

GENERAL BYE-LAWS FOR ALL O.F.A. COMPETITIONS
PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE ONLY APPLY TO COUNTY CUPS AND NOT TO LEAGUE
COMPETITIONS

1. The Senior Cup, Intermediate Cup, Charity Cup, John Fathers Junior Shield, Sam Waters Cup, OFA Youth Cups, Bill Halsey Memorial Cup, Women's Cup, and Veterans Cup are the property of the OFA

They will be competed for annually by clubs affiliated to the Association and shall not become the absolute property of any club. The entire control and management of these Competitions shall be vested in the Council who may delegate to Competition Secretaries as appropriate.

Clubs may enter each County Cup competition they have a team qualified for.

If a clubs disciplinary record is such that the OFA feel that they should not play in any Competition, the Council shall have the power to refuse participation

Note – Clubs affiliated to other County FAs must obtain associate affiliation with the OFA in order to compete in any OFA Competition."

DRAW FOR CUP COMPETITIONS

2A. The OFA shall be responsible for making the draw for each Competition, specifying the date when each round is to be played, and kick-off time in accordance with the Bye-Laws. With the exception of the Senior Cup and Intermediate Cup Competitions, if a scheduled match is postponed for any reason, then the match will be played on the following Saturday/Sunday, except when matches are played in midweek under lights. Subject to weather conditions, postponed midweek matches will be played before the next Round starts and the Competition Secretary will decide the new date.

2B. The OFA can, at its discretion, allow teams to be seeded and determine at what stage they will enter the Competition. The seeded teams will be identified and published prior to the Competition commencing. Teams playing in Step 4 and above of the FA National League System will be considered for seeded as appropriate. If necessary to ensure there are sufficient seeds, then teams competing at Step 5 shall be considered based on their league position from the previous season.

2C. The County may order any two Clubs to play on a certain date, if not otherwise engaged in a match in a competition with a higher precedence.

2D. Except in respect of the Senior and John Fathers Cups and with the exception of each final all matches will be played at the ground of the first-named team (if deemed suitable by the OFA). All finals, including the Senior and John Fathers Cups, will be played at grounds determined by the OFA. If any game is left unfinished owing to a late start, the replay will be on the ground of the Club not in fault on the following Saturday, or Sunday in the case of the Sam Waters Cup and/or Youth Cups, unless the Competition Secretary otherwise directs. The defaulting club will be responsible for all expenses.

2E. The semi-finals of the Senior Cup and the "John Fathers" Junior Shield will be played on neutral grounds as determined by the OFA.

2F. Senior Cup. If the first drawn club has floodlights, then they may play their fixture mid-week. From the quarterfinal stage onwards of the Senior Cup Competition, matches shall be played midweek under floodlights. Should the first drawn club not have floodlights then they will have the opportunity to find an alternative suitable ground or failing that play on their opponents ground if they have floodlights.

2G. Should the playing of extra time be prevented by any cause over which neither side has any control, then the game shall be deemed to be completed and the replay shall take place on the ground of the visiting side. In the event of extra time being started but not completed the results shall stand as at the end of normal time and the replay take place on the ground of the visiting side.

The club upon whose ground the match is played shall be responsible for all expenses except as otherwise required in these Bye-Laws.

KICK-OFF

3A. The official kick off time for all competitions (except the Sam Waters Cup) will be 1.30pm. The Sam Waters Cup will kick-off at 10.30 a.m.

Clubs drawn at Home who have floodlighting which meets the standard requirement for the League in which they participate will be permitted to stage a 3.00 p.m. kick-off or be permitted to arrange a mid-week match only with the agreement of their opponents and the Competition Secretary. Where played mid-week, these games shall kick-off no later than 7.45pm

Kick off times can only be changed if approved by the appropriate Competition Secretary and both clubs have indicated agreement

3B. Any Club not ready to kick-off at the official time in any Competition game may be liable to a fine as laid down in the Schedule of Charges.

DURATION OF GAMES

4. The duration of all games shall be not less than 35 minutes each way unless FA Regulations dictate otherwise due to age restrictions. The half-time interval shall not exceed 15 minutes, it may only be altered with the consent of the match referee.

