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*In the event of a nationwide epidemic or global pandemic occurring such that specific Rules need to be introduced to address any potential or actual impact on the Competitions, then the Cup Committee will act to make any changes to the Rules it deems necessary. Where any Rule changes are required, they will be communicated to the Clubs participating in the Competition as soon as reasonably possible. This or a similar approach may be adopted by the Cup Committee in response to any event or series of events it deems are affecting, or could affect, the Competitions during the current Playing Season.*



## A. Definitions and Interpretations

1. In these Competition Rules (save where stated otherwise, or where the context requires otherwise), the following terms and expressions shall have the following meanings:

**Amateur FA** means the Amateur Football Alliance Limited, company no. 3957859.

**Amateur FA Board** means the board of directors of the Amateur FA for the time being constituted in accordance with the Amateur FA's articles of association.

**Amateur FA Council** means the Council of the Amateur FA for the time being constituted in accordance with the Amateur FA's articles of association and **Council Member(s)** shall be any person(s) for the time being appointed to and serving on the Amateur FA Council in accordance with the Amateur FA's articles of association.

**Affiliated Association** means an association which is either a County Association or an Other Football Association.

**Appeal Board** means a panel as established from time to time selected by the CEO comprising of three (3) Council Members whose purpose is to hear appeals made by Participants pursuant to the provisions of these Rules.

**Artificial Football Turf Pitch** means a field of play (as defined in the Laws of the Game) that is not a Grass Pitch, which complies with the requirements of the Laws of the Game and these Competition Rules.

**CEO** means the person appointed from time to time to be the Chief Executive Officer of the Amateur FA.

**Chair** means the chair of a Club and includes a joint, assistant, deputy or temporary Chair and any other person appointed to perform the duties of the Chair.

**Club** means a club for the time being in membership of the Competition.

**Club Crest** means the official Club emblem featured on a Club's playing strip which is the recognised symbol of the Club.

**Competition** means the Amateur FA County Cup Competitions held under the jurisdiction of these Rules and **Competitions** shall be construed accordingly.

**Competition Match** means any Match played or to be played under the jurisdiction of the Competition and **Competition Matches, Match and Matches** shall be construed accordingly.

**Contract Player** means any Player (other than a Player on a Scholarship) who is eligible to play under a written contract of employment with a Club.

**County Association** means an association which has been accorded the status of a County Association pursuant to the Rules of the FA.

**Cup Committee** means the Committee for the time constituted in accordance with these Rules, and **Cup Committee Member(s)** means any person(s) for the time being appointed to and serving on the Cup Committee.

**Electronic platform** means any form of electronic or digital platform and includes website addresses, application technology, conference call facilities and any device, system, procedure, method or other facility whatsoever providing an electronic means of remote attendance at or participation in, or both attendance at and participation in, (a) meeting(s) as determined by the Cup Committee.

**FIFA** means the Fédération Internationale de Football Association or any successor body.

**FA** means the Football Association Limited, company number 00077797.

**FA Platforms** means the systems of which clubs use to affiliate, register players, manage and update administration such as Club Portal, Full-Time and Match Day.

**Grass Pitch** means a field of play (as defined in the Laws of the Game) that is either natural grass, predominantly natural grass or intended to be predominantly natural grass, and one which conforms with the Laws of the Game.

**Ground** means (where the context demands): the ground on which a Club's Teams plays its Competition Matches; or

- (a) a ground selected by the Cup Committee pursuant to Rules 16(d), 16(f), 19(h) and 22(m); or

- (b) the ground(s) selected by the Cup Committee to host the Senior Semi-Finals and all Competition Finals, and **Grounds** shall be construed accordingly.

**IFAB** shall mean the International Football Association Board or any successor body.

**Law** means any applicable law, statute, bye-law, regulation, order, rule of court or directive, or any requirement of any regulatory body entitled to regulate the affairs of the FA or Affiliated Association, or any delegated or subordinate legislation.

**Laws of the Game** means the laws of the game as settled and in force from time to time by IFAB.

**League** means a league competition sanctioned by the Amateur FA and/or an Affiliated Association and **Leagues** shall be construed accordingly.

**Manager** means the person at a Club responsible for selecting a Club Team and **Managers** shall be construed accordingly.

**Match Official** means the referee, assistant referees and fourth officials appointed to a Competition Match and **Match Officials** shall be construed accordingly.

**Multi-Team Club** means a Club that has more than one (1) Team participating in the Competition in accordance with these Rules.

**National Game** means all aspects of football involving and affecting Participants in and at the level of step 1 of the National League System and below.

**National League System** means the competitions which interact with one another by way of promotion and relegation within those steps of the National Game pyramid as determined by the Council of the FA from time to time.

**Non-Contract Player** means any Player (other than a Player on a Scholarship) who is eligible to play for a Club but has not entered into a written contract of employment.

**Officer** means an individual who is appointed or elected (whether formally or not) as director, chair, secretary, Match/fixture secretary or representative and who, by reason of their appointment or election, is required to make day to day administrative decisions and **Officers** shall be construed accordingly.

**Other Football Association** means one or any of the following listed associations:  
The Amateur FA.

- (a) The Army Football Association.
- (b) The English Schools' Football Association.
- (c) The Independent Schools' Football Association.
- (d) The Royal Air Force Football Association.
- (e) The Royal Navy Football Association.
- (f) The University of Oxford Football Association.
- (g) The University of Cambridge Football Association.
- (h) The Women's Football Conference.

**Parent Association** means the Affiliated Association of which a Club, in membership of more than one Affiliated Association, was first a member.

**Participant** shall have the same meaning as set out in the Rules of the FA from time to time and where the context so permits, **Participants/participating/participated** shall be construed accordingly.

**Player** means any Contract Player, Non-Contract Player or other player who plays or who is eligible to play for a Club or is subject to any suspension from playing.

**Playing Season** means the period between the date on which the first competitive Match in the Competitions is played each year until the date on which the last competitive Match in the Competitions is played.

**President** means the person elected from time to time by the Amateur FA Council to be the President of the Amateur FA.

**Reasonable Costs** are the amount of cap £.../or average costs of cups competition

**Rules** means these rules and any reference to a **Rule** shall be interpreted accordingly.

**Rules of the FA** means the provisions for the regulation of football matters set by the FA as amended from time to time and any regulations, standing orders, decisions, rulings, findings, penalties, or orders of any nature made pursuant to those regulations.

**Sanctioning Authority** means, as the context demands, the FA, the Amateur FA or any other Affiliated Association.

**Schedule** means the list of Fees, Payments and Fines relating to the Competitions, details of which are appended to these Rules.

**Scholarship** means a Scholarship as defined in Rules of the FA.

**Secretary** means the secretary of a Club and includes a joint, assistant, deputy or temporary secretary and any other person appointed to perform the duties of the secretary.

**Spectator Marshalls** means those individuals selected by a Team participating in a Final whose responsibilities to the Competition are more particularly set out in Rule 22(d).

**Team** means a team affiliated to a Club, including where a Club provides more than one team in the Competition in accordance with these Rules and **Teams** shall be construed accordingly.

**Team Official** means team secretary, manager, coach or representative (whether formally appointed or not) of a Team.

**Team Sheet** means a form provided by the Competition on which the names of the Players taking part in a Competition Match are listed and **Team Sheets** shall be construed accordingly.

**Written or in writing** means the representation or reproduction of words or symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise.

2. Unless stated otherwise, these Rules apply to all Amateur FA Adult Male Cup Competitions. Any changes to these Rules will be posted on the Amateur FA's website and communicated to participating Clubs as soon as reasonably practicable.
3. Unless stated otherwise, words and phrases used in the FA's Standard Code of Rules, the Rules of the FA or the Amateur FA's articles of association, shall have the same meaning herein.
4. Unless stated otherwise, words denoting the singular number include the plural number and vice versa; words denoting or implying the masculine gender include the feminine gender and non-binary gender status; and words denoting persons include bodies corporate (however incorporated) and unincorporated, including unincorporated associations of persons and partnerships.

## 1. Control and Management of the Cup Competitions

- (a) Subject to the Amateur FA Board's over-riding authority on decisions relating to financial or commercial matters that affect the Amateur FA, the organisation, control and management of the Competitions and any rights associated with it of any nature shall be vested exclusively in the Amateur FA Council who shall delegate their powers of organisation, control and management of the Competitions to the Cup Committee who shall be empowered to make decisions pertaining to the Competitions on the Amateur FA Council's behalf.
- (b) The Cup Committee shall be empowered to:
  - (i) consider the interpretation of these Competition Rules;
  - (ii) investigate and consider alleged breaches of these Competition Rules;
  - (iii) consider a protest lodged in accordance with Rule 24; and
  - (iv) take such action, vary such Rules and make such decisions, orders, rulings (including as to costs) and impose such penalties as necessary on all matters arising out of or in relation to the organisation, control and management of the Competition. Decisions regarding protests shall be made within 10 working days from receipt of the protest.
- (c) In exercising its powers under Rule 2(b), the Cup Committee shall:
  - (i) follow such procedures as it considers appropriate.
  - (ii) not be obliged to follow the strict rules of evidence.
  - (iii) not be bound by any enactment or rule of law relating to the admissibility of evidence in proceedings before a court of law.
  - (iv) may admit such evidence as it thinks fit and accord such evidence the weight it considers appropriate in all the circumstances.
  - (v) be entitled to draw such inference from the failure of a witness to give evidence or answer a question as it considers appropriate.
- (d) Any Cup Committee Member(s) directly or indirectly connected with a Club involved in:
  - (i) a question or dispute regarding the interpretation of these Competition Rules,
  - (ii) an alleged breach of these Competition Rules, or
  - (iii) a protest lodged in accordance with Rule 24, shall not have any involvement in the consideration or determination of such matter.
- (e) The quorum for the transaction of business at a Cup Committee meeting is five (5) Cup Committee Members and the Cup Committee may, at its absolute discretion, appoint a sub-committee to take such action and make such decisions, orders and determinations on its behalf which shall be deemed as decisions of the Cup Committee.
- (f) All Clubs participating in any way in the Competitions shall be bound by and comply with these Rules (and any rules or regulations issued pursuant to these Rules). If the Cup Committee should subsequently discover that any Rule has been breached or abused, the Cup Committee shall be empowered to:
  - (i) disqualify (a) Club(s) from further participation in the Competitions; or
  - (ii) order the Match(es) to be replayed; or
  - (iii) impose such other penalty as it may think fit without any protest having been laid by either Club or other Participant.

