

RULES OF THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION YOUTH CUP COMPETITION

PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

1. Operative Provisions

- 1.1 Clubs, Players, officials, Team Staff, Team Officials and other persons participating in any way in the Competition shall be bound by and comply with these Competition Rules (and any rules and regulations made pursuant to these Competition Rules).
- 1.2 Clubs, Players, officials, Team Staff, Team Officials and other persons participating in any way in the Competition shall only have such rights in relation to the Competition (and any Match) as are expressly granted to them under and in terms of these Competition Rules or by the Scottish FA, in writing.
- 1.3 Any Club, Player, official, member of Team Staff, Team Official or other person participating in any way in the Competition which or who breaches, infringes or fails and/or refuses to comply with any of these Competition Rules, may be:
 - 1.3.1 referred to the Compliance Officer for investigation; and/or
 - 1.3.2 the subject of disciplinary proceedings before the Judicial Panel under and in terms of the Judicial Panel Protocol; and/or
 - 1.3.3 liable to sanctions as provided for in the Judicial Panel Protocol.

2. Interpretation

- 2.1 In these Competition Rules, unless expressly provided otherwise:

Annual General Meeting	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Anti-Doping Regulations	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Articles	means the Articles of Association of the Scottish FA, as adopted or amended from time to time;
Association Football	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Away Club	means the Club selected second in each Match at the relevant Cup Draw, irrespective of whether the Match is played at a Neutral Ground.
Board	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Club	shall have the meaning given to the term "club" in Article 1.1;
Club Licence	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Club Licensing	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;

Club Licensing Procedures	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Commercial Rights	shall have the meaning given to it in Competition Rule 7.1;
Competition	shall have the meaning given to it in Competition Rule 3.1;
Competition Rules	means these rules of the Competition (as amended from time to time) and "Competition Rule" shall be construed accordingly;
Compliance Officer	means the Compliance Officer from time to time provided for in terms of the Judicial Panel Protocol;
Cup Draw	means the procedure by which it is determined which Clubs will play against each other in each Round of the Competition;
Disciplinary Procedures	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Disciplinary Rules	means the rules and sanctions more particularly described at Annex A of the Judicial Panel Protocol and as amended from time to time;
Fielded Substitutes	shall have the meaning given to it in Competition Rule 12.1;
FIFA	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Final Match	means the Final Match played in the Competition each Season;
full member	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1 and the expression "full membership" shall be construed accordingly;
Home Club	means the Club selected first in each Match at the relevant Cup Draw, irrespective of whether the Match is played at a Neutral Ground.
IFAB	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Judicial Panel	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Judicial Panel Protocol	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Laws of the Game	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Match	means a football match played in the Competition;
Match Attendee	shall have the meaning given to it in Competition Rule 21.1;
Match Official	shall have the meaning given to the term "match official" in Article 1.1;

Neutral Ground	means a Registered Ground which is not the Registered Ground of one of the Clubs competing in the Match but shall exclude the Stadium or any other stadium where the Final Match is played or to be played;
Nominated Substitutes	shall have the meaning given to it in Competition Rule 12.1;
official	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Official Return	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Official Team Line	shall have the meaning given to it in Competition Rule 13.1;
Parent Club	shall have the meaning given to it in the Registration Procedures;
Player	shall have the meaning given to the term "player" in Article 1.1;
referee	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Registered Ground	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Registration Procedures	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Relevant Period	shall have the meaning given to it in Competition Rule 21.1;
Round	means a Round of Matches in the Competition and reference to "Round of [number of teams]" shall be a reference to the relevant Round of the Competition;
Scottish FA	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Season	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Second Nominated Venue	shall mean the second venue nominated by a Club for the staging of a Match if the Clubs Registered Ground is unable to host a Match;
Semi-Final Match	means a Semi-Final Match played in the Competition;
Stadium	means any stadium where the Final Match will be or is played;
Starting Players	shall have the meaning given to it in Competition Rule 12.1;
Team Official	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Team Staff	shall have the meaning given to it in Article 1.1;
Winner	means the winner of the Final Match; and

Working Day	shall have the meaning given to the term "working day" in Article 1.1; and
Youth Cup Trophy	means the trophy, including any replicas owned and made available by the Scottish FA, presented to the Winner.

