Grove Challengers Tournament Rules

**Teams**

1. Team Managers must report to the control centre with their team lists at least 30 minutes prior to the first match of their respective age group.
2. Proof of age must be made available in case of disputes (this must be made available via the Whole Game System if requested). Proof of age must also be available for any guest players otherwise you may forfeit your place in the tournament and no refund will be given.
3. For age groups U9's - U16's there shall be a squad of up to eight players in each side, with any six on the field at any one time, substitutes being allowed during a stoppage in play with the referee’s permission. Repeated subs are permitted. No player may play for more than one team per day. For age groups U7's & U8’s there shall be a squad of up to 8 players in each side, with any 5 on the field at one time.
4. No Academy sides or Centre of Excellence will be permitted to enter and a maximum of 2 guest players will be permitted.
5. Players must have been registered (in the season just finished) for the team they are playing for in the tournament (unless they are one of the 2 permitted guest players).

**Matches**

1. Footballs
	1. U7, U8, U9 and U10 to use size 3
	2. U11, U12, U13 & U14 to use size 4
	3. U15s and above to use size 5
2. Retreat Line
	1. This football Tournament will be implementing the retreat rule for U7s, U8s, U9s and U10’s as per F.A. guidelines
3. Match Duration
	1. League stage matches will last 8 minutes one way
	2. Knockout stage matches will last 8 minutes one way
	3. Finals will last 5 minutes each way
4. Match Points

For the U7s and U8s event, rules 9(a) to 9 (d) do not apply as this will be a friendly participation event strictly in accordance with Oxfordshire FA and Berks & Bucks FA ruling on prohibiting younger age group competition where no scores will be published. All participants will receive the same/similar Fair Play Trophy in accordance with F.A. guidelines for taking part.

* 1. The League points for U9s and above will be awarded as follows:
		1. 3 points for a win
		2. 1 point for a draw
	2. To decide League places in the event of a tie, then:
		1. Points
		2. Goal Difference
		3. Goal scored
		4. Head to head
		5. If everything completely level then a coin toss
	3. In the event of a draw in the Knock Out Stages a penalty shootout will decide the winner which will follow the same format as 9(d), In the event of a draw in the Final an additional 4 minutes of extra time will be played. The match will be decided by a golden goal (first team to score wins). If the teams are still level after the additional time, a penalty shootout will decide the winner which will follow the same format as 9(d).
	4. Penalty shootout. Anyone in the squad can take a penalty. The squad size on both teams have to be the same i.e. the smallest squad size. The best of 3 penalties will apply. If the score is still level after 3 penalties, the remaining players will take part in a sudden death format. If there is still no result, the sudden death shootout will continue with the players from the first shootout going in the same order until a winner is found.
1. Playing rules - Normal F.A. rules apply except:
	1. The first named team has kick off and is responsible for providing an appropriate match ball
	2. The second named team has choice of ends and will change their strip in the event of a colour clash
	3. Teams arriving more than 2 minutes late for kickoff will forfeit the game. A 0-0 result will be recorded and 3 points awarded to the waiting team. Any team manipulating this rule could be disqualified
	4. Players cannot score direct from the kickoff
	5. Goal kicks are to be taken from the front edge of the penalty area line for U7s to U10s and from the back line for U11s and above
	6. U7s and U8s - goalkeepers are allowed to flykick. U9s and above - goalkeepers must roll or throw the ball once it has been picked up. A direct free kick on the edge of the penalty box but not on the line will be awarded should the goalkeeper kick the ball from hand. For the avoidance of doubt, a goalkeeper can roll it along the floor and kick it themselves.
	7. The back pass rule applies to all age groups. A direct free kick on the edge of the penalty box but not on the line will be awarded should the goalkeeper pick the ball up from a back pass
	8. All free kicks are direct with players having to retreat 5 yards
	9. No offside in all age groups
	10. Rolling substitutes permitted with the referee’s approval when the ball is out of play for all age groups
	11. A player receiving 2 cautions in the tournament will be suspended for the following match
	12. A player sent off will take no further part in the tournament
2. Appeals
	1. The Tournament Committee appoints referees for all matches and their decision on all points of play and the laws of the game will be final
	2. Any points not covered above will be decided by the appeals committee
	3. The appeals committee will decide any disputed point (other than those regarding play). A fee of £20 must accompany any appeal lodged with the organisers. This fee will be refunded if the appeal is upheld
3. Miscellaneous
	1. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to change any of the above rules on the day

DISCLAIMER:

The Tournament Committee either collectively or any member thereof accept no liability or responsibility for injury to persons visiting or the loss or damage to their belongings at this event. Cars parked are also left at the owners own risk.