

# RULES OF THE LONDON FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION YOUTH COUNTY CUP COMPETITIONS 2017-18

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## Under 13 to Under 18 Eleven-A-Side Competitions Under 12 Nine-A-Side Competitions

### 1. Playing Regulations

London FA Youth County Cup 9 and 11-a-side competitions shall be played in accordance with the "Laws of the Game" as defined by FIFA and the Football Association from time to time. Permitted variations to these laws with regard to pitch dimensions, playing time, size of ball etc are specified elsewhere within these rules.

### 2. Priority of Youth County Cup Competitions

- (a) London FA Youth County Cup Competition 9 and 11-a-side matches shall take precedence over all other games with the exception of Football Association and London Football Association County Youth Representative games. ***Teams entering the London FA Sunday Youth Cup may not enter any other county competition. Any teams so doing will be removed from the competition. A player may only play in one county cup i.e. cup tied***
- (b) Teams entering the London FA Youth Cup who are based outside the M25 boundary must play their home ties within the M25 boundary.

### 3. Management

A Competitions Committee shall administer the County Youth Cup Competitions. Such Committee shall be responsible for the day to day management of each Competition. The Competitions Committee shall have the power to make emergency arrangements should they become necessary to enable Competitions to be completed in a timely manner, such arrangements to be ratified by the Youth Division at their next meeting.

### 4. Meetings of Competitions Committee

Meetings of the Competitions Committee shall normally be held to deal with Competition matters, and shall also be empowered to call emergency meetings during the season to deal with urgent matters.

### 5. Alteration of Rules

The Competitions Committee shall make alterations, deletions or additions to these rules as they deem necessary from time to time. Such rules changes shall come into force during the season in which they were adopted.

### 6. Where Communications are to be Addressed

- (a) All communications required by any of these Rules shall be addressed in the first instance to the Secretary of the Competitions Committee.
- (b) Any Club in receipt of correspondence from the Association that calls for reply must submit such reply within seven (7) days of the posting of the Association correspondence. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £20.00. If such correspondence is not answered and the resulting fine not paid within a further seven (7) days, the offending Club shall be suspended and their Leagues notified of their suspension from all competitions.

### 7. Eligibility and Identification of Competitions

- (a) **Eligibility**  
Eligibility shall be in accordance with the Rules of the Youth Cup Competitions of the London Football Association Ltd and the qualification of players is set out in section 9 of these rules.
- (b) **Saturday/Midweek Club Competitions – Under 12 to Under 18 Age Groups - Boys**  
Participation shall be open to Saturday and Midweek teams from all Clubs which are affiliated to the Youth Division of the London Football Association. Girls will also be permitted to play in these competitions in accordance with specific F.A. rules and regulations which may be in force from time to time.
- (c) **Sunday Club Competitions – Under 12 to Under 18 Age Groups - Boys**  
Participation shall be open to Sunday teams from all Clubs which are affiliated to the Youth Division of the London Football Association. Girls will also be permitted to play in these competitions in accordance with specific F.A. rules and regulations which may be in force from time to time.
- (d) **Sunday Club Competitions – Under 12 to Under 18 Age Groups – Girls**  
Participation shall be open to exclusively Girls teams from all Clubs which are affiliated to the Youth Division of the London Football Association. Boys will not be allowed to play in these competitions.
- (e) **Additional Competitions**  
The Competitions Committee shall have the authority to propose the operation of additional County Cup Competitions. These may include smaller sided competitions to be played in accordance with F.A. rules and regulations in force from time to time. Such proposals must receive the endorsement of the Youth Division prior to their commencement.

### 8. Entry of Teams and Fees

- (a) Clubs desirous of entering the County Cup Competitions must complete the Cup Competitions Section of the Annual London FA Affiliation Form (Form A) and, where appropriate, provide full details of the name of each Team involved. The London Football Association must receive such applications and the relevant entry fees by 30th June.
- (b) Entry Fees shall be as laid down by the London Football Association
- (c) Applications received after 30th June will not be accepted unless special circumstances prevail and these must be individually sanctioned by the Youth Division.
- (d) The Competitions Committee shall have the authority to refuse a request for entry to a Cup Competition if it decides that such a refusal is in the best interests of the Competition. Cup fees will be returnable in the event of such refusal of entry.
- (e) The Competitions Committee will sanction competitions on an annual basis. As required a minimum of 8 teams must apply for entry before any individual competition is adopted. The Competitions Committee may, with discretion, allow, the competition proceeding with less than eight entrants.

