

CUP COMPETITION RULES

RULES OF THE SCOTTISH 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 of the Scottish FA as adopted or amended from time to time (“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 CUP

The cup shall be called “The Scottish Cup.” (“the Cup”).

2. THE CUP – OWNERSHIP AND PRESENTATION

- (a) The Cup, including any replicas, is the property of the Scottish FA.
- (b) The Cup shall be presented to the club which wins the Final Tie (“the Winner”).
- (c) The Cup shall be returned to the Scottish FA by the Winner before the end of March of the year following presentation, in good order and condition. The cost of repair of any damage to the Cup whilst in the custody or control of the Winner shall be met by the Winner.

3. AWARDS TO PLAYERS, OFFICIALS AND MATCH OFFICIALS

The Scottish FA shall present a medal or a souvenir in such forms as the Board may decide to each of the players, to each of such substitutes as are eligible, the Manager or Head Coach and to the match officials, in the Final Tie.

4. ANNUAL COMPETITION

The Cup Competition (“the Competition”) 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 Competition shall commence on a date to be determined in each season by the Board.

6. ELIGIBLE CLUBS

Entry to the Competition is available to clubs in Full Membership of the Scottish FA.

Clubs in membership of the Scottish Junior Football Association, the Scottish Amateur Football Association, the East of Scotland Football League and the South of Scotland Football League may also be permitted to enter the Competition (Rule 8 refers).

- (a) Eligible Scottish Junior Football Association clubs will be restricted to the winners of the North, West and East Junior League Championships and the Scottish Junior Football Association Cup.
- (b) Eligible Scottish Amateur Football Association clubs will be restricted to the winners of the Scottish Amateur Football Association Cup.
- (c) The winners of the East of Scotland Football League and South of Scotland Football League Championships will be permitted to enter the Competition, irrespective of their membership status with the Scottish FA.
- (d) The winners of the South & East Cup Winners Shield will be permitted to enter the Competition, irrespective of their membership status with the Scottish FA.

Prior to the commencement of the Competition, the Scottish Junior Football Association, the Scottish Amateur Football Association, the East of Scotland Football League and the South of Scotland Football League shall provide the Scottish FA with written confirmation of its participating clubs.

The Scottish Junior Football Association, the Scottish Amateur Football Association, the East of Scotland Football League and the South of Scotland Football League shall also, respectively, provide the Scottish FA with written confirmation of each participating club's registered ground, field dimensions, approved playing kit and colours and formal written acknowledgement on behalf of the participating clubs of the authority of and their obligation to comply with the Rules and the Disciplinary Procedures and the Anti-Doping Regulations.

7. COMPLIANCE WITH ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

Without prejudice to any other obligation assumed by them, the clubs eligible to compete in the Competition shall be subject to and shall comply with the Articles of Association, the Registration Procedures, the Disciplinary Procedures and the Rules, and the Anti-Doping Regulations, as amended from time to time.

7.1 Sponsorship and Broadcasting Matters

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

The Scottish FA will intimate in writing annually to all clubs eligible to compete in the Competition, the terms of the Scottish FA's Obligations, which apply to such clubs (the "Statement"). The Statement will constitute a definitive description of the Scottish FA's Obligations.

All clubs participating in the Competition undertake to provide any rights, facilities and other services as may be necessary for the Scottish FA to perform the Scottish FA's Obligations.

Without prejudice to the terms of the Articles of Association, the Judicial Panel Protocol and the Rules and any other rule and regulation of the Scottish FA any failure and/or refusal by a club to comply with any of the terms of the Statement may result in the matter being referred to the Compliance Officer (as defined in the Judicial Panel Protocol) for investigation and possible sanction in accordance with the Judicial Panel Protocol.

For this purpose, the Articles of Association will be deemed to include all rules, regulations, protocols, directions and decisions made pursuant to them which relate to the Competition.

8. CLUBS EXEMPT FROM PLAYING IN PRELIMINARY TIES, ROUND ONE, ROUND TWO AND ROUND THREE OF THE COMPETITION

PRELIMINARY TIES

The clubs which, in the current season, are members of The Scottish Professional Football League, the Scottish Highland Football League and the Scottish Lowland Football League, shall be exempt from playing in the Preliminary Ties of the Competition.

If more than one preliminary round is required, the clubs which, in the current season, do not participate in the Club Licensing System and are not in possession of a Club Licence, as at the date of the

draw, shall be required to play in the first preliminary round ties. For the purposes of these Rules, a club which has had its Club Licence suspended for whatever reason shall be deemed not to be in possession of a Club Licence.

ROUND ONE

The clubs which, in the current season, are members of The Scottish Professional Football League, shall be exempt from playing in Round One of the Competition.

A club which, at the end of the previous season, is relegated from the Scottish Professional Football League Two shall also be exempt from playing in Round One of the Competition.

The clubs which, in the previous season, have won the Scottish Highland Football League Championship or the Scottish Lowland Football League Championship shall also be exempt from playing in Round One, as shall the runners up in the Scottish Highland Football League Championship or the Scottish Lowland Football League Championship.

ROUND TWO

The clubs which, in the current season, are members of The Scottish Professional Football League Premiership, Championship and League One, shall be exempt from playing in Round Two of the Competition.

ROUND THREE

The clubs which, in the previous season, were members of The Scottish Professional Football League Premiership and those clubs finishing in The Scottish Professional Football League Championship positions one to four shall be exempt from playing in Round Three of the Competition.

9. BALLOT FOR TIES

- (a) The ballot for the preliminary round(s), if applicable, shall be so arranged that a combination of ties and byes will produce the required number of clubs to compete in Round One.

The names of the clubs shall be placed in a lot and drawn in couples at a time, until the requisite number of ties is drawn.

- (b) For Round One, the names of the 36 clubs shall be placed in a lot and drawn in couples at a time. The clubs in each couple shall compete, and the winning clubs will qualify to play in Round Two.
- (c) For Round Two, the names of the 32 clubs shall be placed in a lot and drawn in couples at a time. The clubs in each couple shall compete, and the winning clubs will qualify to play in Round Three.
- (d) For Round Three, the names of the 32 clubs shall be placed in a lot and drawn in couples at a time. The clubs in each couple shall compete and the winning clubs will qualify to play in Round Four.
- (e) For Round Four and subsequent rounds, the names of the 32 clubs (in the case of Round Four) 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 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 Tie.
- (f) Clubs not drawn in the ballot will receive a bye into the next round of the Competition. Clubs receiving a bye are not considered to have participated in that particular round (and will not be eligible to participate in any financial distribution relating to it).

