

THE BWCI GUERNSEY MINI SOCCER FESTIVAL 2009

FESTIVAL RULES

1. MANAGEMENT OF THE FESTIVAL AND FESTIVAL NAME

The Festival is organised and managed by the Guernsey Football Association LBG and, other than set out in these Rules, matches shall be played in accordance with the English Football Association's Laws for Mini-Soccer as set out in Appendix 1. The Festival shall be called The BWCI Guernsey Mini Soccer Festival.

2. CLUBS ELIGIBLE TO ENTER

Entry to the Festival is by invitation from the Guernsey Football Association to teams from either English Football Association Charter Standard clubs or professional football club academies / centres of excellence, or their national governing football body equivalents, only.

3. ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The Guernsey Football Association shall appoint an Organising Committee for the duration of the Festival and the Organising Committee shall have the power to apply, act upon and enforce these Rules, including amending, supplementing or adding to them if it believes it to be in the best interests of the Festival to do so. The Organising Committee shall also adjudicate in all cases of dispute, protest and complaint taking any advice from third parties it chooses to do so.

4. PLAYERS' QUALIFICATIONS

The Festival shall consist of two age groups – boys' under 10 (all players must have been born on or after 1st September 1998) and girls' under 12 (all players must have been born on or after 1st September 1996). No dispensation will be given in respect of any over aged players.

Before taking part, each team shall provide the Organising Committee with a list of its playing squad eligible to participate together with their dates of birth. The maximum number of players permitted in the playing squad shall be fourteen. A player can only register for one team in the Festival.

5. PLAYING COLOURS AND COLOUR CLASHES

Each team shall register its first and second choice of colours with the Organising Committee and in the event of a clash of colours, the second named team in the draw shall change, unless the two relevant teams and match referee agree otherwise.

6. NUMBER OF PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Each team shall consist of a maximum of seven players, including a goalkeeper, plus up to seven substitutes. Any number of substitutions may be made at any time during a match with the permission of the referee.

7. KICK OFF AND NO SHOWS

Teams should be changed and by the pitch five minutes before kick off time. If a team is fifteen minutes late, the Organising Committee may cancel the match and award it to the opposition. If both teams are fifteen minutes late, the match will be cancelled and the Organising Committee may award a defeat against each team.

8. FESTIVAL FORMAT

All matches shall be of eight minutes each way with a two minute interval for half time.

Each age group will be played on a league basis in the first stage with the teams divided into groups. Each team shall play one match against each of the other teams in its group. Three points shall be awarded for a win, one point for a draw and no points for a loss.

In the event of any teams being equal on points, team rankings will be decided on the criteria as below:

- (1) Goal difference
- (2) Number of goals scored
- (3) Number of goals against
- (4) Results when playing each other
- (5) Play-off match(es) between the relevant teams.

Following the group stage, teams will compete for the BWCI Shield and BWCI Plate on a knockout basis. In both competitions there will be a quarter-final, semi-final, third and fourth place play-off and final.

In the event of drawn matches in this knockout stage, no extra time will be played and instead penalties will decide the outcome.

The Organising Committee reserves the right to alter this format depending on the final number of team entries. However, the final format and draw will be advised to all competing teams no later than six weeks before the Festival.

9. PENALTIES

In the event of penalties being required to decide the outcome of matches in the play-off or knockout stages of the Festival, the following rules will apply.

- a) The referee shall choose the goal at which all the kicks shall be taken.
- b) Each team shall nominate 10 players from its playing squad, including a goalkeeper, to participate in the taking of the kicks.
- c) The referee shall toss a coin and the team whose captain wins the toss shall have the choice as to which team takes the first kick.
- d) Subject to the terms of the following paragraph (e), both teams shall take five kicks.

- e) The kicks shall be taken alternately.
- f) If before both teams have taken five kicks, one has scored more goals than the other could, even if it were to complete its five kicks, the taking of the kicks shall cease.
- g) If, after both teams have taken five kicks, both have scored the same number of goals, or have not scored any goals, the taking of the kicks shall continue, in the same order, until such time as both have taken an equal number of kicks (but not necessarily five more kicks) and one team has scored one goal more than the other.
- h) Subject to compliance with the preceding paragraphs, the team which scored the greater number of goals, shall be declared the match winner.
- i) A goalkeeper, whether injured or not, may be replaced as goalkeeper by another player from the 10 nominated players at any time during the taking of the kicks.
- j) Each kick shall be taken by a different player, and not until all 10 nominated players of the team, including the goalkeeper, have each taken a kick, may a player of the same team take a second kick.
- k) Other than the player taking a kick from the penalty mark, and the two goalkeepers, all other players and team officials shall remain in an area away from the penalty area determined by the referee whilst the taking of the kicks is in progress.
- l) The goalkeeper who is a colleague of the kicker shall take up a position within the field of play, outside the penalty area at which the kicks are being taken, at least ten yards from the penalty spot and in a position determined by the referee.

