

1: Competition

The following Rules shall apply to this Competition, which shall be played annually:

Matt Major Disability Cup (PAN Disability)

2: Cup Ownership

This trophy shall remain the property of the Sussex County Football Association ("the Association").

3: Control of Competition

- (a) The Association shall have entire control and management of the Competition and have the power to disqualify, impose fines or other such penalties and may order the payment of costs and expenses against any competing Team, or the players of any competing Team, in breach of any of the Rules of the Competition.
- (b) The Association shall decide upon the interpretation of the Rules of the Competition, adjudicate upon any dispute, claims, protest and Appeals, and their decision shall be final and binding.
- (c) The Association shall have power to formulate the Rules of the Competitions, and to alter or add to the Rules as they, from time to time, deem expedient.

Note: To clarify, the word ties is shown as this is pending on the Round Robin Tournament Group Winners where there may be a need for Semi-Finals to be played. If Semi-Finals are required they will be played following the conclusion of the Round Robin Tournament.

4: Eligible Teams

- (a) Open age PAN Disability Teams who affiliate to the Sussex County Football Association.
- (b) Teams who compete in the Adult Premiership (Mixed) and Adult Championship (Mixed) of the Sussex Disability League.
- (c) There is no limit to the number of Teams per Club.

5: Competition Entries, Withdrawals and Unfulfilled Ties

- (a) Applications to enter County Cup Competitions must be completed by each Team entering each Competition and submitted via Club Portal on or before 11th October. Each application must be accompanied by an Entry Fee **(Note: For Season 2023/2024 only, an Entry Fee will not be required)**, as decided by the Association and set out in the Fees Tariff.
- (b) The Association may accept late entries until the Competition's format has been drawn.
- (c) The entry of any Team may be rejected by the Association.

An invoice will be issued for each entry fee which must be settled within 14 days of the invoice date. Failure to pay an invoice within the stated period shall result in a fine as set out in the Fines Tariff, to be paid within 14 days, failing which further disciplinary action may be taken. (See Rule 5(a))

Withdrawals

- (e) Any Teams withdrawing from this Competition may be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff or otherwise dealt with, as the Association decides.

Unfulfilled Matches

- (f) If any Team refuses or fails to play a match on the date fixed for it, that Team shall be removed from the Competition and shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff, and shall pay any expenses incurred by their opponents. (See Rule 13(c)).
- (g) Extenuating circumstances may be considered by the Association.
 - (i) In the case of medical extenuating circumstances, written evidence and any medical certification must be received within 3 days of the date set for the match.
 - (ii) Any other requests for extenuating circumstances may be considered by the Association on a case-by-case basis.

A Team failing to adhere to any part of this rule shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

6: Qualification of Players, Substitutes and Team Sheets

- (a) Only those players that have reached the age of 16 are eligible to play in this Competition (no exemptions).
- (b) Each competing Team shall only consist of bona fide playing members of their Team. Any Team failing to carry out these provisions shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (c) A player shall not play for more than one Team in the same Competition during the same playing season, but the members of each respective Team may be changed during the series of matches. Each Team can nominate up to 16 players per tie.

The format for this Competition shall be 9 v 9.

- (d) A player must have been registered by the Team at least 24 hours immediately prior to the commencement of the match.
- (e) For a player to play in the Semi-Final or Final tie they must have played at in at least one match in the Round Robin Tournament.
- (f) If the Association shall have any doubts as to the qualification of a player taking part in a match it shall have the power to call upon that player, the Team for which the player took part and the Team with which the player is a member, to prove to its satisfaction that the player was qualified according to the Rules. Failing such proof, the Association may determine such player to have been ineligible and will remove the Team from the Competition and deal otherwise with such player and/or Team as it deems fit.
- (g) Any Team failing to carry out these provisions shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fine Tariff, and other disciplinary action at the discretion of the Association.

Substitutes

- (h) A Team may at its discretion use up to seven substitute players who may be selected from up to seven players nominated to the Referee prior to the commencement of the match/tie and may replace another at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football. A player who has been substituted then becomes a substitute (i.e. "Roll-on/Roll-off").

A substitute player is not deemed a player until they enter the field of play.