10. INTIMATION OF BALLOT TO CLUBS

After each ballot, the Secretary will inform each club of the name of the club against which it is drawn and of the date of the match and of the hour of kick-off, both of which shall be decided by the Board.

The two clubs in any tie may agree to kick-off at an earlier hour than that fixed by the Board. They may not play earlier in the week, unless with the consent of the Board.

11. GROUNDS FOR TIES, EXCLUDING SEMI-FINAL AND FINAL TIES

Subject, in every case, to the terms of Rule 13:-

- (a) In each tie, a match shall be played on the ground of the club first drawn in the ballot.
- (b) If the result is a draw, a second match shall be played on the ground of the club drawn second in the ballot, unless, in the case of a Preliminary Round match (if applicable), a match in Round One, Round Two or Round Three, the clubs agree to play on a neutral ground.

12. SEMI-FINAL AND FINAL TIES

- 12.1 The Semi-Final and Final Ties shall be under the direct control of the Board who shall make all of the arrangements therefor.
- 12.2 Without prejudice to the foregoing generality, each of the clubs participating in the Semi-Final and/or the Final Ties, respectively, shall be liable for any damage caused to the stadium at which such a Tie is played ("the Stadium") by that club's supporters, acting with malicious intent or recklessly.
- 12.3 All costs and expenses incurred by the venue operator at whose ground the relevant Semi-Final or Final Tie is being played in repairing the damage caused to the Stadium or otherwise to reinstate the Stadium shall be deducted from the financial proceeds of the Competition normally payable to the participating club referred to in Rule 12.2 by the Scottish FA and paid to the venue operator at whose ground the relevant Semi-Final or Final Tie is being played.
- 12.4 Any dispute as to whether the damage referred to above was caused by that club's supporters, acting with malicious intent or recklessly, shall be determined by the Scottish FA, who shall act as an expert and not as an arbitrator, whose decision shall be final and binding on the club and whose costs and expenses in reaching such determination shall be met from that club's share in the financial proceeds of the Competition as aforesaid.
- 12.5 The costs of repair or reinstatement will be determined by an independent contractor, who shall act as an expert and not as an arbitrator, whose decision shall be final and binding on the club and whose costs and expenses shall be met from that club's share in the financial proceeds of the Competition as aforesaid.
- 12.6 Each club authorises, instructs and mandates the Scottish FA to pay the costs of any damage or repair, so determined, to the venue operator at whose ground the relevant Semi-Final or Final Tie is being played, together with any costs payable under Rules 12.4 and 12.5 out of that club's share in the financial proceeds of the Competition as aforesaid.
- 12.7 In the event that the club's share in the financial proceeds of the Competition as aforesaid is less than the aggregate amount of the costs referred to in Rule 12.3 to Rule 12.5 (both inclusive), the club undertakes to indemnify the Scottish FA against, and to pay within 7 days of a written demand, an amount equal to the amount by which such aggregate amount exceeds the club's share in the financial proceeds of the Competition as aforesaid.
- 12.8 The aggregate amount of any sums paid to the Scottish FA under this Rule 12 shall not exceed the sum of FIFTY THOUSAND POUNDS (£50,000) Sterling exclusive of VAT (or such other sum as is specified in the Rules from time to time).

13. GROUNDS FOR TIES

Notwithstanding anything which is contained in Rule 11 if a club notifies the Scottish FA that it considers that its registered ground as detailed in the Official Return (Rule 6 and the Articles of Association refer) is unsuitable for the playing of a Cup match for whatever reason, or if the Secretary considers that a club's registered ground is unsuitable for the playing of a Cup match for whatever reason, and (in either case) the Board is satisfied of the validity of such reason, the match shall be played at the nearest available registered ground of at least equivalent capacity which in the opinion of the Board is most suitable for the occasion. If

a replay should be necessary, it will take place at the ground of its opponents.

If more than one club from the same city or town or with the same nominated registered ground is drawn to play at home in the same Round and it is deemed, for whatever reason, that their matches cannot be played on the same day or at the same kick-off time then the clubs shall decide in rotation as to which club has the choice as to when the notifying club's match is played.

REGISTERED CLUBS

The grounds of Registered clubs participating in the Preliminary Round (if applicable), Round One, Round Two and Round Three are subject to the following minimum criteria:

- a) The ground must be enclosed with a suitable barrier to keep spectators from gaining entry to the ground without payment.
- b) The club must provide the following facilities inside the ground and closely adjacent to the playing field:
 - 1) Separate changing, showering and toilet facilities accommodation for home and visiting teams; and
 - 2) Separate changing, showering and toilet facilities accommodation for three match officials.
- c) The ground must comply with prevailing Health and Safety regulations, and, where applicable, have relevant certification issued by the local authority.
- d) Appropriate facilities to provide refreshments for visiting players and match officials.
- e) Adequate car parking provision for players and match officials.
- f) Technical areas capable of holding up to thirteen persons.
- g) Adequate toilet and catering facilities for spectators.

14. NUMBER OF PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTES

Except for the circumstances described within Rule 22(a) relating to extra time being played in any match, a team shall consist of 11 starting players and up to a maximum of 7 named substitutes, of whom not more than three may be used at any time during the match, save that in the event that extra time is played in any match, a team may use four substitutes in total, provided that the fourth substitute shall only be used during the period of extra time. The team list must include two designated goalkeepers, one of whom must be named as a substitute.

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 (as one of the 11 starting players or as a fielded substitute), for another club in the Competition.

15. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- (a) A goalkeeper, who is not qualified by registration under the terms of Rule 16(a), but is registered in compliance with Rule 17 may not, for any reason whatsoever, play in any other position.
- (b) When a match which is postponed, drawn, or abandoned, is played or replayed, only those players who were eligible by means of their registration, pursuant to the Registration Procedures, at the date fixed for originally playing the Round, may play. For the avoidance of doubt the operation of the Disciplinary Procedures has no impact on the application of this rule.
- (c) All players in the Competition must be eligible to play in the relevant match having regard in particular (but without prejudice to the generality) to the Registration Procedures and the Disciplinary Procedures.
- (d) A player must be aged 16 years or more to be eligible to play for a club in a match in the Competition.

16. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYER TO PLAY IN FINAL TIE

- (a) Except in the case of a player whose customary position is that of goalkeeper, a player to be eligible to participate in the Final Tie of the Competition must have been eligible to participate in the Semi-Final Round of the Competition for the club for which he is to participate in the Final Tie.
- (b) A goalkeeper who gains exemption under sub-paragraph (a) may not for any reason whatsoever play in any other position.

17. COMPULSORY REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

Subject to Rule 15 above, a player must not be listed on the Official Team Line as one of the 11 starting players or as a named substitute for a tie in the Competition without having been registered prior to such tie, with the Scottish FA, for the club for which he is to play. During the term of a temporary transfer the player concerned shall not be eligible to play against the transferor club. A player must not be listed on the Official Team Line, as one of the 11 starting players or as a named substitute, for a tie if he is subject to a relevant suspension pursuant to the Disciplinary Procedures. Each participating club is responsible for ensuring that all of its players who are listed on the Official Team Line, as one of the 11 starting players or as a named substitute, for a tie in the Competition are eligible to be so listed pursuant to the Registration Procedures and the Disciplinary Procedures.

18. FIELD OF PLAY AND MATCH REQUIREMENTS

Matches in the Competition shall be played on a natural grass surface or on an artificial turf surface. Artificial turf surfaces must comply with quality standards set for football by FIFA.

Home clubs with artificial turf surfaces will be required to provide a current test certificate proving compliance to FIFA pitch standards.

Clubs may only use test agencies in relation to artificial turf surfaces which have been accredited for the purpose by FIFA.

- (a) The length of the field of play shall not be more than 130 yards (120 metres) and not less than 100 yards (90 metres). The breadth of the field of play shall not be more than 80 yards (75 metres) and not less than 55 yards (50 metres).

Subject to the foregoing, the dimensions shall not differ from those contained in the Official Return for the current season lodged with the Scottish FA by the club on whose ground a match is played, unless such dimensions have been changed with the consent of the Board (Rule 6 refers).

- (b) Spectators must be separated from the field of play by a wall, a rope, a railing or a fence.
- (c) Goal nets and corner flags shall be used at all matches in the Competition.
- (d) A new football of first grade quality shall be provided by the ground or host club for each match played in the Competition. The Scottish FA will provide balls for matches to be played on a neutral ground at the semi-final and final stage of the Competition.
- (e) It is the responsibility of the home (or host) club to ensure that adequate first aid facilities, requisite equipment and stretcher facilities/carrying chair(s) capable of conveying spectators from seated areas are available for all ties in the Competition and that at least one fully qualified person is present and equipped to administer first aid. The home or host club should take cognisance of the expected attendance and provide additional first aid cover as appropriate for the configuration of the ground.
- (f) No match in the Competition shall take place at any stadium where the playing area is covered or partially covered by a roof or other form of canopy without the prior consent of the Board.

19. DURATION OF MATCH AND STADIUM CLOCKS

- (a) Except when extra time is played in accordance with the terms of Rule 24 a match will consist of two halves each of 45 minutes in duration.
- (b) A match which has started and which, for any reason, is abandoned, may not be continued as a “friendly” match.
- (c) The half time interval shall be of 15 minutes duration, or as determined by the match official.
- (d) 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. This requirement also applies in the event of extra time being played (i.e. after 15 minutes of each half).
- (e) Public address announcements, where made, should specify that any added time to be played is a minimum number of minutes.

20. APPOINTMENT OF MATCH OFFICIALS

Match officials shall be appointed from those referees whose names are included in the List of Referees. In the Preliminary Round (if applicable), Round One and Round Two, Assistant Referees may be appointed from the List of Registered Referees.

Fourth Officials shall be appointed to all ties from Round 5 onwards and to any ties in prior Rounds which are broadcast live on television or any ties which the Scottish FA considers appropriate.

Additional Assistant Referees shall be appointed to the Semi-Final and Final ties.

The Secretary shall make all appointments.

Appointments shall take precedence over all other appointments, except with the permission and consent of the Secretary.

- (a) A club may not refuse to accept the services of any match officials appointed by the Board or by the Secretary.

If any club refuses to play a tie due to an objection to or concern about the identity of any match official, such refusal may result in the matter being referred to the Compliance Officer (as defined in the Judicial Panel Protocol) for investigation and possible sanction in accordance with the Judicial Panel Protocol.

- (b) The fees and expenses of match officials shall be defrayed by the Scottish FA.

20.1 Replacement of a Match Official

(a) Replacement of a Referee

In the event the referee is unable to start or complete the match, he will be replaced by another match official in accordance with the following provisions:

Preliminary Ties, Rounds One and Two

Assistant Referee 1 replaces the referee.

In the event that Assistant Referee 1 is a Category 3 Specialist Assistant Referee or a Category 3 Specialist Assistant Referee Development and Assistant Referee 2 is a Category 3 Referee, then Assistant Referee 2 replaces the referee.

Round Three

Assistant Referee 2 replaces the referee.

Round Four

Where appointed, the Fourth Official replaces the referee.

Where a Fourth Official is not appointed to a tie, Assistant Referee 2 replaces the referee.

Rounds Five, Six, Semi-Final and Final Ties

The Fourth Official replaces the referee.

(b) Replacement of an Assistant Referee

In the event an assistant referee is unable to start or complete the match or he replaces the referee in accordance with Rule 20.1(a), he will be replaced by another match official in accordance with the following guidance:

Preliminary Ties and Rounds One, Two, Three, Four, Five and Six

In ties where a Fourth Official is appointed, the assistant referee will be replaced by the Fourth Official.

In ties where a Fourth Official is not 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.

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.

Semi-Final and Final Ties

The assistant referee will be replaced by the Fourth Official (or by a Reserve Assistant Referee if one is appointed).

(c) Replacement of a Fourth Official

In the event the Fourth Official is unable to start or complete the match or is required to replace another match official, he will be replaced by a registered referee in attendance at the match, failing which no replacement will be made.

(d) Replacement of an Additional Assistant Referee

In the event the Additional Assistant Referee is unable to start or complete the match, he will be replaced by the Fourth Official. In the event that two match officials require to be replaced during a match, the referee will decide what should happen in regard to the second replacement of a match official to enable the match to be completed.

