

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION LIMITED

COUNTY CUP INFORMATION

2017-2018

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COUNTY CUP - COMPETITIONS RULES 2017-2018

1. NAMES OF TROPHIES.

The Cups shall be called "The Maunsell Premier Cup" "The Hillier Senior Challenge Cup", "The Les Underwood Junior Challenge Cup", "The Lower Junior Challenge Cup", "The Area Cup", "The Under 12, 14 and 16 Youth Invitation Knock-Out Cups", "The Under 12 and Under 16 Youth Invitation Girls Knock-Out Cups", "The Sunday Cup", "The Sunday Trophy", "The Sunday Vase", "The Veterans Cup", "The Under 18 David Joyce Cup", "The Under 18 Youth Cup" and "The Women's Cup".

The Trophies shall never become the absolute property of any Club. The President and Business Manager for the time being and for intents and purposes will be the legal owners of the Cups in trust of the Association.

2. MANAGEMENT OF COMPETITIONS.

The entire control and management of the County Cup Competitions shall be vested in the Council and the County Cup Committee of the Association.

3. CUP COMPETITIONS AND STATUS OF CLUBS TO COMPETE THEREIN.

All affiliated Clubs in Northamptonshire, who regularly play in a sanctioned league, must compete in at least one NFA Cup Competition, unless an application for exemption is granted. Clubs in the area of Peterborough Sub-Association may be granted exemption provided they have entered a Peterborough F.A. Competition, and make written application for exemption to the Business Manager of the Northamptonshire Football Association by August 1st.

- (a) THE MAUNSELL PREMIER CUP. To be completed by Clubs selected by Council Regulations as determined by Council
- (b) THE HILLIER SENIOR CHALLENGE CUP. To be competed for by Senior Clubs affiliated to the Association selected by the Council.
- (c) THE LES UNDERWOOD JUNIOR CHALLENGE CUP. To be competed for by Junior Clubs or reserve teams of Clubs competing in the Hillier Senior Cup affiliated to this Association who compete in Leagues whose Senior Division is considered by the Council to be of suitable standard.
- (d) THE LOWER JUNIOR CHALLENGE CUP. To be competed for by Junior Clubs affiliated to this Association or reserve teams of Clubs competing in the Hillier Senior Cup or Junior Cup, which are considered by the Council to be of suitable standard.
- (e) THE AREA CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION. To be competed for by other Junior Clubs affiliated to this Association and reserve teams of Clubs competing in the Hillier Senior Cup or the Junior and The Lower Junior Cup Competitions which are considered by the Council to be of suitable standard.
- (f) THE SUNDAY CUP. To be competed for by bona-fide Sunday Clubs only affiliated to this Association and considered suitable standard.
- (g) THE SUNDAY TROPHY. To be competed for by bona-fide Sunday Clubs, and reserve teams of Clubs competing in the Sunday Cup, considered by the Council to be of suitable standard.
- (h) THE SUNDAY VASE. To be competed for by bona-fide Sunday Clubs, and reserve teams of Clubs competing in the Sunday Cup and the Sunday Trophy competitions, considered to be of suitable standard by the council.
- (i) THE VETERANS CUP. To be competed for by bona-fide Veterans Clubs.
- (j) THE WOMEN'S CUP. To be competed for by bona-fide Women's Clubs.
- (k) YOUTH INVITATION KNOCK-OUT CUP. To be competed for by Clubs selected by Council.
- (l) THE YOUTH INVITATION GIRLS KNOCK-OUT CUP. To be competed for by clubs selected by Council.
- (m) THE UNDER 18 DAVID JOYCE CUP and THE UNDER 18 YOUTH CUP. To be competed for by bona-fide Under 17 and U18 clubs.

4. DATES OF CUP TIES.

The dates of which the matches of each Competition shall be played, shall be fixed by the Council but under certain circumstances may be subject to one alteration by agreement with County Cup Committee, other than postponement for weather conditions. Notice of any closed dates must be submitted to the County Cup Committee prior to the commencement of the season. Any closed date request during the season will only be considered in the event that the Club has advised their League at least four weeks before the date of the fixture.

