Rules of Competition

2026 Whittlesea Cup

U8 to U13 – Boys

3rd – 4th October 2026

Harvest Home Recreational Reserve
Epping

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF T&C's

In entering the Whittlesea Cup, the Team/Club Organiser/ Parent/ Guardian agrees to the terms and conditions enclosed within this document and abide by the Terms and Conditions.

Any Team/Club Organiser/ Parent/ Guardian deemed to have breached any of the Terms & Conditions in this document will be removed from the Tournament and no refund will be provided. Any adverse behaviour may also result in further sanctions being placed on the participants, team or club.

Note that only FV Registered Clubs are eligible to enter the Tournament. The tournament will allow clubs from other Football Australia federations to participate if travelling from interstate.

2. STRUCTURE OF COMPETITION

2.1 Competition Format

The Tournament will be played as per the table below:

Age Group	Age Requirements	Game Format	Ball Size	Duration of each Half	No of Players (Min/ Max)
Under 8's	Born 2018	7 v 7	Size 3	15 Mins	(Min 7 / Max 11)
Under 9's	Born 2017	7 v 7	Size 3	15 Mins	(Min 7 / Max 11)
Under 10's	Born 2016	9 v 9	Size 4	15 Mins	(Min 9 / Max 14)
Under 11's	Born 2015	9 v 9	Size 4	15 Mins	(Min 9 / Max 14)
Under 12's	Born 2014	9 v 9	Size 4	15 Mins	(Min 9 / Max 14)
Under 13's	Born 2013	9 v 9	Size 4	15 Mins	(Min 9 / Max 14)

2.2 Tournament Format

The Tournament format is based on a round robin followed by a knock-out stage for each age group.

2.3 Playing Rules

Some important standard Miniroos rules to note for all U8 - U11 games are:

- All free kicks are indirect, except for penalty kicks. Group games and play offs.
- Throw ins will be used to restart play when the ball goes out on the sidelines.
- Goalkeepers are not allowed to kick the ball directly out of their hands after they have gained possession, they must throw it or place it on the ground to kick it.
- Once the ball is on the ground, it is "live" and GKs can be tackled.

All other rules as per Miniroos FFA rules for the U8-U11.
Football Victoria Rules apply for U12 & U13

Miniroos Rules
Football Victoria U12/13 Regulations

Tournament Management reserves the right to modify the playing conditions above to facilitate a suitable competition for a particular age group

2.4 Match Points

Match Points are awarded as follows:

- Win 3 Points
- Draw 1 Point
- Loss 0 Points
- Forfeit 0 Points (Results deemed a 3-0 win to the Opposing Team)

2.5 Final Placings

Final placing of teams after pool games is decided by applying the following:

1. Team with the most points
2. Best Goal Difference
3. Most Goals For
4. Least Goals Against
5. Team with the most wins

If all of the above is equal, then the following will occur:

1. The result of the game between the two equal teams
2. If the teams still cannot be separated, a coin toss will take place between the two teams

2.6 Group Play-offs and Grand Finals

In the event of the Play Offs and/or Grand Final being drawn at full time, a penalty shoot-out will be conducted in accordance with FIFA regulations.

3 PLAYER REGISTRATION

3.1 Team Sheets

All players need to be registered via the Cup Manager online system which can be accessed under the Team Login menu on the Whittlesea Cup website.

Registrations must now be completed by the players parent/guardian and not by the team manager. Team Managers are responsible to ensure that each player has registered

All team sheets must be completed online before your first game. Please ensure all players have with them proof of identification that includes a photo and date of birth.

Each player is required to have a number on their playing shirt that matches up with the team sheet.

No player or Team updates will be accepted after the Tournament has commenced.

If you are asked to provide proof of a players age you must do so with appropriate documentation that can be in the form of FV ID card, school ID, passport, birth certificate, learners permit or drivers license where applicable.
If the opposing team requests for one of your players to prove their age and you cannot produce reasonable proof, the player in question will not be allowed to participate in that game. The required proof will be at the discretion of tournament management.