Team Sheets

- (i) Teams must hand Team sheets listing the players taking part (including nominated substitutes) and their corresponding shirt numbers to the Referee and to a representative of their opponents, in the presence of the Referee. For all matches 15 minutes prior to the commencement of each match, and for the Final tie at least 60 minutes before the advertised time for kick-off.

Any Team failing to carry out these provisions shall be liable to a Fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (j) Should any nominated player or substitute sustain an injury after the submission of the Team sheet to the Referee and before kick-off, that player may be replaced by another player or by a nominated substitute, provided the Referee and opponents are informed.

7: Objections to Qualifications; Protests and Appeals

- (a) All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Association.
- (b) Objections relevant to the ground, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be considered by the Association unless a protest is lodged with the Referee before the

commencement of the matches/tie. Any Team lodging such protest and not proceeding with it shall be deemed guilty of this Rule and shall be dealt with by the Association.

- (c) Any dispute occurring between Teams in the competition shall be referred for determination by the Association, whose decision shall be binding upon all parties.

Protests

- (d) No protest, of whatever kind, shall be considered by the Association unless it is lodged in writing with the Association within four days of the match/tie or occurrence to which they refer and accompanied by the appropriate fee, as set out in the Fees Tariff. This fee may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaint or protest not being upheld. The Association shall have the power to order the defaulting Team, or the Team making the losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the enquiry or order the costs to be shared by the parties.
- (e) All protests will be dealt with by correspondence, unless either party requests a Personal Hearing with members of the Association. All parties must have received seven days' notice of any hearing, together with a copy of the submission. When dealing with a protest or complaint the Association shall take into account the possession by the protesting or complaining Team of any information which, if properly used, might have avoided the protest or complaint.

Appeals

- (f) A Team may appeal against a sanction imposed against them by the Association to an Appeal Board appointed by the Association (under Rule 27 of the Sussex County FA Membership Rules, including payment of the appropriate Fee set out in the Fees Tariff). The decision of the Appeal Board is final and binding on all parties concerned.
- (g) If any County Member is connected with a Club or individual concerned in a protest or complaint, they shall not be present while the protest is being considered or be a member of an Appeal Board appointed by the Association.

8: Organisation of the Competition

- (a) The format of the Competition will be decided by the Association as and when the entries are known.
- (b) The Competition will take place at a central venue as a Round Robin Tournament on the same day, either late March or early April, with the Final being played at a later date. ***(Note: For the inaugural year the Round Robin Tournament/Semi-Finals (latter if required) shall be played on Sunday 12th May 2024, with the Final Tie on Sunday 12th May 2024)***

9: Ground for Cup Matches/Ties

- (a) All matches/ties shall be played on a central ground, in this case Sussex County Football Association Headquarters, Lancing. If this venue is not available the Association shall seek an alternative venue.
- (b) Dimensions of the Field of Play – Pitches must be marked out in the correct manner in accordance with FA Regulations for 9 v 9 format.
- (c) Goal nets must be used in all matches/ties.
- (d) Football Turf Pitches (3G Artificial Pitches) can be used providing they meet the required performance standards and are listed on The FA's Register of Football Turf Pitches.
- (e) Match balls will be provided by the Association for all matches/tie, the ball may be altered to suit the needs of the participants e.g. bell ball.
- (f) Only the nominated coach/manager may convey tactical instructions to the players during the matches/ties.

10: Team Colours

- (a) Where the colours of both competing Teams are similar, the Team drawn second shall change its colours. For this purpose bibs can be used.

- (b) No Team shall be permitted to wear black or very dark coloured shirts that may conflict with the Match Officials.
 - (c) In the Final tie both Teams and/or goalkeepers may be directed to change colours, if necessary, by the Association.
- Any Team failing to adhere to this Rule shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

11: Duration of Matches/Ties

- (a) Round Robin Tournament matches shall have a duration of 25 minutes (straight through), this duration can only be changed with the agreement of both teams and Match Officials. The duration of the Final tie shall be 50 minutes (25 minutes each half). The half time interval shall be of 10 minutes duration and may only be altered with the consent of the Referee.
- (b) In the event of Semi-Final ties having to be played the duration shall be of 25 minutes (straight through). In the event of the scores being level, the winner shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the procedure adopted by The International FA Board.
- (c) For the Final tie in which the score is level at the end of normal time, the winner shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the procedure adopted by The International FA Board.