5. ENTRANCE FEES.

Clubs shall forward entrance fees by August 1st as follows: Maunsell and Hillier Senior Cup £25.00; Junior Cup, Lower Junior Cup, Area Cup, Sunday Cup, Sunday Trophy, Sunday Vase, Sunday Shield, Veterans Cup and Women's Cup £18.00. The fee for the Youth Competitions is £10.00.

6. VENUES AND APPURTENANCES TO THE GAME.

In all Cup Matches, except Finals, the Club first drawn shall have choice of ground. The Association reserves the right to change the venue of any match if deemed necessary.

Only FA Approved 3G and artificial football turf surfaces may be used in the Competitions with the prior consent of the NFA. In the event of a dispute or protest over the suitability of the surface, in accordance with rule 15, the Association will adjudicate with its decision being final and binding. Any protest on suitability must be lodged 5 days prior to the date of the match. The home club shall allow their opposition the opportunity to use the pitch and train on the surface prior to kick off. The club using the 3G football turf shall advise their opposition at least 10 days before the match of limitations or recommendations on the type of boot or stud that may be used on the surface.

The Secretary of the home club shall notify to their opponents full match particulars including location and directions at least 4 days before the match.

Clubs playing in the Hillier Senior Cup and U18 David Joyce Cup must contact the away team to agree match details within 5 days of receiving the cup draw. Notification of the agreed match date must be submitted to the Association. Clubs failing to notify the Association of the match date will be fined £15.

The Home Club is required to provide suitable washing and toilet facilities for opponents and match officials, including washing facilities. Failure to provide adequate facilities may result in a fine of £20.

The home team must provide a correctly marked out pitch complete with goal posts, goal nets, corner flags and at least two suitable match balls, failure to do so may result in a fine of £10 in each case.

In all Youth fixtures, the home team is required to provide a respect barrier set at least one metre back from the line on the opposite side of the pitch to the management teams and substitutes, all supporters must stand behind this barrier during game time.

Both teams must provide suitable first aid equipment for each match, failure to do so may result in a fine of £10.

In the event of a cup match being postponed for two consecutive weeks due to the non-availability of the designated pitch, the Management Committee shall have the power to order the game to be played at the away teams ground.

The final ties of all Competitions shall be played on grounds selected by the County Cup Committee who shall have direct control of all the arrangements in connection with the matches.

In all matches where assistant referees are appointed, or when instructed by the County Cup Committee, Clubs must provide barriers or roping to ensure no encroaching on the field of play or the impeding of assistant referee. Clubs being unable to comply, due to local conditions must seek guidance of the Association. Failure to comply will be dealt with by the County Cup Committee.

Where dug-outs are provided only the Named Substitutes, Coach (Manager), Assistant Coach (Assistant Manager), and persons responsible for the treatment of injuries to players to be allowed in the dug-out, a maximum of 8 persons, except Maunsell or Senior Cup competitions where a maximum of 10 persons may be allowed, subject to the agreement of the Referee. All other persons to remain behind the barriers. Where a technical area is designated, Law 5 of the Laws of the Game to apply. In matches where dug-outs are not provided and a technical area not defined, the Coach (Manager) may convey tactical instructions to players during the match, however the Coach (Manager) must conduct himself, at all times, in a responsible manner.

7. ADMISSION TO CUP TIES.

The charges for Maunsell and Senior cup ties shall not be less than the normal admission charges unless special permission is granted by the Association. For Junior, Lower Junior, Area, Womens, Veterans, U18, Youth and Sunday Competitions, where a gate is taken, the minimum charge will be £2.00, £1.00 for concessions. The charges for admission to final ties will be determined by the County Cup Committee.

8. APPOINTMENT AND PAYMENT OF REFEREES.

In all Cup matches the referee shall be appointed by the County Cup Committee. In all matches except final ties the home Club shall be responsible for paying the Referee his fee and expenses. Such fee and expenses shall be paid at the conclusion of the match.

