

West Sutton Little League Season Rules 2021-2022

1. **Kickoff times and match lengths** continue to be adjusted to aid social distancing at changeover times and generally 'spread the people traffic out'.
2. **Half time durations** must be strictly limited to 5 minutes maximum, and younger leagues doing **substitutions every quarter** must limit this to a quick changeover on the pitch.
3. **The pitch must be cleared at the scheduled time**, even if this means reducing the duration of the game. See table below.
4. Per last season, 1 side of every pitch must have a respect line and spectators may only stand/sit behind respect line. Managers should setup the respect line at the same time as the goals.
Managers should direct their team from the OTHER side unless they are the only person available to run the line.
Please tell you parents the rules about where to stand – it's no different to Sunday league.
5. No spectators allowed behind goals regardless of distance.

Borrowing players

(a) from aligned teams in older or younger leagues WILL now be permitted again. You should borrow older or younger according to who in your team is missing.

Please try to identify this need and get in touch with your aligned manager BEFORE Saturday morning. Your league coordinator can help you work out who that is.

(b) Borrowing players from the pool is also possible; again please let the Secretary or Football Co-ordinator know the day before or at least before 9am.

Note that players may not play more than 1 match in total across the day, either for school or little league.

Cancelling Matches

Pre-season

It is the individual managers responsibility and choice to cancel the training of their team training but must let their kids know it is off.

Cancellation of the pool (or mass cancellation due to safety reasons will be decided on by those in the park on the morning. A message will be sent to league WhatsApp groups and the website will be updated by 8:45am. Given that football is not a fair weather sport, the emphasis is on playing when we can, and (as this weekend) we will abandon if the weather becomes unsafe. Parents can always choose not to send their children (but please remind them to send them in waterproof coats – we had some tiny children without a coat even this weekend).

During the season

Games/leagues will be decided on by those in the park on the Saturday morning. The decision is made to protect the pitches and safety of the children.

When cancelling due to waterlogged pitches, training may proceed at individual managers choice, but NEVER using any pitches and the container will remain closed.

When cancelling due to frozen pitches, any training would not be covered by our insurance.

A message will be sent to each league and the website updated **by 8:15am**. Please do not send messages out with what's happening until you have spoken to the members of the exec in the park or alternatively be in the park at 8.00 to help make the decision.

Where matches are in doubt due to lack of players or manager availability, ONLY the Chairman, League Secretary or Football Coordinator can cancel a match. Managers should inform their League Coordinator + Harry/Rachel who will advise what to do. A friendly will normally be played and managers should NOT tell their team not to come.

Insufficient players... For the competitive leagues (Seniors, Premiers, Wildcats)

If a team has no Manager able to attend, the Secretary and Football coordinator shall be consulted. Do NOT cancel the game or tell the players not to attend.

Where a team does not have the full starting number of players, even after looking for players to borrow per above, the match cannot kick off with a difference of more than 2 players for 11 aside or 1 player for 9 aside. Managers shall agree how to achieve this by either reducing team size or lending players. If the minimum numbers for competitive football can't be achieved (8v8 for 11 aside, 6v6 for 9 aside), a friendly match should be played.

If a team has so few players that even with players borrowed from the opposition there are not enough players for the match to continue (e.g. less than 8v8 for Seniors), then the game is forfeited. The exception is where the Secretary accepts there is a mitigating reason.

Insufficient players... For the non-competitive leagues (Inters, Colts, Bantams, Cadets, Braves, Birds of Prey)

If even after looking for players to borrow per above, the teams are not even, the opposing team MUST lend players to even up numbers as much as possible. Only play 1 player different if there is an odd number.

Substitutions:

The same child MUST NOT be substituted week on week. We suggest you keep a record, as the children certainly do!

Half time substitutions in Inters, Premiers, Seniors and Wild Cats; Remaining leagues do substitutions every quarter. Rolling subs or substitutions at any other time are NOT permitted except in the case of INJURY or ILLNESS.

Referees:

We traditionally aim to provide referees for the Seniors, Premiers, Wildcats and Inters plus cup knockout matches for all. However, we have lost a lot of referees and are going to struggle this season. Please expect to share refereeing one half each.

Where you DO have a referee, please show them respect and ensure your parents do the same. The referee is NOT paid at all, and many are under 18, such that you therefore have a safeguarding duty of care towards them.

For the 9/11 aside leagues, assistant referees need to be provided by each team except in finals, please encourage parents to step up so you can manage your team. Please help them understand the offside rule and that offside position is not the same as offside offence?

Remember that if you are acting as the referee, you should NOT provide any on pitch coaching as that is unfair to the other team – a referee shouting ‘man on’ to their team is not being neutral.

COVID reporting: Managers must advise the Secretary and their League co-ordinator of any cases of Covid 19 in their team. Please ask parents to notify you if their child has COVID.

Hands! Face! Space! Remind your players to wash or sanitise their hands before and after games. No team huddles or handshaking are permitted. Team talks should remain socially distanced.

Remind players and their families not to come to football if they have any **Covid-19 symptoms**.

Summary table of kick off times, numbers etc

League	KO times	Match	Total match duration	Normal & Max players	Substitutions	Min players for Competitive match	Max difference in numbers
Seniors	9:10, 10:20, 11:30	25 min halves	55 mins	11 v 11	Half time	8 v 8	2
Premiers	9:10, 10:20, 11:30	25 min halves	55 mins	9 v 9	Half time	6 v 6	1
Wildcats	9:10, 10:20	25 min halves	55 mins	9 v 9	Half time	6 v 6	1
Inters	9:30, 10:30,	25 min halves	55 mins	9 v 9	Half time	n/a	1 (only if odd numbers in total)
Colts	9:30, 10:30, 11:30	25 min halves	55 mins	7 v 7	Every quarter	n/a	1 (only if odd numbers in total)
Bantams	9:30, 10:30, 11:30	20 min halves	45 mins	7 v 7	Every quarter	n/a	1 (only if odd numbers in total)
Cadets	9:30, 10:30, 11:30	20 min halves	45 mins	5 v 5	Every quarter	n/a	1 (only if odd numbers in total)
Braves (from later in season)	9:30, 10:30, 11:30?	20 min halves	45 mins	5 v 5	Every quarter	n/a	1 (only if odd numbers in total)
Birds of Prey	9:10, 10:20	25 min halves	55 mins	7 v 7	Every quarter	n/a	1 (only if odd numbers in total)

General information:

At the start of the 2021-22 season all leagues have six teams, except the following which have 4: Wild Cats, Birds of Prey, Inters and hopefully not Cadets.

Managers of first kick offs are responsible for putting up goals, nets and respect lines. Managers of last kick offs are responsible for putting away goals, nets and respect lines

All leagues play with a size 4 football except Cadets / Braves who play with a size 3 football.

Please remind your team to dispose of their rubbish in the bins and park legally – let's be good neighbours and park users (and now there are £100 fines from Sutton!).