

CUP COMPETITION RULES

RULES OF THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION YOUTH CUP (THE “RULES”)

INTRODUCTION

(a) Unless the context otherwise requires, words or expressions contained in the Rules shall bear the same meaning as in the Articles of Association.

(b) Unless the context otherwise requires, words importing the singular only shall include the plural and vice versa and words importing any gender shall include all genders.

(c) The headings are inserted for convenience only and shall not affect the construction of the Rules.

(d) All references to a ground shall mean a registered ground, unless otherwise specified, within the context of these Rules.

1. Name of Trophy

The cup shall be called “The Scottish FA Youth Cup”.

2. The Cup – Ownership and Presentation

(a) The Cup, including any replicas, is the property of The Scottish Football Association Limited.

(b) The Cup shall be presented to the club which wins the Final Tie.

(c) The Scottish Association Youth Cup shall be returned to the Association before the end of March of the year following presentation, in good order and condition.

3. Awards to Players, Referees and Assistant Referees

The Association shall present a medal or a souvenir in such form as the Board may decide, to each of the players, to each of the substitutes as are permitted and to the match officials in the Final Tie.

4. Annual Competition

The competition for the Cup shall be played annually, in accordance with the Laws of the Game, and as directed by the Board, to promote, foster, and develop, without discrimination against any organisation or person for reason of age, gender, disability, ethnicity, religion or politics the game of Association football, and to take all such steps as may be deemed necessary or advisable for preventing infringements of the rules of the game, or other improper methods or practices in the game, and for protecting it from abuses.

5. Commencing Date

The Scottish FA Youth Cup Competition shall commence on a date determined by the Board. Matches in the competition must take place on the determined date as intimated by the Board unless the two clubs, the relevant authorities and the Association are all agreeable that the match be played on an alternative date.

5.1 Postponed or Re-Scheduled Matches

Participating clubs must submit to the Association an alternative mutually agreeable date for the playing of ties in the event of a postponement or re-scheduled match. For the avoidance of doubt postponed or re-scheduled ties must be played by the second midweek following the date of the original tie.

6. Eligible Clubs

Entry to the Scottish FA Youth Cup Competition is available to clubs in Full or Associate Membership of the Association unless debarred in terms of Rule 19.

7. Date for Entry

Each club wishing to participate shall notify the Association in writing, to be received on or before the 31 July in the year in which the competition commences.

8. Compliance with Articles of Association

The clubs eligible to compete in the Scottish FA Youth Cup shall be subject to and shall comply with both the Articles of the Association and the Rules, as amended from time to time.

8.1 Sponsorship and Broadcasting Matters

The Association, in accordance with the Articles of Association, may enter into contracts with commercial sponsors and broadcasters and grant certain rights as the Association may in its discretion determine ("Association's Obligations") to such parties in relation to the Scottish FA Youth Cup.

9. Organisation of the Competition

In Rounds One and Two clubs shall be divided into groups geographically convenient, with names of the clubs in each group being placed in a lot and drawn in couples at a time, until the requisite number of ties, which shall be decided by the Board, is drawn. The clubs whose names are not drawn shall receive a bye into the next round.

Clubs reaching the fourth round of the previous season's competition will be seeded at the third round stage of the current competition.

For Round Three, the names of thirty two clubs, including the 3rd Round seeded clubs, shall be placed in a lot and drawn in couples at a time. The clubs in each couple shall compete, and so on, until two clubs are left to compete in the Final Tie.

10. Intimation of Ballot to Clubs

After each ballot the Association shall inform each club of the name of the club against which it is drawn, and in the case of all rounds up to and including the semi-final round, the date by which the tie must be played. The date for the Final Tie shall be fixed by the Board.

11. Grounds for Ties, excluding the Final Tie

In each tie, excluding the Final Tie, a match shall be played on the ground of the club first drawn in the ballot, or if such ground for some reason is unplayable or unavailable, on its second nominated venue. When nominating the second venue for use in the Youth Cup Competition, clubs will be obliged to formally confirm the reason for their recognised ground being unavailable.