- 2.2 Unless otherwise defined in Competition Rule 2.1, words or expressions contained in these Competition Rules shall bear the same meaning as in the Articles and/or the Judicial Panel Protocol.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 Headings are inserted for convenience only and shall not affect the construction of these Competition Rules.
- 2.5 All references to a ground shall mean a Registered Ground, unless otherwise specified, within the context of these Competition Rules.
- 2.6 References in these Competition Rules to an "Article" shall be to the relevant Article of the Articles.

COMPETITION RULES

3. Name and Ownership of the Competition

- 3.1 The Competition shall be called the Scottish Football Association Youth Cup, herein referred to as "**the Competition**".
- 3.2 The ownership, organisation, control and management of the Competition and any and all rights and properties associated with it, of any nature, shall be vested wholly, exclusively and at all times in the Scottish FA.

4. Name, Ownership, Presentation and Return of the Youth Cup Trophy

- 4.1 The Youth Cup Trophy shall be presented to the Winner.
- 4.2 The ownership of the Youth Cup Trophy and any and all rights and properties associated with it, of any nature, shall be vested wholly, exclusively and at all times in the Scottish FA.
- 4.3 The Winner shall return the Youth Cup Trophy to the Scottish FA at its request, for such time and purpose as the Scottish FA may determine, and, in any event, prior to 31 March in the year following its winning of the Competition.
- 4.4 Should the Youth Cup Trophy be lost, destroyed or damaged in any manner whatsoever whilst under the care and/or custody of the Winner, the Winner shall refund to the Scottish FA the amount of its current value on a full replacement basis

or, if capable of repair, the cost of thorough repair, and shall indemnify the Scottish FA against all loss, cost and expense incurred by it in relation to or connected with such loss, destruction and/or damage.

- 4.5 The period of care and/or custody of the Youth Cup Trophy by the Winner shall be deemed to be from the moment of presentation or other delivery of the Youth Cup Trophy to the Winner until the date of actual physical return of the Youth Cup Trophy to the Scottish FA. During such period the Winner is solely and exclusively liable for any loss, destruction of or damage to the Youth Cup Trophy.
- 4.6 During any period that the Winner is in possession of the Youth Cup Trophy it shall insure it against loss, destruction and/or damage and shall ensure that the interest of the Scottish FA is endorsed on such policy of insurance.

5. Commencement and Aims of the Competition

- 5.1 The Competition shall be played annually and in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- 5.2 The Competition shall commence on a date to be determined in each Season by the Board.
- 5.3 The aim of the Competition is to promote, foster, and develop the game of Association Football without discrimination against any organisation or person for reason of age, gender, disability, ethnicity, race, language, religion, sexuality or politics.
- 5.4 The Scottish FA shall take all such steps as may be deemed necessary or advisable for preventing infringements of the Laws of the Game, these Competition Rules, such other rules and regulations of the Scottish FA as may be applicable from time to time, any other improper methods or practices in the game, and to ensure that the game of Association Football is protected from any other abuses.
- 5.5 All Clubs, Players, officials, Team Staff, Team Officials and other persons participating in any way in the Competition agree to be subject to, bound by and to comply with the Articles, the Registration Procedures, the Judicial Panel Protocol, these Competition Rules and the Anti-Doping Regulations, all as adopted and amended from time to time. For this purpose, the Articles and these Competition Rules will be deemed to include all rules, regulations, protocols, directions and decisions made pursuant to them which relate to the Competition.

6. Eligible Clubs

- 6.1 All Clubs in full membership are entitled to enter into the Competition in each Season, subject to any sanction imposed on any Club which would otherwise prevent it from so competing.
- 6.2 All Clubs wishing to enter the Competition shall notify the Scottish FA in writing before the deadline in the year in which the Competition commences.