### 9. Qualification of Players

- (a) The Cup Competitions are not open to Contract players who are registered with F.A. Premier League or Football League Academies or in the F.A. Programme for Excellence. Eligible players are non-contract players who must be Bona-fide members of the affiliated Club and who have not reached the stated age for the competition as at midnight on 31st August of the current season. (See F.A. Rule C.4)
- (b) At each match, all players must be in possession of an identity card with an attached, recent passport type photograph showing a true likeness and the identity card must show the player's date of birth.
- (c) Players of Clubs who are not members of an affiliated League or a League that does not supply registration cards must apply to the Association's County Cup Administration Manager for the purchase of London FA Identity Cards (£2.00 each). These must be completed in full and returned for signature, together with a copy of the player's birth certificate and two passport sized photographs at least seven days prior to the date of the match. (Example: A player registered with an u15 team can only play in that age group and NOT 'up' a year to u16. This applies to all age groups)
- (d) Players shall not be permitted to register with a participating team after 28th February of the current season, nor will any player be permitted to play in a semi-final or final tie unless he/she has played in three (3) or more League, League Cup or County Cup games. The three qualifying games must be played before the semi-final tie for a player to be eligible for the final tie or at the discretion of the LFA County Cup Committee.
- (e) A player will be permitted to play for no more than one team in the Saturday competition and no more than one team in the Sunday competition in the same season. All players will be "cup-tied" to the team for which they first played.

- (f) Players who have not attained the age of nine (10) years by midnight on 31st August of the current season shall not be permitted to participate in 9-a-side competitions of this Association. (see FA Rule C, 4(a), ii)
- (g) Players who have not attained the age of eleven (12) years by midnight on 31st August of the current season shall not be permitted to participate in 11-a-side competitions of this Association. (see FA Rule C, 4(a), ii)
- (h) A player in the age ranges Under 11, Under 12, Under 13 and Under 14 shall not be permitted to play in a match where other players are younger or older by 2 years or more than that player. (FA Rule C, 4(a) vi, A)
- (i) Up to the age of u18 boys & girls are permitted to play in mixed football matches.
- (j) Clubs participating in the Youth Cup Competitions must enter using the exact Club Name as registered with the London Football Association on Affiliation Form A. Any Club entering more than one Team of the same age group must use that same Club Name and, in addition, separately identify those teams by using an additional supplementary name or suffix which provides a clear distinction between those teams. The use of separate names (e.g. Lions, Tigers, Reds, Whites etc) will be permitted. These names must also be shown on the player's Identity Cards.
- (k) Players may only play for one team from the same Club and this must be the team for which that player is registered...(Example: A player registered with an u15 team can only play in that age group and NOT 'up' a year to u16. This applies to all age groups)
- (l) A player who has already played for a team in a Youth Cup match will remain cup-tied to that team and cannot play for another Team or Club by transfer.
- (m) A maximum of 18 players from one team may be used in the cup competition through the season at 11 a side, 16 players at 9 a side.
- (n) In the event of a protest being lodged under any part of this rule, the Club must produce all necessary documents, including, if necessary, the original birth certificate or other proof of date of birth of the player(s) being protested against. The Club must also furnish proof of the date when the player first registered with the Club. It shall be the responsibility of the Club protested against to furnish proof that the player(s) in question are properly qualified.
- (o) Clubs or Teams that are found to be in default of any aspect of Rule 9 shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £20.00 and may be struck out of the Competition.

#### 10. Substitutes

For the Competitions, a Team may, at its discretion, use a maximum of 5 substitutes who must be named to the referee before the kick-off. Such substitutes may be used at any time in the match to replace an existing player but not to replace a player who has been dismissed from the field of play by the referee for misconduct after play has commenced. A player who has been replaced can return to the field of play as a substitute for another player (roll-on/roll-off substitution).

