

Nidderdale Junior Football League

Ethos and Rules

1. The League should not exceed 7 teams per age division thus maintaining a maximum 12 game season, with 18 Saturday's available for coaching.
2. The games must at all times be played in a friendly, respectful and supportive manner, with all parties, including players, parents and coaches respecting and supporting the opposition and the referee.
3. The games should be played in a relaxed and friendly manner, with any issues being discussed calmly to reach consensus.
4. Any abuse, bad language or inappropriate behaviour may result in expulsion from the league. In the exceptional event that agreement cannot be reached, a written explanation of the issue must be sent to the league secretary by both parties.
5. The clubs all follow the guidelines and rules set out by the FA for Mini Soccer. Including retreat lines, with defending teams retreating to the half way line until the 'goal kick' has been taken. Roll outs only permitted during 'live' play.
6. Under 7's, Under 8's and Under 9's cannot play as and record results for a League under FA Guidelines. They are allowed to play friendly games against other villages.
7. No Under 7's/Under 8s/Under 9's results NOT to be recorded in any medium, including, the press or via websites.
8. Results will be no longer be officially recorded for Under 11's and no League table will be distributed. However scores for League match (first match) for U11s age group should still be reported to the League Secretary.
9. Results of matches will be agreed on the day of the game and the home team will send results as soon as possible or within 1 week of the fixture taking place by email to the League Secretary. This is solely for the purpose of keeping a record that fixtures are being completed and that Guidelines regarding goals scored can be monitored.

10. Matches

Under 7's: 10 minutes each way on 20 x 30 yards to 25 x 35 yards pitch maximum
- goals 12ft x 6ft;

Match Format - 5 v 5 SIZE 3 BALLS

Under 7's are defined as children in School Years 1 & 2. Maximum of 3 matches or one hours play per child.

Under 8's: 10 minutes each way on 20 x 30 yards to 25 x 35 yards pitch maximum
- goals 12ft x 6ft;

Match Format - 5 v 5 SIZE 3 BALLS

Under 8's are defined as children in School Year 3. Maximum of 3 matches or one hours play per child.

Under 9's: 15 minutes each way on 50 x 30 yards to 60 x 40 yards pitch maximum
- goals 12ft x 6ft;

Match Format - 7 v 7 SIZE 3 BALLS

Under 9's are defined as children in School Year 4;

Under 11's: 20 minutes each way on 50 x 30 yards to 60 x 40 yards pitch maximum
- goals 12ft x 6ft;

Match Format - 7 v 7 SIZE 4 BALLS

Under 11's are defined as children in School Years 5 and 6. Boxes are to be marked out, use of cones not permitted.

11. Goal difference will not count. Therefore it is not necessary to score as many goals as possible in matches, each club should consider the issue of creating totally one- sided matches. Refer to Rule 17

12. The home team will contact the opposition at least by the previous Thursday of the week prior to the match to confirm arrangements are in place, (so that details can be confirmed to players and parents the Saturday before the game).

13. All coaches and any regular parental assistants must be fully CRB checked. All coaches should also carry out the Child Protection part of the FA Level 1 Course within their first year of coaching.

14. All clubs should encourage coaches to be qualified to FA Level 1. Recommendations are such that FA Level 1 qualified coaches look to join the FA Licenced Coaches Club which stipulates members hold full accreditations.
15. Each club should have or be working towards Charter Standard, having this accreditation in place within three years of joining the League. All clubs are to forward the relevant details to League Secretary before the start of the season.
16. The League agreed to adhere to mixed ability teams within age groups U7's, U8's and U9's. The aim being that there is no strong or weak side.
17. To keep games fair and promote the children's confidence, a 4 goal differential is in place, if teams are winning by 4 goals or more, they must be seen to change things around to better balance the game.
18. All clubs to implement FA Youth Policy as per FA Guidelines. This includes retreat lines, advised ball sizes per age group, pitch sizes as above etc. Players of any gender are permitted to 'play up' a year ie U7s can play U8s, U8s can play U9s and so on.