Players who are overage **MUST** provide a Football Victoria dispensation letter.

A player can only play for one team and one age group throughout the Tournament, including Semi Finals and Final matches. Players are not permitted to switch teams once they have been listed on a team sheet, irrespective if they have played any game time.

3.2 Age Categories

The age categories and requirements for the tournament are:

U8 Born in 2018	U11 Born in 2015
U9 Born in 2017	U12 Born in 2014
U10 Born in 2016	U13 Born in 2013

Girls are allowed to play in boys' age groups one year younger than the age cut off without dispensation.

Team managers and coaches must ensure all players are the correct age for their age group and have the necessary documentation in case they are required to provide it to prove a player's age. Please refer to section 3.1 for details.

3.3 Overage Player Checks

In the event of an overage player check the below procedure MUST be adhered to

1. The Team Manager is to approach the nearest event staff member and request that you would like to request an ID Check on a particular player(s). Under no circumstances should this be done directly with the opposition.
2. Event Staff will conduct the ID Check with the team in Question

Digital or printed copies of the required documents will be accepted provided they are in colour, clear and legible. Please ensure a team official has this available at each match if requested by tournament staff.

Any teams that are found to be providing incorrect documentation or purposely playing older players to gain an unfair advantage will receive a 0-3 loss for any games the older players participated in. The ineligible players will also be disqualified from the tournament and offending teams may be disqualified from the tournament with no refund.

3.4 Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in the tournament players must:

- Comply with the age eligibility as per section 3.2
- Be registered on an allocated team sheet for a participating team
- Ensure that the team has arranged full payment.
- Agree to the terms and conditions of the tournament.

Failure to comply with the eligibility criteria may result in the whole team being disqualified and expelled from competition.

3.5 Incomplete Squads

Squads with incomplete compliments are still required to participate in their scheduled matches. The opposition team does not have to reduce their numbers accordingly however can choose to do so.

3.6 Insurance & Personal Injury

Whittlesea Ranges Football Club (the host of the tournament) has a $20,000,000 Public Liability Insurance and has ensured the venue that stages match have adequate Public Liability Insurance.

The Whittlesea Cup Tournament, and Whittlesea Ranges Football Club **does not offer** player accident insurance cover to any participant; players, parents and coaches choose to participate in the tournament at their own risk and will be liable for the costs that arise from suffering injury whilst participating in the Whittlesea Cup tournament.

4 TOURNAMENT RULES

4.1 Player Uniforms

Each player is required to have a number on their playing shirt that matches up with the team sheet.

Should uniform colours clash, it is the responsibility of the away team to wear an alternate colour. All first named teams in the fixture will be deemed the "Home" team and therefore will play in their colours. It is the responsibility of the away team to change into their strip, if there is still a clash, bibs will need to be used by the away team. Teams can use their own bibs or see the ground marshal in your area to obtain tournament bibs.

Goalkeepers shall wear any colour provided it does not clash with either team's outfield players.

4.2 Match Balls

Match balls will be provided. Only official match balls can be used for matches. The ball must be approved by the referee at the commencement of the match or at the re-start of every play if the ball is changed at any time.

- Size 3 balls will be used for U8 and U9s competition
- Size 4 balls will be used for U10, U11s, U12s & U13s competition.

4.3 Referees

Referees will be provided and appointed by Tournament Management. All the decisions of the match referee are final and binding as far as the result of a match is concerned, and no protest can be lodged.

Under no circumstances are supporters allowed to approach, question or criticise referees during the tournament.

Any misconduct towards referees will not be tolerated and may result in teams losing points or being disqualified from the tournament and may affect future participation of teams from the same club. Any serious incidents will also be reported to FV for extra action to be taken.

4.4 Assistant Referees (applies to U12s & U13s only)

Teams Must Provide linesman for any match that involves offside decision making (U12 & U13). The on-field referee will be responsible for the final decision and can override the linesman as he sees fit.

4.5 Tournament Officials

There will be Tournament Officials wearing WRFC branded apparel and or High Visibility vests located on all fields to enable easy identification in case information needs to be relayed or clarification needs to be provided to coaches, parents or referees.