7. Sponsorship and Broadcasting Matters

- 7.1 The Scottish FA, in accordance with the Articles, may enter into contracts with commercial sponsors and broadcasters and grant certain rights as the Scottish FA may in its discretion determine (“**the Commercial Rights**”) to such parties in relation to the Youth Cup Trophy and the Competition.
- 7.2 All Clubs, Players, officials, Team Staff, Team Officials and other persons participating in any way in the Competition undertake to provide any and all rights, facilities, properties and services as may be necessary for the Scottish FA to comply with and discharge the Commercial Rights.

8. Cup Draws for Matches in the Competition

- 8.1 For the Round(s) prior to the Round of 32, the Clubs are divided into groups geographically convenient, with the 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 receiving a bye are not considered to have participated in that particular Round.
- 8.2 Clubs reaching the Round of 16 in the previous Competition will enter the current Competition at the Round of 32 stage.
- 8.3 For the Round of 32, the names of the Clubs shall be placed in a lot and drawn in couples at a time. The Clubs in each couple shall compete, and the names of the winning Clubs in each Match shall be placed in a lot and drawn in couples at a time, and so on, until two Clubs are left to compete in the Final Match.
- 8.4 After each Cup Draw, the Scottish FA will inform each Club of the name of the Club against which it is drawn, whether it has been drawn as the Home Club or the Away Club in the tie and the date and time when the Match will be played. Subject to the terms of Competition Rule 8.5, the Board shall decide the date of each Match.
- 8.5 Subject to the agreement of the Board, and if acceptable to both Clubs and the Scottish FA, the two Clubs in a particular Match may agree to a different date for such Match than that notified by the Board provided always that such proposed change is notified to the Scottish FA as soon as reasonably practicable after the relevant Cup Draw is made and that, having regard to any Commercial Rights, police wishes and criteria, the Scottish FA does not determine that the Match must take place at a date and time fixed by the Board.
- 8.6 If a club wishes to request the postponement of a Match due to the unavailability of a player/players, the Board will use its discretion to consider and/or approve such request.

9. Grounds for Matches

- 9.1 All Matches, excluding the Final Match, shall be played at the Registered Ground of

the Home Club, or if such ground is for some reason unplayable or unavailable, at its Second Nominated Venue.

- 9.2 In order to assist the playing of Matches in the Competition, participating Clubs, on submission of the Club entry to the Competition, will be required to nominate a second venue at which Competition matches may be staged in the event of the Club's Registered Ground being unavailable. Clubs will be obliged to formally confirm in writing the reason for their Registered Ground being unavailable when nominating the second venue for use in the Competition.
- 9.3 When a Match is postponed or abandoned it shall be played on the same ground, unless the Board is satisfied that there is a valid reason for the Match to be played at another venue.
- 9.4 The Final Tie shall be played on a Neutral Ground or at the Registered Ground of one of the competing clubs, as decided by the Board, who shall make all of the arrangements thereof. In the event of it being decided that the tie shall be played at the Registered Ground of one of the competing clubs, the venue shall be decided by the drawing of lots unless otherwise agreed by the competing Clubs.

10. Registered Ground Criteria

The Registered Ground of a Club participating in the Competition must:

- 10.1 be enclosed with a suitable barrier to keep spectators from gaining entry to the ground without payment;
- 10.2 have the following facilities inside the ground and closely adjacent to the playing field:
 - 10.2.1 separate changing, showering and toilet facilities accommodation for home and visiting teams; and
 - 10.2.2 separate changing, showering and toilet facilities accommodation for Match Officials;
- 10.3 comply with prevailing Health and Safety regulations, and, where applicable, have relevant certification issued by the local authority;
- 10.4 have appropriate facilities to provide refreshments for visiting players and Match Officials;
- 10.5 have adequate car parking provision for players and Match Officials; and
- 10.6 have technical areas each capable of holding up to thirteen persons.

11. Eligibility of Players

- 11.1 For a Player to be eligible to play for a Club in a Match he must (i) be born on or after **1st January 2006**, and (ii) be included on the Official Team Line of that Club for the Match concerned.

