

Eligibility Criteria & Team Officials

1. Only children in Y6 (U11 at the start of the academic year) on the roll of a school affiliated to an association (which in turn must be affiliated to the ESFA) shall be allowed to take part in these competitions.
2. Girls are allowed to play in Boys' District matches (on merit) Only girls can play in Girls' Games
3. Selection of players can only be from schools in that district in accordance with the ESFA's affiliation list. Players cannot be selected from other districts. If this rule is breached, matches in which 'unaffiliated' players appear will be awarded to the opposition (1-0). Surrey will trial new boundaries, so this may take priority.
4. If a player moves to an unaffiliated school during the season, he/she will cease to be eligible to appear for that association; similarly, if a player is planning to move to an affiliated school from an unaffiliated one, he/she is not eligible to play until that move is completed.
5. Teams entering competitions agree to abide by the competition rules and play within the spirit of the game and schools' football in general.
6. Teams must be under the ultimate control of a practising or retired teacher or an ESFA registered AOTT. All team officials must hold an FA enhanced DBS certificate.
7. Each competing association must have a FA Qualified Welfare Officer.

General Rules

1. Matches can be played on either grass or all-weather pitches.
2. A size 4 ball of match standard shall be used. A spare ball should be available during the match.
3. Games to be played in accordance with ESFA/FA guidelines for rules, pitch size (80m x 50m max; 60m x 40m min) and goal sizes (16ft x 7ft).
4. All matches are 9-a-side with up to 5 substitutes. A substituted player may return to the field of play at any time (ie rolling subs).
5. Spectator areas should be clearly marked and respect barriers or similar used wherever possible.
6. Parents or other spectators are not allowed to enter either the playing or changing areas unless specifically invited by the team manager and then only for health and safety or safeguarding reasons
7. Decisions of the referees and assistant referees are to be accepted unconditionally and without question by all concerned.
8. In the event of a player behaving in an unacceptable manner (eg serious foul play, dissent), team managers should ideally remove that player before the referee gets involved. If this doesn't happen, the referee should ask the team manager to substitute that player either permanently or temporarily.
9. The team manager is responsible for the behaviour of all their team's supporters, as well as the team's players, other coaches and themselves.
10. In all games, managers & coaches should not, under any circumstances, appeal, moan, complain or question the referee. The only communication between managers / coaches and the match officials during the game should be (a) making substitutions and (b) issues relating to health & safety (ie injuries). More than anything else, the role of managers & coaches is to set the correct example to the children involved (and to all adult spectators).
11. Should there be a serious issue involving a manager, coach, player(s) or spectator(s), the referee (and opposition manager) **must** report the incident to the Competitions Secretary and Surrey Schools FA, for further action.
12. Each team must carry a comprehensive first aid kit and have a qualified first-aider available.
13. The home association is responsible for the appointment of a suitable, qualified referee

Boys - Surrey League (Sydney Black Trophy) and Surrey Cup (Lancaster Cup)
Girls – Surrey Girls League, Surrey Girls Tournament

1. **Surrey League** - one league of 5 teams – Croydon, Merton, Reigate & Banstead, Sutton and Woking (boys) and one league of 4 Merton, Reigate & Banstead, Sutton and Woking (girls).
2. Each team will play the others twice (home and away).
3. Matches will be designated as home or away. If a team is unable to offer a pitch (e.g. due to weather conditions) the away team will be invited to stage the game.
4. Matches will be 30 mins each way. Up to 5 substitutes are permitted and these are flexible (on & off)
5. Three points shall be awarded for a win, two for a draw and one for losing.
6. All teams are expected to play as many matches as they can before Easter.
7. All games should be played by the 30th June. Should fixtures remain unplayed by this date, they will be declared null & void and 0 points awarded to both teams. Ideally matches will be played by the end of May.
8. If a game is unavoidably postponed due to weather, and a rearranged fixture has not been scheduled, a team can claim all 3 points and a 2-0 win (0 points for the 'loser') on the production of suitable written evidence (eg e-mail trail) showing that a failure to rearrange was the fault of the opposition team.
9. KO times should be a collaborative decision with the away team holding sway. However, there may be occasions where pitches (3Gs, for example) can only be booked at a certain time, so teams should work together to arrive at a solution. While matches should ideally be played between 10am & 12.00 on a Saturday morning, this may not always be possible. Again, team managers should work together to facilitate a workable solution.
10. Venues and KO times should be confirmed by the home side at least 14 days before the game.
11. Home teams need to provide a qualified referee with assistant referees provided by the two teams playing (one each) Assistant referees should be silent, unless communicating with the referee
12. The duration of league matches shall be 30 minutes each way.
13. If a colour clash occurs, the away association should change to a contrasting colour.
14. Goal difference is not considered in deciding either the League Championship or runners-up spot. Teams tied on points will share the trophy / runners-up position.
15. A trophy will be presented to the league winners

Surrey Tournament – a half day tournament with only teams from Surrey invited on Saturday 10th April.
Format and competition rules to be published when entries and venue are confirmed

District Experience

Districts must have: suitable pitch with nets and corner flags; toilet facilities for players & spectators; qualified referee; changing area.

Districts should have (if possible): car parking at the ground, respect barrier(s), post-match refreshments for players & officials (if both teams agree this is not necessary, then that fine)

District would be good to have (if possible): three qualified officials; match programme; tea/coffee/light refreshments for spectators.