



**Birmingham County Football Association**

**County Cup Rules**

**From July 2025**

## Birmingham County Football Association (BCFA)

### County Cup Rules

*Any Changes to the Rules from the previous Season are shown in bold italics*

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## GOVERNANCE RULES

### 1. NAME OF THE CUP

- (a) The Cups shall be named:
  - (1) "The BCFA Senior Challenge Cup"
  - (2) "The BCFA Midweek Floodlit Challenge Cup"
  - (3) "The Joel Richards Memorial Cup"
  - (4) "The BCFA Saturday Challenge Vase"
  - (5) "The BCFA Saturday Amateur Cup"
  - (6) "The BCFA Roger Wood Memorial Cup"
  - (7) "The BCFA Sunday Challenge Vase"
  - (8) "The BCFA Sunday Amateur Cup"
  - (9) "The BCFA Veterans Cup"
  - (10) "The BCFA Sunday Youth Cup"
  - (11) "The BCFA Minor Cup"
  - (12) "The BCFA Saturday Minor Cup"
  - (13) "The BCFA Women's Challenge Cup"
  - (14) "The BCFA Girls Challenge Cup"
  - (15) ***"The BCFA Women's Challenge Vase"***
- (b) The Cups shall be competed for annually
- (c) Where the term "All Cups" appears in these Rules, the Rule applies to each of the Cup Competitions individually

### 2. OWNERSHIP OF THE TROPHIES (ALL CUPS)

- (a) The Legal Owners of the Trophies shall be the Limited Company and they shall be held in trust on behalf of the donors
- (b) The Cups shall be Challenge Cups and can never become the property of any Club and in the event of the dissolution of the Company they shall become the property of the donors

### 3. MEDALS (ALL CUPS)

- (a) In addition to the Trophy, BCFA will present twenty (20) medals to participating Players
- (b) At the discretion of the Executive, when a Player taking part in the Final tie of the Competition is ordered to leave the field of play for misconduct the medal to which the Player may be entitled shall be withheld
- (c) The Club, in writing to BCFA, may subsequently apply for this medal

### 4. CONTROL OF THE COMPETITION (ALL CUPS)

- (a) The entire control and management of the Competitions shall be vested in the Executive of BCFA and may be delegated through an Executive Working Group as required
- (b) All issues relating to the interpretation of Competition Rules shall be referred to the Executive whose decision shall, subject to Rule 8, be final and binding without further right of appeal
- (c) The Executive shall consider any such matter in such a manner and following such procedures as it deems appropriate
- (d) The organisation of the Competition shall be at the discretion of the Executive
- (e) A Club failing to comply with an order or instruction of the Executive or failing to satisfactorily attend to the business and/or correspondence of the Competition shall be liable to fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff
- (f) The Executive reserve the right to consider a claim of "Bringing the Competition into Disrepute" in any proven case of serious misconduct arising from a Cup tie in any Competition. Any fine shall be in accordance with the Fines Tariff

- (g) The Executive shall have the power to deal with any matters not provided for within the County Cup Rules
- (h) The Executive shall have the power to alter or add to these Rules as, from time to time, they may deem expedient

## **5. DATE OF ENTRY**

- (a) Cup Entry Forms and Cup Entry Fees, in accordance with the Fees Tariff, shall be submitted on the dates as determined by the Executive
  - (1) Teams competing in Saturday football to be returned by 1 August in any year
  - (2) Teams competing in Sunday football to be returned by 14 August in any year

## **6. ELIGIBILITY OF CLUBS**

- (a) General – Applicable to All Clubs
  - (1) All Clubs must be affiliated to BCFA in accordance with the area as designated within the Memorandum on Areas and Overlapping Associations at Paragraphs 3 and 4
  - (2) A Club in membership with BCFA as their Parent Association must, if mandated, enter the appropriate BCFA Competition and give precedence to this Competition as in accordance with FA Sanction and Control of Competitions Regulations at Paragraph 14
  - (3) A Club having membership with BCFA is not permitted to enter any other County Football Association Competition without first entering the appropriate BCFA Cup Competition and having gained the approval from BCFA in accordance with FA Sanction and Control of Competitions Regulations at Paragraph 14
- (b) “The BCFA Senior Challenge Cup” (Senior Cup)
  - (1) The competing Clubs shall consist of the Premier and Football League Clubs affiliated to BCFA who shall be included in the Draw at any stage to be decided by the Executive, unless by 1 July in the Season to which the Competition relates, an application for total exemption has been made and granted on an agreement to pay BCFA the exemption fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff
  - (2) Senior Clubs in membership with BCFA, as their Parent Association, will be required to take part in the Senior Cup providing that they compete in Leagues designated at Step 5 and above of the National League System (NLS)
  - (3) Other Senior Clubs may enter the Senior Cup provided they hold an Associate Membership to BCFA and subject to the approval of their Parent Association and the Executive
- (c) “The BCFA Midweek Floodlit Challenge Cup” (Midweek Floodlit Cup)
  - (1) The competing Clubs shall consist of those Clubs playing in Leagues designated at Step 6 of the NLS and NLS Regional Feeder Leagues having floodlights; those Reserve Teams of Clubs competing in the Senior Cup plus those Teams that have been accepted to enter The FA Vase Competition
- (d) “The BCFA Saturday Challenge Vase” (Saturday Vase)
  - (1) The competing Clubs shall consist of those Clubs competing in the recognised Leagues relevant to the Competition, and those Reserve Teams of Clubs competing in the Midweek Floodlit Cup
- (e) “The BCFA Saturday Amateur Cup” (Saturday Amateur Cup)
  - (1) The competing Clubs shall consist of those Clubs competing in the recognised Leagues relevant to the Competition, and those Reserve Teams of Clubs competing in the Saturday Vase
- (f) “The BCFA Roger Wood Memorial Cup” (Roger Wood Cup)
  - (1) The competing Clubs shall consist of those Sunday Clubs participating in the approved League Divisions as determined by BCFA
  - (2) Acceptance of applications shall be subject to the approval of the Executive

