WORCESTERSHIRE SATURDAY JUNIOR CUP RULES
(As last amended in August 2018)

1. Name of Cup
The name of the Cups shall be called "The Worcestershire Football Association: Saturday Junior Cup". This Competition is senior to all other affiliated Cup Competitions within the County, with the exception of the WFA Senior Invitation Cup and WFA Senior Invitation Urn.

2. Cup Ownership
The Chairman, Directors and Chief Executive Officer of the Association shall be the legal owners of the Cup, in trust for the Association. The Cup shall be a Challenge Cup and cannot be won outright. The successful winning club of each Competition shall upon receiving the Cup hand to the Association an Indemnity, signed by three Officers of the winning club agreeing to keep the Cup in good order and condition, and return the Cup to the Association on or before 1st February in the ensuing year. The Association shall insure the Cups against all risks and shall be responsible for all engraving. Any club not returning the Competition Trophy by the due date or returning them in poor condition shall be fined.

3. Medals
In addition to the Cup up to 16 Medals for the winners and the runners-up of each club competing in the Final Tie may be presented by the Association, which shall not be transferable. When a player or official taking part in the Final Tie of any Competition is ordered to leave the field of play for misconduct, the medal, to which he may be entitled, shall be withheld until the matter has been dealt with by the Association.

4. Control of Competition
a) The ownership, organisation, control and management of the Competition shall be vested entirely and exclusively in The Worcestershire Football Association.
b) The Council of the Worcestershire Football Association shall have the power to make delete and amend the rules for the organisation, control and management of the Competition as it deems expedient (the "Competition Rules").
c) Every club participating in the Competition shall be bound by and comply with the Competition Rules.
d) The Council shall appoint a Football Services Committee. The Football Services Committee shall have the authority to exercise all powers of the Council in relation to each Competition and to make decisions on all matters arising out of or in relation to the organisation control and management of the Competition. The decisions of the Football Services Committee shall be final and binding on all participants in each Competition.
e) In relation to any matter not specifically mentioned in the Competition Rules, the Football Services Committee shall, on behalf of the Council, have the power to take such action and make such decisions, orders, and rulings and impose such penalties as it deems necessary and following such procedures as it considers appropriate.

5. Eligible Clubs
a) Junior clubs in the County which meet the entry criteria laid down from time to time by the Council may compete and the Council shall decide in which Competition each club shall compete. Other clubs which meet the entry criteria may be invited to compete by the Association.
Clubs entering the **Saturday Junior Cup** must ensure that, **as a minimum**, the playing area is fully roped off, the only exception being those areas and spaces excluded from spectator viewing (for which notices must be clearly displayed).
b) All competing clubs must be affiliated to the Worcestershire Football Association.
c) The Council may reject the entry of any club.
d) Clubs entering the Competition must be members of a recognised affiliated Saturday League.
e) The Sunday Cup Competitions are not linked in any way with the Saturday Cup Competitions.
f) Clubs affiliated to the Worcestershire Football Association competing in leagues not affiliated to the Association **must** compete in the appropriate Cup Competition of this Association otherwise they shall not be permitted to enter any other Cup Competitions which are **external** to the League(s) in which the club will be in membership for the ensuing season.
g) A club shall be permitted to enter more than one team in any Competition.

6. Dates For Entry
Applications from clubs wishing to compete in any of the Competitions must be received by the Association on or before 5pm on the 1st July previous to the season in which such club proposes to compete. No late entry shall be accepted.

7. The Draw
a) The names of all clubs accepted for entry into each Competition shall be placed in the appropriate Competition. The format for the draw for the round through to the end of the Competition, when the winning club shall hold the Cup, shall be at the option of the Council.
b) Whenever possible the Council shall arrange all necessary byes in the First Round and no club, if avoidable, shall have more than one bye during each season.
c) Immediately after each Draw is made, notice shall be given to each club of the name of their opponents, and the conference date when the Tie must be played. The time of kick off is 2.30pm. All Ties in each round shall be played on dates and the times

as the Council may determine, unless both clubs mutually agree to play on a prior date and permission has been obtained from the Council or unless the Council for any reason agrees to or orders another date or time.
d) Upon receipt of the Draw for each round, Secretaries of clubs drawn at home **must** advise their opponents, Match Official(s) and any Worcestershire Football Association Council Members appointed to attend of the date and time of kick-off for the match and the situation of their ground and changing rooms and the colours to be worn not less than **7 days** prior to the date of the match.
f) Affiliated Association Cup Competition matches which involve the Reserve or Youth teams of a club shall not take precedence over Saturday first team league fixtures of Leagues comprising Steps 2-6 of the National League System (NLS) and Football Association Competitions.

