

Eversley & California FC Tournament 2024 Rules

- 1. Registration.** All players must have been under their respective ages as at midnight 31/08/2024. E.g., Under 7 means under 7 years old as at midnight 31/08/2024. Teams must register their team and players 30 minutes before their designated start time by bringing the completed Team Registration Form to the Control Tent. Managers must attend a briefing session when notified to do so that will take place outside the Control Tent. Managers will be sent details of approx. tournament timings prior to the event. Please refer to these for the times of managers briefings but also listen for announcements as timings on the day are liable to change.
No player registered with a FA Premier League or Football League Academy under the Elite Player Performance Plan contained within Youth Development Rules shall be permitted to play in this Tournament.
- 2. Competition.** For U7s & U8s, the games will be played on a friendly basis in accordance with FA guidelines. For all other age groups, the games will be played on a competitive basis.
- 3. Mixed Teams.** For U7 - U8 and U13 – U14 age groups, teams will field 5 players, but each squad may consist of up to 8 players. For U9 – U12 age groups, teams will field 7 players, but each squad may consist of up to 10 players. No player may play for more than one team in any age group.
- 4. Girls Teams.** Teams entered in our girls categories will field 5 players with a max squad size of 8 players for the U8 friendly competition, and 7 players with a max squad size of 10 players for the U10, U12 and U14 age groups.
- 5. Equipment.** All jewellery must be removed before entering the field of play. Players must wear shin pads. Both trainers and football boots are allowed.
The suitability and safety of the equipment is at the discretion of the referee.
- 6. Ball size.** The ball size will be size 3 for Under 7s to Under 9s, size 4 for Under 10s to Under 14s and size 5 for all older age groups.
The first named team should provide the match ball.
- 7. Colour clash.** In the event of a colour clash the team named first will be required to change their shirts, wear them inside out or wear distinguishing bibs.
- 8. Injuries.** Whenever it is safe to do so, we ask that injured players requiring minor treatment be substituted **immediately** to keep the games running to schedule. We have asked our referees to try to keep the clock always running to keep the games to schedule so we ask that all parties please take a sensible approach to injury time.
Players participate at their own risk.
- 9. Substitutions.** Repeat substitutions are allowed at all age groups but they can only be made with the referee's permission and when the ball is out of play.
- 10. Goalkeepers.** For U7s & U8s, goalkeepers may fly-kick the ball out of their hands. For all other age groups, the goalkeeper **must release the ball to another player by underarm throw**. A goalkeeper can also roll the ball to himself and clear with his feet, but it cannot be airborne when kicked. Infringement of this rule will result in an indirect free kick. Players are allowed in the goal area and the goalkeeper allowed out of the area.
- 11. Back pass.** The goalkeeper is not allowed to pick the ball up following a deliberate back-pass at any age group except for U7's & U8's.
- 12. Goal kicks.** Goal kicks are taken from the goal line, except at U7s & U8s, where the ball can be returned from anywhere within the penalty area. Players must be 5 yards, or as instructed by the referee, away from the ball for all free kicks and goal kicks. For U7s & U8s, all opponents must retreat behind the half-way line for goal kicks.
- 13. Free kicks.** Free kicks awarded for infringements during a game are all direct.
- 14. Match Time.** The normal duration of matches is 10 minutes with no half-times. U7 and U8 matches will be 8 minutes in duration.
- 15. Scoring** is 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw.
- 16. Ties.** Ties for league group places will be resolved in order by:
a) Goal difference
b) Goals scored
c) The result between the two teams
d) Penalty shoot-out (3 penalties each team).

17. **Drawn matches** in the play-offs will be resolved by the taking of penalty kicks. The team named first in the schedule will shoot first. Each team will take 3 penalties alternately, using 3 different players from the team on the field at the final whistle. Players who were substitutes at the final whistle are not permitted to take part in the penalty shoot-out. If the scores are level teams will continue to take alternate penalties, firstly by the remaining players and then in the same order as before, until one team scores and the other team fails. Only players on the field at the final whistle may take penalties. At any time during the penalty competition the Tournament Director has the discretion of awarding the match by a toss of a coin.
18. **Cautions.** Players cautioned by the referee with a yellow card will be sin-binned for a minimum of 5 minutes and will be barred from playing in their team's next tournament match. Any player sent off will take no further part in the tournament. Referees will enter the names of any offending players in the match result card and any misconduct will be passed to the relevant County FA.
19. **Discipline.** Any abuse of the referee by players or managers will not be tolerated. Most of our referees are U18s and without them our tournament can not take place. Respect them and their decisions always. If you have any issues with decisions during a match, please come to the control tent and speak to one of the organisers. Teams that abuse the match officials will be asked to leave with no second chances.
20. **Off-Side.** There are no offsides.
21. **Kick-Offs.** A goal may not be scored directly from the kick-off. First named team chooses end, second named team has kick-off.
22. **Reporting results.** The winning team, or in the event of a draw, the team named first in the schedule, is responsible for taking the completed result slip to the scorer in the control tent. **To help keep the tournament running to schedule, please return the result slips as soon as possible to the control tent.**
23. **Normal Rules.** In all other aspects the normal rules of football apply.

We have over 200 teams with many hundreds of players playing at our tournament over the two weekends and we will not get everything right. Mistakes will happen and if they do, please remain calm, we will do our best to rectify issues and learn from them.

Please do not abuse any of the referees, tournament officials or volunteers. Everyone gives up their time to make our tournament a success so please respect them.

If you have any issues at any time, please come and see one of the tournament officials in the control tent.

THIS IS A GAME
THESE ARE CHILDREN
THE COACHES ARE VOLUNTEERS
REFEREES ARE HUMAN
MISTAKES WILL HAPPEN
LET THEM PLAY