- (g) “The BCFA Sunday Challenge Vase” (Sunday Vase) & “The BCFA Sunday Amateur Cup” (Sunday Amateur Cup)
  - (1) The competing Clubs shall consist of those Sunday Clubs participating in approved League Divisions as determined by BCFA
  - (2) Acceptance of applications shall be subject to the approval of the Executive
- (h) “The BCFA Veterans Cup” (Veterans Cup)
  - (1) The competing Clubs shall consist of those Clubs competing in an approved Veterans League as determined by BCFA or Clubs playing in other approved Leagues meeting the criteria of players eligibility in accordance with Rule 9
  - (2) Acceptance of such applications will be subject to the approval of the Executive
- (i) “The Joel Richards Memorial Cup” (Joel Richards Cup), “The BCFA Sunday Youth Cup” (Sunday Youth Cup), “The BCFA Minor Cup” (Minor Cup), “The BCFA Saturday Minor Cup” (Saturday Minor Cup), and “The BCFA Girls Challenge Cup” (Girls Cup)
  - (1) The competing Clubs shall consist of those Clubs competing in the recognised Leagues relevant to the Competition and in addition those Clubs entering The FA Youth Cup must enter the Midweek Youth Cup except for Football League Clubs
  - (2) For the Sunday Youth Cup, Minor Cup and Saturday Minor Cup only; where a Club has more than one eligible Team, then the additional Team(s) may also enter
- (j) **“The BCFA Women’s Challenge Cup” (Women’s Cup)**
  - (1) **The competing clubs shall consist of those participating clubs at Tiers 1 to 5 in The FA Women’s Football Pyramid (The FA Women’s Super League, The FA Women’s Championship, The FA Women’s National League, West Midlands Regional League Premier Division)**
- (k) **“The BCFA Women’s Challenge Vase” (Women’s Vase)**
  - (1) **The competing clubs shall consist of those clubs participating in Tiers 6 and 7 of The FA Women’s Football Pyramid (West Midlands Regional Women’s League Divisions 1 North and South and the Birmingham County Women’s League)**

## 7. PROVISIONS RELATING TO PROTESTS AND OBJECTIONS (ALL CUPS)

- (a) Where a Club wishes to protest that there has been a breach of the Competition Rules, such protest must be made in writing, within seven (7) days of the match being played and must contain the full particulars of the grounds giving rise to the protest together with a fee as detailed in the Fees Tariff. The fee may be forfeited in the event of the protest being dismissed
- (b) The Executive will consider receipt of any information relating to a breach of these Rules and in these circumstances may adopt such procedures, from time to time, as it deems appropriate
- (c) Any protest received outside of this time may be considered by the Executive dependent upon the merits of the circumstances to which the protest refers and in the best interests of football
- (d) No protest or objection may be withdrawn except by permission of the Executive
- (e) BCFA shall send a copy of any protest to the Club protested against, who must lodge a response as required
- (f) Any protest and/or objection relating to the ground, goalposts or other appurtenances of the game must be lodged with the Referee before the game who, if possible, shall require the Home Club to correct the cause of the protest and/or objection without unduly delaying the match. The details of the protest and/or objection shall be reported to BCFA by the Referee and the Club making the protest and/or objection within two (2) days of the match
- (g) The Executive may make such orders as it considers appropriate in relation to any issues or protest referred to it and may make such orders it considers appropriate as to any costs incurred

- (h) Members of any Executive Working Group directly connected with a Club and/or a League concerned in a protest and/or objection are considered as conflicted and shall not have any involvement in the consideration of the matter

#### **8. PROVISIONS CONCERNING APPEALS (ALL CUPS)**

- (a) A Club that is dismissed from the Competition may appeal against the decision to an Appeal Board within seven (7) days of the date of the written notification of the decision
- (b) A fee, in accordance with the Fees Tariff, must accompany the full written reasons giving rise to the appeal
- (c) For the avoidance of doubt, a Club may not appeal against any penalty, award, order, or sanction imposed by the Executive other than dismissal from the Competition
- (d) The full written reasons for an appeal against dismissal from the Competition must identify the grounds on which the appeal based:
  - (1) The Executive failed to give that Participant a fair hearing; and/or
  - (2) The Executive misinterpreted or failed to comply with the Competition Rules relevant to its decision; and/or
  - (3) The Executive came to a decision that no reasonable such body could have come; and/or
  - (4) The Executive imposed a penalty, award order or sanction that was excessive