The County Cup Committee may appoint assistant referees in Semi-Final and Final ties if they deem such a course necessary. Reserve Officials may also be appointed by the County Cup Committee to all final ties (Fees as per Assistant Referee). Where deemed advisable assistant referees may be appointed in the earlier rounds of all competitions. Referee and Assistant Referees (when appointed) must arrive at the venue for the match at least 30 minutes before the kick-off.

Note: - All references to Assistant Referee(s) apply to neutral appointments only. Where no Assistant Referee is appointed the functions are to be carried out by an assistant referee who must be provided by each club. Failure to provide an assistant referee may result in a fine of £20.

MATCH OFFICIAL FEES

		Referee	Assistant
Maunsell and Senior Cup		£50.00	£34.00
Junior Cup/Lower Junior/Area Cup	£30.00	£20.00	
Sunday Trophy/ Sunday Vase//Veterans		£30.00	£20.00
Women's Cup		£30.00	£20.00
Under 18 Cups		£28.00	£22.00
Youth Invitation Boys and Girls Cup Comps	£23.00	£17.00	

Match Officials may claim travelling expenses from their home address at a rate determined by the Association, currently 35p per mile. If the game is postponed or is not played, and the Referee and/or Assistant Referee are in attendance they will be entitled to half plus expenses.

In all matches, except final ties, the secretaries of the Home Clubs shall notify to the appointed Referee and Assistant Referee, full match particulars at least 3 clear days before the match. Failure to do so may result in a fine of £10. Referees must report Clubs, which fail to observe this instruction. Where assistant referees are not appointed, both Clubs must provide a suitable assistant Referee. Clubs failing to do so may be fined. Separate changing accommodation must be provided for the officials appointed to the matches. Match balls and Assistant Referee flags must be provided by the home team or may be subject to a fine of £10 in each case. Referees must report short teams, late starts, abandoned matches, failure to provide linesman etc. to the Association. Appointed Match Officials to wear standard black uniform.

9 (a) THE MATCH.

Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

In all Cup matches in the event of a draw the match will go straight to penalty kicks. In all matches no extra time will be played.

Matches abandoned through the fault of the clubs shall be dealt with by the Association.

The Senior Cup ties must be completed by the date stated.

If a match is played to a conclusion it must be a cup tie, but if for any cause a match is not completed (within the 90 minutes) it must be played again the full time.

If the scores are level after full time, the tie will be decided by the taking of penalty kicks, as set out by the Football Association. If after the provision of 90 minutes and if the taking of penalties has not commenced and neither Club being at fault it must be played on the ground of the second drawn Club on the following Saturday/Sunday.

The half time interval will not be more than 10 minutes.

The kick-off times shall be:

Senior Cup and David Joyce Cup	7.45pm	
Junior Cup/Lower Junior/Area Cup	2pm	Saturday
Sunday Trophy/ Sunday Vase//Veterans	10.30am	Sunday
Women's Cup	2pm	Sunday
Under 18 Cups	2pm	Sunday
Youth Invitation Boys Under 12	10.30am	Sunday
Youth Boys Under 14 & 16	2pm	Sunday
Girls Cup	10.30am	Saturday

No variance to these kick off times is permitted, unless both clubs and the referee are agreed and permission is granted by the Association.

(b) REGULATIONS FOR YOUTH MATCHES

Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

Duration of Match

U12 60 mins (30 mins each way)

U14 70 mins (35 mins each way)

U16 80 mins (40 mins each way)

All Youth Under 12 fixtures must kick off at 10.30am on a Sunday whilst all Under 14 and 16 fixtures must take place at 2pm on a Sunday, except where both teams and the Association are in agreement to any change.

A size 4 ball must be used for all Under 12 and 14 fixtures whilst a size 5 ball shall be used for Under 16 fixtures.

At least one team official must have a minimum of FA Level 1 Coaching qualification or equivalent, DBC Clearance and have also attended Safeguarding and FA Emergency Aid courses.

(c) REPLAYS.

There is no provision for replays. If a match is abandoned during penalties, then it is just the penalties that are replayed.

