



2017 Football Festival Rules 20th and 21st May.



1. MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPETITION

The Tournament Organising Committee will adjudicate in all cases of dispute, protest and complaint.

2. QUALIFICATION AND DECLARATION OF PLAYERS.

2a) All teams will be required to report at least thirty minutes before the start of the competition, irrespective of the schedule time of their first match.

For Under 7, 11 & 12, up to 8 players can be declared.

For Under 13 & 14 up to 9 players can be declared.

For Under 8, 9 & 10, up to 12 players can be declared.

2b) All players should be bona fide amateur members of their club and should meet the required age qualification as at 1st September 2016. Should any reasonable query arise relating to a player's age, proof of that player's date of birth will be required. Players registered with academies or schools of excellence are not eligible to play in the tournament. Clubs breaching this rule will be expelled during the competition.

2c) Team Managers should ensure that they have a change of strip available for use in the event of a clash of colours (bibs are accepted). If this occurs the away team will be required to change.

2d) Teams MUST be affiliated to their respective County Football Association and have at least the minimum insurance requirement as dictated by their respective County Football Association.

3. PLAYERS EQUIPMENT

3a) Football boots or Trainers shall be allowed.

3b) The wearing of shin guards, covered by stockings is compulsory.

3c) The wearing of jewelry including earrings during a game is forbidden.

3d) For safety reasons extra footballs will not be allowed. Any footballs being used that are not part of the competition will be held by the tournament organising committee and returned at the end of the age group competition or when the team leaves the competition whichever occurs first.

3e) Metal studs must not be worn on the 3G

4. FIELD OF PLAY

4a) No person other than the manager and one assistant and the players and substitutes will be allowed on the pitch side of the rope. All substitutes and substituted players must wear a different colour if they are not on the pitch playing. Any team official failing to adhere to the "respect" code of conduct will be asked to leave the site, potentially excluding their team from any further involvement in the tournament.

5. COMPETITION

Retreat rule will be used for U7, U8, U9 and U10 age groups.

5a) There will be no competition for Under 7s & 8s all teams will play on a round robin basis with no scores recorded. Each player taking part at Under 7 & 8 will receive a medal when all fixtures are completed. A trophy will be awarded by the tournament committee to the team of the day.

For Under 7- five players including the goalkeeper are allowed on the field of play at any one time.

For Under 8, 9 & 10, seven players including the goalkeeper are allowed on the field of play at any one time.

For Under 11, 12, 13 & 14, 5 players including the goalkeeper are allowed on the field of play at any one time.

A maximum of three substitutes can be used during the game when there is a suitable stoppage in play and with the referee's permission. Substitutes may be made on a roll on roll off basis i.e. a player substituted may come back on to the field of play at a later point in the game.

5b) In the qualifying competition for U9, U10, U11, U12, U13 and U14, three points will be awarded for a win and one point for a draw. In the event of two teams finishing with an equal number of points for a qualifying place, the qualifier will be decided by the following, in order:

- Goal Difference
- Goals Scored
- Play Off: To be decided by a golden goal. Game to be 6 minutes on way. If no goal is scored during the play off, then the result will be decided by penalty kicks.

5c) Quarter Final (if applicable), Semi Final and Final. Time allowance will be decided on the day of the tournament and may be different to each individual age group. Should the scores be equal at the end of normal time, then extra time will take place as per the play off above.

5d) Any team failing to report for a match on time will forfeit that match, which will be awarded to their opponents by a 2-0 score.

6. PLAYING RULES

6a) Play will start and re-start after a goal has been scored with a centre kick which must be passed forward, the ball must be touched by another player before the person taking the centre kick can touch the ball again. Opposition players must be a minimum distance of 5 yards from the centre when the kick is taken.

6b) Any player may enter the penalty area, any foul committed by the defending team in their own area will result in a penalty kick. The goalkeeper may touch the ball with their hands anywhere in the penalty area, and are permitted to take as many steps as they like with the ball in their hands in the penalty area. Any goalkeeper holding on to the ball for more than 6 seconds will result in a direct free kick being awarded on the penalty area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the offence was committed.

6c) Goalkeepers may use any method to put the ball back into play. At U11 and above, both boys and girls, the goalkeeper must throw **under arm** or roll the ball into play and may not kick the ball (other than receiving a ball from a back-pass)

6d) Goal kicks are to be taken from any point within the penalty area by the defending team. All opposing players must stand outside the penalty area at least five yards away from the ball. **At u11 and above goal kicks are a roll out or an under arm throw**

6e) A goalkeeper cannot pick up a back pass (except for U7 & U8). If a goalkeeper picks up a back pass a direct free kick will be awarded on the penalty area line parallel to the goal line to the nearest point to where the offence was committed.

6f) Opposing players must stand at least 5 yards from the ball at free kicks, all free kicks are direct.

6g) Penalty kicks distance will be as follows;

- 7 yards for Under 7 and 8
- 8 yards for Under 9 & 10
- 9 yards for Under 11 and 12
- 10 yards for Under 13 & 14

6h) At corners opposing players must stand at least five yards from the ball.

6i) There is no offside.

6j) Throw ins should be over arm and within the laws of the game, referees will allow a degree of flexibility unless foul throw ins are persistently being made.

Each team manager is responsible for providing their team with a first aid kit.

ALL GAMES SHOULD BE PLAYED WITHIN THE SMALL SIDED SPIRIT AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MID-CESHIRE YOUTH LEAGUE CODE OF CONDUCT

7. OFFICIALS

7a) Registered referees where possible will be appointed, at the conclusion of each game the referee shall be responsible for notifying the Tournament Organising Committee via the pitch steward of the result.

7b) Time keeping will be the sole responsibility of the Referee, time will be added on for stoppages only at the discretion of the Referee.

8. MISCONDUCT

8a) Any player receiving two cautions, dismissed from the field of play by the Referee during a match, or reported by the Referee for misconduct before or after a match, must change out of kit and will not be permitted to take any further part in the competition. Additionally the Tournament Organising Committee reserves the right to expel any team from the competition, on the event of serious misconduct of players, officials or spectators connected with that team.

8b) All cases of misconduct will be reported to the Cheshire County F A.

8c) Any player, official or spectator found to have damaged any property will be deemed to be guilty of serious misconduct and will be expelled from the competition. The club concerned may also be charged with failing to control their players/spectators.

8d) Any coaches warned for misconduct by the referee will be reported to the tournament committee any further warnings will result in the official being banned from pitch-side for the remainder of the tournament.

9. TROPHIES

9a) The presentation for each competition will take place immediately after the final has been completed. All members of the winning team's squad and runners-up squad will receive individual awards. The winning team will also receive a trophy.

9b) Any player excluded from the competition under rule 8a shall NOT be entitled to receive any award in respect of that competition.

10. PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS.

10a) All questions of eligibility, qualification of players or interpretation of the rules shall be referred to the Tournament Organising Committee, but no objection relative to the dimensions of the playing area or other appurtenances thereon shall be entertained by the Tournament Organising Committee unless a protest has been lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the game.