#

# Sussex Schools Football Association

**Competition Rules**

***To play in any U12-U16 competitions, the student must be U12-U16 as of the 1st September 2017 respectfully.***

**The Association Competition Rules**

**1. Form of Competition**

Competitions will be run on the knockout, round robin or league principle, or as a combination of these principles. In competitions based on the League principle teams will be placed in a single league or group, and will play each other twice, once home and once away. In competitions based on the round robin principle, teams will play each other once only, playing a fixture at home one season and the corresponding fixture away the next season.

In League matches 3 points shall be awarded for a win and 1 point for a draw. In the event of a tie on points the first position shall be awarded on the following basis:

* Goal difference.
* Goals scored.
* Goals conceded.
* Championship is shared.

**2. Draw for the Competition**

The Association shall be responsible for making the draw for all competitions including shield competitions, which shall be random sent to all competing schools and District Associations prior to the start of the season. Present for the draw must be the Competitions Secretary and an additional member of the executive committee.

**3. Eligibility**

*No boy / girl shall play unless his / her school / college are insured under the English Schools F.A. – this is covered once a team has affiliated to the Sussex School Football Association (SSFA). Players shall normally become ineligible to take part immediately on beginning to work full time or on leaving school / college, but a boy / girl who are in attendance at a school / college at the end of the Easter term shall, nevertheless, be eligible to compete in competition up to the end of the season. In Inter District competitions, players will only be allowed to represent the local Association to which their school is affiliated. No school shall affiliate to more than one District Association for competition matches.*

***No boy / girl shall be allowed to play for more than one local Association or school / college during any one season in County competitions, except by written consent of the Association.*** *Once a boy / girl have represented a team he / she shall be deemed to be "cup-tied" to that age group team relevant to the competition.*

*Girls and boys are allowed to compete up until 16 in all competitions in line with the ESFA. There is no limited to the number.*

**A player who has represented his school or college in a 1st XI final of an under 19 Cup competition shall not represent his school or college in a 2nd XI final.**

**Boys/ Girls may play together in line with the FA ruling currently it is up to U16’s.**

**4. Age Limits**

The age limit for all competitions is to be reckoned as at midnight of the previous 31st August / 1st September. Boys / Girls who are under 9 years of age on the 1st September in a playing season shall not be allowed to participate in any competition organised by the Association. No players should play up a year.

\*These are restrictions do not apply to ‘small schools’ that have less than 65 registered students per year group.

**4.1 Inter-School Competitions**

Primary Age Group

Any boy / girl who are over 9 and Under 10 may play in small-sided games only.

Any boy / girl who are over 10 and Under 11 may play in 9 a side games.

**4.2 Secondary Age Groups – Girls (Inter-School)**

Age Grouping to be:

* Under 12 – This is Over 11’s and Under 12’s (Year 7 only)
* Under 14 – This is Over 12’s and Under 14’s (Year 8/9 only)
* Under 16 – This is Over 14’s and Under 16’s (Year 10/11 only)
* Under 19 – This is Over 16’s and Under 19’s

**4.3 Secondary Age Groups – Boys (Inter-School**)

Age Groupings to be:

* Under 12 – This is Over 11’s and Under 12’s (Year 7 only)
* Under 13 – This is Over 11’s and Under 13’s (Year 8 only)
* Under 14 – This is Over 12’s and Under 14’s (Year 9 only)
* Under 15 – This is Over 13’s and Under 15’s (Year 10 only)
* Under 16 – This is Over 14’s and Under 16’s (Year 11 only)
* Under 19 – This is Over 16’s and Under 19’s

**4.4 Inter-District Competitions**

Age Groupings to be:

* Year 6 – This is Over 10’s and Under 11’s
* Year 7 – This is Over 11’s and Under 12’s
* Year 8 – This is Over 11’s and Under 13’s
* Year 9 – This is Over 12’s and Under 14’s
* Year 10 – This is Over 13’s and Under 15’s
* Year 11 – This is Over 14’s and Under 16’s

**5.1 Match Arrangements**

It is the responsibility of **BOTH** teams to:

* see the matches are played by the competition deadline by mutual consent.
* to enter the result on to the SSFA results database within 24 hours.
* to keep evidence of match arrangement that can be provided in the case of a dispute.

