

LANCASHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

THE COUNTY GROUND, THURSTON ROAD, LEYLAND, LANCASHIRE, PR25 2LF

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Lancashire FA

SENIOR CUP COMPETITION RULES

SEASON 2018/19

1. NAME OF THE COMPETITION

The Competition shall be called "The Lancashire Football Association Senior Cup Competition".

2. CUP OWNERSHIP

The ownership shall be the property of the Lancashire Football Association (The Association). The Trophy cannot be won outright. The Competition shall be annual unless otherwise specified by The Council. When the winning Club shall have been ascertained, the Association shall present the Cup to such Club, which shall be responsible for its return to the Association prior to leaving the facility on the same evening for safekeeping. The winning Club shall be presented with a replica Cup for keepsake.

3. MEDALS

The Association will present 20 medals to the two competing finalists. Medals will also be presented to the Match Officials. When a Player or Club Official taking part is dismissed or ordered to leave the field of play for misconduct, the medal to which they may be entitled may be withheld at the discretion of the Senior Cup Competitions Committee (The Committee).

4. CONTROL OF THE COMPETITION

- (a) The ownership, organisation, control and management of the Competition and any rights associated with it of any nature shall be vested entirely and exclusively in the Association.
- (b) The Committee shall have the authority to make, delete, amend rules for the organisation, control and management of the Competition, as it deems expedient (The "Competition Rules").
- (c) All Clubs completing in the Competition shall be bound by and comply with the Competition rules.
- (d) The Committee shall have the power to exercise all powers in relation to the Competition and to make decisions on all matters arising out of or in relation to the organisation, control and management of the Competition (including as to eligibility and qualification) which shall be final and binding on all participants in the Competition. In relation to these and any other matters not specifically mentioned in the Competition Rules, The Committee shall have the power to take such action and make such decisions, orders, rulings and impose such penalties as it deems necessary. Following such procedures as it considers appropriate, decisions shall be final and binding on all participants, subject to Rule 20. In considering such matters, The Committee shall not be bound by any enactment or Rule of Law relating to the admissibility of evidence in proceeding before a Court of Law.

The Committee shall have the power to appoint a Sub-Committee to exercise the powers of The Committee in order to expedite decisions to ensure the progress of the Competition.

- (e) Subject to applicable UEFA, FIFA and F.A. rules or regulations, Clubs may enter into commercial arrangements in relation to matches in the Competition which do not in anyway conflict with the commercial contracts and duties of Clubs. Clubs must however indemnify the Association and its Officers, Directors, Employees and authorised Representatives from and against any claims for direct or consequential loss or damage by any party to a commercial contract caused or otherwise attributable to any failure or

breach by the Club to fully perform or observe to obligations and responsibilities under these provisions.

5. ELIGIBLE CLUBS

- (a) Participation in the Competition shall be open to Clubs whose First Affiliation is to the Association and who are eligible and approved by The Committee. Clubs from another County F.A. may enter providing the Club meets the requirements of the Association and its Parent Association.
- (b) Clubs who choose not to play or fulfil their agreement to play, shall, in lieu of competing contribute a sum per Club, fixed by The Committee and paid to the Association for non-participation. The Association will invoice such clubs re amount payable with a date by which payment should be completed.

6. ENTRY DATES AND FEES

A Club wishing to participate in the Competition must indicate in writing by the 1st August, its desire to enter the Competition. Competing Clubs shall pay an entrance fee of £50 prior to the commencement of the Competition.

7. ORGANISATION OF THE COMPETITION

The Clubs having been accepted for entry by the Association will play on a Knock Out basis with the designated games completed by the defined date.

