



41st SPRING CHALLENGE

REGULATION

1. General rules

The football «Spring Challenge» tournament, open to U11 category (players born in 2007 or 2008) will take place in Guipavas on the 5th and 6th of May 2018. Each team will be able to integrate 2 girls born in 2006. **The competition starts at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday 5th May 2018.**

- Each team consists on 8 players and 2 substitutes. The team list must be written out on the team sheet by 10:30 a.m. on Saturday. This team sheet is then submitted to the technical delegate to check the players registration cards before the start of the tournament.
- Players must be affiliated to the French Football Federation, or an equivalent structure in their country for the clubs coming from abroad. Players must be insured by their clubs. The Spring Challenge committee declines all responsibility in case of theft or in case of an accident involving a member of a participating club.
- The match referees are provided by the organisation of the Challenge, but each participating team must designate an assistant referee/linesman for their team' matches.
- Players must be ready 10 minutes before their matches. If a team does not show up when called, the team automatically forfeits the game. This results is a 3-0 victory for the opposing team.

2. Match rules

The rules of the game are those applied to 8 a side football with the following particularities for this tournament:

- Duration of the matches:
 - › 1 period of 15 minutes for the group matches
 - › 2 x 8 minutes halves for the eighth-finals, quarter-finals, semi-finals and the finals «Hopes» and the third place ranking match
 - › 2 x 10 minutes for the final of the Champions
- The pitch will be chosen by the drawing of lots at the beginning of each match by the referee.
- No offside.
- Throw in are made by hand.
- At the Kick-off: interdiction to score directly.
- The referee must be advised for every replacement.
- Free kicks: direct or not, no recommendations. A goal can be scored directly on a free kick.
- The back pass to the goalkeeper (with the goalkeeper touching the ball with his hands) is not allowed. If ever, a free kick will be awarded to the other team.

- The goalkeeper must clear by hand in his 13-meter area or by foot (the ball must be on the ground, no volley or half-volley). In case of clearing his area with a volley or half volley, the team will be sanctioned with a free kick taken perpendicular to the 13-meter line with a wall at 6 meters.
- All serious fault committed in this area result in a penalty.
- For a free kick the players must be 6 meters away.
- Any player who receives a yellow card from the referee will be sent off for 3 minutes.
- Any player who receives a red card during a match will be sent off and not replaced but he may play the next game.
- For each group match (qualifying, Champions and Hope) points are given as follows:
 - > **3 points for a win**
 - > **1 point for a draw**
 - > **0 points for a loss**

3. Qualifications rules

QUALIFICATION GROUPS

- The teams are divided by draw in 16 groups of 5 teams.
- The teams which finish first and second in their group will go through the Champion group (8 groups of 4 teams). **The matches of the Champion group will start at 08:45 a.m. on Sunday.**
- The teams which finish third, fourth and fifth in their group will play the Hope group (16 groups of 3 teams). **The matches of the Hope group will start at 08:45 a.m. on Sunday.**

CHAMPION GROUP

- The teams are divided in 8 groups of 4 teams.
- After the Champion group matches, the teams which finish first and second in the Champion group will go through the eighth final. The two other teams are eliminated.

HOPE GROUP

- The teams are divided in 16 groups of 3 teams.
- After the Hope group matches, the team which finish first on group will go through the eighth final of the Hope group. The two other teams are eliminated.

4. Team ranking

The rankings in the group matches are decided by the following criteria, in order:

- the number of points
- the best overall goal difference
- the greatest number of scored goals

In a tie-break situation:

- If the teams are tied at the end of the qualifying group matches, there will be a series of penalty shoot out (3 kicks by 3 different players). In case of tied after this series of penalty shoot out, the players will continue the penalty shoot out, until one team has scored a goal more than the other team from the same number of kicks.
- If the teams are tied at the end of the Champion and the Hope group, the qualified teams will be the ones which from the qualification group will have the higher number of points, the best overall goal difference and the greatest number of scored goals.

In a tie-break situation after the eighth-final, quarter-final, semi-finals and the finals:

- In case of equality at the end of final time, there will be a series of penalty shoot out (3 kicks by 3 different players). In case of tied after this series of penalty shoot out, the players will continue the penalty shoot out, until one team has scored a goal more than the other team from the same number of kicks.

Any appeals or claims must be addressed to:

Natalie MILIN, tournament manager, or to **Ronan AUDREN**, referee manager, who will take a final decision. The committee will not accept any appeals or claims concerning the referee's decisions during the matches.