**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION LIMITED**

**WALKING FOOTBALL**

**COUNTY CUP**

**INFORMATION**

**2019-2020**

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**WALKING FOOTBALL COUNTY CUP** - **COMPETITIONS RULES 2018-2019**

**1. NAMES OF TROPHIES.**

The Walking Football County Cup trophies shall never become the absolute property of any Club/team. 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.

The County Cup Committee at its meeting in July each season, will confirm the appointment of a Sub-Committee that will deal with all matters of discipline and interpretation of rules relating to the following season.

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

THE WALKING FOOTBALL CUP. To be competed for by Walking Football groups registered with the County FA or from Affiliated 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 change.

**5. ENTRANCE FEES.**

The Walking Football Cup entry fee of £15.00 is to be submitted by January 15th 2019.

**6. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GAME.**

In all Cup Matches, except Finals, the Club first drawn shall have choice of ground however the choice of ground will need to be approved by the Association prior to the game.

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 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.

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 may have the power to order the game to be played at the away team 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.

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, 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. APPOINTMENT AND PAYMENT OF REFEREES.**

In all Cup matches the referee shall be appointed by the Association. 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. Referee fees are £23.00 for the main official and £17.00 for the assistant.

The Association may appoint assistant referees in ties if they deem such a course necessary. Reserve Officials may also be appointed by the Association to all final ties (Fees as per Assistant Referee). Referee and Assistant Referees (when appointed) must arrive at the venue for the match at least 30 minutes before the kick-off. Club Assistant Referees to report to Referee not later than 15 minutes prior to kick-off to receive instructions.

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 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. Two 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.

**8 (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.

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

The matches shall be 30 minutes each way with the half time interval being no more than 10 minutes.

**(b) REPLAYS.**

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

**(c) 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.

**9. TEAM COLOURS.**

Where the colours, including shirts, shorts and socks, 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. No player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts. Teams failing to comply will be dealt with by the County Cup Committee.

**10. (a) QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS**

(i) 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.

(ii) A player, shall not, in the same season play for more than one Club in the same Competition.

(iii) Players must have attained the age of 50 years on or before 1st January 2019 to compete in the 50+ Competition and attained the age of 60 years on or before 1st January 2019 to compete in the 60+ Competition.

Players who have attained the age of 60 years on or before 1st January 2019 are also able to take part in the 50+ Competition, if they wish to do so.

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, unless special permission is granted by the County Cup Committee.

**(b) CLUBS WITH TWO OR MORE TEAMS.**

A player who is a member of a Club with more than one team entered in the same Competition is only permitted to play in one team out of the selection of teams throughout the whole Cup Competition.

**(c) POSTPONED AND ABANDONED MATCHES.**

In cases of postponed, 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.

**(d) 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.

**(e) SUBSTITUTIONS.**

A total of up to 10 players are permitted to play; 7 on the pitch (1 goalkeeper, 6 outfield players) and up to 3 as substitutes.

The substitutes are allowed to be used on a “roll on-roll off” basis.

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.

**11. 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 may also be fined £30.

**12. RESULT OF THE MATCH.**

The result of each match, with name of the players and their date of birth, shall be sent by both of the competing Clubs to 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 £20.

Incorrect or falsified result sheets will be referred to the County Cup Committee, who will deal with as deemed necessary.

**13. 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 £75),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 dressing 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 are to be equally divided between competing Clubs. When no gate receipts are taken the total cost of the match is 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.

In all other competitions, the Association shall take the gross gate and be responsible for all expenses.

**14. 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 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 arrangements 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 be 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.

**15. 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.

**16. 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.

**17. 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 good condition on or before the 1st March each year. Any Club failing to return the Cup, properly engraved by 1st March may be fined £50.00. 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.

**18. 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 with at least 5 years’ service, 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 is entitled may be withheld until the matter has been dealt with by the Association.

Applications to purchase extra mementoes with name of Players will be dealt with by the County Cup Committee.

In final ties of Competitions, the appointed Referees, Assistant Referees and Reserve Officials will receive a memento.

The Association may also award a player of the match and a club volunteer award.

**Administration of County Cups – Season 2018-2019**

The County Cup Committee has appointed the following Members of the Committee, to assist the Office in administrating the County Cup Competitions for season 2018-2019.

Should you have any queries in respect of any of the Competitions the first point of contact is:

**Sophie Mullett – County Administrator - 01604 678402 – Sophie.Mullett@northantsfa.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:

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| **Maunsell Cup**Steve Inwood/Tony Major07800 660565 / 07887 875671 | **Hillier Senior Cup**Pat Ashby/Tony Major07969 825636 / 07887 875671 | **Les Underwood Junior Cup**Mick Walden07817 841752 |
| **Lower Junior Cup**Richard Gardner07892 666098 / 01604 589534 | **Area Cup**Pete Gurnham07966 228275 | **Sunday Cup**Liam Warren07946 860762 |
| **Sunday Trophy**John Moriarty07931 132911 | **Sunday Vase**Graham Pinney07921 858543 | **U18 David Joyce**Neil Griffin07881 827188 |
| **U18 Youth Cup**Jeff Kitchener07786 635787 | **U12/U14/U16 Boys Invitation**Rob Gross / Tony Major07988 707696 / 07887 875671 | **Girls Invitation/Women’s**Dave Conway/Craig Turnbull07785 791930 / 07910 529221 |

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| **Veteran’s Cup**Paul Clarke07899 786932 | **Futsal/Walking Football Cup**Lawrence Kay07951 497559 |

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