

PRESTBURY INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT RULES

1. Competition Format

- 1.1 This Competition is called Prestbury Invitational and shall be sanctioned by the Gloucestershire Football Association. The Competition, all Teams and Players, and other persons shall be subject to the rules and regulations of that Association.
- 1.2 The competition is by open-invitation. Applications 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.
- 1.3 All teams entered will be affiliated to a County Association.
- 1.4 No team must enter this Competition in the name of an affiliated team without the full knowledge and authority of their respective club.

2. Committee and Powers

- 2.1. A Committee consisting of Hamish Breach, Anil Patel and Ian Nelder-Morgan shall be appointed to organise the Competition.
- 2.2. The Committee as it may deem necessary, shall have the power to fill in an acting capacity, any vacancies that may occur amongst their number.
- 2.3. The Committee shall have the powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition, including any not provided for by these Rules.
- 2.4. The Committee shall also adjudicate in all cases of dispute, protest and complaint.
- 2.5. In the event a team withdraws or is removed from the competition, the Committee shall have the power to reinstate a team eliminated in the previous round.

3. Age Groups, Squads & Player Qualification

- 3.1. Age groups will relate to the 2023-24 season.
- 3.2. The relevant age for each player is determined by his or her age as at midnight on 31st August of the relevant playing season. i.e children who are aged 8 as at midnight on 31st August 2023 in a playing season (as defined by the FA) will be classed as Under 9 players for that playing season, or are aged 9 at midnight on 31st August 2023 in a playing season will be classed as Under 10 players, and so on with regard to Under 11 and Under 12 players.
- 3.3. Notwithstanding the above, a child is permitted to play up in the age group above his or her chronological age group, irrespective of any changes of format or competition structure.
- 3.4. A child who has not attained the age of six shall not play, and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play, in a match of any kind.
- 3.5. Each team shall have registered a squad of players on the day of the competition
- 3.6. Each team may register a squad of up to 12 players
- 3.7. Each registered player shall only play for one team throughout the duration of the tournament.
- 3.8. Each team shall appoint a 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.

- 3.9. All players must wear shin pads and appropriate footwear.
- 3.10. Contract players, as defined in FA rules, are not permitted in this Competition.
- 3.11. No player registered with an FA Premier League or Football League Academy team will be permitted to play in this Competition.

4. Format and Duration of Matches & Balls & Pitch sizes

- 4.1. All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game for Mini Soccer, as determined by the FA in England.
- 4.2. There will be seven players per side.
- 4.3. 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.
- 4.4. The pitch size will be of a minimum of 50x30 yards up to a maximum of 60x40 yards.
- 4.5. The goals will be sized at 12 feet x 6 feet.
- 4.6. All matches will be 15 minutes in duration.
- 4.7. There will be no half time interval.
- 4.8. In each match the first named team will provide an appropriate quality and size 3 match ball.
- 4.9. All teams are responsible for considering players' playing time does not exceed the FA's guidelines on maximum playing time for children, which is 90 minutes per day for Under 9 and Under 10 age groups in Tournaments.

5. Players, Officials and Supporters Conduct

- 5.1. This competition uses the yellow and red card system.
- 5.2. An accumulation of two yellow cards on a single day in the competition will result in the player being suspended from the next match.
- 5.3. Two yellow cards in one match equals a red card and the player will be sent off.
- 5.4. A player who receives a red card (either straight red or for two yellow cards in the same match) will not be permitted to take any further part in the competition.
- 5.5. All cautions and red cards will be dealt with on the day of the match.
- 5.6. Any misconduct from the tournament will be reported to County FA by the referee as normal.

6. Team Colours

- 6.1. In the event of a clash of colours, the second named team shall provide alternative shirts / bibs. All teams should therefore attend the tournament with a set of bibs of a markedly different colour to their first team colours.
- 6.2. Players shall be dressed in uniform shirts and shorts, but the goalkeepers shall wear colour which distinguish them from other players and the referee. The goalkeepers may wear tracksuit bottoms. No player including the goalkeeper shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts, in accordance with the FA Standard Code of Rules.