Disqualification decisions under this rule must align with the procedures set out in Rule 24, including the right to appeal.

- (g) Any Club charged shall be given seven (7) days from the date of notification of the charge to reply. In its reply, the Club may:
  - (i) accept the charge and submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Cup Committee on the papers; or
  - (ii) accept the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Cup Committee; or
  - (iii) deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Cup Committee on the papers; or
  - (iv) deny the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Cup Committee.
- (h) Where the Club charged fails to respond within seven (7) days, the Cup Committee shall determine the charge in such manner and upon such evidence as it considers appropriate.
- (i) Having considered the reply of the Club (whether in writing or at a hearing), the Cup Committee shall make its decision and, if the charge is accepted or proven, decide on the appropriate penalty in accordance with the Schedule (and any mitigating/aggravating circumstances where applicable).
- (j) When setting any fine, the Cup Committee shall ensure the amount is proportional to the offence, considering any mitigating/aggravating circumstances.
- (k) Save for a decision that a Team is disqualified from a Competition, all decisions made by the Cup Committee are final and binding on all Participants and not subject to appeal.
- (l) Where a Club is disqualified from a Competition by the Cup Committee, it may appeal that decision to an appeal board in accordance with the procedure set out in Rule 24. Disqualification decisions under this rule must align with the procedures set out in Rule 24, including the right to appeal.
- (m) Subject to the provisions of Rule 2(a), the Cup Committee shall be empowered to rename any Competition for reasons of sponsorship or other marketing initiatives. Renaming competitions for sponsorship or marketing purposes shall only occur before the start of the playing season unless exceptional circumstances apply
- (n) The Cup Committee may decide to enable Cup Committee Members entitled to attend and participate in meetings to do so by simultaneous attendance and participation by means of an electronic platform(s). Cup Committee Members shall be counted in the quorum for, and entitled to vote at, the meeting in question, and that meeting shall be duly constituted and its proceedings valid if the chair of the Cup Committee is satisfied that adequate facilities are available throughout the meeting to ensure that Cup Committee Members attending the meeting who are not present together at the same place may:
  - (i) participate in the business for which the meeting has been convened;
  - (ii) hear all Cup Committee members who speak at the meeting; and
  - (iii) be heard by all other Cup Committee members present at the meeting.
- (o) The Cup Committee shall be empowered to meet to deal with any contingency which may arise or for which there is no provision in these Rules.

- (p) The Competition and each Participant is committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and will abide and adhere to the FA Equality Policy and any legislative requirements (including those contained in the Equality Act 2010).
- (q) The Competition and each Participant will make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community, irrespective of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise. Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation will be referred to the Sanctioning Authority for investigation.
- (r) Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of the FA which are adopted by the Cup Committee including, but not limited to, England Football Accreditation and Positive Behaviour programmes (a copy of the latter is attached to these Rules). **Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Schedule.**
- (s) All Participants shall abide by the FA's Regulations for Safeguarding Children and Regulations for Safeguarding Adults at Risk as determined by the FA from time to time.

## 2. Laws of the Game

*All Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board and FIFA.*

## 3. Eligible Clubs and Teams

- (a) The Competitions shall be competed for annually and are open to any affiliated Clubs in England.
- (b) The Cup Committee may reject the application of any Club at its sole discretion.
- (c) Except for the (Over 40) Veterans Challenge Cup, the Competitions shall be open only to those Clubs who play their matches on Saturdays, although Matches in all Competitions may be played on other days with the agreement of both Teams, the Match Officials and the prior written consent of the Cup Committee.
- (d) A Club which ceases to exist, or which ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever shall automatically cease to be able to participate in any Competition.
- (e) Any Club withdrawing from its League or who is disqualified from its league during the Playing Season shall not be eligible to continue to compete in the Competition unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Cup Committee.
- (f) All Clubs must be free of suspension from the FA or any other Sanctioning Authority at least six (6) days before the date fixed for the Match.
- (g) On entering the Competition, participating Clubs agree to (i) play in the Competition until their elimination and (ii) field their strongest Team(s) throughout the Competition. It is the Club's primary responsibility to ensure their Team selection follows generally accepted footballing principles and represents the full playing strength of the Club - i.e., any Multi-Team Club shall play its strongest Team in the Senior Cup, its second strongest Team in the Intermediate Cup and so on with the priority/ranking of Competitions being set out in Rule 6(n) with any movement of promoted and demoted Players throughout the Club based solely on their respective playing strengths and standards.

Any exceptions to this rule for multi-team clubs must be approved in writing by the Cup Committee. Any Club found to be flouting this Rule may, **in addition to being fined in accordance with the Schedule**, be disqualified from the Competition

- (h) The Competition in which each Team shall compete shall be determined by the Cup Committee who shall meet annually in August prior to the annual draw taking place to review the entries and thereafter place every Team in a Competition which it deems best reflects their playing strengths after considering the standard of football played within their respective leagues and, if necessary, after consultation with the Teams' league Officers.
- (i) Subject to the Cup Committee's determination in Rule 4(b), Teams will be included in the Competitions listed below:
1. Amateur FA Senior Challenge Cup\*
  2. Amateur FA Challenge Cup\*
  3. Amateur FA Intermediate Challenge Cup\*
  4. Amateur FA Junior Challenge Cup\*
  5. Amateur FA Minor Challenge Cup\*
  6. Amateur FA Senior Novets Challenge Cup\*
  7. Amateur FA Intermediate Novets Challenge Cup\*
  8. Amateur FA Junior Novets Challenge Cup\*
  9. Amateur FA (Over 40) Veterans' Challenge Cup\*
  10. Amateur FA Sunday Cup

\* - This will be determined by the Cup Committee based on rule 4(b)

- (j) Where more than two (2) Teams from the same Club are eligible to participate in the same Competition, the strongest team will be moved into the higher competition. All Teams shall be permitted to compete, however no Player may play for more than one (1) Team in the same Competition in a Playing Season.
- (k) In cases of shared grounds or mid-season relocations, written approval from the Cup Committee must be obtained to confirm eligibility.

## 4. Entry Fees and Dates

- (a) The deadline for entry for all Competitions shall close on the date set and notified to all Clubs by the Cup Committee in each year.
- (b) The Cup Committee may accept entries received after the date set out in 4(a), but, in such cases, may impose a fine upon the Club/Team making the late application in accordance with the [Schedule](#). Late entries will only be accepted if they do not compromise the scheduling or integrity of the Competition.
- (c) The entry fees for all Competitions shall be as set out in the [Schedule](#) and shall accompany the entry application via affiliation.

## 5. Eligibility of Players

- (a) Subject to Rules 5(b), 5(j) and 5(k), every Player must be a correctly registered playing member of the Team for whom he plays (and been registered as such by the Club on the FA Platforms determined by the FA and registration approved by the League in which the Club participates) for at least seven (7) days prior to the date originally arranged for the Match.
- (b) In order to be eligible for the quarter-finals, semi-finals and/or Finals of any Competition, a Player must be a correctly registered playing member of the Team for whom he plays (and been registered

as such by the Club on the FA Platforms permitted registration approved by the League in which the Club participates) for at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date originally arranged for the quarter-finals, semi-finals and/or Finals of that Competition.

- (c) In the Veterans Cup, as well as satisfying the eligibility requirements in Rules 5(A) and 5(B), Players must be over 40 years of age on or before 1st October in the current Playing Season of the Competition.
- (d) It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any Player registered to the Club has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any Player aged ten (10) and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.
- (e) Provided they have been correctly transferred in accordance with the rules of the League in which they participate, an unused substitute who does not play in a Match is entitled to play for another Club in a Competition in the same Season. However, they are prohibited from representing more than one Club in the same Competition in accordance with Rule 5(f).
- (f) Subject to the provisions of this Rule 5, no Player shall normally play for more than one (1) competing Club in the same Competition in the same Playing Season. In the case of a postponed or replayed Match, subject to the provisions of Rule 5(g), only those Players qualified on the original date of the Match shall be eligible to participate.