- 11.2 For a Player to be listed on the Official Team Line of a Club (either as a Starting Player or a Nominated Substitute) for a Match, he need not be registered for the Club he represents, but must otherwise be eligible to play for the Club in terms of the Articles of Association.
- 11.3 A Player may play for his Parent Club in the Competition whilst on temporary transfer to another Club (as said terms are defined in the Registration Procedures) it being acknowledged that a player may only play for one Club in the Competition.
- 11.4 Notwithstanding the above provision, of Players listed on the Official Team Line, 50% must be registered with the Club they are nominated to play for.
- 11.5 Each Club is responsible for ensuring that all of the Players who are listed on the Official Team Line (either as a Starting Player or a Nominated Substitute) for a Match are eligible to do so pursuant to the Registration Procedures, the Disciplinary Procedures and Competition Rule 12.4.

12. Number of Players and Substitutes

- 12.1 Subject to the provisions of Competition Rules 13.8, 13.9 and 13.10, a Club shall list on its Official Team Line eleven Players (“**the Starting Players**”) who will start the Match and up to a maximum of seven substitutes (“**the Nominated Substitutes**”). Of those Nominated Substitutes, not more than five may play in the Match (“**the Fielded Substitutes**”). Each Club will have a maximum of three substitution opportunities in respect of their Fielded Substitutes, subject to the following provisions:
 - 12.1.1 where both Clubs make a substitution at the same time, this will count as a used substitute for both teams;
 - 12.1.2 multiple substitutions by a Club during the same stoppage in play count as one used substitution opportunity; and
 - 12.1.3 Clubs may make substitutions at half-time of a Match, which will not count as one of their three substitution opportunities in such Match.
- 12.2 A Starting Player or Fielded Substitute who has been substituted is not permitted to take any further part in the Match.
- 12.3 It is recommended that one of the Nominated Substitutes is a designated goalkeeper.
- 12.4 A Player shall not play for more than one Club in the Competition (either as a Starting Player or a Fielded Substitute) in the same Season.
- 12.5 A Club may not list in their Official Team Line, either as a Starting Player or as a Nominated Substitute, any Player who, in the same Season, has already played as a Starting Player or a Fielded Substitute for another Club in the Competition. A Player(s) shall not be deemed to have played (as one of the 11 Starting Players or as a Fielded Substitute) in a Match where such Match has been abandoned or is declared void, except where such Match was abandoned or declared void as a result of the conduct of such Player(s) acting in breach of the Disciplinary Rules.

12.6 A Nominated Substitute who has not been a Fielded Substitute for any Club may play for another Club in the Competition in the same Season.

13. Official Team Lines

13.1 Each Club must provide a full written list of the Starting Players and the Nominated Substitutes ("**the Official Team Line**") to the referee and a representative of their opponents in the presence of the referee, not later than 75 minutes before the start of the Match. For the purposes of this Competition Rule 13.1, Clubs shall hand to the referee the Official Team Line, and to its opponent a copy.

13.2 The Official Team Line must be submitted in order to enable a Club to participate in a Match.

13.3 The Official Team Line for Matches shall contain the eleven Starting Players, a maximum of seven Nominated Substitutes, and a maximum of six Team Staff. The template of the Official Team Line shall be provided by the Scottish FA.

13.4 The Official Team Line shall contain accurate and complete details of the full names and dates of birth of the Starting Players and the Nominated Substitutes, together with full names of the maximum of six Team Staff to be seated within the relevant technical area. In addition, the Official Team Line shall contain details of the Registered Club, where applicable, of each of the Starting Players and Nominated Substitutes listed. The Official Team Line must be properly completed in block capitals, and signed by a member of Team Staff or official of the Club. Upon signature by a member of Team Staff or official of the Club, the Official Team Line will be deemed to be complete and, subject to Competition Rules 13.8, 13.9 and 13.10, binding on the Club concerned.

13.5 The numbers on the players' shirts and (if applicable) shorts must correspond with the numbers indicated on the Official Team Line.

13.6 The goalkeeper(s) and team captain must be identified on the Official Team Line by being marked with "GK" and "TC", respectively, beside their names.

