



# Bishops Cleeve Colts FC

Formed 1971

Affiliated to the Gloucestershire Youth Football Association

Member of the Cheltenham Youth Football League

Member of the Gloucester County Girls Football League

Part of the Bishops Cleeve Football Partnership



## Bishops Cleeve Colts Football Festival 2023 Rules

Gloucestershire FA conditions for sanction of tournaments and festivals: <http://www.gloucestershirefa.com/leagues-and-clubs/tournaments>  
The FA Standard Code of Rules for Mini Soccer and Youth Football Competitions: <https://www.thefa.com/-/media/files/thefaportal/governance-docs/rules-of-the-association/2022-23/individual-sections/31-standard-code-of-rules-for-mini-soccer-and-youth-football-competitions.ashx>  
The FA Laws for Mini-Soccer 5v5: <http://www.thefa.com/-/media/files/pdf/my-football/laws-mini-soccer-5v5-2013-14.ashx>  
The FA Laws for Mini-Soccer 7v7: <http://www.thefa.com/-/media/files/pdf/my-football/laws-mini-soccer-7v7-2013-14.ashx>

### Management of the competition

1. a. The competition shall be called the Bishops Cleeve Colts Football Festival.
- b. A Management Committee shall be appointed to organise the competition, consisting of the Officers of Bishops Cleeve Colts FC and its team's managers of those age groups concerned.
- c. The Competition shall be governed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association. Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws for Mini-Soccer as laid down by The Football Association except where differences are made clear in these Rules.
- d. The Competition shall be sanctioned by the Gloucestershire Football Association Limited. The Competition, all Teams and Players and other persons shall be subject to the Rules and Regulations of that Association.

### Management committee and power

2. a. The Management Committee shall have the power to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the competition, including any not provided for in these Rules.
- b. The Management Committee shall also adjudicate in all cases of dispute, protest and complaint.
- c. The decision of the Management Committee will be final.
- d. Other members shall be co-opted if required.

### Affiliation of participating clubs

3. All clubs must be affiliated to a County Association. No teams must enter this competition in the name of an affiliated club without the full knowledge and authority of that club.

### Clubs eligible to enter and entry fee

4. The competition shall be open to Clubs by invitation from Bishops Cleeve Colts FC. There shall be an entry fee of £35.00 per team.

### Eligibility of players

5. a. Age groups as per the County FA affiliation season ending 30<sup>th</sup> June after the competition will apply. Players are allowed to play in one age group above their chronological age group as per table below. A girls' only team may play at an age group below their chronological age in Boys / Mixed divisions:

Date of Birth between (inclusive)	Eligible Age Groups (Boys)	Eligible Age Groups (Girls)
01/09/2015 – 31/08/2016	U8 Boys / Mixed	U8 Boys / Mixed, U8 Girls
01/09/2014 – 31/08/2015	U8, U9 Boys / Mixed	U8, U9 Boys / Mixed, U8, U9 Girls
01/09/2013 – 31/08/2014	U9, U10 Boys / Mixed	U8 (whole team), U9, U10 Boys / Mixed or Girls
01/09/2012 – 31/08/2013	U10, U11 Boys / Mixed	U9 (whole team), U10, U11 Boys / Mixed or Girls
01/09/2011 – 31/08/2012	U11, U12 Boys / Mixed	U10 (whole team), U11, U12 Boys / Mixed or Girls
01/09/2010 – 31/08/2011	U12, U13 Boys / Mixed	U11 (whole team), U12, U13 Boys / Mixed or Girls
01/09/2009 – 31/08/2010	U13, U14 Boys / Mixed	U12 (whole team), U13, U14 Boys / Mixed or Girls
01/09/2008 – 31/08/2009	U14, U15 Boys / Mixed	U13 (whole team), U14, U15 Boys / Mixed or Girls
01/09/2007 – 31/08/2008	U15, U16 Boys / Mixed	U14 (whole team), U15, U16 Boys / Mixed or Girls
01/09/2006 – 31/08/2007	U16, U17 Boys / Mixed	U15 (whole team), U16, U17 Boys / Mixed or Girls
01/09/2005 – 31/08/2006	U17, U18 Boys / Mixed	U16 (whole team), U17, U18 Boys / Mixed
01/09/2004 – 31/08/2005	U18 Boys Mixed	U17 (whole team), U18 Boys / Mixed

- b. No football academy or school of excellence players or teams will be permitted to play (i.e. non contract players only).
- c. Before the commencement of the competition all clubs shall submit a list of players eligible to participate with their dates of birth to the Management Committee.



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- d. All players shall be bona fide members of their Club and may only play for one team.
- e. Mixed teams shall only be permitted for the Boys / Mixed age groups.