With the exception of the Veterans' Cup, extra-time not exceeding 15 minutes each way will be played in all Rounds of County Knock-Out Competitions if necessary. If the scores are still level after extra-time the result will be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty-mark.

VETERANS CUP ONLY:

In all rounds, the duration of the veteran games shall not be more than 40, nor less than 30 minutes, each way. If after this time the scores are level, then the game shall be decided by taking kicks from the penalty spot, with no extra-time being played."

CONFIRMATION OF FIXTURES

5. Home clubs must confirm the fixture with the visiting club and match officials, stating venue, site of dressing rooms and time of kick-off. This must be done at least three days prior to the game being played. Failure to comply with this bye-law shall be liable to a fine laid down in the Schedule of Charges.

QUALIFICATION OF CLUBS

(RESERVE TEAMS FROM SENIOR CLUBS ONLY WILL BE ALLOWED TO COMPETE IN THE OXON INTERMEDIATE CUP)

6 The Senior Cup will be open to all professional and senior clubs as defined in the given list in front section of handbook.

The Intermediate Cup will be open to all intermediate clubs and reserve teams of Senior **status** clubs approved by the OFA

The Sam Waters Cup will be open to all bona fide Sunday clubs approved by OFA

The John Fathers Junior Shield will be open to all junior clubs approved by OFA
The Youth Cups will be open to all Oxfordshire youth clubs approved by OFA
The Charity Cup will be open to all Saturday clubs approved by the OFA. The final selection of clubs to take part in the Charity Cup Competition shall be vested in the OFA and competing clubs must have prior permission from their respective League.
The Women's Cup will be open to all women's clubs approved by the OFA
The Veteran's Cup will be open to all veteran's teams where the players must be over 35 years old.

PLAYERS AND QUALIFICATIONS

7A. No individual may play for more than one club in the same competition in the same season.

7B. The Team sheet provided must be completed with the full first and last names of competing players, the nominated substitutes and the occupants of the technical area. This must be given to the referee and opponents at least 30 minutes before kick off. Players and substitutes not named on the Team sheet will not be permitted to play. Any subsequent alteration to the Team sheet must be notified to the Referee and opponents before the kick-off.

7C. A Club entering a team in the Intermediate Cup shall not include more than two (2) players in any particular match that have played in the current seasons Senior Cup, or are classed as Senior (See 8 below).

7D. Except in a Competition where a Reserve Team is so entered, a club will play their strongest side from the available and duly qualified members. Failure to do so will incur a fine and any other action as determined by the Competitions Group.

7E. A qualified member must have been registered by the club with a recognised League of which it is a member at least 7 full days prior to the date fixed by the OFA for playing the match. (Twelve (12) midnight on Friday of the preceding week for a Saturday match, twelve (12) midnight on Saturday of the preceding week for a Sunday match).

7F. For OFA Youth Cups, the qualified member (i.e. player) must have been so registered to play for the SPECIFIC TEAM entering the OFA Competition.

7G. In the case of postponed or replayed matches only those players will play who were eligible by registration and not suspended on the original date fixed by the OFA for playing the match.

The "original date fixed" shall mean the date as published by the OFA or such date as agreed by both clubs and formally accepted by the relevant Competition Secretary.

7H. Any Club playing an unqualified player or a suspended player shall be adjudged to have lost the match, or otherwise dealt with by the OFA.

7I. A junior player who plays in the Charity Cup shall not lose his junior status.

7J. Clubs not entering a recognised League or Competition (e.g. only playing friendly matches) MUST submit to the Secretary of the County Competition into which they are to compete, a list of names and addresses of all players from whom their team will be selected. The list must be RECEIVED at least fourteen days prior to the date of each Round. Any

team subsequently containing a player(s) not on the list, or if a list is not supplied, will be considered by the OFA as INELIGIBLE. The Club will be adjudged to have lost the match, and further disciplinary action may be taken.

7K. Applies to the Sam Waters Sunday Cup ONLY:

All clubs making application to enter this Competition MUST be competing members of a recognised Sunday League on 1st August each year. No friendly teams will be allowed to enter. The Competition is open to all adult male players who are accordingly registered for the club they are representing. Contract players are not permitted to participate.

