



# **WORTHING TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB – FOOTBALL FESTIVAL 2024**

## **ADMINISTRATION & RULES**

### **1. MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPETITION**

The Competition shall be called the “Worthing Town FC Football Festival 2024”.

The Competition shall be governed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Football Association.

Matches shall be played in accordance with either the Laws for Mini-Soccer or Small Side Football as laid down by The Football Association (please also see Rule 17 below). Any other Rules must be specified. Where there are options these must be specified.

The Competition shall be sanctioned by the Sussex County Football Association. The Competition, all Teams and players, and other persons, shall be subject to the Rules and Regulations of that Association.

### **2. AFFILIATION OF PARTICIPATING TEAMS**

All Teams will be affiliated to the Sussex County Football Association, through the Competition.

The sanctioning of the Competition shall automatically accord to all participating Teams the status of affiliated Teams.

### **3. TEAMS ELIGIBLE TO ENTER AND ENTRY FEE**

The Competition shall be open to all teams who are affiliated to their respective County Football Association.

The entry fee shall be £50 per team. Discounts are available for early entry.

### **4. ORGANISING COMMITTEE AND POWERS**

An Organising Committee appointed by The Executive Committee of Worthing Town FC shall be appointed to organise the Competition.

The Organising Committee shall have the power to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition, and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition, including any not provided for by these Rules.

The Organising Committee shall also adjudicate in all cases of dispute, protest and complaint.

### **5. COPIES OF RULES**

A copy of these Rules shall be given to all participating Teams and are binding on the Clubs taking part.

### **6. PLAYERS' QUALIFICATION**

The Competition shall be divided into the following age groups:-

Mixed: Under 6s, Under 7s, Under 8s

Boys: Under 9s, Under 10s, Under 11s, Under 12s, Under 13s, Under 14s

Girls: Under 8s, Under 9s, Under 10s, Under 11s, Under 12s, Under 13s, Under 14s, Under 16s

**Girls will be permitted to play in Boys teams.**

Before the commencement of the Competition all Teams shall submit a list of players eligible to participate (together with details of their dates of birth) to the Committee.

All players may only play for one (1) team on any scheduled day.

All players must have been eligible to play in their respective age groups during the 2023/2024 season.

Failure to comply with this rule will result in the disqualification of the offending team, all results involving that team being declared null and void.

For teams playing 5v5 or 6v6, each Squad shall consist of no more than eight players. For teams playing 7v7, each Squad shall consist of no more than 10 players.

## **7. TEAM COLOURS**

Each competing Team shall register its first (1st) choice of the colours with the Competition. In the event of similar colours the second (2nd) named Team in the fixture shall change.

Players shall be dressed in matching uniform shirts and shorts and the goalkeepers shall wear colours which distinguish them from other players and referees. The goalkeepers may wear tracksuit bottoms.

## **8. ARRANGEMENT OF COMPETITION**

The Competition shall be played in either a Cup format or a League format. This will be determined by the Management of the Competition.

If an age group is playing a Cup format then a group draw (in the first stage) with the Teams divided by the Committee will take place. Three points will be awarded for a win, One for a draw and none for a loss.

Any team failing to complete a match or otherwise fulfil a fixture will forfeit the points to their opponents, the score of the match being recorded as 0:0. In addition, at the sole discretion of the Competition Committee, the team may also be disqualified from the tournament, in which case all results involving that team will be declared null and void.

In the event of teams being level on points then league placing will be decided as follows:

- The team with the superior goal difference will take precedence.
- If both teams have the same goal difference then the team who scored the greatest number of goals will take precedence.
- If both teams have scored the same number of goals then the team that won the league match between them will take precedence.
- If their match was drawn then five penalties and, if necessary, a sudden death shoot-out will decide the league placing. This will only take place under the direction of the Management of the Competition.

A Knock-Out Competition will then take place.

Quarter-Final matches will be played as per the pre-tournament draw with the winner of each tie progressing to the Semi-Final matches. The two winners of the Semi-Final matches shall play in the Final.

In the event of a draw during the knockout stages, there will be no extra time and matches will be decided on penalties. In the event of the match still being tied then sudden death penalties will decide, starting with the sixth player.

For all penalty shoot-outs, (to decide both league and knockout stage winners) only the players on the pitch at the end of the game will be eligible to participate.

A coin will be tossed to determine the sequence of teams. All the players have to be behind the ball in the opposite half while the kicks are being taken. Rebounds do not count.