#### 11. Minimum Number of Players

- (a) An 11-a-side match shall be considered invalid if there are fewer than eight (8) players in either team at any time during the match.
- (b) A 9-a-side match shall be considered invalid if there are fewer than seven (7) players in either team at any time during the match.

#### 12. Cup Draws and Final Ties

- (a) The Cup Draws shall take place in July using the FA Full-Time System. The Cup draws shall be attended by the Association's County Cup Administration Manager together with at least two persons nominated by the Cup Competitions Committee.
- (b) Entrants to each Cup Competition shall be randomly drawn in pairs to play one another on a single match knock-out basis. The First Round will be drawn to reduce to a final. Winners shall be drawn in couples in each subsequent round.
- (c) The Final Tie shall take place on a neutral ground as determined by the Competitions Committee.
- (d) The teams and the appointed match officials must be present at the ground at least one hour prior to the advertised time of kick off. Clubs will be fined £15 for non-compliance.
- (e) Teams participating in a final tie will be able to purchase tickets in advance and these tickets will be exchanged on the gate for cup-final programmes. Spectators without pre-allocated tickets will be charged an entrance fee (to include a programme) at the gate. Refusal to pay will result in entry being declined.
- (f) The winning Club in the Final Tie shall hold the Cup until December.
- (g) Players participating in a Final Tie shall be presented with medals or similar mementos. Players dismissed from the field of play for misconduct during the Final Tie shall have their awards withheld unless found not guilty of the alleged offence.
- (h) Referees and Assistant Referees shall be presented with a memento. They will also be entitled to claim their match fee plus travelling expenses.

#### 13. Notification of Match Details

- (a) The Cup Competitions Administrative Manager shall provide Cup Competition Draw Sheets and blank Competition Match Sheets to each participating team at least 14 days prior to the date of each round.
- (b) The Secretary of the Home Club shall notify, in writing or by e-mail, the Away Club Secretary and, the Referee and Assistant Referees (if appointed), of the full match details including the date, venue, kick-off time and directions to the ground at least 10 days prior to the date of the tie. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £15.00.
- (c) It is the responsibility of both clubs to ensure a game is arranged and played.

#### 14. Choice of Ground

- (a) The first named Club in each pairing shown on the Draw Sheet shall be designated the Home Club and shall normally have choice of ground. If the Home Club has to cancel due to pitch conditions, and their opposition has a playable pitch, then they may switch the game. This must be agreed and confirmed prior to the scheduling the match, and put in writing to Association's Youth County Cup Administration Manager.
- (b) Costs for the hire of the pitch and any other related ground expenses are to be borne by the Home Club.
- (c) After any game has been postponed twice due to weather or pitch conditions, the tie may be transferred to either the opposition ground or a neutral venue.
- (d) All games must be played on either grass or approved FA 3G pitches

#### 15. Ground Measurements and Changing Facilities

- (a) For 9-a-side competitions, goals shall be either 16ft wide and 7ft high or 21ft wide and 7ft high. The playing area shall be a rectangle with dimensions and internal markings as defined in Law 1 of the Laws of the Game. The playing area may have a length of no more than 80 yards and no less than 50 yards. Goals must be firmly anchored to the ground and goalpost safety guidelines adhered to at all times. Goal nets must be used in all cup ties. Failure to provide goal nets may result in a fine to the Home Team of £10.00.
- (b) For 11-a-side competitions, the playing area shall be a rectangle with dimensions and internal markings as defined in Law 1 of the Laws of the Game. The playing area may have a length of no more than 130 yards and no less than 100 yards and a breadth of no more than 100 yards and no less than 50 yards. However, the Youth Council recommends that, wherever possible, for matches in the Under 12 to Under 13 age groups, the playing area shall have a length of no more than 90 yards and no less than 75 yards and a breadth of no more than 60 yards and no less than 45 yards.
- (c) For matches in the Under 12 to Under 13 age groups the size of the goals may be reduced to a minimum width of 7 yards and a minimum height of 6ft 6ins. Penalty area markings may be reduced to a minimum of 32 yards length and 12 yards breadth and the goal areas to a minimum of 15 yards length and 4 yards breadth. The penalty spot marking shall be 10 yards from the centre of the goal line.
- (d) Goal nets and corner flags must be used in all, 9, and 11-a-side cup ties. Failure to provide goal nets or corner flags may result in a fine to the Home Team of £10.00. Goals must be firmly anchored to the ground and goalpost safety guidelines adhered to at all times.
- (e) The Home Team shall provide enclosed changing facilities by for all cup ties.
- (f) The Referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the ground at all times and in all ties. Any Club having doubts about the fitness of its ground should ask the referee or an alternative referee, to make an early inspection of the ground with the intention of avoiding unnecessary travel by their opponents.

