

STOCKPORT & DISTRICT FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

RULES FOR THE SENIOR CUP, THE SUNDAY CUP AND THE SUNDAY TROPHY COMPETITIONS

1. CONTROL

- a) The ownership, organisation, control and management of the Competitions and any rights associated with it, of any nature, shall be vested in the Council of Cheshire County Football Association, who have granted such rights to the **Stockport & District Football Association**, for the three competitions referred to above.
- b) The Council shall have the power to delegate all its powers in relation to the competitions to a General Purposes Committee whose decisions on all matters arising out of or in relation to the organisation, control and management of the competitions (including as to eligibility and qualification) shall be final, and binding, on all participants in the competitions in relation to these and any other matters not specifically mentioned in these rules, subject to Rule 16.
- c) The General Purposes Committee shall have the power to propose amendments to the regulations for the organisation, control and management of the competitions as it, from time to time, deems expedient (the Competition Rules) subject to agreement by the Cheshire County FA.
- d) All participants participating in any way in the competitions shall be bound by and comply with the Competition Rules (and any rules or regulations issued pursuant to the Competition Rules).
- e) The General Purposes Committee shall have the power to appoint a sub-committee to exercise the powers of Council in order to expedite decisions to ensure the progress of the competitions.
- f) A club participating in the competitions shall have only such rights in relation to the competitions (and any match in the competitions) as are expressly granted, in writing, to the club under the Competitions Rules or by Cheshire County FA.
- g) In addition to any other action or penalty, the General Purposes Committee shall have the power to disqualify any competing club, or player for any competing club(s), which it determines to have breached the Rules of the Association or the competitions rules (any Rules or Regulations issued pursuant to the Competitions Rules), and the decision of the General Purposes Committee shall be final and binding, subject to Rule 16.

2 ENTRY TO THE COMPETITIONS

- a) The entry fee for the competitions shall be determined by the General Purpose Committee. The closing date for entries is 1 August each year. Clubs who do not enter by the required date, shall be fined the sum of £10.00 and entered in to the appropriate competition, and shall be required to pay the entry fee.
- b) All Clubs considered to be Open Age District Association Clubs playing in sanctioned Leagues are required to enter an approved competition of the District Football Association to whom they are allocated, exemption from which may be given by the County Football Association to those Clubs that enter the Cheshire County Football Association Amateur or Sunday Challenge Cup competitions.
- c) The competitions shall only be open to clubs/teams allocated to or invited by the Stockport & District Football Association from other District Football Associations affiliated to Cheshire County FA except where special permission has been given to admit teams from other County Football Associations.
- d) The District Association shall agree the format and player requirements of the competition(s) each season and notify the respective clubs with the appropriate entry form. ***These additional requirements shall have the same status as the rules themselves – see Appendix 1 to these rules.***
- e) The General Purposes Committee shall have the power to refuse entry of any club from taking part in its competitions.
- f) The Cups shall be competed for annually in accordance with these rules.

3 ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- a) Contract players are not allowed to play in these competitions. In all rounds of the competitions, a player must be a registered player of his club. In order to be eligible to play in the **FINAL** tie of a competition. Players must have a 28 days playing qualification or have been eligible to play in the semi final ties.
- b) Any such registration for the Senior Cup Competition must have been received and accepted by the League, in which his/her club competes, by 12 noon on the day prior to the playing of the tie and the registration must be continuous through to the date of the tie.
- c) Any such registration for the Sunday Cup or Sunday Trophy competitions must have been received and accepted by the League, in which his/her club competes, by 12 noon on the day prior to the

playing of the tie and the registration must be continuous through to the date of the tie..

- d) It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that players from Overseas Associations (including Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland) have the required International Transfer/Clearance Certificate. The International Transfer/Clearance takes precedence over a player's registration therefore, this is also required by 12 noon on the day prior to the playing of the tie for the player's registration to be valid.
- e) A player shall not in the same season, play for more than one competing club/team in each competition.
- f) In the case of postponed ties, only those players shall be allowed to play who were eligible for the original game. A player who has been suspended may play in postponed ties after the term of his/her suspension has expired.
- g) Any club playing an ineligible player will be struck out of the competition and, the General Purposes Committee, or a Sub Committee appointed by the General Purposes Committee, may impose such other penalty as it considers appropriate.
- h) All questions of eligibility or qualification of a competitor shall be referred to the Association, whose decision shall be final.