8. Grounds For Cup-Ties

a) **Choice of Ground**

i) In each Tie the game shall be played on the ground of the club first drawn, unless otherwise mutually agreed by the clubs and the consent of the Council obtained.
ii) If the ground of the first drawn club is not available, other than due to adverse ground conditions, on the date fixed by the Council, then the home Club must advise the Association at least **10 days** prior to the date fixed by the Council and must arrange an alternative ground with the approval of the Council or must play the match on their opponents ground and it shall be considered as a home fixture for the club first drawn.
iii) In any event, the Council shall have the power to order that any match be played on an alternative ground or date if it is considered appropriate and necessary. For Ties switched from the ground of the club first drawn, the Council shall determine the financial conditions in which the Tie shall be played.

b) **Dimensions of Field of Play and Ground Facilities**

Matches may be played on a natural grass pitch; or on an artificial grass surface with the prior consent of the Football Services Committee.
If an artificial grass surface is to be used the following requirements apply: -
(i) The pitch shall be surfaced with a third generation (3G) artificial grass surface.
(ii) The artificial grass pitch, including run-offs, shall be one continuous playing surface and shall be green in colour with line markings in accordance with the Laws of Association Football. Other lines are permitted provided that they are of a different colour and clearly distinguishable from the lines used for football.
(iii) The club using the pitch shall advise their opponents and the Match Official(s) at least 10 days before the match of limitations or recommendations on the types of boot or stud that may be used on the surface.
(iv) The dimensions of the field of play for all Cup Ties shall be as follows:-
Maximum length 120 yards or 110 metres; Minimum length 100 yard or 90 metres; Maximum width 80 yards or 75 metres; Minimum width 50 yards or 45 metres.
(v) Goal nets must be used in all Cup Ties.
(vi) Clubs entering the Saturday Junior Cup must ensure that, as a **minimum,** the playing area is fully roped off, the only exception being those areas and space excluded from spectator viewing (for which notices must be clearly displayed) clubs failing to comply with this requirement, without sufficient reason, shall be fined.
(vii) The home Club **must** provide adequate changing accommodation, washing and toilet facilities for their opponents and the Match Official(s) at the ground being used. Clubs failing to comply with this requirement, without sufficient reason, shall be fined.

c) **Appeal - Unsuitability of Ground**

If the ground of the club first drawn is considered unsuitable for the Cup Tie, having regard to all the circumstances, the opposing club may appeal to the Council within **7 days** of receipt of the draw. The Council may order the match to be played on the ground of the opposing club or on a neutral ground. In the case of a ground been rendered temporarily unfit for any reason a protest may be lodged before the commencement of the match with the Referee, who shall declare the ground fit or unfit for the Cup Tie to be played.

d) **Playing Condition of the Ground**

Each club must take every precaution to keep its ground in good playing condition and if there is a doubt about the fitness of a ground the home club shall consult with the appointed Match Referee and ask the Referee to carry out an early ground inspection.
If the appointed Match Referee is unable to make an early ground inspection then the home club shall call upon a suitably qualified Referee to inspect the ground and make a decision as to its fitness on behalf of the Match Referee. A Referee so called upon shall communicate the decision to the appointed Match Referee without delay and the appointed Match Referee shall advise the Association. The home club must also keep the Association fully informed and notify the visiting club and any other appointed Match Officials of any postponement. In the case of the ground being declared unfit for play, the home club must obtain a written report from the Referee declaring the ground unfit and forward it to the Association to be received within **2 days** of the postponement (Sundays excluded). Clubs in default of these instructions may be fined.

