St. Albans City Youth F.C
2018 Small Sided Tournament
Competition Rules

1. The competition shall be known as the 'St. Albans City Youth Small Sided Competition' and shall be affiliated to the Hertfordshire County Football Association. Entry is by invitation only and the competition will be conducted in accordance with the rules, regulations and bylaws of the Football Association.
2. The competition shall be designated as for the under 13, under 12, under 11, under 10, under 9, under 8 and Under 7 age groups. Age qualification dates are as follows:

Under 7 Girls who were under 7 years old on 31 August 2017
Under 8 Girls who were under 8 years old on 31 August 2017
Under 9 Girls who were under 9 years old on 31 August 2017
Under 10 Girls who were under 10 years old on 31 August 2017
Under 11 Girls who were under 11 years old on 31 August 2017
Under 12 Girls who were under 12 years old on 31 August 2017
Under 13 Girls who were under 13 years old on 31 August 2017

No team shall include players with an age differential of more than two years. The entrance fee is shown on the application form and shall be forfeited by any team withdrawing after the closing date.
3. All competition players shall be deemed to be registered members of the club they represent at the time of the competition. Each registered player shall only play for one team.
4. In case of members still attending school, the first loyalty of each member is to his/her school. If the school requires a member of an affiliated club to play for the school at any time, the club or competition must without question whatsoever release him/her to play for the school. All members still attending school must first obtain clearance from their Head Teacher, in accordance with Football Association Rules. As it is the right of parents to determine whether or not a boy/girl plays in Sunday football registered by County FA's, Head Teachers' permission is not required for such registered activities played on Sundays.
5. The Laws of Association Football will apply except where provided for in the PLAYING RULES.
6. The competition will provide all match balls. The under 7's,8's & 9's will play with a size 3 and the under 10's, 11's, 12's and 13's with a size 4.
7. Each team shall appoint an adult as a manager. The manager shall be responsible for the team being registered by the correct time as notified by the competition organisers and being available to play on the correct pitch at the notified time.
8. The competition shall provide each participating club with a copy of the competition and playing rules and a copy of their sanction to play the competition from the Herts. County Football Association. No club or team shall be allowed to play unless it is in possession of the above copies.
9. Any protest arising from eligibility or qualification of players, or the interpretation of rules, or any other matter not covered elsewhere in these rules shall be referred to the Organising Committee whose decision shall be final in all matters (subject to rule 10).
10. In the event of any dispute concerning this competition, appeals can be logged with the Hertfordshire Football Association Ltd. In accordance with the rules of that body.
11. Each team is expected to have a **qualified first aider in attendance together with a suitable first aid kit**.

Unless specified the normal Laws of Association Football will apply

St. Albans City Youth F.C.
2017 Small Sided Tournament

Playing Rules

1. Under 9's to Under 12's a maximum of six (6) players will form a team that will consist of a goalkeeper and five (5) outfield players. **Under 7's and 8's a maximum of five (5) players will form a team** that will consist of a goalkeeper and four (4) outfield players

2. **Three substitutes** may be used in any match from those registered prior to the start of the competition. A player who has been substituted during a match 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.

3. There shall be no offside.

4. **A player who is sent off** for misconduct shall **not** be permitted to take any further part in the competition. The player may be replaced for subsequent matches but not in the match that they were sent off in. Registered referees shall control all matches and any misconduct shall be reported to the appropriate county FA.

5. **The following age groups (11 and 12) will be played on a league basis,** three points for a win, one for a draw. The team finishing first in its' group will qualify for the final and the teams finishing second will qualify for the 3rd and 4th play off match. **The Under 13's** will be decided on a league basis. If two or more teams finish with the same number of points, goal difference will determine the winner. If goal difference is the same, the team that has scored the most goals will be the winner. If still equal, kicks from the penalty mark will decide. In the knock out stage, if the score is equal after normal time, extra time will be played. If the score is still equal after extra time, kicks from the penalty mark will decide the winner. The under 7's, 8s, 9s and 10's festivals are non-competitive, therefore, groups of teams will play each other on a round robin basis.

6. **Duration of matches** will be **five (5) minutes each way.** In knockout ties, **three (3) minutes extra time each way** will be played if necessary. Players in the under 9 and 10 age group may not play for more than one hour in any one day.

7. Kicks from the penalty mark. Any **five** of the players who are on the pitch or in goal at the end of play may take a kick for their team. If after both teams have taken **five** kicks the score is still equal, sudden death will apply. Should a team consist of less than five players at the end of play, the opposing team will reduce the number of players taking penalties to the same number.

8. **All teams must provide two playing strips.** In the event of a clash, the first named team will change. **All players must wear shin pads** or will not be allowed to take part in the tournament.

9 **Studded boots are not allowed** unless the competition organisers rule that they are appropriate for the ground conditions. **At the start of a game,** ends shall be decided by the toss of a coin. Play starts by the referee dropping the ball on the centre mark between a player from both teams who are no less than one metre from the centre mark. The game shall be restarted in the same manner after a goal has been scored.

10. Until **a free kick** has been taken, the opposition must be at least **two metres** from the ball.

11. A goal kick can be taken from anywhere within the 'D' area. A goalkeeper **cannot pick the ball up from a pass back.**

12. **All players are allowed inside the 'D' area.**

13.**Retreat Line Rule** for under 7, under 8, under 9 and under 10 players. *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 rolls it out of the penalty area..*

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