

Harrow Youth Football League Harrow Soccer Combination All-clubs (pre-season) meeting

September 2026 – Kick-Off circa 7.30pm



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HARROW
SOCCER
COMBINATION



ACCREDITED
LEAGUE
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL



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LEAGUE
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL



**ENJOY
THE GAME**



**GIVE
RESPECT**



**BE
INCLUSIVE**



**WORK
TOGETHER**



**PLAY
SAFE**

Q&A

Welcome & Introductions

Thank you for coming – please pass this information on to everyone at your club

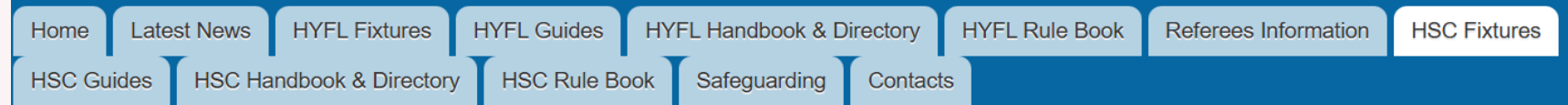
- HYFL covers U12 to U18 age groups; HSC covers U7 to U11 age groups
- 752 teams (HYFL: 360; HSC: 392) from 84 clubs
- We expect some 10,000-11,000 players to be registered this season
- FA Accredited, and rated a top-ten league in England by The FA
- Welcome to 12 new clubs: Constantine; Cre8tive; FC Royal Lions; Funatics; Harefield United; Fulham United; London Tigers; M-H Football; Oxhey Jets; St Georges Albion; Squad V; We Make Footballers
- We set a high bar for discipline and administration: seven clubs were re-interviewed at the end of last season and five left (360 Talent; SL Benfica; Southall Lions; Inv3ntive; Saracens Velocity)
- Your league contacts are Andy Lowe and Judi Grice and Luke Partington

Where to Find Everything

On the website – www.firsteleven.co.uk/harrow

- Fixtures for both HYFL and HSC
- Results, tables and grids for U12 to U18 (only)
- Guides and Handbooks & Directories and Rule Books for both HYFL and HSC—please check the Directories
- Referee Contact listing and Safeguarding information

Harrow Youth Football League & Harrow Soccer Combination



How we communicate

- By email, through the website, and at meetings held both in person and online
- The Administration Committee meets monthly; invoices and annual subscriptions will be issued separately

Conditions of Play – Pitches & Equipment

Full detail for every item below is on the website/in the Handbook

- Format: U/7 = 3v3; U/8 & U/9 = 5v5; U/10 & U/11 = 7v7; U/12 & U/13 = 9v9; U14 to U/18 = 11v11
- Pitch sizes, goal sizes and approved match balls
- Mandated pitch interventions – barriers, cones and additional marked lines
- 3G and 4G surfaces may only be used if they are on The FA approved list
- Goalpost safety is the responsibility of the home club
- Match duration; aligned to the age groups
- Colour clashes are for the home club to resolve
- Kick-off times are between 10:00am and 2:00pm
- HSC (U8 to U11) play halves, not quarters

Conditions of Play – Match Format

- The Laws of the Game apply to both HYFL (U12 to U18) and HSC (U7 to U11)
- Substitution rules vary by age group – check the website and Handbook
- Offside – only in U/12 to U/18 i.e. 9v9 and 11v11 (not U/7 to U/11 –i.e. 3v3; 5v5 and 7v7)
- Power Play (U8 to U11 only): a four-goal lead adds a player and a six-goal lead adds two, with reductions as the gap closes
- Heading (U7 to U11 only): no deliberate heading, and an indirect free kick is awarded
- Throw-ins are now a pass-in or dribble-in for U/7 to U/11

New U/7 (3vs3) – pitch and goal size; NO – subs/goalkeeper/heading/offside/powerplay/referee (players self-officiate) Match duration is 10 minutes – so play 3 to 4 matches (expect a team be 2 sides; with 6 players, playing at the same time). Please refer to the Format Guidance on the website.

Fixtures – HYFL (U12 to U18)

- The season runs from 20 September to the end of May, closed for two weeks in December (20 and 27) and one week in March (28) to match the extended school holidays.
- Other closed dates need 30 days' notice to Judi and Andy – a maximum of three per season and one per month. Middlesex FA requires 28 days' notice.
- Drafts are issued two to three weeks ahead, with the final version on the Monday before the Sunday, including referee appointments. The 20 and 27 September fixtures have already been distributed.
- Fixtures can still change after the draft version is issued, so please do not make alternative arrangements.
- The home club must contact the opponents and the referee by Tuesday night. Non-compliance does not mean the match is postponed. Away team to confirm receipt.
- Raise any Middlesex FA or County Cup issues directly with MFA, not with the League.
- For postponements and inclement weather, follow the process set out on the website/in the Handbook (page 9).

