TOURNAMENT RULES

RULES OF THE Pro Academy Tournaments Pre Season Cup

1. Competition Format

1.1 This Competition is called Pro Academy Tournaments Pre Season Cup and is sanctioned by the Hertfordshire County FA

1.2. The competition is by open invitation. 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.

2. Age Groups, Squads & Player Qualification

2.1. Age groups will relate to the 2022/2023 season.

2.2. Each team shall register a squad of players no later than 5 days before the competition.

2.3. Each team may register a squad of up to 12 players for U9 & U10 and 14 players for U11 & U12.

2.4. Each registered player shall only play for one team throughout the duration of the tournament.

2.5. Each team shall appoint a 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.

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

3. Duration of Matches & Balls

3.1. All matches will be 20 minutes in duration for U9 & U10 and 25 minutes in duration for U11 & U12 (straight through).

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. Pro Academy Tournaments will provide match balls for all games.

3.4. In the event of a clash of colours, the second named team should provide alternative shirts / bibs.

4. Scores & Results

4.1. The competition shall be played on an initial league basis for all age groups.

Three points for a win, one for a draw. Every team will qualify for the knockout stages. If two or more teams finish with the same number of points, then the highest placed team will be determined by:

-the result of their head-to-head match,

-then goal difference,

-then the team that has scored the most goals.

-kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

4.2 All knockout matches will be decided by the teams scoring the most goals during normal time. If the score is equal after normal time, kicks from the penalty mark will decide the winner in accordance with IFAB procedures.

5.Playing Rules

5.1. The Laws of association football will apply.

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

5.3 The off-side rule doesn't apply.

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 equals 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 dealt with on the day of the match.

6.6. Any misconduct from the tournament will be reported to County FA by the referee as normal.

7. Reporting Results

7.1. The referee / winning team shall be responsible for reporting the result of the game to the result co-ordinator at the conclusion of each game.

8. Protests and Appeals

8.1. All questions of eligibility, qualification of players or interpretation of Rules shall be referred to the Tournament Committee, but no objection relative to the dimensions of the playing area or other appurtenances thereon shall be entertained by the Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee before the commencement of the game.

9. Referees

9.1. Referees shall be appointed by the Competition.

10. Medals and trophies

10.1 The following will receive a medal: Winners, Runners-up.