21. REGISTERED COLOURS

- (a) Before the first day of August in each year, each club shall register with the Secretary, the colours and design of its shirts and stockings. Clubs will register their first choice colours and second choice colours and, should clubs so desire, they may also register a third set of colours. Subject to the terms of the following sections (b) (c) and (d) of this Rule, a club shall play in its registered colours.

Exceptionally, a club may, with the approval of the Board, play in colours which are modified from those which have been registered.

- (b) When a match is played on the ground of one of the competing clubs and the first choice colours of both clubs are the same, or similar, the away club shall change and play in distinctive colours as specified pursuant to Rule 21(a).

When a match is played on a neutral ground and the first choice colours are the same, or similar, then both teams shall change and play in distinctive colours.

In the case of the Semi-Final and Final Ties of the Competition, 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 (if necessary) is required to change. The winning team of the first Semi-Final will automatically become the home team in the Final.

- (c) A club may play in its second or third choice registered colours under Rule 21(a) provided that this does not prevent the opposing club from observing the terms of paragraph (b) or from playing in its first choice registered colours if it chooses to do so.

A club which elects to play in its second or third choice registered colours shall inform the opposing club, the referee and the Scottish FA in writing not later than seven days before the date of the match. If it fails to do so, the colours that the club is to wear shall be determined by the referee having regard to Rule 21(a).

- (d) If there is any dispute as to whether the colours of the clubs are the same, or similar, the referee shall decide the issue and his decision will be final and binding on the clubs.
- (e) Goalkeepers shall wear colours which distinguish them from the other players and from the Match Officials. The referee's decision on whether this Rule is met will be final and binding on all parties.
- (f) Every player and substitute of each team shall wear a distinguishing number on his shirt or shorts.
- (g) Any failure by any club to adhere to any of the terms of this Rule 21 may result in the matter being referred to the Compliance Officer (as defined in the Judicial Panel Protocol) for investigation and possible sanction in accordance with the Judicial Panel Protocol.

22. TEAM LINES

The Official Team Line for matches in the Competition shall permit the listing of 11 starting players, a maximum of seven named substitutes, and six technical personnel. The template of the Official Team Line shall be provided by the Scottish FA. The Official Team Line must be submitted in order to enable a club to participate in a match in the Competition.

- a) Not later than 75 minutes before the start of the match, each club shall hand to the referee, the Official Team Line and to its opponent, a duplicate thereof. The Official Team Line shall contain accurate and complete details of the numbers, proper player names and dates of birth in relation to not more than 18 players, together with proper names of the technical personnel to be seated within the technical area (subject to a maximum of six such technical personnel). The Official Team Line must be properly completed in block capitals, and signed by the Secretary or other accredited official. Upon signature by the Secretary or other accredited official, such Official Team Line will be deemed to be complete and binding on the club concerned.

The 11 starting players in the Official Team Line must commence the match. The other named players are designated as substitutes. The numbers on the players' shirts must correspond with the numbers indicated on the Official Team Line. The goalkeepers and team Captain must be identified.

Only three of the named substitutes on the Official Team Line may take part in the match as fielded substitutes, except in the event that extra time is played in any match where a team is permitted to use an additional substitute, a fourth in total, during such period of extra time. A player who has been substituted may take no further part in the match.

If so required pursuant to the Club Licensing Procedures, each club shall also list the proper name of the club's Doctor in the Official Team Line. In all other circumstances, 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 technical personnel.

Replacement of players on the Official Team Line

- (i) If any of the 11 starting players 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 named substitutes. The substitute(s) in question may then only be replaced by an eligible player(s) not originally listed on the Official Team Line as signed, so that the quota of substitutes is not reduced. During the match, three players may still be substituted, except in the event that extra time is played in any match where a team is permitted to use an additional substitute, a fourth in total, during such period of extra time.

If for any reason changes require to be made to the Official Team Line pursuant to Rule 22(a) (i), (ii) and (iii) (and said changes are accepted by the referee) then the club must notify its opponent immediately thereafter.

- (ii) If any of the named substitutes listed on the Official Team Line is not able at the start of the match to be fielded due to 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.
- (iii) If a goalkeeper listed on the Official Team Line is not able to be fielded due to unexpected physical incapacity suffered by him or other extreme circumstances (which are explained to and accepted by the referee), then he may be replaced but only by an eligible player not originally listed on the Official Team Line as signed, and who must be designated as a goalkeeper pursuant to Rule 14.

The club concerned must in addition to the requirements set out above, upon request, provide the Scottish FA with necessary medical certificates and/or a full written explanation of the circumstances that caused the change.

- (b) 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 by all clubs.

23. DRAWN OR UNPLAYED TIES, EXCLUDING SEMI-FINALS AND FINAL TIES

- (a) When a first match in the Preliminary Round (if applicable), Round One, Round Two or Round Three is drawn, or is not played on or before the original date, the drawn or unplayed match shall be replayed or played on the Saturday following the first match or the date fixed therefor, or in the second midweek following the original match date, unless the two clubs, the relevant authorities and the Scottish FA are all agreeable that the match be played on an earlier date.

The drawn or unplayed match shall take place on a day to be mutually agreed by the two clubs, other than Thursday or Friday.

- (b) In subsequent Rounds, the drawn or unplayed match shall be replayed or played in the second midweek following the first match or the date fixed therefor, on a day other than Thursday or Friday, unless the two clubs, the relevant authorities and the Scottish FA are all agreeable that the match be played on an earlier date.
- (c) If, in either case, regulated by Rule 23(a) or (b), a tie is still undecided clubs are required to make two attempts to play or to replay the tie in succeeding mid-weeks until a decision is reached. These attempts will be made on Mondays and Wednesdays. Clubs may however elect to play on a Tuesday rather than a Monday, but if doing so, will be required to play or replay on the Wednesday of that midweek in the event of a draw or a postponement. Competition replays will have priority over league matches in the Scottish Professional Football League or any other relevant league either scheduled or re-scheduled except in exceptional circumstances and by agreement of the Board.

24. DRAWN TIES - EXTRA TIME/KICKS FROM THE PENALTY MARK

- (a) When a second match is drawn in any of the Rounds up to and including the Sixth Round, an extra thirty minutes 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. The Club which scores more times in respect of such kicks will be declared the winner of the tie.