**5.2 It is the responsibility** of the **HOME** team to:

* provide a suitable ground with the correct markings and goals sizes for the competition, if not offer a reverse fixture to the other school immediately.
* 2G/3G pitches that have been approved by the FIFA/ FA or have the correct certificates that allow football to be played on them are deemed as suitable.
* where appropriate, to inform the Competition Secretary (Chris Emment – cemment@longhill.org.uk) or other designated person of the details of each fixture as soon as they have been made.
* to provide a qualified neutral referee from the Referee Secretary (Pete Lindsey - petelindsey30@hotmail.com) if requested from the opposition team.
* an non-neutral referee can only be used if previously agreed by both schools (evidence may be asked for in case of a dispute).

**5.3 U12 Pitch and Goals requirements:**

* FA Pitch and goal guide - <http://www.tgms.co.uk/uploads/documents/FA%20Pitch%20Sizes%20-%20Metric.pdf>
* The Pitch should be 80 x 50 yards (limited space could be 70 x 50 Yards marked on a 110 x 70 yard pitch).
* Goals should be 7 x 16 Feet.
* It is the responsibility of the **HOME** team to provide a suitable ground with the correct markings and goals sizes for the competition, if not offer a reverse fixture to the other school immediately.

**5.4 In the event of BAD weather:**

* a match can only be postponed **AFTER** an inspection by a qualified referee or qualified teacher. (Pictures of the pitch conditions may help with any disputes)
* the home team must inform the Competition Secretary (Chris Emment – cemment@longhill.org.uk) of details of any cancelled or postponed match and the re-arrangements.
* the home team must inform the Referee Secretary of details of any cancelled or postponed match and the re-arrangements, so Pete Lindsey (petelindsey30@hotmail.com) can provide the details to the referee’s.
* final pitch inspection should be made on the day of the fixture at 1pm or no later than 3 hours before kick-off.
* the home team must provide possible dates at the point of the cancelled fixture.
* inform the competition secretary of the re-arrangements of any drawn game in the under 11 competition.

**5.5 Extension arrangements:**

* an extension request must be sent to the Competitions Secretary (Chris Emment – cemment@longhill.org.uk) 5 days before the current round deadline.
* the extension window will be one week after the round deadline as per the ESFA guidelines.
* if a fixture is cancelled due to bad weather during this period a reverse fixture should be offered immediately.
* Full details of all communications will be asked for at the point of a dispute.

In the event of a match being cancelled without reasonable cause due to the action of one or both teams will be referred to the Executive Committee, who may:
a) award the match to the non defaulting team

b) impose a fine on the defaulting team or

c) order the match to be re-played and assign costs.

**Both teams must** provide suitable **first aid cover**, which is to be available **on the touchline**.

In a case where a team has failed in its commitments, as detailed above, with reference to a particular competition, it may be liable to be withdrawn from that competition.

**6.1 Duration of Matches**

**6.2 Boys**

**Age Normal Time Extra Time Minimum Length**

Under 11 25 mins each way 5 mins each way

Under 12 30 mins each way 10 mins each way 25 mins each way

Under 13 30 mins each way 10 mins each way 25 mins each way

Under 14 35 mins each way 10 mins each way 30 mins each way

Under 15 40 mins each way 10 mins each way 35 mins each way

Under 16 40 mins each way 10 mins each way 35 mins each way

Under 19 45 mins each way 10 mins each way 40 mins each way

**6.3 Girls**

**Age Normal Time Extra Time Minimum Length**

Under 12 30 mins each way 10 mins each way

Under 14 35 mins each way 10 mins each way 30 mins each way

Under 16 40 mins each way 10 mins each way 35 mins each way

Under 19 45 mins each way 10 mins each way 40 mins each way

The duration of the match shall be as stated. If it is deemed to be inadvisable to play for this period of time, the Team Managers and the Referee may decide, prior to the start of the game, that the duration may be reduced to the minimum time stipulated above. However the referee’s decision will be final. There will be a half time interval of up to 10 minutes. In the event of a drawn cup match extra time, as stated **must** be played.

In all cup competitions up to and including the semi-final stage – with the exception of the under 11 competition, if no winning goal has been scored in extra time, the result of the game shall be decided by penalty kicks, according to the International Board regulations.

If after extra time in the under 11 competitions the scores are still equal, the game shall be replayed unless:

* It was mutually agreed beforehand not to do so.
* It was specially instructed to the contrary by the Competition Secretary.

