

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FA COUNTY CUPS 2017/18

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Nottinghamshire
Football Association



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1. The Cup Competitions

a. The cup competitions shall be called:

- Nottinghamshire FA Saturday Senior Cup (Men's)
- Nottinghamshire FA Saturday Intermediate Cup (Men's)
- Nottinghamshire FA Saturday Junior Cup (Men's)
- Nottinghamshire FA Saturday Minor Cup (Men's)
- Nottinghamshire FA Sunday Senior Challenge Trophy (Men's)
- Nottinghamshire FA Sunday Intermediate Cup (Men's)
- Nottinghamshire FA Sunday Junior Cup (Men's)
- Nottinghamshire FA Sunday Minor Cup (Men's)
- Nottinghamshire FA Women's Challenge Cup (Women's)
- Nottinghamshire FA U18's Saturday Challenge Cup (Youth)
- Nottinghamshire FA U15's Saturday Challenge Cup (Youth)
- Nottinghamshire FA U13's Saturday Challenge Cup (Youth)
- Nottinghamshire FA U18's Sunday Challenge Cup (Youth)
- Nottinghamshire FA U16's Sunday Challenge Cup (Youth)
- Nottinghamshire FA U14's Sunday Challenge Cup (Youth)
- Nottinghamshire FA U18's Girls Challenge Cup (Girls)
- Nottinghamshire FA U16's Girls Challenge Cup (Girls)
- Nottinghamshire FA U15's Girls Challenge Cup (Girls)
- Nottinghamshire FA U14's Girls Challenge Cup (Girls)
- Nottinghamshire FA U13's Girls Challenge Cup (Girls)

b. A sponsors name may be added to the title of the cup competitions on an annual basis.

2. Control and Management

- #### a. The control and management of the cup competitions shall be vested in The Nottinghamshire FA Cup Group (NFACG) on behalf of The Nottinghamshire Football Association (NFA)
- #### b. The cup competitions shall be annual, conducted on a knock-out principle and all matches shall be played and carried out in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association and The Laws of the Game.

3. Notice of Entry / Entry Fee

- a. All cup entry fees are £15.00 per team with the exception of the following:
 - £35.00 per team for NFA Saturday Senior Cup.
 - No entry fee for girls entries as this will be 'invitational'.
- b. Deadline for entry into the cup competitions is 31st July. Entries submitted after this date will be considered by the NFACG and accepted at their discretion.
- c. The NFACG will meet annually in August to view the team entries and reserves the right to move a team from one cup to another if deemed appropriate in consultation with the teams league representative.
- d. The NFACG reserves the right to reject the entry of any team if they deem such a course of action desirable.

4. Eligibility of Teams

- a. Only NFA affiliated clubs can enter teams into NFA cup competitions.
- b. Teams must be playing in a sanctioned league, and Saturday teams can only enter Saturday cups, and Sunday teams can only enter Sunday cups.
- c. Each affiliated Saturday men's club must enter their senior team in one of the NFA Saturday Cup Competitions according to their status. If the club has more than one Saturday team then they may also enter lower status competitions.
- d. Sunday men's cups, women's cup and youth cups are not mandatory entry, clubs can choose to enter teams into these cups.
- e. The girl's cups will be by 'invitation' through NFACG working in conjunction with The Nottinghamshire Girls and Ladies League.
- f. In men's Saturday and Sunday cups clubs must not have more than one team in the same cup competition, unless there is an extenuating circumstance where the NFACG can justify this. This is allowed however in the women's cup, youth cups and girls cups.

- g. Cups will only take place if a minimum of 16 teams enter, and no more than 64 teams will be accepted – with the exception of the girls cups and the NFA Saturday Senior Cup (see 4h below)
- h. NFA Saturday Senior Cup will take no more than 34 team entries whose grounds/facilities are approved by NFACG. 10 teams will be seeded and will enter the draw at round 3. Seeding is based on the 8 quarter-finalists from the previous season plus the two most senior teams in the football pyramid not included in the 8 quarter-finalists.

5. The Draw

- a. The NFACG shall be responsible for making the cup draws for all the competitions through The FA Full Time software.
- b. The teams shall be drawn in pairs constituting the cup ties. The first-drawn team shall have the choice of ground. Any byes shall be given in the first round with the exception of the NFA Saturday Senior Cup (as per rule 4h)
- c. All draws will be published on the NFA website <http://www.nottinghamshirefa.com/cups> and confirmation will be sent via email to the designated team contact in The FA Full Time software.
- d. Any team failing to play in any tie, without showing a good and sufficient cause for such failure to play, may be adjudged by the NFACG to have been guilty of serious misconduct, removed from the competition and charged accordingly.

