

# NORTH RIDING FA COUNTY, CHALLENGE & U19 CUP COMPETITION RULES

## 1. TITLES

North Riding Saturday County Cup  
North Riding Sunday County Cup  
North Riding Saturday Challenge Cup  
North Riding Sunday Challenge Cup  
North Riding U19 County Cup

The North Riding County Football Association Limited shall be referred to hereafter in these rules as the Association, and their Chief Executive as the Secretary.

The Rules following shall apply equally to each Competition unless otherwise stated.

## 2. CONTROL

The Association, or any other Committee as may be appointed from time to time to act on its behalf, shall have the entire control and management of the competitions. Association shall have the powers to amend, cancel or add to the Rules as they deem expedient.

## 3. NOTICES

All communications required by any of these rules shall be addressed to the Secretary of the Competition, or in the case of correspondence to competing teams, to the Secretary of such team.

## 4. (a) CUPS-OWNERSHIP/CARE

The Cups are the property of the Association, to be competed for annually. For all intents and purposes, the Board of Directors of the Association shall be the legal holders of the Cups in trust for the Association.

When the winning team of the Cup shall have been ascertained the Secretary shall deliver the Cup for Presentation to such team, and receive a document of receipt, and such team shall be responsible for the return of the Cup by 1<sup>st</sup> March each year or be fined a minimum of £100.

The Association shall insure the Cups against fire and other accidents but reserves the right to require a team under whose care a Cup is held to meet such costs as the Association may determine should the Cup be damaged, destroyed, stolen or lost.

## (b) SOUVENIRS – PROVISION

In addition to the Cup the Association may present suitable souvenirs to the players, substitutes and team Officials of each team appearing in the Final Tie. When a player taking part in a Final Tie is ordered to leave the Field of Play for misconduct, the souvenir to which he/she may be entitled shall be withheld at the discretion of the Association.

## 5. TEAMS – ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

The Competitions shall be open to clubs whose first affiliation is with the North Riding County F.A. Each team shall be entered into the competition via the Club Portal together with the appropriate fee on or before the closing date as below.

The closing date is 1<sup>st</sup> August each season, but the Association shall have the power to extend the entry date of any Cup if considered necessary, and if so clubs will be circulated.

Any Club which fails to enter at least one of its teams in a County Cup Competition will be required to pay an exemption fee of £10.

### Competitions

North Riding Saturday County Cup  
North Riding Sunday County Cup  
North Riding Saturday Challenge Cup  
North Riding Sunday Challenge Cup  
North Riding U19 County Cup

### Seniority of Competition

The order as listed above will apply, for the completion of matches.

The Association may reject the entry of any team in any competition or place it in another competition, if such a course is deemed desirable.

### North Riding Saturday County Cup

The Competition is open to all teams affiliated to the County Association who normally play on a Saturday, at step 7 and below, and where a League has more than one division, play in the top division of their respective league competitions.

### North Riding Saturday Challenge Cup

The Competition is open to all teams affiliated to The County Association who normally play on a Saturday, **except** those entering the Senior Cup, play in a Senior League as designated under Rule 8(b) or where a League has more than one division compete in the top division of their respective league competition. Where there is only one division within a league, clubs may enter this competition.

### North Riding Sunday County Cup

The Competition is open to all teams affiliated to the County Association who normally play on a Sunday in the top division of their respective league competitions.

### **North Riding Sunday Challenge Cup**

The Competition is open to all teams affiliated to the County Association who normally play on a Sunday outside of the top division of their respective league competition. Where there is only one division within a league, clubs may enter this competition.

### **North Riding U19 Cup**

The Competition is open to all teams affiliated to the County Association who are eligible to play in the U19 age category.

Where teams enter a competition but do not play within a league competition, they must enter the most senior competition on the day in which they compete i.e. Saturday County or Sunday County.

All the above competitions will be an open draw throughout.

## **7. TEAMS – WITHDRAWAL AFTER COMMENCEMENT OF COMPETITION OR FAILURE TO FULFIL A CUP FIXTURE**

Any team intending to withdraw from a Competition after its commencement must, by written/e-mail notice, give explanation of such intention to the Secretary and information of such intention to the Secretary of the opposing team not less than 7 days before the date fixed of playing the match. In the case of a postponed match or a match due to be replayed, the period of time here indicated shall be observed so far as circumstances permit. Their opponents will progress to the next round.