#### **MATCH RELATED RULES**

#### **9. PROVISIONS CONCERNING THE QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS**

- (a) General (All Cups)
  - (1) Each team shall consist of not more than eleven [11] players and the players shall be duly qualified according to the Rules of The Association and represent the full playing strength of the Club
  - (2) No Player shall be eligible to take part in any Competition who has, in the current Season, played for another Club in that Competition
- (b) Senior Cup, Midweek Floodlit Cup, Midweek Youth Cup, Saturday Vase, Saturday Amateur Cup, Roger Wood Cup, Sunday Vase, Sunday Amateur Cup, Veterans Cup, Women's Cup, Girls Cup, Sunday Youth, Minor Cup, Saturday Minor Cup, **and Women's Vase**
  - (1) Each individual **player** shall be a recognised member of the Club for which they are selected in accordance with the Registration Conditions, from time to time in force, of the League that the Club participates and on which the Clubs entry is based
  - (2) In the case of a postponed match, only those players who were eligible to play on the date fixed for the playing of **this first postponed** match shall be allowed to play **in the rearranged match**
  - (3) Temporary Loan Players, where relevant, are permitted to play in accordance with the foregoing Rule and subject to written confirmation has been obtained from their Club
  - (4) A recognised member is one whose registration form has been received and countersigned by the appropriate League/Registration Secretary
  - (5) The recognised members registration is one that is only relevant to the League in which the Club competes and on which their entry is based
  - (6) A player who is suspended on the original fixture date, may play in a postponed or replayed match when permitted to do so once the terms of any suspension have been complied with
- (c) Addition to the Provisions Concerning Qualification of Players – General – Applicable to All Cups – Rules Relating to Specific Competitions
  - (1) Sunday Vase
    - (i) No player shall be eligible to take part in this Competition who has played for their own, or another Club in "The BCFA Roger Wood Memorial Cup"

- (2) Sunday Amateur Cup
  - (i) No player shall be eligible to take part in this Competition who has played for their own, or another Club in “The BCFA Roger Wood Memorial Cup” or “The BCFA Sunday Challenge Vase”
- (3) The Joel Richards Cup
  - (i) All Players shall be over 15 and under 18 years of age as at midnight on 31 August in the Season to which the Competition relates
  - (ii) The Executive may call for the production of Birth Certificates
- (4) Sunday Youth Cup
  - (i) All Players shall be over 15 and under 18 years of age as at midnight on 31 August in the Season to which the Competition relates
  - (ii) The Executive may call for the production of Birth Certificates
  - (iii) Registration Cards applicable to the League must be available at all matches and be available for inspection by an Official of the opposition
- (5) Minor Cup & Saturday Minor Cup
  - (i) All Players shall be 14 years of age and under 16 years of age as at midnight on 31 August in the Season to which the Competition relates
  - (ii) The Executive may call for the production of Birth Certificates
  - (iii) No Player registered with a FA Premier League or Football League Academy will be permitted to play in this Competition
  - (iv) A Player registered with a Centre of Excellence may only play in this Competition subject to compliance with the Regulations of the Programme for Excellence
  - (v) Registration Cards applicable to the League must be available at all matches and be available for inspection by an Official of the opposition
- (6) Veterans Cup
  - (i) All players must be 35 years of age or over on the date fixed for the playing of the match
  - (ii) The Executive may call for the production of Birth Certificates
- (7) Girls Cup
  - (i) All players shall be 14 years of age and under 16 years of age as at midnight on 31 August in the Season to which the Competition relates
  - (ii) The Executive may call for the production of Birth Certificates
  - (iii) Registration Cards applicable to the League must be available at all matches and be available for inspection by an Official of the opposition
- (d) Cup Final Eligibility (All Cups)
  - (1) Only those players who were qualified to play in a previous tie shall be eligible to play in the Final tie unless on written application and as otherwise determined by the Executive

#### **10. VALIDITY OF THE PLAYER’S QUALIFICATIONS (ALL CUPS)**

- (a) The Executive shall have the power to call upon a Player and/or the Club to which they are registered, or for which they played, to prove that the Player is/was qualified according to the Competition Rules
- (b) Failing satisfactory proof, the Executive may disqualify such Player, and may remove the Club from the competition, and impose such other penalty as it considers appropriate
- (c) Following such decision, the Executive may reinstate the opposition Club
- (d) The Executive shall have the power to impose penalties against Clubs already knocked out of the Competition
- (e) Any fine imposed will be in accordance with the Fines Tariff

## **11. SUBSTITUTES**

- (a) All Cups (unless specified below)
  - (1) A Club may, at its discretion, use five (5) substitute players, nominated from five (5), at any time, in a Cup tie, except to replace a player who has been suspended from the game by the Referee after play has commenced
  - (2) A maximum of five (5) substitutes may be nominated and they must be named to the Referee prior to the commencement of the match otherwise they will not be permitted to take part
  - (3) Any Substitute that plays in the Cup tie must be indicated on the Match Report Form
  - (4) A Substitute who does not play in the Cup tie is entitled to play for another Club in the Competition in the same Season
- (b) Return Substitutions – Applicable to the Veterans Cup, Sunday Youth Cup, Minor Cup, Saturday Minor Cup, Girls Cup, *and Women's Vase*
  - (1) A Club may, at its discretion, use five (5) substitutes nominated from five (5) and who have been nominated to the Referee prior to the commencement of the Cup tie, except to replace a player who has been suspended from the game by the Referee after play has commenced
  - (2) A player who has been substituted (a substituted player), themselves become a substitute and may, in turn, replace another player, at any time, subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of the Game