6. Match Dates

- a. The NFACG shall determine the date or dates upon which the matches shall be played.
- b. The home team must advise their opponents and the Match Official(s) of the exact location of their ground (including post-code) and kit colours at least five days prior to the date of the match. These details must then be acknowledged by both parties. Teams are advised that although the electronic interchange of information is deemed an acceptable means of notification, receipt of such communications is not always guaranteed. It is recommended that all e-mails are accompanied by a request for a 'read receipt'.

- c. If the ground of the first-drawn team is unavailable it will be their responsibility to provide an alternative venue so that the tie can be played on the date as advised; this is to include the opposition facility if available. The alternate venue must be deemed acceptable by the NFACG.
- d. First-drawn teams with access to a floodlit facility which have been approved by the NFACG have the right to re-arrange the tie to a mid-week date. This must be the mid-week preceding or the mid-week following the original scheduled date. The day/date on which the mid-week tie is to be played must be mutually agreed by both teams and match official(s) and the NFACG must notified of such in writing by emailing cupcompetitions@nottinghamshirefa.com
- e. Exceptionally, there may be occasions where teams are unable to fulfil a fixture in accordance with the terms of Rule 6c above. This will usually be where a team has a commitment to participate in a more senior competition. (See also Rule 20). On such occasions the NFACG has no objection to teams mutually agreeing a prior date as soon as they are notified of the fixture. Teams agreeing a date after the scheduled draw are required to take note of the date of the next round of the competition. If mutual agreement cannot be reached the NFACG will decide the date which will then become final and binding on both parties. The first-drawn team has the option to play the fixture on their normal mid-week fixture night if all parties are in agreement.
- f. No game may be postponed for more than two weeks due to an unfit pitch – in these circumstances the first-drawn team will be required to provide an alternative venue after this period of time. Failure to do so may result in a fine and their expulsion from the competition. The alternate venue must be deemed acceptable by the NFACG.
- g. When a match has been postponed or abandoned and neither team being at fault, it must be played on the ground of the first-drawn team within 7 days following the original fixture date, unless otherwise decided by the NFACG.
- h. Where a match is abandoned due to proven misconduct by one of the competing teams or its supporters, that team will be removed from the competition and may be liable to further sanctions (possible fine), and its opponents awarded the tie. If both teams are found proven for the abandonment of the fixture then the result of the game will be expunged and both teams removed from the competition and may be liable to further sanctions (possible fine), this is relevant at all stages of the competition including the final.

- i. Where a match is postponed due to a late kick-off caused by one of the teams, the match will be replayed on a ground chosen by the team deemed to be the innocent party. Should both teams be deemed equally responsible for the late kick-off, then the tie must be played on the ground of the first-named team within 7 days. The alternate venue must be deemed acceptable by the NFACG.
- j. Where agreement cannot be reached as to who is responsible for an abandonment / postponement, an emergency meeting of the NFACG will be arranged at the earliest opportunity to resolve the outcome.
- k. Matches (including the final) may be played on a 3G pitch providing they meet the required performance standards and are listed on The FA's Register of Football Turf Pitches.

7. Match Times and Durations

- a. Kick off times will be set by the NFACG and cannot be changed without the permission of the NFACG. Any club wishing to change a kick off time must apply in writing to cupcompetitions@nottinghamshirefa.com at least 14 days prior to the date of the match, and such requests must have approval from all parties, opposition and match official(s) If a match takes place at a rescheduled time without the NFACG approval then the team(s) may be fined.
- b. For all youth cup competitions please observe the following kick off times:

	October	November	December	January	February	March
Saturday	2.30pm	1.45pm	1.30pm	1.30pm	1.30pm	1.30pm
Sunday	11am	11am	11am	11am	11am	11am

- c. The duration of each match shall be as follows:
 - All men's and women's matches shall be 90 minutes (two halves of 45 minutes)
 - U18's youth and girls matches shall be 90 minutes (two halves of 45 minutes)
 - U16's youth and girls matches shall be 80 minutes (two halves of 40 minutes)
 - U15's youth and girls matches shall be 80 minutes (two halves of 40 minutes)
 - U14's youth and girls matches shall be 70 minutes (two halves of 35 minutes)
 - U13's youth and girls matches shall be 70 minutes (two halves of 35 minutes)

- d. In all cup competitions the half time interval shall be 15 minutes, which may be altered only with consent of the match official.
- e. If the scores are level after normal time, extra time of 20 minutes (two halves of 10 minutes) must be played for all youth and girls cup competitions. For all men's and women's cup competitions it is 30 minutes (two halves of 15 minutes).
- f. Following a draw after extra-time, a result shall be obtained by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with current F.I.F.A. regulations.