8. DRAW FOR ROUNDS

- (a) The Teams shall be drawn in couples. The winner of the tie will proceed to the next stage until two Clubs remain to play the Final Tie. The Association will circulate details of the ties to be played throughout the Competition. They will also indicate the closing date for each round, which must be observed.
- (b) In each tie the game shall be played on the ground of the Club first drawn, unless otherwise mutually arranged, and the consent of The Committee obtained, subject as hereafter provided.
- (c) A Club not having an enclosed ground where gate money may be taken and not having obtained the consent of The Committee to the use of an alternative ground in accordance with rule 8(b) shall play on its opponents ground.
- (d) No monetary or other consideration shall be asked for, offered or paid in connection with negotiations for change of venue.
- (e) Clubs shall not play on a neutral ground without the consent of The Committee.
- (f) The Committee shall have the power to order any match to be played on an alternative ground or date if it is considered appropriate.
- (g) A Club must have a regular use of a ground where a charge of admission may be made. Dressing and washing accommodation must be separate for each Team and Match Officials. Separate toilets must be provided for dressing used by the Players and Match Officials, which are not available for spectator use.
- (h) If the ground of the Club entitled by the draw to have the home advantage is considered unsuitable for the tie, having regard to all the circumstances the opposing Club may appeal to the Association within 3 days of the receipt of the draw. Such appeal to be

accompanied by a fee of £25, which may be forfeited if the appeal is not sustained. The Committee will make its decision, which shall be binding to both parties.

The payment of the Appeal expenses shall be at the discretion of the Committee.

- (i) Each Club must take every precaution to keep its ground in playing condition. Where there is doubt relating to the fitness of the ground for play then a Referee of the level of the match must be brought in to decide on the fitness of the ground no later than 2 hours before the time of kick-off. Where there is doubt Clubs are asked to arrange an early inspection to prevent unnecessary travel.
- (j) Ties must be played on neutral grass pitches.
- (k) In the event of the tie being replayed by the order of The Committee all expenses shall be paid for by the defaulting Club.
- (l) Admission fees may be charged for each game. The Final Tie admission price to be arranged between the Clubs and The Committee.
- (m) Goal nets and corner flags to be used in all ties. Failure to observe these requirements will result in a fine.
- (n) Any Club refusing or failing to play the Club against which it has been drawn upon the date fixed for the tie to be played shall, unless otherwise decided by The Committee be adjudged to have lost the match, and fined £50.
- (o) Within seven days following the notification by The Association of the draw for each round, the Club first drawn must communicate with the opponent Club to notify the location of the ground and other match details and notify The Association of its receipt. Failure to comply with this requirement shall incur a fine of £10.

9. CLUB COLOURS

- (a) Where the colours (shirts, shorts or socks) of the two competing Clubs are similar the Away Club must change unless alternative arrangements are mutually agreed by the competing Clubs.
- (b) Team colours must not clash with the outfit worn by the Match Officials. In the event of Clubs not agreeing the colours to be worn by their respective teams The Committee shall decide.
- (c) Goalkeepers must wear colours, which distinguish them from other players and Match Officials. In any Semi-Final or Final the first named Club is classed as Home.
- (d) Player's shirts must be clearly numbered on the back and be in accordance with the list handed to the Referee before any tie. There must be no change of numbers during the match except on a change of Goalkeeper or where a Player has been required by the Referee to change his shirt because of a blood injury. The Captain shall wear a distinguishing armband to indicate his status.
- (e) Advertising may be worn on Player's clothing in accordance with the Rules of The Football Association.

10. DURATION OF MATCHES

- (a) The duration of each match shall be 90 minutes with two equal halves of 45 minutes.
- (b) In the event of the score being level after 90 minutes then extra time will NOT be played. However, the winners of the tie will be decided by the takings of kicks from the penalty

mark in accordance with the recommendations of the International Board, under the direction of The Committee.

- (c) The half- time interval shall not exceed 15 minutes.
- (d) Any Club being reported for a late kick off will be dealt with by The Committee. If a Club is found guilty of such misconduct they will be fined a minimum of £10 and up to a maximum of £25 as determined by The Committee.
- (e) The Final Tie may be played as a one off game or on a two-legged basis as decided by The Committee in conjunction with the Clubs.

