

SWFA – TESCO Cup Tournament

18 April 2009

Tournament Rules

1. There are two age group competitions – U16s and U14s. **Both age groups will play 11 a side games.** The winning team of each age group will be entered in the UK Finals of the TESCO Cup. Where the winning team declines to go forward to the UK Finals then the runners-up will be put forward.

2. U16 players must be no younger than 14 years old as of 1 August 2008 and must not be older than 16 by 1 August 2008. U14 players must be no younger than 12 as of 1 August 2008 and must be no older than 14 as of 1 August 2008.

3. Both competitions will start with group stages of 3, 4 or 5 teams followed by knockout semi-finals and finals. The SWFA will be responsible for drawing participating teams for each group.

4. All teams will be required to submit a set of teamlines to the tournament co-ordinator **no later than 45 minutes before the kick off time of their first scheduled tie.** The teamlines must show all players in each squad along with their strip numbers and date of birth. At both U16 & U14 age groups a team shall consist of eleven players and each team is permitted to list up to 7 substitutes of whom all may take part in the match. Rolling Substitutes may be used in all ties. Clubs entering more than one team at either age group may not swap players between squads.

5. For the U14s the group games will be 25 minutes long, the semi-finals will be 35 minutes and the final 40 minutes.

For the U16s the group games will be 30 minutes long, the semi-finals will be 40 minutes and the final 50 minutes.

These times may be varied by the Tournament co-ordinator depending on how many teams enter the various age groups. Group stage games will be played from start to finish with no break for half time.

All teams are required to be present at their allotted pitch no less than 10 minutes before the scheduled start of each tie.

6. In the group stages Teams will be awarded 3 points for a win and 1 point each for a draw. The team with the highest number of points in each group will proceed to the Semi-Finals. The winners of the Semi-Final matches will proceed to the Finals.

In the event that two or more teams are tied for first place in the group stages then the following criteria will apply to determine the group winners;

a) Where two teams are tied on points for first place then the result of the game between the two teams will be used to determine the group winner. Where this result is a draw then total goals scored in all games will be used to determine the winner followed by penalties if the total goals scored are equal in number.

b) Where more than two teams are tied for first position then the team with the highest number of goals scored for, in the games between all the tied teams, shall proceed to the semi-finals.

c) Where there is a tie after applying clause b) above then the total goals scored in all games, by the teams drawing after applying b) above, will be used to determine the winner.

d) Where two or more teams are tied after applying c) above then the tied teams will be drawn at random to enter a penalty shootout to determine the winner with no more than two teams at a time taking penalty kicks.

7. Where there are a different numbers of teams in groups then the following criteria will apply;

a) The same number of results shall be counted from each group.

b) In groups with a higher number of teams only the results against the highest placed teams shall be counted to give the same number of results as smaller groups. Rule 6 above will then be applied to determine the group winner.

Extra time will not be used to decide the outcome of any game at any stage of the Tournament. Where necessary penalties will be used at the end of normal time and these will be taken in accordance with the SWFA youth league/competition rules. i.e. 5 each for both U16s and U14s to be followed by sudden death if necessary.

8. Teams will be allowed to wear their first choice strips but where the referee considers there is a clash of colours then the team named second on the draw will require to wear coloured bibs (which each team is required to bring with them).

Each team is required to have available two match quality footballs of the appropriate size and the team drawn first for each tie is responsible for providing the match ball for that tie. U16s – size 5 & U14s – size 4.

9. Any player accumulating two yellow cards will be suspended from the next game immediately succeeding the tie in which the second yellow card is awarded. Any player receiving a red card will be suspended for the two games immediately succeeding the tie in which the red card is awarded.

These penalties apply to all stages of the tournament.

10. Any protests or complaints must be raised immediately they arise with the SWFA pitch co-ordinators or with the Tournament Co-Ordinator.

Any such protest or complaint will be discussed and decided upon as quickly as possible by the Tournament Co-Ordinator along with any available members of the SWFA Youth Committee who do not represent teams affected by the outcome of any such complaint or protest. Their decision will be communicated verbally to the affected parties. There will be no right of appeal against any such decision.

11. All clubs are reminded of their obligation under rule to have appropriately qualified coaches supervising teams and to ensure that an appropriately trained and accredited first aider accompanies each team **as external first aid cover will not be provided at the tournament.**

12. All other rules will be as per the rules governing games set out in the SWFA youth handbook.