8. Field of Play

- a. Dimensions of the field of play shall be in accordance with The Laws of Association Football.
- b. Goal nets and corner posts must be used in all matches. Teams failing to comply with either element of this rule shall be subject to a fine as determined by the NFACG.

9. Match Ball

- a. A size 5 football is used in all competitions with the exception of U14's and U13's that use size 4.
- b. Each team must provide at least two appropriate match standard balls with the match official deciding on which ball to use throughout the match.

10. Colours of Competing Teams

- a. When the colours (shirts, shorts and socks) of competing teams are similar the visiting team must change, except in the Final Tie when both teams must change. These arrangements may be amended by mutual agreement. Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from the other players and Match Official(s). Goalkeepers should also wear opposing colours to one another where possible.
- b. Teams are not permitted to play in black or very dark shirts. The final decision on the suitability of such attire rests solely with the match official. Any team causing a fixture to be unfulfilled for this reason shall be expelled from the competition.

- c. All shirts of competing teams must be numbered and clearly highlighted on the team sheet before the game.

11. Match Officials

- a. The NFA, in conjunction with the Referees' Development Officer and/or Referees' Committee, shall appoint the Match Officials. However, should an officially appointed match official be unavailable then the competing teams must themselves appoint a match official whose decisions shall be binding and not subject to revision. Rule 5(d) will be applied in the event of the game not being completed on the official date of the tie.
- b. The match official, as part of their duty of care, shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the ground unless it has already been declared unfit by the owners or the Local Authority.
- c. The fees and expenses are shown below and shall be paid by the home team prior to the kick-off, with the exception of semi-finals where the fees will be split between the two competing teams (see rule 13b):
 - All youth and girls cups
 - o Prior to the semi-finals – Referee £25.00
 - o Semi-finals – Referee £25.00 and Assistant Referee's £20.00
 - All Saturday and Sunday mens and womens cups (except NFA Saturday Senior Cup)
 - o Match Official - £25.00 plus 30p per mile travel expenses
 - o Assistant Match Official(s) if appointed - £20.00 plus 30p per mile travel expenses
 - Men's Saturday Senior Cup (Round 1 & 2):
 - o Match Official - £30.00 plus 30p per mile travel expenses
 - o Assistant Match Official(s) - £20.00 plus 30p per mile travel expenses
 - Men's Saturday Senior Cup (Round 3 onwards):
 - o Match Official - £45.00 plus 30p per mile travel expenses
 - o Assistant Match Official(s) - £30.00 plus 30p per mile travel expenses
- d. Match Officials are required to notify NFA of any irregularities, including late notification, late kick-off etc on cupcompetitions@nottinghamshirefa.com

- e. In the event of match being cancelled / postponed at short notice or match not being played to a conclusion, and the appointed match official(s) are present at the venue, then the match official(s) is entitled to their travelling expenses and half the match fee.
- f. Match Official(s) shall acknowledge acceptance of their appointment within three working days of the notice being sent by The FA Full Time system to cupcompetitions@nottinghamshirefa.com

12. Qualification of Players

- a. All players must have been registered by the Club for at least seven full days prior to the original match date.
- b. For all youth and girls cups players must be registered with their league and in receipt of a valid player photo ID, whether this is an ID card, or a photo ID team sheet through the leagues registration software. The players photo ID MUST be passed to a team official of the opposition before the commencement of any match to check the eligibility of the participating players. The match MUST NOT take place until registration player ID has been checked.
- c. No player shall play for more than one team in the same cup competition during the same season. It is the clubs responsibility to check that players have not played for another team in any competition and are not cup-tied.
- d. In the men's cups a player may be permitted to play in a more senior competition in the same season but, having done so, will not then be eligible to play in any lower competition.
- e. Contract players, as defined by The Football Association Rules, shall only be permitted to play in the Saturday Senior Cup.
- f. A player who has been suspended for a match may play in the same match if it gets rescheduled / re-arranged for an alternative date due to the original match being postponed / cancelled / replayed, if the term of their suspension has been served.
- g. A named substitute who does not play is not cup-tied.