Any higher-level issues can be directed towards the Information Desk located inside the pavilion.

We ask all players, coaches, supporters and parents to respect and work with event officials to ensure a great experience for all involved in the tournament. Players, officials and supporters found to be displaying aggressive or abusive behaviour towards Tournament Officials or volunteers may be subject to disciplinary action.

4.6 Fields and Technical Areas

All fields will have clearly designated technical areas. These areas will be clearly identifiable by permanent or temporary fencing and/or ropes as well as signs.

Only players and team officials (coach, assistant coach and team manager) will be allowed to enter the fields and technical areas.

Team Officials (coaches and managers) cannot enter the field of play unless approval is given by the referee (such as to attend an injured player).

Spectators are not permitted to enter the field or technical area at any time and will have full view of the games from behind the ropes or fences. Spectators will be required to stand clear of clearly marked out technical areas and must comply with any requests by the referee or Tournament officials. If unsure of where the technical area is located, approach the closest staff member.

When permitted players or officials enter the technical areas, they may only do so via the clearly designated gates.

These rules are to ensure the game can proceed without obstruction and in a safe environment for players, team officials and referee. Please ask your supporters to respect the Technical Areas and all officials.

4.7 Refunds and Cancellations

As a general rule we don't provide refunds for teams or players or teams who withdraw from the competition. If there are extenuating circumstances, please get in contact with us as soon as possible so we can try to work out a solution at events@whittlesearanges.com.au.

If the tournament is forced to cancel as a result of a Government mandated lock down (prior to commencement of the tournament), all entry fees will be reimbursed. However, tournament entry fees will not be reimbursed once the tournament commences.

The Tournament organisers cannot be held liable by the delegations for any damages, costs or losses incurred, such as transportation costs, accommodation costs, costs for additional orders, financial losses etc.

The Tournament organisers are in no way responsible for injury or economic loss which may arise in the case of acts of terror, war, warlike events, civil war, revolution, pandemic, disease outbreaks or civil disturbances or because of the actions of the authorities, strikes, lockouts, blockades or similar events.

4.8 Red and Yellow Cards

Red and yellow cards can be issued during a match at the discretion of the referee to players and team officials. Red card serves an automatic 1-match suspension of the subsequent game. If a serious offence occurs, Tournament officials may impose additional penalties.

If a match official is assaulted or extreme violent or abusive behaviour is demonstrated the player/official or coach may be suspended from the tournament.

If the whole team demonstrates repeated abusive behaviour, they will be expelled from the competition and may be banned from future tournaments.

Yellow cards in different games will not be accumulated for suspension throughout the tournament. However repeat offenders may be suspended at the discretion of tournament management.

5 GAMES FORMAT

5.1 Forfeit

If a team is not on their allocated pitch ready to start, five minutes after their scheduled kick off time, they will forfeit the game, and a 3-0 loss will be listed as the official result for that particular game.

5.2 Injury Time

Generally, injury time **will not apply** however the referee and tournament officials reserve the right to add on injury stoppage time at their discretion.

5.3 Interchange of Players

Interchanges may only take place during a stoppage in play and with the referee's permission.

Each team can make an unlimited amount of interchanges in any given fixture provided.

5.4 Round Games and Finals Format

Teams will be placed in groups where they will play a round robin format and accumulate points.

Please refer to the fixtures for further information on the progression from the group phase to the knock-out stages. This will be confirmed once all groups are finalized.

All tied finals matches at the end of regulation time will proceed straight to a penalty shootout with best of 5 shots.

5.5 Copa and Liga

The Copa division is classified for Kangaroos level competition or teams wishing to participate in this level.

The Liga division is for those who play at the Wallabies/Joeys level competition.

This will ensure that teams are playing at their appropriate level and make the games more competitive across the board.

The winning and runners up teams of each of the Copa and Liga divisions will receive a trophy and the players will receive medals.

6 EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS

In extreme weather conditions, tournament management or the appointed match official reserves the right to shorten, postpone, delay or abandon any fixture that in their opinion compromises player safety.