County Cup Finals

There will be no provision for a replay of a final. If, at the completion of 90 minutes (or appropriate playing time for youth matches) the scores are level, the tie shall be decided by the taking of penalty kicks, which will be in accordance with provisions for taking of penalty kicks, as set out by The Football Association. In all finals, no extra time will be played.

Breaches of County Cup Rules

Reports of short teams, late starts, abandoned matches, failure to provide assistant referees etc. shall be referred to the County Cup Committee, who will determine any action that may be required.

Assistant Referees (club), to report to Referee not later than 15 minutes prior to kick-off to receive instructions.

10. TEAM COLOURS.

Where the colours of two competing teams are similar, the visiting team must change. Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from other players and the Referee. All shirts must be distinctly numbered on the back. Teams failing to comply will be dealt with by the County Cup Committee. No player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts.

11. (a) QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

- (i) Maunsell/Hillier Senior Cup. A player eligible is one who has been a bona-fide registered playing member of the Club (registered with either the Football Association or respective League for at least 24 hours prior to the match). Substitutions will be 7 from 7 for the Maunsell Cup Final only.
- (ii) Junior Cup, Lower Junior Cup, Area Cup, Sunday Cup, Sunday Trophy, Sunday Vase, Veterans Cup, Womens Cup, U18 David Joyce Cup, U18 Youth Cup, Youth Invitation Boys and Girls Cup Competitions.
A player who is eligible to play is one who has been a bona-fide playing member of the Club for not less than 24 hours prior to the date fixed for the match.
- (iii) Veterans Cup - Players must have attained the age of 35 years on or before 1st September in the current season.
- (iv) Youth Competitions - Identity cards with a current photo, duly endorsed by the respective leagues, must be available for inspection at every match.
- (v) U18 Cups - A player must be under the age of 18 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

In any competition a player shall not play for more than one competing team in the same season, excepting the David Joyce Cup and the Youth Under 18 Cup where a player may play in one of these Youth competitions as well as a Adult Saturday or Sunday Cup competition.

Semi-final: No player shall be allowed to play in a semi-final unless he was eligible to play in an earlier round, or unless special permission is granted by the County Cup Committee.

Final: No player shall be allowed to play in a final tie unless he has already taken part in a previous round, or semi-final, unless special permission is granted by the County Cup Committee.

(b) ALL COMPETITIONS.

A boneafide playing member is one who has been registered to play in the League in which the Club competes. If the League in which the Club plays has a closing date for registration then, after such closing date, special permission for additional players must be obtained from the Association. A player, shall not, in the same season play for more than one Club in the same Saturday Competition, or more than one Club in the Sunday Competition, but may play for an additional Club in a more senior Saturday Competition or a more senior Sunday Competition, provided that he has been properly transferred/registered, this does not apply to the Maunsell Cup. A player may not return to a lower Competition having played in a more senior Competition.

(c) CLUBS WITH TWO OR MORE TEAMS.

Members of each respective team may be changed during the series of matches in any of the Competitions. A player who is a member of the Club with two or more teams entered in two or more Competitions will be ineligible to play in the Lower Competition/s by virtue of his playing in a higher Competition. Clubs who are eligible to enter both Saturday and Sunday Competitions must only play players who are registered for Saturday Football in Saturday Competitions, and those registered for Sunday Football in

Sunday Competitions. In exceptional cases permission by the Association, upon request, may be granted for a variance of this rule.

(d) POSTPONED, DRAWN AND ABANDONED MATCHES.

In cases of postponed, drawn, abandoned, or replayed matches only those players shall be allowed to play who are eligible on the date originally fixed for the tie to be played, except a player who has been suspended who may play following the expiry of any suspension.

(e) CONTRAVENTION OF RULES OF QUALIFICATION.

Any Club contravening this Rule may be struck out of the Competition, and may be fined a minimum of £30.00.

(f) SUBSTITUTIONS.

Except for matches played in the Hillier Senior Cup or Les Underwood Junior Cup, a Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use 5 substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from 5 players. A player who has been substituted himself becomes a substitute and may replace a player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

In the Hillier Senior Cup or Les Underwood Junior Cup, a Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use 3 substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from 5 players.

