

FAQ's: Some Frequently Asked Questions about our Tournament.

Why don't you hold or reserve places?

We know from experience that teams will ask to have places reserved and then will not book all of those places. This will sometimes mean that a team wanting and ready to book are denied their place because a reserved place is held and never used.

We have a simple, quick online booking system which clearly shows number of places remaining. As soon as we manually try to reserve places that entire system fails.

So our advice is always the same "sorry we do not reserve or hold places – but it is quick and easy to book"

What time do we need to arrive?

Registration is from 8.30am. First matches 9.30am. This will be confirmed at least one week before tournament. With so many arriving at the same time it is advisable to give yourself plenty of time to park and get into The Bury facility.

How long are matches? How many games will we play?

All matches are twelve minutes long with the exception of knockout matches that go to extra time.

Assuming all places are booked and all teams turn up every team will play a minimum of five group matches so every team will play at least 5 x twelve minute matches.

Teams that qualify for a knockout competitions (see knockout section below) may play as many as eight matches.

What are the knockout stages ?

The knockout structure does depend on age group and numbers but in summary ;

Assuming all places are booked (they usually are) U7s to U13s will be structured into four groups of 6 teams. The top two from each group go to a cup quarter final stage knockout and play for the cup. Teams placed 3rd and 4th in each group go through to a trophy quarter final stage knockout and play for the trophy.

Assuming all places get booked then U14s and U15s will be structured into two groups of six. The top two teams from each group go to a cup semi final knockout and play for the cup whilst teams in 3rd and 4th go to a trophy semi final and play for the trophy.

Why do you ask us to describe teams as "excellent", "average" or "development" and will Managers lie?

We do this so that when we group teams together we do not see one development team grouped with five excellent teams. In reality the vast majority of teams in our tournament are "average" and most groups of six usually have one team described as "excellent", one as "development" and four as "average" as a rough guide.

Managers can lie when describing their team, but when we have retrospectively looked at results and tables in previous years the managers' descriptions looked broadly sensible.

How many players can I register? And do the players have to be registered to our club?

Maximum number of players per team is 8. Players can only play in one team on the day. Each team is allowed a maximum of two guest players. All other players must be registered. Exception is Under6's who do not need to be registered at all.

Why do I need to bring registration cards or proof of DOB for guest players?

We do not ask to see registration cards or DOB at registration on the day, only your team sheet indicating if the player is registered with your club or a guest player. Registration cards or proof of DOB will only be requested if there is a dispute about a player's validity to play in the tournament based on his age i.e. an opponent claiming that a team is playing an over-age player. In that event the player's age will be checked with the registration card or D.O.B. document and if the team cannot produce either then the entire team risk facing disqualification.

Can girls play?

Girls can play as a girl's team or in mixed teams but we do not have a specific girls only section.

What Will I Need to Bring?

Bring equipment that you would normally bring to a match including bibs (in case of colour clash) and at least one correct sized match quality ball and medical emergency aid kit.

What Facilities are at The Bury?

Bar serving drinks, sweets and snacks, BBQ serving hot food, toilets, car parking, clubhouse, changing facilities, showers, fun activities eg bouncy castle, beat the goalie, tombola. There is wheelchair access to the sports field.

Do teams and players get trophies or medals?

Under7's to Under15's winning teams are awarded a team trophy and eight individual player trophies, the cups and trophies are not expected to be returned, they are for clubs and players to keep. Losing finalists are awarded eight individual player trophies.

We do not provide medals for all players in any age group. That tends to be done in the festival formats. Our tournament is a "tournament format" not a "festival".

Can players play up a year?

Normal FA rules apply so yes a player can 'play up' one year.

Can players enter the penalty area? Is the goalie allowed out of the area?

Yes and yes. We try to keep rules as similar as possible to normal so that the children can enjoy playing rather than worrying about unfamiliar rules too much. This also helps to keep games flowing without too many stoppages.

Is there a retreat line?

There is a retreat line for U7s to U10s only as per normal mini soccer rules so that it is familiar to the children.

Is the ball allowed over head height?

For U7s to U10s it is allowed over head height so as to keep rules simple and familiar.

For U11s and older the ball is not allowed over the head height of the referee. (see rules for details).

Why do you ask all adults to pay to come in?

We ask that everyone 16years and over pays £1 at the gate. This is to support the tournament and the club's fundraising efforts.