13.7 It is recommended that a Club's doctor and physiotherapist are listed on the Official Team Line and accommodated in the technical area within the category of Team Staff.

13.8 If a Starting Player listed on the Official Team Line is not able to start the Match due to unexpected physical incapacity or other extreme circumstances (which are explained to and accepted by the referee), he may only be replaced by one of the Nominated Substitutes. The Nominated Substitute who becomes a Starting Player may then only be replaced by an eligible Player not originally listed on the Official Team Line as signed, so that the quota of Nominated Substitutes is not reduced.

13.9 If a Nominated Substitute listed on the Official Team Line is, at the start of the Match not able to be named as a Nominated Substitute due to an unexpected physical incapacity or other extreme circumstances (which are explained to and accepted by the referee), he may only be replaced by an eligible Player not originally listed on the Official Team Line as signed.

- 13.10 If a goalkeeper listed on the Official Team Line is unable to be fielded due to unexpected physical incapacity or other extreme circumstances (which are explained to and accepted by the referee), then he may be replaced, but only by an eligible player who must be designated as goalkeeper in accordance with Competition Rule 12.3.
- 13.11 If, for any reason, changes require to be made to the Official Team Line pursuant to Competition Rules 13.8, 13.9 and/or 13.10 (and said changes are accepted by the referee) then the Club must notify its opponent immediately thereafter.
- 13.12 If, for any reason, changes require to be made to the Official Team Line pursuant to Paragraphs 13.8, 13.9 and/or 13.10, the Club concerned must in addition to the requirements set out above, provide the Scottish FA, upon request, with necessary medical certificates and/or a full written explanation of the circumstances that caused any changes.
- 13.13 The Scottish FA 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 by all Clubs.

14. Field of Play and Match Requirements

- 14.1 The terms of this Competition Rule 14 do not apply to the Final Match.
- 14.2 The Home Club shall be responsible for making all of the arrangements for any Match where it is the Home Club, and such Home Club shall be liable for any failure to do so.
- 14.3 The Home Club shall ensure that all Matches where it is the Home Club shall be played on a natural grass surface or on an artificial surface. Any artificial surfaces used must meet the requirements of the FIFA Quality Programme for Football Turf or the International Match Standard.
- 14.4 Any Club which wishes to use an artificial surface for any Match shall be required to provide a current test certificate confirming compliance to FIFA artificial surface requirements and the surface must comply with the Laws of the Game. Clubs may only use testing and certifying agencies in relation to an artificial surface which have been accredited for that purpose by FIFA.
- 14.5 A Home Club shall ensure that the length of the field of play used in any Match where it is the Home Club shall be a maximum of 130 yards (120 metres) and a minimum of 100 yards (90 metres). The breadth of the field of play shall be a maximum of 80 yards (75 metres) and a minimum of 55 yards (50 metres).
- 14.6 Subject to the terms of Competition Rule 14.5, a Club shall ensure that the dimensions of the field of play used in any Match where it is the Home Club shall not differ from those contained in the Official Return for that Club (if applicable) for the current Season, unless such dimensions have been approved and consented to, in writing, by the Board.
- 14.7 A Home Club shall ensure that in any Match played where it is the Home Club, spectators are separated from the field of play by a wall, a rope, a railing or a fence.

14.8 A Home Club shall ensure that for any Match which is played or is to be played at its Registered Ground:

14.8.1 goal nets and corner flags shall be used;

14.8.2 an appropriate number of new footballs of first grade quality shall be provided by them, and;

14.8.3 adequate first aid facilities, requisite equipment and stretcher facilities/carrying chair(s) capable of conveying spectators from seated areas are available and that at least one fully qualified person is present and equipped to administer first aid. The Home Club should take cognisance of the expected attendance and provide additional first aid cover as appropriate for the configuration of the ground.

15. Duration of Match and Stadium Clocks

15.1 A Match will consist of two halves each of 45 minutes in duration. In the event of the tie still being level at the end of 90 minutes, the winner shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the rules laid down by IFAB.