Teams failing to give a satisfactory reason for withdrawal shall be liable to a minimum fine of £10. A team failing to comply with this rule shall be reported to the Association, who shall have power to compel the withdrawal team to pay any expenses incurred by their opposing team and to take such other action as may be deemed expedient.

Any team failing to fulfil a cup fixture must, by written/e-mail notice, give an explanation of such failure to the Secretary no later than 2 days following the scheduled date for the playing of the fixture. If the Association considers the explanation to be unsatisfactory and/or unacceptable, the defaulting team will be eliminated from the respective Competition and fined a minimum of £10 **and their** opponents will progress to the next round of the Competition.

## **8. PLAYERS – QUALIFICATIONS**

A player shall not, in the same season, play for more than one team in a competition but the players of a team may be changed during the series of matches.

### **(a) North Riding Saturday County and North Riding Sunday County Cups.**

A player must be a recognised player of the team which has entered the respective Competition. A recognised player is one who, in the current season, has been registered with the Football Association and/or Leagues in which the team plays at least 7 days before the date set for the playing of the tie. Contract players are not permitted in the Saturday County competition, with the exception of those Players who are registered under contract with the same club who have a team operating at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System. Contracted players are not eligible to play in the Sunday County Cup.

### **(b) North Riding Saturday Challenge and North Riding Sunday Challenge.**

Senior League and contract players are not allowed to play in these Cups. A player is ineligible if he/she has played in a Senior League or cup within 14 days previous to the date originally fixed for the playing of the tie. A Senior League for adult males is one that, for the purposes of this competition, operates at National League System Feeder League level and above of the FA National League System.

A player must be a recognised player of the team which has entered the respective Cup Competition. A recognised player is one, who in the current season, has been registered with the League in which the team plays, at least seven days before the date set for the playing of the tie.

### **(c) North Riding U19 County Cup**

A player must be a recognised player of the team which has entered the respective Cup Competition. A recognised player is one who, in the current season has been registered with the league in which the team plays, at least seven days before the date set for the playing of the tie.

A player must have attained the age of 16 to be eligible to play in this competition and be under the age of 19 on 31<sup>st</sup> August of the current season.

Senior League and contract players are eligible to play in this competition.

### **(d) In all Competitions only players qualified to play in the original tie are eligible to play in any game to be replayed, or a postponed match, provided the player's status has not changed.**

To qualify to play in the Semi-Final and Final ties a player must have played in at least 3 games (which includes League, League Cup and County Cup Competition games but not Friendly games) for his/her team during the current season.

Where teams enter a competition but do not play in a league competition a player must have played in a previous round of the respective County Cup Competition to be eligible to play in a Semi-Final and Final tie.

If a player re-signs for a team they must not be cup-tied and in addition have played in one match from the date of re-signing to be eligible to play in a Semi-Final or Final Tie.

In all Competitions a player must have reached the age of sixteen to be eligible to play.

**Any team found guilty of playing an ineligible player will be eliminated from the respective competition as well as incurring a minimum fine of £25.**

**9. PLAYERS- EXCHANGE OF LISTS**

The home team playing in any Competition shall, not less than five days before the match, confirm with the opposing team and Match Officials in writing/by e-mail details of ground directions, kick off time and colours or be fined a minimum of £10. A written list of actual players (Forename and Surname) on the official Team Sheet shall be exchanged prior to the commencement of the match in the presence of the Referee. A copy of such list should be submitted by each team to reach the Secretary of the Association within 3 days of the conclusion of the match. Teams infringing this Rule shall be fined a minimum of £10.

Shirts must be numbered and the numbers must correspond to the numbers and names of players detailed on the official team sheet. For competition finals a written list of actual players must be handed to the competition representative a minimum of 30 minutes before kick-off.

**10. NUMBER OF SUBSTITUTES**

**In all competitions** a team may, at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game, use five substitute players in any match who may be selected from not more than five players. A player who has been substituted himself becomes a substitute and may replace another player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of The Laws of Association Football.