If an age group is playing a League format then all eligible sides will play the opposing sides in the competition with three points will be awarded for a win, one for a draw and none for a loss.

There will be no competition Final played but the winner will be the side that accumulates the greatest number of points.

In the event of teams being level on points then league placing will be decided as follows:

- The team with the superior goal difference will take precedence.
- If both teams have the same goal difference then the team who scored the greatest number of goals will take precedence.
- If both teams have scored the same number of goals then the team that won the league match between them will take precedence.
- If their match was drawn then five penalties and, if necessary, a sudden death shoot-out will decide the league placing. This will only take place under the direction of the Management of the Competition.

Please note for under 7s and the Inclusive Football NO results will be recorded; there will be NO league placing; there will be NO knockout games.

## **9. REQUIREMENTS ON TEAMS**

Team managers must report to control with their completed team registration form at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the tournament. **ALL TOURNAMENTS will KICK-OFF at 9:30am on the day of play.** Any team failing to be so registered may be disqualified from the competition.

Teams should be ready for their matches at least five minutes prior to the published kick-off time. Any team arriving late for their kick-off time may forfeit the points to their opponents, in which case the score of the match will be recorded as 0:0.

All teams must provide an appropriate size match ball: Size 3 – Under 6s-Under 10s; Size 4 – Under 11s-Under 14s;

The first named team is the “HOME” team. The “HOME” team is to provide the match ball. The “AWAY” team is to change their strip in the event of a colour clash.

## **10. REPORTING OF RESULTS**

The referee shall be responsible for reporting the result of the game to the Committee at the conclusion of each game.

## **11. REFEREES**

Referees shall be appointed by the Competition. The Referees decision is final.

## **12. PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS**

All questions of eligibility, qualification of players or interpretation of Rules shall be referred to the 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.

## **13. APPEALS**

Any appeal against a decision of the Committee must be made in writing to the Sussex County Football Association in accordance with its Rules within fourteen (14) days of the posting of the decision of the Committee and accompanied by an appeal fee of £35.00.

## **14. MISCONDUCT**

All cases of misconduct, yellow and red cards will be reported to the Committee with cases of ‘Serious’ misconduct reported to the Sussex County Football Association.

A player issued with two yellow cards during the tournament will be suspended from participation in their team’s next match. A player who receives a red card at any stage during the tournament will be suspended from the remainder of their team’s matches.

## **15. TEAM NAMES**

No team may enter the Competition in the name of an affiliated club without the knowledge and authority of the club.

## **16. TROPHIES**

The winning team in each of the competitions will receive a trophy to keep FOREVER. All players in teams that are winners will receive a memento. All players in teams that are runners-up will receive a memento.

All players in Under 6s and Under 7s teams that participate will receive a memento. There are NO participation medals for any other age groups.

## **17. RULES OF PLAY**

All competitions will be run under the FA mini-soccer rules.

### **Choice of Ends / Kick-Off**

- The first named team in the programme (the 'home' side) shall have choice of ends with the second named team in the programme (the 'away' side) having kick-off.

### **Playing Duration\***

- All matches will be 12 minutes one way. There will be NO half-time.
- In ALL knockout matches there will be NO extra time and if a match is tied, the winner will be determined on penalties.

\*All playing Durations subject to change.

### **Playing Numbers / Substitutions**

- Only the players nominated to the Committee prior to the event may participate during the competition.
- Unlimited "roll on-roll off" substitutions are allowed during the course of any match at the discretion of the referee, when the ball is out of play.

### **Goal-Kicks and Retreating**

- In ALL 5v5 and 7v7 matches, goal-kicks shall be taken from within or from the edge of the penalty area. A goal cannot be scored directly from a goal-kick. In ALL age groups that are playing 5v5 or 7v7 then it is expected that the opposition retreat to the halfway line to allow the ball to be played, however, if the playing team in possession choose to take the goal-kick prior to the opposition retreating then they do so by their own choice.
- In 6v6 competitions, goal kicks shall be taken in the usual manner but no retreat is required.

### **Goalkeeper in Possession**

- In the 5v5 matches, goalkeepers in the Under 7s and Under 8s matches will the goalkeeper be allowed to kick the ball direct from their hands.
- In the 7v7 matches, goalkeepers in the Under 9s and Under 10s matches will the goalkeeper be allowed to kick the ball direct from their hands.
- In all other competitions when the goalkeeper has possession of the ball it must be thrown or rolled into play by the goalkeeper or placed on the ground to be played with their feet.