- (b) When a Semi-Final or Final Tie is drawn, an extra thirty minutes 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. The Club which scores more times in respect of such kicks will be declared the winner of the tie.

25. MATCH UNFINISHED

- (a) In the event of any match in the Competition being unfinished owing to weather conditions or other causes over which neither competing club has any control, the disbursement of receipts from the unfinished match shall be made in accordance with the relevant Rules which would have been applicable had the match been completed.
- (b) When such unfinished match is subsequently re-scheduled and played, the disbursement of receipts from that match shall be made in accordance with the relevant Rules, subject to the discretionary provisions contained in section (c) of this Rule 25.
- (c) The competing clubs shall have discretion, subject to the Board's endorsement of the exercise of such discretion and notwithstanding the provisions for charges for admission stipulated elsewhere in the Rules, to agree to admit on a concessionary basis to the re-scheduled match, those spectators for whom an admission charge had been accounted in respect of the unfinished match.

In calculating the division of receipts in accordance with the relevant Rules, the following provisions shall apply:-

- (1) when a levy is payable to the Scottish FA, it shall be calculated from the gross receipts of the match excluding concessionary admissions assuming that the concessionary admissions are on a no charge basis. If there is a concessionary charge for admission the concessionary charges shall be included in the gross receipts.
- (2) when the match is played on the ground of one of the competing clubs, the deduction from receipts which the host club is entitled to make shall be calculated on the basis of the notional gross receipts of the match which will include the full corresponding charges for those spectators admitted on a concessionary basis.
- (3) when the match is played on a neutral ground, the rental payable to the club on whose ground the match is played shall be calculated on the basis of the notional gross receipts of the match which shall include the full corresponding charges for those spectators admitted on a concessionary basis.

If the sums calculated under paragraphs (2) or (3) of this Rule 25 (c) cannot be met from the actual match receipts, which shall include concessionary admissions if a concessionary charge for admission is made, the deficit shall be met equally by the competing clubs.

- (d) The disbursement of receipts from any match in the Competition which is unfinished due to circumstances other than as stated in paragraph (a) of this Rule 25 and from any subsequent re-scheduling of such match, shall be determined by the Board.

26. ARRANGEMENTS FOR MATCHES PLAYED ON A NEUTRAL GROUND

Except for matches in the Semi-Final and Final Rounds of the Competition, the ground club, in conjunction with the competing clubs, shall make all of the arrangements for the match, and the competing clubs shall accept complete responsibility and liability for all loss or damage of any kind, whether to individuals or property.

27. 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, 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 referee's decision shall be final on whether or not the match should proceed. His fee and expenses shall be defrayed by the Scottish FA.
- (c) A ground which is unfit for Competition tie purposes, shall not be used that same day for any other match.
- (d) Any failure by any club to adhere to any of the terms of this Rule 27 may result in the matter being referred to the Compliance Officer (as defined in the Judicial Panel Protocol) for investigation and possible sanction in accordance with the Judicial Panel Protocol.

28. DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Each club is responsible for the behavior of its players, officials, Team Staff, Team Officials, members, supporters and any person carrying out a function at a match on its behalf before, during and after such a match.

In the event of damage being sustained to a stadium (including any part of the stadium) where a match in the Competition is played as a consequence of misbehavior by a player, official, Team Staff member, Team Official, member, supporter or any person carrying out a function at a match who is representing, belonging to and/or associated with a club, then that club 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 stadium in which a match is played.

The Scottish FA shall have the power to request such reports as may be necessary in determining responsibility for restitution.

The provisions of this Rule 28 are without prejudice to the terms of Article 28, which apply to clubs in the context of their participation in the Competition. Any failure by any club to adhere to any of the terms of this Rule 28 may result in the matter being referred to the Compliance Officer (as defined in the Judicial Panel Protocol) for investigation and possible sanction in accordance with the Judicial Panel Protocol.

29. DISAGREEMENT ON DATE OF MATCH

If, in any case in which the date is not specified 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 or replay, 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 or replayed on a neutral ground, play or replay on the date which is agreeable to the host club.

The Board shall decide in the case of a match to be played or replayed on a neutral ground and the participating clubs will be bound by the decision of the Board.

30. REFUSAL OR FAILURE TO PLAY

If a club refuses or fails to play the club against which it is drawn, such refusal or failure may result in the matter being referred to the Compliance Officer (as defined in the Judicial Panel Protocol) for investigation and possible sanction in accordance with the Judicial Panel Protocol.

31. CLUB SCRATCHING OR WITHDRAWING

A club which intends to scratch or withdraw from the Competition will give notice to the Secretary and to the secretary of the club against which it is drawn, at least four days before the date fixed for playing the tie.

Any decision by a club to scratch or withdraw from the Competition may result in the matter being referred to the Compliance Officer (as defined in the Judicial Panel Protocol) for investigation and possible sanction in accordance with the Judicial Panel Protocol.

32. 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 of such club shall be required to confirm the protest in writing by recorded delivery letter, to the Secretary within 24 hours of the end of the match (Sunday excluded). The Scottish FA will confirm receipt of the protest to both clubs and the match officials and the nature of the protest(s). A deposit of £250 will be lodged by the protesting club at that time.

The Board, whose decision shall be final and binding, shall have the power to uphold or reject the protest, to retain the deposit lodged by the protesting club, to order either club to pay such sum towards defraying the expenses incurred as may be considered desirable and take such actions as it deems fit.

- (b) Any objection to the ground, goal posts, crossbars, or other appurtenances of the game shall be intimated to the referee before the start of the match. The host club shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with Rule 18, and Law I of the Laws of the Game - The Field of Play.

33. PROTEST - INTERESTED PARTY

If a member of the Board is connected currently with a club which is involved in a protest, he shall not sit on the Board while the protest is being heard. If he fails to recuse himself, the decision of the Board will not be valid and the protest will require to be reheard.

34. INFRINGEMENT OF RULES

- 34.1 Any infringement of any of these Rules by a club, official, player or other person may result in the matter being referred to the Compliance Officer (as defined in the Judicial Panel Protocol) for investigation in accordance with the Judicial Panel Protocol.
- 34.2 Notwithstanding the terms above, the Scottish FA has the power to investigate any matter pursuant to the operation of the Competition.