11. PROVISIONS FOR THE PLAYING OF MATCHES

The following provisions shall apply:

- (a) Clubs shall not mutually arrange to play a match in lieu of a Cup Tie.
- (b) Any late kick off to be reported by the Match Referee to the Association.
- (c) In the event of any match resulting in a draw after 90 minutes, kicks from the penalty mark will be used to decide the winner in accordance with the procedure adopted by the International Football Association Board.
- (d) If a match is postponed or abandoned before the completion of 90 minutes and neither Club is at fault, it must be played on the same ground by mutual consent.
- (e) Gate receipts may be taken by the Clubs and after paying match expenses split equally between the two Clubs. In the Final Tie the net receipts will be split equally after match expenses have been paid between the two competing Clubs and the Association (1/3 each).
- (f) In an event of a match being postponed due to the unplayable condition of the ground, it will be replayed on the ground on which it should originally have been played, unless mutually agreed and approved by The Committee.
- (g) If a game is abandoned and the designated time has not been played, the game must be replayed on the ground of the Club originally drawn at home if neither of the competing teams were at fault.
- (h) If a game is abandoned for reasons of late kick off and or misconduct, the ground for the replay shall be determined after consideration of the following circumstances:
 - (i) Where the visiting team is responsible for the late kick off, the replay shall be on the same ground.
 - (ii) Where the fixture has not been completed within 14 days of the competition date, the Association shall find an alternate ground, failing which The Committee may decide that the Home Team shall complete the fixture at the away ground.

12. FLOODLIGHTING

- (a) All matches in the competition may be played in flood lit conditions, provided that the floodlighting meets the approval of The Committee.
- (b) The Referee shall decide at which point, if any the floodlights shall be used during the cause of the match. The Referee shall discuss the matter with the Officials of the Home Club before the match and agree on an appropriate signal.

13. REPORTING RESULTS

- (a) The Secretary of each Club is responsible for sending details of the match result, Players who played in the match and goal scorers within 7 working days to the Association. Failure to forward these details will incur a fine of £15.
 - (b) After each tie the Home Club Secretary must report the result within 12 hours of the completion of the tie to the Association's Competitions department. Results may be reported in one of 3 ways:
 - (i) Via the Full-Time SMS system
 - (ii) Via Email to Darren.Swarbrick@LancashireFa.com
 - (iii) Via telephone to 01772 624000, EXT 110
- Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine of £20 being imposed.

14. PROVISION FOR STAGING THE FINAL

- (a) In the Final Tie the choice of ground, (preferably 1st Team ground) to be approved by The Committee in conjunction with both Clubs.
- (b) When a match has resulted in a draw after 90 minutes the winner shall be determined by the taking of penalty kicks in accordance with the procedure adopted by the International Football Association Board.
- (c) If the Final is postponed or abandoned it shall be played as directed by The Committee.
- (d) At least seven days prior the Final Tie, the Secretaries of both competing Clubs must forward to the Association Secretary a list of players from which the Team will be selected, and the colours in which they play. Failure to do so will result in a £15 fine being imposed.
- (e) Competing Clubs must settle all accounts with the staging Club or Organisation within 14 days of the match.

15. PROVISION FOR WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COMPETITION

- (a) Any Club intending to withdraw must give information of their intention to do so to the Secretary of the Competition not less than 8 days before the fixed playing date.
- (b) Failure to comply with the rule will be dealt with by The Committee who have the power to compel the offending Club to pay any expenses incurred and take any further action as deemed expedient.
- (c) Failure to provide a satisfactory reason for withdrawal could mean the Club will not be allowed to play in the Competition in the following season.
- (d) The non-participation fee position will also be reviewed.
- (e) In the Semi-Final and Final Tie any Club failing to play without providing a good sufficient cause for failure to play, may be adjudged by the Association to have been guilty of serious misconduct and liable to be dealt with by The Committee.