**7. Match Footballs**

The size of match footballs shall be:

**Boys**  Under 11 – Size 4 Under 12 – Size 4

 Under 13 – Size 4 Under 14 – Size 4

 Under 15 – Size 5 Under 16 – Size 5

 Under 19 – Size 5

**Girls** Under 12 – Size 4

 Under 14 – Size 4

 Under 16 – Size 5

 Under 18 – Size 5

**8. Colours**

Associations and schools / colleges shall be expected to play in their nominated colours as per their affiliation, unless mutually agreed beforehand. In the event of a similarity of colours, it is the responsibility of **Both Teams** to make sure there is no clash. Black shirts will NOT be permitted.

**9. Substitutions**

For teams in the Under 16 age group and below, a player who has been substituted will become a substitute and may replace another player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football (Referred to as roll on roll off substitutions)

For over 16s the rules of Association Football shall apply.

**10. Match Officials**

The home team shall liaise with the Referee Secretary, Pete Lindsey (petelindsey30@hotmail.com), who shall appoint officials to their game. If no official is available the Home team is to provide an appropriate referee who shall be deemed as the REFEREE.

For any final, referee and assistant referees, will be appointed by the Association.

The Referee shall

* Be in attendance 30 mins before the allocated Kick off time.
* Uniform shall comply with SCFA regulations.
* Ensure both teams agree the result at the end of the game and report the result to the secretary or other nominated person.
* **ALL** games should have a referee booked via the Referee Secretary, Pete Lindsey (petelindsey30@hotmail.com).

Appropriate and suitable assistant referees shall be allocated by each team,

Laws of Association Football will apply in all situations.

**11. Financial Arrangements**

The following arrangements will operate for Association competition matches: In all matches the visiting team shall be responsible for its own traveling expenses.

Up to and including the semi-final stage of the competitions all profits shall go to the home side.

It is the responsibility of the home team to pay the fee and expenses of the match officials for all matches up to and including the semi-final.

The match fee and mileage will be as is determined at the AGM each year

**12. Limit dates - deadline**

All matches must be played on or before the deadline window stipulated by the Completions Secretary (Chris Emment – cemment@longhill.org.uk), or special permission for a one week extension to a limited date has been approved by the Competition Secretary, failure to play by this date may result in the team responsible being withdrawn from the competition or fines imposed.

**13. Match Results**

It is the responsibility of **both** teams to ensure that the result of all matches are agreed with the referee and entered on the SSFA results database or sent to the respective Competition Secretary within 24 hours of the match and before the deadline set by the Competition Secretary.

**14. Protests**

All protests, accompanied by a fee of £10, shall be referred, in writing, to the appropriate Competition Secretary within 7 days. This shall be acknowledged by the Competition Secretary within 7 days. This fee may be forfeited if the protest is considered to be frivolous.

The matter shall be considered by the Appeal and Disciplinary Committee. The result made known to the protesting school / college / Association within 14 days of the protest being received.

Protests shall only be entertained if officially submitted by an affiliated school / college/ Association.

**15. Discipline**

All teams shall abide by the ESFA codes of conduct.

Any player that is suspended by the ESFA or a County FA shall not be allowed to play. Any school allowing a suspended player to represent their school MAY be fined and removed from the competition.

A player that is suspended by the County FA for any related matter will be suspended from all competitions over the suspension period.

A player that is suspended by the County FA for violence related matter will be suspended from all competitions over the suspension period and may be banned from playing in the finals.

**16. Withdrawal**

Any team withdrawing from the competition after the fixtures have been made will liable for a fine of up to £15 at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Where a school has entered more than one team, it will be the lowest placed team that is withdrawn from the competition.

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| **​Mr Chris Emment**​SSFA U112-U16 Competitions Secretary   Sussex Schools Football Associationemail: cemment@longhill.org.uk ​ |
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# Sussex Schools Football Association

**U19 Competition Rules**

***To play in any U19 competition, the student must be U19 as of the 1st September 2017.***

*No boy / girl shall play unless his / her school / college are insured under the English Schools F.A. – this is covered once a team has affiliated to the Sussex Schools Football Association (SSFA). Players shall normally become ineligible to take part immediately on beginning to work full time or on leaving school / college, but a boy / girl who are in attendance at a school / college at the end of the Easter term shall, nevertheless, be eligible to compete in competition up to the end of the season.*

**First XI Cup Competition Rules:

A player who has played in a “First XI Cup fixture” is ineligible to play for *any other team* in the cup competition. If a team is found to be playing an ineligible player, they will be removed from the cup competition.**

**Only players who have been registered with the competition secretary before the play offs begin will be allowed to represent their team at the semi-final / final stage. (See info below regarding squad lists)**

The league fixtures and tables can be found on the Sussex Schools FA online database.