#### 16. Match Sheet and Player Identity Card Procedures

- (a) Only players who have been properly registered for their teams in accordance with Rule 9 may take part in County Youth cup ties.
- (b) Players must be in possession of their Identity Cards with properly affixed photographs at the match and these must be made available for inspection by the opposing team.
- (c) Before kick-off, each Team Manager must provide their Match Sheet to the opposing Team Manager with the Printed Names and Registration Numbers of each player (including substitutes) shown clearly on the sheet. Each Team Manager shall then supervise the signing of the Match Sheet by their opponent's players and shall check these full signatures to ensure that they correspond with the players Identity Cards.
- (d) Each Team manager should send their own Match sheets to the LFA Office within 4 days of game.
- (e) In the case of dispute concerning the signature or identity of any player, the Team Manager raising such dispute shall not have the power to prevent the player in question from participating in the game. The Team Manager must however, inform the opposing Team Manager of his concern and report the matter, together with all relevant facts, to the Association's County Cup Administration Manager. The Association's County Cup Administration Manager must receive such protest, in writing or E-mail, within two days of the match in question.
- (f) A game shall not commence without the production of Identity Cards. Players who are not in possession of their identity cards shall not be permitted to take part in the match and shall be deemed ineligible. Any team that does not produce its Identity Cards will be disqualified from the competition and required to pay the Official's Fees.
- (g) A player who arrives after the commencement of the match shall be permitted to play but the above Match Sheet and Identity Card procedure must be completed before he/she enters the field of play.
- (h) Appearance on a match sheet shall be deemed to have participated in a game.
- (i) Teams failing to carry out proper Match Sheet and Identity Card procedures shall be liable for a fine of £20.00.
- (j) A Team proven to have fielded an ineligible player(s) shall be deemed guilty of gross misconduct and shall be liable to a fine of £50.00 and shall be removed from the competition.

#### 17. Duration of Play

- (a) The duration of play for each age group shall be as follows:-

Under 17 and 18	45 minutes each way with 15 minutes each way extra time
Under 15 and 16	40 minutes each way with 15 minutes each way extra time
Under 13 and 14	35 minutes each way with 10 minutes each way extra time
Under 12	30 minutes each way with 10 minutes each way extra time
- (b) In special circumstances a reduced duration, but not less than one hour in total, may be played provided this is mutually agreed by both Teams and notified to the Referee before kick-off.
- (c) In the event of scores being level after the expiry of normal time, extra time as defined in Rule 17(a) must be played in all matches. In the event of scores being level after the expiry of extra time, the ties shall be decided by the taking of penalties in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Laws of the Game. There will be no replays and any teams refusing to decide a tie on penalties will be liable to expulsion from the competition and a fine not exceeding £15.00.
- (d) The half time interval shall not exceed 10 minutes, except by special permission of the referee. The referee shall allow time to be extended in each period to account for time lost or wasted in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

#### 18. Team Colours

When the colours of the two competing teams are similar the Home Team must change to an alternative colour. If colours clash in the Final Tie both Teams must change. Teams are not allowed to wear black or very dark blue coloured strips which may clash with the match official's strip.

