

**WORCESTERSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

**WORCESTERSHIRE TESCO GIRLS UNDER 14's CUP AND UNDER 16's CUP  
9v9 QUALIFYING COMPETITION SEASON 2010-11**

**RULES**

**1. NAME OF COMPETITION**

The name of the Competitions shall be called the "Worcestershire Tesco Girls Under 14's Cup qualifying competition" and the "Worcestershire Tesco Girls Under 16's Cup qualifying competition".

**2. CUP AND MEDALS**

Tesco will provide a Cup for presentation to the winning Club and the Association will provide eighteen medals for the winners and the runners-up of each Club competing in the Final Tie.

When a Player or Official taking part in the Final Tie of the Competition is ordered to leave the field of play for misconduct, the medal to which he may be entitled shall be withheld until the matter has been dealt with by the Association.

**3. CONTROL OF COMPETITIONS**

a) The organisation control and management of the Competition shall be vested entirely and exclusively in The Worcestershire Football Association.

b) The Council of The Worcestershire Football Association shall have the power to make delete and amend the rules for the organisation control and management of the Competition as it, from time to time, deems expedient (the "Competition Rules").

c) Every Club participating in each Competition shall be bound by and comply with the Competition Rules.

d) The Council shall appoint a Development & Coaching Committee and the Committee shall have the authority to exercise all powers of the Council in relation to the Competition and to make decisions on all matters arising out of or in relation to the organisation control and management of the Competition.

The decisions of the Committee shall be final and binding on all participants in the Competition.

e) In relation to any matter not specifically mentioned in the Competition Rules, the Committee shall, on behalf of the Council, have the power to take such action and make such decisions, orders, rulings and impose such penalties as it deems necessary and following such procedures as it considers appropriate.

**4. ELIGIBLE CLUBS**

a) Entry into the Competition will be open to all Under 14 and Under 16 Girls teams affiliated to the Worcestershire Football Association.

b) All competing Clubs must be affiliated to the Worcestershire FA as their Parent County Football Association.

c) The Council may reject the entry of any Club.

d) Clubs entering the Competition must be members of a recognised affiliated Youth/Girls League.

e) The Competition is not linked in any way with any other Worcestershire Football Association County Youth/Girls Cup Competition.

f) No Club shall be allowed to enter more than one team in an age group without the prior agreement of the Association.

g) By agreeing to enter, if successful in winning the qualifying competition, Clubs must commit to represent Worcestershire at the Regional

Finals and, if successful, at the English National and U.K. Finals of the Tesco Girls Under 14's Cup/ Tesco Girls Under 16's Cup.

**5. DATES FOR ENTRY**

Entry forms from Clubs wishing to compete in the Competition must be received by the Association on or before 5 pm on the **15<sup>th</sup> March 2011**.

**6. THE DRAW**

a) The names of all Clubs accepted into the Competition shall be drawn in couples. These couples shall compete and the winners shall be drawn and shall compete in the same manner and this shall be continued until the end of the Competition, when the winning Club shall hold the Cup.

b) Whenever possible the Council shall arrange all necessary byes in the First Round and no Club, if avoidable, shall have more than one bye during each season.

c) Immediately after each draw is made, notice shall be given to each Club of the name of their opponents, and the date and time of kick-off when the Tie must be played.

**7. GROUNDS FOR CUP-TIES**

a) **Ground**

All matches shall be played on the Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP) at Pershore High School, Station Road, Pershore, Worcs.

**Note:** Only football boots with plastic moulded studs or training shoes may be worn.

b) Goal nets must be used in all Cup Ties.

c) **Size of Footballs to be used**

**Under 14's - Size 4.**

**Under 16's - Size 5.**

Match footballs will be provided by the Association.

d) **Appeal - Unsuitability of Ground**

In the case of a ground being rendered temporarily unfit for any reason a protest may be lodged before the commencement of the match with the Referee, who shall declare the ground fit or unfit for the Cup Tie to be played.

**8. CLUB COLOURS**

Where the colours of two competing Clubs are similar the second named Club (the "Away" Club) must change, unless alternative arrangements are mutually agreed by the competing Clubs. In the event of Clubs not agreeing upon colours to be worn by their respective teams the Association shall decide.

Team's colours must not clash with the Black & White outfit worn by the Match Officials.

Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from the other Players and the Match Officials.

Player's shirts shall be clearly and individually numbered on the back and there must be no change of numbers during the match except on a change of Goalkeeper.

Advertising, which fully complies with current FA Regulations, may be worn on Player's clothing.

**9. DURATION OF MATCHES**

The duration of each match shall be sixty minutes (30 minutes each half). The Referee shall allow for time wasted or lost through accident or other cause. The Referee is the sole judge of allowance of time whether lost through accident or other cause and his decision on this matter is not subject to appeal.