- h. Semi-final and final ties are restricted to players who have played at least three bona-fide matches (friendlies and abandoned matches do not count) for their competing team. A player previously being named as a substitute, but not being used during a game, is deemed to have not played in that game.
- i. Where a player that is or is found to be ineligible under rule and plays for a team in a cup match the NFACG shall remove the team from that cup competition and may impose further penalties against the teams club. However where the club satisfies the NFACG that the team did not know and could not reasonably have known, even had it made every reasonable enquiry that the player was ineligible the club shall not be removed from the cup competition but may still be subject to any other penalty (e.g. fine, ordered to replay the match)

13. Substitutes

- a. Five substitutes may be named; these should be submitted along with the team sheet prior to kick off. Of these five only three can be used.
- b. Youth cups may use all five substitutes in a roll on roll off format.
- c. Substitutes not named on the team sheet will not be permitted to take part.

14. Results of Matches

- a. The result and match official marks form shall be completed by both teams and must be received by the NFA either by e-mail to cupcompetitions@nottinghamshirefa.com or by post, within 72 hours of the match being played.
- b. The home team is expected to get the away teams players list and added to their team sheet. The away team is expected to get the home teams players list added to their team sheet – both teams must submit their team sheets within 72 hours of the match being played and the players list will be cross referenced for eligibility. Teams failing to comply with this rule or submitting incomplete, incorrect or inaccurate details may be subject to a fine.

15. Semi-Finals

- a. It is recommended in men's and women's cup semi-finals, that wherever possible those matches should take place on enclosed or roped-off grounds, with the exception of the NFA Saturday Senior Cup and NFA Sunday Challenge Cup where it is a compulsory requirement.
- b. The match official(s) fees and travel expenses will be shared between the two competing teams (with the exception of NFA Saturday Senior Cup) and paid to the match official(s) prior to kick off.

16. Finals

- a. In all final ties the NFACG will be responsible for setting the dates, setting the venue, and taking all gate receipts.
- b. All match balls to be used at the finals will be provided by the County FA. All of which will be consistent with the FA rules and regulations.
- c. The hire of the venue will be organised and paid for by the County FA. This is inclusive of the beverages and food available after the final.
- d. Match officials shall receive a medal in addition to their travel expenses.
- e. No alcoholic beverages are permitted to be taken in to and consumed at any respective venues in all County Cup competitions. Where venues are licensed then alcoholic beverages can be purchased and consumed but the licensing laws of that venue must be observed.

17. Power to Disqualify a Team or Player

- a. The NFACG reserves the right to disqualify any competing team or player proven guilty of any breaches of the cup competition rules and/or Rules of the Association.

18. Cup and Medals

- a. The Association shall present a cup to the winning team and medals to all players and nominated substitutes in the final tie (a total of 16 per team)
- b. Clubs may purchase additional medals at the discretion of the NFACG.
- c. If a player taking part in the final is ordered to leave the field of play for misconduct, the medal to which he may be entitled may be withheld at the discretion of the NFACG.
- d. The cup is the property of NFA. When the winning club has been ascertained NFA shall loan the cup to this club. They will be responsible for its return to NFA on or before 1st February in the following year in good order and condition. NFA reserves the right to request the return of the cup at any time by giving seven days' notice. Should the cup be lost, destroyed or damaged by any cause whilst in the care or custody of the club they shall refund NFA the amount of its current insured value or the cost of thorough repair in addition to any other penalty which NFA may impose.
- e. The winning club do retain the right to return the cup immediately to NFA should it not wish to keep it until 1st February the following year.
- f. The winning club will acknowledge receipt of the cup by signing the appropriate agreement provided by the NFACG.
- g. In the event of a club folding the cup must be returned to the NFA within 14 days of the clubs notice of folding.
- h. All cups are to be returned to the NFA no later than 1st February of the following season. Failure to do so will incur a fine.

19. Gate Monies – NFA Saturday Senior Cup Only (1st round to semi-final)

- a. In all ties an admission charge can be levied and the NFACG set this as a minimum of £2.00 per person (the clubs can set concession charges). A higher admission fee can be set but both clubs must agree with the away team. The home club must notify the admission fee to its opponents no later than five days prior to the tie.

