**THE CHESHIRE COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION LIMITED**

**MID-CHESHIRE DISTRICT FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

**SENIOR CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITIONS**

**1. CONTROL**

The entire control and management of the competitions shall be vested in the Council of the MID-CHESHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION, which shall be known for the rule of this competition as the Council.

**2. ENTRY TO THE COMPETITION**

The following full/associate member clubs Northwich Victoria FC, Winsford United FC, Witton Albion FC; 1874 Northwich FC and Barnton FC shall enter the competition. No fee is required. Failure to enter the competition shall incur a fine of £100.

Entrance to other clubs as agreed by the Association will be by invitation and no fee will be required.

**3.ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS**

1. All players must be registered players of the club. Clubs may register players on the day of the match up to one hour before kick-off. A player on temporary loan is eligible to play in this competition subject to rule 3(d)
2. A club playing an ineligible player or a player who is under suspension will be struck out of the competition and shall be liable to a fine of not less than £50.
3. Each club must hand copies of the list of names of players taking part in the game (including the names of the nominated substitutes) to the referee and representative of their opponents at least 30 minutes before advertised kick-off time.
4. A player shall not play for more than one competing club in the same season.
5. 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 prior to the playing of the tie for the player's registration to be valid.

 f) All questions of eligibility or qualification of the competitor shall be referred to the

 Association, whose decision shall be final.

1. **PLAYING STRENGTH**

Their strongest available team must represent clubs. Any club failing to comply shall be fined £200.

1. **SUBSTITUTES**

Each team shall be allowed to name no more than 5 substitutes in each game, three of which may only be used in accordance with the Laws of the Game. All substitutes shall be included on the team sheet and only those named shall be allowed to participate in the game.

Should any nominated player or substitute sustain an injury after the submission of the team sheet to the referee and before kick-off he may be replaced provided the referee is informed.

1. **ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COMPETITION**
2. The competition shall be arranged as seen fit by the Council.
3. Immediately after each draw, the Secretary will inform the clubs of the draw and the date by which the game must be played.
4. Any club refusing or failing to play within the time intimated to do it, and without sufficient reason for doing so, 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 determined by Council.
5. Semi-finals must be played before 31st December each year, or earlier if required, and the Final before the end of the season.
6. The final will be one game with the finalists being drawn for the choice of ground., subject to rule 7(c).
7. The final will be played on a ground within the Mid Cheshire District F.A.
8. Subject to both clubs agreeing, clubs can request that the semi-finals and Final be played on a two-legged basis provided both matches are played within 10 days of each other.
9. The HOME club to notify the Competitions Secretary of the date and kick off time at least 7 days before the match is to be played. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £15.
10. In the event of a postponed or abandoned match, or immediately the game is over the HOME club must telephone the result of the game to the Competitions Secretary by no later than 10.30pm on the day of the game. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £10.
11. Both clubs are required to complete a match report form that should reach the

Competitions Secretary by no later than 7 days after the game has been played. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £30. The Association may strike a club from the competition if no match report form or detail of the game is submitted.

k) **Competition Dates**

1st /2nd Round Matches to be completed by 31 October of each season or as directed by the Association

Semi Finals Matches to be completed by 31 December of each season or as directed by the Association

Final Match to be completed by 30 April of each season or as directed by the Association

Clubs failing to fulfil a fixture shall be fined a sum of £100 and/or otherwise dealt with as determined by Council.

 All matches must be completed within the respective season.