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

15.3 The half time interval shall be of 15 minutes duration, or as determined by the referee.

15.4 Clocks in a stadium provided for the purposes of showing the amount of time played may run during the match, provided they are stopped at the end of normal time in each half, i.e. after 45 and 90 minutes respectively.

15.5 Public address announcements, where made, should specify that any added time to be played is a minimum number of minutes.

16. Appointment of Match Officials

16.1 The Scottish FA shall make all appointments of all Match Officials for all Matches.

16.2 Match Officials shall be appointed from those Match Officials whose names are included in the List of Referees. The appointment of Assistant Referees will be made by nominated Referees' Association when requested to do so by the Secretary. Assistant Referees may be appointed from the List of Registered Referees.

16.3 Appointments of Match Officials to Matches shall take precedence over all other appointments, except with the permission and consent of the Scottish FA.

16.4 A Club shall not be entitled to refuse to accept the services of any Match Official appointed by the Scottish FA to a Match.

16.5 The fees and expenses of Match Officials shall be paid by the Scottish FA.

17. Replacement of a Match Official

- 17.1 In the event the referee is unable to start or complete a Match, he will be replaced by assistant referee 1 with the exception of the Final where the fourth Official will replace the referee.
- 17.2 In the event an assistant referee is unable to start or complete the Match or he replaces the referee in accordance with Competition Rule 18.1, he will be replaced by another Match Official in accordance with the following provisions:
- 17.2.1 in respect of all Matches, except the Final Match, and where no fourth official has been appointed, the assistant referee will be replaced by a registered referee in attendance at the Match, failing which the replacement will be a Club official decided by the referee;
- 17.2.2 if it is assistant referee 1 who is being replaced, assistant referee 2 moves to become assistant referee 1 and the replacement assistant referee becomes assistant referee 2; and
- 17.2.3 in respect of the Final Match, the assistant referee will be replaced by the fourth official.
- 17.3 In the event that a fourth official is unable to start or complete a Match or is required to replace another Match Official in accordance with Competition Rules 17.1 and/or 17.2, he will be replaced by a registered referee in attendance at the Match, failing which no replacement will be made.
- 17.4 In the event that two or more Match Officials require to be replaced during a Match, the referee will decide what should happen as regards the second replacement of a Match Official to enable the Match to be completed.

18. Registered Colours

- 18.1 When the first choice colours of both competing Clubs are the same, or similar, the Away Club shall change and play in a set of registered colours which are distinctive from those to be used by the Home Club.
- 18.2 The winning team of the first Semi-Final Match drawn in the Cup Draw will automatically be deemed to be the Home Club for the Final Match.
- 18.3 Goalkeepers shall wear colours which distinguish them from the other players in both teams and from the Match Officials. The referee's decision on whether this Competition Rule 18.3 is met will be final and binding on all parties.
- 18.4 Every Starting Player and Nominated Substitute of each Club shall wear a distinguishing number on his shirt and may wear the same distinguishing number on his shorts.
- 18.5 If there is any dispute as to whether the colours of the Clubs which are to play in a Match are the same, or similar, the referee shall decide the issue and his decision will be final and binding on the competing Clubs.

19. Postponed or Re-Scheduled Matches

19.1 Participating clubs must submit to the Scottish FA an alternative mutually agreeable date for the playing of ties in the event of a postponement or re-scheduled match. Postponed or re-scheduled ties must be played by the second midweek following the date of the original tie.

20. Condition of Ground

20.1 Each Home Club must take all reasonably practicable measures to ensure that its pitch is in a fit playing condition for a Match (and conforms to the specifications set out in these Competition Rules). In the event of doubt regarding the condition of the pitch, any competing Club shall immediately notify the Scottish FA to enable a referee to conduct a pitch inspection.

20.2 In addition, the Scottish FA has discretion to initiate a pitch inspection in respect of any Match to be played in the Competition. The inspection may be made at any time before the Match is to be played. If an inspection is made on the day of the Match, it shall be made as soon as reasonably practicable on the day of the Match and (where possible) not later than four hours before the time set for the kick-off, in order to advise the competing Clubs of the outcome of the pitch inspection accordingly.