Any club making application to participate which fails to fulfil the above criteria will not be accepted and their entry fee will be refunded.

7L. Numbering of players shirts - In any match in all Competitions sanctioned by the OFA, players shirts must be clearly numbered in accordance with the match result card submitted to the Competition Secretary and there must be no change of numbers during the match.

7M

To play in competitions below you may have played in those to the right indicated with a YES	Senior Cup	Intermediate Cup	Junior Shield	Sam Waters	Charity Cup	Veterans Cup	Women's Cup	U18 Cup	U16 Cup
Senior Cup	-	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES		YES	*
Intermediate Cup		-		YES	YES				*
Junior Shield			-	YES	YES	YES		YES	*
Sam Waters	YES	YES	YES	-	YES	YES		YES	*
Charity Cup		YES	YES	YES	-	YES		YES	*
Veterans Cup	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	-			
Women's Cup							-		*
U18 Cup								-	

*** A youth player may play in any open aged football competition he/she qualifies for, on or after their 16th birthday. This will apply even if he/she may have played or is due to play in a youth side in the OFA U16 county cup competition.**

DEFINITION OF A SENIOR PLAYER

8. A player is defined as a "Senior" if after 1st November in the current season they have taken part in five Senior Competition Matches or any other League or Cup Competition deemed by the O.F.A. Council to be of Senior standing.

A Senior Player may only make one application for reinstatement per season. The application must be in writing, either on paper or e-mail, and be sent to the Chief Executive. It should contain the details of the clubs involved, a list of fixtures played and reasons for application.

Senior/Intermediate status is only applicable to non-Sunday football, therefore allowing any non-contract player to play on a Sunday irrespective if their other club is Senior or Intermediate status

COLOURS

9. Clubs intending to compete in any Competition will state their distinguishing colours at the time of entry. In the event of the colours of two clubs being similar, the Home Team will change colours. In any match on neutral ground the first named team must change. Goalkeepers must wear colours to distinguish them from other players. In ALL rounds of the County Competitions shirts must be numbered. Failure to carry out this instruction will result in a fine as per the Schedule of Charges being imposed. Club colours must be distinguishable from the match official(s) regulation black uniform

SUBSTITUTION

10. A club may at its discretion use substitute players at any time in any OFA Competition match in accordance with the table below;

Competition	Substitutes allowed
Senior Cup,	3 from 5 These shall NOT be interchangeable
Intermediate Cup, John Fathers Junior Shield, Sam Waters Sunday Cup, Charity Cup, Women's Cup , Veterans Cup, Youth Cups	5 from 5 interchangeable substitutes (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).

TECHNICAL AREA. No more than 8 people are permitted to occupy the Technical Area (if available). These occupants must be notified to the Referee before the commencement of the game along with the role they are fulfilling. Only one person at a time is authorised to convey tactical instructions and he/she must return to his/her position immediately after giving these instructions.

GROUND S

11A. The size of pitches will be in accordance with the FA Recommended Pitch Sizes guidance. Length will in all cases exceed the breadth

The FA Recommended Pitch Sizes							
Age Grouping	Type	Recommended size without run-off (safety area around pitch)		Recommended size including run-off (safety area around pitch)		Recommended size of goalposts	
		Length x width (yards)		Length x width (yards)		Height x width (ft)	
Youth U13/U14	11v11	90	55	96	61	7	21
Youth U15/U16	11v11	100	60	106	66	8	24
Youth U17/U18	11v11	110	70	116	76	8	24
Over 18 (senior ages)	11v11	110	70	116	76	8	24

In the event of a ground not meeting these requirements or being otherwise unsuitable, temporarily unfit or unavailable, the home club will provide another ground, to be approved by the OFA, or will be required to play on their opponents ground if that is fit for play and available. (Also see Bye-Law 12.A)

11B. The first drawn club is responsible for payment of ground expenses unless played on a neutral ground where both clubs are equally responsible

11C. All clubs entering the Oxon Senior Cup MUST ensure that during any match in the Competition the Field of Play is roped off to prevent encroachment by spectators. The rope must be highly visible to both players and spectators. In the Youth Cup Competitions, the use of 'FA Respect' / designated spectator area barriers is encouraged.