## **12. NOTIFICATION OF THE DRAW (ALL CUPS)**

- (a) The Clubs competing in each Round of the Competition shall be drawn in pairs to play matches subject to the conditions as determined by the Executive
- (b) These pairs shall compete in accordance with the Laws of the Game and the winners shall compete in the next round of the Competition which shall be drawn in the same manner
- (c) This shall be continued until the Final tie of the Competition when the winning Club shall hold the Cup under the conditions provided in these Rules
- (d) After the draw for each Round of the Competition is made, notice shall be given to each Club of the name of its opponent Club, the date and suggested time(s) when the match shall be played
- (e) All matches in each Round of the Competition shall be played on such a date and at such a time as the Executive determine with reference to, but not limited by, the applicable Conference Dates
- (f) The Executive shall have the power to order that a kick-off time is changed as it considers appropriate

## **13. TIME OF KICK-OFF (ALL CUPS)**

- (a) The Home Team must notify their Opponents, the Match Official(s), BCFA and where appropriate any Executive Working Group Member delegated to attend the Cup tie of the kick-off time should this time differ from the time stipulated in these Rules
- (b) BCFA will stipulate the latest kick-off times in Winter months for Clubs without floodlights
- (c) Any late kick-off must be reported by the Referee to BCFA
- (d) An offending Club shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff
- (e) Match Officials must allow thirty (30) minutes after the stated kick-off time before calling the Cup tie off due to the non-arrival of team(s) at the ground

## **14. VENUE OF THE MATCHES**

- (a) All Cups (excluding the Senior Cup)
  - (1) The Club drawn first in each tie, except for the Final tie, shall be entitled to have the match played at its chosen venue, providing that it is the nominated venue relating to

- their Cup Competition entry, that it meets the requirements of the Competition Rules and has been inspected and sanctioned by the League in which the Club is competing
- (2) An alternative venue may be used with the consent of the Executive
  - (3) Where the Home Ground or alternative are not available or are considered unsuitable then, the match must be played on the ground of the opposing Club
  - (4) Goal nets must be used in all matches
  - (5) Dimensions of the Field of Play
    - (i) The dimensions of the Field of Play must conform to the Laws of the Game; and
    - (ii) The stipulated dimensions of the League in which the Club participates; and
    - (iii) On which the Competition entry is based
  - (6) Protests as to the Suitability of the Ground
    - (i) All objections as to the dimensions of the field of play must be lodged in accordance with Rule 7
    - (ii) If the Home Ground of the Home Club shall be considered as unsuitable for the Cup tie their Opponents may appeal to the Executive who may order the match to be played on the ground of the Appellant Club or at a neutral venue
    - (iii) Any appeal must be made to BCFA within seven (7) days of the receipt of the official intimation of the draw
    - (iv) In the case of the ground being rendered temporarily unfit through weather or other causes a protest may be lodged with the Referee, before the commencement of the match, who shall declare it fit or unfit to play
  - (7) 3G Football Turf
    - (i) 3G Football Turf may be used in the Competition provided that the pitch is listed on The FA Register of 3G Football Turf Pitches and with the prior consent of BCFA
    - (ii) A request to use 3G Football Turf Pitches shall be requested at the time of entry to the Competition in each Season and provided that the artificial turf meets the following:
      - (a) The pitch shall be surfaced with a 3G Football Turf that has laboratory type approval according to FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf (2009 Edition)
      - (b) FIFA Recommended One (1) Star quality level or the International Artificial Turf Standard (2009 Edition); and
      - (c) Has satisfied the performance and construction requirements at the time of the last annual assessment
      - (d) Where an artificial surface is installed, the FIFA Performance Test must be completed by, no later than, 28 February each year and the result and details submitted to The FA and the League by 31 March each year
      - (e) Any remedial work carried out once the season ends and the pass Performance Test Certificate submitted to The FA and the League by 31 May
      - (f) The 3G Football Turf, including the run-offs, shall be one (1) continuous playing surface and shall be green in colour
      - (g) All field markings shall be in accordance with the Laws of the Game
      - (h) All users of the 3G pitch should wear the appropriate footwear
      - (i) It is recommended that football boots with moulded soles and round studs are used
      - (j) Football boots with blade type studs are allowed but are not recommended
      - (k) Football boots with metal studs and flat soled footwear (e.g., trainers) are not allowed
- (b) All Cups
- (1) Any venue selected in accordance with Rule 14 (a) (1), must provide separate changing facilities for the two (2) Teams and the Match Officials