9. Club Colours

Where the colours of two competing Teams are similar the **away Team** must change, unless alternative arrangements are mutually agreed by the competing clubs. In the event of clubs not agreeing upon colours to be worn by their respective Teams the Association shall decide. Team's colours must not clash with the black & white outfit worn by the Match Officials.

Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from the other players and the Match Officials. Player's shirts shall be clearly and individually numbered on the back and there must be no change of numbers during the match except on a change of Goalkeeper. Advertising, which fully complies with current Football Association Regulations, may be worn on player's clothing.

10. Duration Of Matches

The duration of each match shall be 90 minutes (45 minutes each half) **except as provided for in these Rules where the outcome of the match will be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty-mark.** The Referee shall allow for time waste or lost through accident or other cause. The Referee is the sole judge of allowance of time whether lost through accident or other cause and his decision on this matter is not subject to appeal. The half-time interval shall not exceed 10 minutes, and this may only be altered with the consent of the Match Referee.

11. Provision For Matches Preceding the Final Tie

For all matches preceding the Final Tie the following provisions shall apply:-

a) Clubs shall not mutually arrange to play a match in lieu of a Cup Tie.

b) Any late kick-off must be reported by the Association and the Council shall have the power to impose a fine.

c) In the event of any match prior to the Final Tie resulting in a draw after 90 minutes of play, the Tie will be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty-mark in accordance with The International Football Association Board recommended procedures.

d) When a match has been postponed or abandoned before the completion of 90 minutes of play and neither club is at fault, it must be played on the same ground within 7 days unless the Council agrees to or orders another ground or date. If after the completion of 90 minutes of play, either before or during the taking of kicks from the penalty-mark to decide the outcome and neither club is at fault, the taking of kicks from the penalty-mark **only** will be replayed at a ground decided upon by Council.

e) Matches abandoned through the fault of a club shall be dealt with by the Council.

f) Notwithstanding clause d) hereof the Council shall have the power to order that the score in any abandoned match shall stand.

12. Floodlighting

Provision of floodlighting is not a mandatory requirement for these Competitions; however, subject to the consent of the Council being obtained, clubs may mutually agree to play a match wholly or partly under floodlights.

13. Reporting Results

a) Notice of the result of each match, with names of the players competing, the substitutes and goal scorers must be submitted on the Match Report Form supplied.

It is the home clubs responsibility to forward a fully, correctly completed Match Report Form to the Association so that it is received within **2 days** of the match (Sundays not included). It is each clubs' responsibility to forward a completed Referee's Marking Form to the Association so that it is received within **2 days** of the match (Sundays not included).

b) Any club failing to comply with this Rule or submitting an incorrect Match Report Form may be subject to a fine as determined by the Council and in default of payment shall be disqualified from the Competition.

c) Home clubs are required to make the Match Report Form readily available for inspection by the Match Referee upon request.

14. Provisions For Final Tie

a) The Council shall fix the venue for the Final Tie of each Cup Competition and shall have direct control of the arrangements.

b) When a Final Tie has resulted in a draw after 90 minutes of play, **the Tie will be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty-mark** in accordance with The International Football Association Board recommended procedures.

15. Provisions For Withdrawing From Each Competition

a) Any club refusing or failing to play the club against which it has been drawn within the time intimated, or of replaying in accordance with these Rules, shall be adjudged to have forfeited the Tie.

b) Any club intending to withdraw from its Cup Competition must give information of their intention to do so to the Association and the Secretary of the opposing club not less than **14 days** before the date fixed for playing the match.

c) A club failing to comply with Rule 15b) shall be reported to the Council who shall have power to compel such offending club to pay any expenses incurred and take such action as they may deem expedient.

d) Any club failing to give satisfactory reason for withdrawing from any Competition shall not be allowed to enter that Competition the following season and shall also be liable to a fine.

e) In the Semi-Final and Final Ties any club failing to play without showing a good and sufficient cause for failure to play, may be adjudged by the Council to be guilty of serious misconduct and liable to be dealt with as the Council deems fit.

