CHESHIRE FA AMATEUR CUP COMPETITION RULES

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1. CONTROL

a) The ownership, organisation, control and management of the Competition and any rights associated with it of any nature shall be vested entirely and exclusively in the Council of the Cheshire County Football Association. These rules will apply to the CCFA Amateur Cup; Sunday Challenge Cup and Ladies Challenge Cup.

b) The Council shall have the power to make, delete and amend regulations for the organisation, control and management of the Competition as it, from time to time, deems expedient (the "Competition Rules") subject only to the authority of the Board where such matters relate to financial or commercial matters

c) All participants participating in any way in the Competition shall be bound by and comply with the Competition Rules (and any Rules or Regulations issued pursuant to the Competition Rules)

d) The Council shall have the power to appoint a Committee (the "Cups Committee") The Cups Committee shall have the power to exercise all powers of the Council in relation to the Competition and to make decisions on all matters arising out of or in relation to the organisation, control and management of the Competition (including as to eligibility and qualification) which shall be deemed decisions of the Council and shall be final and binding on all participants in the Competition in relation to these and any other matters not specifically mentioned in the Competition Rules. The Cups Committee shall have, on behalf of the Council, the power to take such action and make such decisions, orders, rulings and impose such penalties as it deems necessary and follow such procedures as it considers appropriate and such shall be finding and binding on all participants, subject to rule 17. In considering such matters, the Council shall not be bound by any enactment or Rule of Law relating to the admissibility of evidence in preceding before a Court of Law. The Cups Committee shall have the power to appoint a Sub-Committee to exercise the powers of Council in order to expedite decisions to ensure the progress of the Competition.

e) A Club participating in the Competition shall have only such rights in relation to the Competition (and any match in the Competition) as are expressly granted to the Club under the Competition Rules or by The Association in writing.

f) In addition to any other action or penalty, the Council shall have the power to disqualify any competing Club, or player for any competing Club(s), which it determines to have breached the Rules of The Association or the Competition Rules (any Rules or Regulations issued pursuant to the Competition Rules), and the decision of the Council be final and binding.

2. ENTRY TO THE COMPETITION

The entry fee for the Competition shall be **£35.00?** and the closing date for the entry 1st July. Full or Associate Member Clubs who do not enter by the required date shall be fined £10.00 and entered into the Competition, if appropriate, and shall be required to pay the entry fee.

The Cup shall be competed for annually in accordance with these Rules.

3. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

a) i) Contract players are not allowed to play in these competitions. In all rounds of the Competitions

prior to the Final, a player must be a registered player of his/her Club. In order to be eligible to play in the Final tie, players must have a 28 day playing qualification or have been eligible to play in the Semi Final ties.

ii) Any such registration for the Amateur Cup competition must have been received and accepted by the League in which his Club competes, by 12 noon on the day prior to the playing of the tie and the registration must be continuous through to the date of the match.

Any such registration for the Sunday and Ladies competition(s) must have been received and accepted by the League in which his/her Club completes, by 12 noon on the day prior to the playing of the tie and the registration must be continuous through to the date of the match.

iii) It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that players coming from overseas Associations (including Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland) have the required International Transfer/Clearance Certificate. The International Transfer/Clearance Certificate takes precedence over a player's registration therefore this is also required by 12 noon on the day prior to the playing of the tie for the player's registration to be valid.

b) i) A player shall not in the same season play for more than one competing Club in each Competition.

ii) In the case of postponed matches only those players shall be allowed to play who were eligible for the original game. A player who has been suspended may play in postponed, matches after the term of his/her suspension has expired.

iii) Any player who plays in the Cheshire Senior Cup Competition shall become ineligible to play in the Cheshire Amateur Cup Competition in the same season.

iv) Any club playing an ineligible player will be struck out of the Competition, and the Cups Committee or a committee appointed by the Cups Committee may impose such other penalty as it considers appropriate.

v) All questions of eligibility or qualification of the competitor shall be referred to the Association whose decision shall be final.