11D. If a match is played then it will count as a Competition game.

11E. Football Turf pitches (3G) are allowed in this Competition providing they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA's Register of Football Turf pitches. For clubs playing at Step 7 and below a pitch must be tested (by a FIFA accredited test institute) every three years and the results passed to the FA. The FA will give a decision on the suitability for use and add the pitch to the Register.

POSTPONEMENT OF MATCHES

12A.

Matches can only be postponed for one of the following reasons:-

- (a) The pitch being unfit (see also Bye-Law 11A);
- (b) Either team being required to play in a fixture of a higher precedence;
- (c) In respect of a Youth Cup Competition, either team having at least 3 players (or its goalkeeper) selected to play for an OFA Representative Team in a recognised competition.

12B. In the event of late cancellation, where the match official(s) have reported for duty, the home team club is responsible for half the recognised fee.

12C. If a scheduled match is postponed the Home club will inform the opponents, Competition Secretary and Match Official(s) immediately. If the postponement is deemed valid by the OFA then the match will be played on the following Sat/Sun, except when matches are played in Midweek under lights. If the postponement is deemed invalid the team or teams causing that postponement may be subject to sanction as determined by the OFA

ABANDONED MATCHES

13. If a match is abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it shall be played at the same ground on the next Saturday, Sunday or midweek at some other date determined by the Competition Secretary.

The Cup Committee shall review all other abandoned matches and in cases where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either of the two clubs, shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to be recorded as the result. In all cases where the Cup Committee are satisfied that a match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of one team or their Club members, they shall be empowered to award the match to their opponents and take what other action they deem necessary.

In cases where a match is abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams of their Club members, the Cup Committee shall take such action as they consider appropriate which may include removing both teams from the Competition.

REFEREE, ASSISTANT REFEREES AND CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE

14A. Referees and Assistant Referees for all O.F.A. Competitions will be appointed by the Referees Appointment Secretary or the Referees Committee.

14B All Senior Cup Ties may have official Referees and Assistant Referees appointed. Assistant Referees will be appointed for all semi- final and final games. At the discretion of the Referees Appointments Secretary, any O.F.A. competitive game may have Assistant Referees and a Fourth Official appointed.

14C. In the event of the appointed referee not being present within fifteen minutes of the advertised time for the match to start, the senior Assistant Referee (in games where such officials have been appointed) shall officiate. Where the appointed Referee is not present nor have Assistant Referees been appointed the clubs must agree a person to act in his stead. The game must be played.

14D. Where an appointed Assistant Referee fails to attend at the appointed time, or in circumstances outlined in (c) above, a Club Assistant Referee will be provided by the first named club in the draw.

14E. All clubs shall have available a Club Assistant Referee for every O.F.A. Competition including Senior Cup ties

14F. In all Competitions, the cost of the match official(s) shall be paid by the nominated home team, (even if the match is reversed for whatever reason), but the nominated visiting team shall be responsible for reimbursing half the total(s) to the nominated home team. The official(s) shall be paid either before or within 15 minutes of the completion of the game.

Clubs failing to pay match officials will be fined by the OFA.

NOTICE OF RESULTS OF GAMES

15A.

- a) Each Club shall submit an online result of the match with the names of their players competing, including all substitutes, together with the name of the referee and marking of his/her performance. This is to be received within 4 days of the match. Failure to complete the online result card correctly will result in a fine as laid down in the Schedule of Charges. Random checks may take place where clubs are asked to submit the team sheet used on the day to allow an audit of the information against their online submission.
- b) A member from each team is responsible for sending the Association an SMS containing the result of the match as directed by the "Full-Time" system within two hours of the match finishing. Failure to do so may result in a fine as laid down in the Schedule of Charges

15B. A Team Sheet will be sent to the competing clubs on which the names of the eleven competing players, the nominated substitutes and other Technical Area occupants must be noted. After completion one copy must be handed to the opposing team, one to the Match Referee (for retention) and one kept by the club.

