

YOUTH FOOTBALL COMPETITION GUIDE TO THE COMPETITION 2007-2008

- 1 The Competition will be run in accordance with the Constitution and Rules lodged with the Football Associations of England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Eire, FIFA and UEFA.
- 2 All players in the Competition must be over the age of twelve (12) and under the age of fourteen (14) on the thirtyfirst (31st) August in the season in question.
- 3 All Football Clubs must have amateur status and must not be associated with or be affiliated to any Football League Club. Entries will not be accepted which are, in the opinion of the Management Committee, representative sides, either of Leagues, or a combination of Leagues, whether or not playing in Inter League Competitions.
- 4 The entrance fee for teams entering the Competition will be £25.
- 5 Entries for the Competition must be received by **THE LAST SATURDAY IN AUGUST** for the season 2007 – 2008.
- 6 Matches in the Competition will take place as soon as FA clearance is received, which would normally start in November (but may be earlier) and finish in the following April, with the Multiple District Final Tie taking place around the 25th May, 2008. The Multiple District Final Tie will, if possible be arranged at a Football League Ground in the Midlands. Matches should be played on Sundays unless by special mutual agreement which allows Saturdays or half-term daytime mid week.
If problems occur arranging matches ***all efforts should be made to meet deadlines*** including the possible use of artificial playing surfaces like "Astroturf". Providing time needed to return home is reasonable, the use of floodlit midweek evening matches should also be considered. It should be noted that Astroturf may need the use of tracksuits for safety.
Team managers should have due regard to vulnerable persons legislation especially when teams travel to away matches.
- 7 Individual Football Club costs may be paid by the sponsoring Lions Club, if applicable, or by the Football Club itself. Personal insurance for players is not carried by the Management Committee.

The Football Competition is classed as a Youth Activity and where applicable all Lions Club costs may be charged to the Lions Club charity account. Clubs and Districts are recommended to obtain assistance and/or sponsorship from local football clubs, local businesses or individuals.

- 8 All the running costs of the semi-final and final ties in the Multiple District Competition which will be played on neutral grounds are the responsibility of the Management Committee.
- 9 The draw for all matches will be zoned geographically to reduce the travelling and costs of the away Football Club. Sponsoring Lions Clubs of Football Clubs whose ties involve them in excessive costs may receive a grant towards their expenses at the discretion of the Management Committee, in these circumstances a contribution towards the travelling costs of away Football Clubs will be paid from Competition Funds at the close of the season.

For clarification "team" is considered to be 11 Players, 5 Substitutes, 1 Manager, 1 Coach - a total of eighteen individuals.

Subject to agreement by the management committee the Competition will reimburse sponsoring Lions Clubs one-third of the travelling costs of one coach travelling to games before the semi-final. The intention is to reimburse that portion of the costs needed to transport the 18 individuals deemed to make up the team, as above, when using a 53 seat coach. Other seats in such a coach will require to be funded by alternative means. Where a vehicle(s) other than a 53 seat coach is used, reimbursement will still be on the basis of one-third cost of the vehicle(s) needed to transport the team only.

Travel costs of sponsoring Lions Clubs for teams in the semi-final and final will be reimbursed at one half of the travelling costs for a vehicle or vehicles needed to transport the team. Should travelling supporters need to use more than 1 coach no reimbursement will be offered for more than the transport needed by the team.

- 10 The Football Club winning the Multiple District Competition will receive a trophy to be held for one year. In the Multiple District Final, all players, the referee and the linesmen will receive appropriate mementoes.
- 11 The draw for Matches in the Competition will be made at meetings of the Management Committee or by two Officers and one District Youth Football Officer.
- 12 Copies of the complete Constitution and Rules are available by sending a large stamped addressed envelope to the MD Headquarters, Birmingham, or by down-loading from the MD Web Site.
- 13 For any further information contact:

MD Youth Football Chairman 2006/07
Lion Tony Hickling
2 Deer Park View
Stackpole
Pembroke
SA71 5DD

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