16. Provisions Concerning Qualification Of Players

a) Each Cup shall be competed for annually in accordance with these Rules and all matches shall be played under the Laws of the Game as approved by the International Football Association Board.

b) A club may at its discretion **use up to 3** substitute players at any time in a Cup Tie, except to replace a player who has been suspended from the game by the Referee after play has commenced. Any substitution can only be made when play is stopped

for any reason and the Referee has given permission. A maximum of 5 substitutes may be nominated whose names shall be given to the Referee prior to the commencement of the match.
c) Should any nominated player or substitute sustain an injury before the kick-off he may be replaced provided the Referee is informed. A player who has been sent off before the kick-off may be replaced only by one of the named substitutes. A named substitute who has been sent off, either before the kick-off, or after play has started, may **not** be replaced.
d) Only those substitutes who have participated in a match shall be considered to have been players in that match for qualification purposes. A substitute who is not used is entitled to play for another club in the same season.
e) All players taking part in each of the Cup Competitions must be qualified according to the Rules of the Association.
f) In any one season a player shall not play for more than one competing club, but the members of each Team from one competing club may be changed during each Competition provided always that all players are duly qualified to play in that Competition.
g) In the case of postponed or replayed Ties (in accordance with Rule 20d), only those players shall be allowed to play who were eligible on the original date fixed for playing the tie.
h) A player who has been suspended may play in postponed or replayed Ties (in accordance with Rule 20d) after the term of his suspension has expired.
i) In all Rounds of each Competition a bona-fide player is one who has been registered with his team in a league in which his team competes in the current season at least **14 clear days** prior to the date on which the match is played, or a registered player, as above, who has played in a match in a recognised affiliated Competition for his team prior to the date on which the match is played. In exceptional circumstances a player who does not qualify under this Rule may be granted permission to play by the Officers of the Association on behalf of the Council.
j) A player who has not been registered with his team at least 28 days clear prior to the date fixed for playing Final Tie and who has not played in a minimum of 4 league or internal league cup matches for his team during the current season shall not be eligible to play in the Final Tie without the permission of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Football Services Committee, or by the Chief Executive Officer on behalf of the Council. The names of all players proposing to compete in the Final Tie of each Competition shall be sent by the Secretary of each competing club to their opponents and also the Association to be received at least 7 days prior to the date of the Final Tie. Failing this a club shall be liable to be fined. Any player not listed on this submission shall not be eligible to play in the Final Tie unless dispensation has been requested by the club no less than before 12 noon on the last working day (Monday to Friday) prior to the Final Tie.
l) In the event of the Final Tie of any Competition being held over to the following season a player who has played for his team in the previous season shall be eligible to play for his team in the Final Tie notwithstanding that he may be registered with another club in the current season.
m) **Saturday Cups:** A player who has, in the current season, played in the Senior Invitation Cup or Senior Invitation Urn shall not be eligible to play in either the Saturday Junior Cup or Saturday Minor Cup. Clubs which have a Reserve team are eligible to apply to enter that team in the Minor Cup Competition and the players competing in the Minor Cup Competition are eligible to play in the Junior Cup Competition for the same club only, but a player who has previously played in the Junior Cup Competition cannot under any circumstances play in the Minor Cup for his own or any other club in the current season.
o) In the event of a club playing in any match with less than 11 players a fine shall be imposed for each missing player. A **minimum of 7** players will constitute a team for a Competition Match.

17. Validity Of Players' Qualifications

If the Council has any doubt as to the qualification of any player taking part in any Competition, it shall have power to call upon any such player, or the club to which he is or was registered, to prove that he was qualified according to these Rules and failing satisfactory proof the Council may disqualify such player, and may remove the club from the appropriate Competition and also impose such other penalty as it may deem necessary.

18. Disqualification

The Council shall have the power to disqualify any competing clubs' team or player found guilty of breaching the Rules of the Association or of the appropriate Cup Competition.

