

FAWLEY FALCONS YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB **ANNUAL FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT 2024**

Teams Affiliated to Hampshire Football Association Limited

ADMINISTRATION RULES

MANAGEMENT OF THE TOURNAMENT

The annual football tournament will be held under the name of AFC FAWLEY FALCONS. The tournament, all Clubs and other persons shall be subject to the Rules and Regulations of the Football Association.

CLUBS ELIGIBLE TO ENTER

The Tournament has received sanction from the Hampshire Football Association Limited. It is open to clubs affiliated to their own county F.A. Each team participating will be required to notify their County F.A. Affiliation number for **Season 2023/24** to AFC Fawley Falcons on submission of their completed entry form.

PLAYERS QUALIFICATION

The tournament is for boys and girls - age groups **U7, U8, U9, U10, U11, U12 Girls, U12, U13 Girls, U13, U14, U15 Girls and U15.**

The ruling date for the age being midnight on **31st August 2024**. No player may play more than one year up. For example, U11 players must have been under 11 years old (and not less than 9 years old) at midnight on **31st August 2024**.

For U7's, the players must have attained the age of 6 as at midnight on **31st August 2024**, but must be under the age of 7 as at midnight on **31st August 2024**. A child who has not attained the age of 6 shall not play and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play in a match of any kind.

All players shall be bona fida registered members of their club and may only play for one club & one team. Before the commencement of the competition, each team shall submit a list of players eligible to participate, together with dates of birth to the Management Committee. Evidence of date of birth and registration shall be provided if requested. Failure to do so may result in the player being excluded from participation in the competition. Where a club enters more than one team in the tournament, **no player may be registered by or play for more than one team, unless authorised by the organising committee.**

Each U7 and U8 team squad shall consist of **no more than 10 players, from whom 5 shall be chosen for each match, 1 of which shall be the goalkeeper.**

Each U9, and U10 team squad shall consist of **no more than 13 players, from whom 7 shall be chosen for each match, 1 of which shall be the goalkeeper.**

Each U11, U12, U12 Girls and U13 Girls team squad shall consist of **no more than 15 players, from whom 9 shall be chosen for each match, 1 of which shall be the goalkeeper.**

Each U13, U14, U15 Girls and U15 team squad shall consist of **no more than 16 players, from whom 11 shall be chosen for each match, 1 of which shall be the goalkeeper.**

To ensure the tournament is a positive and enjoyable experience for all participants, all teams entered to an age group will be reviewed and streamed into groups of similar abilities and experience. Teams that play up a year are requested to register into the same age group as they play in their league. In addition to this, registration by elite and academy level teams are not permitted.

ENTRY FEE

The entry fee shall be:

£40 per team for U7 and U8

£45 per team for U9 and U10.

£50 per team for U11, U12, U12 Girls and U13 Girls.

£65 per team for U13, U14, U15 Girls and U15.

A minimum of 2 months' notice is required should any team need to withdraw from the tournament. If less than 2 months' notice is given, then any refund will be at the discretion of AFC Fawley Falcons and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

COPIES OF RULES

A copy of the Rules shall be given to all participating clubs and are binding on them, having already been agreed and approved by the Hampshire Football Association Limited.

TEAM COLOURS

Each team shall register its first (1st) and second (2nd) choice of colours with the Management Committee before the commencement of the competition. In the event of kit colour clashes, the designated away team will be required to change their colours. Players shall be dressed in uniform shirts and shorts, but the goalkeepers shall wear colours which distinguish them from other players and referees. 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).

ARRANGEMENT OF TOURNAMENT

The competition shall be played on a section basis in the first stage, with the teams divided by the Management Committee into two groups. Each team shall play each other in its group once, as per the schedule on the Tournament Management System (TMS).

Teams are to be at the ground 30 minutes before the group section starts. Teams not arriving at the designated time will be deemed to have withdrawn and shall forfeit all fees paid.

U7 teams play on a non-competitive basis, therefore match results are not recorded and no points awarded. **Each team shall play each other in its group once, then both group 1st placed teams will play each other, 2nd placed teams will play each other and the same applies for 3rd and 4th placed teams.**

U8 to U15 teams play a competitive competition. The 1st and 2nd placed teams from each group will go on to play for the Cup Final. 3rd and 4th placed teams from each group will go on to play for the Plate Final.

3 points shall be awarded for a win and 1 point for a draw.

In the event of two or more teams in the U8 to U15 groups being equal on points, the team with the 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 playing rules.

U7 and U8 matches will be **10 minutes** duration, with no half time.

U9, U10, U11, U12 and U12 Girls will be **15 minutes** duration, with no half time.

U13, U13 Girls, U14, U15 Girls and U15 matches will be **20 minutes** duration, with no half time.

Although, this may be varied to allow for the maximum playing time limits.

The Cup competition will be as follows:

Cup Semi Final 1	1st placed team Group 1	v	2nd placed team Group 2
Cup Semi Final 2	2nd placed team Group 1	v	1st placed team Group 2
Cup Final	Winner Cup Semi Final 1	v	Winner Cup Semi Final 2

The Plate competition will be as follows:

Plate Semi Final 1	3rd placed team Group 1	v	4th placed team Group 2
Plate Semi Final 2	4th placed team Group 1	v	3rd placed team Group 2
Plate Final	Winner Plate Semi Final 1	v	Winner Plate Semi Final 2

If the scores are level, then an extra three minutes one way will be played. If the match is still undecided, then a penalty contest will be held to decide the winner, on the following basis:

For U8 to U12, each team using **3** different players, will take **3** penalties alternately into the same goal. The goal will be decided by the referee. If the score is still equal after **3** penalties, the winning team will be the first to score without response from their opponents (sudden death). A substituted player or an unused substitute will not take part in the penalty competition, only those players already on the pitch.

For U13 to U15, each team using **5** different players, will take **5** penalties alternately into the same goal. The goal will be decided by the referee. If the score is still equal after **5** penalties, the winning team will be the first to score without response from their opponents (sudden death). A substituted player or an unused substitute will not take part in the penalty competition, only those players already on the pitch.

REPORTING OF RESULTS

It will be the responsibility of the referee to report the result of the game to the Control Centre immediately after the game has ended.

REFEREES

Referees shall be appointed by the competition organisers. 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. **A match ball will be provided by AFC Fawley Falcons, and it will be the referees responsibility to look after the ball.** The Referees decision on any matter relating to the rules of the game will be final. Where possible three officials will be appointed to all Final matches. A daily fee will be paid to referees to cover all reasonable expenses.

PROTESTS AND CLAIMS

All questions of eligibility, qualification of players or interpretation of the rules shall be referred to the Management Committee, but no objection relative to the dimensions of the playing area or a related matter shall be entertained by the Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee before the commencement of the match. 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.

APPEALS

Any appeal against a decision of the Management Committee shall be made in duplicate to the Hampshire 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.

MISCONDUCT

A player who is sent off the field for misconduct or reported by the referee for misconduct before or after a match, shall be excluded from further participation in the competition. All cases of misconduct shall be reported to and dealt with by the appropriate County Football Association. No substitute is allowed for a player dismissed for misconduct during the game in which the offence occurred.

TROPHIES & MEDALS

All trophies presented to the winning teams in the Tournament will be theirs to keep and do not need to be returned to AFC Fawley Falcons.

U7's teams play a non-competitive tournament; therefore, each player will receive a participation medal.

The U8 to U15 winning teams will receive a team cup trophy or plate trophy, with each player receiving a winner's or runners up medal.

MISCELLANEOUS

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.