## 15. CLUB COLOURS (ALL CUPS)

- (a) Where the colours of the two (2) competing, Clubs are similar the visiting Team must change
- (b) In the Semi-Final and Final ties, the Executive may order both Clubs to change unless a mutual agreement is reached by the Clubs
- (c) No player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts. Any team failing to comply with this Rule shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff
- (d) Any objection to the colours must be lodged, before the match commences, with the Referee who shall have the power to order any necessary changes
- (e) Player's shirts must be clearly numbered on the back and in accordance with the Official Team Sheet. Any team failing to comply with this Rule shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff
- (f) No change of numbers during the match shall be permitted except where a player replaces the goalkeeper or following a mandatory change of equipment due to a blood injury in accordance with Law 5 of the Laws of the Game
- (g) Advertising may be worn on players clothing in accordance with The FA Kit and Advertising Regulations from time to time in force
- (h) RESPECT Initiative
  - (1) The participating Clubs taking part in the Cup tie shall identify a Team Captain designated with a Captains Armband
  - (2) The Team Captain has no special status or privileges but has a degree of responsibility for the behaviour of the team in accordance with, but not limited to, the Laws of the Game and The FA RESPECT Programme to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of their team mates

## 16. DURATION OF THE MATCH

- (a) Senior Cup *and Women's Cup*
  - (1) The duration of the match shall be two (2) equal halves of forty-five (45) minutes
  - (2) In the event of a draw at the end of the match the winning team will be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the Laws of the Game
  - (3) The half time interval shall be ten (10) minutes
- (b) Minor Cup, Saturday Minor Cup, Girls Cup
  - (1) The duration of the match shall be two (2) equal halves of forty (40) minutes
  - (2) The duration of the match may be reduced if agreed between the Referee and the two (2) teams before the start of the match
  - (3) The minimum duration of the match allowed under Rule 16(b) (2) above shall be two (2) equal halves of thirty-five (35) minutes
  - (4) In the event of a draw at the end of the match the winning team will be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the Laws of the Game
  - (5) The half time interval shall be ten (10) minutes
- (c) All Other Cups
  - (1) The duration of the match shall be two (2) equal halves of forty-five (45) minutes
  - (2) The duration of the match may be reduced if agreed between the Referee and the two (2) teams before the start of the match
  - (3) The minimum duration of the match allowed under Rule 16(c) (2) above shall be two (2) equal halves of thirty-five (35) minutes
  - (4) In the event of a draw at the end of the match the winning team will be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the Laws of the Game
  - (5) The half time interval shall be ten (10) minutes

## 17. PROVISIONS RELATING TO MATCHES PROCEEDING THE FINAL TIE

### (a) All Cups

- (1) All matches shall be played under the International Football Association Board (IFAB) Laws of the Game and in accordance the Rules and regulations of The Football Association
- (2) The Club having the choice of ground shall, within seven (7) days following receipt of the draw, send in writing/by Email if requested or otherwise telephone or text to the Secretary of the opposing Club, the Match Officials and (Senior Cup only) the Competition Committee Representative where appointed, all particulars necessary for the playing of the Cup tie. Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff
- (3) Should a Cup tie be reversed to the Opponents Ground then the Clubs must ensure that agreement has been reached on the payment of the Match Officials fees and expenses
- (4) Clubs shall not mutually arrange to play a match in lieu of a Cup tie
- (5) If a match is played to a conclusion, it must be a Cup tie
- (6) Failure to Play
  - (i) In all Cup ties any Club refusing or failing to play, without sufficient reason, will be guilty of a serious breach of Competition Rules and shall be dealt with as determined by the Executive
  - (ii) Any Club intending to withdraw from the Competition because of the forgoing Rules must give notice of their intention to do so to BCFA, the Match Officials and the opposing Club Secretary without delay
  - (iii) The Executive will consider the facts of the matter and have the power to impose a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff and may order any offending Club to pay such expenses as may be decided, in addition to any other penalty imposed
  - (iv) Any Club withdrawing from a County Cup Competition shall not be allowed to participate in any other Competition on that day unless that Competition is higher in The FA Order of Precedence
- (7) Abandoned Matches
  - (i) The Executive shall review all abandoned matches and, in a case, where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand
  - (ii) In all cases where the Executive is satisfied that a match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one team or its members, they shall take such action as they consider appropriate
  - (iii) Such action is subject to any disciplinary action taken by the Discipline Department of BCFA
  - (iv) In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it shall be played in its entirety on a date fixed by the Executive
- (8) Team Sheets
  - (i) Each team must at least thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled kick-off time hand to the Referee a list of names of those participating in the match including the substitutes. **Only the players and substitutes named on the team list may take part in the match.** The Referee must report all Clubs who fail to comply with this Rule and any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff

### (b) Senior Cup *and Women's Cup*

- (1) Any match may be played on a mid-week date provided that such a date is mutually agreed upon by both Clubs and at once notified to BCFA

- (2) Where a match, due to be played on or before the conference Date, is postponed it must take place within the next fourteen (14) days and the date fixed must be notified to BCFA by both Clubs
- (c) All Cups (excluding Senior Cup **and Women's Cup**) – Postponed Matches
  - (1) Postponed Cup ties shall be played within fourteen (14) days of the original date
  - (2) In the case of further postponements, the Cup tie shall continue to be played within a seven (7) day period until a result is obtained
  - (3) If the first match is postponed on two (2) occasions the match shall be played on the ground of the second drawn Team providing that their ground is playable with the original home team being responsible for the payment of the Match Officials
  - (4) Should such a ground be unplayable then the Cup tie shall be played either on another nominated ground or at the ground of the first drawn Club providing that agreement has been made in consultation with the Executive
  - (5) The Team thereby having the choice of ground becomes the Home Team in terms of these Rules and the responsibility for the payment of the Match Officials
  - (6) If a Club is unable to play a Cup tie on a Conference Date due to ground share arrangements, then the Cup tie must be played seven (7) days before or after the Conference Date

