

Welwyn Garden City Youth FC Festival & Tournament Rules

RULES OF THE TOURNAMENT

1. Competition Entry & Format

1.1. This Competition is called Welwyn Garden City Youth FC Festival & Tournament and is sanctioned by the Hertfordshire County FA.

1.2. The competition is by open invitation for all Clubs that are affiliated to their County Football Association for the season 2021/2022.

Applications from Cubs not affiliated to their County FA will be declined.

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. When applying Clubs/Teams are required to provide their Clubs County FA Affiliation number for the 2021/2022 Season.

1.4. The competition will comprise Teams from Under 7, Under 8, Under 9, Under 10, Under 11 and Under 12 age groups.

2. Age Groups, Squads & Player Qualification

2.1. Age groups will relate to the 2021/2022 season.

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

2.3. Squad Numbers

Under 7's & Under 8's a maximum of five (5) players will form a team that will consist of a goalkeeper and four (4) outfield players. Under 7's and Under 8's will have a maximum squad size of nine (9) players.

Under 9's to Under 10's a maximum of seven (7) players will form a team that will consist of a goalkeeper and six (6) outfield players. Under 9's to Under 10's will have a maximum squad size of eleven (11) players.

Under 11's to Under 12's a maximum of nine (9) players will form a team that will consist of a goalkeeper and eight (8) outfield players. Under 11's to Under 12's will have a maximum squad size of thirteen (13) players.

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.

2.7. Teams need to register their Players at the beginning of the competition. If a club enters more than one team at an age group players can only play for their registered Team

3. Duration of Matches & Balls

3.1. Under 7s will be ten [10] minutes in duration straight through.

Under 8s to Under 10s will be ten [10] minutes in duration straight through.
In knockout ties, four (4) minutes extra time will be played, if necessary, one way.

Under 11s to Under 12s will be fifteen [15] minutes in duration straight through.
In knockout ties, five (5) minutes extra time will be played, if necessary, one way.

3.2. There will be no Half time in any fixtures.

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

3.4. The competition will provide all match balls. The Under 7's, 8's, 9's and 10's will play with a size 3 and the under 11's and 12's with a size 4.

4. Scores & Results

4.1. In Under 7s, groups are played in a festival format. Results are not collected.

In Under 8s to Under 12's, the competition shall be played on an initial group basis for all age groups.

Three points for a win, one for a draw.

U8s, U11s and U12s all teams make it through to the knockout stages.

U9s and U10s the top 4 teams make it through to 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.

In Under 8 to U10s, if the score is equal after normal time, an extra four (4) minutes will be played.

In Under 11 to U12s, if the score is equal after normal time, an extra five (5) minutes will be played.

If the score is equal after extra time, kicks from the penalty mark will decide the winner in accordance with IFAB procedures.

Any 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 and the score is still equal, sudden death will apply.

5. Playing Rules

5.1. The Laws of association football will apply, except where provided for in the PLAYING RULES

5.2. Four 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.

The number of substitutions made during a game is unlimited.

Referee's must be informed of and allow substitutions.

5.3 There shall be no offsides in U7 to U10 matches.

In U11 to U12s normal offside rules apply and each team must provide one linesman each.

5.4. In the knockout stage, if the score is equal after normal time, extra time will be played.

5.5 If the score is still equal after extra time, kicks from the penalty mark will decide the winner.

5.6. All teams must provide two playing strips. In the event of a colour clash, the first named team will change.

5.7. At the start of a game, ends shall be decided by the toss of a coin. Play starts by kick off from the centre mark by the Team losing the coin toss.

After a goal has been scored the conceding Team will restart the match from a kick from the centre mark.

Should extra time be required the same rules as above applies.

5.8. Goalkeepers. Normal FA rules for Goalkeepers apply at all age groups.

5.9. There is no head height rule and the normal FA rules apply across all age groups.

5.10. Retreat Line Rule will be in place for U7s to U10s.

When the goalkeeper restarts play from a dead ball goal kick, 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 kicks the ball out of the penalty area.

5.11. Normal throw ins from hands will apply at all age groups.

5.12. Kick Off Times - Teams must be ready to start the fixture at the allotted time. Failure to do so will result in the points being awarded to opposing team, or during knock out fixtures, the match awarded to the opposing team.

If both teams are not ready for kick off time, the result will become Null and Void with neither team receiving any points.

5.14. Unless specified the normal Laws of Association Football will 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. The player may be replaced for subsequent matches but not in the match that they were sent off in

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 / Pitch Marshall / winning team shall be responsible for reporting the result of the game to the results 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.

8.2. 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.

9. Referees

9.1. Qualified Referees will be appointed by the Competition.

10. Medals and Trophies

10.1 All Under 7s and Under 8s will receive a medal for competing in the competition.

10.2 Competition Winners and Runners Up at Under 8 to Under 12s age groups will receive a Winner's Trophy and festival/tournament medals.