4. PLAYING STRENGTH

Clubs must be represented by their strongest available team. Any Clubs failing to comply with this rule shall be fined not less than £50.00

5. COMPETITION ARRANGEMENTS

a) The names of the Clubs entered for the Competition shall be placed in one lot and shall be drawn in couples at a time. At each drawing up to the semi-final ties the Club first drawn shall have the choice of ground (subject to conditions of entry as decided by the Association).

b) The Association may exempt the previous semi-finalists and such additional Clubs as they may approve from the first two rounds of the Amateur, Sunday and Ladies Cup.

c) After each drawing, the Secretary shall notify to each of the Clubs drawn the name of the Club against whom it is drawn and the date, and kick off time on which the game must be played, except that Clubs may, by mutual agreement, make applications to play on any date in the week preceding the conference date

d) Any Club refusing or failing to play the Club against whom it has been drawn within the time intimated to do it, and without sufficient reason for so doing, shall be adjudged to have lost the match, and may be deemed to have been guilty of misconduct, and shall be liable to be fined and/or otherwise dealt with as the Cups Committee shall determine.

6. GROUNDS

a) All Cup ties must be played on a ground where the playing area is enclosed by a fixed barrier, or completely roped off by a rope material of not less than 8mm in diameter. No person should encroach within this area without the permissions of the match officials.

b) Separate dressing accommodation must be available for each team and the match officials. Showers or bathing facilities must be provided.

c) Clubs with approved floodlighting shall kick off at 3.00pm or 7.30pm (evening games), or such other time as approved by the Cups Committee.

d) All amenities must be approved by the Cups Committee. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule are liable to be struck from the Competition and to be subject to a fine of not less than £20.00.

e) If the ground of the Club having choice of ground shall be considered unsuitable for a cup-tie, their opponents may protest to the Association, who may order the match to be played on the ground of the protesting Club, or on a neutral ground. Such protest to be made within six days of the draw being received. In the case of appurtenances of the ground being temporarily unfit in consequence of special causes, a protest may be lodged with the Referee before the start of the game, the game shall be played under protest, and the Association shall consider such protest. If the protest is sustained the game shall be ordered to be replayed on such ground and date as the Association deems appropriate.

f) No Club may change the registered address of its ground for the playing of any cup-tie without first receiving permission of the Competition Secretary. Any Club found to be in breach of this rule shall be liable to expulsion from the Competition and a fine of not less than £20.00

g) Notwithstanding the provision of Rule 5 (a) (i) the Association shall have the power to order the game to be played on their opponent's or neutral ground if the ground of the Club having choice is repeatedly unfit, thus hindering the progress of the Competition.

h) The home Club is responsible for statutory pitch markings, provision of corner posts of regulation height, goal nets and match balls. Failure to provide renders a Club liable to a fine of not less than £20 and possible dismissal from the Competition.

i) Inspection of grounds for fitness may be made only by the appointed Match Officials or other Official with the prior approval of the Association, sanctioned through the Competition Secretary or Referee Secretary.

j) Any club causing the postponement of a match without due cause or reason may be struck out of the competition and fined a sum of not less than £25.00.

k) Football Turf Pitches (3G Artificial Pitches) are allowed in these Competitions provided that they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA's Register of Football Turf Pitches. The HOME Club is also responsible for advising participants of footwear requirements when confirming match arrangements in accordance with Rule 11.

7. COLOURS

a) Clubs with similar colours in all rounds including the semi-final ties, the HOME club must change. Clubs with similar colours in the Final tie BOTH clubs must change unless mutually agreed otherwise, and with the agreement of Cheshire County FA. Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from other players. Players shirts shall be clearly numbered on the back in accordance with the official team sheet. No change of numbers during the match shall be allowed except on a change of goalkeeper or where a player has been required by the Referee to change his shirt because of a blood injury. Failure to comply with this Rule renders the Club liable to a fine of £20 for each offence.

b) No player should wear shirts that in any way conflict with the black shirts worn by the match officials.

8. OFFICIALS

Match and Club Officials must be in attendance at least one hour prior to the appointed time of kick-off.

Black uniform only to be worn.

It shall be within the power of the Association to impose fines on Referees, Assistant Referees or Club Officials who cause late starts or are guilty of other offences.

The Association shall have the power to impose a fine of not less than £5.00 for each offence.