12: Provision for Matches/Ties

- (a) The Association shall fix the ground, date and time for all matches/ties, and shall have direct control of the arrangements connected with the matches/ties. The Final tie to be played on a separate day to that of Round robin Tournament.
- (b) Players must wear numbers on the back of their shirts and the players nominated to form the Team shall wear numbers corresponding to those listed on the Team sheet.
Any Team failing to adhere to this Rule shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (c) Teams participating in the Final tie shall comply with the instructions given by the Association.
Any Team failing to adhere to this rule shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (d) The Association will determine the admission fees for this Competition.

13: Postponed and Abandoned Matches/Ties

- (a) Matches/ties which are abandoned for any reason shall be dealt with by the Association which shall have the power to order:
 - (i) The score at the time of the abandonment to stand as a result of the match; or
 - (ii) the match to be replayed and to determine on which ground the match shall be played; or
 - (ii) to take any other action which it may determine.
- (b) Matches which are postponed shall be rearranged by the Association on a date fixed by them.
- (c) In the circumstances where a match is postponed owing to either Team being unable to fulfil the fixture, the Association may instruct the defaulting Team to pay such reasonable costs as decided by the Association for Match Officials expenses (if travelled) and/or opposing Teams travel (if travelled) and award the match to the opposing Team.

14. Reporting Results

- (a) Both Teams shall ensure that on the day of the match/tie, the result or postponement is reported as directed by the Association.
Any Team failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (b) Both Teams shall ensure that an official match return form is received by the Association (not in the final) within four days following the match. The match return form must be completed in full, details can be submitted online to www.sussexfa.com/cups-and-competitions/rules-and-documents, or on FA Full-Time and Matchday App.

Any Team failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (c) A Team deliberately falsifying the information on a match return form shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff and excluded from the Competition.

15. Trophies and Mementoes

- (a) The winners of the Competitions shall be presented with a Trophy which shall be held by that Team for the current season.
- (b) The Association shall present up to 16 plaques, medals or other suitable mementoes to players in each Team and a suitable memento to the manager of each Team in the Final tie. A Team which is participating in a Final tie may apply in writing to the Association for other players who took part in previous matches of the Competition during the current playing season to receive a memento. Any such mementoes approved by the Association shall be at the expense of the applying Team. All applications for additional mementoes must be submitted to the Association within seven days of the Final tie. It will be at the discretion of the Association to whether a player sent from the field of play during the Final Tie receives their memento at the post-match presentations.
- (c) When the winners of the Competitions have been determined, the Association shall hand over the trophy to that Team, which in return shall give a written undertaking, on a form approved by the Association, to return the trophy in good condition to the Association on or before the 28th February in the following season. Before the trophy is returned it must be cleaned and engraved at the expense of the Team and in accordance with the Association's instructions.

Any Team failing to return, clean or engrave the trophy on time shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff, plus the cost of any engraving.

- (d) The Association shall present a permanent memento to winning Teams.
- (e) In the event that a Team ceases to exist after winning a competition, any trophies held by that Team will be returned immediately to the Association.

16: Provisions Concerning Match Officials

- (a) The Association shall appoint Match Officials to all Matches/ties. The Association shall appoint, if possible, a Fourth official, to the Final Tie.
- (b) The fees of Match Officials appointed by the Association to officiate in all matches, shall be paid by the Association in accordance with the Fees Tariff. Match Officials appointed to the Final tie shall receive travel expenses only and a memento.
- (c) Officials shall be entitled to their travelling expenses. In the event of a Match Official attending a match cancelled or postponed without their knowledge, the Association will be required to pay one half of the usual fee, together with their expenses.
- (d) The Association will provide high visibility gloves to Match Officials.

17: Late Start

Referees shall report late starts to the Association and inform the defaulting Team that it is being reported. The Secretary of the defaulting Team must send an explanation in writing for the late start to the Association within four days of the tie.

The defaulting Team shall be liable for a fine in accordance with the Fines tariff.

18: Proceeds of Ties

- (a) Proceeds of all ties shall be retained by the Association, which will bear any losses.
- (b) Admission fees to be set by the Association.

19: Payment of Fines

Failure to comply with the requirements of these Rules will result in a charge of breaching Competition Rules and a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. All fines are to be paid within fourteen days of notification, failing which further disciplinary action may be taken by the Association.