*For clarity, unused substitutes who do not play in a Match may play for another Club in the same season but are prohibited from representing more than one Club in the same Competition. If game is abandoned this will not count as a completed game therefore players are still eligible to play for other teams.*

- (g) All Players must have been eligible to play in the original Match in order to play in a Match which is replayed, postponed or ordered to be replayed. However, a Player who has been suspended according to the disciplinary procedures under the Rules of the FA may play in a Match which is replayed, postponed or ordered to be replayed **provided** the term of his suspension has expired.
- (h) Except for the Vets Cup (whose minimum age is set out in Rule 5(c)), a Player must have attained the age of 16 to participate in any Competition. If a Player is in full-time secondary education, priority must always be given to school and school organisation activities.
- (i) Contract Players are not permitted to participate in any Competition except for those Players who are registered under Contract with the same Club who have a Team operating at steps 1 to 6 of the National League System.
- (j) Prior to the quarter-finals of any Competition, if a player has already played for a team in an earlier round of a higher-ranked Competition Rule (5)n, they **cannot** later play for a different team in a lower-ranked competition during the same season. For clubs with multiple teams, this also means a player **cannot** move down to play for a lower-level team in the same competition. However, the Cup Committee can grant permission if: (i) the request is made at least five (5) days before the match; and (ii) the committee agrees (but they can refuse for any reason). **Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Schedule.**
- (k) A Player who has played in an earlier round of a higher-ranked Competition [See 5(m)] for a Team is **not** permitted to play for another Team in the quarter-final, semi-final or Final of a lower-ranked Competition in the same Playing Season. **Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Schedule.**
- (l) Where two teams (in the case of a Multi-Team Club) are entered in the same competition. A player who has played for the higher Team in an earlier round of a Competition, is **not** permitted to play for a lower Team in the quarter-final, semi-final or Final of the same Competition in the same Playing Season. **Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Schedule.**

**The provisions of these Rules apply to Players who have been correctly transferred pursuant to the rules and regulations of the League in which they participate but do not apply to unused substitutes.**

#### *Precedence of Competitions*

- (m) For the purpose of these Rules, the order of precedence/priority/ranking of Competitions is as follows:
1. Amateur FA Senior Challenge Cup.
  2. Amateur FA Challenge Cup.
  3. Amateur FA Intermediate Challenge Cup.
  4. Amateur FA Junior Challenge Cup.
  5. Amateur FA Minor Challenge Cup.
  6. Amateur FA Senior Novets Challenge Cup.
  7. Amateur FA Intermediate Novets Challenge Cup.
  8. Amateur FA Junior Novets Challenge Cup.
  9. Amateur FA Veterans Challenge Cup.
  10. Amateur FA Sunday Cup
- (n) A Team must keep a list of the Players it registers and a record of all Matches in which those Players have participated on the FA Platforms determined by the FA and permitted by the league and shall produce such records upon demand by the Cup Committee. **Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Schedule.** Clubs must maintain accurate player records in the FA Platforms system. In the event of system outages or errors, clubs must notify the Cup Committee immediately to ensure compliance.
- (o) Any Club/Team who fails to comply with the provisions of Rule 5(n) (or who, when requested, fails to provide a satisfactory written explanation to the Cup Committee for their non-compliance) shall, if the Cup Committee determines this action is justified in the circumstances (and subject to Rule 24), be disqualified from the Competition. For the avoidance of doubt, it is not necessary that the breach of this Rule be brought to the Cup Committee's attention by another competing Team or Club.
- (p) If the Cup Committee has any doubt as to the eligibility/qualification of any Player taking part in the Competition, it is empowered to call upon the Club to prove that they are eligible/qualified according to these Rules.
- (q) Failing a satisfactory written explanation being provided to the Cup Committee by the Team concerned, the Cup Committee is entitled to:
- (i) fine the Team in accordance with the **Schedule**; and/or
  - (ii) disqualify the Player and/or Team from the Competition and/or
  - (iii) impose such further penalty as it thinks fit.
- (r) In addition, the Cup Committee shall have a discretion (but not an obligation and it shall not go back more than one round) in exceptional circumstances to reinstate the beaten opponents or award a bye to the Team they were due to meet in the following round.
- (s) In the event of a Team being disqualified from a Competition after winning the Final, the Cup Committee is empowered to award the Cup to the runners-up and have the Player commemorative

souvenirs sent to the runners-up. The cost of any replacement Player commemorative souvenirs, together with the postal, packaging and/or courier costs, shall be met by the defaulting Team. The Cup Committee is also empowered to request the return of Player commemorative souvenirs for the runners-up if they are subsequently disqualified from the Competition.

## 6. Organisation of Competitions (Drawing and Playing of Matches)

- (a) The Clubs competing in each round of the Competitions shall be drawn in pairs (and the Cup Committee may conduct draws for more than one round of the Competition at the same time). In each Match, the first drawn Team is referred to in these Rules as the “**Home Team**” and the second drawn Team as the “**Away Team**”. The pairs shall play a Match subject to the Laws of the Game in accordance with Rule 3. The winners will compete in the next round, the Matches of which will be drawn in the same manner. This shall be continued until the Finals of the Competitions.
- (b) All Competitions shall be played on a knock-out basis unless otherwise agreed by the Cup Committee. At the sole discretion of the Cup Committee, early rounds of a Competition may be played on a league and/or geographical basis rather than a knock-out basis. Should a Competition not be played on a knock-out basis, Clubs will be issued with appropriate instructions as to the format and rules of that Competition.

In such cases, where teams finish level on points, positions will be determined in the following order: (i) goal difference, (ii) goals scored, (iii) head-to-head record, and (iv) a play-off match if required.

- (c) The Cup Committee, at its sole discretion, may grant exemptions (**byes**) to Teams in the early rounds. In the event of any Team(s) receiving a bye, priority shall firstly be given to the previous Playing Season’s finalists and semi-finalists and thereafter to such other Teams as the Cup Committee shall decide at its sole discretion.
- (d) After the draw for each round is made, notice shall be given to each Home Team of the name of the Away Team, and the date and time when the Match shall be played. All Matches in each round shall be played on such date as the Cup Committee shall determine. A Match may only be played after the date determined by the Cup Committee with the prior written consent of the Cup Committee (which may be withheld at its sole discretion).
- (e) All draws shall be published on the [Amateur FA Website](#) and confirmation will be sent via email to the designated Team Officials utilising the FA Platforms. Any Club who has entered a Competition but has not received electronic confirmation of their Match **must immediately contact the Cup Committee** at [cups@amateur-fa.com](mailto:cups@amateur-fa.com).
- (f) If a Team who has entered a Competition under the provisions of Rule 4(b) has a clash of dates with its Parent Association’s cup competition, the Cup Committee must be notified in writing immediately as cup matches sanctioned by and under the jurisdiction of the Parent Association normally take precedence over Competition Matches.
- (g) Except for the Senior Semi-Finals and all Competition Finals (which will be played at Grounds selected by the Cup Committee), the Home Team shall have the choice of Ground unless mutually agreed between the Teams and with the prior written consent of (i) the Cup Committee and (ii) the Referees Appointments Officer.
- (h) If the Home Team requests that the Match be switched to their opponents’ Ground (or a Ground at which they do not normally play), the Home Team shall remain responsible for all Match day expenses including Ground hire and post-Match hospitality.
- (i) Should any Team have three (3) or more Players selected for League Representative squad playing in a competition sanctioned by the FA on a Saturday which clashes with the date of a Match, then

permission may be granted by the Cup Committee to bring forward, but not delay, the date of that Match.

#### *Closed Dates*

- (j) Requests for closed dates with Clubs' leagues will not apply to Competition Matches unless:
  - (i) a written request for a closed date to apply to a Competition Match is made to the Cup Committee at least three (3) weeks before the scheduled date of the Competition Match; and
  - (ii) the date of the Competition Match is brought forward.

*Any Team whose Competition Match is brought forward under this Rule must also notify its League's Match/fixture secretary of the same.*

- (k) The provisions of Rule 7(j) shall not apply to:
  - (i) the Senior Semi Finals (*Rule 21*) or
  - (ii) all Competition Finals (*Rule 22*).

#### *Notification of Match Details*

- (l) The Home Team must, at least six (6) days prior to the date of the Match, contact their Away Team and the Match Officials by phone or email (contact via SMS/text messaging/social media/relying solely on the FA Full Time system is not acceptable or permitted) and ensure the Away Team and the Match Officials are in confirmed receipt of full details of:
  - (i) the Ground's location.
  - (ii) means of access to the Ground (and any bespoke parking arrangements that may be in place).
  - (iii) any time constraints which may affect the kick off or duration of the Match.
  - (iv) the Team colours (if there is or appears to be in the opinion of the Match Officials, a clash of colours, the **Home Team shall change colours** pursuant to Rule 13(b).
  - (v) the location for post-Match hospitality. **This is not applicable to Amateur FA Sunday Cup Entrants.**
  - (vi) any other relevant details.

In cases where the Home Team fails to fulfil this duty within the stipulated timeframe, the Cup Committee may impose **a fine in accordance with the Schedule** and/or assign responsibility for organising the Match to the Away Team.