- 6.3. The tournament organising committee may refuse to permit any shirts or shorts as they think fit.

7. Arrangement of Competition

- 7.1. The competition shall be played on a League basis in the first stage, with the teams divided by the Competition into groups. Each team shall play each other team in its group once. 3 points will be awarded for a win, 1 point for a draw and 0 points for a loss. The team with the most points in each group shall be declared the winner.
- 7.2. At the conclusion of the Group stage, in the event of two or more teams being equal on points, the Team with the better/best Goal Difference shall take precedence. In the event of goal difference being equal, the team scoring the most goals shall take precedence. If these measures fail to separate the teams, the result of the match between the teams shall determine the placing. If still equal, a penalty competition shall be held as detailed in the tournament rules, section 7.6.
- 7.3. The winners of each group will then play off in the Final, for gold and silver medals in the competition.
- 7.4. The runners up of each group will then play off in a Third Place playoff, for bronze and fourth place medals.
- 7.5. The third placed teams of each group will then play off in a Fifth Place playoff, for a trophy and medals.
- 7.6. The fourth placed teams of each group will then play off in a Seventh Place playoff, for a trophy and medals.
- 7.7. In the event of the matches in 7.3 - 7.6 being a draw after 15 minutes, then 5 minutes of extra time shall be played. If the match is still drawn after this time, the winner will be decided by a penalty shootout, as described in rule 7.8.
- 7.8. Penalty shootout structure. Each team, using five different players, will take five penalties alternately into the same goal. The goal will be decided by the referee. If the score is still equal after five penalties, the winning team will be the first to score without response from their opponents. A substituted player or an unused substitute will not take part in the penalty competition.
- 7.9. The Management Committee shall review all matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one team or its club member(s) they shall be empowered to award the points for the match to the opponent or, depending on format, award the match to their opponents. In cases where a match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams and their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule all points for the match as void.

8. Reporting of Results

- 8.1. The referee and a representative of the winning team shall be responsible for reporting the result of the game to the result co-ordinator at the conclusion of each game.

9. Referees

- 9.1. Referees shall be appointed by the Competition.
- 9.2. These referees shall have the same powers and duties as laid down in the Laws of the Game. The duties of timekeeper / scorer shall be the responsibility of the referee. The Referees decision on any matter relating to the rules of the game will be final. A daily fee will be paid to referees to cover all reasonable expenses.

10. Protests and Appeals

- 10.1. All questions of eligibility, qualification of players or interpretation of Rules shall be referred to the Tournament Committee, but no objection relative to the dimensions of the playing area or other appurtenances thereon shall be entertained by the Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee before the commencement of the game.
- 10.2. All protests shall be made in writing to the Tournament Organiser within five minutes of the end of the match and shall be accompanied by a fee of £50 which shall be forfeited should the protest not be sustained. All matters of dispute shall be referred to and decided by the Management Committee. Their decision is final.
- 10.3. Any team found to have played a player not registered for their team will be awarded 0 points for that game in the group stage, and their opponent 3 points. In the Final and Third Place Playoff, the match will be forfeited by a team playing an unregistered player.
- 10.4. Any appeal against a decision of the Management Committee shall be made in duplicate to the Gloucestershire Football Association within 14 days of the posting of the decision and shall be accompanied by the appropriate fee as laid out in the County Handbook.

11. Trophies and Medals

- 11.1. The winners of the Final will receive a Trophy.
- 11.2. The runners up to 8th placed teams will receive specific medals in recognition of their finishing position.

12. Miscellaneous

- 12.1. The organisers do not hold themselves responsible for any injury, damage or loss sustained because of the Tournament and the committee reserve the right to accept, reject or vary an entry. Any matter arising that is not covered by these rules shall be dealt with by the Management Committee. Failure to comply with these rules may result in any team being withdrawn from the Tournament immediately.