In all Competitions, a substitution can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission.

The names of substitutes must be included on the official Team Sheet, a copy of which must be handed to a representative of the opponents and the Referee prior to the commencement of the match. Substitutes not named may NOT take part in a match.

**11. BALLS**

The home team MUST provide at least two suitable match balls, except in the Final Tie when both teams must each provide at least two suitable match balls.

**12. OFFICIALS – REFEREES AND ASSISTANT REFEREES**

The Association shall appoint Referees and Assistant Referees who, in any match, shall not be members of either of the competing Teams.

Priority of appointments of Match Officials in these Competitions shall be in accordance with laid down Football Association Regulations.

An Official appointed to a match shall make a written/e-mail acknowledgement to reach the Appointments Officer within 5 days of receipt of the appointment, failing which the appointment may be withdrawn.

He/she shall also acknowledge the match details received from the home team in writing/by e-mail.

The duties of the Referee and Assistant Referees shall be as defined in The Laws of the Game

Any objection lodged with the Referee in accordance with these Rules must be reported in writing/by e-mail by the Referee to reach the Secretary within 3 days. A Referee must not adjudicate on the qualification of any competing team or player.

The expenses of Officials shall be halved by the competing clubs except in a Final Tie.

FEES	Referee	Assistant Referee
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**COUNTY CUPS**

All Rounds	£40	£30
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**CHALLENGE CUPS & U19 CUP**

All Rounds	£40	£30
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Half fee shall be paid in respect of any match cancelled before its commencement by the Referee because of ground or weather conditions, subject to the Match Official being in attendance at the ground. The fee should be halved by the two clubs.

In the event that no referee is appointed to a match by the Association or the appointed referee does not turn up to a match then the game should go ahead as scheduled. The away team shall be offered the opportunity to provide an individual to act as the match referee. If the away team are unable to provide an individual, then it will be the responsibility of the home team to provide an official for the game. If both teams fail to agree and the game does not go ahead then both will be removed from the competition by the Competitions Committee and charged with failing to adhere to the rules of the competition.

**13. DRAW AND NOTIFICATION**

The Competitions shall commence and be continued, the Rounds shall be drawn, the dates fixed and the matches played as the Association may determine.

The teams, after having been placed in their proper Competitions shall be drawn in couples. These couples shall compete and the winners shall be drawn and shall compete in the same manner and this will continue until the end of the Competition when the winning team shall be declared. At the first drawing in each Competition provision of all byes shall be made so that after the first drawing no byes shall remain. As early as possible after each drawing in each Competition the Secretary shall intimate to each of the teams concerned the name of the team against which it has been drawn, and the date and the hour on which the match is to be played. Any team found responsible for delaying the kick off shall be fined a minimum of £10, and on repetition shall be dealt with at the discretion of the Association.

Matches must be played on dates determined by the Association, and if a ground is not available provision must be made to provide a ground or play on the ground of the opponents.

**14. MATCHES - PRIORITY**

The priority of matches in these Competitions shall be Saturday County Cup, Sunday County Cup, Saturday Challenge Cup, Sunday Challenge Cup and U19 County Cup. Except by permission of the Association only matches in Cup Competitions of the Football Association and in the Football League shall take preference.

**15. MATCHES – DURATION AND DATE**

The duration of a match shall be 90 minutes with a half-time interval not to exceed 15 minutes and be in conformity with Laws of the Game No. 7.

Clubs who agree an alternative kick-off time must inform North Riding FA who will update the details within FA Full-Time.

**All NRCFA Cup Competitions**

If scores are level at the end of normal time, the result of the match shall be decided by each side taking part in a penalty kick competition taken in accordance with the procedures as laid down by FIFA.

If a match is postponed or is not completed though no fault of either team it must be played to the full time of 90 minutes ON THE FOLLOWING SATURDAY OR SUNDAY (whichever is applicable) unless the competing teams mutually agree to an earlier date approved by the Secretary or on a date decided by the Secretary. If a match is stopped on account of darkness or any other cause and the stoppage is due to the fault of one of the competing teams, the team not in default shall have the right to claim, without protest fee, that the match should be awarded to such team.

