



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE SCHOOLS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

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COMPETITION RULES FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

1. Competitions

The BSFA Committee shall organise the following competitions:

Under 12 Boys: The Hardy Trophy

Under 13 Boys

Under 13 Girls

Under 14 Boys

Under 15 Boys

Under 15 Girls

Under 16 Boys

Under 16 Girls

Under 18 Boys

2. Trophies

All trophies are the property of the BSFA.

3. Schools Holding a Trophy

A school holding a trophy shall keep the trophy until the following season's competition. It is the responsibility of the school for its safe keeping and its engraving. Schools in possession of the trophy are responsible for these costs.

The trophy shall be retained by the holding school until the final tie, if the school reaches this stage. If the holding school loses in a previous round it is the holding schools' responsibility to pass the trophy on to the round winners and then the process continues to the final. In a case of a trophy missing, it is the responsibility of the holding school to ensure its journey to the final.

4. Mementoes

Sixteen suitably engraved mementoes shall be presented to each school taking part in the final. Extra mementoes may be purchased for squad members of the schools concerned.

5. Control of the Competitions

The entire control and management of the competitions shall be vested in the Committee. All questions of eligibility, qualifications of competitors, interpretations of rules and alleged breaches of conduct on and off the pitch, shall be referred to the Committee through the appropriate Competition Secretary.

6. Organisation of the Competitions

- a. All competitions shall be played on a Knock Out basis, except for the Under 18 Boys, Under 16 Girls, Under 15 Girls and Under 13 Girls competitions which will be contested in a league/group format, followed by knock out.
- b. All County Cup fixtures shall take precedence over all school and District games.
- c. In league/group format, 3 points shall be awarded for a win and one point for a draw. The team with the greatest number of points shall be the winner of the league/group except where a school has not fulfilled all of its fixtures and will not be eligible to qualify for the knock out stages. A fixture decided by the Emergency Committee shall be considered a game played in this context and the school awarded the match shall be credited with a win - i.e. 3 points - and a score of 0-0.
- d. In the event of a tie the group positions shall be decided by 1. Goal Difference and then 2. Goals Scored. Should two schools still be tied, the league result between those two schools shall decide the group positions. If that match is drawn, the away team shall be declared the winner.
- e. Knock out stages of league based competitions shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting, based on the number of entries to the competition.
- f. Arrangement for matches is the primary responsibility of the home school. The home school should make contact with the opponents and follow the rules laid down by the BSFA Code of Conduct.
- g. Arrangements for the Final of each competition shall be the responsibility of the two participating schools, in consultation with the Competition Secretary.
- h. Results of matches must be notified by telephone, email or fax to the appropriate Competition Secretary no later than 48 hours after the end of the match. Failure to do so may result in the offending school not receiving any points for the game or progressing into the next round.
- i. Both schools must inform the Competition Secretary when a match has been postponed giving the reason for the postponement. All postponed matches must be rearranged within 10 days of the postponement and the new date submitted to the Competition Secretary.
- j. Difficulties in arranging or playing fixtures which cannot be resolved between the two schools must be referred to the Competition Secretary who will set a time in which the match should be played.
- k. The limit dates for the competitions shall be set by the Committee and all schools informed at the Annual General Meeting or by post thereafter.

7. Laws of the Game

The Laws of the Game shall be those of The International Football Association Board, except as otherwise stated. The FA Laws for 9v9 football shall apply for the Under 12 Boys competition. For all age groups, where possible, schools should ensure the pitch is of an appropriate size for the age group; ESFA competition rules (<http://www.esfa.co.uk/rules/?id=2>) relating to '5. The Field of Play', which provide recommended (not mandatory) pitch sizes for each age group, should be used for guidance but cannot be enforced.

8. Entry to Competitions

The entry to competitions shall be open to all schools affiliated to the Buckinghamshire Schools Football Association, unless otherwise restricted. Entry shall be at the Annual General Meeting and shall be accepted by the Committee only from a representative of the affiliated school in person.

9. Age Qualifications

- a. The age for all competitions shall be at midnight between August 31st and September 1st.
- b. In all boys competitions from Under 12 to Under 16, a player may only play in his own age group.
- c. In all girls competitions a player may only play within her own two year age banding.

- d. In Under 18 competition the rule will be that which applies in ESFA Under 18 Individual Schools competitions.

10. Match Duration

- a. Under 12 Boys and Under 13 Boys/Girls competitions – 30 minutes each way
- b. Under 14 Boys and Under 15/16 Girls competitions – 35 minutes each way
- c. Under 15 Boys and Under 16 Boys competitions – 40 minutes each way
- d. Under 18 Boys competitions – 45 minutes each way
- e. In the event of a draw in all matches extra time will be played. For matches of 30 minutes a half duration 14 minutes shall be played extra time (7 minutes each way). In matches of 35 and 40 minutes a half duration 20 minutes of extra time shall be played (10 minutes each way). In matches of 45 minutes a half duration 30 minutes of extra time shall be played (15 minutes each way).
- f. Should scores remain equal after the conclusion of extra time then the result shall be decided by penalty kicks (taken in accordance with the recommendations of FIFA and published in the Laws of the Game).
- g. If, in the opinion of the referee, for circumstances beyond the control of the organisers, scheduled extra time cannot be started or completed, a match shall be decided by penalty kicks.

11. Match Officials

Neutral match officials are recommended for all matches.

12. Size of Ball

In all Matches from Under 12 to Under 14, a size 4 shall be used. In all other competitions a size 5 shall be used.

13. Substitutes

'Repeated' substitutions are allowed in all competitions up to and including Under 18. In these age groups, a player who has been substituted during a match becomes a substitute and may, in turn, replace another player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of the Game. Teams are permitted to use 5 substitutes from five named players.

14. Similar Colours

Schools are expected to play in their nominated colours, unless otherwise agreed. In the case of a colour clash, the home team have the right to retain their own colours.

15. Misconduct Reports

The Committee may prefer charges against any School, School Official, School Player etc which/who is deemed to have committed, or is reported, for alleged misconduct. The Committee will deal with any such case in line with the advice from the English Schools Football Association.

16. The Committee shall have the power to determine anything not provided for in these rules.