The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than 15 minutes before the start of the match and a Player not so named may not take part in that match.

A player who has been selected, appointed or named as a substitute before the start of the match but does not actually play in the game shall not be considered to have been a player in that game within the meaning of Rule 8 of this Competition.

12. FAILING TO FULFIL FIXTURE.

Any Club refusing to play, failing to play, scratching from playing, or failing to complete the match against the Club with whom it has been drawn within the time stated, may be struck from the competition, and fined £500 for Maunsell Cup, £250 for the Senior Cup and £50 for Junior Cup, Lower Junior Cup, Area Cup, Veterans Cup, Women's Cup, Sunday Competitions, U18 Cups, Youth Invitation Boys and Girls Cup Competitions.

13. RESULT OF THE MATCH.

Clubs are asked to text the result of the match to the Association via the FA Full Time text service. Notice of the result of each match, with name of the players, shall be sent by both of the competing Clubs so as to be with the Secretary of the association within 3 days after the match has been played. Email or posting to full time is acceptable. Clubs failing to comply with this rule may be subject to a fine of £15. Incorrect or falsified result sheets will be referred to the County Cup Committee, who will deal with as deemed necessary.

14. MATCH EXPENSES.

In all Competitions, including replayed matches, the following charges may be made if applicable:

Printing, Postage and Advertising, Policing, Referees and Assistant Referee, Floodlights (not exceeding £50), pitch as per cost of hire from local authority or a maximum of £70 if privately owned, in the case of a 3G pitch a maximum of £100, Travelling costs of visitors, which shall be based on a maximum of 4 cars - mileage allowance, rate as determined by the Association, currently 35p, which must be assessed from the headquarters of the visiting Club to the pitch or

changing rooms of the home Club and for the return journey. When gate receipts are taken. If after expenses have been deducted, any surplus or losses to be equally divided between competing Clubs. When no gate receipts are taken the total cost of the match to be divided between the competing Clubs.

- (a) If any match is ordered to be replayed in consequence of breach of Rules, the Club in default shall not receive any share of the proceeds of such replayed matches (except cost of travel) without the consent of the Council, and such consent will only be given under special circumstances. If consent is not given the share shall be taken by the Association.
- (b) In the Semi-Finals and Final of the Maunsell Senior Cup Competition, the Association and competing Clubs to equally share the net gate. If any loss is sustained the Association and competing Clubs to share such loss.

In the Junior, Lower Junior, Area, Veterans, Women's, Youth Invitation and Sunday Competition Finals, the Association shall take the gross gate and be responsible for all expenses.

15. PROVISIONS CONCERNING PROTESTS

All issues relating to the interpretation of the Competition Rules, shall be referred to the County Cup Committee, whose decision shall be, subject to Rule 16, final and binding. The County Cup Committee shall consider any such matter and following such procedures as it considers appropriate. The County Cup 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.

Where a club wishes to protest that there has been a breach of the Competition rules, 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 Northamptonshire Football Association accompanied by a fee of £25, within two working days of the match to which it relates. The fee may be forfeited to the Association in the event of the protest not being sustained.

The County Cup Committee may make such orders as it considers appropriate in relation to any issue or protest referred to it. The County Cup Committee may make such orders as it considers appropriate as to the costs incurred by the parties or the Association.

Any protest relating to the ground, goal posts or bars or other appurtenances of the game shall not be considered by the County Cup Committee unless an objection has been lodged with the referee and the home club at least one hour before the official time of the kick off. The referee shall require the home club to correct the cause of the objection, if this is possible without unduly delaying the progress of the match.

Where an objection has been lodged with the referee and the home club as above, a protest must be made to the Association and neither objection or protest may be withdrawn, except by leave of the County Cup Committee.

The Association shall send a copy of any protest to the club protested against, which shall lodge a defence to the protest with particulars of the defence within two working days of receipt of the protest.

