Cumberland Football Association
U16 County Cup Competition Rules
Season 2018-2019

Constitution

1. The Competition will be played within the rules and regulations of the Cumberland Football Association and the Football Association and will be in accordance with the 'laws of the game' (as determined by the International Football Association Board).

Entry

2. Entry into the competition is optional for all affiliated clubs. Teams wishing to enter the competition must follow the criteria stipulated by the CFA. Teams withdrawing from the competition following the first round draw will be fined £30. Clubs having more than one team may enter additional teams on notification to the County FA.

Qualification of Players

3. All players must be under the age of 16 on the 31st August of the current season. In accordance with the foregoing qualifications a player under the age of 15 (as at midnight on the 31st August) in the playing season must not play in a match where any other player is older or younger by 2 years or more.

4. A player would be considered as registered for a club in this competition if he is currently registered with that specific club as a league player.

5. A player may not be registered for a club in the competition after midnight on 31st March of the current season, except by special permission of the CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee. Clubs found to play unregistered players will be dismissed from the competition.

6. A player signing for more than one club will be banned from taking part in the competition

7. All registrations must comply with the regulations of the specific clubs associated league rules.

8. In accordance with FA regulations, players that are registered with a Premier League or Football League Academy or Centre of Excellence are not permitted to participate. Clubs not complying with this rule will be expelled from the competition.

Conditions of Play, Times of Kick off, Postponements, Substitutes

9. Matches will be 11 v 11 with a minimum of 7 players, and the match ball used will be a size 5

10. Matches can be played on FA approved 3rd Generation artificial surfaces. The home club is responsible for advising participants of footwear requirements when confirming match arrangements at least 3 days prior to the tie.

11. The dates for each round indicated with the draw for the competition are binding.

    However clubs wishing to play their ties prior to the end date specified are eligible to do so if the proposed date is mutually agreeable with both clubs, the CFA appointed match official and the authorising authorities (league and CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee). Clubs wishing to

play prior to the specified draw date must submit a written request to the CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee at least 7 days prior to the specified draw date. The CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee will then make a decision, which is final and binding.

Any club wishing to play after the specified draw date must submit a written request to the CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee (outlining the reason for the application) at least 7 days prior to the specified draw date. The CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee will then make a decision, which is final and binding.

Clubs not complying with these dates or a decision made by CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee will be dismissed from the competition.

12. The date and venue for the Final tie will be specified by the County FA.

13. Games will be played on either a Saturday or Sunday. Start times for games will be determined by the home team's normal kick off time. Teams can agree mutual arrangements however; these must be in compliance with Rule 11 and the County Office informed of any amendment.

14. Both secretaries are to contact each other to confirm colours and directions to the ground. When colours clash the away team will change. In the event of a colour clash in the final tie both teams will change.

15. The duration of the game will be 80 minutes, 40 minutes each way. Should the game be tied at full time, 20 minutes extra time will be played (10 minutes each way) will be played. If the game is still tied, then kicks from the penalty mark will decide the winners. Extra time can be dispensed with if this is agreed mutually between both teams and notified to the match official. The half time interval shall not exceed 10 minutes and can only be altered with the consent of the match referee.

16. A total of five substitutes are allowed, all may then be repeated within the substitute process. All substitutes must be named on the team sheet submitted to the referee as per Rule 22. Failure to adhere to this procedure will result in the referee not allowing unnamed substitutes to take part in the game.

17. The home team must also provide at least 2 footballs that are 'fit for play'.

18. Clubs reported for late kick off may be fined, at the discretion of the CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee, the sum of £25.

19. Any competition matches postponed on account of the ground conditions should comply with FA procedures. Should the ground be declared unfit it is the responsibility of the home club to immediately advise the CFA, the visiting club and the Match Officials (if known), and the County FA (via 07771 922164 or e-mail countycups@CumberlandFA.com)

20. Games cancelled due to ground conditions will be rescheduled for the following week at the home club's venue. If the ground is still not playable the second week, alternative arrangements must be made for that day. The options available are:
    a) the home team to find an alternative venue and inform the opposing secretary of the new arrangements
    b) travel to the opposing teams ground to fulfil the fixture.

21. The CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee shall review all matches abandoned and rule in line with FA regulations. Any clubs found to be in default of these rules may be subject to any action decided by the CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee.

22. Both clubs must complete their team sheet prior to kick off with the yellow copy passed to the opposition Secretary. No later than 10 minutes prior to the commencement of the game, the pink copy must be submitted to the match referee. This must indicate the full names of the 11 players and any substitutes which may be used during the game. Numbered shirts must be worn and the names of the players must coincide with their shirt number identified on the team sheet.

Reporting Results

23. Within 2 hours of completion of the game, the home club secretary or a designated contact is responsible for notifying the result to the County Office. This should be done by the automated SMS service.

    Where a text has not been received, or you have been instructed otherwise, clubs should ensure that the result is confirmed by sending an e-mail to countycups@CumberlandFA.com

    Failure to comply will result in the offending club being fined £5. Clubs should also communicate the result of the game to their relevant league secretary.

24. Within 72 hours of the conclusion of the game (Sundays accepted), the white copy must be forwarded to the County Office. Each club secretary is responsible for ensuring that the team sheet is fully completed, including details of scorers, substitutions, referee's name, marks awarded and any cautions or dismissals highlighted against the player concerned. Failure to return the team sheet within the allotted time, returning the sheet incomplete or defaced will result in that club being fined £5.

Referees

25. All County Cup games must be officiated by a registered and appointed referee. This referee must have been approved by the CFA Appointments Officer or a designated Appointments Officer.

    Any club failing to provide a registered and appointed referee, in accordance with the operations of the above rule, shall be charged with failing to fulfil a fixture and the game awarded to the opposition side.

26. In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed referee the competing clubs are able to agree upon a substitute who is acceptable to both sides. A referee thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee.

    If clubs are unable to agree upon an acceptable substitute then the match will be abandoned and refereed to the CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee for their deliberation. The CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee's decision is final and binding.

27. The match officials' fees will be £25 (where appointed, assistant referees fees will be £15). These fees will be shared equally between both clubs with the club secretary of the team drawn at home being responsible for payment to the match officials as quickly as possible following completion of the game but no later than 30 minutes after this. This is still applicable if the game is transferred to another venue, in compliance with Rule 20.

28. In the event of a match not being played because of circumstances over which the clubs have no control, the match officials, if present, shall be entitled to half their match fee.

29. A Referee not keeping their engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non appearance, must be reported to the CFA.

Protests

30. Any protests must be received at the County Office within 72 hours of the completion of the game (Sundays accepted). These must be received in writing, signed and accompanied with a £25 fee.

31. A Club that is expelled from the Competition may appeal in writing within 7 (seven) days against that decision to an appeal board comprising of 3 (three) Members of CFA selected by the Chairman of CFA or his nominee.

    Any such appeal shall only be permitted on one or more of the following grounds:

    (i) The CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee or appointed Sub Committee misinterpreted / failed to comply with the procedures relevant to dealing with the charge.
    (ii) The CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee or appointed Sub Committee came to a decision on the facts of the case which no reasonable body could have reached; or imposed a sanction that is excessive.

    Any appeal must be made in accordance with such procedures and appeal fee as may be determined by The Association from time to time.

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

Trophy

32. The CFA shall present a trophy and medals to the winners and runners up (match day squad only) in the competition.

    The trophy is the property of the Company and may never be won outright.

    The Recipient club must sign an agreement with the CFA and shall be responsible for engraving their details on the trophy.

    Any club not returning the Competition trophy by the due date, returning them in poor condition or without being engraved may be fined.