



KS1 COMPETITIVE SPORTS TOURNAMENTS

As a youth football coach with 15 years of experience running Mini Champs Academy, including school sports and toddler programmes across Essex, I'm passionate about giving young children real competitive opportunities. My daughter, aged 6 in Year 2, competes in three sports outside school, yet hasn't had a chance to compete in school events. While some partnerships like Southend offer KS1 tournaments, areas like Castle Point and Rochford lack these, often focusing on non-competitive festivals. At Mini Champs, we believe in building champions early, so we're launching competitive KS1 sports tournaments to inspire young athletes.

We're starting with football, our specialty and a highly engaging sport, hosting the following tournaments in Billericay for the 2025/26 academic year:

- **Year 2 Football Tournament:** November 2025 (week commencing 3rd November)
- **Year 1 Football Tournament:** January 2026
- **Girls' KS1 Football Tournament:** March 2026
- **Reception Football Tournament:** May 2026

During the summer we had 48 U6/U7 teams compete successfully, showcasing our ability to deliver high-quality events. With our venue, qualified coaches, equipment and school connections, we're set to make these tournaments memorable. Unlike typical school events, we'll enhance the experience with medals, school prizes, and a professional setup to excite kids, schools, and spectators. Our pathways support players to continue their football journey, potentially toward pro academies or for grassroots participation.

To keep it affordable, we'll charge a small entry fee to cover costs, not for profit, but to boost our coaching brand's visibility and maximize participation. We want every KS1 child to feel the thrill of competition, fostering resilience and teamwork—skills research shows competitive sports develop 20% faster than non-competitive formats.

Please email me by Wednesday, 1st October 2025, to express interest. We'll finalize plans in early October for entries. Let's give Essex's KS1 kids a chance to shine!

Thanks,

Ryan O'Rawe
Director
Mini Champs Academy