35. MINIMUM CHARGE FOR ADMISSION

Subject to a minimum adult non concessionary charge for admission to matches in the Preliminary Round (if applicable), Round One, Round Two and Round Three, of £5, and of £8 for matches in subsequent Rounds excluding the Semi-Final and Final Ties, the charges for admission shall be arranged by the competing clubs. If they are unable to agree, the charges which are normally made for the regular fixtures of the club at whose ground the match is to be played, will apply.

36. TICKETS FOR SALE

For any match to which admission is wholly or partly by ticket or by cash admission at the turnstiles, the visiting club shall have the right to claim admissions up to 20% of the spectator capacity of the ground, in which case the supporters of the visiting club shall be accommodated in an area of the ground which

is agreed by both clubs and the Police authorities after having taken cognisance of the Safety at Sports Ground Act, 1975, where appropriate. The exercise of such right shall be subject to the following conditions:-

- a) Except in the case of a replay the right is exercised within three days of the date on which the ballot is made.
- b) In the case of any replay, the right is exercised immediately after the drawn game.
- c) The visiting club shall be responsible for payment of all tickets asked for and allotted.
- d) The visiting club shall ensure that any tickets which are not required, together with a remittance for the total allotment, are in the hands of the ground club at least twenty-four hours before the time of kick-off.
- e) If any of the tickets which are so returned are subsequently sold, an appropriate refund will be made by the host club.

The tickets which are allotted to the visiting club, if numbered and for reserved positions, shall be equal in position to those retained by the host club.

37. RESTRICTION ON MEMBERS, ETC., TICKETS

- (a) Except in the case of a match in the Competition which is played on a neutral ground and subject to the visiting club having an entitlement to claim admissions up to 20% of the permitted spectator capacity of the host to accommodate their supporters, there is no restriction on the number of members, season ticket holders and complimentary ticket holders who may be admitted by the host club.

In calculating the gate drawings, the host club shall be entitled to exclude 100 season tickets and complimentary tickets actually issued and used from the calculation of the gate drawings. The host club shall be entitled to further exclude all season tickets and complimentary tickets actually issued and used up to a maximum of 10% of the remaining total attendance, subject to such a limit not exceeding 1,000 such persons. Tickets issued as part of a paid hospitality package may not be included in the total number of complimentary tickets.

Thereafter the club shall include the corresponding charges for admission in respect of every season ticket holder and complimentary ticket holder in excess of such limit. The corresponding charges shall be those charges which are applicable to all other paying spectators admitted to the match, relative to the area, or comparable area of the stadium to which a member, season ticket holder or complimentary ticket holder, in excess of the number of such persons allowed for the purpose of calculating the gate drawings, is admitted.

- (b) Except with the agreement of the competing clubs, members' tickets, season tickets and complimentary tickets issued by the host club shall not be valid when a match is played on a neutral ground.

38. COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS

Subject to a maximum of ten for the Directors' Box, the host club shall give to the opponent 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.

39. NOT USED

40. TRAVEL - FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND GUARANTEE

- (a) The Scottish FA will, as a measure of financial assistance, provide a payment to each club drawn away from home in the Preliminary Round (if applicable), Round One and Round Two of the Competition, (except those which are played on a neutral ground) whether it be a first match or a replay, which requires travel from a club's home ground to away ground of 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 Scottish FA will refund up to a maximum of £400 to the club.

- (b) In all other ties from Round Three onwards (except those which are played on a neutral ground) the host club, whether it be a first match or a replay, shall give a financial guarantee to the opposing club, up to a maximum of £400.
- (c) Subject to the receipts being sufficient, when a match is played on a neutral ground, both clubs shall be guaranteed reimbursement of travel expenditure incurred, up to a maximum of £400 as defined in section (a) of this Rule 40.

41. DIVISION OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENT OF EXPENSES

- (a) Subject, in every case, to the terms of Rule 40, except when a match is played on a neutral ground, the monies received from all admission charges to a match in the Preliminary Round (if applicable), Round One, and Round Two, shall be divided equally between the clubs after deduction of 20% from the gross receipts by the host club. In respect of Round Three the following will apply:-

- (1) The host club shall be entitled to make a deduction of 20% from the gross receipts.
- (2) When half of the receipts remaining exceed the guarantee, the said receipts shall be divided, equally, between the clubs.
- (3) When half of the receipts remaining do not exceed the guarantee, the visiting club shall only receive the guarantee.

The host club shall be responsible for payment of the match expenses.

- (b) When a match in the Preliminary Round (if applicable), Round One, Round Two and Round Three is played on a neutral ground, the club on whose ground the match is played shall be paid a rental of 20% of the monies received from all admission charges to the match.

Subject to the foregoing, the balance of the receipts shall be divided between:- the two competing clubs as follows:-

- (1) When the balance is sufficient, each competing club shall be entitled to reimbursement of expenditure on travel, in terms of Rule 40.
 - (2) When the balance is insufficient, the sum available shall be divided between them, in proportion to their expenditure on travel.
 - (3) Any surplus remaining after payment of travel expenses, shall be divided, equally, between them. The competing clubs shall be responsible, jointly, for payment of the match expenses.
- (c) Except when a match is played on a neutral ground, the monies received from all admission charges to a match in any Round other than the Preliminary Round (if applicable), First, Second, Third, Semi-Final and Final Rounds, shall be divided as follows:-
 - (1) A levy of 5% of the monies received from all admission charges to the match shall be paid to the Scottish FA within three days of the date on which the match is played.
 - (2) The host club shall be entitled to make a deduction of 20% from the gross receipts.
 - (3) When, after payment of the levy and of the deduction foresaid, half of the remainder of the receipts exceeds the guarantee, the said remainder of the receipts shall be divided, equally, between the two clubs.
 - (4) When, after payment of the levy and of the deduction foresaid, half of the said remainder of the receipts does not exceed the guarantee, the visiting club shall only receive the guarantee.

The host club shall be responsible for payment of the match expenses.

- (d) When a match in any Round other than the Preliminary Round (if applicable), First, Second, Third, Semi-Final and Final Rounds is played on a neutral ground:-
- (1) A levy of 5% of the monies received from all admission charges to the match shall be paid to the Scottish FA within three days of the date on which the match is played.
 - (2) After payment of the levy foresaid, the club on whose ground the match is played shall be paid a rental of 20% of the balance of the monies received from all admission charges to the match.
 - (3) When the balance is sufficient, each competing club shall be entitled to reimbursement of expenditure on travel, in terms of Rule 40.
 - (4) When the balance is insufficient, the sum available shall be divided between them, in proportion to their expenditure on travel.
 - (5) Any surplus remaining after payment of travel expenses, shall be divided, equally, between them.