#### **18. REPORTING RESULTS (ALL CUPS)**

- (a) The Home Team must immediately after the match has finished, confirm the result to BCFA using one of the following methods:
  - (1) Following Full-Time Text Instructions
  - (2) SMS Message to 07815003827
  - (3) Email to [Support@BirminghamFA.com](mailto:Support@BirminghamFA.com)
 Any Home Team failing to comply with this Rule shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff
- (b) The Secretaries of both Clubs shall send notice of the result, along with the first and last name of all the players and together with any other required information, in writing or by Email to the Competitions Department of BCFA on the Match Report Forms provided, within three (3) days of the match is played (Sunday/Bank Holidays not included). Any Club failing to comply with this shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff
- (c) Clubs are required to provide the Referee Mark which shall be inserted onto the Match Report Form and where indicated
- (d) A Referee Mark of sixty (60) or less must be accompanied by written reasons for the low mark. Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff

#### **19. PROVISIONS CONCERNING THE MATCH OFFICIALS (ALL CUPS)**

- (a) BCFA shall appoint Referees, Assistant Referees and a Fourth Official (when required) for all matches in the Senior Cup
- (b) BCFA shall appoint Referees and Assistant Referees (whenever possible) in the Midweek Floodlit Cup, the Joel Richards Cup, **and the Women's Cup**
- (c) BCFA shall appoint Referees for all other matches in the other Cup Competitions and Assistant Referees at the discretion of the Executive
- (d) The competing Clubs in all matches where Assistant Referees are not appointed shall appoint an individual to act as Club Assistant
- (e) The Match Officials in all matches shall be neither past nor present members of the competing Clubs and their powers and duties shall be defined in the Laws of the Game
- (f) The Home Club shall pay the Match Officials their fees and expenses, in accordance with the Fees Tariff, immediately after the match

- (g) Where no play is possible owing to causes which neither Club has control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to half fee and expenses, in accordance with the Fees Tariff
- (h) The Match Officials fees and expenses shall be periodically determined by the Executive
- (i) The Match Officials in all Final ties shall receive an award in addition to their fees and expenses, in accordance with the Fees Tariff
- (j) The Match Officials fees and expenses, in all Final ties, will be paid by BCFA
- (k) All appointed Match Officials to a County Cup tie must arrive at the ground at which the match is to be played at least one (1) hour before the scheduled kick-off time
- (l) Match Officials appointed to all County Cup matches shall wear black kit
- (m) Match Officials appointed to Senior Cup **and Women's Cup** matches should wear the BCFA Referee Badge
- (n) The appointed Referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and their decision shall be final, **subject to the determination of the Local Authority or the Owners of a ground, which must be accepted**
- (o) Each Club must take every precaution to keep its ground in a playable condition and, if necessary, either Club may require the Referee to visit the ground at least two (2) hours before the advertised kick-off time
- (p) For Cup Ties played on a Saturday or Sunday only. After 12 noon on the Friday preceding the day of the match, if the Home Club is notified by any of the appointed Match Officials that they are unable to fulfil their appointment, then the Home Club shall obtain a replacement Match Official through the Referee Secretary of their sanctioned League Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in the matter being dealt with by the Executive of BCFA in accordance with Rule 4 and which may result in, but not limited to, a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff
- (q) **For the Saturday Minor Cup the Minor Challenge Cup, The Girls Cup and the Sunday Youth Cup the sanctioned competition of the home club shall appoint a Match Official**

## 20. PROVISIONS FOR FINAL TIES (ALL CUPS)

- (a) For Final ties, the Executive shall arrange a ground which may be that of one of the participating Clubs and take sole management and arrangement of all dressing rooms and, where appropriate, car parking facility to be included in any hire charges
- (b) Where BCFA arranges a neutral ground, payment for such will be made at the discretion of the **Executive** and shall constitute a charge against the gate monies
- (c) Where the match is played at the ground of the first drawn and providing that this meets with the required conditions as determined by the Executive then the Club shall notify the opponents, Match Officials and Executive Working Group Representative(s) (where appointed) of all the match arrangements as in accordance with Rule 17
- (d) In Final ties, Clubs failing to play may be adjudged by the Executive to have been guilty of a serious breach of Competition Rules and shall be liable to be dealt with in accordance with BCFA Rules
- (e) In the Final ties, each of the Competing Clubs shall, not less than seven (7) days prior to the date fixed for the playing of the match, submit to BCFA a list of players from whom the Team for such match will be selected. The eligibility of these players will be in accordance with Rule 9
- (f) The winning Club shall receive its Trophy and shall be responsible for engraving the name of the winner and the year of winning and ensuring the return of the Trophy to BCFA Competitions Department no later than the first day of February in the ensuing year, in good order and condition. Failure to engrave or return the Trophy in accordance with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff

- (g) Should the Trophy be lost, or destroyed, or damaged by fire or other accident whilst in the care or custody of the winning Club, the Club shall refund to BCFA the amount of its value or the cost of a thorough repair
- (h) Proceeds
  - (1) Refer to Rule 21