9. LIST OF PLAYERS

a) Substitutes - Each team shall be allowed to nominate no more than five substitutes in each game, three of whom may be used only in accordance with the Laws of the Game. Substitutes must be named to the Referee before the start of the game, and only those named will be allowed to participate in the game.

b) In all rounds of the competition, each Club shall provide a list of the names of players in the game (including the names of substitutes) to the Referee and a representative of their opponents in the presence of the Referee at least 30 minutes before the time of kick-off. Players named on the list must wear the corresponding shirt and also be named correctly on the Match Report Form returned to the County FA in accordance with Rule 15. Any Club failing to do so will be liable to be fined a sum not exceeding £25.

c) Should any nominated player or substitute sustain an injury after the submission of the "Official Team Sheet" to the Referee and before kick-off he/she may be replaced provided the Referee is informed before the commencement of the match.

d) Referees are requested to retain the Official Team Sheet for a minimum of 56 days after the game

10. TEAM BENCHES

a) In the Semi-Final and Final ties, Clubs will be advised by The County Association of the number of technical staff and substitutes who may occupy the team benches and a list of the permitted number of authorized personnel must be provided by each Club to the Referee at least 30 minutes before kick-off

b) With the exception of the Team Official, when issuing instructions, and the substitutes when warming up, all other personnel must remain seated

c) The occupants of the benches must behave in a responsible manner at all times. Misconduct by occupants will be reported by the Referee to The County Football Association, who shall have the power to impose sanctions as deemed fit.

11. LOCATION OF GROUNDS

Each home Club must confirm in writing to the Match Officials and the visiting Club the location of the ground and their playing colours, seven days before the date of the game. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine of not less than £25.00.

12. TIME OF KICK-OFF AND PLAYING UNDER STRENGTH

Clubs must be prepared to kick-off at the appointed time. In the Sunday Challenge Cup the time of kick-off shall be 11.00 am. Those Clubs responsible for a late kick-off shall be fined £1.00 per minute delayed. When a fixture is played on a ground with approved floodlighting, the game shall kick off in accordance with the provisions of rule 6(c)

No deviation from the appointed time will be allowed unless prior permission has been given by the Competition Secretary or County Secretary.

Clubs not fielding eleven players at the appointed kick-off time may be subject to a fine of not less than £20.00 per player short or as the Association shall direct.

13. DURATION OF GAMES

The duration of all games shall be ninety minutes. The half time interval shall be a maximum of 15 minutes and this may only be altered with the consent of the Match Referee.

14. DRAWN/POSTPONED GAMES

a) In all rounds of the competition, up to and including the Final tie, if the scores are level after ninety minutes, the tie shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the procedure adopted by the International Football Association Board.

b) Postponed or abandoned games shall be played on or before the following Saturday/Sunday or where Clubs have floodlights, on or before the following Thursday by arrangement with CCFA.

c) i) When a first match has been postponed or abandoned before the completion of 90 minutes, and neither Club being at fault, it must be replayed on the same ground.

ii) Matches abandoned through the fault of the Clubs shall be dealt with by the Association.

15. ADVICE OF RESULT

Immediately each game is completed the home team must **notify** the result to the Competition Secretary as directed.

Notice of the result of each match together with the full names of the competing players (showing name against the number of the shirt worn in the match) shall be sent by each of the competing Clubs on the match report form provided so as to reach the Competition Secretary within 72 hours of the game being played.

Clubs failing to comply with this Rule will be subject to a fine of £20.00 for each offence.

16. PROTESTS

a) Protests other than those under Rule 6 (e) must be lodged in duplicate with the Competition Secretary within three days after the match. Two copies of the protest must be lodged and must be accompanied by a fee of £60. Such fee may be forfeited to the funds of the Association. The Club adjudged in default may be called upon to pay such expenses as the Association shall determine.

b) In the Final tie, all protests as to players' eligibility must be lodged prior to the conclusion of the game.

c) Should either of the two Clubs in connection with a protested Cup tie have a member on the Council of the Association, such member shall withdraw whilst the said protest is being considered.

