

# Hatherleigh Youth AFC

## U12s Six-A-Side Football Tournament 2025



### Rules

1. Hatherleigh Youth AFC will hold a six-a-side football tournament for teams that played in the Under 12s age group in the 2024/2025 football season.
2. The tournament will take place on a grass pitch at Hatherleigh Football Club, Hatherleigh, EX20 3LS on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2025.
3. An entry fee of £40 per team is payable to Hatherleigh Youth Football Club in advance of the tournament. Entries must be submitted and paid for through the tournament Event Brite page: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hatherleigh-youth-fc-under-12s-six-a-side-tournament-tickets-1293026409799>
4. A platform fee of £4.04 is payable to Event Brite for each team entered. This is in addition to the £40 entry fee.
5. Entries may be withdrawn up to 14 days before the tournament and a full refund (less platform fees) will be issued. Requests to withdraw an entry less than 14 days before the tournament will be at the organiser's discretion.
6. The tournament will be open to Under 12 age group teams from any club affiliated with their County FA.
7. All clubs will be required to present a list of players' names and dates of birth on the day of the tournament. A form to allow you to do this will be provided.
8. All players must be born no earlier than 01/09/2012 and no later than 31/08/2014.
9. Under 11s players who are 'playing up' one age group will be permitted, but we will not accept entries from U11s teams where more than 50% of the players in the squad are 'playing up'. This is in the interests of fairness and to foster a level of competition which makes the tournament enjoyable for all participants.
10. Where team coaches have a choice of players to choose from, we ask that you create balanced teams that feature a mix of players, rather than creating 'elite' teams likely to win games by big margins without breaking sweat. Again, this is in the interests of fairness and to foster a level of competition which gives every team a chance of going deep into the knockout stages.
11. All players entered into the tournament must be registered on the FA Portal (previously Whole Game) for the club with which they are playing.

12. Clubs may enter more than one team.
13. A maximum of 16 teams will take part in the tournament. A minimum of eight teams is required to make the tournament viable. In the event that the minimum number of entries is not achieved, the organisers reserve the right to cancel the tournament. A full refund will be issued to all teams in this eventuality.
14. All players must wear shin pads, appropriate footwear and safety glasses (if required).
15. If applicable, players should remove all jewellery, studs and have long hair tied back.
16. All players taking part in the tournament do so at their own risk. Hatherleigh Youth AFC takes no responsibility for any injury to any player, or for any loss or damage sustained as a result of the competition.
17. Each team should bring either an alternative kit or bibs in the event of a clash of shirt colours.
18. Hatherleigh Youth AFC will provide match balls.
19. All games will be overseen by an experienced referee, but no linespeople will be used.
20. The laws of Association Football will be applied with the following exceptions:
  - a. Matches will take place on suitably sized pitches with the halfway line, penalty area, penalty spot, touchlines and sidelines clearly marked.
  - b. The goals on all pitches will be 12 x 6.
  - c. No player can be named in or play for more than one team during the tournament.
  - d. A maximum of eight players can be named in each squad, from which six players shall be chosen to start each match.
  - e. Rolling substitutions are permitted, with the exception of the goalkeeper who may be changed only once during each game, other than through injury.
  - f. A maximum of six players from each team should be on the pitch at any given time.
  - g. Only the players on the pitch at the final whistle will be permitted to take a penalty in the event of a penalty shootout.
  - h. The goalkeepers playing in that position at the final whistle shall remain the goalkeeper in the event of a penalty shootout.
  - i. There shall be no offsides.
  - j. All goal kicks will be taken from the penalty spot.
  - k. All players from the opposition team shall retreat to the halfway line for goal kicks.

- l. Goalkeepers shall not kick the ball from the hand (no drop kicks). The ball should be rolled, thrown out or kicked from the ground instead.
- m. All players from the opposition team shall be at least eight yards from the ball for free kicks, corners and kick-offs.
- n. All free kicks shall be direct.
- o. Any player sent off during a match shall take no further part in the tournament.

21. The competition will be as follows:

- a. The tournament shall be in two parts: group games, followed by knockout stages.
- b. Group and knockout stage matches will be ten minutes in length, with no half-time.
- c. There will be four groups of up to four teams. All teams in each group will play each other once.
- d. Once all games have been played:
  - i. The first and second placed teams in each group will move forward to the Cup knockout stage. Playing quarter-finals, semi-finals and a final.
  - ii. The third and fourth placed teams in each group will move forward to the Plate knockout stage. Playing quarter-finals, semi-finals and a final.
- e. In the event that less than 16 teams enter the tournament, the organisers reserve the right to reduce the number of teams in each group and/or reduce the number of groups and the number of knockout competitions.
- f. In the event that between eight and 12 teams enter the tournament, two groups of up to six teams will be formed and a single knockout stage will take place.
  - i. Once all games have been played, the top four teams in each group will move forward to a single knockout stage. Playing quarter-finals, semi-finals and a final.
- g. It will be the responsibility of the 'home' team coaches in each game to report the final score to the Results Team immediately after the end of the match. Failure to do so may result in points from that game not being awarded.
- h. During the group stage, points will be awarded as follows:
  - i. Three points for a win
  - ii. One point for a draw
- i. Group positions will be determined as follows (in order of priority):

- i. Total points
  - ii. Best goal difference
  - iii. Most goals scored
- j. In the event of two teams in the same group finishing the group stage with the same number of points, goal difference and goals scored, a best-of-three penalty shootout will take place. The winning team will take the higher group position and advance to the appropriate knockout stage.
- k. In the event that a team that has entered the tournament does not show up, all opposition teams in their group will be awarded a 1-0 win in the game against that team.
- l. Knockout matches where the scores are level at full-time, shall be decided as follows:
- i. Five minutes of extra time.
  - ii. If the scores are still level after extra time, a best-of-three penalty shootout will take place.
  - iii. If the same number of penalties are scored in the best-of-three shootout, further rounds of sudden death penalties will take place until a winner is declared.
  - iv. If more than six penalties per team are required, players shall be permitted to take a second penalty.

22. Trophies will be awarded as follows:

- a. A Cup trophy will be presented to the winning team in the Cup knockout stage.
- b. A Plate trophy will be presented to the winning team in the Plate knockout stage.
- c. Individual awards will be presented to the winning team and the runners up in both the Cup and Plate knockout stages.

23. The organisers reserve the right to amend the competition format and rules for reasons, including, but not limited to: low entry levels, poor weather, significant delays or multiple teams failing to attend. All teams will be notified of any changes in advance of the tournament (if possible); at the Coaches' Briefing at the beginning of the event or, if the tournament has begun, during one or more additional Coaches' Briefings, as required.

24. By entering and attending the tournament, all coaches, players and spectators agree to abide by the [FA Respect Guidelines](#). Any persons or teams deemed not to be adhering to these guidelines will be asked to leave the tournament immediately.

25. All decisions made by the referee are final. No protest against refereeing decisions will be accepted.
26. All protests shall be made in writing to the organisers within five minutes of the end of the match and shall be accompanied by a fee of £20 which will be forfeit if the protest is not upheld.
27. All matters of dispute will be referred to an Appeals Committee whose decision shall be final.
28. Failure to comply with any of the rules set out here may result in a team being asked to withdraw from the tournament.
29. Any matter arising not covered by these rules shall be dealt with by the organising committee whose decision shall be final.

Any questions relating to these rules should be directed to the tournament organiser via email, Simon Lassam: [chair@hatherleighbouthfc.co.uk](mailto:chair@hatherleighbouthfc.co.uk)