

## **RULES**

- 1a. Ages of players to be under 8, under 9, under 10, under 11, under 12 and under 13 on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011. Clubs found to be playing over aged players would be expelled from the competition at once. Proof of any player's date of birth can be asked for in any protest or dispute.
- 1b. Under 8s will be playing a Festival of Football comprising of a minimum of 4 games. Results will not be recorded or published. All players must be born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2003 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2004
2. **Each team to consist of 8 players**, any 6 on the pitch at any one time. Substitution at any time, rolling subs allowed. There will be no switching of players between teams once the tournament has started.
3. All managers and teams must report and submit team sheets at least 30 minutes before their first scheduled match and be ready to start their matches at the appointed times. In the event that two teams from the same Club is accepted in an age group, they must have officials for both teams.
4. There will be no offside and back passes are not allowed. A penalty area will be drawn around the goals. Players may enter the penalty area. Goalkeepers may leave the semi-circle provided he does not play the ball with his hands. Under 8s and Under 9s may take Goal Kicks from the hand from any point within the semi-circle whereas all other age groups must take Goal Kicks from the ground from any point within the semi-circle.
5. All games to be of 5 minutes each way with no interval for league matches, 1<sup>st</sup> Knock Out Round and Quarterfinals and with a 1-minute interval in Semi-Finals and the Finals.
6. In league matches, points will be awarded, 3 for a win and 2 for a score draw and 1 for a no score draw. Where a team does not turn up the opposition will be awarded 3 points. Qualification for the knock out rounds will be the top two from each group. The remaining teams will contest the Consolation competition. Group positions will be decided as follows. 1) Highest number of points. 2) Result of the match between the teams. 3) Most goals scored in the group matches. 4) Greater goal difference. 5) Greater number of wins. Thereafter there will be a drawing of lots to decide positions.
7. Drawn games in Knock Out Rounds will be decided by a Penalty Competition in the designated area off the playing pitch. The Penalty Competition will be decided by the best of three penalties taken by players of each team who were on the field at the end of normal time; if the number of successful penalties is equal, penalties will continue on a sudden death basis, to be taken by two further players from each team who were on the field at the end of normal time; if still equal, sudden death penalties will continue using the five players who have previously taken penalties.
8. First named team to provide the match ball for each game and to change shirts in the event of a colour clash.
9. Any points of fact will be decided by the referee. All rules will be as the F.A. Rules of the game unless over ruled by these rules. All other points or disputes will be decided by the Tournament Committee in the best interests of all concerned. Any decisions of the Tournament Committee shall be final.
10. All competing clubs must be affiliated to an Association which in turn is affiliated to the Football Association. Any player, official or spectator who is cautioned or dismissed from the field of play shall be reported to the relevant County Association and may be deemed liable for further disciplinary action. A player dismissed will take no further part in the competition; a player cautioned will not play in his team's next match.
11. Players are advised to consider their own private insurance to cover claims arising from their own injury or that of another player.