

Kirby (Shield & Plate) & Tony Moore Shield Rules 2026/27

See further down for Tony Moore Plate Rules

Which league should we enter?

Please see below guidance on each league to help select which competition/s you wish to enter.

Kirby Shield (Mixed Year 5/6)	Kirby Plate (Mixed Year 5/6)	Tony Moore Shield (Girls' Year 5/6)	Tony Moore Plate (Girls' Year 5/6)
Excel – For the strongest teams in the area to play in. All players should understand and be able to play football and likely play in clubs outside of school.	Excel – For the teams who aren't as strong to play in, still competitive but likely to consist of smaller schools with a smaller pool of players to select from. Majority of players are able to play football and likely play in clubs outside of school.	Excel – For the strongest teams in the area to play in. Majority of players should have some idea how to play football/play outside of school.	Develop – To allow players the chance to play competitive games in an appropriate environment. Majority of the team are new players/girls who only play in school & not in a club setting.

- Schools can only enter **EITHER** the Kirby Shield (Div 1) or the Kirby Plate (Div 2).
- Schools can enter **BOTH** the Tony Moore Shield (Div 1) and the Tony Moore Plate (Div 2), or can choose to enter just one.
- **By entering the Kirby or Tony Moore competitions, your players and spectators are agreeing to adhere to the code of conduct below. Failure to do so may result in your team being removed from the competition. You must also share this code of conduct with all players and parents.**

There is no progression from the Plate to the Shield in either league.

Rules

- 7 players on the pitch including goalkeeper, rolling subs are allowed from your squad of 10. The referee must be informed of any changes that are made. **Please note the squad size must not be exceeded.**

- League group games to be 20 minutes each way (knockout stages – if in the event of a draw after normal time, 5 minutes each way of extra time. If still tied then 5 penalties per team with sudden death to follow.)
 - From September 2025 there is **NO HEADING allowed in ANY primary age competition**, in line with the local county ESFA rules. See below rules on deliberate headers.

If a player heads the ball, an indirect free kick will be awarded from where the ball was headed.

If the player heads the ball inside their own penalty area, the free kick will take place from the nearest side line of the penalty area where the header took place.

- From September 2025 there are **NO THROW INS allowed in ANY primary age** competition, instead the below rules apply when the ball leaves the field of play from the side line.

When the whole of the ball passes over the whole of the touchline, on the ground or in the air, instead of a throw-in, a pass-in/dribble-in is awarded.

The kicker that takes the pass-in/dribble-in may touch the ball again before it is touched by another player.

At the moment of delivering the ball:

The ball must be stationary on the touchline at the point where it left the pitch; only the kicker may be off the pitch

All opponents must stand at least five yards from the point on the touchline where the pass-in/dribble-in is to be taken from.

A goal cannot be scored directly from a pass-in, or dribble-in. If the player that dribbles the ball in shoots and scores the goal will not count.

The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves.

- Other normal football rules for these age groups apply, including no offside.
- From a goal kick the opposing team must retreat behind the halfway line.
- Back pass rule applies (goalkeepers cannot pick up the ball when receiving it from a player on their own team deliberately) An indirect free kick will be awarded.
- The winners of the group will go through to the knockout stages. Depending on group size top 2 may advance, this will be clarified when the groups are drawn.
- League games – 3 points for a win, 2 for a draw, 1 for a loss.

- If two teams are joint on points at the end of the group games, the head-to-head result will decide which team goes through. If tied on head-to-head then the team who have conceded the least number of goals will progress. If tied on the number of goals conceded, then goal difference will be used. If still tied a play off game will take place.
- **If a team achieves a 5-goal lead in any match, the match is officially over at that point with the score being recorded as the final score. Schools are encouraged to keep playing but to change the rules, e.g. mix the teams, add more players onto the losing side or implement different rule restrictions for the winning side, however the game MUST NOT continue as it had been prior.**
- Deadlines are final and any games not played will be registered as 0-0 unless a school can show they have tried to arrange the game and the opposition have either not replied or pulled out on an arranged date and have been unable to agree upon a new date. In this scenario the team who did not pull out will be awarded a 1-0 win.
- If you are withdrawing from the competition inform the below contact and any schools you are due to play.
- If you are having problems getting in touch with schools let us know and we may be able to help.
- If you have any enquiries on rules or fixtures contact Kirsty at Kirsty.naismith@castlerock.org.uk

Tony Moore Plate (Year 5/6 Girls' Div 2)

This league is designed to help girls learn to play and provide an appropriate level of competition for new players. As such, if you wish to enter a team into this league please ensure the majority of your team are new players/girls who only play in school and not in a club outside of school.

Rules

- Schools are able to enter this league AND the Tony Moore Shield, provided both teams meet the criteria for those leagues.
- 5 players on pitch including goalkeeper, rolling subs are allowed from your squad of 8. The referee must be informed of any changes that are made.
- All other rules are the same as the Kirby Shield/Plate/Tony Moore Shield, please refer above to these.

Other Key Info
• Entries close 9th September 2026 at 12pm – enter via website • Group games for all competitions to be played by Christmas break • Quarter/Semi Finals of Kirby Shield/Plate to be played by 19th March

- Quarter/Semi Finals of Tony Moore Shield/Plate to be played by 9th April
- Kirby Shield & Plate Finals to be held on the 21st April 2027 at Coalville Town FC
- Tony Moore Shield & Plate Finals to be held on the 28th April 2027 at Coalville Town FC
 - All games to be played with a size 4 ball

Respect Code of Conduct/Spirit of the Games



We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game. This event is supporting The FA's 'Respect' programme to ensure football can be enjoyed by everyone in a safe and positive environment.

For players – when playing football, I will:

- Always do my best, even if we're losing or the other team is stronger
- Play fairly – I won't cheat, complain or waste time
- Never be rude to my teammates, the other team, the referee, spectators or my coach/team manager
- Do what the referee tells me
- Shake hands with the other team and referee at the end of the game
- Listen to my coach/team manager and respect what he/she says

I understand that if I don't follow this code of conduct the following actions might happen; I may be removed from the game, I may be removed from the team, my team may be removed from the competition, I may not be allowed to play again.

Name: _____

Signed: _____

For spectators, parents, carers & coaches I will:

- Remain outside the field of play and behind the Designated Spectator Area/Coaching Area (where provided)
- Not stand behind the goal
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour

- Always respect the match officials' decisions
- Applaud effort and good play from both sides, as well as success

In addition, when attending youth games I will:

- Remember that children play for FUN
- Let the coaches do their job and not confuse the players by telling them what to do
- Encourage the players to respect the opposition and match officials
- Never criticise a player for making a mistake: mistakes are part of learning

I understand that failure to follow this code of conduct may result in any of the following actions; my removal from the pitch side, my child being unable to continue playing, the team being removed from the competition, and my ban from future games.

Name: _____

Signed: _____