- (m) In the event of the Away Team or Match Officials not being notified at least three (3) days before the date of the Match, it is their responsibility to (i) ascertain the details; and (ii) report the lack of provision of the Match details by the Home Team to [referees@amateur-fa.com](mailto:referees@amateur-fa.com).
- (n) The Home Team shall welcome the Away Team and Match Officials to the Ground and show them the location of the changing accommodation and the Ground and (re)confirm the location of the post-Match hospitality venue. The Home Team shall act as hosts whilst the Away Team and Match Officials are at the Ground and the post-Match hospitality venue.
- (o) The Home Team shall provide separate and adequate dressing rooms, washing and toilet facilities for the Away Team and Match Officials (taking into consideration Under 18s and Female Match Officials). It shall also be the sole responsibility of the Home Team to ensure that the dressing rooms for the Away Team and Match Officials are securely locked for the duration of the Match. **Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Schedule.**

#### *3GPitches*

- (p) Artificial Football Turf Pitches (**3G**) are allowed in this Competition provided they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA's Register of Football Turf Pitches - <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register>. All Artificial Football Turf Pitches used 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. If requested, a Team shall be required to provide written confirmation of the same to the Cup Committee. **Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Schedule.**
- (q) If a Match is taking place on a 3G pitch, the Home Team must advise the Away Team and Match Officials of footwear requirements and any limitations or recommendations regarding the type of boot or stud that may be used on the surface as well as any time constraints which may affect the duration of the Match when confirming the Match arrangements in accordance with Rule 7(l). **Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Schedule.**

## 7. Kick-off Times

- (a) All Matches, except the, Amateur FA Sunday Cup (in its entirety), Senior Cup Semi Finals and all Competition Finals, will be played at 1.30pm. The Amateur FA Sunday Cup kick off time is restricted to 11:00am kick off. This time may not be altered without the agreement of the Clubs and the Match Officials (no Match shall start before 10.30am except the Amateur FA Sunday Cup). Should there be a dispute over the kick-off time; the Cup Committee shall be the sole arbiter.
- (b) In the event of a Team being unable to kick off thirty (30) minutes or more after the scheduled kick-off time for a Match, the referee shall be the sole arbiter as to whether there is sufficient time to play the Match, depending on the prevailing conditions. If the Match does not take place due to insufficient time being available, the Cup Committee will take such action as it deems appropriate, which may include:
- (i) a fine in accordance with the Schedule; and/or
  - (ii) disqualifying the defaulting Team from the Competition; and/or
  - (iii) ordering the defaulting Team to pay the reasonable expenses of its opposition and the Match fee together with the reasonable travelling expenses of the Match Officials.
  - (iv) In cases where both Teams contribute to a delay of thirty (30) minutes or more, the referee may call off the Match. The Cup Committee will determine shared responsibility for rescheduling and expenses based on fault.

## 8. Technical Areas

- (a) When a Match is played at a Ground where there are benches provided and technical areas marked out, the number of Players and Team officials in the technical area must not exceed eight (8) per Team unless the Team bench facility provides more than eight (8) individual seats. Only named substitute Players, managers, coaching and medical staff shall be permitted in the technical area. No person under sixteen (16) years of age shall be permitted in the technical area. Participants are to remain in the technical area except for substitutes warming up and medical staff entering the field of play when permitted by the referee. Any misconduct by a Club's Coach/Manager/Players and any other Participants in the technical area will be reported by the referee.
- (b) The occupants of the technical area must always behave in a responsible manner. Misconduct by Participants in the technical area will be reported by the Referee. Except for the Manager/Team coach and any substitute Players who are warming up or warming down, all other Participants must remain in the technical area/seated on the bench. **Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Schedule.**

- (c) When a Match is played at a Ground where dug-outs are not provided and a technical area not marked out, the Manager/Team coach may convey tactical instructions to Players during the match, however they must always conduct themselves in a responsible manner (bearing in mind the provisions of Rule 11).
- (d) In Matches where assistant referees are appointed, or when instructed by the Cup Committee, the Home Team **must** provide barriers or roping to ensure there is no encroaching on the field of play or the impeding of the assistant referees. Fluorescent tape is not considered a satisfactory replacement for rope and all posts or stakes used must be of material considered satisfactory for Players' safety. **Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Schedule.**

## 9. Shortfall

- (a) In accordance with the Laws of the Game, the minimum number of Players that will constitute a Team for a Competition Match is seven (7). In the event of a Team starting a Match with fewer than nine (9) Players, the Referee must report this shortfall, and the **Team may be fined in accordance with the Schedule.**
- (b) Persistent failure to meet player minimums across multiple matches will result in review by the Cup Committee, which may impose additional penalties, including disqualification.

## 10. Provisions for Hospitality and First Aid

- (a) The Home Team must provide suitable food and refreshments for all Players and Match Officials after the Match (**Except those who are solely involved of the Amateur FA Sunday Cup**). **Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Schedule.**
- (b) The Away Team must stay and accept the post-Match hospitality provided by the Home Team. A minimum of seven (7) players from the Away Team must return to the Home Team's clubhouse or notified venue to accept the post-Match hospitality, then the Away Team will, in addition to being liable to **a fine in accordance with the Schedule**, be required to reimburse the Home Team for their reasonable hospitality costs. In the event of disputes over reasonable hospitality costs, the Cup Committee will determine the amount based on average costs for similar matches. The Committee's decision shall be final and binding on both Teams. (**Except those who are solely involved of the Amateur FA Sunday Cup**)
- (c) Any Team who consistently refuses to provide/accept post-Match hospitality to/from its opposition without providing a satisfactory explanation to the Cup Committee shall be dealt with in such manner as the Cup Committee deems appropriate. (**Except those who are solely involved of the Amateur FA Sunday Cup**)
- (d) The Home Team is responsible for supplying a First Aid Kit which meets current FA guidelines and shall ensure the Away Team and the Match Officials are aware of the nearest Accident & Emergency Department.

## 11. General Behaviour

- (a) All Teams entering the Competitions are reminded they are responsible for the behaviour of their Players, Officials, members, supporters and any Participant carrying out a function at a Match on their behalf.
- (b) Any Participant whose conduct:
  - (i) is found not to be in keeping with the Amateur FA's values of fun, fair play, friendship and respect to the Competition and every Participant alike; and/or

- (ii) is found to be not to be in the best interests of the game; and/or
- (iii) is found to be improper or found to have brought the game into disrepute; and/or
- (iv) uses one, or a combination of, violent conduct, serious foul play, threatening, abusive, indecent or insulting words or behaviour,

*shall be dealt with at the sole discretion of the Cup Committee For clarity, improper conduct includes discrimination, violent behaviour, or persistent disregard for match officials' instructions. Sanctions may include a fine in accordance with the [Schedule](#), disqualification from the Competition (subject to Rule 24), and further penalties if warranted.*

## 12. Team Colours and Match Balls

- (a) Teams must play in colours registered with their Sanctioning Authority prior to the commencement of the Playing Season. Any Team wishing to change its colours during the Playing Season must obtain written permission from its Sanctioning Authority.
- (b) If, in the opinion of the Match Officials on the day of the Match, the two Teams have the same or similar colours, the **Home Team shall change colours** unless mutual arrangements are made to the contrary. Should a Team delay the scheduled time of kick off for a Competition Match by not having a change of colours it **may be fined in accordance with the [Schedule](#)**.
- (c) With regard to:
  - (i) A Match Being played on a neutral Ground;
  - (ii) The Senior Cup Semi Finals;
  - (iii) All Competition Finals,

the Team drawn first shall have the choice of colours.

If, in the opinion of the Cup Committee or the Match Officials, the two Teams have the same or similar colours, **the Away Team shall change colours** unless mutual arrangements are made to the contrary.

### *Submission of Team Sheets*

- (d) Players' shirts must be uniquely numbered, and the numbers must correspond exactly with a **complete, legible and accurate Team Sheet**:
  - (i) The team sheet must be handed to the referee at least twenty (20) minutes before the Match commences. **Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the [Schedule](#)**.

Referees may not prevent Players from playing in shirts without numbers but should note the facts on their report card.

- (ii) Any Team not having uniquely numbered shirts or who alters its selection or numbering after the Team Sheet has been provided to the Referee without providing the notification required in 13(e) **may be liable to a fine in accordance with the [Schedule](#)**.
- (e) A Player who is named on the Team Sheet may be replaced if he is injured warming up after the Team Sheet has been handed to the Referee **provided** the alteration:
  - (i) has been notified to the Referee; and
  - (ii) has been legibly made on the Team Sheet before the commencement of the Match. **Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the [Schedule](#)**.

- (f) There must be no change of numbers during the Match except on a change of goalkeeper or where a Player has been instructed by the Referee to change his shirt due to a blood injury. Teams failing to comply with this Rule shall be reported by the Referee and **are liable to be fined in accordance with the Schedule.**
- (g) No Player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts. **Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Schedule.** If no alternative goalkeeper shirts are available, the home team must notify the referee and the opposing team before the match to agree on an acceptable temporary solution.
- (h) Goalkeepers must wear colours that distinguish them from the other Players and the Match Officials. **Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Schedule.**
- (i) The captain of each Team shall make themselves known to the referee prior to Kick-off and coin toss and wear a distinguishing armband to indicate his status and has a responsibility to offer support to the Match Officials in the on-field discipline of their Players; when/if substituted the new captain will wear the armband and take on responsibilities of supporting the Match Official for on-field discipline of players. **Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Schedule.**
- (j) Advertising which complies with current FA Regulations may be worn on Players' clothing.
- (k) The Home Team must provide to the Referee for his approval prior to kick-off of the Match at least two (2) size 5 footballs that conform to the Laws of the Game. **Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Schedule.**

## 13. Provisions for Substitutes and Temporary Dismissals

### *Number of Substitutes*

- (a) Except for the Senior Cup (where teams can only three substitutes), in all other competitions a team can choose up to five substitutes in a match, following the laws of the game. However, they can't use a substitute to replace a player who has been sent off by the referee after the game has started.
- (b) If a player is substituted (taken off the field), they become a substitute and can later go back into the game to replace another player—as long as the substitution follows the official laws of the game (Law 3).
- (c) The names of the substitutes must be listed on the Team Sheet handed to the Referee at least twenty (20) minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time. Any Player or substitute not named on the Team Sheet shall not be allowed to participate in the Match.
- (d) A substitution can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission. Prior to the substitution being made the Club must identify to the Referee/Match Officials the number of the Player out and the Player in, in accordance with the Team Sheet.
- (e) A Player who has been named as a substitute before the start of the Match but does not actually play in that Match shall not be considered to have been a Player in that Match within the meaning of Rules 6(j), 6(k) and 6(l) of this Competition.