4 COMPETITION ARRANGEMENTS

- a) The names of the Clubs entered for the Competition((s) shall be placed in one lot and shall be drawn in couples at a time or in sections as deemed necessary by Council. At each drawing the Club first drawn shall have the choice of ground (subject to conditions of entry as decided by the Association).
- b) The Association may exempt the previous finalists and such additional Clubs as they may approve from the first rounds of the Saturday/Sunday Competitions.
- c) After each drawing, the Secretary shall notify to each of the Clubs drawn, the name of the Club against whom it is drawn and the date, and kick off time on which the game must be played.
- d) Any Club refusing or failing to play the Club against whom it has been drawn on the date and time notified, and without sufficient reason for so doing, shall be adjudged to have lost the match, and may be

deemed to have been guilty of misconduct, and shall be liable to be fined and/or otherwise dealt with as the General Purposes Committee shall determine.

5 GROUNDS

- a) All semi final and final ties must be played, wherever possible, on a ground where the playing area is enclosed by a fixed barrier, or completely roped off by a rope material of not less than 8mm in diameter. No person should encroach within this area without the permission of the match officials.
- b) Separate dressing accommodation must be available for each team and the match officials. Showers or bathing facilities must be provided.
- c) If the ground of the Club having choice of ground shall be considered unsuitable for a cup-tie, their opponents may protest to the Association, who may order the match to be played on the ground of the protesting Club, or a neutral ground. Such protest to be made within six days of the draw being received. In the case of the appurtenances of the ground being temporarily unfit in consequence of special causes, a protest may be lodged with the Referee before the start of the game, the game shall be played under protest, and the Association shall consider such protest. If the protest is sustained, the game shall be ordered to be replayed on such ground and date as the Association deems appropriate.
- d) No Club may change the registered address of the ground for the playing of any cup-tie without first receiving permission of the Competitions Secretary. Any Club found to be in breach of this rule shall be liable to expulsion from the Competition and a fine of not less than £20.00.
- e) Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 4(a), and 5(a) and (c), the Association shall have the power to order the game to be played on their opponent's or neutral ground if the ground of the Club having choice is unfit thus hindering the progress of the Competition.
- f) The home Club is responsible for statutory pitch markings, provision of corner posts of regulation height, goal nets, and match balls. Failure to provide, renders a Club liable to a fine of not less than £10.00 and possible dismissal from the Competition.
- g) Inspection of grounds for fitness may be made only by the appointed Match Officials or other Official with the prior approval of the District Football Association's Competitions Secretary or Referees Secretary – subject to the organisation responsible for the ground e.g. Local Authority.

- h) Any Club causing the postponement of a match without due cause or reason may be struck out of the Competition and fined a sum of not less than £25.00.
- i) Football Turf Pitches (3G Artificial Pitches) are allowed in these Competitions provided that they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA's Register of Football Turf Pitches. The HOME Club is also responsible for advising participants of footwear requirements when confirming match arrangements in accordance with Rule 10.

6 COLOURS

- a) Clubs having similar colours must change. In all ties the visiting Club must change. Goalkeepers must wear colours that distinguish them from other players. Players' shirts shall be clearly numbered on the back in accordance with the official team sheet/match card. No change of numbers during a match shall be allowed except on a change of goalkeeper, or where a player has been required by the Referee to change his/her shirt because of a blood injury. Failure to comply with this Rule renders the Club liable to a fine of £20.00 for each offence.
- b) In the final tie both Clubs must play in their registered first choice colours or as notified to the Association at least 14 days prior to the Final. Failure to do so, will incur a fine of £25.00 if their colours are deemed by the Council or appointed Match Official to be similar both Clubs must change unless mutually agreed. Clubs failing to change colours, as required, in any match will be subject to a fine of not less than £25.00.
- c) No Player should wear a shirt that in any way conflicts with the black shirts worn by the Match Officials.

