



## **Buntingford Cougars YFC 5-A-Side Tournament Rules**

### **Tournament Format**

- ⚽ This Tournament is the Buntingford Cougars 5-A-Side tournament and is affiliated to and sanctioned by the Hertfordshire County Football Association.
- ⚽ The tournament is by invitation only. Entries will only be considered upon receipt of a fully completed entry form and cleared payment. Entries will be confirmed by the Tournament Organiser at least seven days prior to the tournament.
- ⚽ The tournament is a competitive format for teams U7's and older featuring results, league tables, a knock out stage (for qualifying teams) and an overall winner for each age group. Trophies will be awarded to the winning squad.
- ⚽ The Under 6's section is a festival format. No results or league tables are published and all participating players (up to eight per squad) will receive a memento.

### **Age Groups, Squads & Player Qualification**

- ⚽ Age groups will relate to the current season just played prior to the tournament i.e. each team will play in the age group they have been playing in from the previous September.
- ⚽ Each team shall register up to a maximum of eight players on the day of the tournament.
- ⚽ Each registered player shall only play for one team on the same day of the tournament.
- ⚽ Clubs should apply the principle of only including players who are registered to the club at the time of the tournament although squads will be allowed a maximum of two "guest" players to allow for squad players that have recently joined their club. League registration cards or proof of guest players' age may be requested. This rule is to discourage the practice of an elite team being specifically convened to compete in this tournament. Teams without an FA affiliated number will only be permitted subject to written approval from the Tournament Organiser.
- ⚽ In the Under6's section it will be the responsibility of the Team Manager to ensure that players have attained the age of six as per FA rules.
- ⚽ Girls and boys can play in the same mixed teams and girls' only teams will be welcomed.
- ⚽ No player should play who is more than two years younger than any other player in their team.
- ⚽ Each team shall appoint an adult as manager. The manager shall be responsible for their team being registered on arrival and being available to play on the correct pitch at the correct time. The manager is also responsible for adherence to the tournament rules and communication of the rules to their squads' players and supporters.

### **Duration of Matches & Balls**

- ⚽ All matches except final matches will be 10minutes in duration with no half time except the final match which will be 15minutes. Knockout matches may require extra time.
- ⚽ All Teams are responsible for considering players playing time does not exceed the FA's guidelines on maximum playing time for children.
- ⚽ In each match the first named team will provide an appropriate quality and correct sized match ball; U6's to U9s size3, U10 – U14s size4 and U15s> size 5.
- ⚽ If there is a colour clash the second named team should wear an away strip or bibs.

### **Scores & Results**

- ⚽ For the U6's Festival there will be no results, league tables or knockout stage.
- ⚽ The tournament (U7's+) will be played on a League basis with three points for a win and one point for a draw. If a team fails to fulfil a fixture three points are awarded to their opponents with a score recorded as 1-0. The number of teams qualifying for the knockout stage of the tournament will depend on the total entries and number of league groups at each age group and will be confirmed on the day of the tournament at registration. If two or more teams finish equal on points for a qualification position then positions will be decided using the following criteria in this order a) goal difference b) goals scored c) disciplinary performance with 1 point for a



yellow card and 3 for a red card (lowest score winning) d) results between the teams in question e) penalty shootout.

- ⚽ All knockout matches will be decided by the teams scoring most goals during normal time, if the score is equal after normal time, extra time of 5 minutes will be played. If the score is equal after extra time a penalty shootout will decide the winner.
- ⚽ In all penalty shootouts five players who were on the field of play at the end of extra time shall take a penalty alternating with their opponents. The highest score from the five penalties will win. If at the end of the 5 penalties, the scores remain equal, then it will go to sudden death with the same five players participating in the same order.

### **Playing Rules**

- ⚽ The Laws of association football related to mini soccer and youth football will apply (to be as close to the regular rules played) except where provided for in the playing rules as set out below;
- ⚽ A maximum of five players per team will be allowed on the field of play with a minimum of four.
- ⚽ Substitutes are roll on, roll off from those named on the registration form. A substituted player can return in the same match. Referees must be informed of and allow substitutions. The number of substitutions made during a game is unlimited.
- ⚽ Goal Kicks will be taken from any point in the penalty area.
- ⚽ For all dead ball restarts opponents must be at least 5 metres away from the ball.
- ⚽ Throw ins will be under arm.
- ⚽ There is no off side.
- ⚽ All free kicks are direct.
- ⚽ For age groups Under11's and older – if the ball goes over the head height of the referee then a free kick will be awarded to the opponents of the team that touched the ball last. The exception to this rule is if the ball travels over head height as a result of a goalkeeper's save or deflection in which case play continues.
- ⚽ For age groups Under6's to and including Under10's the ball IS ALLOWED over head height.
- ⚽ For age groups Under6s to and including Under10's the retreat line rule will apply for goal kicks whereby opponents must retreat to their own half until the ball is in play. The team in possession can choose to take the goal kick before the opposition has retreated.
- ⚽ Referees are encouraged to keep games flowing by playing advantage wherever possible and ensuring teams retreat at goal kicks quickly.

### **Players, Officials and Supporters Conduct**

- ⚽ This tournament uses yellow and red cards. An accumulation of two yellow cards in the tournament will result in the player being suspended from the next match.
- ⚽ A player who receives a red card in the tournament will not be permitted to take any further part in the tournament.
- ⚽ The tournament organiser will decide if cautions and red cards will be reported to the relevant county football association.
- ⚽ In the interest of player safety all spectators, officials and players not on the field of play MUST stand at least one metre from the touchline at all times.
- ⚽ Buntingford Cougars supports the FA Respect campaign. Any player, official or supporter that does not abide by the FA respect guidelines will be asked to immediately leave the facility.

### **Protests and Appeals**

- ⚽ Any protest shall be referred to the organising committee whose decision shall be final.
- ⚽ Any appeals can be lodged with the Herts FA in accordance with their rules.