

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, race, language, religion, sexuality 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 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 20 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, bound by and shall comply with the Articles of the Association, the Registration Procedures, the Judicial Panel Protocol, the Rules, and the Anti-Doping Regulations, all as adopted and 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.

14. Club or Withdrawing

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

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

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 2001** 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. A club may at its discretion use one additional substitute player, a fourth in total from the seven nominated substitutes, during any period of extra time in the match. In such instances, the fourth substitute shall also be considered a fielded 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, 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 £450 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.