## Copies of the rules

6. A copy of these Rules shall be made available to all participating Clubs and are binding on the clubs taking part.

## Team colours

- 8. a. Each competing team shall register its choice of colours with the committee before the commencement of matches. In the event of similar colours, the second named team shall change, and may wear bibs to effect that change.
- b. Players shall be dressed in uniform shirts and shorts, but the goalkeeper shall wear colours which distinguish them from other players and referees, and may wear a bib to effect that difference. The goalkeeper may wear tracksuit bottoms.

## Arrangement of competition (all age groups except U8s)

- 9. a. The competition shall be divided into one-year age group divisions for Boys / Mixed U9 to U18, together with Girls U9 to U16, provided sufficient teams are entered to proceed with each age group.
- b. The competition shall be played on a league basis in the first stage. 3 points shall be awarded for a win and 1 point for a draw. (3 points, but no goals, awarded in the event of a walkover.)
- c. In the event of two or more clubs being equal on points, the team with the best goal difference shall take precedence. In the event of goal difference being equal, then the team scoring the most goals shall take precedence. In the event goals scored also being equal, the result in the division match between the two teams takes precedence. If the teams are still tied, precedence shall be decided by the taking of penalty kicks (best of three, then 'sudden death').
- d. For age groups where there is only one division:
  - i. The Cup Final of the Competition shall take place between the teams finishing first and second in the division.
- e. For age groups where there are two divisions:
  - i. Cup Semi-Finals of the Competition shall take place between the teams finishing first and second in each division.
  - ii. The Cup Final of the Competition shall take place between the teams winning each Semi-Final.
- f. For age groups where there are three divisions:
  - i. Cup Quarter-Finals of the Competition shall take place between the teams finishing first and second in each division, with the fourth Quarter-Final between the two best third place teams where best goal difference shall take precedence. In the event of goal difference being equal, then the team scoring the most goals shall take precedence. In the event goals scored also being equal, then successive coin tosses will be made to determine the successful third placed teams.
  - ii. Cup Semi-Finals of the Competition shall take place between teams finishing first and second in each of two Quarter Finals.
  - iii. The Cup-Final of the Competition shall take place between the teams winning each Semi-Final.
- g. In the Quarter-, Semi- or Cup Finals, if level on goals at the end of normal time, the winners will be decided by a penalty shoot-out (best of three then sudden death).

## Arrangement of play for U8s only

- 10. a. Teams will play each other once (or twice) in division round robins, depending on number of teams per division
- b. No points will be awarded.
- c. No league placings will be compiled or published.

## Duration of matches

- 11. Unless otherwise indicated in the relevant fixtures page of the official programme, matches shall be 10 minutes straight through, subject to the following conditions:
  - a. Allowance shall be made in any period for time lost through stoppages as decided by the referee.
  - b. The duration shall be extended to enable deciding penalty kicks to be taken.

## Reporting of results

12. The referees are responsible for passing the results to the Management Committee at the end of each game by means to be agreed between the Management Committee and referees.



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## Referees

13. Referees shall be appointed by the Management Committee and will receive payment for their time. A referee shall be appointed to officiate in each game. The referee shall have the same powers and duties as laid down in the Laws of the Game.

a. Referees under the age of 18 shall wear purple shirts to highlight that they are children in the manner promoted by Cheltenham Youth Football league.

## Protests and complaints

14. All questions of eligibility, qualification of players or interpretation of Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee, but no objection relative to the dimension of the playing area or other appurtenances thereon shall be considered by the Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee before the commencement of the game.

## Playing area

15. a. The playing area shall be as laid down within The Football Association's Laws for Mini-Soccer

i. For U8 age groups it shall be a maximum of 50 yards long by 30 yards wide.

ii. For all other age groups it shall be a maximum of 60 yards long by 40 yards wide.

b. The playing area shall be divided into two equal halves by a line across the pitch. A suitable mark shall be made in the exact centre of the playing area for the commencement of play.

c. The penalty area shall extend 10 yards from the goal line across the pitch to a point 9 yards either side of the centre of the goal.

d. The goal size shall be either 12 feet wide by 6 feet high (preferred for U8 to U11) or 16ft wide by 7 feet high (preferred for older age groups). The allocation of goal sizes to age groups shall be made by the Management Committee based on numbers of divisions and shall prefer the larger goals to older age groups where number of preferred size goals are unavailable.

## The ball

16. a. A size 3 ball will be used for age groups U8 to U10.

b. A size 4 ball will be used for age groups U11 to U14.

c. A size 5 ball will be used for age groups U15 to U17.