## 21. PROCEEDS OF MATCHES

- (a) Senior Cup **and Women's Cup** – All Rounds up to and Including the Semi-Final Tie
  - (1) After paying out ten percent (10%) of the gross gate receipts to BCFA plus advertising, printing, postage, Police and/or Stewards, floodlights (not exceeding fifty pounds (£50) in all Rounds), Match Officials fees and expenses and the Visiting Team travel costs the proceeds of the match, including receipts from all stands, except for replayed matches because of a breach of Competition Rules, shall be divided equally between the competing Clubs
  - (2) Coach travel costs per mile, in accordance with the Fees Tariff
  - (3) If private cars are used, up to a maximum of five (5), in accordance with the Fees Tariff
  - (4) Travelling expenses shall be calculated on a direct route from the Clubs Headquarters and the mileage claim must be agreed between both Clubs prior to the match and confirmed in the Statement of Account
  - (5) When a match is postponed through causes over which neither Club has any control then legitimate expenses shall be paid out of the receipts of the second match
  - (6) The expenses of Gate Keepers and Checkers shall not be a charge on the gate
  - (7) All Members and Season Ticket Holders must pay admission charged to the ground and stands
  - (8) The gate receipts must be approximately divided immediately after the match and a full statement and settlement must be made within fourteen (14) days of the match. Any Club failing to comply with this Rule will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff
  - (9) In any match where the gate receipts are insufficient to pay the expenses described above, then the deficit shall be shared equally by the two (2) competing Clubs
  - (10) The minimum admission (except to senior citizens and children) to matches in the Competition shall be, from time to time, determined by the Executive and in accordance with the Minimum Admission Tariff
  - (11) In replayed matches, because of a breach of Competition Rules, the gate proceeds shall be dealt with as the Executive may determine
- (b) Senior Cup **and Women's Cup** Final Tie Only
  - (1) In the case of the Senior Cup **and Women's Cup** Final tie fifteen percent (15%) of the gross gate shall be paid to BCFA and the remainder shall be divided equally between the two (2) competing Clubs, having paid there from advertising, printing, postage, Police and/or Stewards, floodlights (not exceeding fifty pounds (£50)), Match Officials fees and expenses and the Visiting Team travel costs
- (c) Other Cups
  - (1) In all matches except the Semi-Final and Final tie and replayed matches, because of a breach of Competition Rules, the Home Club is responsible for meeting the costs of staging the game including ground hire and the Match Officials fees and expenses
  - (2) All Members and Season Ticket Holders must pay admission charged to the ground and stands
- (d) Other Semi-Final Ties
  - (1) In all Semi-Final ties the Home Club is responsible for meeting the costs of staging the game except for the Match Officials fees and expenses which will be reimbursed by BCFA on submission of a Statement of Account
- (e) Other Cup Final Ties (except Senior Cup **and Women's Cup** Final tie)

- (1) In all other Cup Final ties, the gate proceeds shall be divided fifty percent (50%) to BCFA and the remainder equally, twenty-five percent (25%) to each of the two (2) Clubs in the Competition after paying from the gate receipts the ground expenses, Match Officials fees and expenses, other staging costs and when used, Coach travel costs per mile in accordance with the Fees Tariff, providing the gate is sufficient to cover these expenses
- (2) Any loss will be borne by BCFA

## **22. PROGRAMME (SENIOR CUP, MIDWEEK FLOODLIT CUP, AND WOMEN'S CUP ONLY)**

- (a) A Programme or Team Sheet must be produced for spectators with the details of both Teams. ***Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff***

## **23. FIRST AID (ALL CUPS)**

- (a) It is the responsibility of each Team to ensure that a suitably qualified person attends each match and that a medical kit/first aid supplies are available. ***Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff***

## **24. TEAM BENCHES, THE TECHNICAL AREA (ALL CUPS)**

- (a) In all Rounds of the Competition the number of the Clubs Players and Officials seated on the team benches, in the designated Technical Area (if available), must not exceed eleven (11) people unless the team bench facility provides more than eleven (11) individual seats
- (b) Only one (1) person at a time has the authority to convey tactical instructions to the players during the match from within the Technical Area. This person shall be the Team Manager or the Team Coach
- (c) All team officials and substitutes seated on the team bench shall be listed on the official team sheet when it is submitted to the Referee prior to the commencement of the game and in accordance with Competition Rules. Only those persons listed on the official team sheet shall be permitted in the Technical Area. ***Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff***
- (d) The occupants of the Technical Area must always behave in a responsible manner. Misconduct by occupants of the Technical Area will be reported by the Referee to BCFA, who has the power to deal with Misconduct
- (e) Except for the team manager, the team coach and any permitted substitutes who are warming up or warming down, which must be undertaken behind the Assistant Referee officiating nearest to the Technical Area, all other personnel are to remain seated on the bench. The team manager or team coach is allowed to move to the edge of the Technical Area to issue instructions to their Team but then must return to the bench