7 MATCH OFFICIALS

- a) Referees and Assistant Referees (where applicable) shall be appointed by the Honorary Referee Secretary. In those games where official Assistant Referees are not appointed by the District FA, each Club MUST provide a suitable person to assist the Referee in line duties if requested by the Match Official. Clubs failing to provide such a person shall be fined £10.00.
- b) The Referee at the conclusion of each tie shall, where necessary, complete a match card with the exact time of starting and cause of a late start, or any other breaches (if any) of Competition Rules, in writing, to the Competition Secretary of the District Football Association within 72 hours of the match being played.
- c) Match Officials must be in attendance at all ties at least 30 minutes before the appointed time of kick-off and 45 minutes in Final ties. It shall be within the power of the Association to report any matters

regarding Match Officials to Cheshire County FA for any necessary further action to be taken.

8 LIST OF PLAYERS

- a) Substitutes – Each team shall be allowed to nominate no more than five substitutes in each game. Roll-on, roll off substitutes (repeat substitutions) are allowed provided that this is a maximum of 5 from 5 in accordance with the Laws of the Game. ***(Approved by the District FA's AGM in June 2017)***. Substitutes must be named to the Referee before the start of the game, and only those named will be allowed to participate in the game.
- b) Should any nominated player or substitute sustain an injury after the submission of the match card to the Referee and before kick-off, he/she may be replaced provided that the Referee is informed before the commencement of the match.

9 TEAM BENCHES

- a) In the Semi Final and Final ties, only technical staff and substitutes may occupy the team benches and each Club must provide a list of the authorised personnel to the Referee at least 30 minutes before kick-off.
- b) The occupants of the benches must behave in a responsible manner at all times. Misconduct by occupants will be reported by the Referee to the County Football Association, who shall have the power to impose sanctions as deemed fit.

10 LOCATION OF GROUNDS

Each HOME Club must confirm to the Match Officials, and the visiting Club, the location of the ground and their playing colours, at least 5 days before the date of the game. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine of not less than £10.00.

11 TIME OF KICK-OFF AND PLAYING UNDER STRENGTH

- a) Clubs must be prepared to kick-off at the appointed time as notified by the Competitions Secretary.
- b) Those Clubs responsible for a late kick-off shall be fined £2.00 per minute delayed.
- c) No deviation from the appointed time will be allowed unless the Competition Secretary has given prior permission.
- d) Clubs not fielding eleven players at the appointed kick-off time shall be subject to a fine of not less than £10.00 per player short and £5.00 per player short for part of the game or as the Association shall direct.

- e) Clubs failing to fulfil a fixture shall be fined a sum of £25.00 and will be dismissed from the competition.
- f) The Association reserves the right to dismiss teams from the competition in the event of proven misconduct.

12 DURATION OF GAMES

The duration of all games shall be 90 minutes. The half time interval shall be 15 minutes and this may only be altered with the consent of the Match Referee.

13 DRAWN/ POSTPONED GAMES

- a) In the case of a draw after 90 minutes the tie shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the procedure adopted by the International Football Association Board.
- b) Postponed or abandoned games shall be played on a date to be notified by the Competition Secretary.
- c) When a match has been postponed or abandoned before the completion of 90 minutes, with neither club being at fault, it must be replayed on the same ground.
- d) The Association shall deal with matches abandoned through the fault of the clubs.
- e) It is the responsibility of the HOME club to advise the District Football Association, their opponents and the Match Officials, when a game has been postponed for whatever reason. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £15.00.

14 ADVICE OF RESULT

- a) Immediately each game is completed the HOME team must notify the result as directed and by no later than 6.00pm on the date the match is played.
- b) Notice of the result of each match together with the full names of the competing players (showing name against the number of the shirt worn in the match) shall be sent by each of the competing clubs on the match card provided so as to reach the Competition Secretary within 72 hours of the game being played.
- c) Clubs failing to comply with this rule will be subject to a fine of £15.00 for each offence.