The half-time interval shall not exceed 5 minutes, and this may only be altered with the consent of the Match Referee.

**10. PROVISION FOR MATCHES PRECEDING THE FINAL TIE**

For all matches preceding the Final Tie the following provisions shall apply:-

a) Any late kick-off must be reported by the Referee to the Secretary of the Association and the Council shall have the power to impose a fine.

b)

i) In the event of any match prior to the Final Tie resulting in a draw after 60 minutes of play the tie will be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with The International F.A. Board recommended procedures.

ii) When a match has been postponed or abandoned before the completion of 60 minutes of play and neither Club is at fault, it will be re-arranged in its entirety on a date fixed by the Council.

If after the completion of 60 minutes of play, the taking of kicks from the penalty mark has not commenced or a match has been abandoned during the taking of kicks from the penalty mark and neither Club is at fault, it will be re-arranged in its entirety on a date fixed by the Council.

c) Matches abandoned through the fault of a Club shall be dealt with by the council.

d) Notwithstanding clause bii) hereof the Council shall have the power to order that the score in any abandoned match shall stand.

**11. FLOODLIGHTING**

Matches may be played wholly or partly under floodlights.

**12. REPORTING RESULTS**

a) Notice of the result of each match, with names of the Players competing the substitutes and goalscorers must be submitted on the Match Report Form supplied to the Worcestershire Football Association Representative in attendance on the day of the match.

It is each Clubs responsibility to submit a referee's mark on the Referees Marking Form supplied to the Worcestershire Football Association Representative in attendance on the day of the match.

b) Any Club failing to comply with this Rule or submitting an incorrect Match Report Form may be subject to a fine as determined by the Council and in default of payment shall be disqualified from the Competition.

c) Clubs are required to make the Match Report Form readily available for inspection by the Match Referee upon request.

**13. PROVISIONS FOR FINAL TIE**

a) The Council shall fix the date for the Final Tie of the Competition and shall have direct control of the arrangements.

b) When a Final Tie has resulted in a draw after 60 minutes of play the tie will be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with The International F.A. Board recommended procedures.

**14. PROVISIONS FOR WITHDRAWING FROM EACH COMPETITION**

a) Any Club refusing or failing to play the Club against which it has been drawn on the date intimated, or of replaying in accordance with these Rules, shall be adjudged to have forfeited the Tie.

b) Any Club intending to withdraw from its Cup Competition must give information of their intention to do so to the Secretary of the Association and the Secretary of the opposing Club not less than fourteen days before the date fixed for playing the match.

c) A Club failing to comply with Rule 15 b) shall be reported to the Council who shall have power to compel such offending Club to pay any expenses incurred and take such action as they may deem expedient.

d) Any Club failing to give satisfactory reason for withdrawing from any Competition shall not be allowed to enter the Competition the following season and shall also be liable to a fine.

e) In the Semi-Final and Final Ties any Club failing to play without showing a good and sufficient cause for failure to play, may be adjudged by the Council to be guilty of serious misconduct and liable to be dealt with as the Council deems fit.

**15. PROVISIONS CONCERNING QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS**

a) The Cup shall be competed for in accordance with these Rules and all matches shall be played under the Laws of the Game as approved by the International Football Association Board.

b) A Club may at its discretion use up to five Substitute Players at any time in a Cup Tie, except to replace a Player who has been suspended from the game by the Referee after play has commenced.

Any substitution can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission. A maximum of five substitutes may be nominated whose names shall be given to the Referee prior to the commencement of the match.

A player who has been substituted herself becomes a substitute and may replace another player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with the Laws of Association Football.

c) Should any nominated player or substitute sustain an injury before the kick-off he may be replaced provided the Referee is informed. A player who has been sent off before the kick-off may be replaced only by one of the named substitutes. A named substitute who has been sent off, either before the kick-off, or after play has started, may NOT be replaced.

d) Only those substitutes who have participated in a match shall be considered to have been players in that match for qualification purposes. A substitute who is not used is entitled to play for another Club in the same season.

e) All players taking part in the Competition must be qualified according to the Rules of the Association.

f) In any one season a player shall not play for more than one competing Club, but the members of each Team from one competing Club may be changed during the competition provided always that all players are duly qualified to play in the competition.

g) In the case of postponed or replayed ties (in accordance with Rule 20 d)), only those players shall be allowed to play who were eligible on the original date fixed for playing the tie.

h) A Player who has been suspended may play in postponed or replayed Ties (in accordance with Rule 20 d)) after the term of his suspension has expired.

i) In all Rounds of the Competition preceding the Final Tie, a bona-fide Player is one who has been registered with her Club.

j) The names of all players proposing to compete in the Final Tie of the Competition shall be sent by the Secretary of each competing Club to their opponents and also the Secretary of the Association to be received at least seven days prior to the date of the Final Tie. Failing this a Club shall be liable to be fined.

k)

**Under 14's Cup**

Only Players who have not attained nor will have attained the age of 14 but who will have attained the age of 12 as at midnight **31<sup>st</sup> August** in the current season shall be eligible to take part.

