



**DEVELOPMENT (U7 & U8) SECTION  
GUIDANCE TO TEAM MANAGERS**

**2010 - 2011**



## **INTRODUCTION**

These guidelines are essential reading for everyone involved in the Development Section (Under 7 and Under 8). 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 by email or on matchday at the venue.

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 operating as a League 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, we insist that teams and parents do not collate results or attempt to construct a league table or standing. Instead, teams are expected to use this as an opportunity to rotate players. Give everyone time on the pitch and to try players in different positions so they gain experience.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

Football is rife with bad behaviour at older age groups from both players and parents. At Under 7 and Under 8 it is much less of a problem. Nevertheless, we insist on the following standards which we hope will be the minimal expectation of most parents and players;

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

## **GENERAL GUIDELINES**

- All matches will be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game for Mini-Soccer as set down by The Football Association.
- Although fixtures will be posted well in advance, they are subject to change up to the Monday before they are due to be played.
- Team managers are responsible for the behaviour of their spectators at all times.
- Managers and Coaches must be easily distinguishable by wearing Club apparel.
- Both home and away teams must pay an equal share of the pitch hire and the referee fee. This must be paid before kick off.
- Teams must erect and remove goals and respect barriers.
- All matches at U7 and U8 are 7 a-side.
- Matches will kick off promptly on the hour.
- All matches are 20 minutes each way with a 5 minute break at half time.
- There is no added time for stoppages!!
- Teams arriving early must not use the court for warming up if earlier matches are in progress. Please use the grass!!
- Substitutes and siblings are not allowed to play with footballs whilst matches are in progress. Please use the grass area outside the court.
- The team drawn as the home team must provide a match ball of acceptable quality.
- Every team must provide at least one individual capable of refereeing if necessary.
- Once matches are over, teams 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.
- Managers, Coaches and Substitutes must remain within the technical area at all times.
- Parents and spectators are not allowed within the technical area at any time.
- No one must step onto the pitch unless invited to do so by the referee.
- Everyone must remain BEHIND the safety lines at all times.
- No one is allowed behind the goals or behind the goal-line.



## **PLAYING KIT**

- If in the opinion of the Referee there is a colour clash, the team drawn as the “away” team is expected to change or wear bibs.
- Formal team apparel is not required. Teams may play in bibs over their personal playing kit. However, please note that casual wear (e.g. jeans/ t-shirt/caps) is not allowed.
- Tracksuit bottoms & hats may be worn under shorts and socks from Nov to March inc.
- Shin pads and correct footwear are mandatory. Blades and studs are not allowed.
- Players are not permitted to dress and undress at the side of the pitch.
- Players must never exchange or share shirts.

## **FAMILY-FRIENDLY FOOTBALL**

The FA encourages Leagues to provide a ‘family friendly’ approach at U7 and U8. The following concessions apply only to the Development Section;

- In addition to League closed dates, there will be no matches on the first weekend of Autumn and Spring half terms and all bank holiday weekends.
- Closed dates will be allocated if Rams and Forest derby matches collide with League fixtures (please keep up to date and watch the fixture schedule on FA Full Time).
- Teams may apply for any number of Rest Days per season provided one month’s notice is given to the League (the notice is so oppositions can be found alternative fixtures).
- Teams may withdraw from fixtures at any time without penalty provided one month’s notice is given.

Note - if less than a month’s notice is given AND an alternative opposition cannot be found, the entire pitch fee and Referee fee will be due from the team in default.

## **PLAYER REGISTRATIONS**

- Club Secretaries are responsible for the certified ages of all players.
- Only eligible players may play.
- Players may only play for one Club in a season. No transfers.
- Players can move between teams within the same club but.....
- A player may only play for one team over the weekend.
- 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 are not eligible to play competitive matches).

## **MISCONDUCT**

The following offences are regarded as misconduct and will result in immediate removal of the individual or team concerned;

- Teams that play ineligible players.
- Adults who engage in any form of aggressive or abusive behaviour.
- Adults who provoke an individual or team or who aggravate a situation or incident.
- Managers and parents who engage with other parents or managers at other Clubs with a view to acquiring players.

Any team official or parent shown a red card by a Referee or ordered to do so by a League Official, must vacate the ATP playing area immediately. Failure to comply will result in the abandonment of the match and elimination of the team from the fixture schedule.

## **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. If there is no notification teams must turn up.
- If the weather suddenly changes during a match, Managers may agree between themselves to abandon the match. On such occasions, the managers should (jointly and together) attract the Referee’s attention during a stoppage in play. The Referee will immediately halt the game. Note - The pitch hire and referee fee is still due.



Section Co-ordinator

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**League Management Committee**

Chairman	Steve Price
Vice-Chair	Ian Birley
Secretary	Steve Nicks
Registrar	Mike Torrance
Ass Registrar	Danny Hawksworth
Treasurer	Tommy Weightman
Webmaster	Danny Hawksworth
Referee Secretary	Richard Eaton
Child Welfare Officer	Claire Chambers
Ass CWO	Mandy Lee

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**Under 7 and Under 8 Guidelines**