### *Sin Bins*

- (f) In all Matches, temporary dismissals (*Sin Bins*) will be used by referees for all cautions for dissent in accordance with the modification by IFAB to Law 5 of the Laws of the Game.

## 14. Duration of Play

- (a) The duration of each Match shall be ninety (90) minutes consisting of two (2) equal halves of forty-five (45) minutes. The half time interval shall be ten (10) minutes, which may only be altered with the Referee's consent. The interval before the commencement of extra time shall be five (5) minutes, which may only be altered with the Referee's consent.
- (b) The Referee shall allow for time wasted or lost through accident or other cause. The Referee is the sole judge of allowance of time and his decision on this matter shall be final and not subject to appeal or protest.
- (c) If the score is level at the end of normal time (plus any additional time allowed by the Referee for time lost or wasted by accident or other cause), then extra time of thirty (30) minutes (fifteen (15) minutes each half plus any additional time allowed by the Referee for time lost or wasted by accident or other cause) shall be played. If the score is level at the end of extra time, the winner shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the procedure adopted by the International Football Association Board.
- (d) The Referee is entitled to reduce normal time to sixty (60) minutes, extra time to twenty (20) minutes or to dispense with extra-time and go straight to penalties if the prevailing conditions (which includes the allotted time for the hire arrangement of the Ground) make this necessary to obtain a decision.

## 15. Provisions for Postponed and Abandoned Matches

- (a) If a Match is postponed for any reason, the Home Team must inform the Away Team, the Match Officials, the Cup Committee and Referees' Appointment Officer without delay. **Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Schedule.**
- (b) In the event of a Match being postponed it shall normally be re-arranged for the following Saturday unless the Cup Committee decides at its sole discretion that an alternative date is appropriate and beneficial to the progress and running of the Competition.
- (c) In the event of a Match being postponed on one (1) or more occasions due to circumstances over which neither Team has control, both Teams must have an alternative Ground available in case a change of Ground is required.
- (d) If a Match is postponed on one (1) or more occasions due to circumstances over which neither Team has control, the Cup Committee shall be empowered to switch the venue, either to
  - (i) another Ground supplied by the Home Team; or
  - (ii) the Away Team's Ground; or
  - (iii) a neutral Ground,if the Cup Committee considers, at its sole discretion, that such action is appropriate and beneficial to the progress and running of the Competition.
- (e) A team cannot attempt to postpone a fixture due to lack of players without prior consent from the Cup Committee. If a team is unable to fulfil the fixture they will forfeit the tie with the game being awarded to the opponent.
  - (i) Where a Match is postponed owing to one Team being in default, the defaulting Team shall pay the Match Officials the full Match fee and reasonable hospitality expenses of the non-defaulting Team.

If neither Team is at fault, the cost of Match Officials will be shared equally between both Teams unless the Cup Committee decides otherwise.

- (f) The Cup Committee shall be empowered to determine whether a Ground and/or the Ground's facilities are suitable for Matches in the Competition and, if a Ground and/its facilities are deemed to be unsuitable, to order the Team concerned to play its Matches at an alternative/neutral Ground. In the event of this happening, the cost of the Match shall be met by the Team so directed.
- (g) In the event of a Match being postponed due to circumstances over which neither Team has control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to the full Match fee (together with their reasonable travelling expenses) if they attend the Ground. **Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Schedule.**
- (h) Where a Match is postponed owing to one Team being in default, the defaulting Team shall pay the Match Officials the full Match fee (together with their reasonable travelling expenses) if they attend the Ground together with the reasonable hospitality expenses of the non-defaulting Team (subject to production of appropriate corroborating documentary evidence). **Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Schedule.**

#### *Abandoned Matches*

- (i) When a Match has been abandoned before the completion of ninety (90) minutes due to circumstances over which neither Team has control, it shall be re-arranged for the following Saturday at the same Ground unless the Cup Committee decides to choose an alternative date at its sole discretion.
- (j) The Cup Committee shall review all Matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Team, the Cup Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In cases where the Cup Committee is satisfied that a Match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one Team or its Players it shall be empowered to award the Match to the opponent.
- (k) In cases where a Cup Match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Teams or their Players, the Cup Committee shall be empowered to take such further action as it deems appropriate (including disqualifying both Teams from the Competition).
- (l) In the event of a Match being declared void and ordered to be replayed, the Cup Committee shall decide on how the Match expenses are split and shall inform both Teams and the Match Officials.
- (m) The Cup Committee shall review any Match that has taken place where either or both Teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by the FA or an Affiliated Association. In each case the Team that was under suspension would be dealt with in the same manner as if they had participated with ineligible players in accordance with Rule 6. Where both Teams were under suspension, the Match must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.

## 16. Provisions for Withdrawal from Competitions

- (a) Teams wishing to withdraw from a Competition after the draw has been made must give immediate written notice to their opponents, the Referees Appointment Officer, and the Cup Committee. The defaulting Team will forgo their entry fee and may not play in any other competition under the jurisdiction of a Sanctioning Authority on the date originally fixed for the Match. **Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Schedule.**

In cases where less than two (2) weeks' notice is given, the withdrawing Team must additionally reimburse any reasonable expenses incurred by their opponents, including hospitality costs, upon submission of proper documentation to the Cup Committee.

- (b) Any Team withdrawing from a Competition after the draw has been made and who gives less than two (2) weeks' notice shall, in addition to being liable to be fined in accordance with the [Schedule](#), also be liable for:

- (i) any unavoidable expenses incurred by their opponents (subject to production of appropriate corroborating documentary evidence); and
- (ii) the Match fees and (where applicable) reasonable travelling expenses of the Match Officials.

Any dispute on the reasonable expenses will be subject to determination by the Cup Committee whose decision shall be final and binding on both Teams.

- (c) Any Multi-Team Club who has more than one (1) Team entered in the Competition and who wishes to withdraw a Team, must withdraw:

- (i) the Team entered in the lowest ranking Competition as set out in Rule 6(n); or
- (ii) the lowest Team if more than one (1) Team is entered in the same Competition or if two (2) or more Teams are playing on the same day.

Any Multi-Team Club failing to comply with this Rule may be fined in accordance with the [Schedule](#) and may, if the Cup Committee deem it appropriate after taking all circumstances into consideration, in addition to the fine in accordance with the [Schedule](#), have its defaulting Team disqualified from the Competition.

- (d) In addition to the provisions of Rules 16(a)-(c), any Team withdrawing:-

- (i) shall have the Match awarded to its opposition; and
- (ii) may be barred from entering the Competition for the following Playing Season(s) if it fails to provide a satisfactory written explanation to the Cup Committee as to the reasons for its withdrawal.

- (e) A Club wishing to withdraw a Team after an abandoned game must give notice to their opponents immediately following the match and must then inform the Cup Committee in writing within twenty-four (24) hours. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the [Schedule](#).

## 17. Dimensions of the Field of Play

- (a) The dimensions of the field of play for Grounds in the Competition shall be:

*Length: maximum 120 m (130 yards); minimum 90m (100 yards).*

*Width: maximum 90m (100 yards); minimum 45m (50 yards).*

*but in any event the dimensions must (i) conform to the Laws of the Game and (ii) conform to the stipulated dimensions of the League of which the Team participates in and upon which the Team's entry to the Competition is based.*

- (b) Goal nets and corner flags must be used in all Competition Matches. If a Team is unable to meet these requirements due to unforeseen circumstances, they must notify the Cup Committee no later than seventy-two (72) hours before the Match. **Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the [Schedule](#).**

## 18. Fitness of Ground for Commencing Play

- (a) Except in instances where local authorities, schools, colleges, or private commercial entities declare a blanket postponement over Grounds under their control. All Grounds must be inspected by the ground staff before a Match can be postponed.

- (b) Each Team must take every precaution to ensure that its Ground is in a fit playing condition. In the event of any doubt as to the condition of the Ground (irrespective of whether the Ground is under the Team's control), the Match referee or a local referee (who has been approved by the Referees' Appointment Officer) should, whenever possible, examine the Ground and decide as to its fitness for play in sufficient time to save the expense of unnecessary journeys being incurred by Teams/Match Officials. **Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Schedule.**
- (c) Subject to the provisions of Rules 19(a) and 19(b), the Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the Ground in all Matches and shall have the power to abandon or postpone the Match if he believes conditions are detrimental to the welfare of the Participants.
- (d) The referee must report to the ground forty-five (45) minutes before the time of kick-off. If necessary, the Referees Appointment Officer may, by written notice, require the Referee to visit the Ground more than sixty (60) minutes before the time of kick-off any time during the Playing Season.
- (e) Where some but not all Grounds under the Home Team's jurisdiction which have been allocated to Matches become unfit for play, the order of precedence set out in Rule 6(n) must be applied to determine which Competition Matches are played on the Grounds which remain fit.
- (f) Any objections/protests relating to the Ground, goal posts or bars, or other accessories of the Match shall not be entertained by the CEO or the Cup Committee unless an objection has been lodged with the referee by the captain of the complainant
- (g) When an objection/protest has been lodged with the Referee, a written protest must be made to the Cup Committee within three (3) days (Sunday included) of the date of the Match and neither objection nor protest may be withdrawn. The Referees' Appointments Officer shall be notified of the protest by noon on the Sunday following the Match or by 9am on the following day if the Match took place on any other day.
- (h) If the Ground of a Home Team is considered unsuitable, the Away Team may complain to the Cup Committee at least six (6) days before the scheduled date of the Match. The complaint must be accompanied by a deposit (the amount of which is set out in the [Schedule](#)) which may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaint not being upheld or being judged to be frivolous. If the complaint is upheld, the Cup Committee may order the Match to be played at the Ground of the Away Team or at a neutral Ground. If the complaint is not upheld or judged to be frivolous, the Away Team may be called upon to pay the expenses incurred in dealing with the complaint.