**Under 16's Cup**

Only Players who have not attained nor will have attained the age of 16 but who will have attained the age of 14 as at midnight **31<sup>st</sup> August** in the current season shall be eligible to take part.

l) In the event of a Club playing in any match with less than nine players a fine shall be imposed for each missing player. A minimum of seven players will constitute a team for a Competition Match.

**16. VALIDITY OF PLAYERS' QUALIFICATIONS**

If the Council has any doubt as to the qualification of any Player taking part in any Competition, it shall have power to call upon any such Player, or the Club to which she is or was registered, to prove that he was qualified according to these Rules and failing satisfactory proof the Council may disqualify such Player, and may remove the Club from the Competition and also impose such other penalty as it may deem necessary.

**17. DISQUALIFICATION**

The Council shall have the power to disqualify any competing Club team or player found guilty of breaching the Rules of the Association or of the Competition.

**18. PROVISIONS CONCERNING REFEREES AND ASSISTANT REFEREES**

a) In all matches the Referees, Assistant Referees and Reserve Officials (where applicable) shall be appointed by The Association. The Referee in all matches shall not be associated with either of the competing Clubs, except that in the event of the Referee failing to arrive or being incapacitated the two Clubs must agree to a replacement Referee.

b) In all matches the fees and expenses of all Officials shall be paid by the Worcestershire Football Association.

c) The scale of Fees and Expenses to be paid to Officials shall be decided Annually by the Council.

For the current season:

i) Fees and expenses in all rounds preceding the Final Tie shall be:-  
Referee: £20.00, Assistant Referees & Reserve Official: £15.00  
Plus travelling expenses of 30p per mile.

ii) The Officials in the Final Tie shall receive a Trophy plus travelling expenses of 30p per mile paid by the Council.

d) Match Officials are entitled to their travelling expenses, if incurred, and half their match fees if the match is not played, paid by the Worcestershire Football Association, except that if either team is responsible for the non-playing of a fixture that team shall pay the Officials their full fee and travelling expenses, if incurred.

e) Referees Assistant Referees and Reserve Officials shall acknowledge acceptance of appointments for all matches in the Competition to the Secretary of the Association within 3 days of receipt of the appointment.

f) The duties of the Referee and Assistant Referees shall be as defined in The Laws of the Game.

g) Appointed Match Officials shall wear the traditional Black & White uniform.

h) Match Officials MUST wear the Worcestershire Football Association badge on their uniform.

**19. PROVISIONS RELATING TO PROTESTS**

- a) All questions relating to the qualification or eligibility of players, or interpretation of these Rules, or any dispute or protest whatever shall be referred to the Council whose decision shall be final and binding.
- b) Any dispute or protest must be made in writing and must contain the particulars of the grounds upon which it is founded and lodged in duplicate with the Secretary of the Association, accompanied by a fee of £20.00, within three days of the match to which it relates (Sundays not included). The fee shall be forfeited to the Association in the event of the dispute or protest not being sustained.
- c) The Council may order any Club involved in a dispute or protest to pay such expenses as may be considered appropriate towards defraying the costs incurred.
- d) No protest relating to the ground, goal posts or bars or other appurtenances of the game shall be entertained by the Council unless an objection has been lodged with the Referee prior to the commencement of the match.
- If Council should consequently discover that any rule or spirit of the rule has, in its opinion, been violated by mutual agreement or otherwise, it shall have the power to disqualify either or both Clubs from the Competition, or order the match to be replayed over again. For the Council to take this action it is not necessary for a protest to have been received from any Club.
- e) When an objection has been lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the match, a protest must be made to the Association and neither the objection or protest shall be withdrawn except by leave of the Council.
- f) The Secretary of the Association shall send details of the dispute or protest to the Clubs involved.
- g) Each Club may support its case with witnesses.
- h) If a member of the Council is connected with a Club concerned in a dispute or protest, the Member shall not sit on the Council while the dispute or protest is being considered.

**20. PROCEEDS OF MATCHES**

- a) In all Rounds of the Competition the Worcestershire Football Association shall meet the costs of staging the fixture. Competing Clubs shall meet their own travelling expenses.
- b) Any net proceeds from gate and draw receipts shall be paid to the funds of the Association.

**21. NOTICES**

All notices required to be given to the Association by any of these Rules shall be addressed to the Secretary of the Association.