Members of the County Cup Committee directly connected with a club concerned in a protest (including membership of a league the club competes in) shall not have any involvement in the consideration of the matter.

A club, or a player or any person directly connected with the management of the club may be summoned to attend at a hearing of a protest. A club may be represented by one or more persons. A barrister or solicitor may represent a club only with prior written consent of the County Cup Committee. Any person summoned to attend a hearing of a protest must attend personally and shall not be legally represented except with the prior written consent of the County Cup Committee.

16. PROVISIONS CONCERNING APPEALS

A club that is expelled from the competition may appeal against the decision to an appeal board in accordance with the procedures for NFA appeals with the exception that, in the interests of expediency, the notice and grounds for the appeal must be lodged within 5 days of the County Cup Committee's decision to expel the club. For the avoidance of doubt, a club may not appeal against any penalty imposed on it other than expulsion from the competition.

17. POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

If the County Cup Committee should subsequently discover that any rule or spirit of the rules has, in their opinion, been violated by mutual agreements or otherwise, it shall be in the power of The County Cup committee to disqualify one or both Clubs from further competing in the ties, or order the match or matches to be replayed and to impose such other penalty as it may think fit without any protest having been laid by either or any Club. The County Cup Committee reserves the right to re-instate any club to a competition.

All questions of eligibility, disqualification of players, interpretation of the Rule or Laws of the game, as well as other matters in dispute, shall be referred to the County Committee and thereafter the Council, whose decision shall be final.

18. CUPS AND TROPHIES.

Following the presentation of the Trophy, a representative of the Association shall ensure that two representatives of the Club sign a document on behalf of the Club accepting same in good condition.

The Trophy to be returned to the Secretary of the Association in like good condition on or before the 1st March of the following season. Any Club failing to return the Cup, properly engraved by 1st March may be fined £30.00. If the Cup be destroyed, damaged, or not in good conditions when returned, the Club concerned shall be responsible for all expenses incurred in the repair or replacement.

19. MEMENTOES.

The Association will present mementoes to the winners of the final tie. Mementoes will also be presented to the runners-up in all Competitions. In order to recognise the service of those Secretaries of the last 5 years standing, whose Clubs competed in the Final Ties of all Competitions, a memento similar to those presented to the players will be awarded to such Secretaries following an application to the Association in writing. When a player taking part in any final tie of the Competition is ordered to leave the field of play for misconduct, the award to which he may be entitled will be withheld until the matter has been dealt with by the Council. Applications to purchase extra mementoes with name of Players will be dealt with by the Council. In final ties of Competitions, the appointed Referees, Assistant Referees and Reserve Officials will receive a memento in addition to their fees. The Association may also award a player of the match and a club volunteer award.

Administration of County Cups – Season 2016/2017

The County Cup Committee has appointed the following Members of the Committee, to assist the Office in administering the County Cup Competitions for season 2016/2017.

Should you have any queries in respect of any of the Competitions the first point of contact is: **Jack Patmore – County Administrator**

01604 678402 or 07506687965

jack.patmore@northamptonshirefa.com

If your query is out of work hours (Monday to Friday 9am-5pm), or during the 24 hours prior to the relevant Cup Tie, the following will try to assist:

Maunsell Cup/ Hillier Senior Cup

Tony Major/Steve Inwood 01604 632269 or 07887875671

Les Underwood Junior Cup

Mick Walden 07817841752

Lower Junior Cup

Richard Gardner 07892666098 or 01604589534

Area Cup

Brendan Doherty 07793 215137

Sunday Cup

Liam Warren 07946860762

Sunday Trophy

John Moriarty 07931132911

Sunday Vase

Graham Pinney 07411522262

U18 David Joyce Cup / U18 Youth Cup

Jeff Kitchener 07930525161

U12/U14/U16 Youth Boys

Rob Gross 07988707696

Tony Major 07887875671

Youth Girls / Womens Cup

Tracy Pepper 07785791930

Veterans Cup & Peterborough Area Rep

Paul Clarke 01733 266223

**Should you find it necessary to call a member of the committee,
please respect their privacy and do not call after 9.00pm.**