15 PROTESTS

- a) Protests other than those under 5(c) must be lodged in duplicate with the District Competitions Secretary within 3 days after the match. Two copies of the protest must be lodged, and must be accompanied by a fee of £25.00. Such fee may be forfeited to the funds of the Association if the protest is not upheld. The club adjudged in default may be called upon to pay such expenses as the Association shall determine.
- b) In the Final tie, all protests as to a player's eligibility must be lodged with two members of the Council of the Association prior to the conclusion of the game.
- c) Should either of the two clubs in connection with a protested Cup-tie have a member on the Council of the Association, such member shall withdraw whilst the said protest is being considered.

16 APPEALS

- a) A Club, within 7 days of receipt by them of written notification of the decision of Stockport & District Football Association, may appeal against such decision by lodging particulars, in duplicate, accompanied by a fee of £35.00, such appeal to be addressed to the General Manager of the Cheshire County Football Association Limited for the adjudication of a Board of Appeal, whose decision shall be final and binding on all concerned.
- b) In the event of an appeal being successful, the fee shall be returned to the club. In whole or in part at the discretion of the Board of Appeal, who shall decide by whom the costs of the appeal must be borne. A copy of the appeal must be sent to the Secretary of the Stockport & District Football Association, and the operation of the decision of the Stockport & District Football Association shall not be suspended pending the result of the appeal, unless a Board of Appeal, or the Council of the Cheshire County Football Association Limited, through its Officers, orders such suspension.
- c) Any such appeal shall be permitted only on one or more of the following grounds:

The General Purposes Committee, or a committee appointed by the General Purposes Committee,

- i. misinterpreted/failed to comply with the procedures relevant to the hearing of the charge;
 - ii. came to a decision on the facts of the case, which no reasonable body could have reached; or
 - iii. imposed a sanction that is excessive.
- d) Any appeal must be made in accordance with such procedures as may be determined by the Cheshire County FA from time to time.

- e) For the avoidance of doubt, a Club may not appeal against any penalty imposed on it other than expulsion from the Competition.

17 SEMI-FINAL AND FINAL TIES

The Council of the Association shall decide the grounds, dates and kick-off times for semi-final and final ties.

Each Club shall be provided with 20 complimentary tickets for the Final ties for the sole use only of participating players and Club Officials. **(NOTE: the competing Clubs, prior to the Final tie, may purchase additional tickets from the Competition Secretary).**

18 AWARDS TO FINALISTS

- a) The Association will present 16 trophies to the winners and runners-up, and trophies to the Match Officials in the Final ties.
- b) No player/Club Official sent from the field of play, or dismissed prior to or after the Final tie, for whatever reason, shall receive a trophy/medal on the day.
- c) It shall be open to such a player's or Club Official's Club to apply to the Secretary of the Stockport & District Football Association, in writing, within 14 days of the Final tie, for the player/Club Official to receive a trophy/medal giving reasons why it is felt this should be agreed.
- d) The General Purposes Committee shall have sole discretion in considering such a request once the alleged misconduct, which resulted in the player/Club Official being dismissed has been dealt with by the Cheshire County Football Association, and its decision shall be final and binding.

19 RECEIPT OF THE TROPHY

At the conclusion of the Final tie (provided no protest has been lodged – see *Rule 15 (a)* – the Cup and trophies/medals shall be presented on the ground.

The holders shall afterwards give an agreement to the Competitions Secretary of the Association, to the following effect:

"I..... being Secretary of the.....Club, the said Club, which has now been declared to have won the.....District FA Senior Cup/Sunday Cup/ Sunday Trophy (*delete as appropriate*), and the same having been delivered to us by Stockport & District Football Association, do hereby, on behalf of the said Club, and individually, engage to return the same to the Competitions Secretary of the said Association for the time being on or before the last day of February next, in good order and

condition, and provided the Cup is destroyed by fire or lost by any other accident whilst in our possession, we agree to refund the Association the amount advised to us of its value”.

The Association shall insure the Cup annually.