20: Contingency

The Association shall have the power to deal appropriately with any contingency not provided for in these Rules, including the imposition of any sanction.

21: Respect

The Association will require the procedures of the Respect Programme to be observed for all matches/ties.

Any Team failing to comply with any part of this Rule may be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Appendix A

Eligibility

- A. Blind and Visual Impairment**
- B. Deaf / Hearing or Balance Impairment**
- C. Learning Disabilities**
- D. Missing or shortened limbs** (either congenital or through amputation)
- E. Cerebral Palsy**
- F. Physical Impairment** (caused by injury or disease which restricts the person to function in mainstream sports)
- G. Mental Health**
- H. Other Impairment or Disabilities not covered**
- I. Eligibility concerns regarding a player or Team**

It is the responsibility of each competing Team's management to ensure that all footballers are eligible, according to the criteria within these guidelines.

It is felt that each Club's members will rarely have any cause to query another footballer's eligibility, however, if Club members are uncertain or have genuine concerns, they should report this to the competition secretary at the earliest opportunity. All concerns to be put in writing.

It is also important for Club members to remember that individuals may have genuine disabilities or impairments, and as such we request that concerns are not discussed with any other individuals other than the Team manager / the Association.

The Association will always follow up on concerns, however, it may have been proven to the Association that the player is eligible. Where it has not, the Association secretary will write to the players Club, and request written evidence of their player's eligibility. The Club will be given two weeks from the date of letter to respond.

In the event that the Club does not produce appropriate evidence during this period, the player will have their registration removed from the Team/Competition and therefore be unable to play until a time when the eligibility evidence is supplied to the Association.

Feedback will be provided to the Club member whom expressed concerns regarding the player's eligibility. However, this will not be detailed information and no information regarding the player's disabilities and / or impairment will be given.

Rather, the concerned Club member will be informed 'yes the player is eligible' or 'the player's registration has been cancelled'. No other information will be given.

The Association takes it very seriously when a Club has played a player whom is not eligible. It is the responsibility of Club members to ensure that their players are eligible. Disciplinary action may be enforced to clubs whom do not ensure this.

J. Supporting Documents and Evidence

Supporting documents and evidence which may be used when proving eligibility:

- A letter or statement from a GP
- A letter or statement from a care and support manager / provider
- A letter or statement from an appropriate medical professional – consultant, optician, speciality doctor etc.
- A letter or statement from an appropriate social service professional – care manager, social worker etc.
- A letter or educational report from the school, case worker, service provider, or any other organisation which states the IQ score
- An appropriate document which informs the Association of an individual's learning

disability, or impairment.

All documents should suggest that their diagnosis has a prohibiting factor preventing them from participation in mainstream football.

If Clubs have any concerns regarding the supporting documents or evidence, they must contact the Association at County Headquarters at the earliest opportunity.

FEES TARIFF

Rule	Description	Fee
5(a)	Competition Entry Fee Season 2023/2024 From Season 2024/2025	No Entry Fee £32.00
7(d)	Objections to Qualifications & Other Protests	£30.00
7(f)	Appeals made under Membership Rule 27	£35.00
16(b)	Scale of Fees for Match Officials (Round Robin Tournament)	£80.00 (per session)
16(b)	Mileage rate for travelling expenses (Final tie Only)	38p per mile

FINES TARIFF (For the inaugural season fines will be at the discretion of the Association)

RULE	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
5(c)	Failure to pay entry fees within 14 days on invoice	£30.00
5(e)	Withdrawal from Competition	£75.00
5(f) & (g)	Default from Competition	£75.00
6(b) & (g)	Fielding of ineligible players	£50.00
6(i)	Failure to hand in Team sheets within prescribed timescales	£15.00
10	Team Colours	£15.00
12(b)	Failure to wear shirt number as on team sheet	£5.00 per player
12(c)	Teams not complying with instructions from the Association	£50.00
14(a)	Failure to notify the Association of result	£20.00
14(b)	Failure to submit match return form, within 4 days	£25.00
14(c)	Deliberately falsifying information on match return form	£50.00 and excluded from Competition
15(c)	Failure to return trophy by stipulated time, clean and engraved	£50.00
17	Failure to report late start by defaulting Team Secretary	£15.00
19	Failing to pay fines within stipulated time	£25.00
21	Failure to observe procedures of the Respect Programme	£25.00