TROPHY EVENTS

GENERIC RULES – Part II

(Spring 5v5 Competitions)

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**ADDITIONAL RULES applicable to the SECOND PHASE of the various Competitions. These Additional Rules should be read in conjunction with the previously issued ‘Spring 2024 Rules’ to which please refer as appropriate.**

However, this document starts with a reminder that the Trophy Events follow FA guidelines and offer players the opportunity to experience playing a fixed number of competitive matches over a specified number of match days.

**Team managers and especially parents, need to keep a sense of proportion over the significance of these games and not be influenced by the change from ‘development’ fixtures to competition matches.** This is enshrined in Rule 1.

**Rule 1:** All our Trophy Event matches are for the fun and enjoyment of the children who take part. They are NOT to boost the ego of the adults who run the teams and nor are they an excuse for over excitable parents to become too vocal or disruptive. **It is essential that team Officials manage the expectations and the behavior of their ‘adult supporters’**. Just because these games involve an element of competition, it does not provide any excuse or justification for offensive and unsporting comments from the touchlines.

**Rule 2:** All matches shall be played in accordance with the FA Laws for 5v5 football applicable to each Age Group. The following competition (Trophy Event) Rules will also apply, as do League Rule 5 (Powers of Management) and League Rule 8.L (eligibility for a Semi Final or Final).

Matters arising which are not covered by these rules will be determined by the Management Committee.

**Rule 2.1: Player Eligibility - IMPORTANT** for Clubs with more than one U7s team or more than one U8s team.

All players are **only allowed to participate for one team** during the combined period of Phase One and Phase Two matches in their competition. Unlike for Development matches, **players may not switch between teams for matches in the Spring Trophy Event**. Once a player has taken part for one team, he/she will be ‘cup tied’ to that team and is not be eligible to play for a different team in the same club. All further appearances by that player can only be for the team for which they played their first Spring Competition match.

**Second Phase: scheduled to begin in late March or early April**

Rules 3 & 4 are described in the previously issued rules.

**Rule 5: Normal Time** for the U7 & U8 age groups is 20 minutes each way.

**Rule 6: Extra Time** – **There is NO extra time** in the U7s & U8s competition if drawn at full time go straight to penalties.

**Rule 7: Penalty shoot-out -** A penalty shoot-out is compulsory for games which are drawn as per Rule 6 and is to be based on the **‘best of five’** **penalties** **taken alternately;** and if still even. then ‘sudden death’. The procedures for the Penalty Kicks shall be as described in Law 10 of the ‘The Laws of The Game’ as authorised by IFAB.

Rules 8 to 12 inclusive are described in the previously issued rules.

**Allocation to the Second Phase Groups**

**Rule 13.1** Applicable to those competitions **consisting of 8 teams – with 2 Groups of 4.**

The **2 teams** which are determined by the league **(as described in Rule 8: Rankings)** to be **in first place plus the two 2nd placed teams**, in their First phase group will go forward to the **Gold** **Second Phase** group where they will be paired (by a pre-determined allocation) with another team from the opposite initial group. These four teams then play a normal length Secon Phase match or “semi-final” played in accordance with normal FA rules for their age group.

The **2 teams** which are determined by the league **(as described in Rule 8: Rankings)** to be **in third place** **plus the two 4th placed teams**, in their First phase group will go forward to the **Gold** **Second Phase** group where they will be paired (by a pre-determined allocation) with another team from the opposite initial group. These four teams then play a normal length Second Phase match or “semi-final” played in accordance with normal FA rules for their age group.

**Rule 13.2** Applicable to those Competitions **consisting of 16 teams or 20 teams- with 4 Groups of 4 or 4 groups of 5. (**See **NB** below**)**

The **4 teams** which are determined by the League (**as described in Rule 8: Rankings**) to be **in** **first place** in their First Phase Group will go forward to the **Gold Second Phase** group where they will be paired (by a pre-determined allocation) with another team which also came ‘first’ in their initial group. These four teams then play a normal length Second Phase match or “semi-final” played in accordance with normal FA Rules for their age group.

 Teams finishing **2nd** will go forward to the **Silver** second phase,

 Teams finishing **3rd** will go forward to the **Bronze** second phase,

 Teams finishing **4th** will go forward to the **Copper** second phase,

 Teams finishing **5th** will go forward to the **Tin** Second please.

**NB**: In the 2024 **Under 8 Vase** competition, one of the four groups has six teams. This means that the four teams finishing 5th and the one team finishing 6th will be ranked using a ‘Points per Game’ average and the four best teams will go forward to the Tin Second Phase. See also the Notes after Rule 15. Regrettably, with 21 teams in this competition, one team will not progress to the second phase.

The allocation for the first Second Phase match will pair Group One v Group Four and Group Two v Group Three, **BUT** the Home team for each game will be determined individually by the League.

**Rule 14** In all competitions, the **winners of their Semi Final** ties will proceed to play in the **Final** of their competition on the last Match-day, whilst the losing semi-finalists will play a match for 3rd/4th place. In all games, **Penalty kicks** will **determine the winners** if scores are level (as described in Rule 6).

Due to the sheer number of **GOLD** finals the dates will vary and be played over the weekends of the **11th/12th and 18th/19th of May 2024** and will be played at Greenacres Sports Club, 282 Limpsfield Road, Warlingham Surrey CR6 9RL. Some Gold Finals will be held on a Saturday.

The date for **ALL other** finals and play-offs will be **Sunday 12th of May 2024** and will be played at the home team’s ground.

**Rule 15** **WINNERS**

The winner of the **GOLD Final** will be declared to be **Spring Trophy Champions in the competition they are competing in.**

In the other Groups (Silver, Copper etc.) the winner will be declared to be **Group Winners.**

**NOTES**

As explained in Rule 8, team rankings in the first phase groups, will be determined by reference to (in this order)

1. Points (or Points per Game where applicable)
2. Any bonus points - and if still equal by
3. Their ‘head-to-head’ result.
4. Average Goals Conceded. If three teams are equal on points (and a three-way Head-to-Head comparison does not work) the ranking will be decided by reference to the average number of goals conceded (AGC) (we use an average to reduce the effect of un-played games). However, if two of these three teams are still equal, then the Head to Head result between those two teams will determine the final ranking. The same principles apply to determine 'best' 2nd place etc. where that is necessary.
5. Toss of a coin.

Except in rare cases, this format is designed to give **EVERY TEAM** a continuing interest in their Trophy Event even if previous results have not gone in their favour. This could mean that teams participating in (for example) the Copper second phase, may not have won a single game, but the second phase will pair them with an opponent in roughly the same situation to hopefully enjoy and learn from the continuing experience of ‘competition’.

March 2024