

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?

For all groups (except Under6s and Walking Football) registration is from 8.30am. Teams must register by 09.15. First matches 9.30am. 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.

For Under6s and the walking football festivals played in the afternoon first matches from 3pm. Registration by 2.45pm.

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

All group (except Under6s and walking football matches) are twelve minutes long. Knockout matches are ten minutes long (to allow for potential extra time of 5 minutes and penalties).

Assuming all places are booked and all teams turn up every team will play a minimum of five group matches and at least one knockout match. Knockouts start at either quarter finals or semi finals depending on numbers so a team reaching a final will play a maximum of seven or eight matches.

For Under6s and walking football the number of matches and duration will depend on number of entries but we aim to group teams in sixes so they all play a minimum of five matches of 10 minutes.

How do you seed and group teams?

Each entry is asked a series of questions when booking, we ask them to describe each team as 'strong' or 'average' or 'development', we also ask them to confirm which league and division most players play in and finally we ask how many of their squad are or have been at elite academies, centre of excellence or regional development centres, we will then rank teams 1 – 24 (U7s to U14s) or 1-12 (Girls, U15s and older).

Once seeded we structure groups with group 1 containing the strongest teams 1-6, teams 7-18 (theoretically average teams) go into groups 2 and 3, teams seeded 19-24 (theoretically development teams) in group 4. Please note we rely on information when booking and this is not a science but we do the best we can to create meaningful matches for everyone.

How do knockout stages work?

In every section there will be three knockouts; we call them a cup, a trophy and a shield.

In a section with 24 teams in 4 groups (U7 – U14) knockouts start with a quarter final. Group 1 top 6 and group 2 and 3 winners enter the cup KO (this should be the strongest eight teams), group 2 2nd - 5th and group 3 2nd – 5th go into the trophy KO (this should be average teams) and then group 2 and 3 6th place teams and all group 4 teams (this should be the weakest eight teams) go into the shield KO.

In a section with 12 teams in 2 groups (all girls and U15 and older) knockouts start with a semi final. Group 1 top 4 enter the cup KO (this should be the strongest four teams), group 1 bottom 2 and group 2 top 2 go into the trophy KO (this should be average teams) and then group 2 3rd-6th place teams (this should be the weakest four teams) go into the shield KO.

All KO matches including finals are 10 minutes with extra time of 5 minutes and penalties if needed.

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 to your team. Exception is Under 6's and walking football teams 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 age i.e. someone claiming that a team is playing an over or under 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.

What about girls in the tournament?

Our tournament allows mixed teams except in the girls only section where girls team must contain girls only.

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 a medical emergency aid kit appropriate for grassroots football.

What Facilities are at The Bury?

Bar serving drinks, sweets and snacks, BBQ serving hot food, toilets, car parking, clubhouse, changing facilities, showers, we also try to have some fun activities eg bouncy castle, beat the goalie, tombola but this is dependent on availability.

There is wheelchair access to the sports field.

Do teams and players get trophies or medals?

Teams winning the knockout sections 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.

In Under 6s and walking football festivals all players get a medal.

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 football. This also helps to keep games flowing without too many stoppages.

Is there a retreat line?

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

Is the ball allowed over head height?

For up to and including 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.

Do I get a refund on cancellation?

A cancellation before 1st May will get a refund of 90% (this allows for payment processing fees).

There are no refunds for cancellations after 1st May. This is because we will have started working on the online groups and fixtures and we have little time to replace a withdrawn team.