THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

FA SUNDAY CUP & FA WOMEN'S CUP

SEASON 2013-2014

ENTRY CRITERIA

FA SUNDAY CUP

Participation in the competition shall only be open to club's competing in the higher Divisions of a league for season 2013-2014 sanctioned by The Association or an affiliated Association.

The National Game Board may reject the application of any club to participate in the competition at its entire discretion.

Please note:-
Finance is a major factor in deciding if clubs are able to enter The FA Sunday Cup as the travelling expenses can be a burden if the draw pairs clubs together with lengthy journeys. However, the competition exists for Sunday clubs who wish to sample playing against clubs from other Counties or Leagues. There is a match grant, to assist with costs, provided by The FA for ties up to and including the Fifth Round. These amounts for distribution are still to be decided for season 2013-2014 but, for guidance, the amounts distributed last season were - £250 home club, £175 away club.

These amounts will only be paid to each club within seven working days of the completion of the round and only matches played and completed will be eligible for the match grant.

FA WOMEN'S CUP

Participation in the competition shall only be open to club's competing in the top division of a County League, or above, sanctioned by The Association or an affiliated Association, for season 2013-2014 and that also competed in an open age League or competition sanctioned by The FA or affiliated Association in season 2012-2013.

Applications from club's affiliated to off shore Associations will be considered on an annual basis and if accepted special provisions may apply to such club's.

The Council may reject the application of any club to participate in the competition at its entire discretion.

MINIMUM GROUND STANDARDS

FA SUNDAY CUP

1. The playing area must be enclosed by a permanent or temporary barrier, the only exception being those areas excluded from spectator access. Wire or rope, may not be used to connect the posts.

2. Dressing and Washing accommodation must be separate for each team and for the Match Officials.

3. Toilets, which are not available for public use, must be provided in the dressing rooms for the use of the players and Match Officials

4. Covered Home and Visitors Trainers Boxes must be provided and be clearly identified to the Match Officials.

5. Dressing rooms must have heating and hot water.

6. First Aid Facilities, equipment and a stretcher must be available.

7. Public Liability insurance must be provided for registered players and Club Officials, up to a minimum of £5m.

8. Hospitality must be provided for Visiting Officials and Match Officials.

9. A programme or team sheet must be provided.

10. Refreshment facilities for spectators must be provided.

11. Ladies and Gents toilets must be provided for spectators throughout the duration of the match. These can be either inside or adjacent to the ground.

12. The pitch dimensions must measure between 110-100 metres by 75-64 metres. The size of the pitch must be re-checked prior to the recommencement of the season.

13. Artificial pitches are permitted providing they meet the minimum standards set by FIFA and only with prior consent of The Association.

FA WOMEN'S CUP

1. In the Qualifying Competition the Rules do not require the playing area to be enclosed, but it is advisable to provide some form of protection for the teams and Match Officials by a rope or hopefully a barrier. In the Competition Proper, all pitches must be enclosed by either a rope or barrier, the only exception being those areas and spaces excluded from spectator viewing.

2. Adequate separate changing rooms should be provided together with facilities for washing for the visiting team and Match Officials. No shared washing facilities are allowed.

3. The Council shall have the power to order that any match be played on an alternative ground or date, other than a Sunday, if it is considered appropriate and necessary.

4. Artificial pitches will be permitted in The FA Women's Cup only provided the pitch is listed on The Association register of artificial grass pitches and with prior consent of The Association. This should be requested at the time of entry into the competition in each season.

5. The pitch dimensions must measure between 110-100 metres by 75-64 metres. The size of the pitch must be re-checked prior to the recommencement of the season.

6. Goal nets and corner posts with flags must be used in all matches and must be in place at least one hour prior to kick-off. Portable goals must be anchored securely to the ground.

7. Dressing and washing accommodation must be separate for each team and Match Officials. Dressing rooms must have heating and hot water.

8. Separate toilets must be provided for dressing rooms used by players and Match officials, which must not be available for spectator use.

9. Refreshments must be provided for Visiting Club players at half and full time.

10. Hospitality for Visiting Club Officials and Match Officials must be provided**.**

11. Refreshment facilities for spectators must be provided in the Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Rounds Proper.

12. From the Third Round Proper onwards, each Club shall provide separate areas adjacent to the pitch for the sole use of team Officials, medical staff and substitutes. Such designated areas shall be clearly marked "home" and "away", have direct access to the pitch, be located as near as possible equidistant from the halfway line and be under cover. The team benches should also comply with Competition Rule 18.

13. Where a ground has team benches, a technical area is to be provided. The technical area extends one metre on either side of the designated seated area and extends forward up to a distance of one metre from the touch-line. Markings are to be used to define this area.

14. If a first match is postponed on two occasions prior to the Third Round Proper, the Council shall have the power to order the match to be played on the ground of the Club second drawn or on an alternative ground.