## 19. Reporting Results

- (a) Prior to its first Match in the Competition, each Team must ensure that two (2) of its Officers have been correctly registered on the FA Platforms to enable them to receive the FA's Full Time SMS text messages. **Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Schedule.**

### *Deadline for SMS Submission*

- (b) Each Team must submit its Match result by SMS text message to the FA Platforms system by 6pm on a Sunday, or within two (2) hours of the completion of a Match played on any other day. **Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Schedule.** In the event of system outages, both Teams must email the result to the Cup Committee within the same timeframe.

### *Deadline for submission of Online Forms*

- (c) In addition to the reporting requirements set out in Rule 20(b), each Team must also notify the result of the Match using the prescribed online forms on the Sanctioning Authority's FA Portal system. These prescribed forms must be accurate and include:-
- (i) The name of, and marks awarded to, the referee. Each Team must include an assessment of the referee by allocating a mark out of one hundred (100). Any Team awarding the referee a mark of sixty (60) or less **must** send a covering email to the Referees' Appointment Officer ([referees@amateur-fa.com](mailto:referees@amateur-fa.com)) giving a valid reason for the low marking.
  - (ii) Respect marks.
  - (iii) Pitch marks.
  - (iv) The names of the Players who participated in the Match (including the names of the playing and non-playing substitute Players).
  - (v) The goal scorers.
  - (vi) Any cautions, dismissals, sin bins highlighted against the Player concerned.

The prescribed form(s) (and the covering email, if required) **must be completed and submitted within seventy-two (72) hours** of the date and kick-off of the Match. **Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the [Schedule](#)** (which shall be increased in the case of repetition of non-compliance for any subsequent rounds).

- (d) Where a text from the Sanctioning Authority's FA portal system has not been received, both Teams must ensure that the result is confirmed by sending an e-mail **within seventy-two (72) hours** of the date of the Match to [cups@amateur-fa.com](mailto:cups@amateur-fa.com) with full and accurate details of the Match – i.e.,:
- (i) the name of the Competition.
  - (ii) the identity of the competing Teams.
  - (iii) the names of the Match Officials (and mark awarded to the referee. If the mark awarded to the referee is sixty (60) or less, a covering email must be sent on the basis set out in Rule 19(c)(i)).
  - (iv) the score (including penalties if necessary).
  - (v) the names of the Players who participated in the Match (including the names of the playing and non-playing substitute Players).
  - (vi) the goal scorers.

***Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a daily fine in accordance with the [Schedule](#) (which shall be increased in the case of repetition of non-compliance for any subsequent rounds).***

## 20. Custody of the Cups

- (a) The CEO and President shall be the legal owners of all Competition Cups in trust for the Amateur FA. All Competition Cups shall remain the sole property of the Amateur FA. No Competition Cup shall ever become the absolute property of any Club and, in the event of the Amateur FA's dissolution, the Cups shall become the property of the donors.
- (b) The Cup Committee shall be responsible for the engraving of the Cups. When the winning Club has been ascertained (subject to Rule 6(r)), the Amateur FA shall loan the Cup to that Club, who shall be responsible for its return to the Amateur FA on or before the first day in February in the ensuing year in good order and condition with the Cup Committee reserving the right to request the return of the Cup at any time by giving seven (7) days' written notice. Any Club failing to return a Cup to the Cup Committee on time and in a presentable condition, **shall be fined daily in accordance with the [Schedule](#)**.

- (c) The following agreement shall be signed (and delivered to the Cup Committee) on behalf of the winners of each Cup Competition:

*We (A) (name) and (B) (name), the Chairman and Secretary of [ ] FC (Limited), members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of the Amateur FA [TBC] Cup (Cup) for the season 202[•]-202[•], and with the Cup having been loaned to us by the Amateur FA, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the Cup to the Amateur FA Cup Committee on or before 1st February 202[•] in good order and condition, or within seven (7) days after such earlier date if directed in writing by the Amateur FA. Should the Cup be lost, destroyed, or damaged by fire or any other cause whilst under our care or custody, we shall refund to the Amateur FA the amount of its current insured value or the cost of thorough repair in addition to any other penalty which the Cup Committee may impose.*

Cup	Senior	Challenge	Intermediate	Junior	Minor	Senior Novets	Intermediate Novets	Junior Novets	Veterans
Valuation (£)	5000	1500	1500	10000	2000	5000	12000	9000	4000

- (d) If a Club ceases to exist after winning the Competition, the Cup will be immediately returned to the CEO at the following address:

*Amateur Football Alliance,  
FAO: The CEO, Unit 3, 7 Wenlock Road, London, N1 7SL*

*In the event of a merger or Legal succession, liability for the cup's return or damage will transfer to the successor entity unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Amateur FA.*

## 21. Provisions for the Amateur FA Senior Semi-Finals

- (a) The Cup Committee shall arrange the Grounds for the semi-finals of the Amateur FA Senior Cup (**Senior Semi-Finals**) and shall have direct control of all arrangements, receipts and disbursements in connection with the Senior Semi-Finals.
- (b) Details of the dates and Grounds of the Senior Semi-Finals shall be sent to all participating Teams and shall only be changed with the prior written consent of the Cup Committee which may be withheld at its sole discretion. Any requests for date changes must be submitted no later than fourteen (14) days before the scheduled match.
- (c) In the Senior Semi-Finals, the Team drawn first shall have the choice of colours and shall also use the designated home dressing room. Both Teams shall notify their opponents, the Match Officials and the Cup Committee of their proposed colours at least ten (10) days before the Senior Semi-Finals are due to take place. **Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the [Schedule](#).**
- (d) In both Senior Semi-Finals, a Respect handshake must be carried out by both Teams and the Match Officials prior to the kick-off. **Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the [Schedule](#)**
- (e) The Match fee (together with reasonable travelling expenses) for Match Officials taking charge of the Senior Semi-Finals shall be paid by the Cup Committee.

## 22. Provisions for the Competition Finals

- (a) The Cup Committee shall arrange the Grounds for the Finals of all Competitions and shall have direct control of all the arrangements, receipts and disbursements in connection with these Matches. The Match fee (together with reasonable travelling expenses) for Match Officials for all Competition Finals shall be paid by the Cup Committee.
- (b) Details of the dates and Grounds of the Competition Finals shall be sent to all participating Teams. The dates, Grounds and kick-off times of the Competition Finals shall **only** be changed with the prior written consent of the Cup Committee at its sole discretion. Any requests for date changes must be submitted no later than fourteen (14) days before the scheduled match.
- (c) The Team drawn first in each Final shall have the choice of colours and shall use the designated home dressing room. For the purposes of the Match day programme, both Teams must, at least fourteen (14) days before the Final is due to take place, supply the Cup Committee with (details of):
  - (i) their proposed playing colours.
  - (ii) the Club's history and pen pictures of every Player liable to be selected.
  - (iii) a photograph of the Club Crest.
  - (iv) a Team photograph.

**Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a daily fine in accordance with the Schedule and exclusion from matchday programme.**

- (d) Each Team playing in a Competition Final must, at least seven (7) days before the Final is due to take place, supply the Cup Committee and the Match Officials with the names and contact details of two (2) Spectator Marshalls (who shall be responsible for monitoring and ensuring the provisions of Rules 12 and 22(k) are adhered to). **Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Schedule.**
- (e) In all Finals:
  - (i) both Teams and the Match Officials must attend the Final appropriately attired (for the avoidance of doubt (smart casual) no denim or trainers).
  - (ii) both Teams and the Match Officials must be ready, prepared and available to have pre/post-Match photographs taken.
  - (iii) all Participants are deemed to have given their consent to being filmed during the Match and for their images to be used on the Amateur FA's website and social media.
  - (iv) a Respect handshake must be carried out by both Teams and the Match Officials prior to kick-off.

**Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Schedule.**

- (f) In addition to the Cup, the President (or an individual designated by the Cup Committee) shall present a club memento to the victorious Team as well as commemorative souvenirs for the sixteen (16) Players and manager (1) of both Teams and the four (4) Match Officials (Referee, Assistant Referee (x2) & 4<sup>th</sup> Official). A Team may make an application to the Cup Committee to purchase additional commemorative souvenirs at its own cost and shall be solely responsible for the costs of postage and packaging.
- (g) When a Player taking part in the Final is ordered to leave the field of play for misconduct, the designated Cup Committee representatives who are present at the Final shall decide, at their sole discretion, whether the commemorative souvenir to which they are entitled shall be presented unless the misconduct is for violent conduct for an assault on a Match Official, Player, Team official or spectator (in which case the Player shall not be presented with an award). The Team may apply

in writing for the souvenir to be sent to it thereafter and shall be solely responsible for the costs of postage and packaging.

