up to and including Under10's the retreat line rule applies for goal kicks whereby opponents must retreat to their own half until the ball is in play. The goal kick can be taken before the opposition has retreated (normal rules). Referees should keep games flowing with advantage where possible and ensuring teams retreat quickly for goal kicks.

## **6. Players, Officials and Supporters Conduct**

6.1. Players dissent will result in a two-minute temporary dismissal (sin-bin) from the pitch.

6.2. This tournament uses yellow and red cards. An accumulation of two yellow cards in the tournament will result in the player being suspended from the next match.

6.3. A player who receives a red card for violent conduct will not be permitted to take any further part in the tournament.

6.4. All cautions and red cards will be reported to the club's county football association.

6.5. In the interest of player safety all spectators, officials and players (not playing) MUST stand behind a respect barrier or if a respect barrier is not erected then at least one metre from the touchline at all times during a match with the exception of Coaching staff who may enter the field of play with the referee's consent to deal with a player's welfare and Coaching staff during a penalty shootout.

6.6. Buntingford Cougars supports the FA Respect campaign. Any player, official or supporter that does not abide by the FA respect guidelines will be asked to immediately leave the facility.

## **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.

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