## Number of players

17. a. The match shall be played by two teams. One Player of each team shall be the goalkeeper, who must wear distinguishing colours.

b. At U8 the maximum number of players permitted on the playing area at any one time is 5 players out of a maximum squad of 8.

c. At U9, U10 and U11, the maximum number of players permitted on the playing area at any one time is 7 players per team out of a maximum squad of 10.

d. At U12, U13 and U14, the maximum number of players permitted on the playing area at any one time is 6 players per team out of a maximum squad of 9.

e. At U15, U16 and U17, the maximum number of players permitted on the playing area at any one time is 5 players per team out of a maximum squad of 8.

f. Any number of substitutes from the quad, without being named, may be used at any time with the permission of the referee. A player who has been replaced may return to the playing area as a substitute for another player.

g. In all cases, substitutions shall be subject to the following conditions:

i. The player leaving the playing area shall do so from the sideline, crossing over at the half-way line to the supervision of their Team official.

ii. The player entering the playing area shall do so from the half-way line, but not until the player leaving the playing area has passed completely over the sideline.

iii. Any of the other players may change places with the goalkeeper, provided that the referee is informed before the change is made, and provided also that the change is made during a stoppage in the game, and that suitable change of distinguishing colours is also made.

iv. A match shall not be considered valid if the playing strength of either team is reduced by more than two players.

v. Due to the reduced duration of matches, the Power Play rules shall not be used.



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## Players equipment

18. a. The wearing of shinguards, which must be covered by socks, in accordance with the Laws of the Game is compulsory.
- b. All jewellery must be removed.

## Start of play

19. a. At the beginning of a game the choice of ends shall be decided by the toss of a coin.
- b. Play shall be started by the taking of a place kick at the centre of the playing area to start the game and after a goal has been scored.

## Ball in and out of play

20. a. The ball shall be in play at all times from the start of the game unless it has crossed the goal-line or side-lines, or the game has been stopped by the referee. When the ball has passed out of play behind the goal-line, play shall be restarted with a corner kick or goal kick as appropriate. When the ball has passed out of play behind a side-line, play shall be restarted at the point the ball passed out of play with a throw-in. Opposition players must retreat at least 5 yards at the taking of corners.
- b. For the U8, U9 and U10 age groups Law 16 of The FA Laws for Mini-Soccer applies and opponents must retreat to their own half until the ball is in play. The defending team does not have to wait for the opposition to retreat and has the option to restart the game before should they choose to. The ball is in play when it is kicked to a team mate or out of the area.

## Method of scoring

21. Goals shall be awarded in the usual way

## Offside

22. The offside rule shall not apply.

## Fouls and misconduct

23. a. Charging is forbidden and shall be penalised by the awarding of a direct free kick.
- b. A player who unfairly impedes the progress of an opponent when not playing the ball shall be penalised by the awarding of an indirect free kick.
- c. Any player who is issued a red card and sent off the field or is reported by the referee for misconduct before or after a match, shall be excluded from further participation in the Competition.
- d. No substitute is allowed for a player issued with a red card and dismissed for misconduct during the game in which the offence occurred.
- e. Any player who is issued with a yellow card will be required to miss the remainder of the match whatever the duration. A player issued with a yellow card cannot be substituted with another player.
- f. A player issued with a yellow card can continue to play within the Competition.
- g. The Referees will be asked to report to the Management Committee any yellow / red cards and issues with foul or foul and abusive behaviour.
- h. Our Referees may be children themselves and the Management Committee will take a zero tolerance stand to foul or abusive behaviour aimed at them.
- i. Any adult being reported for misconduct will be asked to leave the ground (child welfare issues permitting).
- j. All teams are subject to the discipline processes of the County Football Association and as such all cases of misconduct of team representatives (players, coaches, parents etc.) shall be reported to the Gloucestershire FA or respective county association.

## Free kick

24. When a player is taking a direct or indirect free kick all of the opposing players shall be at least 5 yards from the ball until it is in play.

## Penalty kick

25. A penalty kick must be taken from the penalty mark. All players except the penalty taker and opposition goalkeeper must remain outside the penalty area and behind the ball until it has been kicked.

## Goalkeeper returning the ball into play

26. a. U10 and below, the goalkeeper may return the ball into play in the normal way.





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- b. U11 and above, the goalkeepers will not be allowed to kick from hand. They can throw or roll then kick. Kick from hand results in indirect free kick on the edge of the area close to infringement.
- c. Goal kicks may be taken from the edge of the penalty area.
- d. For age groups U8 to U10 the opposition must retreat to half way for a goal kick.
- e. For older age group opposition players must be at least 5 yards away and outside the area. The ball may be kicked to a team mate within the area as per recent IFAB law changes.

## Play within the penalty area

- 27. There shall be no restrictions on the number of players admitted within the penalty area during open play.

## Trophies and medals

- 28. a. Trophies will be awarded to the winning and runner-up team in a Cup final.
- b. All participants at U8 will receive medals.