

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. Exception is U6's playing in the afternoon where registration is from 12.15 with first matches 1.30pm. This will be confirmed 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?

Assuming all places are booked and all teams turn up every team will play a minimum of five group matches. Eight teams will qualify for a knockout stage starting with a quarter final. Therefore a team reaching the final will play eight matches. All games are 10minutes except the final which is 15 minutes. Knockout matches may require extra time and penalties. Exception is Under 6's who play a festival format with exactly five matches and no knockout stage.

What are the knockout stages ?

The knockout structure does depend on age group;

Under6's have no knockout stage, just five group matches.

Assuming all places are booked (they usually are) U7s to U9s 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 U10s to U13s will be structured in three groups of six. The top two and the two best 3rd placed teams will go through to a cup quarter final stage knockout and play for the cup.

U14s and U15s will be structured into two groups of six. The top four from each group will go through to a cup quarter final stage knockout.

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 upon 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 some dispute about a player's validity to play in the tournament based on his age i.e. an opponent claims 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 from the tournament.

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.

Are Under6's allowed to play matches?

The FA rule is that a player can play in a match once they have attained the age of six. Because our tournament is played in June it is assumed that most U6s players will have reached the age of six however it is the responsibility of the participating clubs to adhere the FA directive on Under6's.

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.

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 to keep. Losing finalists are awarded eight individual player trophies.

All U6's festival players receive a medal which will be given to Team Managers at registration for team manager to award at anytime.

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.

Is there a retreat line?

There is a retreat line for U6s to U10s only.

Is the ball allowed over head height?

For U6s to U10s it is allowed over head height so as to keep rules simple. 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.