



SMALL-SIDED COMPETITION RULES

1. Each team shall be registered by their manager at least 30 minutes before their first game. Teams not arriving before their first scheduled match will be deemed to have withdrawn and will forfeit all fees paid.
2. The age qualification for each group shall be 1st September 2018. e.g. Under 8 = Under 8 on 1.9.18.
Players must be at least 6 years of age.
3. Teams will consist of 6 players (5 players at U8 and U16) and 2 substitutes (except at Under 8 where 3 substitutes are permitted) who may be used as rolling substitutes at any time during the match (**except during sudden death**), once play has been stopped **and authorisation has been given by the referee.**
4. No player may play for more than one team in any age group.
5. In the event of a colour clash the team named first will be required to change their shirts / wear them inside out.
6. The team named first in the schedule will have choice of ends. Their opponents will kick-off. A goal cannot be scored direct from the kick-off.
7. Any team not ready to start their match within one minute of the appointed time will forfeit the match. A scoreline of 0-0 will be recorded and points awarded to the opposition (if applicable). Any team abusing this rule may be disqualified.
8. **At the end of each match the two team managers will verify the result card with the referee and the winning team manager (or in the event of a draw the first named team manager) will take the slip to the administration tent. No changes can be made to result slips once received at the administration tent.**
9. **ALL** footballs will be provided. U8 & U9 size 3 football. U10, U12 and U14 size 4 football. Under 16 size 5 football.
10. There are no offsides.
11. The penalty area will be marked by a straight line across the entire width of the pitch.
12. Goal kicks are taken from the goal line except for the Under 8s where the ball can be kicked from the goalkeeper's hands or place kicked from anywhere within the penalty area. **All opposition players must retreat to the halfway line for goal kicks in the U8s although it is not necessary for the goalkeeper to wait for the opposition to retreat.** Players must be at least **five** yards away from the ball for all **free kicks.**
13. The goalkeeper may not **fly-kick** the ball from their hands, except in the U8s matches. For the U9 through U15 age groups the goalkeeper **must** release the ball by hand and the ball must touch an outfield player before the goalkeeper can touch the ball again. For the U8s, a back pass to the goalkeeper is permitted.
14. Scoring in the league stage of the competition will be on the basis of 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw and no points for a defeat. **No points will be awarded in the Under 8s competitions.**
15. In competitions with **one league of six** the winners will play the fourth placed team and the runners up will play the third placed team in the semi-final. Teams finishing fifth and sixth will be eliminated from the competition. In competitions with **two leagues of four** teams all teams will go forward to the quarter-final stage of the competition. In competitions with **two leagues of six** teams the winners and runners up in each league will go forward to the semi-final stage. The winners of group A will play the runners up of group B and the winners of group B will play the runners up of group A. The remaining teams in each group will enter the consolation competition at the quarter-final stage.



In deciding the best placed teams across leagues, positions will be decided by :-

- A. Points gained.
 - B. Goal difference.
 - C. Should the goal difference be identical the team scoring the most goals shall be placed highest.
 - D. In the event of equal goals being scored the result of the corresponding match in the league between the two teams will determine the highest placed team.
 - E. In the event of the league game also being drawn the highest place will be decided by a **penalty** shootout unless otherwise agreed between the managers and the organising committee. Each team will take six penalties (five penalties at Under 16), one for each player including the goalkeepers. If the scores are still level then the outcome will be decided by sudden death penalties.
16. Drawn matches in the play-offs will be decided by **sudden death and if necessary penalties**. The match will restart with **five** players per side (**four** players per side at Under 16) and a further player per side will be withdrawn every **two** minutes until a goal is scored to resolve the match. Should the scores still be level after **two** minutes with **three** players on each side the tie will be decided by penalty kicks, **three** kicks each to decide, one for each player on the pitch at the end of sudden death. If the scores are still level then sudden death penalties will decide the winner.
 17. For all sudden death/penalty sessions the referee will be assisted by a second competition official.
 18. The duration of the league matches will be 8 minutes with no half times, and the knock-out matches 10 minutes with no half times.
 19. Any player cautioned by the referee will be suspended for their teams' next match, any player sent off will take no further part in the tournament. Any player receiving two cautions will take no further part in the tournament. All discipline matters including spectator/club official and player will be sent to the relevant County F.A.
 20. In any aspects not defined above the normal rules of football apply.
 21. The referee shall be the sole arbiter on points of dispute during any match within this competition. **The referee's decision is final.**
 22. Any matters arising, which are not covered by the above rules, shall be dealt with by the organising committee.
 23. **THE ORGANISERS CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY INJURY, THEFT OR DAMAGE SUSTAINED AS A RESULT OF THIS COMPETITION.**
 24. **THE ORGANISERS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CHANGE THE FORMAT OF THE COMPETITIONS SHOULD CIRCUMSTANCES DICTATE.**