16. PROVISIONS CONCERNING QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

- (a) All issues relating to the qualification of Players interpretation of the rules or other matters in dispute shall be referred to The Committee.
- (b) The Players shall be duly qualified according to the Rules of the Association.

- (c) Clubs must play 6 players from first team squad. This rule can be amended at the discretion of The Committee if the two competing finalists mutually agree it would be in the best interests of the Competition.
- (d) A Player shall not in the same season play for more than one competing Club. Members of each respective Team may be changed during the series of matches.
- (e) A Player must have been registered with his Club prior to playing of any round.
- (f) If The Committee has any doubts re the qualification of a player taking part in the Competition it shall have the power to call upon such player or his Club to prove his eligibility according to these rules. Failing satisfactory proof The Committee may disqualify such Player from the Competition, order the game to be replayed, or award the tie to the opponents and/or impose such other penalties and decisions as it thinks fit. A fine may also be imposed on the offending Club of £100.
- (g) Trialists or loan Players are permitted to take part in the Competition.
- (h) The names of Players taking part in any game including Substitutes must be given on the Match Form provided, duly signed and returned within 7 days of the match-taking place.
- (i) A Club may at its discretion use three Substitute Players at any time in a cup-tie except to replace a player who has been suspended from the game by the Referee after play has commenced. The Substitution can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission. The Substitution is completed when the Substitute enters the field of play, from which moment he becomes a Player and the Player whom he is replacing ceases to be a Player. A maximum of 5 Substitutes may be nominated and they must be included on the official team sheet handed to the Referee before the match.
- (j) A player who was not eligible for a tie that was postponed, but is then registered in time for the revised date, will be eligible providing that all other criteria is met
- (k) Any Club found to have played an ineligible Player shall be fined up to £100 and expelled from the Competition.

17. DISQUALIFICATION

The Committee shall have the power to disqualify any competing Club(s) proved guilty of breaching the Rules of the Association or the Cup Competition and the decision of The Committee shall be final and binding.

18. PROVISIONS CONCERNING MATCH OFFICIALS

- (a) In all matches the Referee and Assistant Referees shall be appointed by the Association.
- (b) A Fourth Official will also be appointed.
- (c) In the event of any of the Match Officials failing to arrive or being incapacitated, the two Clubs must agree to a substitute providing one is available who is currently eligible to officiate in a League equivalent to the lowest level of football in which either of the two Teams participate. Such appointed Officials shall have the same power, status and authority as the registered Match Official.
- (d) The fees and expenses paid to all the Officials will be met by the Home Club and will be a match expense. Match Officials shall be entitled to the following fees:

(e)

<i>Referee</i>	<i>Assistant Referee</i>	<i>4th Official</i>	<i>Travel Expenses</i>
£90	£45	£25	£0.40p Per Mile

In the event of the match being played on a mid-week afternoon, the Officials are entitled to an additional £20.00 daytime allowance fee.

- (f) If Officials travel and the game is not played, they will receive half fee and expenses.
- (g) Match Officials shall acknowledge acceptance of appointments for all matches in the Competition to The Association.
- (h) The Home Club **must** confirm all match arrangements with the Match Officials 5 days prior to the date of the game.
- (i) The duties of the Match Officials shall be as defined in the Laws of the Game.
- (j) Match Officials are allowed to wear coloured shirts in this Competition in accordance with the following provisions:
 - (i) Black shirts shall be worn wherever possible.
 - (ii) There will be no designated colour for the alternative shirt, however it shall not clash with the Team's colours. With Teams unable to wear black or dark colours, when there are instances of a colour clash, the Referee must revert back to their black shirt.
 - (iii) When Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials are appointed, all the Officials must wear the same coloured shirt.
 - (iv) Officials must wear black shorts and socks at all times.