#### 19. Size of Ball

The size of ball to be used is as follows:-

Under 12, 13 and 14	-	Size 4
Under 15, 16, 17 and 18	-	Size 5

#### 20. Dates of Ties and Kick-Off Times

- (a) All ties shall be played on dates determined by the Cup Competitions Committee as decided and notified one month prior to the commencement of the season. Postponed ties shall take place on the following Saturday or Sunday unless otherwise directed by the Competitions Committee.
- (b) No ties shall take place before the third Saturday or Sunday in September.
- (c) No ties shall be played on the Christmas and New Year weekends or on the Easter weekend.
- (d) Any team unable to fulfil their fixture on the date determined shall forfeit the tie unless written application for postponement is received by the, Association's County Cup Administration Manager at least 28 days prior to the scheduled date. Permission for postponement will only be granted in very exceptional circumstances.
- (e) With the exception of the Final Tie, the arranged kick-off times for matches must be no earlier than 10.00am and no later than 2.00pm for all age groups. During the mid-winter period Under 15, 16, 17 and 18 teams kick-off no later than 1.30pm to ensure that sufficient time is allowed to complete extra time and penalties if required.
- (f) If a team wishes to play a match at a later kick-off time, under floodlights, special permission must be sought, in writing, from the Competitions Committee. Permission will only be granted with the agreement of both participating teams.
- (g) Matches must commence no later than 15 minutes after the scheduled kick-off time unless teams mutually agree. Where a team is not ready to commence play 15 minutes after the scheduled kick-off time a fine of £15 will be incurred by the offending club and the tie will be awarded to the non-defaulting club. Such claim with supporting evidence must be made in writing or E-mail to the Competitions Committee Secretary within 2 days of the match.
- (h) Any Team failing to play without showing good and sufficient cause may be adjudged guilty of misconduct and liable to be dealt with under Rule 23.

#### 21. Reporting of Match Results

- (a) The Secretary of each competing Club shall be responsible for sending a fully completed Competition Result Sheet to the London FA Office. The LFA Office must receive this Result Sheet within three days of the date of the fixture. The Referees Marks Result Sheet must also be sent to the LFA Office. Failure to submit both completed Result Sheets within the prescribed time limit may result in a fine of £20.00. Submission of an incomplete or incorrect Result Sheet shall also be liable to a fine of £15.00. Any club who fails to comply with this procedure after being fined may have their fine doubled.
- (b) The Secretary of each competing Club must also report to the LFA Office the result of this tie or its postponement, by using the new SMS option or you may email report the result in accordance with the instructions sent out from the office. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £15.00.
- (c) Where a match is postponed or abandoned for any reason, the Home Club Secretary must notify by e-mail or telephone the Association's County Cup Administration Manager within 24 hours of the scheduled match. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £15.00.
- (d) Unless otherwise instructed by the Competitions Committee, a postponed match shall be rescheduled for the following week.

#### 22. Referees and Assistant Referees

- (a) Referees and Assistant Referees shall be appointed as defined for each individual Annual Cup Competition.
- (b) Referees under the age of 16 are only eligible to officiate in competitions where the players' age band is at least one year younger than the age of the Referee. e.g. a 15 year old referee may only referee in competitions where the age banding is 14 or younger.
- (c) In all competitions the Officials fees and expenses are to be equally shared by both the Home and Away Teams. The Home Team shall be responsible for paying the Officials their full fees and expenses before the match commences. It is the Home Team's responsibility to recover the Away Team's half share of the Officials expenses.

- (d) Under 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 Cup Competitions

The Home Club must, at least 14 days before the date of the match, apply to the Referee's Appointment Officer for a referee to be appointed to the tie. The competing teams shall each supply an Assistant Referee except in Semi-Final and Final Ties where they shall be appointed by the Appointment Referee's Secretary. Any club who fails to comply with this procedure after being fined may have their fine doubled.

- (e) The competing teams shall each supply an Assistant Referee except in Semi-Final and Final Ties where the Referee and Assistant Referees shall be appointed by the Appointment Referee's Secretary.

