

Hertfordshire FA



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 2022/2023.

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 2022/2023 Season.

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

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 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 ten (10) players.

Under 9 Girls a maximum of five (5) players will form a team that will consist of a goalkeeper and four (4) outfield players.

Under 9's to Under 10's (Boys) 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 twelve (12) 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 fourteen (14) players.

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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. Under 7s will be eight [8] minutes in duration straight through.

Under 8s to Under 10s (Boys) will be ten [10] minutes in duration straight through.

Under 9 Girls, and Under 11s to Under 12s boys will be fourteen [14] minutes in duration straight through.

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.

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

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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 Boys and Under 9 Girls, the competition shall be played on an initial group basis for all age groups.

Three points for a win, one for a draw.

U8s to Under 12s Boys, the top 4 teams make it through to the knockout stages.
For U9 Girls all teams make it through to a semi-final fixture.

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 9s Girls, and Under 11 to U12s (Boys), 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. 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.

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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.

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5.4. 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. 5. Retreat Line Rules will be in place for U7s to U10s.

In Under 7 and Under 8s, all players must retreat.
In Under 9 and Under 10s, all but two (2) players must retreat.

When the goalkeeper restarts play from a dead ball goal kick, the opposition players who must retreat, do so 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.

5.6. 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.

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

6. Players, Officials and Supporters Conduct

6.1. This competition uses the yellow and red card system and details of these offences will be reported by the referee immediately after each match to the Tournament Organiser, who shall administer fully the requirements under Rule 6.

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 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.

9. Referees

9.1. Qualified Referees will be appointed by the Competition.

10. Medals and Trophies

10.1 All Under 7s, Under 8s and Under 9 Girls will receive a medal for competing in the competition.

10.2 Competition Winners and Runners Up at Under 8 to Under 12s age groups (including Under 9 Girls) will receive a Winner's Trophy and tournament medals.