**Saturday Cups.**

Matches in these Competitions shall normally be played on a Saturday.

**Sunday / U19 Cups**

Matches in these Competitions shall normally be played on a Sunday.

**16. MATCHES - NOTIFICATION**

When two teams are drawn together the home team must, not less than 5 days before a match, notify the visiting team in writing/by e-mail of its colours (shirts, shorts and stockings) or be fined a minimum of £10. The colours of competing teams should be distinguishable. When the colours are similar to the home team, the visiting team must change unless alternative arrangements are mutually agreed by the competing teams.

The home team must inform the Match Officials in writing/by e-mail not less than 5 days before a match of match details, ground location etc., failure to do so will result in a minimum fine of £10.

**17. MATCHES – NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS**

Each team shall, on the Official Team Sheet, send notice to the Secretary of the result of a match together with the Surname and Christian name of the players who represented the team, and the marks awarded to the Referee. Such notice should reach the Secretary within 3 days following the match. A team failing to comply with this Rule shall be subject to a minimum fine of £10, or, in default, shall be dealt with by the Council as they think fit.

**Official Team Sheets must be submitted via FA Full-Time. In the event of any problems, they can be sent by email to [support@northridingfa.com](mailto:support@northridingfa.com)**

**Both teams are required to communicate the result of the game by SMS Text immediately after the game has ended (P-P if postponed, followed by written reasons within 24hrs of the match kick-off time). In the unlikely event of problems being encountered with the SMS Text system, the result of the game must then be communicated to the County Office no later than the close of business on the first working day following the playing of the game. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in an automatic fine of £10 (for the first offence), and this will be increased for any further offences during the same season**

**18. GROUNDS – FIELD OF PLAY**

Grounds shall conform to Law 1 of the Laws of the Game.

**Saturday County Cup**

Enclosed pitches, goal nets and corner flags are compulsory. Suitable changing room and toilet facilities should be available for use.

**Sunday County Cup, Challenge Cups and U19 Cup.**

Goal nets and corner flags are compulsory. Suitable changing room and toilet facilities should be available for use.

**19. GROUNDS - CHOICE**

A match shall be played on the ground of the team first drawn except with the approval of the Secretary. No monetary or other consideration shall be asked for, offered or paid in connection with negotiations for any change of venue.

Matches must be played on dates determined by the Association and if a ground is not available, provision must be made to provide a ground or play on the opponent's ground.

In the event of a match not being completed and neither team at fault it shall be replayed on the ground of the team which had the choice for the incomplete match.

The Association will allow matches to be played on artificial grass surface pitches provided they comply with current FA requirements

The Association shall decide the ground for the playing of Final Ties.

**20. GROUNDS - UNSUITABILITY**

If the ground of a team having choice of ground is considered unsuitable, the opposing team may protest to the Association in writing/by e-mail, within 5 days of the receipt of the official intimation of the draw and the Association may order the match to be played on the original ground or on the ground of the appealing team or on a neutral ground. If the protest is not sustained the protesting team may be required to pay expenses incurred in deciding the protest.

Each team must take every precaution to keep its ground in playing condition and, if necessary, either team may apply to the Secretary who at the team's expense, shall require the Referee or some other official to examine the ground and decide as to its fitness for play in sufficient time to save expenses of unnecessary journeys being incurred by the Teams.

Subject to this Rule, the Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches. If there is any doubt as to the fitness of the home team's pitch then an inspection should take place, provision can be made to provide an alternative ground, or to play on the ground of the opponents if their pitch is playable. Teams should warn their players that the game may be switched to an alternative ground or the opponent's ground.

For competition games due to be played on a Saturday, if there are any doubts as to the fitness of the ground, an inspection by a Match Referee, County FA or affiliated league official must take place before 10.00 a.m. on the day of the match. For evening games, if there are any doubts about the fitness of the ground, an inspection must take place no later than 2.00 p.m. on the day of the match. If the game is to be switched, with the agreement of both teams, then this should give teams time to make alternative travel arrangements.

For Competition games due to be played on a Sunday morning, where there are any doubts as to the fitness of the ground, an inspection by a Match Referee, County FA or affiliated league official must take place before 6.00pm on the Saturday prior to the date of the game. A further inspection on the day of the game must take place no later than 8.00am. If the game is to be switched, with the agreement of both teams, then this should give teams time to make alternative travel arrangements.

