



HYFC Tournament Rules 2026

1. Teams

1.1. Registration

Team Managers must register online before Friday 19th June and report to the control centre to register their attendance at least 30 minutes prior to the first match of their respective age group. Proof of age must be made available in case of disputes. Players may not transfer teams during the competition. There will be a managers briefing 15 mins before the first match.

1.2. Age Groups

All players must not exceed the age of their respective age group on the 31st of August 2026. Any team fielding a player over age will be disqualified. Players are allowed to play up one age group.

For age groups U7's & U8's there shall be a squad of up to 8 players in each side, with any 5 on the field at one time. For all other age groups there shall be a squad of up to 9 players in each side, with any 6 on the field at any one time, substitutes being allowed during a stoppage in play with the referee's permission. Repeated subs are permitted. No player may play for more than one team per day.

1.3. Guest Players

A maximum of 2 guest players will be permitted. **No academy players are permitted to play in the tournament. No JPL Teams will be accepted to play in the tournament.** All teams must be affiliated with an FA County

1.4 Shin Pads

All players must wear shin pads for safety and insurance purposes. Due to recent safety concerns, "mini" or "micro" shin pads are banned. Players must wear standard, full-sized shin pads, or they will not be permitted to play.

2. Match Details

2.1. Game Format

All league matches will be 8-minute games, one way with no half times. A knockout stage will then be held in age groups U9 & over. Quarter and Semi-final games will be 8 mins one way, and the finals will be 5 minutes each way with no half time. These times may be altered at the discretion of the Committee. Allowances for stoppages, time wasting etc. will be at the sole discretion of the referee.

2.1 Colour Clash

In the event of a colour clash the second named team will change or wear bibs.

2.2 Match Ball

The first named team will supply a suitable match ball (Size as per Oxfordshire league rules) and kick off. Second named team will have choice of ends.

2.3 Late Arrival

It is vital managers ensure their teams are ready for matches at the appointed times. If teams are late by more than 2 minutes, they will forfeit the match with a notional score of 0-0 and three points awarded to the opposing team

2.4 Scoring

Three points for a win, one point for a draw. The competition is run on a league basis with a cup and plate knockout where appropriate. League positions will be decided on the following criteria in order of importance:

- a. Points
- b. Goal Difference
- c. Most Goals Scored
- d. Result between teams concerned
- e. Penalty Shootout (see below)

The Under 7's & 8's event will be a friendly participation event strictly in accordance with the Berks and Bucks FA ruling on prohibiting younger age group competition re football at tournaments.

In the knockout stage of the tournament if scores are level at full time then a penalty shootout will take place, 3 penalties each. If still level after these then sudden death penalties will decide the outcome. Normal penalty rules apply.

Please note: This applies only to players still on the field of play at the final whistle of extra time.

Score cards should be checked by each manager at the end of the match.

3. Conduct

3.1. Cards & Behaviour

A player ordered off the field of play by the referee shall take no further part in the tournament and the vacant place in that match will not be filled by a substitute.

Team managers will be responsible for the behaviour of their players on and off the pitch please refer to the Hanney Youth Players Code of Conduct before the start of the tournament. If a player receives more than 2 yellow cards throughout the tournament, then that player shall take no further part in the rest of the tournament.

Only players, coaches and subs should stand beyond the respect barriers, subs should wear bibs.

3.2. Referees and Assistant Referees

The Committee shall appoint referees for all matches and their decision on all points of play and the laws of the game will be final. All misconduct will be reported to the relevant County FA.

Abuse of officials by the manager, their assistants, players or supporters will result in immediate disqualification of the team/teams.

4. Rules of Play

- Except where other provisions in these rules are made, the laws of mini soccer apply (for age groups up to U10) and the FA Laws of the Game.
- The laws of the game shall apply with the exception of the following: Law one (field of play), Law three (the number of players), Law seven (duration of the game) and Law eleven [offside]. When free kicks are taken (Law thirteen), opposing players must be at least 4.5 metres [5 yards] away from the ball, they are all direct.
- Goal kicks must be taken from the goal line (except U7-U10's where they can be taken from the edge of the penalty area).
- Goalkeepers must not fly-kick the ball from their hands (with the exception of U7-U10's where this is permitted).
- Once the goalkeeper controls the ball with their hands they must release the ball with a throw, overhead allowed. They can roll the ball on the floor and kick it, but it must not be bouncing and maintain contact with the ground. The ball is deemed in play as soon as it is released from the goalkeepers hands. Infringement will result in a direct free kick from outside the penalty area. The referee's decision on this will be final.
- A goal cannot be scored directly from the kick off. The ball must be played by a second player on the same team.
- The offside rule does not apply
- The back pass rule will mirror normal league rules.
- Throw/kick in's will mirror league rules for the age group.

5. Results and Awards

5.1. Scores and Tables

Scores and tables will be available on a website that will be issued with the tournament pack before the day. We will update this as quickly as possible. There will also be a screen at the admin tent.

5.2. Awards

Awards will be issued as soon as possible at the end of the knockout section, results are at the pavilion – U7's and 8's will receive an award for taking part. U9's and over winners and runners up will receive an award each and an award for the winning team.

6. Disputes/Queries

The referee's decision is final; there will not be any appeal process.

Any points not covered by the above rules should be referred to the organising Committee whose decision will be final.

7. Miscellaneous:

All managers, players and spectators are asked to ensure no damage is caused to pitches and goals and that the field is left tidy and free from litter at the end of the competition. All rules are set in good faith but may be overturned by the committee if they feel a rule is being abused to gain an unfair advantage. The decision of the Organising Committee is final for matters regarding the tournament, other than the games where the referee's decision is final.

8. DISCLAIMER:

Hanney Youth FC, the tournament committee either collectively or any member thereof accept no liability or responsibility for injury to persons visiting or the loss or damage to their belongings at this event. Cars parked are left at the owner's own risk.

That's all, we hope you have an enjoyable day's football.