10. REPORTING OF RESULTS

The referee shall be responsible for notifying the Organising Committee of the result of each match at its conclusion.

11. MATCH OFFICIALS

Match Officials shall be appointed by the Organising Committee and must be registered with their County Football Association.

12. PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS

All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players or interpretation of rules shall be referred to the Organising Committee, but no objection relative to the dimensions of the pitch or other equipment thereon shall be entertained by the Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee before the commencement of the match.

All protests and complaints relative to a particular match in the Festival must be made in writing to the Organising Committee to be received within 30 minutes of the completion of the match.

13. TROPHIES AND MEMENTOES

All competing players and referees will receive a memento of their participation in the Festival and, in addition, prizes will be presented to the winners and runners-up in the BWCI Shield and BWCI Plate competitions and to the Player of the Festival in each age group, as deemed by the Organising Committee.

14. RULES OF THE FESTIVAL

These Rules are binding on all teams taking part and their players and team officials.

15. MISCONDUCT

A player, who is sent off the field for misconduct or is reported by the referee for misconduct before or after a match, shall be excluded from playing in his/her team's next match and the Organising Committee has the power to levy further suspension for such misconduct that it considers in its sole discretion to be sufficiently serious to warrant such further action.

A player, who is cautioned for misconduct by the referee on three separate occasions during the Festival, shall be excluded from playing in his/her team's next match.

A player, who is sent off the field for misconduct or is reported by the referee for misconduct before or after a match twice during the Festival, shall be excluded from playing in his/her team's next two matches.

In the event of mistaken identity, the Organising Committee will have the final say.

In the case of serious misconduct, players and officials will be reported by the Organising Committee to the relevant Football Association.

It is also the responsibility of each team to control the conduct of its manager, coaches, parents and spectators during and after each game. In this regard, the Organising Committee has adopted the Code of Conduct for Parents and Spectators set out at Appendix 2.

Abusive language and/or behaviour will not be tolerated and the Organising Committee will take whatever action it considers appropriate against any player, manager, coach, parent or spectator using abusive language and/or behaviour.

16. LIABILITY AND INSURANCE

Neither the Guernsey Football Association LBG nor the Organising Committee nor any organisation or party providing any facilities or services in connection with the Festival (or any of their respective employees, agents or servants) (the "Organisers") shall be under any liability whatsoever in respect of:

- the loss of or damage to any property belonging to or travelling with any participant or spectator however caused;
- the personal injury or death of any participant or spectator; or
- the cancellation of or changes to the Festival due to war, threat of war, strikes or disasters, terrorist activities, weather or any other event or cause outside the control of the Organisers.

Each team is responsible for making the necessary arrangements at its own expense for the insurance of its members, officials, players and equipment.

APPENDIX 1

The FA Football Development Programme Mini-Soccer Handbook

APPENDIX 2

Code of Conduct for Parents and Spectators

One of the greatest achievements of the Guernsey Mini Soccer Festival to date has been the manner in which all participants, from players to coaches to parents and to spectators, have conducted themselves in a friendly and sporting manner. The Organising Committee is keen for this to continue and, with this in mind, has adopted the following Code of Conduct for Parents and Spectators which it hopes all parents and spectators will observe during the Festival and in doing so play their part in continuing to ensure that the Guernsey Mini Soccer Festival retains its reputation as a friendly festival and that all players have an enjoyable time in an atmosphere of positive encouragement.

1. Remember that children play organised sports for their own enjoyment, not to entertain you.
2. Be on your best behaviour. Do not use profane language or harass, physically or verbally, players, managers, coaches, referees or assistant referees.
3. Applaud all good play by your own team and the other team.
4. Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them, there would be no game.
5. Never ridicule or scold a child for making a mistake during a game or losing a game.
6. Condemn the use of violence and verbal abuse.
7. Respect the Referee and Assistant Referees' decisions. Remember they are only human with the same feelings as you and, like you, sometimes make an honest mistake.
8. Stay off the pitch and behind the roping around the pitch at all times – the Referee is responsible for all on pitch activity.
9. Encourage players always to play according to the Laws of the Game and not to argue with Referees and other officials.
10. Read the Laws of the Game to better understand what you are looking at, and commenting on.