COMPETITION ENTRY FEES

16. The entry fees for all Competitions shall be paid, together with the annual Affiliation Fees to the Association to arrive on or before July 1st of each year. The entry fees are laid down in the Schedule of Charges as printed in this handbook.

FINANCE

17A. In all rounds of the Competitions previous to the final tie and semi- final ties scheduled by the OFA to be played on neutral grounds the home club will make the financial arrangements, and the visiting club will check the receipts. In the case of a match originally scheduled by the OFA to be played on a neutral ground but subsequently taking place on the ground of one of the competing clubs it will be treated as though the match had taken place on a neutral ground with the OFA being responsible for the financial arrangements. All members and season ticket holders will pay the same admission as the general public.

17B. The OFA shall be responsible for the arrangements in all final games and semi- final ties scheduled by the OFA to be played on neutral grounds. Travelling expenses for County Semi-Finals and Finals shall be the responsibility of the competing clubs.

17C. If, with the OFA's permission, the clubs involved forego the opportunity to play on a neutral ground and mutually decide that one or other have home ground advantage the conditions concerning finance when a semi- final or final match was originally, scheduled to be played on a neutral ground shall still apply.

17D. With the exception of the Senior Cup and Junior Shield, semi-finals will be played at ground of first named team. Match officials expenses are the responsibility of the home team and will be reimbursed by the O.F.A. on submission of the claim form provided.

PLAQUES AND MEDALS

18. In addition to the trophy, the Association shall present mementoes to the players and substitutes in the Final Tie. When a player taking part is ordered from the field of play for misconduct, the memento to which he/she may be entitled shall be withheld at the discretion of the OFA.

Applications for a maximum of **two** additional mementoes must be made to the Chief Executive. If permitted, the cost of additional mementoes will be met by the club making the request. All monies are to be paid in advance.

WITHDRAWAL FROM O.F.A. COMPETITIONS

19A. Any club withdrawing from a Competition through being unable to raise a team during the course of the season shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the competition and shall be liable to fine of £40.00.

19B. Any club refusing or failing to play in any Competition against the club with which it is drawn on the date specified, if play is possible, shall be adjudged to have lost the match and may also otherwise be dealt with by the OFA as deemed appropriate.

19C. Any Club that withdraws late from a Cup Competition where the opponents and match official(s) have travelled, and it is proven to be at fault, will be liable for any incurred costs for travelling and match officials.

INFRINGEMENT OF BYE-LAWS

20. The Competition Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Bye-laws of the Competitions and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competitions, including any not provided for in the Bye-laws. For all breaches of Bye-laws a formal written charge must be issued. The respondent shall be given seven days from the date of notice to reply to the charge and given the opportunity to:-

- (i) Accept or deny the charge
- (ii) Submit in writing a case of mitigation, or
- (iii) Put their case before a Competitions Committee panel

All decisions made by the Competitions Committee under this Bye-law shall be binding subject to a right of appeal to an OFA Board of Appeal. Such appeals must be lodged in writing with the OFA Chief Executive within 14 days of notification of the Competition Committee's decision. A fee of £35 must accompany that appeal. The grounds for appeal shall be given in accordance with FA Rules. The Board of Appeal may order the appeal fee to be forfeited. The decision of the Board of Appeal is final and binding on all parties concerned.

PROTESTS

21. All questions relating to the qualifications of competitors, or the interpretations of the Bye-Laws, financial claim, or any dispute or protest whatever, arising out of any competition managed by the Association shall be referred to the County Office. Every protest, etc., must be made in writing, and must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which it is founded. The protest shall be sent to the County Office, together with the fee of £35 within five (5) days (Sundays not included) of the match or decision to which it relates.

The fee may be forfeited to the Association in the event of the protest or claim, etc., not being sustained. The Association may order any Club engaged in a dispute or protest to pay such a sum as may be considered necessary towards defraying the expenses of the meeting incurred when deciding same.