No fixtures will be scheduled on dates specified for the cup competition, cup matches must be played on or before the specified date unless permission is given in advance by the U19 Competition Secretary (Joe McTiffen – J.mctiffen@bhasvic.ac.uk).

The first team in each pairing is deemed the HOME team. The same applies to the Semi – Final, unless a neutral ground is used by mutual consent.  The Final will be arranged at a neutral ground.

**First XI League Competition Rules:**

**A squad list will need to be submitted at the start of the year to the competition secretary which will list the names and DOBs of all players who will be representing the colleges / schools first team.

If a player joins the college / school in the middle of the season, the competition secretary must be informed with their full name and DOB.**

 **Only players who have been registered with the competition secretary before the play offs begin will be allowed to represent their team at the semi final / final stage.**

The U19 1st XI depending on the number of teams entered will be one league (13 or less will create one league, any more than 13 will create two smaller leagues). A playoff system will be in place. If there is one league – the top 2 will go through to a league final. If there are two leagues, the top two teams from each league will go through (League A 1st v League B 2nd and League B 1st v League A 2nd). The winners of these games will go through to a final at a neutral ground.

**Rules**

1. Matches shall be 45 minutes each way (minimum length 40minutes if agreed by both coaches), 10 minutes each way extra time, if scores remain level then the game will be decided by the taking of penalties.
2. As stated in the ESFA rules, all U19 fixtures will be allowed to nominate five substitutions. Any number of substitutions may be used at any time with the permission of the referee. A player who has been replaced may return to the play as a substitute for another player.
3. As stated in the ESFA rules, protests must be lodged and walkovers sought within seven days of the fixture. Walkovers will only be granted in exceptional circumstances and must be sent to j.mctiffen@bhasvic.ac.uk using a walkover/protest appeals form. The competition secretary will have the final decision on the walkover/protest result. Walkovers will be awarded as 3-0.
4. If a team entered in to the league has played less than 5 matches before the Christmas Half term, they will be removed from the division. This will also be the case if a team has forfeited more than 3 walkovers. If teams are taken from the division, all results against that specific team will be removed.
5. If for any reason the league schedule has not been completed by the end of the season, all outstanding results will be recorded as 0-0 with no league points being given to either team.
6. A neutral referee shall officiate, but each team shall appoint a competent lines assistant who is responsible to the appointed referee throughout the match.
7. Other than the Final the home team is responsible for arranging the game and the match official.
8. The home team is responsible for entering the result on the Sussex Schools FA Database within 48 hours of the fixture being played.
9. Any disciplinary action taken by the referee must be reported to the U19 Competitions Secretary (Joe McTiffen - **J.mctiffen@bhasvic.ac.uk**), who will pass on to the executive committee if needed.
10. Any player that is playing for their county is ineligible to play in the 2nd XI competition; exceptions to this rule are if a school is only affiliated to the 2nd XI competitions.
11. 3 Points will be awarded for a win, 1 for a draw.

The referees match fee and expenses for all league matches and Cup rounds up to the semi- finals have been agreed at £25. The expenses for the finals will be met by the league.

**Second XI League Competition Rules:**

All 1st XI league rules apply (see above)

A school may enter this competition without entering the 1st XI cup competition if it has fewer than 75 boys in post 16 education.

A player, who has / does represent their county rep side, will be ineligible to play for their 2nd XI college / school team unless they have only entered one side.

There is no restriction on players for this competition, but it is meant for GENUINE 2nd XI PLAYERS.

A maximum of two first team players are allowed to represent a 2nd XI team in the league at any one time. This is not the case in the 2nd XI Cup – if a player has represented a team in the cup, they then become ineligible for any other team.

The U19 2nd XI depending on the number of teams entered will be two leagues. A playoff system will be in place. The top two teams from each league will go through to the play offs (League East 1st v League West 2nd and League West 1st v League East 2nd). The winners of these games will go through to a final at a neutral ground.

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| **​Mr Joe McTiffen**​SSFA U19 Competitions Secretary   Sussex Schools Football Associationemail: j.mctiffen@bhasvic.ac.uk ​ |
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