1. **DURATION OF THE GAMES**
2. In the case of a draw after 90 minutes the game will be decided on penalties as per F.A. rules.
3. The half time interval shall be 15 minutes, and this may only be altered with the consent of the match referee.
4. If a match has been postponed or abandoned before the completion of the tie and no club being at fault, then the match must be replayed on the same ground within 10 days of the original fixture. The Council will deal with matches abandoned through the fault of the club.
5. In the event of a two-legged game the result shall be determined in accordance with the existing FA rules for such matches
6. **COLOURS**
7. In the case of clubs having similar colours, the visiting club must change in all rounds including the semi-final unless the semi-final is played on a neutral ground, when both clubs must change if their colours are deemed by the Council to be similar. Clubs failing to change colours, as required, in any, match will be subject to a fine of not less than £25.
8. All teams MUST start with numbered shirts 1 to 11. All shirts must be numbered. Only numbers 1-18 can be used. Failure to do so incurring a fine of £10 per match.
9. **MATCH OFFICIALS**
10. The Honorary Referees Secretary shall appoint referees and Assistant Referees. Match Officials must be in attendance at least 60 minutes before the appointed time of kick-off. It shall be within the power of the Association to report any matters regarding match officials to Cheshire FA for any necessary further action to be taken.
11. **ADMISSION CHARGES**

 Normal charges for the ground being used.

 Any changes to be agreed with this Association and the opponents prior to the match

 being played.

1. **DIVISION OF GATE MONEY**

All matches including semi-finals FA-20% Clubs-40%

Final FA-33% Clubs-33%

Financial arrangements must be completed within seven days of each match. Failure to do so incurring a fine of £50.

1. **AWARD TO FINALISTS**

 a) 16 trophies will be presented to each club plus the referee and his assistants.

 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.

 c) It shall be open to such a player’s or club official’s club to apply to the District

 Association 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.

 d) 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.

1. **MATCH EXPENSES**

All matches

 FEES: Referee £35.00 + 25p per mile

 Assistant Referees/Fourth Official £20.00 + 25p per mile

1. **RECEIPT OF TROPHY**
2. At the conclusion of the Final Tie, (providing 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 of the Secretary of the Association to the following affect: -

“We……………………. Secretary of the …Club, the said club which has now been declared to have won the Mid-Cheshire ……………………. Challenge Cup, and the same having been delivered by ……………………… the Secretary of the said Association. Do hereby of the said club and individually engage to return the same to the said ………………… or Secretary of the Association for the time being, on or before the first day of February next, in like good order and condition. 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 by the Association.

 b) Trophies must be returned by no later than 1 February to the Competition Secretary. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £50.

 c) All trophies must be returned cleaned and undamaged by the required date in accordance with rule 15(b). Failure to do so will incur a fine of £50.

1. **PROTEST**
2. Protests as to player’s qualifications under Rule 3 must be lodged with the District F.A. Secretary within 72 hours of the match being played. Two copies of the protest must be lodged and must be accompanied by a fee of £25, which may be forfeited, to the funds of the Association at the discretion of the Council.

A club adjudged in default may be called upon to pay such expenses as the Council may decide. In the Final Tie all protests as to player’s qualifications, or any other cause not provided for in these rules, must be lodged before the conclusion of the game.

Should either of the clubs in connection with the protest have members on the Council, such members shall, whilst the said protest is being considered, withdraw from the meeting.

1. A club, within 7 days of receipt by them of written notification of the decision of the Mid-Cheshire District Football Association, may appeal against such decision by lodging particulars in duplicate, accompanied by a fee of £35. Such appeal being addressed to the Secretary of The Cheshire County Football Association Limited for the adjudication of the Board of Appeal, whose decision shall be final and binding on all concerned. In the event of an appeal being successful the fee shall be forfeited or returned to the Club in whole or part at the discretion of the Board of Appeal, who shall decide by whom the cost of the appeal must be borne. A copy of the Appeal must be sent to the District Football Association Secretary and the operation of the decision of the Mid-Cheshire District Association, shall not be suspended. Pending the result of the appeal unless the Board of Appeal or the Council of The Cheshire County Football Association Limited, through its officers, order such suspension.
2. **BYE LAWS**

The Council shall have the power to make bylaws as they, from time to time, deem expedient.

1. **OTHER RULES**

Any incident not covered by these rules shall be set out by the Rules of the MID-CHESHIRE DISTRICT FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.

**NOTE - FA DISCIPLINE**

1. **A player suspended by the Football Association may not play in this competition until such time as the suspension has been completed.**
2. **A player who has played in the Mid Cheshire DFA Senior Challenge Cup shall not be eligible to play in the Mid Cheshire Saturday or Sunday Challenge Cups in the same season**.