

# St Thomas More Footballathon 2024

## Rules & Guidance

### Timings and locations

1. Game lengths as per the schedule (please see guidance on the length of final matches in points 31 and 32 below).
2. Game locations as per the schedule.
3. Please ensure you are on time for your matches. If a team is not ready to begin a match at the appointed time, the game will be forfeited and the opposing team will record a 3-0 win.
4. All teams must have a named responsible adult on the school grounds for the duration of the tournament.

### During the match

5. There is no extra time or injury time.
6. There is no half time.
7. All free-kicks are direct; opposing players must stand five yards from the ball.
8. There are no offsides.
9. Goal kicks must be kicked from the penalty area. When a goal kick is awarded, the opposition team must retreat to the halfway line.
10. Throw-ins must be taken overhead with both hands.
11. Corners should be kicked.
12. After a goal has been scored, a kick-off is taken at the centre of the playing area to restart the game.
13. At the end of a match, the winning team's manager must confirm the final score with the pitch delegate.
14. The maximum number of players on the pitch per team is five, including the goalkeeper.
15. The minimum number of players in a team required for a match to start is four.
16. Substitutes may be used at any time with the permission of the referee.
17. A player who has been replaced may return to the playing area as a substitute for another player

### Attire

18. Players must wear shin guards.
19. Team members must wear the same kit, or at least the same colour; bibs will be available should there be kit clashes.
20. Correct footwear must be worn for the surface of the pitch (grass). No metal studs are allowed.

### Referees

21. Each match is controlled by a Referee who has full authority. Our Referees are volunteers and should be treated with the utmost respect.
22. There are no Assistant Referees. However, a Pitch Delegate, who is able to answer questions and assess queries and disputes, will be assigned to each pitch. Our Pitch Delegates are also volunteers and should be treated with the utmost respect.

23. Teams will be assigned into a tournament league based on the school year(s) of the team's players. Where possible a league will be made up of teams from the same school year.
24. Concurrent school years may be combined into one league if there are not enough teams from some school years to make up an individual league.
25. If teams are made up of players from more than one school year, they will be placed in a league of teams from the school year of the oldest players in the team.
26. The format of the tournament is a round-robin. Each team will play all of the other teams in their league once in the group stages.
27. In the group stages, teams receive three points for a win, one point for a draw and zero points for a loss.
28. The top two teams by points in each league table will move into a knockout phase.
29. If teams are tied on points in the league table, the following criteria will be used to determine who reaches the final: (1) goal difference (2) goals scored (3) head-to-head result (4) toss of a coin.
30. If the number of teams in the league exceeds seven, the league will be divided into two sub-divisions, with each team in a particular sub-division playing all of the other teams in that sub-division. The top two teams in each sub-division will play a semi-final match, with the winners of each semi-final playing in the final to determine the winner of the league.
31. Each group stage game is 5 minutes long.
32. Each final is 10 minutes long. If the final is a draw after 10 minutes, there is a penalty shoot out – five players each then sudden death. If applicable, semi-final games will be five minutes long.

### **Spectator conduct**

33. Parents are encouraged to support children involved in the competition from the sidelines. Poor behaviour won't be tolerated. Please remember that the Footballathon is an inclusive event – the aim of the competition is for our children to have as much fun as possible.

Most importantly, have fun and good luck!