



# PLAYING RULES



*Tournament organisers have the right to change any of these rules for the benefit of fair play should it be required.*

1. **KICK OFF**  
All kick offs will be according to the laws of association football.
2. **GOALKEEPER**  
Back passes ARE NOT allowed to be picked up by the keeper in this tournament except for the U7s & U8s age groups.  
No drop kicks allowed except for the U7s & U8s age groups!  
In the interest of good sportsmanship, goalkeepers in the U9s, U10s, U11s, U12s & U13s age groups must either roll or throw the ball back to their teammates.  
If a goalkeeper drop kicks the ball, a free kick will be awarded at the place of the infringement.  
Goalkeepers CAN pass the ball to a teammate from the ground.  
Goal kicks will be taken in accordance with the laws of association football.
3. **RETREAT LINE RULE**  
The U7s, U8s, U9s & U10s age groups will adhere to the retreat line rule, which will be the halfway line.
4. **BALL OUT OF PLAY**  
If the ball passes out of play, it will be returned back into play according to the rules of association football.
5. **OFFSIDES**  
There is no offsidess for the duration of the tournament.
6. **BODILY CONTACT**  
Excessive bodily contact, charging, shirt pulling are not permitted.  
Penalty for infringement: direct free kick at the point where the offence occurred unless within the penalty area where a penalty will be awarded.
7. **SUBSTITUTIONS**  
Substitutions will be on a roll on/roll of basis once the ball has gone out of play with referees' permission.
8. **THE LAWS OF ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL SHALL APPLY WHERE NOT CONSISTENT WITH THESE RULES.**
9. **KIT CLASH**  
The "Away" team are to provide a change of shirts or bibs in the event of a colour clash.
10. **REFEREE**  
Each match will be controlled by a referee who will have the authority to enforce the laws of the game, in connection with the match to which they have been appointed.  
The referee's decision is final and will not be overruled.  
South Ashford FC will support all decisions made by the referees.
11. **THE BALL**  
Under U7s, U8s, U9s, U10s will use size 3 footballs.  
Under U11s, U12s, U13s will use size 4 footballs.

Disclaimer: South Ashford Football Club and its associated members will not accept any liability arising from or responsibility for any injury, damage or loss incurred whilst visiting teams and their supporters are present during tournament. The Organisers reserve the right to make amendments to these rules, which may be made at short notice.



# TOURNAMENT RULES



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The U7s & U8s age groups will play 5-a-side. All other age groups will play 7 a-side. The maximum squad size for teams in all age groups is 10 players unless special permission is given.

All age groups are competitive with winners and runners up receiving awards.

All players must be registered with the club they are representing for insurance purposes.

Players do not have to have been registered to any leagues during the 2023/24 season, this is to allow new players the opportunity to participate in our tournament.

Team managers must be able to provide ID for all players on request (league squad list/whole game team sheet/birth certificate/passport)

Teams may only field players listed on their Team Registration Form.

Should any team be found to have fielded a player not on their Team Registration Form they will be expelled from the tournament.

No player is permitted to play for more than one team for the duration of the tournament.

Teams found to be in breach of this rule will be dealt with at the discretion of the tournament organisers.

Players must wear normal club kit, shin pads and appropriate footwear. Players not wearing shin pads Will Not be allowed to play matches.

All teams must register with the tournament organisers at least 30 minutes before the first games of their respected age groups kick off with their completed Team Registration Form.

Tournament organisers will be based in the control tent.

For subsequent games, teams should be at their designated pitch 5 minutes before their scheduled kick off time, games have a very quick turnaround so please help us maintain the high level of time keeping you expect from our tournament by arriving pitch side on time.

Any team not at their pitch at their designated kick off time will forfeit the game

This being the case, the points will be awarded to the opposition and a score of 2-0 will be recorded.

Duration of matches:

U7s & U8s will play 10 minutes one way.

All other age groups will play 12 minutes one way.

Time may be added on, where it has been intentionally wasted.

Each competition will be run on a league basis in the first round (three points for a win, one point for a draw) and a knockout basis thereafter.

Winners & runners up from the leagues will qualify for the knockout stages (except where shown) 3rd placed teams will qualify for a second knockout competition (except where shown)

In the event that teams share the same points once the group stages have been completed, final positionings will be determined via the following:

A. Most games won                      B. Most goals scored    C. Head-to-head result.

If the head-to-head result was a draw, then a penalty shoot-out will take place.



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Quarter finals, Semi-finals and the Final

If scores are level after the allocated match time, then these games will be decided by a penalty shoot-out as per rule below.

Teams required to participate in a penalty shoot-out will take 3 penalties each, with the team scoring the most after 3 penalties each being declared the winner.

If the scores are still level the players will continue taking an equal number of penalties until a clear winner is decided.

## Disciplinary Rules

Any player receiving a caution will be automatically suspended for the following game

Any player receiving either 2 separate cautions or 1 red card will be automatically suspended from the rest of the tournament.

Any team swapping players during the Tournament will be disqualified.

Any parents found using foul and abusive language or aggressive behaviour will be asked to leave the venue, should they refuse to leave then their associated team will be asked to leave and all results will be deemed to be a 2-0 defeat. No refunds will be given.

Should any manager or coach be found to be using foul and abusive language or aggressive behaviour towards the referee, the opposition, or a tournament committee member their team will be asked to leave, their results will be deemed to be a 2-0 defeat and they will be reported to the relevant FA. They will not be invited back to future tournaments. No refunds will be given.

If a team breaks the rules all their points will be removed. With the opposition being given the 3 points.



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## Entrance

There is enough parking for all entrants on site which this year will be £2 per car. All vehicles will be parked in the designated parking areas as directed by parking stewards.

NO parking from tournament entrants will be allowed on Sandyhurst Lane itself, those that do will be asked to retrieve their vehicle and park on site.

## Photography

Please note that it is our intention to have a professional photographer on site. They will be responsible for action shots of the games and team photos as well as presentation photos.

It is the intention of South Ashford Football Club to use photos taken during our event for promotional material and published on our social media sites and website.

These will be long-range shots of the whole area and various long-range action shots; no close ups of any players will be taken.

By entering the tournament, team officials consent to photos of their team/players being taken by the professional photographer, South Ashford FC officials and spectators during matches and presentation.

Any safeguarding concerns regarding event photography should be directed to a tournament official as soon as possible.