Any protest relating to the ground, the marking out of same, goalposts, bars, or any other appurtenances of the game, shall not be entertained by the Association unless an objection has been lodged with the referee before the commencement of the game. The referee may require the responsible Club to remove the cause of the objection, if this is possible, without unduly delaying the progress of the game. Any objection so made to the referee shall also be notified at once to the Competition Secretary together with the protest fee.

Any protest for a late start must be made to the referee or the official in charge of the game before the commencement of the game. If the game is left unfinished owing to a late start, the replay shall be on the ground of the Club not at fault.

All decisions made by the Competitions Committee under this Bye-law shall be final and binding

SAFE CUSTODY OF ASSOCIATION TROPHIES

22. When the winning club in all Competitions shall have been ascertained, the trophy shall be handed to its representatives, and two of its officials shall sign a document detailing their responsibilities. Failure to observe these responsibilities could result in a fine not exceeding £50

The winning club in any Competition is responsible for providing a suitable engraved shield on the Trophy.

The OFA will be responsible for ensuring adequate insurance cover on all OFA Trophies at all times. It is the responsibility of the winning club to ensure the safe custody of each Trophy. If a Trophy is damaged in any way during the retention period the winning club shall be responsible for the subsequent cost of repair. This can be arranged by the club or, after the return of the Trophy by the OFA, in which case the club will be invoiced. **Trophies returned in a unclean state will incur a minimum of £50 cost for cleaning for presentation.**

PRECEDENCE OF COMPETITION MATCHES

23.

1st F.A. Cup, F.A. Challenge Trophy, F.A. Challenge Vase, The Football League.

2nd OFA Competitions: Senior Cup, Intermediate Cup, John Fathers Junior Shield, Sam Waters Cup and Youth Cups.

3rd Other OFA Cup matches on dates as officially fixed or re-arranged by the Competition Secretary.

4th The Panel Leagues;

5th The FA Youth, FA County Youth Challenge Cup Competitions and FA Women's Cup 4th round and above.

6th Contributory Leagues (recognised divisions only), National League Systems Cup and FA Sunday Cup

7th FA Women's Super League and Cup

8th Supply Leagues (marking divisions only)

9th OFA. Affiliated Competitions, precedence determined by earlier date of institution (see Affiliated and Approved Competitions in the Handbook). Original fixtures take precedence over re-arranged dates.

10th Other Competitions.

Original Fixtures in All Competitions take precedence over rearranged matches except F.A. and OFA Cup Ties.

OFA VETERANS CUP (Specific rules in addition to the General Bye-Laws)

24A. All clubs competing must be affiliated to the OFA or must have associate affiliation, with the permission of their parent County FA, to compete.

24B. All players must be over the age of 35 years

24C. Each club shall supply a list of players, stating dates of birth, to the Competition Secretary each season before the First Round of the Cup. Clubs may only add to this list with permission of the Competition Secretary.

O.F.A. YOUTH CUPS (Specific rules in addition to the General Bye-Laws)

25A. Age qualifications

Age as of midnight on 31 st August in current playing season	Eligible Age Groups
12	Under 13
	Under 14
13	Under 14
	Under 15
14	Under 15
	Under 16
15	Under 16
	Under 17
	Under 18
16	Under 17
	Under 18
18	Under 18

A child under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31 August in a playing season, shall not be permitted to play in a match during that playing season where any other player is older or younger than that child by two years or more.

25B. Players & Qualifications

No player may play for more than one team in the same Competition.
Mixed gender teams are ONLY ALLOWED up to and including U18s.
All Youth Cup games will be played as an 11 v 11 format.

25C. Duration of matches

Under 13 & 14 35 minutes each way
Under 15 & 16 40 minutes each way
Under 18 45 minutes each way

The minimum time for any game will be:

Under 13 & 14 Not be less than 25 minutes each way
Under 15 & 16 Not be less than 30 minutes each way
Under 18 Not be less than 35 minutes each way

Extra time where needed shall be:

Under 13 to Under 16 Ten (10) minutes each way
Under 18 Fifteen (15) minutes each way

25D. Footballs

The size of football to be used shall be:
Size 4 for those playing Under 13-14 age groups
Size 5 for those playing Under 15-18 age groups.