

VERWOOD TOWN YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB
ROSSGARTH 6 A SIDE TOURNAMENT RULES



1. The Tournament will be held under the auspices of Verwood Town YFC (VTYFC) and sanctioned by Dorset FA. All age groups except for U14's will be 6 a side. U14s will be 5 a side.
2. Open to clubs affiliated with their own County FA.
3. Age groups U7's to U14's are set according to 2024/2025 season.
4. Children under the age of 6 are not eligible to play in the tournament, as per the FA Standard Code of Practice. Age group 6 is strictly only open to teams with players who turned 6 between 1st September 2024 and 7th June 2025
5. All clubs must present a list of players' names and dates of birth on the form which will be sent to the club secretary with acknowledgement of entry. This should be brought to the tournament control point at least 20 minutes before the start of the tournament.
6. All players must be registered with the club for whom they are playing for.
7. Each team must bring an alternative strip in case of a colour clash. The second named team to change if necessary.
8. All players must wear shin pads and appropriate footwear. Any child wearing micro shin pads will not be able to play.
9. Age 6s to U9s to use size 3 footballs, U10s to U14s a size 4. VTYFC will supply match balls.
10. In accordance with the current FA guidelines The Age 6, U7 and U8 age groups will be run on a non-competitive basis with no recorded tables and no knockout football. Each player will receive a medal as a small memento of the day.
11. VTYFC accept no responsibility for any injury to a player, or loss or damage sustained as a result of the competition.
12. The laws of Association Football will be applied with the following exceptions (many of which apply to FA small-sided football rules):
 - 12.1 There shall be no offside.
 - 12.2 No player to play for more than one team during the tournament.
 - 12.3 Eight players can be nominated from which six shall be chosen to form a team in the six-a-side tournament. Five shall be chosen for the u14 five-a-side tournament.
 - 12.4 Rolling substitutes are permitted with the exception of the goalkeeper, who may be changed only once during the game, other than through injury.
 - 12.5 Only the players on the pitch at the final whistle will be allowed to take a penalty in the event of a penalty shootout.
 - 12.6 The goalkeeper on the pitch at the final whistle will stay in goal in the event of a penalty shootout.
 - 12.7 The goal area will be clearly defined as will the penalty spot and the place for taking of goal kicks.
 - 12.8 All goal kicks shall be taken from the touch line. No half way retreat, with the exception of Age 6's, Under 7's and Under 8's, due to being non-competitive.
 - 12.9 Any player sent off will take no further part in the tournament.
 - 12.10 Players of the opposing team to be at least 5 yards from the ball for free kicks, corners and kick-offs.
 - 12.11 Goalkeepers in age groups U9s and above shall not kick the ball from hand (drop kick or punt).
 - 12.12 All free kicks shall be direct.

13.1 All protests shall be made in writing to the organisers within five minutes of the end of the match, and shall be accompanied by a fee of £20, which shall be forfeited if the protest is not upheld.

13.2 All matters in a dispute will be referred to an Appeals committee, whose decision shall be final.

14. Failure to comply with any of these rules may result in a team being asked to withdraw from the competition.

15 Any matter arising not covered by these rules shall be dealt with by the organising committee whose decision shall be final.

16 THE COMPETITION

With the exception of U6's to U8's, the tournament shall be in two parts – league games followed by knockout stage.

a. Four leagues. The top two teams in each league go forward to the knockout stage.

b. If an age group only has 3 leagues the quarter final places will be determined using the following criteria:-

The 1st 6 places will go to the winners and runners up from each league.

The last 2 places will go to the 2 teams that finish with the highest points out of all remaining teams, even if one of those teams has finished 4th in their league

In the event of a points tie, the quarter final place will go to the team with the best goal difference, followed by best goals scored. If all these points are all tied, there will be a best of three, penalty shootout followed by a sudden death penalty shootout.

Tournament organising committee decision is final.

In cases where there is one league, the top four teams go straight through to the semi-final.

17 Each match in the group stages will be five minutes each way.

18 League points. Three points for a win, one for a draw.

c. The league will be decided by:

- i. League points.
- ii. Goal difference.
- iii. Greater number of goals scored.
- iv. Penalty shoot out (three penalties per side followed by sudden death penalty shootout if necessary)

N.B. In the event of a team failing to turn up, the other teams in the same league shall each be awarded a 1 – 0 win and the three points for a win against that team.

19 Knock out matches.

- a) Six minutes each way.
- b) In the event of a draw, three minutes each way extra time.
- c) If still a draw after extra time, penalty shootout.
- d) Final of seven minutes each way.
- e) In the event of a draw, rule 19.b will apply, followed by 19.c if necessary.

20 Trophies.

- a) Individual awards will be presented to the winners and runners up.
- b) Participation medals will be awarded to all players in the Age6, U7 & U8 festival.

21 Competition format and rules may be subject to change, depending on the number of teams entering and depending on other factors such as bad weather or teams failing to turn up. Any change will be clearly defined in the tournament programme, if possible, or advised at the start of the tournament

22 All teams shall ensure all coaches, players and spectators follow the FA Respect guidelines as listed detailed on www.thefa.com/respectguide . Anyone person not deemed to be adhering to the FA Respect Guidelines will be asked to leave the tournament.