- (h) Should any Team(s) or Player(s) unduly delay or refuse to attend the presentation ceremony at a Final, in addition to being **fined in accordance with the Schedule**, they may forfeit any right to receive a commemorative souvenir (or be presented with the Cup if they are the Captain) if the designated Cup Committee representatives who are present at the Final decide (at their sole discretion). The Cup Committee may take further action against any Team or Player who publicly undermines or disregards the Amateur FA's values of fun, fair play, friendship and respect towards the Competition and every Participant alike.
- (i) All Teams playing in a Final must remind their Participants that **no** alcohol is to be brought to the host Ground – i.e., only alcohol purchased at the host Ground during the Final is permitted to be consumed at/during the Final.
- (j) When a Final has been postponed, it shall be played on such date and at such Ground as directed by the Cup Committee at its sole discretion.
- (k) When a Final has been abandoned after it has commenced but before it has been completed, the Cup Committee shall deal with the matter as it sees fit at its sole discretion.

## 23. Appointment of Match Officials

- (a) Match Officials will be appointed by the Referees' Appointment Officer for all Matches in the Competition. In the event of a Team being advised by the Referees' Appointment Officer that it is not possible to make an appointment, it shall be the responsibility of the Home Team to provide a Referee who shall rank as an official appointment of the Amateur FA. Subject to Rule 23(b), the provision of Assistant Referees shall be at the sole discretion of the Referees' Appointment Officer. Should Assistant Referees be appointed, the Referee is required to provide marks for the Assistant Referees to the Referees' Appointment Officer.
- (b) The Referee and Assistant Referees (where appointed) in all Matches shall be neither past nor present Participants of the competing Teams. Should a Referee receive an appointment they consider is in breach of this Rule, they must notify the Referees' Appointments Officer immediately.
- (c) If:
  - (i) no Referee is appointed; or
  - (ii) the appointed Referee fails to arrive (on time),

*a Referee shall be chosen at the Ground and must be mutually agreed by both Teams. In the event that Teams cannot agree on a replacement Referee within thirty (30) minutes of the scheduled kick-off time, the Match shall be postponed, and the Cup Committee will decide on rescheduling and liability for costs.*

- (d) The Participant appointed pursuant to Rule 23(c) will be considered as an official appointment for:
  - (i) the duration of the Match; or
  - (ii) for such time until the appointed Referee arrives at the Ground.

*The absence of the appointed Referee shall not be deemed sufficient cause for the Match not being played. A Referee may not play in the Match. **Teams failing to comply with this Rule will be fined in accordance with the Schedule** and may be disqualified from the Competition.*

- (e) In the case of postponed or abandoned Matches, the Match Officials appointed for the original Match shall be expected to officiate in the re-arranged Match unless otherwise directed by the Referees' Appointment Officer.

- (f) Any Referee who refuses to accept an appointment shall not be permitted to officiate in another match in an Amateur FA League or in a League or cup match under the jurisdiction of another Affiliated Association on the same day.
- (g) A Referee not keeping their engagement and failing to give a satisfactory explanation to the Referees' Appointment Officer for their non-appearance may be reported to the Affiliated Association with which they are registered.
- (h) Where three (3) officials are appointed, if the match official is unable to continue the Assistant Referee designated *AR1* on Full-Time takes over as the referee.
- (i) A 4th Official may be appointed and officiate if any of the three (3) Match Officials is unable to continue. Unless specifically agreed prior to the start of the Match, if the Referee is unable to continue the 4th Official shall take over in place of the Referee.
- (j) Whilst it is permissible for Match Officials to wear a coloured referee shirt in the Competition, should the colour of their coloured shirts clash with the kit of either Team, the Match Officials (must not make a Team change its kit but) must wear traditional black shirts (either all black or black with white trim), black shorts and socks which are all black or black with white tops. If they are wearing a coloured shirt, all Match Officials must wear the same colour. If the Match Officials are unable to wear the same-coloured shirts, they must revert to black.
- (k) All Match Officials should inform the Referees' Appointment Officer at [referees@amateur-fa.com](mailto:referees@amateur-fa.com) if details of the Match have not been supplied by the Home Team not less than three (3) days prior to the date arranged for the Match.
- (l) Subject to Rules 21(e) and 22(a), the Home & Away Team shall be responsible for the paying the fees (details of which are set out in the [Schedule](#)), which must be paid either:
  - (i) when the Team Sheet is handed in prior to commencement of the Match; or
  - (ii) **immediately** (whether payment is made in person or via bank transfer) - i.e., no later than thirty (30) minutes after the Match has concluded.

Teams failing to comply with this Rule will be fined in accordance with the [Schedule](#).
- (m) If Assistant Referees are appointed, their Match fees (details of which are set out in the [Schedule](#)) shall be shared between the Home Team and the Away Team and these Match fees must be paid on the same basis, and at the same time, as set out in Rule 23(l).
- (n) All Match Officials are expected to attend post-Match hospitality. *Except those who are solely involved of the Amateur FA Sunday Cup*
- (o) In the event of a Match being postponed, Match Officials who have **not** been contacted and who travel to the Ground shall receive their Match fee.
- (p) All Match Officials appointed to officiate on the Final of any Competition shall be contacted by the Referees' Appointment Officer with details of the pre-Finals presentation evening.
- (q) In all Competition Finals, a Respect handshake must be carried out by both Teams and the Match Officials prior to the kick-off.
- (r) No Participant under sixteen (16) years of age shall participate either as a Referee or Assistant Referee in any Match.

## 24. Protests and Appeals

*There will be no right to appeal if the competition rules have been violated, and the charge has been issued in accordance with the [Schedule](#).*

- (a) A Club may only lodge a protest with the Cup Committee on one or more of the following grounds:
  - (i) an opponent Club fielded an ineligible Player in a Competition Match.
  - (ii) the Home Club's Ground was unsuitable for the Competition Match because it did not comply with the requirements of these Competition Rules or the Laws of the Game.
  - (iii) the club feel the sanction imposed by the cup committee is excessive beyond doubt or reasonable measure
- (b) All matters relating to Players' eligibility, rule interpretation, or disputes or protest whatever shall be referred to the Cup Committee whose decision shall be final and binding. Protests from Clubs relating to Player eligibility should be accompanied, where possible by (photographic) evidence of the Player's participation in the Match. Other evidence shall be considered (e.g., Team Sheets, social media posts) if they clearly indicate participation in the Match.
- (c) For protests under Rule 24(a)(ii), the Team captain must lodge the protest with a Team Official of the opposing Team and the referee *before kick-off*, and it must be recorded in the referee's Match Report.
- (d) If a protest is raised under Rule 19 but followed in writing to the **CEO**, the protesting Team shall be fined **in accordance with the [Schedule](#)**.

*Escalation Procedure:*

- (e) Subject to Rules 19(f) and 24(c):
  - (i) Within three (3) days after the relevant Match (including Sundays), the protesting Club must submit a written protest to the CEO setting out the particulars of the grounds upon which such protest is made (copied to the opponent Club).
  - (ii) The CEO may, at their sole discretion, delegate the protest to the Cup Committee for consideration.
  - (iii) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the CEO unless the complaining Club has sent a deposit accompanying its protest in accordance with the [Schedule](#). The deposit may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the dispute or protest not being upheld or being judged to be frivolous.
  - (iv) The CEO or delegated representative of Amateur FA shall send a copy of the protest to the Participant protested against, who shall reply in writing to the CEO or delegated representative of Amateur FA within five (5) days of receiving the same. The CEO or delegated representative of Amateur FA shall then send a copy of the answer to the complaining Participant and shall consider the submissions once both have been received.
  - (v) If a hearing is required, at least seven (7) days' notice shall be given to each Club/Participant who may support their case with witnesses via Microsoft Teams or online platform that is deemed fit by the CEO. If a Participant prefers to state its case solely in writing, then it should indicate as such when forwarding the written response. Only the Chair, Secretary or other Club Official (who appear as such on the FA Platforms) may represent the Club. A Solicitor, Barrister, paralegal or member of CILEX may only represent a Club/Participant if the CEO has given their prior written consent.
  - (vi) No member of the Cup Committee who is a member of a Club or league of where that club plays can be involved in a dispute (except as a witness or representative of his Club) when such protest or complaint is being considered and determined by the CEO.
- (f) Once the CEO or delegated representative of Amateur FA has finished their deliberations, they shall contact both Clubs with a written determination. The CEO is empowered to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the inquiry or, if it is determined that both Clubs were at fault, to order that the costs be shared by the Clubs.