The Board expects all clubs drawn first in the ballot to make every effort to ensure that matches are played on the club's recognised ground. When a match is postponed or abandoned it shall be played on the same ground, unless the Board is satisfied that there is valid reason for the match to be played at another venue.

In order to assist the playing of matches in the Scottish FA Youth Cup Competition, participating clubs will be required to nominate a second venue at which Scottish FA Youth Cup matches may be staged in the event of the club's recognised ground being unavailable.

12. Arrangements for Final Tie

The Final Tie shall be played on a neutral venue or on the ground of one of the competing clubs, as decided by the Board, who shall make all of the arrangements therefor. In the event of it being decided that the tie shall be played on the ground of one of the competing clubs, the venue shall be decided by the drawing of lots unless otherwise agreed by the competing clubs.

In the event that the competition is sponsored, the sponsor may organise a function for its guests at the Final Tie and invitations may be issued to the players and officials of both competing teams and to the match officials. (Rule 8.1 refers)

13. Duration of Matches

(a) Each match will consist of two halves each of 45 minutes of duration. In the event of the tie still being level at the end of the 90 minutes, an extra half hour shall be played. Thereafter, if the tie is still undecided, the winner shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the rules laid down by IFAB.

(b) The half time interval shall be of 15 minutes duration or as determined by the match official.

(c) A match which has started and which for any reason is abandoned, may not be continued as a "friendly" match.

14. Number of Players and Substitutes

A team shall consist of eleven players and may use three substitutes from the nominated five denoted on the team line.

The players in a team may be changed from match to match, but a club may not play, or list as a named substitute, any player who, in the same season, has already played, or been a named substitute, for another club in the The Scottish FA Youth Cup Competition.

15. Eligibility of Players

(a) Only those players who have not reached the age of 18 years before the first day of January in the season of the competition will be eligible to take part, i.e. born on or after 1st January 1991.

(b) To take part in the competition, a player need not be registered for the club he represents, but he must otherwise be eligible to play for the club in terms of the Articles of Association.

Of players listed on a Scottish FA Youth Cup team line 50% must be registered with the club they are nominated to play for.

16. Team Lines

The Official team line for Scottish FA Cup matches shall permit the listing of eleven players, five substitutes and five technical personnel.

- (a) Not later than sixty minutes before the start of a match, each club shall hand to the referee, an accurate list, and to its opponent, a duplicate, both of which shall be signed by the Secretary or other accredited official, of the proper names of the players in its team, together with the proper names of a maximum of five substitutes and a maximum of five technical personnel, all to be set out on the official form of Team Line provided by the Association.

The club shall also state on the form the name of the club for whom each listed player is registered and/or currently playing.

It is recommended that a club's Doctor and Physiotherapist are listed on the Team Line and accommodated in the technical area.

Should any nominated player or substitute sustain an injury or due to extenuating circumstances be unable to participate after the submission of the list of players to the referee and prior to kick-off, the following provisions shall apply:-

- (i) If any of the first 11 players listed on the Team Line is not able to start the match for any reason, they may be replaced by any of the five substitutes. Such replacements will reduce the quota of substitute players accordingly. During the match, three players may still be substituted.
- (ii) If any of the five substitutes listed on the Team Line is not able to be fielded for any reason, they may not be replaced, which means that the quota of substitute players will be reduced accordingly.
- (iii) If a goalkeeper listed on the Team Line cannot be fielded for any reason, he may be replaced by another goalkeeper not previously listed on the Team Line.
- (iv) Any alterations made to a completed Team Line must be formally endorsed in writing by an accredited club official and initialled by the referee.
- (b) The referee of the match shall, by 11am on the day following the match, fax to the Secretary, the lists which were handed to him, which he also shall sign, and on which he shall intimate the result, the goal scorers, time of goals and which substitute or substitutes played in the match. The referee shall also send such match report by first class post to the Secretary within three days thereafter (Sundays excluded).
- (c) The Secretary shall keep a register of the names of all of the players who take part in the Competition. The register shall be open for inspection.

17. Club Colours

(a) In each match, if the colours of the competing clubs are similar, the away club shall change and play in distinctive colours.