19. PROVISIONS CONCERNING PROTESTS

- (a) All questions relating to the qualifications of Competitors or issues relating to the interpretation of the Competition Rules shall be referred to The Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding. The Committee shall consider any such matter in such manner and following such procedures as it considers appropriate. The Committee shall not be bound by any enactment or Rule of Law relating to the admissibility of evidence in proceedings before a Court of Law.
- (b) Where a Club wishes to protest that there has been a breach of the Competition Rules by their opponents, such protest must be made in writing and must contain the particulars of the grounds upon which it is made. The protest must be received by The Association, accompanied by a fee of £25, within 7 days of the match to which it relates. The fee shall be forfeited to The Association in the event of the protest not being sustained. No appeal will be accepted against decisions made (pre, during or post-match) by the Referee.
- (c) The Committee may make such orders and costs as it considers appropriate in relation to any issue or protest referred to it. The Committee may make such orders as it considers appropriate as to the costs incurred by the parties or The Association.
- (d) Any protest relating to ground, goalposts, crossbar or other appurtenances of the game shall not be entertained by The Committee unless an objection has been lodged by the Referee before the commencement of the match and not later than one hour before the official kick off time. The Referee shall require the responsible Club to correct the cause of the objection, if this is possible without unduly delaying the progress of the match.

- (e) Any protest relating to player's eligibility must specify the names of the players protested against and be accompanied by evidence to justify the protest. Each Club may support its own case by witnesses.
- (f) When a protest has been lodged with the Referee, a protest must be made to the Association and objections shall not be withdrawn except by Association permission. A Club summoned to attend a hearing of a dispute or protest may be represented by one of its Members. A Barrister or Solicitor may represent a Club of which he/she is a Member of at the time of the alleged offence but otherwise only with the prior consent of the Association. Any person summoned to attend a hearing of a dispute or protest must attend personally and shall not be legally represented except with the prior consent of The Committee.
- (g) Should The Committee subsequently discover that any rule or has, in its opinion, been violated by mutual agreement between the Clubs or others it shall be in its power to disqualify any such Club from further competing in ties, or to order the match or matches to be replayed without any formal protest having been submitted. Clubs may also be disqualified from future participation in competitions.

20. APPEALS

- (a) A Club may appeal against any penalty imposed on it by The Committee.
- (b) An Appeal Board shall comprise of three members of Council, selected by the Chairman of the Discipline Committee, or his nominee. Any such appeal shall only be permitted on one or more of the following grounds:
 - (i) The Committee or Sub-Committee appointed to consider the charge misinterpreted/failed to comply with the procedures relevant to the hearing of the charge.
 - (ii) The Committee or Sub-Committee appointed to consider the charge came to a decision on the facts of the case which no reasonable body could have reached.
 - (iii) The Committee or Sub-Committee appointed to consider the charge imposed a sanction that is excessive.
- (c) Any appeal must be made in writing within four days (Sundays excluded) of the Club being notified of the decision of The Committee, and accompanied by a fee of £25 which shall be forfeited in the event of the appeal being dismissed.
- (d) Once in receipt of the appeal, the Association shall arrange a hearing to be held within five days (Sundays excepted) of its receipt. The decision of this hearing shall be final and binding on all parties, and shall have no bearing on any other matters, including those of any disciplinary hearing.

21. FIRST AID

It is the responsibility of the Home or Host Club to ensure that First Aid Facilities, equipment and a stretcher available along with a fully qualified person to administer First Aid.

22. TEAM BENCHES

- (a) In all rounds of the Competition the number of Club Players and Officials seated on the team benches, in the designated technical area, must not exceed 9 persons.
- (b) In all games must provide the Match Referee with a list of personnel who will sit in their dug out.

23. NOTICES

All notices required to be given to The Association by any of these Competition Rules shall be addressed to The Chief Executive, Lancashire F.A., The County Ground, Thurston Road, Leyland PR25 2LF.