20.3 The referee's decision shall be final on whether or not a Match should proceed. His fee and expenses shall be paid by the Scottish FA.

20.4 A pitch and/or Registered Ground which is deemed unfit for the purpose of a Match in the Competition shall not be used that same day for any other match.

21. Supporter Conduct and Damage to a Registered Ground

21.1 Each Club is responsible for the behaviour of its Players, officials, Team Staff, Team Officials, members, supporters and any other person(s) acting on behalf of or associated with a Club ("**Match Attendee**") before, during and after such Match and whilst any Match Attendee is present ("**the Relevant Period**").

21.2 In the event that, during the Relevant Period, at any Match, any part of any Registered Ground or such other stadium in which a Match is played is damaged as a consequence of misbehaviour by a Match Attendee(s), then the Club which the Match Attendee(s) is either representing, belonging to and/or associated with shall be responsible for any costs arising in the reparation of same, including all costs and expenses incurred by the venue owner and/or operator of the Registered Ground or such other stadium in which a Match is played.

21.3 The Scottish FA shall have the power to require such reports as it may consider necessary in relation to such damage and the appropriate amount(s), if any, which should be paid and by which Club(s).

21.4 The provisions of this Competition Rule 21 are without prejudice to the terms of Article 28.

22. Disagreement on Date of Match

22.1 Subject to the remainder of the terms of this Competition Rule 22, in any case where the date of a Match is not specified within these Competition Rules and/or not decided upon by the Board, and the two competing Clubs are unable to reach agreement as to when the Match should be played or replayed, the Home Club for that Match shall decide when a Match is to be played.

22.2 In exceptional circumstances, where it can be demonstrated that the terms of Competition Rule 22.1 should not apply, the Board shall decide when a Match is to be played.

23. Refusal or Failure to Play

23.1 All Clubs shall play in every Match in which they are scheduled to play.

23.2 No Club shall refuse or fail to play in a Match in which it is scheduled to play.

24. Club Withdrawing from Competition

24.1 Any Club intending to withdraw from the Competition must notify its intention to do so in writing to the Scottish FA, and the Club that it is scheduled to play in the next Match, not less than four days before the date the Match is scheduled for.

24.2 A Club may only withdraw from the Competition with the prior written consent of the Board.

25. Admission Charges and Match Expenses

25.1 When a Match, other than the Final Tie, is played on the ground of one of the competing clubs, the Home Club shall be responsible for all ground expenses. If a charge is made for admission, the Home Club shall retain all of the sums received.

25.2 Each competing club shall be responsible for its own matches.

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

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

26. Complimentary Tickets

- 26.1 The Home Club shall provide to the Away Club up to a maximum of five complimentary tickets for the Home Club's directors' seating area. These tickets shall give access to reserved seats.
- 26.2 In addition to the tickets provided for in Competition Rule 26.1, it shall be open for the Home Club and the Away Club to determine, between them, the number of further complimentary tickets to be given by the Home Club to the Away Club.
- 26.3 The particular accreditation necessary for Players, officials, Team Staff, Team Officials and any other staff to permit entry to the dressing room area within a Registered Ground and other designated areas, shall be agreed between the Home Club and the Away Club, and failing which shall be determined by the Scottish FA.

27. Travel – Financial Guarantee

- 27.1 The Scottish FA will, as a measure of financial assistance, provide a payment to each Away Club, which requires travel from a Club's Registered Ground to the Registered Ground at which the Match is being played of a distance of more than 50 miles to play a Match. In such event, and subject to the submission of an original travel invoice, the Scottish FA will contribute up to a maximum of £450 to such Club.

28. Awards to Player, Officials and Match Officials

The Scottish FA shall present a medal or a souvenir in such forms as the Board may decide to the Players appearing on the Official Team Line of the Clubs that participated in the Final Match, the Manager or Head Coach of both such Clubs and to the Match Officials who officiated in the Final Match.

29. Alterations and Additions to Rules

The Board shall have the power to temporarily suspend, amend or add to these Competition 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 Scottish FA is capable of meeting the commitments made by it under the terms of its television, sponsorship and other commercial 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.