- (f) Officials Match Fees and Expenses

The match officials shall be entitled to Match Fees and Expenses in all rounds. Match Fees and Expenses for each age group shall be as follows: -

Under 15, 16, 17 and 18	Referee Match Fee	£30.00.
	Assistant Referee Match Fee	£25.00.
Under 12, 13 and 14	Referee Match Fee	£25.00.
	Assistant Referee Match Fee	£23.00.

Where appointed, Referees and Assistant Referees shall be entitled to claim travelling expenses equivalent to second class rail fares or 35p per mile if travelling by their own transport. Travel expenses incurred by Officials shall be payable in the event of a tie not taking place due to inclement weather, unfit ground or other circumstances over which neither team has control. Where a match does not take place due to non-attendance of a team or by other default, the offending team shall be liable to pay the officials their full match fee in addition to travel expenses.

- (h) Failure to properly comply with Referee and Assistant Referee notification procedures will render the defaulting Club liable to a fine of £15.00. Any club who fails to comply with this procedure after being fined may have their fine doubled.
- (i) The appointed London FA referee once appointed remains the match official. Failure to use the appointed official can result in forfeiture of the game or any punishment the cup competitions committee so decide.
- (j) A kick off time cannot be altered after notification to the referee without permission of the referee secretary.
- (k) Teams who mark a referee 60 or less must submit written explanation of the reasons for the low mark to the Youth Council Referees Appointment Officer within seven days. Failure to mark a referee or to provide written explanation of a low mark shall render the Club liable to a fine of £20.00.
- (l) In the event that a Referee has either not been appointed or fails to attend on the day, the competing Teams MUST agree upon a person to Referee the match. Such person, once agreed, shall have the full powers of an appointed referee and his/her decisions on point of fact shall be final. Failure to agree on a referee will result in both teams being liable to expulsion from the competition.

### 23. Protests, Deposits and Appeals

- (a) Objections relevant to dimensions of pitch, goals, goalposts, flag posts, or other facilities at the match venue will not be entertained unless a formal complaint is lodged by the Club with the referee before the commencement of the game. Such protests must be referred by the Club in writing or E-mail, in duplicate, within two days, to the Association's County Cup Administration Manager and accompanied by a fee deposit of £25.00.
- (b) All questions or objections relevant to eligibility, qualification of competitors or interpretation of rules, herein contained or referred to, shall be adjudicated by the Competitions Committee. Such protests must be referred by the Club in writing, in duplicate, within seven days, to the Association's County Cup Administration Manager and accompanied by a fee deposit of £25.00.
- (c) No protest shall be entertained unless the Club concerned has fully complied with the requirements of Rules 23(a) or 23(b), as appropriate, and provided full particulars of the grounds for such protest. No protest shall be entertained, if in the opinion of the Competitions Committee, it is considered frivolous.
- (d) Upon receiving a correct protest, the Association's County Cup Administration Manager, shall immediately copy such protest to the Club protested against and request a written response.
- (e) Where appropriate the Competitions Committee may request that a Board of Appeal be convened to hear evidence concerning the appeal and to adjudicate accordingly. Clubs shall be given at least seven days notice of the date of the hearing. The composition of the Board of Appeal shall be determined the Chief Executive of the Association. No member of either Club or shall be eligible to sit on the Board of Appeal or to attend the hearing unless as a witness. Each Club may support its case by witnesses but no Barrister or Solicitor shall represent a Club at the hearing unless such person is a bona-fide member of the Club concerned. In the event of the protest not being upheld, the Board of Appeal shall have the power to order the deposit to be forfeited to the funds of the Association and to order the Club concerned to pay such sum as necessary to cover the costs of the hearing and the expenses of the Club protested against. No reference or protest above referred to shall be withdrawn except by consent of the Board of Appeal.