- (g) A Club that is disqualified from the Competition may appeal in writing within seven (7) days against that decision to an Appeal Board.
- (h) Any appeal regarding the disqualification of a Club/Team from the Competition shall only be permitted on one or more of the following grounds:
  - (i) the Cup Committee failed to give the Team a fair hearing; and/or
  - (ii) the Cup Committee misinterpreted or failed to comply with the Rules of the Competition relevant to its decision; and/or
  - (iii) the Cup Committee came to a decision to which no reasonable such body could have come; and/or
  - (iv) the Cup Committee imposed a penalty, award, order, or sanction that was excessive.
- (i) The decision of the Appeal Board shall be final and binding on all Teams.
- (j) Notwithstanding the foregoing, any breach of procedure or failure to follow any time limit by the CEO or Appeal Board shall not invalidate its decision unless the breach or failure is such as to seriously and irredeemably prejudice the position of the affected Participant.
- (k) Excluding any information which is already in the public domain (other than through the wrongful disclosure by any Participant) or any information which a Participant is required to disclose by law, unless required by Law or with the prior written consent of the CEO, every Participant agrees to keep secret and confidential and not make any public announcement or disclosure or divulge on any website or electronic platform to any third party outside its Club:
  - (i) the existence of, and any details relating to, the appeal;
  - (ii) the existence and contents of any documents or other evidence produced during the appeal.

## 25. General (Alteration of Rules, Payment of Fines)

- (a) The Cup Committee shall be empowered to alter, expunge or add to these Rules as it shall from time to time deem practical, but such alteration, expunction or addition shall not come into force until the Playing Season following that in which the Cup Committee shall have decided to take such action **unless** such alteration, expunction or addition shall be required pursuant to Rule 25(c).
- (b) Notice of any proposed alterations to be considered by the Cup Committee shall be submitted to the Cup Committee by 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in May in each Playing Season. The proposals shall be circulated to Cup Committee by 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in May and any amendments shall be confirmed by the Cup Committee by 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in May.
- (c) Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the Cup Committee has to adopt emergency measures to complete the Competitions in any Playing Season, such alteration, expunction or addition shall come into force immediately if two-thirds of Cup Committee members present vote in favour of such action at a Meeting held to deal with an emergency. Details of any Rules amended, expunged or any additional Rules introduced in such circumstances shall be published on the Amateur FA website.
- (d) Subject to a Team's right of appeal in accordance with Rule 24, all fines imposed under these Rules and such other payments as decided upon by the Cup Committee must be paid directly to the Amateur FA no later than seven (7) days of the agreed time frame set from the outcome of the decision. Any Club failing to pay the required sum by the stipulated date shall have their fine doubled. If the original sum plus the fine for non-payment is not received within the allotted time of the decision, an additional late fine, as determined by the Cup Committee, shall be imposed. If the amounts levied are still outstanding after a further seven (7) days, the Club shall be suspended from all footballing activity.

- (e) Any Club who fails to:
  - (i) comply with an written order or instruction of the Cup Committee in a timely fashion; or
  - (ii) fails to satisfactorily attend to the business and/or correspondence of the Competition when so directed in writing,

**shall be fined in accordance with the [Schedule](#)** or sanctioned at the discretion of the Cup Committee.

## B. Schedule

### Fees Tariff

Rule		Fee (£)
4(c)	Annual Entry Fee (In County)	30
	Annual Entry Fee (Out of County)	50
23(l)	Referee Fee	50
23(m)	Assistant Referee Fee	45
1l	Deposit for Protests/Appeals	100

Match Official Present	Who Pays	Fee (£)
Referee (Only)	Away Team	50
Referee and Assistant Referee(s) (All present)	Home Team pay one assistant Away Team pays Referee & Assistant Referee	Home = 45 Away = 50+45

### Fines Tariff

Rule		Fine (£)
20(b)	Failure to return a Cup in time and in a presentable condition.	50 per day
20(c)	Loss etc of a Cup	Value of the Cup 20(c)
1(r)	Failure to comply with the provisions of any initiatives of the FA which are adopted by the Cup Committee.	25
3(g)	Failure to ensure Team selection follows generally accepted footballing selectorial principles and represents the full playing strength of the Club.	35
4(b)	Late entry.	25
5(h)	Fielding a Player who has not attained the age of 16.	35
5(n)	(i) keep a list of the Players who have played for the Team on FA Platforms and/or	40
	(ii) produce such records upon demand by the Cup Committee.	40
5(q)	Failure by a Team to provide a satisfactory written explanation to the Cup Committee as required by 5(o) as to the eligibility/qualification of any Player.	40
6(l)	Failure by the Home Team to contact their opponents and the Match Officials by phone or email with full details of the Match within the prescribed timeframe.	30
6(p)	Failure by the Home Team to provide written confirmation of a 3G pitch certification to Cup Committee when requested	30

6(q)	Failure by the Home Team to advise the Away Team and Match Officials of 3G pitch use and footwear requirements and any limitations or recommendations regarding the type of boot or stud that may be used on the 3G surface.	25
6(o)	Failure by the Home Team to provide separate, adequate and securely locked dressing rooms, washing and toilet facilities for the Away Team and Match Officials.	30
7(b)	Failure to begin a Match 30 minutes or more after the scheduled kick-off time.	30
8(b) & (c)	Failure of any Team coach/Manager/Participant to conduct themselves in a responsible manner.	<b>Unlimited</b>
8(d)	Failure, when instructed, to provide barriers or roping to ensure there is no encroaching on the field of play or the impeding of the assistant referees.	25
9(a)	Starting a Match with fewer than nine (9) Players.	20
10(a)	Failure to provide suitable food and refreshments for all Players and Match Officials after the Match.	25
10(b)	Failure of seven (7) Players from the Away Team to stay and accept the post-Match hospitality provided by the Home Team.	20
11	Failure to adhere to the Amateur FA's values of fair play and respect to the Competition, opposition and Match Officials.	<b>Unlimited</b>
12(b)	Delaying the scheduled time of kick off for a Competition Match by not having a change of colours.	25
12(d)	Failure to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. give the Referee a legible and accurate team sheet by the prescribed time of twenty (20) minutes prior to Kick Off</li> <li>ii. have uniquely numbered shirts or altering its selection or numbering after the Team Sheet has been provided to the Match Officials.</li> </ul>	10 25
12(e)	Failure to notify the Match Officials of an alteration before the commencement of the Match: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. make the alteration on a replacement Team Sheet before the commencement of the Match.</li> </ul>	25
12(f)	Changing shirt numbers during the Match without authorisation from the Match Officials.	25

<b>12(g)</b>	Wearing black or very dark shirts.	25
<b>12(h)</b>	Failure of the Goalkeeper to wear colours that distinguish them from the other Players and the Match Officials.	25
<b>12(i)</b>	Failure of the captain to make themselves known to match official and to wear a distinguishing armband even when/if substituted.	10
<b>12(k)</b>	Failure by the Home Team to provide to the Referee for his approval prior to kick-off of the Match at least two (2) size 5 footballs that conform to the Laws of the Game.	10
<b>15(a)</b>	Failure by the Home Team to inform their opponents, the Match Officials, the Cup Committee and Referees' Appointment Officer of a postponed Match without delay.	25
<b>15(g)</b>	Failure to reimburse the Match Officials if they have travelled to the Ground where a Match has been postponed due to circumstances over which neither Team had control.	35
<b>15(h)</b>	Failure of the defaulting Team to reimburse the Match Officials and the non-defaulting Team.	35
<b>16(a)</b>	Failure to give at least fourteen (14) days' written notice of intention to withdraw to their opponents, the Referees Appointment Officer and the Cup Committee after the draw has been made.	25
<b>16(b)</b>	Withdrawal from a Competition after the draw has been made with less than fourteen (14) days' notice.	25
<b>16(c)</b>	Failure by a Multi-Team Club to withdraw a Team from the lowest ranking Competition or the lowest Team.	25
<b>16(e)</b>	Failure to give written notice of the desire to withdraw after an abandoned Match.	25
<b>17(b)</b>	Failure to have goal nets or corner flags.	15
<b>18(b)</b>	Failure to have a Ground inspected by a Match Official before a Match is postponed, if the match official is present	25
<b>19(a)</b>	Failure to have two (2) Team Officers registered on FA Platforms prior to its first Match in the Competition.	10

19(b)	Failure to report result by SMS text message by 6pm on a Saturday, or within the prescribed timeframe.	10
19(c)	Failure to complete and submit the online forms on the FA Platforms the prescribed timeframe.  Failure to send a covering email to the Referees' Appointment Officer ( <a href="mailto:appointments@amateur-fa.com">appointments@amateur-fa.com</a> ) giving a valid reason a referee mark below 60 within the prescribed timeframe.	15  15
19(d)	Failure to confirm result (if no FT SMS text message has been received) by sending a confirmatory e-mail to <a href="mailto:cups@amateur-fa.com">cups@amateur-fa.com</a> with full details of the Match within the prescribed timeframe.	35
22(c)	Failure to notify opponents, Match Officials and the Cup Committee of proposed Team colours at least ten (10) days before the date of the Senior Semi-Finals	25
22(e)	Failure to conduct Respect handshake prior to kick-off of a Senior Semi-Final.	25
22(c)	Failure to supply details of playing colours, Player pen pictures, Club history and Club Crest within the prescribed timeframe.	10 per day
22(d)	Failure to provide names and contact details of Spectator Marshalls within the prescribed timeframe.	10 per day
22(e)	Failure to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. observe dress code for/at a Final</li> <li>ii. be ready for pre/post-Match photographs.</li> </ul>	20 5
23(l)	Failure to pay the Match Officials within the prescribed timeframe.	50
23(b)	Failure to follow up with written notification.	25
24(e)	Failure to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. comply with a written order or instruction of the Cup Committee in a timely fashion; or</li> <li>ii. satisfactorily attend to the business and/or correspondence of the Competition when directed in writing.</li> </ul>	35  35
	Breach of any other Competition Rule(s) where no fixed amount shall be imposed at the discretion of the Cup Committee	<b>Unlimited</b>