17. PROVISIONS CONCERNING APPEALS

a) A Club, within 7 days of receipt by them of written notification of the decision of the Cheshire County FA Cup Committee may appeal against such decision by lodging particulars in duplicate, accompanied by a fee of £35.00, such appeal being addressed to the Chief Executive of The Cheshire County Football Association Limited for the adjudication of a Board of Appeal, whose decision shall be final and binding on all concerned.

b) In the event of an appeal being successful the fee shall be returned to the Club in whole or part at the discretion of the Board of Appeal, who shall decide by whom the costs of the appeal must be borne.

c) Any such appeal shall only be permitted on one or more of the following grounds;

i) The Cups Committee or a committee appointed by the Cups Committee misinterpreted/failed to comply with the procedures relevant to the hearing of the charge.

ii) The Cups Committee or a committee appointed by the Cups Committee came to a decision on the facts of the case which no reasonable body could have reached or;

iii) The Cups committee or a committee appointed by the Cups Committee imposed a sanction that is excessive.

d) Any appeal must be made in accordance with such procedures as may be determined by Cheshire County FA from time to time.

e) For the avoidance of doubt a Club may not appeal against any penalty imposed on it other than expulsion from the Competition.

18. SEMI-FINAL AND FINAL TIES

a) Semi Final ties shall be played on the ground of the first drawn club, subject to the provisions of rule 6, as determined by Cheshire County FA. The Cheshire County FA will be responsible for the payment of match official's fees and expenses.

b) The AWAY club shall be provided with 25 complimentary tickets.

c) Where a "gate" is being taken, this may only be done with permission of Cheshire County FA, and under such conditions as agreed by Cheshire County FA.

d) In the Final tie each club shall be provided with 25 complimentary tickets.

e) In the Final tie the Association will take one third of the net gate, the remainder in each case being equally divided between the competing Clubs whose standard class travel expenses (as agreed by Cheshire County FA) shall be paid.

19. AWARD TO FINALISTS

a) The Association will present 16 trophies to the winners and runners-up, and trophies to Match Officials in the Final ties.

b) No player/club official sent from the field of play, or dismissed prior to or after a final tie, for whatever reason, shall receive a trophy/medal on the day.

i) It shall be open to such a player's or club official's club to apply to the Competition Secretary, in writing, within 14 days of the final tie, for the player/club official to receive a trophy/medal giving reasons why it is felt this should be agreed.

ii) The Cups Committee shall have sole discretion in considering such a request once the alleged misconduct which resulted in the player/club official dismissal has been dealt with by the County Football Association and its decision shall be final and binding.

20. RECEIPT OF THE TROPHY

At the conclusion of the Final tie (provided that no protest has been lodged) the Cup and trophies shall be presented on the ground.

A document shall afterwards be given by the holders to the Secretary of the Association to the following effect:

"We .....Secretary of the .....Club, the said Club which has now been declared to have won the Cheshire County FA .....Challenge Cup, and the same having been delivered to us by .....the Secretary of the said Association, do hereby on behalf of the said Club and individually engage to return the same to the said..... or Secretary of the said

Association for the time being, on or before the first day in March next, in like good order and condition, and providing the Cup is destroyed by fire or lost by any other accident whilst in our possession, we agree to refund the Association the amount advised to us of its value. The Cup shall be insured annually by the Association.

21. POSTPONED GAMES

It is the responsibility of the Home Club to advise the County Football Association, their opponents and the Match Officials, when a game has been postponed for whatever reason. (See also rule 6(i)).

22. MATCH EXPENSES

DECISION OF THE COUNCIL (Regarding Match Expenses)

Clubs entering the Competition being drawn at home and not having a ground acceptable for the playing of the game and then having to play on their opponent's ground, shall be treated as having been drawn away from home.

All match official fees are to be paid by the **home** club.

CUP TIE CHARGES AND EXPENSES

	Referee Fee	Assistant Referee Fee
All Rounds (Excluding Final)	£30.00	£20.00
Final tie	Souvenir Trophy	

In the event of a Reserve Official being officially appointed to any game he/she will be entitled to the same fee as the Assistant Referee.

TRAVELLING EXPENSES

Second Class Railway Fare or an allowance of 40p per mile if travelling by private car (all rounds).

Officials are entitled to their travelling expenses if incurred and half their fees if the match to which they were appointed is not played.