Failure to return the Cup by the last day of February, and in good order, will incur a fine not less than £50.00.

20 FINES AND CORRESPONDENCE

- a) All fines should be paid within 14 days of notification. Failure to do so will incur a further fine of £25.00 for failing to deal with correspondence in accordance with District Football Association Rule 11.3.
- b) Failure to respond, within 7 days, to District Football Association Rule 11.3, will result in the matter being referred to the Cheshire County FA that may result in your Club/team fixtures being suspended until the outstanding monies have been paid. This action may also incur and additional administrative fee from Cheshire County FA in addition to the outstanding fines.

21 MATCH EXPENSES

- a) Clubs entering the competitions, being drawn at home, and not having a ground acceptable for the playing of the game, and then having to play on their opponent’s ground, shall be treated as having been drawn away from home.
- b) In all rounds of the competitions, the match fees shall be shared 50/50%. The Association will pay the Match Officials in the Final ties, the fees shall be determined by the Competition, having regard to the fees set by the Cheshire County FA*

CUP TIE CHARGES AND EXPENSES

*** Fees for season 2018-2019 are as follows:**

All rounds, including Finals	
Referee	£28.00 inclusive of travel expenses
Assistant Referee(s)	£20.00 inclusive of travel expenses
Final	Souvenir Trophy

- c) In the event of a postponed or cancelled game, the Match Officials attending shall be entitled to a half fee.

APPENDIX 1

NOTES:

Cheshire County FA has introduced standard rules for District FA cup competitions.

As there are existing variations between Districts, Rule 2(d) permits anything specific to a District to be itemised in an addendum to the entry form and/or rules.

For Stockport & District FA, the following addenda to the Rules shall apply and have equal status to the rules themselves:

1. The Association shall organise three Cups Competitions each season for Clubs affiliated to Cheshire County FA:
 - i. The Stockport FA Senior Cup – for open age Clubs playing football in a sanctioned League on Saturdays.
 - ii. The Sunday FA Sunday Cup – for open age Clubs playing football at the appropriate level* in a sanctioned League on Sundays.
 - iii. The Sunday Trophy – for open age Clubs playing football at the appropriate level* in a sanctioned League on Sundays.
 - ***The appropriate playing levels will be determined each season, by the Cups Committee, in consultation with local Leagues (District FA Rule 5).***
2. Any Club wishing to enter their second, reserve (or variations thereof) team in any of the Association's competitions, shall be allowed to do so provided that the Senior of the club's teams has entered either a County or more senior District competition but no club shall be permitted to enter the same team in more than one District Association competition.
3. Please note that rule 2(c) is not permission to invite clubs from outside the Cheshire FA boundaries unless special permission from Cheshire County FA has already been given.

OTHER EXAMPLES OF IMPORTANT INFORMATION

4. A reserve or second team (that plays in either the top two divisions of their Sunday League), which would be eligible to enter the Sunday Cup competition, but whose first team has entered that competition, shall not be eligible to enter the Sunday Trophy competition. Only teams within your club that are currently in the 3rd Division or Lower Division within their league are able to joint the Sunday Trophy but not the Sunday Cup.
5. A player who has played for a Club in the Sunday Trophy in the current season is not eligible to play for that Club's team in the Sunday Cup competition in that same season and vice versa.

6. In relation to the player qualification for final ties,
 - i. a player who transfers to another club and then returns to his original club must re-qualify to play again in that season's competition.
 - ii. participation in friendly or practice games does not count as contributory to the qualification specified.
7. **Please note that where the referee requests it, (Rule 7(a)), Clubs must provide a suitable person to assist him/her in line duties**
8. The Cups presented to the winning finalists each season, must be returned to Competitions Secretary by the end of February of the following year to facilitate the engraving and any maintenance required. Clubs failing to return the Cup on time will be fined £.50.00
9. Semi Final Ties – SDFA will try where possible to ensure that all Semi Final Ties are played on neutral grounds. Please note that this is only where possible and if not possible the games will be played at the home ground of the 1st Drawn Team.

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Ref.DFACupRulesSupplementaryNotes