- b. Net profits or losses arising from the tie must be divided equally between the two competing teams. The home team is responsible for providing a receipts and expenditure account for the tie completing the NFA settlement form and returning it to cupcompetitions@nottinghamshirefa.com and settlement must be made to the visiting team within seven days of the date of the tie. Home teams failing to comply with this rule or submitting incomplete, incorrect or inaccurate details may be subject to a fine.
- c. Away teams will be permitted to claim reasonable expenses. Details of permitted expenses are shown below in rule 19(e).
- d. A maximum of 22 players and officials from the away team will be allowed entry to the home ground without payment. It is then the discretion of the home club should they wish to grant more.
- e. Where receipts are insufficient to cover the entire expenses of the tie the order of payment will be prioritised as follows:-
 - i. Match Officials
 - ii. Floodlights (not exceeding £30.00)
 - iii. Printing and Advertising (not exceeding £20.00)
 - iv. Travelling expenses of visiting players and officials (£3.00 per coach mile, one coach only or 40p per mile for maximum five cars, the starting journey point will be the away teams club address)
- f. In the event of insufficient gate receipts to cover expenses the loss is shared equally.

20. Precedence

- a. Football Association competitions take precedence over those organised by the NFA.
- b. All NFA cup competitions shall take precedence over league or league cup matches of competitions sanctioned by the NFA.
- c. In the event of a club having more than one team drawn at home on the same date, the team playing in the more senior competition shall take precedence (see also rule 6c).

21. Appeals

- a. All questions relating to the qualification of players, or interpretation of the rules, or any dispute or protest whatsoever, shall be referred to the NFACG whose decision is final and binding and not subject to appeal.
- b. Any appeal must be in writing and contain the grounds upon which it is founded. Only correspondence originating through the Club Secretary will be considered. The appeal must be received by the NFA within three working days of the match being played to cupcompetitions@nottinghamshirefa.com and the appeal fee of £30.00 must be deposited by BACS referencing your club name to:
Bank – RBS
Branch – Mansfield
A/C No – 10058809
Sort Code – 16-25-17
A/C Name – Nottinghamshire Football Association Ltd
- c. Any appeal relating to the suitability of the playing area will not be considered unless an objection has been lodged with the match official prior to the commencement of the match.
- d. The NFA shall send a copy of the appeal and particulars to those that are appealed against for their observations.
- e. If the NFACG deems it necessary to summon either or both teams to a hearing to resolve the outcome, witnesses may be called by either or both parties.
- f. The appeal fee shall be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being successful. If the appeal is successful the appeal fee will be refunded.

22. Alteration to Rules

- a. The NFACG reserves the right to amend or add to these rules at such time as the need may arise.

Appendix 1 – Fines Tariff:

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
5(d)	Failure to fulfil a fixture	£150.00
6(b)	Failure to communicate fixture details	£30.00
6(f)	Failure to provide an alternative venue	£150.00
7(a)	Failure to notify change of kick-off time	£30.00
12(i)	Playing an ineligible player(s)	£150.00
14(b)	Failure to submit a match result form	£20.00
18(h)	Failure to return cup	£30.00
19(b)	Failure to return settlement form	£20.00

Nottinghamshire FA County Cups 2017/18

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Date	Cup Name	Sat / Sun	Ground				
Home Team				Away Team			
Shirt No.	First Initial	Surname	Goals	Shirt No.	First Initial	Surname	Goals
Home Team Subs (tick if used)				Away Team Subs (tick if used)			
Half-Time Score		Full Time Score		Score after extra-time		Score on Penalties	
Referee Name				Referee mark out of 100			
Name of Home Team Manager / Coach				Name of Away Team Manager /Coach			
Home Team Manager / Coach Signature				Away Team Manager /Coach Signature			

This Team sheet has been completed by the home team / away team (delete as appropriate)
 Please send this within 72 hours of the fixture to cupcompetitions@nottinghamshirefa.com

Saturday Senior Cup statement of receipts and payments form

Date	Cup Name	Sat / Sun	Ground

Receipts (Net of VAT)

No. of Spectators		Entry Fee (£)		Sub Total (£)	
No. of Spectators		Entry Fee (£)		Sub Total (£)	
No. of Spectators		Entry Fee (£)		Sub Total (£)	
No. of Spectators		Entry Fee (£)		Sub Total (£)	

No. of complimentary tickets given to away team	
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Sub Total of Income (£)	
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Payments

Referee fee (including expenses)	
Assistant Referee 1 fee (including expenses)	
Assistant Referee 1 fee (including expenses)	
Printing and Advertising (not exceeding £20.00)	
Floodlights (not exceeding £30.00)	
Away Team travel expenses	

Sub Total of expenditure (£)	
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Balance for distribution (£)	
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A full settlement must be made within 7 days with the away team