(b) In the case of the Semi Final and Final Ties, if the colours of the competing clubs are similar, the first drawn club at the draw for both Semi Final ties will be permitted to play in the home strip and the second drawn club will be required to change. The winning team of the first Semi Final will automatically become the home team in the Final.

(c) If there is any dispute as to whether the colours of the teams are the same, or similar, the referee shall decide the issue.

(d) Goalkeepers shall wear colours which distinguish them from the other players and from the referee.

(e) Every player and substitute of each team shall wear a distinguishing number on his shirt or shorts.

18. Appointment of Referees and Assistant Referees

Match officials shall be appointed by the Association, and fees and expenses of referees and assistant referees shall be met by the Association.

19. Refusal or Failure to Play

Any club which refuses or fails to play the club against which it is drawn, without, in the opinion of the Board, having sufficient reason for so doing, shall be adjudged to have lost the tie.

20. Club Scratching or Withdrawing

A club which intends to scratch shall give notice to the Secretary of the Association and to the Secretary of the club against which it is drawn, at least four days before the date agreed for playing the tie.

Any such case shall be reported to the Board, which shall have power to order the said club to reimburse its opponents for any expenditure, loss or damage incurred, or to take such further action as it deems fit.

Any club which fails to give a satisfactory reason for scratching, or which withdraws from a competition without first obtaining the consent of the Board, shall not be allowed to take part in the competition in the following season.

21. Disagreement on Date of Match

If, in any case in which the date is not laid down in these Rules or decided by the Board, the two clubs in any tie are unable to reach agreement on a date on which to play, they shall, except when there are exceptional circumstances which would cause the Board to decide to the contrary, or unless the tie is to be played on a neutral ground, play on the date which is agreeable to the ground club.

The Board shall decide in the case of a match to be played on a neutral ground.

22. Condition of Ground

(a) When a match is to be played on the ground of one of the two competing clubs, or on a neutral ground whether or not it has been selected by the Board or by the Secretary of the Association, and there is reason to believe that it may not be in a condition for play, the Secretary shall, at the request of either competing club or the club providing the neutral ground, appoint an official to inspect the ground.

In addition, the Secretary has discretion to initiate a pitch inspection. The inspection may be made on the day before the match is to be played. If an inspection is made on the day of the match, it shall be made early enough on the day of the match but not later than four hours before the time set for the kick-off, in order to warn the visiting club against travelling, if need be.

(b) The Official's decision shall be final. His fee and expenses shall be defrayed by the Association.

(c) A ground which is unfit for cup tie purposes, shall not be used on the same day for any other match.

23. Protests

(a) When a club intends to lodge a protest, the Secretary or other accredited official shall inform a match official and an accredited official of the opposing team within 30 minutes of the end of the match, and shall, at the same time, inform them of the grounds of protest. The Secretary or other accredited official shall be required to confirm the protest in writing by recorded delivery letter, to the Secretary of the Association within 24 hours of the end of the match (Sunday excluded). The Association will confirm receipt of the protest to both clubs and the match officials and the nature of the protest(s). A deposit of £30 will be lodged at the same time.

When the grounds of protest relate to player eligibility, the protest must be lodged no later than 15 minutes prior to kick-off of the match otherwise such grounds of protest will not be deemed valid.

(b) A successful protest against a player who has violated any of the Articles of Association, or any of these Cup Competition Rules, shall not be regarded by the Board as sufficient cause for its ordering a replay.

(c) Any objection to the ground, goal posts, crossbars, or other appurtenances of the game shall be intimated to the referee before the end of the match.

24. Protest – Interested Party

If a member of the Board is connected with a club which is involved in a protest, he shall not sit in the Board or on any committee which may be delegated to hear such a protest while the protest is being heard.

25. Travel – Financial Guarantee

The Association will, as a measure of financial assistance, provide a payment to each club drawn away from home travelling a distance of more than 50 miles to play a tie. In this event, and subject to the submission of an original travel invoice, the Association will refund up to a maximum of £300 to the club.