## FEES TARIFFS

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	£
5(a) (-)	<b>ENTRY FEES</b>	
(1)	Senior Cup	75.00
(2)	Midweek Floodlit Cup	60.00
(3)	Joel Richards Cup	40.00
(4)	Saturday Vase	45.00
(5)	Saturday Amateur Cup	30.00
(6)	Roger Wood Cup	45.00
(7)	Sunday Vase	40.00
(8)	Sunday Amateur Cup	30.00
(9)	Veterans Cup	45.00
(10)	Sunday Youth Cup	25.00
(11)	Minor Cup	25.00
(12)	Saturday Minor Cup	25.00
(13)	Women's Cup	<b>75.00</b>
(14)	Girls Cup	25.00
<b>(15)</b>	<b>Women's Vase</b>	<b>45.00</b>
6(b)(1)	Senior Cup Exemption Fee	6000.00
7(a)	Protest & Objection Fee	25.00
8(b)	Appeal Fee	25.00
21(a)(2) & 21(e)(1)	Coach Travel	3.00 per mile
21(a)(2)	Car Travel	0.45 per mile
21	<b>*MINIMUM ADMISSION CHARGES</b>	
	<b>All Rounds Prior to the Final Tie:</b>	
	Senior Cup	Adults 5.00/ Others 2.00
	Midweek Floodlit Cup	3.00/1.00
	<b>Final Tie</b>	
	Senior Cup, <i>Women's Cup</i>	10.00/5.00
	<b>Midweek Floodlit Cup, Joel Richards Memorial Cup, <i>Women's Vase</i></b>	<b>7.00/3.00</b>
	All Other Cups	5.00/2.00

### \*MINIMUM ADMISSION CHARGES

1. Clubs may charge an Admission Fee if this is their normal practice to do so for League and other Competition Matches
2. Clubs must ensure that their opponents are aware of such Admission Fees when confirming the fixture
3. The Executive reserves the right to rule where necessary

<b>RULE 19. PROVISIONS CONCERNING THE MATCH OFFICIALS</b>		
<b>MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES*</b>		
<b>COMPETITION</b>	<b>PRIOR ROUNDS Referee &amp; Assistant Referee</b>	<b>SEMI-FINAL &amp; FINAL Referee &amp; Assistant Referee</b>
Senior Cup	<b>£75.00 &amp; £55.00</b> <i>Expenses @ 45p per mile</i>	<b>£120.00 &amp; £80.00</b> <i>Expenses @ 45p per mile</i>
Midweek Floodlit Cup	<b>£60.00 &amp; £45.00</b>	<b>£75.00 &amp; £55.00</b>
Joel Richards Cup	£50.00 & £35.00	£75.00 & £55.00
Saturday Vase	<b>£55.00 &amp; £37.50</b>	<b>£75.00 &amp; £55.00</b>
Saturday Amateur Cup	£50.00 & £35.00	£50.00 & £35.00
Roger Wood Cup	£50.00 (Referee only)	£50.00 & £35.00
Sunday Vase	£50.00 (Referee only)	£50.00 & £35.00
Sunday Amateur Cup	£50.00 (Referee only)	£50.00 & £35.00
Minor Cup	£45.00 (Referee only)	£50.00 & £35.00
Women's Cup	<b>£65.00 &amp; £40.00</b>	<b>£80.00 &amp; £60.00</b> <i>Expenses @45p per mile</i>
Veterans Cup	£50.00 (Referee only)	£50.00 & £35.00
Sunday Youth Cup	£45.00 (Referee only)	£50.00 & £35.00
Girls Cup	£45.00 (Referee only)	£50.00 & £35.00
Saturday Minor Cup	£45.00 (Referee only)	£50.00 & £35.00
<b>Women's Vase</b>	<b>£50.00 (Referee Only)</b>	<b>£60.00 &amp; £45.00</b>

**\*MATCH OFFICIALS FEES**

1. All Fees are inclusive of expenses, except in the Senior Cup **and the Women's Cup Final tie**
2. Except where otherwise provided for in these Rules, all Fees and expenses are to be met and paid by the Home Club
3. The Fourth Official, where appointed, shall receive the same Fee as the Assistant Referee

## FINES TARIFF

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE £
4(e)	Failing to comply with an order or instruction of the Executive or failing to satisfactorily attend to the business and/or correspondence of the Competition	250.00
4(f)	Bringing the Competition into Disrepute	250.00
10	Validity of Players Qualifications	250.00
13(d)	Late Kick-Off	30.00
15(c)	No player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts	20.00
15(e)	Failure to number Player's shirts on the back and in accordance with the Official Team Sheet	20.00
17(a)(2)	Failure to provide the particulars necessary for the playing of the Cup tie	25.00
<b>17(a)(6)</b>	<b>Failure to Play</b>	<b>250.00</b>
17(a)(8)(i)	Late Submission of a Team Sheet	20.00
18(a)	Failure to Confirm the Result	20.00
18(b)	Failure to Submit a Match Report Form	20.00
18(d)	Failure to Provide Written Reasons for Low Mark	20.00
19 (p)	Failure to secure a replacement Match Official	50.00
20(f)	Failure to engrave or return the Trophy	50.00
21(a)(8)	Failure to Provide a Full Statement and Settlement	20.00
<b>22(a)</b>	<b>Failure to produce a Programme or Team Sheet</b>	<b>20.00</b>
<b>23(a)</b>	<b>Failure to ensure a suitably qualified person attends and/or a medical kit/first aid supplies are available</b>	<b>50.00</b>
<b>24(c)</b>	<b>Unauthorised persons in the Technical Area</b>	<b>50.00</b>