In extreme heat conditions, tournament management or the appointed match official reserves the right to include drink breaks at any time during a fixture. Matches may be, shortened, postponed or cancelled as a last resort.

7 IMPORTANT INFORMATION

7.1 Spectator and Team Official Behaviour Policy

The Cup organisers takes crowd behaviour seriously therefore inappropriate behaviour from spectators will not be tolerated. Treat others how you would like to be treated at all times.

Teams and Clubs will be held responsible for their supporter's behaviour. Matches may be forfeited at the referee and/or tournament officials' discretion. Teams may also be deducted points or disqualified from the tournament.

Spectators must remain behind fences or roped areas at all times. Should spectators enter the field during a match the referees have the right to end the match immediately and the offending team will forfeit the match.

Under NO circumstances are supporters allowed to approach, question or criticise referees during the tournament. Referees make mistakes just like players do and should not be subject to abuse when they give up their time to ensure games can go ahead.

If you would like to report any behavioural issues during the tournament, please approach the nearest Ground Marshall immediately. Do not wait until after the match.

7.2 First Aid

First Aid staff will be on hand for the duration of the tournament. Taping and strapping will not be part of the duties of the First Aid Staff. If your team requires assistance from first aid staff please approach the nearest Tournament Official or visit the information desk.

Ambulances may be called by First Aid staff in case of emergency. It is the responsibility of the player or official to ensure they have adequate ambulance cover.

7.3 Smoking

Smoking is not permitted around the pitches and should be kept to areas designated for this purpose. In the case where there is no designated area; smoking is to be 10 metres away from any pitch when a game is in play and away from other tournament attendees.

8 CODES OF CONDUCT

The below Codes of Conduct shall apply to all players, team officials and supporters at the tournament. By entering or attending this tournament, you agree to abide by the relevant Code of Conduct below.

Any breach of the relevant Code of Conduct shall be subject to disciplinary action by Tournament Officials. This may include the offending individuals, teams and/or clubs being suspended and/or expelled from the premises and not be allowed into future events.

It is up to the Team/Club Organiser to ensure that all players, parents and spectators are familiar and aware of the below.

8.1 Players Code of Conduct

"For the good of the game"

- Winning at all costs isn't everything; at this age learning is more important than winning.
- I will only listen to my coaches' instructions during training and games. No one else.
- I will not engage in the use of crude, foul or abusive language that may be deemed offensive or engage in any conduct detrimental to the image of the game when on or off the field.
- I will never argue with the referee and/or assistant referees regarding decisions they make.
- I will treat participants, officials and spectators with respect.
- I will play by the laws of the game.
- I will cooperate with my coach, teammates, and referees ad officials at all times.
- I will not use any banned substance or drugs of dependence throughout my involvement in the tournament.
- I will display good sportsmanship at all times.
- I will play for the fun of it and not just to please parents and coaches.

8.2 Parent and Supporters Code of Conduct

"For the good of the game"

- Do not coach your child during training sessions and games. That's what the coaches are there for; it sends mixed messages to the players creating confusion.
- Do not interfere with training sessions, stay clear of training areas.
- Cheer on and encourage the players at all times, including the opposition. Applaud good football all-round.
- Winning isn't everything. Players need to develop and at this age learning is more important than winning.
- Remember that children play sport for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Encourage children to participate, do not force them.
- Focus on the child's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
- Encourage children to always participate according to the rules.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a game.
- Remember that children learn best by example, applaud good play by all teams.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
- Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise.
- Show appreciation of coaches, officials and administrators. Without them, your child could not participate.
- Respect the facilities that are being used.
- Keep clear from technical areas, benches and change rooms during games and tournament. This is the ideal time for coaches to teach players without any interference
- Always follow the instructions of the referee and/or tournament staff

8.3 Team Officials Code of Conduct

"For the good of the game"