### 24. Decisions relating to Alleged Misconduct or Serious Breach of Rule

- (a) Incidents of abandoned matches, serious misconduct or breaches of rule and late starts beyond the stipulated time must be reported, in writing, in duplicate, by both Clubs to the Association's County Cup Administration Manager within two days of the match. The Association's County Cup Administration Manager will immediately refer such incidents to the Youth Council Competitions Committee. Failure by Clubs to report such incidents within time may result in a fine of £20.00.
- (b) In cases where the facts are not in dispute, the Competitions Committee shall have the power to disqualify, impose the stipulated fine or take no action as appropriate. Such action will not be dependent upon the outcome of any subsequent disciplinary hearing.
- (c) In cases where the facts are in dispute or where further evidence is required, a Board of Enquiry shall be appointed to hear such evidence and to adjudicate on the outcome. The composition, terms of reference and procedure for the Board of Enquiry shall be identical to those in Rule 23(e). Decision of the Board of Enquiry shall final and binding.
- (d) If a tie is ordered to be replayed as a consequence of breach of rule, the Club in default shall be liable in whole or in part for the expenses of such tie as determined by the Board of Enquiry.

### 25. Fines not specified in the rules.

- (a) Any fine not specified in the rules will be to a maximum of £15.

### 26. Withdrawal from Competition

- (a) Any Club withdrawing from a County Cup Competition must notify the Association's County Cup Administration Manager by telephone immediately.
- (b) If the Competitions Administrative Manager receives notice of withdrawal at least seven (7) days before the date of the first scheduled round of the competition, the withdrawing Club shall be liable to a fine of £15.00.
- (c) If the notice of withdrawal is received by the Competitions Administrative Manager less than seven (7) days before the date of the first scheduled round, the withdrawing Club shall be liable to a fine of £25.00 and also be liable for any expenses incurred by the Association, referee and the opposing Club.
- (d) Any Club that withdraws a Team during the season may have their application for entry into any County Cup Competition rejected for the following season.

### 27. Cups and Winners Agreements

- (a) The London Football Association Limited shall be, for all intents and purposes, the legal owner of all Cups competed for in these competitions.
- (b) When the winning Club has been ascertained, the Cup shall be handed to the representatives of the Club and the following document signed: -

We..... the Secretary of ..... Football Club, and ..... and ..... members of and representing the said Club, and having been declared winner of the London Football Association Limited ..... Cup and the said Cup being delivered to us in good order do hereby, on behalf of the said Club individually and collectively engage to return the same Cup to the Association on or before 31st December next in like condition in accordance with the rules of the competition to which we have subscribed. Should the said Cup be lost,

damaged, destroyed by fire or any other cause whilst in our possession we agree to refund the Association the amount of its value or the cost of proper repair as determined by the Association. In consideration of this agreement we will lodge a deposit bond of £50.00 with the Competitions Committee representative before leaving the cup final ground.

- (c) The winning Club shall be responsible, at their cost, for the neat engraving of the Club name and season of award on the Cup. Failure to return the Cup properly engraved will result in the Club being charged with costs incurred by the Association in arranging proper engraving and will be fined £20.00.
- (d) If the Cup is not returned to a Association's County Cup Administration Manager by 31st December, the Club concerned shall be notified that it has forfeited £25.00 of its deposit bond. Should the Cup not be returned within 14 days of this notification the remaining £25.00 will also be forfeited. The Club or Team may also be suspended from all football until the said Cup is safely returned.

**28. Any matter not covered by the above rules**

Any matter not included in these rules will be dealt with at the discretion of the Cup Competitions Committee whose ruling shall be final and binding.

**29. Decisions of the Cup Competitions Committee**

Any decisions made by the London FA Cup Competitions Committee are final and binding and are not subject to an appeal.

**30. Provisions Concerning Appeals**

- (a) A Club that is expelled from the Competition may appeal against that decision to an appeal board comprising 3 members of Council selected by the Chairman of Council or his nominee. Any such appeal shall only be permitted on one or more of the following grounds:
  - (i) The Cup sub-Committee misinterpreted/failed to comply with the procedures relevant to the hearing of the charge.
  - (ii) The Cup sub-Committee came to a decision on the facts of the case which no reasonable body could have reached; or
  - (iii) The Cup sub-Committee imposed a sanction that is excessive.
- (b) Any appeal must be made in accordance with such procedures as may be determined by the Association from time to time.
- (c) For the avoidance of doubt, a Club may not appeal against any penalty imposed on it other than expulsion from the Competition.