



DEVELOPMENT (U7 & U8) SECTION

GUIDANCE TO TEAM MANAGERS



INTRODUCTION

These guidelines are essential reading for everyone involved in Under 7 and Under 8 football (aka the Development Section of the League). They are intended as a quick reference guide and are based on League Rules and policies. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the League's Management Committee.

The FA has introduced fundamental changes to the way the game is run at local level for U7's and U8's. Basically, this prevents us from running formal Leagues and restricts us to a 'fixture scheduling' service. All matches must be treated as friendlies and all teams are encouraged to use these years as opportunities to develop their players. As a result the League insists that no one collates results from a match or attempts to construct a league table. Also, teams are expected to use this as an opportunity to rotate players in order to give everyone equal time on the pitch and to try players in different positions.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Football is rife with bad behaviour at older age groups. At this age group it is much less of a problem and the following will be the minimal expectation of most parents and players;

- Everyone should applaud good play from both sides.
- Players should not be shouted at or scolded by anyone.
- Bad language should not be tolerated.
- Players should be encouraged to shake hands at the end of the match.
- Referees must not be quizzed or questioned but supported at all times.
- Team Managers, Coaches and Referees must consistently display high standards of behaviour and appearance at all times.
- Everyone must accept success and failure, victory and defeat, equally.

Persistent infringement of this code will result in elimination from the fixture schedule.

RULES - General

- Both home and away teams must pay an equal share of the pitch hire. This must be paid by the team manager to the Sports Hall receptionist upon arrival.
- Matches will kick off promptly on the hour. All matches will be 20 minutes each way with a 5 minute break at half time. Once matches are over, managers must immediately vacate the pitch to make room for the next match. Team talks and presentations can be done at the side of the pitch. No added time!!
- Substitutes and siblings are not allowed to play with footballs whilst matches are in progress. Please use the grass area outside the court.
- Teams arriving early must not use the court for warming up if earlier matches are in progress. Please use the grass!!
- Teams must erect and remove goals and respect barriers.
- ID Card checks must be completed before kick-off. No card – no game.
- The team drawn as the home team will take the first kick-off and will provide a Referee and a match ball of acceptable quality. If they are unable to provide a Referee, the opposition will officiate.
- All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game for Mini-Soccer as set down by The Football Association.
- If you fail to keep a fixture without telling the League AND opposition you run the risk of not getting future fixtures.
- Managers and spectators must not stand within 1 yard of the touch-line or behind the goals. No one must step onto the pitch unless invited to do so by the referee.
- Team managers are responsible for the behaviour of their spectators at all times.



Player Registration

- Only registered players may play. Registration is proven by an ID card issued by the League. If no card is presented to the opposition by the manager, the player cannot play. The player's team is written on the ID Card. The player can only represent this team and must never play for other teams even within the same Club.
- The League does not allow player transfers until the end of the season.
- Managers must ensure that a player does not play in a match where any other team mate is older or younger by 2 years or more. Although U7's may play in U8 teams, mixed aged teams are not recommended as this creates huge problems for teams when they move to competitive matches at Under 9's (as Under 8's will not be allowed to take part).
- Club Secretaries are responsible for the certified ages of all players.
- Managers and parents must not engage with parents or managers of other teams with a view to acquiring players.

Misconduct

If any of the following is proven to the satisfaction of the League, individuals will not be invited to take part in future fixtures;

- Players who play for more than one team.
- Teams which play unregistered or ineligible players.
- Adults who engage in aggressive or abusive behaviour.
- Adults who provoke an individual or team or who aggravate a situation or incident.

Withdrawal Of Teams/Rest Days

- The FA encourages Leagues to provide a 'family friendly' facility at U7 and U8. This means that a fixture break is possible around school holidays.
- Teams may apply for up to two Rest Days per season provided one month's notice is given to the League.
- At U7 and U8, closed dates might be allocated on Rams and Forest derby days.
- At U7 and U8, teams may withdraw from fixtures at any time without penalty provided one month's notice is given (the notice is purely so oppositions can be found alternative fixtures). Any team which gives the appropriate notice will be guaranteed re-entry at a later date in the season if their circumstances change.
- In the event of a match not being played for whatever reasons, the League will decide if it shall be rescheduled for a later date.

Colours

- Clubs must register their colours with the League and teams must play in these colours. In the event of a colour clash, the away team may wear bibs.
- It is permissible for players to wear long tracksuit bottoms and other protective kit UNDER their match day kit.
- All shirts must display numbers on the back. These must not be obscured by other kit and there must be no duplication of numbers between players.
- Players are not permitted to dress and undress at the pitch-side.
- Players must never exchange or share shirts.

Bad Weather

- In times of bad weather, the League or the College might call matches off. If this happens, a suitable notice will be placed on the League web site and on our answering service.
- Managers present at matches may agree between themselves to call a match off. This can be done immediately before kick-off or during the match. In such instances, the League must be informed of the decision without delay.



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League Management Committee

League Secretary;	Steve Nicks
Registrar;	Mike Torrance
Treasurer;	Tommy Weightman
Chairman;	Steve Price
Deputy Chair;	Andy Doodson
Child Welfare Officer;	Claire Chambers
Referee Co-Ordinator;	Richard Eaton
Ass. Ref. Co-Ordinator;	Ian Birley
Disciplinary Officer	Richard Eaton
Webmaster	Daniel Hawksworth

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