- Remember that players participate for fun and winning is only part of the fun
- Never ridicule or yell at players for making mistakes or for not winning games
- Be reasonable in your demands on a player's time, energy and enthusiasm
- Always operate within the rules and spirit of the game and teach your players to do the same
- Ensure that the time players spend with you is a positive experience. All players are deserving of equal attention and opportunities
- Avoid overplaying talented players. Less developed players need and deserve equal playing time
- Ensure that the equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of all players
- Display control, respect and professionalism to all involved with the sport. This includes opponents, coaches, officials, administrators, the media, parents and spectators. Encourage players to do the same
- Show concern and caution towards sick and injured players. Follow the advice of a doctor or tournament first aid staff when determining whether an injured player is ready to recommence training or competition games
- Coaches: Obtain appropriate coaching qualifications and keep up to date with the latest coaching practices and the principles of growth development and conditioning of junior players
- Any physical contact with a player should be appropriate to the situation and necessary for the player's skill development.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every player regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, playing ability, cultural background or religion
- Refrain from over coaching during games, let the players play and learn from their own mistakes
- Set the example. Players look up to coaches as role models. Display behaviours that you want your players to follow.
- Always follow the instructions of the referee and/or tournament staff

9 ACCIDENT WAIVER AND RELEASE OF AUTHORITY

All participants are required to Acknowledge the below as a condition of entry:

I HEREBY ASSUME ALL OF THE RISKS OF PARTICIPATING OR ATTENDING THIS ACTIVITY OR EVENT, namely the Whittlesea Cup as stated above , including by way of example and not limitation, any risks that may arise from negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons or entities being released, from dangerous or defective equipment or property owned, maintained, or controlled by the Tournament Organisers, or because of their possible liability without fault. I certify that I am physically fit and/or have not been advised to not participate by a qualified medical professional. I certify that there are no health-related reasons or problems, which preclude my participation in this activity or event.

I acknowledge that this Accident Waiver and Release of Liability Form will be used by the event holders, sponsors, and organizers of the Whittlesea Cup as stated above, and that it will govern my actions and responsibilities at said activity or event.

In consideration of my registration and permitting me to participate in this event, I hereby take action for myself, my executors, administrators, heirs, next of kin, successors, and assigns as follows:

(A) I WAIVE, RELEASE, AND DISCHARGE from any and all liability, including but not limited to, liability arising from the negligence or fault of the entities or persons released, for my death, disability, personal injury, property damage, property theft, or actions of any kind which may hereafter occur to me including my traveling to and from this event,

(B) I INDEMNIFY, HOLD HARMLESS, AND WILL NOT SUE the entity and/or persons organizing this event and waive them from any and all liabilities or claims made as a result of participation in this activity or event, whether caused by the negligence of release or otherwise. This includes participation of any hazardous activities. I indemnify Whittlesea Cup Organisers against any damage suffered by myself, my child/children and next of kin.

I acknowledge that this activity or event may test a person's physical and mental limits and may carry with it the potential for death, serious injury, and property loss. The risks may include, but are not limited to, those caused by terrain, facilities, temperature, weather, condition of participants, equipment, vehicular traffic, actions of other people including, but not limited to, participants, volunteers, spectators, coaches, event officials, and event monitors, and/or producers of the event, and lack of hydration. These risks are not only inherent to participants but are also present for volunteers. I hereby consent to receive medical treatment including calling an ambulance which may be deemed advisable in the event of injury, accident, and/or illness during this activity or event.

I understand that at this event or related activities, I may be photographed. I agree to allow my photo, video, or film likeness to be used for any legitimate purpose by the event holders, producers, sponsors, organizers, and assigns.

The accident waiver and release of liability shall be construed broadly to provide a release and waiver to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law.

I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE READ THIS DOCUMENT, AND I FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENT. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND A CONTRACT AND I SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

10 CONTACT INFORMATION

Tournament Directors:

Sam Merlino (WRFC President)

Chantelle Azzopardi (Secretary)

Tony Pedro (Treasurer)

Franco De Santo (Junior & Tournament Co-ordinator)

Neal Smaldon (Miniroos Technical Director)

Mel Merlino & Lisa Pedro (Tournament Administration)

Tournament Enquiries can be emailed to: events@whittlesearanges.com.au