



# BRIDGEND PORT TALBOT JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

## MINI FOOTBALL RULES & REGULATIONS

### ORGANISATION OF MINI FOOTBALL

The general aim of Mini Football is to provide a safe, supervised environment for children to enjoy their introduction to the game.

#### 1. Playing Surface

- 1.1 Mini Football pitches may be specifically laid out on any suitable open spaces or conventional grass or Astroturf football pitches which can be converted for Mini Football.
- 1.2 There must be no debris or dangerous hazards either on the field of play or in the immediate surrounding area.
- 1.3 Markings **must** be laid out with the use of conventional lines, marker discs or small cones.

#### 2. Playing Equipment

- 2.1 Children **must** wear footwear suitable to the surface being played on.
- 2.2 All children **must** wear suitable shin guards.
- 2.3 All jewelry **must** be removed.

#### 3. Organisation of games, festivals and fun days

- 3.1 The FAW believe that the game of Mini Football provides the children with the necessary introduction to competition. The game itself is a sufficient skill development challenge for children.
- 3.2 **As a consequence no league or knockout competition must be organised (or will be sanctioned by the FAW) involving Mini Football.**
- 3.3 Matches can be scheduled in a number of different ways to be determined by the Junior League.
  - 3.3.1 On a Home and Away basis as determined by the organizing Junior League
  - 3.3.2 On a round robin basis, where 3 or 4 teams play at a venue against each other, teams can rotate on and off the pitch having rest breaks when not playing.
  - 3.3.3 On a festival basis where a number of teams play round robin games at a central venue. Each team plays against each of the other teams, on completion of the first round of matches, one team will remain on each pitch while their opponents move onto the next pitch. This format is followed until all of the teams have played each other, or have played a suitable number of games. Coaches / Managers should ensure suitable breaks are provided between games.

## BEHIND THE LINE, BEHIND THE TEAM CAMPAIGN

This is mandatory at all Mini Football age groups. As a consequence at all Mini Football games clubs MUST:

1. Create a 'Buffer zone' that runs parallel to the pitch, ideally two (2) metres from both touchlines, a smaller buffer zone can be used where space does not allow for 2 metres.
2. Buffer zones should be marked with cones or an additional marked line
3. Only players, designated coaches and first aider allowed within zone.
4. All other spectators must watch from behind the buffer zone lines.
5. NO spectators are allowed to stand on the goal line or behind the goal.

## THE RULES OF MINI FOOTBALL

The rules are simple and as near to real football as possible. A game leader, who is urged to be as flexible as possible with the youngest children, must supervise the game from the touchline.

Rules are explained as the game proceeds, (for example, hand ball). It may be necessary to demonstrate in certain instances, how to restart the game (e.g. throw in, corner kicks)

### 1. PLAYERS ELIGIBLE

- 1.1. Mini Football is for boys and girls in Academic Years one (1) to six (6)
- 1.2. An Area Association can extend in its area the scope and application of the Mini Football Regulations to cover Academic Year seven (7) (refer to FAW Rules 67 and 69.4). For the format and rules for Academic Year 7 refer to clause 18. (9v9 Mini Football) in these regulations.
- 1.3. Mixed football (girls and boys playing together) is permitted for academic years one (1) to six (6)

### 2. AGE GROUPS

- 2.1. Must be a minimum of a one academic year and a maximum of two academic years
- 2.2. A mini player **must** participate in the age group relevant to their academic year as defined by these regulations and with the structure of the League in which they play in.
- 2.3. For the purposes of age groupings, an academic year begins on the 1<sup>st</sup> September and ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> August of the following year. Academic year 1 (one) is the year when a player reaches his / her 6<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### 3. TEAM SIZE, PITCH SIZE AND BALL SIZE

3.1 Must be implemented as below in the table

Age Group	Number of Players	Size of Pitch (length x width)	Size of Ball
Under 7	4 x 4 No Goalkeepers	30 x 20 yards	3
Under 8	5 x 5 Goalkeepers introduced	30 x 20 yards	3
Under 9	6 x 6	40 x 30 Yards	3
Under 10	7 x 7	60 x 40 yards	4
Under 11	8 x 8	60 x 40 yards	4

#### 4. GOAL SIZE

- 4.1. The maximum goal size for all age groups is 12ft x 6ft.
- 4.2. It is highly recommended that under 7 and Under 8, a smaller goal is utilized. This can be achieved through using cones, placing a 12ft x 6ft mini goal face down or using specific smaller goals (such as pop up goals).

#### 5. THE GOAL AREA

- 5.1 Must be marked by conventional lines or cones on the touchline and a small number of marker discs on the playing area
- 5.2 The goal area extends a set distance from the goal line and is also a specified width. See the table below:

Age Group	Distance from Goal Line to Edge of Area (Length)	Width of Penalty Area
Under 7	No Goal Area	No Goal Area
Under 8	5 yards	10 yards
Under 9	8 yards	15 yards
Under 10	10 yards	20 yards
Under 11	10 yards	20 yards

#### 6. MATCH DURATION

- 6.1 A mini player can only play a maximum of 60 minutes sanctioned match time in one 24hr period.
- 6.2 For under 7 and under 8 players, this **must** be broken down into a maximum of either 15 minute individual periods of play or games.

#### 7. SUBSTITUTES

- 7.1 Any number of substitutes may be used at any time (Rolling Substitutes).
- 7.2 Players may re-enter the game and **all substitutes must** have a period of play.
- 7.3 As far as possible there should be equal playing time for each player.

#### 8. KICK OFF

- 8.1. The Kick Off is taken in the centre of the playing area to start the game and after a goal has been scored.
- 8.2. The opposition **must** be three (3) yards away

#### 9. BALL IN & OUT OF PLAY AND METHOD OF SCORING

- 9.1 Law 9 (ball in and out of play) and 10 ( The method of scoring) apply to Mini Football.

#### 10. OFFSIDE

- 10.1 There is no offside (law 11) in Mini Football (up to and including U/11)

#### 11. THROW IN

- 11.1 Although Law 15 (The Throw In) applies and the throw in should be taken in the normal way, the game leader can show flexibility.

#### 12. CORNER KICKS

- 12.1 Law 17 (The Corner Kick) applies to corner kicks except the opposition **must** be at least three (3) yards away.

### 13. FREE KICKS

13.1. Law 12 (Fouls and Misconduct) applies to free kicks, although they are all **indirect** and the opposition **must** be at least three (3) yards away.

### 14. GOALKEEPERS

1. Can handle the ball in their penalty area and there are no restrictions on the number of steps they may take holding the ball.
2. The Goalkeeper can leave the penalty area but cannot handle the ball outside the penalty area
3. When handling the ball in the penalty area:-
  - 3.1. Under 8's and 9's can either throw or kick the ball out of their hands
  - 3.2. While Under 10's and 11's can throw the ball out of their hands or kick the ball on the ground but can then be challenged by opponents

### 15. GOAL KICKS

15.1 Under 7 - Are taken anywhere on the goal line

15.2 Under 8,9,10 & 11 - are taken from the edge of the goal area

15.3 Under 8,9,10 and 11 - the ball must be kicked out of the goal area before another player touches it

15.4 Under 8's and 9's - Goalkeepers may take the goal kick from their hands

15.5 In all age groups the opposition players must be at least 5 yards away

### 16. PLAYERS IN THE GOAL AREA

16.1 There are no restrictions regarding the number of players allowed in the goal area during open play.

### 17. PASS BACK TO GOALKEEPER

17.1 Players can pass the ball back to their own goalkeeper, for the goalkeeper to handle the ball.