The competing clubs shall be responsible, jointly, for payment of the match expenses.

- (e) The host club shall provide a written statement of the share of the gate receipts, or the guarantee, ideally, on the day of the match but in any event not later than 5pm on the immediately following working day, and shall pay the appropriate amount within five working days of the match date.
- (f) Competition levies taken by the Scottish FA in the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Rounds shall be retained in the Sponsorship Pool.
- (g) The receipts from the Semi-Final matches in the Competition shall be pooled and shall be deemed to include monies received from all admission charges to the matches, radio and television fees, and any sums in respect of advertising within the stadium specially for the occasion.

The Scottish FA shall retain 10% of the balance, after payment of the expenses of the two matches and the clubs' guarantees.

The remainder, after payment of the rental for the use of a ground or grounds, the scale of which shall be determined by the Board, shall be divided, equally, among the four clubs.

- (h) The receipts at the Final Tie shall be calculated in the manner defined in section (g) foresaid mutatis mutandis.

The Scottish FA shall retain 10% of the balance, after payment of the expenses of the match and the clubs' guarantees. The remainder, after payment of the rental for the use of the ground, the scale of which shall be determined by the Board, shall be divided, equally, between the competing clubs.

42. 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 Scottish FA is capable of meeting the commitments put upon it under the terms of its television and sponsorship contracts.

Subject to the foregoing, alterations or additions may only be made at the Annual General Meeting of the Scottish FA.

- (b) Notice of any proposed alteration or addition for consideration at the ensuing Annual General Meeting of the Scottish FA, shall be submitted in writing and be in the Secretary's hands by 28 February in the year of the Annual General Meeting of the Scottish FA at which such proposed alteration or addition is to be considered.

RULES OF THE SCOTTISH FA 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 CUP

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

2. THE CUP – OWNERSHIP AND PRESENTATION

- (a) The Cup, including any replicas, is the property of the Scottish FA.
- (b) The Cup shall be presented to the club which wins the Final Tie. (“the Winner”)
- (c) The Cup shall be returned to the Scottish FA by the Winner before the end of March of the year following presentation, in good order and condition. The cost of repair of any damage to the Cup whilst in the custody or control of the Winner shall be met by the Winner.

3. AWARDS TO PLAYERS, REFEREES AND ASSISTANT REFEREES

The Scottish FA 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 Cup Competition (“the Competition”) 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 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 Scottish FA are all agreeable that the match be played on an alternative date.

6. ELIGIBLE CLUBS

Entry to the Competition is available to clubs in Full Membership of the Scottish FA, unless debarred in terms of Rule 13, and other clubs approved by the Professional Game Board prior to the commencement of each season’s Competition.

7. DATE FOR ENTRY

Each club wishing to participate in the Competition shall notify the Scottish FA in writing to be received on or before 18 July in the year in which the Competition commences.

8. COMPLIANCE WITH ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

Without prejudice to any other obligation assumed by them, the clubs eligible to compete in the Competition shall be subject to and shall comply with the Articles of the Association, the Registration Procedures, the Disciplinary Procedures and the Rules, and the Anti-Doping Regulations, as amended from time to time.

8.1 Sponsorship and Broadcasting Matters

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

All clubs participating in the competition undertake to provide any rights, facilities and other services as may be necessary for the Scottish FA to perform the Scottish FA's Obligations.

Without prejudice to the terms of the Articles of Association, the Judicial Panel Protocol and the Rules and any other rule and regulation of the Scottish FA, any failure and/or refusal by a club to comply with any of the terms of the Scottish FA's Obligations as intimated may result in the matter being referred to the Compliance Officer (as defined in the Judicial Panel Protocol) for investigation and possible sanction in accordance with the Judicial Panel Protocol.

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 receiving a bye are not considered to have participated in that particular round.

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

For Round Three, the names of thirty two 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 Scottish FA 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. 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 referee.
- (c) A match which has started and which for any reason is abandoned, may not be continued as a "friendly" match.

12. POSTPONED OR RE-SCHEDULED MATCHES

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.

13. 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 Judicial Panel, having sufficient reason for so doing, shall be adjudged to have lost the tie and will take no further part in the remainder of that season's Competition. Such club might be liable to additional sanctions as specified in these Rules.

14. CLUB SCRATCHING OR WITHDRAWING

A club which intends to scratch or withdraw from the Competition will give notice to the Secretary and to the secretary of the club against which it is drawn, at least four days before the date fixed for playing the tie.

Any such case shall be reported to the Board, who shall have power to order the said club to reimburse its opponents for any expenditure, loss or damage incurred by such scratching or withdrawal. The Board may also take such other action as it deems fit including the imposition of sanctions as specified in these Rules.

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

15. DISAGREEMENT ON DATE OF MATCH

If, in any case in which the date is not specified 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 or replay, 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 or replayed on a neutral ground, play or replay on the date which is agreeable to the host club.

The Board shall decide in the case of a match to be played or replayed on a neutral ground and the participating clubs will be bound by the decision of the Board.

16. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- (a) Only those players born on or after **1st January 1998** are eligible to participate in the competition.
- (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.
- (c) A player may play for his Parent Club in the Scottish FA Youth Cup 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.

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.

17. NUMBER OF PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTES

Except for the circumstances described within Rule 18 a team shall consist of eleven players and may use three substitutes from the nominated seven denoted on the Official 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 fielded substitute, for another club in the Competition.

18. TEAM LINES

The Official Team Line for matches in the competition shall permit the listing of 11 starting players and seven substitutes. It is recommended that one of the listed substitutes is a designated goalkeeper. The template of the Official Team Line shall be provided by the Scottish FA. The Official Team Line must be submitted in order to enable a club to participate in a match in the Competition.

