

BISHOPS CLEEVE COLTS FC FESTIVAL OF FOOTBALL

RULES OF THE TOURNAMENT

1. **MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPETITION**

- a. The competition shall be called the Bishops Cleeve Colts Festival of Football.
- b. A management Committee shall be appointed to organise the competition, consisting of the Officers of Bishops Cleeve Colts Football Club and the Club's managers of those age groups concerned.
- c. The competition shall be governed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association. Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws for Mini-Soccer and Small –Sided Football as laid down by The Football Association.
- d. The competition shall be sanctioned by the Gloucestershire Football Association. The competition, all clubs and players and other persons shall be subject to the Rules and Regulations of that Association.

2. **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND POWER**

- a. The Management Committee shall have the power to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the competition, including any not provided for in these Rules.
- b. The Management Committee shall also adjudicate in all cases of dispute, protest and complaint.
- c. The decision of the Management Committee will be final.
- d. Other members shall be co-opted if required.

3. **AFFILIATION OF PARTICIPATING CLUBS**

All clubs must be affiliated to a County Association. No teams must enter this competition in the name of an affiliated club without the full knowledge and authority of that club.

4. **CLUBS ELIGIBLE TO ENTER AND ENTRY FEE**

The competition shall be open to Clubs by invitation from Bishops Cleeve Colts Football Club. There shall be an entry fee of £25.00 per team (£30 after 31st March 2018).

5. **ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS**

Age groups as per 2017/18 season will apply. Players are allowed to play in one age group above his/her chronological age group as per table below:

Date of Birth between (inclusive)	Eligible Age Groups (Boys)	Eligible Age Groups (Girls)
01/09/10 – 31/08/11	U7, U8	U8 Girls
01/09/09 – 31/08/10	U8, U9	U8 Girls
01/09/08 – 31/08/09	U9, U10	U10 Girls
01/09/07 – 31/08/08	U10, U11	U10 Girls
01/09/06 – 31/08/07	U11, U12	U12 Girls
01/09/05 – 31/08/06	U12, U13	U12 Girls
01/09/04 – 31/08/05	U13, U14	U14 Girls
01/09/03 – 31/08/04	U14, U15	U14 Girls
01/09/02 – 31/08/03	U15, U16	U16 Girls
01/09/01 – 31/08/02	U16	U16 Girls

No school of excellence or academy players or development centre teams will be permitted to play.

6. **COPIES OF THE RULES**

A copy of these Rules shall be made available to all participating Clubs and are binding on the clubs taking part.

7. PLAYERS QUALIFICATION

- a. The competition shall be divided into age groups for Boys Under 7 to Under 16, together with Girls Under 8, Under 10, Under 12, Under 14 and Under 16.
- b. Before the commencement of the competition all clubs shall submit a list of players eligible to participate with their dates of birth to the Management Committee.
- c. All players shall be bona fide members of their Club, and may only play for one team.
- d. Mixed teams shall only be permitted for the Boys competitions.

8. TEAM COLOURS

- a. Each competing team shall register its choice of colours with the committee before the commencement of matches. In the event of similar colours, the second named team shall change
- b. Players shall be dressed in uniform shirts and shorts, but the goalkeeper shall wear colours which distinguish them from other players and referees. The goalkeeper may wear tracksuit bottoms.

9. ARRANGEMENT OF COMPETITION (EXCEPT UNDER 7 & 8s)

- a. The competition shall be played on a league basis in the first stage. 3 points shall be awarded for a win and 1 point for a draw. (3 points, but no goals, awarded in the event of a walkover.)
- b. In the event of two or more clubs being equal on points, the team with the best goal difference shall take precedence. In the event of goal difference being equal, then the team scoring the most goals shall take precedence. In the event goals scored also being equal, the result in the group match takes precedence. If the teams are still tied, precedence shall be decided by the taking of penalty kicks (best of three then sudden death).
- c. For competitions where there is only one group:
 - i. The Final of the Cup Competition shall take place between the teams finishing first and second in the group.
 - ii. The Final of the Plate Competition (if applicable) shall take place between the teams finishing third and fourth in each group.
- d. For competitions where there is two groups:
 - i. The Final of the Cup Competition shall take place between the teams finishing first in each group.
 - ii. The Final of the Plate Competition (if applicable) shall take place between the teams finishing second in the group.
- e. In the finals if level on goals at the end of normal time, the winners will be decided firstly by five minutes extra time one way. If level at the end of extra time, the winners will be decided by a penalty shoot-out (best of three then sudden death).

10. ARRANGEMENT OF PLAY FOR UNDER 7 & 8s ONLY

- a. Teams will play each other once (or twice) in group round robins
- b. No points will be awarded.
- c. No league placings will be compiled or published.

11. DURATION OF MATCHES

Unless otherwise indicated in the official programme relevant fixtures page matches shall be 10 minutes straight through in the group stage and (if applicable) 7 minutes each way in the finals, subject to the following conditions:

- i. Allowance shall be made in any period for time lost through stoppages as decided by the referee.
- ii. The duration shall be extended to enable a penalty kick to be taken.
- iii. In the finals the teams will swap ends and the half-time interval shall not exceed 2 minutes, except by consent of the referee.

12. REPORTING OF RESULTS

The referees are responsible for passing the completed result forms to the runners at the end of each game. (No results to be collated for U7 & U8.)

13. REFEREES

Referees shall be appointed by the Management Committee and will receive payment for their time. A referee shall be appointed to officiate in each game. The referee shall have the same powers and duties as laid down in the Laws of the Game.

14. PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS

All questions of eligibility, qualification of players or interpretation of Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee, but no objection relative to the dimension of the playing area or other appurtenances thereon shall be considered by the Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee before the commencement of the game.

15. PLAYING AREA

- a. The playing area shall be 60 yards long by 40 yards wide, as laid down within The Football Association's Laws for Mini-Soccer and Small-Sided Football
- b. The playing area shall be divided into two equal halves by a line across the pitch. A suitable mark shall be made in the exact centre of the playing area for the commencement of play.
- c. The penalty area shall extend 10 yards from the goal line across the pitch to a point 9 yards either side of the centre of the goal. There are no restrictions on the number of players allowed in this area.
- d. The goal size shall be either 12 feet wide by 6 feet high or 16ft wide by 7 feet high (for older age groups).

16. THE BALL

- a. A size 3 ball will be used for the U7, U8 and U9 age groups.
- b. A size 4 ball will be used for age groups U10 to U14.
- c. A size 5 ball will be used for age groups U15 to U18.

17. NUMBER OF PLAYERS

- a. The match shall be played by two teams. One Player of each team shall be the goalkeeper, who must wear distinguishing colours.
- b. At U11 and above, the maximum number of players permitted on the playing area at any one time is 6 players per team out of a maximum squad of 8. At U9 & U10, the maximum number of players permitted on the playing area at any one time is 7 players out of a maximum squad of 10. At U7 & U8 the maximum number of players permitted on the playing area at any one time is 5 players out of a maximum squad of 7
- c. Any number of substitutes, without being named, may be used at any time with the permission of the referee. A player who has been replaced may return to the playing area as a substitute for another player.
- d. In all cases, substitutions shall be subject to the following conditions:
 - i. The player leaving the playing area shall do so from the sideline, crossing over at the half-way line.
 - ii. The player entering the playing area shall do so from the half-way line, but not until the player leaving the playing area has passed completely over the sideline
 - iii. Any of the other players may change places with the goalkeeper, provided that the referee is informed before the change is made, and provided also that the change is made during a stoppage in the game.
 - iv. A match shall not be considered valid if the playing strength of either team is reduced by more than two players

18. PLAYERS EQUIPMENT

- a. The wearing of shinguards, which must be covered by socks, in accordance with the Laws of the Game is compulsory.
- b. All jewellery must be removed.

19. START OF PLAY

- a. At the beginning of a game the choice of ends shall be decided by the toss of a coin.
- b. Play shall be started by the taking of a place kick at the centre of the playing area to start the game and after a goal has been scored.

20. BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

- a. The ball shall be in play at all times from the start of the game unless it has crossed the goal-line or side-lines, or the game has been stopped by the referee. When the ball has passed out of play behind the goal-line, play shall be restarted with a corner kick or goal kick as appropriate. When the ball has passed out of play behind a side-line, play shall be restarted at the point the ball passed out of play with a throw-in. Opposition players must retreat at least 5 yards at the taking of corners.
- b. For the U7, U8, U9 and U10 age groups Law 16 of The FA Laws for Mini-Soccer applies and opponents must retreat to their own half until the ball is in play. The defending team does not have to wait for the opposition to retreat and has the option to restart the game before should they choose to. The ball is in play when it is kicked directly out the penalty area

21. METHOD OF SCORING

Goals shall be awarded in the usual way

22. OFFSIDE

The offside rule shall not apply.

23. FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

- a. Charging is forbidden and shall be penalised by the awarding of a direct free kick.
- b. A player who unfairly impedes the progress of an opponent when not playing the ball shall be penalised by the awarding of an indirect free kick.
- c. Any player who is issued a red card and sent off the field or is reported by the referee for misconduct before or after a match, shall be excluded from further participation in the competition.
- d. No substitute is allowed for a player issued with a red card and dismissed for misconduct during the game in which the offence occurred.
- e. Any player who is issued with a yellow card will be required to miss the remainder of the match whatever the duration. A player issued with a yellow card cannot be substituted with another player.
- f. A player issued with a yellow card can continue to play within the tournament
- g. The Referees will be asked to report to the tournament committee any yellow / red cards and issues with foul or foul and abusive behaviour.
- h. The majority of our Referees are children themselves and the tournament committee will take a zero tolerance stand to foul or abusive behaviour aimed at them.
- i. Any adult being reported for misconduct will be asked to leave the ground (child welfare issues permitting).
- j. All teams are subject to the discipline processes of the County Football Association and as such all cases of misconduct of team representatives (players, coaches, parents etc) shall be reported to the Gloucestershire FA or respective county association.

24. FREE KICK

When a player is taking a direct or indirect free kick all of the opposing players shall be at least 5 yards from the ball until it is in play.

25. PENALTY KICK

A penalty kick must be taken from the penalty mark. All players except the penalty taker and opposition goalkeeper must remain outside the penalty area and behind the ball until it has been kicked.

26. GOALKEEPER RETURNING THE BALL INTO PLAY

- a. U10 and below, the goalkeeper may return the ball into play in the normal way.

- b. U11 and above, the goalkeepers will not be allowed to kick from hand. They can throw or roll then kick. Kick from hand results in indirect free kick on the edge of the area close to infringement. Goal kicks shall be taken from the edge of the penalty area; the opposition must be at least 5 yards away, and the ball must be kicked out of the area.

27. PLAY WITHIN THE PENALTY AREA

There shall be no restrictions on the number of players admitted within the penalty area.

28. TROPHIES AND MEDALS

- a. Trophies will be awarded to the winning and runner-up team in the Cup Competition final and, if applicable, the winning and runner-up team in the Plate Competition final for each age group from U9 upwards.
- b. All participants at U7 and U8 will receive medals.