26. Admission Charges and Match Expenses

26.1 All matches except Semi-Final Ties

(a) When a match is played on the ground of one of the competing clubs, the ground club shall be responsible for all ground expenses. If a charge is made for admission, the ground club shall retain all of the sums received.

(b) Each competing club shall be responsible for its own matches.

(c) When a match is played on a neutral ground, the ground club shall be entitled to make a deduction of 20% of any net gate receipts. The balance shall be divided, equally, between the two competing clubs. The competing clubs shall be responsible, jointly, for payment of the ground expenses.

26.2 Semi-Final and Final Ties

(a) When a Semi-Final Tie is hosted by one of the competing clubs, a statement of income and expenditure for the match should be forwarded to the visiting club within 28 days of the match, together with a payment of 50% of any excess income over expenditure. Should expenditure exceed income, 50% of this deficit should be paid to the host club by the visitors within 14 days of receipt of the match statement.

When a Semi-Final Tie is played on a neutral ground, the ground club shall be entitled to make a deduction of 20% of any net gate receipts. The balance shall be divided equally between the two competing clubs. The competing clubs shall be responsible, jointly, for payment of the ground expenses.

When the Final Tie is hosted by one of the competing clubs, the gross gate receipts shall be forwarded to the Association. After payment of the match expenses, any surplus remaining shall be divided equally between the two competing clubs.

When the Final Tie is played on a neutral ground the host club shall forward to the Association the amount of the gross gate receipts less a ground rental equivalent to 20% of the net gate receipts, or £500 whichever is the greater. After payment of the match expenses, any surplus remaining shall be divided equally between the two competing clubs.

27. Complimentary Tickets

Subject to a maximum of five for the Directors' Box, the ground club shall give to the visiting club such number of complimentary tickets as may be agreed by the two clubs. The Directors' Box tickets shall give access to reserved seats.

Accreditation, to permit entry to the Dressing Room and other designated areas, shall be agreed between the two clubs.

28. Disorderly Conduct

The clubs are responsible for the behaviour of their players, officials, members, supporters and any person carrying out a function at a match on their behalf. When spectators conduct themselves in such a manner as to stop a match, the Board shall have power to instruct that it be replayed on the same ground or another ground, preferably neutral, or to award the tie to either club.

29. Infringement of Rules

Any club, official, player, or other person, who infringes any of these Rules, shall be liable to a fine or suspension, or both or such other sanction(s) as specified within these Rules.

The Board, or such Standing Committee or committee or sub-committee as determined by the Board, is empowered to consider and determine any allegations of infringement of these Rules and to impose such sanction(s), as specified within these Rules, as it considers appropriate in order to deal justly with the case in question.

a) Additionally the club which is found to have infringed these Rules, may be liable to replay the match in question, at a time and venue and subject to whatever conditions as deemed appropriate by the Board or Standing Committee or committee or sub-committee in its absolute discretion.

b) In the event that the Board or Standing Committee or committee or sub-committee determines to impose a replay or suspension on a club which is found to have infringed these Rules, an appeal from the club against such determination must be dispatched in writing to the Association within 24 hours of the date of the club's receipt of written notice of the Association's determination. The terms of Article 133.3 of the Association's Articles shall apply to such appeal *mutatis mutandis*.

The Association shall facilitate the expeditious hearing of the club's appeal, to be held no later than 7 days from the date of the receipt by the Association of the club's intimation of appeal, save in exceptional circumstances. The Association will whenever possible seek to issue its determination of the appeal at the conclusion of the hearing.

c) Notwithstanding the terms above, the Association has the power to investigate any matter pursuant to the operation of the Scottish FA Youth Cup Competition.

30. Alterations and Additions to Rules

(a) The Board shall have the power to temporarily suspend, amend or add to these Rules as circumstances may dictate from time to time, as it deems appropriate in its reasonable discretion, to facilitate the smooth running of the Competition, or in order to ensure that the Association is capable of meeting the commitments put upon it under the terms of its television and sponsorship contracts.

Any matter not specifically mentioned in these rules shall be governed by the terms of the Articles of Association and the rules of The Scottish Football Association Challenge Cup.