- (a) Not later than 75 minutes before the start of a match, each club shall hand to the referee, and to its opponent, a duplicate of the Official Team Line. The Official Team Line shall contain accurate and complete details, including the proper names and dates of birth of the players in its team, together with the proper names of a maximum of seven substitutes and a maximum of six technical personnel. 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 Official 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 11 starting players 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 seven substitutes. The substitute(s) in question may then only be replaced by an eligible player(s) not originally listed on the Official Team Line as signed, so that the quota of substitutes is not reduced. During the match, three players may still be substituted.

If for any reason changes require to be made to the Official Team Line pursuant to Rule 18 (a) (i), (ii) and (iii) (and said changes are accepted by the match official) then the club must notify its opponent immediately thereafter.

- (ii) If any of the seven named substitutes on the Official Team Line is not able at the start of the match to be fielded due to 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.
- (iii) If a goalkeeper listed on the Official Team Line is not able to be fielded due to unexpected physical incapacity suffered by him or other extreme circumstances (which are explained to and accepted by the referee), then he may be replaced but only by an eligible player not originally listed on the Official Team Line as signed, and who should be designated as a goalkeeper.

The club concerned must, in addition to the requirements set out above, upon request, provide the Scottish FA with necessary medical certificates and/or a full written explanation of the circumstances that caused the change.

- (iv) Any alterations made to a completed Official Team Line must be formally endorsed in writing by an accredited club official and initialed by the referee.

- (b) 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.

19. APPOINTMENT OF MATCH OFFICIALS

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

Appointments shall take precedence over all other appointments, except with the permission and consent of the Secretary.

- (a) A club may not refuse to accept the services of any match officials appointed by the Board, the Secretary or the nominated Referee Association.

If any club refuses to play a tie due to an objection to or concern about the identity of any match official, such refusal may result in the matter being referred to the Compliance Officer (as defined in the Judicial Panel Protocol) for investigation and possible sanction in accordance with the Judicial Panel Protocol.

- (b) The fees and expenses of match officials shall be defrayed by the Association.

- (c) Replacement of a Match Official

Replacement of a Referee

In the event the referee is unable to start or complete the match, he will be replaced by Assistant Referee 1 with the exception of the Final where the Fourth Official will replace the referee.

Replacement of an Assistant Referee

In all ties prior to the Final, an 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.

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.

In the Final Tie, an assistant referee will be replaced by the Fourth Official.

Replacement of a Fourth Official

In the event the Fourth Official is unable to start or complete the match or is required to replace another match official, he will be replaced by a registered referee in attendance at the match, failing which no replacement will be made.

In the event that two match officials require to be replaced during a match, the referee will decide what should happen in regard to the second replacement of a match official to enable the match to be completed.

20. 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. The referee's decision on whether this Rule is met will be final and binding on all parties.
- (e) Every player and substitute of each team shall wear a distinguishing number on his shirt or shorts.

21. 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. The Board expects all clubs, drawn first in the ballot, ensure that matches are played on the club's recognised ground.

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 recognised ground being unavailable. Clubs will be obliged to formally confirm in writing the reason for their recognised ground being unavailable when nominating the second venue for use in the Competition.

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.

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 Scottish FA, 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 referee's decision shall be final. His fee and expenses shall be defrayed by the Scottish FA.
- (c) A ground which is unfit for cup tie purposes shall not be used on the same day for any other match.

23. GOAL NETS AND CORNER FLAGS

Goal nets and corner flags shall be used at all matches in the Competition.

24. PROVISION OF NEW FOOTBALLS

A new football of first grade quality shall be provided by the ground or host club for each match played in the Competition. The Scottish FA will provide balls for the match played at the final stage in the competition.

25. FIRST AID PROVISIONS

It is the responsibility of the home or host club to ensure that adequate first aid facilities, requisite equipment and stretcher facilities/carrying chair(s) capable of conveying spectators from seated areas are available for all ties in the Competition and that at least one fully qualified person is present and equipped to administer first aid. The home or host club should take cognisance of the expected attendance and provide additional first aid cover as appropriate for the configuration of the ground.

26. 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.

27. ADMISSION CHARGES AND MATCH EXPENSES

27.1 All matches except Semi-Final Ties

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

27.2 Semi-Final and Final Ties

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 opponent 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 opponent club within 14 days of receipt of the match statement.

When a Semi-Final Tie is played on a neutral ground, the host 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 Scottish FA. 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 Scottish FA 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.

28. TRAVEL - FINANCIAL GUARANTEE

The Scottish FA will, as a measure of financial assistance, provide a payment to each club drawn away from home, which requires travel from a club's home ground to away ground of 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 Scottish FA will refund up to a maximum of £300 to the club.

29. COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS

Subject to a maximum of five for the Directors' Box, the host club shall give to the opponent 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.

30. 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.

In the event of damage being sustained to a stadium where a tie in the Competition is played as a consequence of misbehaviour by a player, official, member, supporters, or any other person acting on behalf of or associated with a club, then that club shall be responsible for any costs arising in the reparation of same.

The Scottish FA shall have the power to request such reports as may be necessary in determining responsibility for restitution.

The provisions of this Rule 30 are without prejudice to the terms of Article 28, which apply to clubs in the context of their participation in the Competition. Any failure by any club to adhere to any of the terms of this Rule 30 may result in the matter being referred to the Compliance Officer (as defined in the Judicial Panel Protocol) for investigation and possible sanction in accordance with the Judicial Panel Protocol.

31. 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 Scottish FA 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 by the protesting club at that time.

The Board, whose decision shall be final and binding, shall have the power to uphold or reject the protest, to retain the deposit lodged by the protesting club, to order either club to pay such sum towards defraying the expenses incurred as may be considered desirable and take such other action as it deems fit.

- (b) A successful protest against a player who has violated any of the Articles of Association, or any of these 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.

32. PROTEST - INTERESTED PARTY

If a member of the Board is connected currently with a club which is involved in a protest, he shall not sit on the Board or on any committee which may be delegated to hear such a protest while the protest is being heard. If he fails to recuse himself, the decision of the Board will not be valid and the protest will require to be reheard.

33. INFRINGEMENT OF RULES

- 33.1 Any infringement of any of these Rules by a club, official, player or other person may result in the matter being referred to the Compliance Officer (as defined in the Judicial Panel Protocol) for investigation in accordance with the Judicial Panel Protocol.
- 33.2 Notwithstanding the terms above, the Scottish FA has the power to investigate any matter pursuant to the operation of the Competition.

34. ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS TO RULES

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 Scottish FA 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 Cup.