For a Sunday afternoon kick off, where there are any doubts as to the fitness of the ground, an inspection by a Match Referee, County FA or affiliated league official must take place before 10.00 a.m. on the day of the match. If the game is to be switched, with the agreement of both teams, then this should give teams time to make alternative travel arrangements.

After two postponements of a tie by the home team then the tie will automatically switch to the ground of the away team.

North Riding County FA shall have the power to instruct that a ground be used for any given tie throughout the competition.

**21. MATCHES – PROCEEDS AND EXPENSES**

**Final Ties**

The Association shall have power to take the ground of any team affiliated to the Association for the playing of any Final Tie on such date or dates as the Association may determine.

In a Final Tie the Association shall take all and pay all, allowing the competing Teams reasonable expenses.

Any team failing or refusing to play in a Final Tie shall be adjudged to have been guilty of serious misconduct and shall be liable to be dealt with under the Rules of the Association.

**22. PROTESTS**

Any objections relating to the ground, goal posts or bars, or other appurtenances of the game shall not be entertained by the Association unless an objection has been lodged with the Referee by a representative of the complaining team in the presence of the representative of the opposing team before the commencement of the match and not later than 30 minutes before the official time of kick-off. The Referee shall require the responsible team to remedy the objection where practicable to do so without unduly delaying the kick-off.

When an objection has been lodged with the Referee a protest must be made by the complaining team to the Association.

Any protest, dispute or complaint of whatever kind in respect of a Cup game must be made in writing/by e-mail by one of the Competing Clubs and must contain the particulars of the grounds upon which it is founded. Protests must be lodged with the Secretary, accompanied by a protest fee of **£50 (£100** in respect of a Final Tie), not later than 5 days after the completion of the match or other occurrences to which it relates. The Secretary shall send a copy of such protest and particulars to the competitor protested against, who shall return an answer to the Secretary, in writing/by e-mail, who shall then send a copy of the answer to the protesting competitor. At the hearing of a protest each competitor may support his/her case by witnesses.

No protest, objection or complaint may be withdrawn except by leave of the Association.

The Association shall have power to require the protest fee to be forfeited into the funds of the Association in the event of the protest not being sustained or may return it should they consider the circumstances warrant such return. Where a protest is not sustained the Association may also require the protesting competitor to pay such amount as may be considered necessary towards defraying the expenses of the competitor protested against and contribute to the costs of the Commission.

If a member of the Association is connected with a team, player or official concerned in a protest, dispute or complaint he/she shall not sit on the adjudicating Committee while the protest or dispute is being considered.

**23. DISQUALIFICATION – TEAM OR PLAYER**

The Association shall have power to disqualify from any Competition or otherwise deal with any competing team or teams, player or players of any competing team which or who may be proved to be guilty of any breach of the Rules of the Association or of these Competitions.

**Any team eliminated from a competition shall have the right of appeal to the Association. Any such appeal must contain the particulars of the grounds upon which it is founded and must be lodged in writing/by e-mail with the Secretary, accompanied by a fee of £50 (£100 in respect of a Final Tie), within 5 days of the date of the written notice of elimination.**

**24. ABANDONMENT OF MATCHES**

The Management Committee shall review all Competition Matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a Competition Match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one Team or its Club member(s) they shall be empowered to award tie to the opponent. In cases where a Competition Match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Teams or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule that the match shall not be replayed and neither Team will be allowed to progress in the competition.

**25. INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES:**

Anything not covered within these rules shall be dealt with by the Association, whose decision shall be final and binding.

**26. APPEALS**

A Club may appeal against the decision of the Association to an Independent Appeal Board comprising of three members. Any appeal must be made in writing (electronic mail acceptable) together with a deposit of £50.00 (£100 for the Final Tie) to the Association within 7 days from the date of notification. The grounds of the appeal shall be fully stated, and in the case of an appeal being improperly lodged or deemed to be frivolous, the deposit fee shall be forfeited and any costs incurred may be charged. All decisions of an Appeal Board are final and binding.