Fixtures – HSC (U7 to U11)

- **Phase 1:** 27 September to 13 December – 12 weeks
- **Phase 2:** 3 January to 18 April – 15 weeks
- There are no closed dates in either phase
- The full groupings and fixtures book for Phase 1 have been distributed
- We will seek to provide additional fixtures for ‘free’ teams; so please do not assume no game
- The home club must contact the opponents by Tuesday night. Non-compliance does not mean the match is postponed. Away team to confirm receipt
- New teams can be added and groupings reviewed at Phase 2 – this applies to HSC only, not HYFL

Referees – HYFL

- A national challenge: demand outstrips supply
- Please help us recruit – do you know anyone who might take up refereeing?
- The referee contact listing is on the website and is circulated by email
- If no referee is allocated, the home team appoints one. No agreement from the opposition is required
- Whoever referees has full authority, and must not coach their own team while doing so

Referee Fees & Young Referees

Fees – same as last season

- **U12 and U13:** £35
- **U14 and U15 and U16:** £40
- **U17 and U18:** £45
- Fees are paid in advance on match day. If the referee agrees, a bank transfer is acceptable, but it must be sent by 6:00pm the same day.

Young referees

- They are inexperienced and everyone makes mistakes, so coaches and parents must make allowance. Poor behaviour will be reported and The FA will take action.

Referees – HSC (U8 to U11)

- The home team appoints – a referee, parent, coach or manager
- No agreement from the opposition is required
- Whoever takes the whistle is there as the referee, with full authority, and must not coach their own team
- U7 - the players referee the match

Player Registrations – Eligibility

- Read the User Guide and the 5-point plan (page 8 of the Handbook). Every player must be registered on the HYFL system
- Age bandings apply across both HYFL and HSC
- A child moving from U6 to U7 can register on their sixth birthday, and only for a U7 team
- Squad limits are 25 players
- You can register six days a week, but not on a Sunday, up to the end of February
- A player can only be registered for one team playing on a Sunday anywhere in England at any one time
- Take care with FA regulations covering players moving in and out of Premier League and EFL academies

Registrations – Transfers, Cards & Data

- Laminated ID cards are distributed once a registration is complete; 4,000 available tonight. Future ones - details for distribution will be advised in due course
- Transfers fall into two types – (a) between clubs, and (b) between teams within the same club. Only the league can transfer players. For the process, see page 7 of the Handbook, plus the User Guides
- Registrations can also be cancelled (only by the league); follow the process set out in the User Guide and page 7 of the Handbook
- If a registration is rejected, it can be amended and then re-submitted
- Certain player data must be uploaded to the FA system. This is mandated for County Cups and to be able to play in HYFL and HSC

Registrations on Match Day

- Check laminated cards, or a current printed copy from the system (if laminate not yet supplied). A phone or tablet screen is not accepted – this is mandated.
- If cards/print are not available, the match still goes ahead, but a process is in place to check identities
- Record all the details on the match result form

Never play an unregistered/ineligible player

- If a team has no laminate or printout for a player, that player must not play.
- Substantial penalties apply, including loss of points (new for this season) if an unregistered and/or ineligible player plays.

Results – Reporting on Sunday (HYFL)

- Both the home and away teams report results to the First XI Agency by 5:30pm on Sunday, by phone, text or email. See the Handbook (page 6) and website.
- County Cup results are reported in the same way.
- Give the age group and division, the full home team name and goals, and the full away team name and goals.
- Unplayed and postponed matches must also be reported.
- The full list is published on the website after 5:30pm - and is not updated afterwards if a result is missing or incorrect.
- Grids and tables are updated during Monday and Tuesday.
- Unplayed or defaulted games take at least seven days while the league reviews them.
- HSC results and tables for U7 to U11 cannot be published by the league or by clubs

Online Match Result Forms (HYFL & HSC)

- Every team from U8 to U18 must complete the online form by Tuesday evening, covering both results and unplayed games. U7 match results forms are 'not' to be submitted
- The form is menu-driven. Please complete it fully and accurately, including opponents, score and date
- Only record the players who actually played – they pull through from the registration system
- Referee marks follow the marking guide on the website. Any mark below 60 needs a written report online. Last season's average was 82
- The Respect and other questions have been updated this season
- Please use the comments box rather than sending separate emails. 'All' comments are reviewed and assessed

Respect & Discipline

- The FA and Middlesex FA are making unannounced visits this season, with heavy sanctions where standards are not met
- Continuing misconduct by players, coaches or spectators can lead to points deductions and bans
- Sin-bins apply for dissent
- The referee, whoever that is, has full authority, can issue yellow and red cards, and must report misconduct
- We encourage every referee, league or club appointed, to report matters. League-appointed referees submit weekly match reports to HYFL
- On-field incidents can only be dealt with by The FA – leagues are ‘not’ permitted to take action



Safeguarding

Please check before the season starts

- Check your FA records for the DBS status of every manager, coach and official at your club
- Confirm that safeguarding accreditation is in place and in-date for all of your relevant club personnel
- Photography and video at matches - must follow the FA guidance on the website
- There is a great deal more information on the league website

Any More General Questions?

We are around for a short while to answer any club-specific questions

Thank you – have a great season

Take care, and safe journey home