19. Provisions Concerning Referees And Assistant Referees

a) In all matches the Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials shall be appointed by The Association, except at the discretion of Council. The Referee in all matches shall not be associated with either of the competing clubs, except that in the event of the Referee failing to arrive or being incapacitated the two clubs must agree to a replacement Referee.
b) In all matches preceding the Final Tie, the fees and expenses of all Officials shall be paid by the home club unless otherwise instructed by the Council.
c) The scale of Fees and Expenses to be paid to Officials shall be decided annually by the Council.
For the current season:
i) Fees and expenses in all rounds preceding the Semi-Final Tie shall be:-
Referee: £40, Assistant Referees & Fourth Official: £30. The match fee includes travelling expenses.
ii) Fees and expenses in the Semi Final Tie shall be: -
Referee: £42, Assistant Referees & Fourth Official: £32. The match fee includes travelling expenses.
iii) The Match Officials in the Final Tie shall receive a Trophy.
d) Match Officials, if they attend are entitled to £10 if the match is not played, paid by the Council, except that if either team is responsible for the non-playing of a fixture that team shall pay the Officials their full match fees.

e) The home club must notify the Match Officials of the details of the Tie including directions to the ground, date of Tie and kick-off time, if necessary colours of the competing teams and other necessary details. Such information must be received by the Match Officials **no later than 7 days prior** to the date of the Tie. Each Match Official must acknowledge receipt of the information.
f) Referees, Assistant Referees and Reserve Officials shall acknowledge acceptance of appointments for all matches in each Competition to the Association within **3 days** of receipt of the appointment.
g) The duties of the Referee and Assistant Referees shall be as defined in The Laws of the Game.
h) Appointed Match Officials shall wear the traditional black & white uniform.
i) Match Officials **must** wear the Worcestershire Football Association badge on their uniform.
j) Except at the discretion of the Council, the same Match Officials shall officiate in any replayed match.

20. Provisions Relating To Protests
a) All questions relating to the qualification or eligibility of players, or interpretation of these Rules, or any dispute or protest whatever shall be referred to the Council whose decision shall be final and binding.
b) Any dispute or protest must be made in writing and must contain the particulars of the grounds upon which it is founded and lodged in duplicate with the Chief Executive Officer of the Association accompanied by a fee of £20 within 3 days of the match to which it relates (Sundays not included). The fee shall be forfeited to the Association in the event of the dispute or protest not being sustained.
c) The Council may order any club involved in a dispute or protest to pay such expenses as may be considered appropriate towards any costs incurred.
d) No protest relating to the ground, goal posts or accessories of the game shall be entertained by the Council unless an objection has been lodged with the Referee prior to the commencement of the match.
The Referee shall require the responsible club to correct the cause of the objection, if this is possible, without unduly delaying the commencement of the match.
If Council should consequently discover that any rule or spirit of the rule has, in its opinion, been violated by mutual agreement or otherwise, it shall have the power to disqualify either or both clubs from the appropriate Competition, or order the match to be replayed over again. For the Council to take this action it is not necessary for a protest to have been received from any club.
e) When an objection has been lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the match, a protest must be made to the Association and neither the objection nor protest shall be withdrawn except by leave of the Council.
f) The Chief Executive Officer shall send details of the dispute or protest to the clubs involved.
g) Each club may support its case with witnesses.
h) If a member of the Council is connected with a club concerned in a dispute or protest, the Member shall not sit on the Council while the dispute or protest is being considered.

21. Proceeds Of Matches
a) In all Rounds except the Final Tie, the home club shall meet the costs of staging the fixture. The away club shall meet its own travelling expenses.
b) The Association shall meet the costs of staging the Final Tie, however, the competing clubs shall meet their own travelling expenses. The net proceeds from gate and draw receipts shall be paid to the funds of the Association.

22. Admission To Cup Ties - Sale Of Tickets
a) The Council shall set admission prices for the Final Tie and determine how many complimentary tickets shall be issued to the competing clubs.
b) For all matches preceding the Final Tie where the home club charges an admission fee to enter the ground the home club shall make 8 Complimentary Tickets available to the away club for the use of Club Officials and Directors.

23. Programme
Although not mandatory a Programme or Team Sheet may be produced with details of both teams.

24. Notices
All notices required to be given to the Association by any of these Rules shall be addressed to the Chief Executive of the Association.