



## WDJFC Football Tournament 2026 Rules & Regulations.



### 1. Administration

- 1.1 The organising committee shall be the sole judges in any dispute or complaint.
- 1.2 Entry to the competition shall be at the discretion of the tournament organisers.
- 1.3 All team managers must report to the control tent as soon as they arrive and at least 30 minutes before the first scheduled game in their age group.
- 1.4 All teams must complete the online player registration in advance of the tournament (this will be emailed to all teams in advance). If teams do not complete an online player registration form, they must complete a paper form on the day and hand in their completed registration forms to the control tent 30 minutes before the first scheduled game in their age group.
- 1.5 Any team arriving later than 5 minutes after the scheduled start of a game will forfeit the game to their opponent with a 2-0 result recorded against them.
- 1.6 Unacceptable behaviour by club officials, supporters or players may render their respective team liable to disqualification.
- 1.7 WDJFC strongly support the development of referees and any abuse will result in the team being expelled from the tournament.

### 2. Player Eligibility

- 2.1 Each squad shall consist of number of players as below (all to be included in the team registration at the start of the competition)
  - 2.1.1 Under 6, Under 7 & Under 8 will be 5 a-side with a maximum squad of 10 players
  - 2.1.2 Under 9 to Under 14 will be 6 a-side with a maximum squad of 10 players
- 2.2 Substitutes may be used on a roll on / roll off basis when the ball is out of play and with the permission of the referee
- 2.3 All players must be 'Bona fid' members of the club for which they are playing and proof of eligibility may be sought in the event of a dispute i.e. registration cards or passport if not currently signed on
- 2.4 Players may only be registered with 1 squad in this competition
- 2.5 Any player sent off, or cautioned twice, will take no further part in the competition
- 2.6 Temporary dismissals (Sin Bin) will be implemented as a consequence of dissent for a period of 2 minutes
- 2.7 The age qualification will be the 2025-26 season with the age qualification date being 31<sup>st</sup> August for all age groups

### 3. Format of Competition

- 3.1 Each age group will be split into 2 leagues where possible.
- 3.2 In the league part of the competition, each team will play the other teams in their league once with 3 points being awarded for a win and 1 point being awarded for a draw.
- 3.3 The winner (and subsequent team positions) will be decided by the following:
  1. Most points
  2. Best goal difference
  3. Most goals
  4. Result between the teams
  5. Penalty Shootout (3 players from each team)
- 3.4 The winner & runner up team of each league will advance to the knockout stage of the competition. Live results and league table can be viewed at <https://tournamentorganiser.com/tournaments2026/wickdiamonds/>
- 3.5 Medals will be awarded to all participants in the Under 6 to Under 8 age groups for both girls and boys tournaments, as well as all SEND Teams. For the boy's tournament, individual winners & runner up trophies will be awarded from Under 7 to Under 18 age groups for the Champions League Cup & The Premier League Plate. For the girl's tournament individual winners for cup and plate will be awarded from Under 9 to Under 18 age groups.
- 3.6 For SEND Teams all age groups WILL BE A ROUND ROBIN FORMAT WITH NO SCORES RECORDED

3.7 All teams are responsible for considering players' playing time does not exceed The FA's guidelines on maximum playing time for children.

#### **4. Match duration / Equipment**

4.1 All matches will be 12 minutes With Half Time so 6 minutes each way

4.2 The knockout stages will also be 12 minutes With Half Time so 6 minutes each way. In the event of a draw at the end of normal time, there will be 6 mins of extra time played with half time so 3 mins each way. If the result is still a draw after the extra time then a penalty shootout will take place with 3 players from each team taking a penalty. If the result is still a draw, then a sudden death penalty shootout will be used to decide the winner.

4.3 The first named team will provide a suitable match ball. Under 7 to Under 9 will use a Size 3 ball. Under 10 to Under 14 will use a Size 4 ball. Under 15 and Under 16 will use a Size 5 ball

4.4 A toss of the coin will decide which team chooses ends and which team kicks off.

4.5 In the event of a colour clash, the second named team will provide a change of strip or bibs

4.6 All age groups will have their own WhatsApp group for recording the scores of every game. Both managers must submit their scores immediately for the scores to be counted. In the event of a conflicted result the referee of the game in question will be asked to verify the score and confirm the winner. WhatsApp group details will be sent nearer the time and once the groups & fixtures have been confirmed.

4.7 All spectators must remain behind the Respect Line and must not encroach onto the pitch at any time.

#### **5 Playing Rules**

5.1 Unless otherwise stated, normal FA Mini Soccer Rules will apply.

5.2 At free kicks, centres and corners, the opposing team will retreat from the ball 5 yards.

5.3 All free kicks will be direct.

5.4 The back-pass rule will apply in all age groups from Under 9's and above; with a direct free kick being awarded at the edge of the area in line with where the offence occurred.

5.5 All goal kicks will be taken from the goal line within the penalty area, with the exception of U7 - U10's where goal kicks will be taken from any point within the penalty area.

5.6 The Retreat rule will only be in use at Goal kicks for under 7-10's, where 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.

5.7 Goalkeepers are not permitted to kick the ball from their hands or by use of a drop kick, with a direct free kick being awarded at the edge of the area in line with where the offence occurred. With the exception of U7 to U8's where the goal keepers can kick from their hands and by use of a drop kick.

5.8 Goalkeepers in all age groups can throw the ball by using over or under arm technique; they may also roll the ball onto the playing surface and play the ball as an outfield player.

5.9 Overhead height is allowed in all age groups.

**The decision of the Referee & Tournament Committee will be final!!**

