

Rules

It is important that all players read the rules below. Normal rules of football apply unless stated below and remember **THE REFEREE IS ALWAYS RIGHT!!**

Furness Football reserve the right to amend the rules of play at any time, however during the tournament any rule changes will be informed to your team manager in writing.

Competitions:

- ⚽ The competition will be made up of 16 teams who will take part in two leagues of 8 teams playing on a Tuesday and Wednesday evening. Teams will play each other team twice in their league, playing two games per evening.
- ⚽ The top two teams in each league will enter a mini-league play-off where they will play each other team once over one evening. The winner and runner-up in this mini league will be the league winners and runner-up of the league championship.
- ⚽ The knock-out cup competition will take place following the league. All 16 teams will contest the competition in a straight knock-out, played over two weeks.
- ⚽ Timescales:
 - * The league will run for 7 weeks (Tues & Weds)
 - * The play-offs will take place over 1 week (Weds Only)
 - * The cup competition will take place over two weeks (Weds Only)
- ⚽ Match duration is 13 minutes each way, however, cup games will be 12 minutes each way to allow for penalties. (no extra time) Penalty shootouts will be sudden death.
- ⚽ Points awarded during any league phase of competition will be as follows: WIN 3 points, DRAW 1 point, LOSE 0 points.
- ⚽ If two teams are tied on points in the league their placing will be decided by firstly; goal difference, secondly goals scored and finally by the toss of a coin.

General:

- ⚽ The ball **IS** allowed over head height.
- ⚽ Outfield players **MAY** enter the goalkeeper's area if marked.
- ⚽ Instead of a throw-in, when the ball leaves the field, play will re-start with a kick-in. A goal cannot be scored directly from a kick-in and the opposition must give 5 yards to allow the kick-in to be taken.
- ⚽ All free-kicks are direct and the defending team must be at least 5 yards away from the ball at the free-kick.
- ⚽ All teams **MUST** wear the same colour shirt and take steps to avoid a colour clash.
- ⚽ All matches are to be started by the toss of a coin. The team that wins the toss can elect to kick-off or choose direction of play for the first half. The team elected to kick-off will do so from the centre spot. (Teams are allowed to score direct from kick-off).
- ⚽ Discipline - To avoid bookings and sending off we will be implementing a sin bin system, where referees will instruct players to leave the field of play for two minutes. (the player cannot be substituted and must wait for instruction from the referee before re-entering the field of play). Bookings and sending offs will be governed by the Lancashire FA and may result in a fine and a ban from all FA competitions. **Violent behaviour will result in a life ban from all Furness Football competitions.**
- ⚽ Foul and abusive language toward other people is not tolerated - You have been warned!
- ⚽ **Remember the referee is always right!**
- ⚽ Match duration will be 26 minutes, 13 minutes per half.

Goalkeepers:

- ⚽ Are allowed outside their areas, however handball outside the area will result in a penalty kick.
- ⚽ As in 11-a-side football, the goalkeeper cannot pick up a back-pass from his own player. If the goalkeeper does pick up a back-pass the opposing team will be awarded a direct free-kick on the edge of the penalty area, directly in front of goal.

Players:

- ⚽ A team shall consist of a squad up to 10 players per night. A rolling substitution system is in operation, however substitutions may only take place when the ball is dead and the referee has been informed. No more than 7 players per team may be on the field at any time.
- ⚽ Players can only play for one team per season, however if a team is short of players on the night the **opposition CAN** offer to loan one or more of their players in the interest of a good game.
- ⚽ Players must be registered with Furness Football, if a team is fielding a player who is not registered they must inform the Furness Football representative and fill out a registration form.

Safety:

- ⚽ All players **MUST** wear shin pads.
- ⚽ Studded footwear is **NOT** allowed with the exception of rubber studs. Trainers or Astro Turf boots are recommended.

These rules are not here to spoil your fun! Make sure all of your players are aware of the rules as they will ensure your safety and enjoyment during Furness Football competitions.