

Rules of County Youth Competitions

1. All Youth Clubs affiliated to this Association shall be eligible to enter these Competitions. Each Competition shall be competed for annually in accordance with the following Rule by members of each competing Club: being duly qualified according to the Rules of the Association.
2. Entry into the **Under 16 AH Luke Trophy and the Under 18 Rathbone Trophy is compulsory for all Youth Clubs with teams competing at these age groups affiliated to this Association.** All entries for the Under 16 AH Luke Trophy and the Under 18 Rathbone Trophy must be sent to the Chief Executive on or before the 31st May accompanied by the appropriate entry fee.

Entry into all other County Youth Competitions is optional. Each club shall inform the Chief Executive of the Association on or before the 1st July in the season in which the Club proposes to compete on the designated form and forward an entrance fee of £20 (per team, per competition).

3. Eligibility of Players

No player shall be allowed to play for more than one team in each youth competition. Only non-contract players shall be eligible to play in any of these Competitions and all players must be eligible in accordance with the current season's Standard Code of Rules for Youth.

4. Qualifications of Players

In ALL Rounds of ALL County Competitions a player shall be a 'registered and recognised playing member of his/her Team'. A registered member is one who is registered with the League in which his/her Team competes in the current season. A recognised playing member is one who has actually played in a recognised League or Cup game for the Team in the current season. Should a player play for a Team without being properly registered he/she shall be guilty of misconduct and liable to be dealt with as the County Association may determine. A player may only play for ONE Team in each County Youth Cup Competition per season.

No player shall be eligible to participate in the Semi-Final or Final of a County Cup Competition for any Team unless he/she has been registered or transferred to that Team and has played in not less than 1 match for that Team during the current season. A player who has been a registered member of a Team for the whole or current season, but has not played in the one requisite matches, may be permitted to play in the County Semis or Final providing that he/she has not played for any other Team, either in friendly or competitive matches during the said season. Specific rules for player eligibility for the Girls Competitions may apply subject to the number of teams entering the competition. Any adaptations will be communicated to competing clubs

when entries are confirmed.

5. Commencement of Competition, Conditions of Play, Times of Kick off & Postponements

All Competitions will be run on a knock-out principle. Exemptions or byes as may be considered appropriate shall be granted or made at the discretion of the County Association until the second round of the competition. In each round, the County Association shall make the draw and the Chief Executive will intimate to each of the clubs the name of the Club against which it is drawn and the date on which the tie is to be played. The game shall be played on the ground of the first named club.

The dates of the rounds and times of kick off shall be fixed by the County Association before the commencement of each season. Depending on number of entries there may be a preliminary round or some clubs may be given a bye to round two. In each case the Competitions Committee shall determine the clubs by a draw.

Match duration for all Competitions will be in strict accordance with the current season's Standard Code of Rules for Youth.

Any Club failing to play on the appointed date without showing a good and sufficient cause for such failure shall be struck out of the competition and be liable to any further penalty which the County Association shall determine. In the event of any match not being played on the date arranged through the ground being declared unfit by the referee, the match shall be played on the following week unless a prior date has been mutually agreed or unless otherwise decided by the County Association.

There shall be no replays. If the ties are level at full time, extra-time for U18 Competition only shall be 15 minutes each way with 10 minutes each way for every other age group shall be played. After extra time if the scores are still level the tie shall be decided by the taking of penalty kicks in accordance with FIFA instructions.

6. Substitutions

A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use 5 substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from a maximum of 5 players.

A player who has been substituted himself becomes a substitute and may replace another player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football. The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes before the start of the match. A player who has been selected, appointed or named as a substitute before the start of the match but does not actually play in the game shall not

be considered to have been a player in that game within the meaning of Rule 8 of this Competition.

7. Reporting Results

- a. All results are to be reported by SMS message to the Association Full-Time system by no later than 6pm on the day of the match. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be fined £10.
- b. After the conclusion of each competition match, the Secretary of each Club shall send to the Association within three days (Sundays excluded) the official form containing a list of players participating, the result of the match and a Club marking of the Referee. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be fined £10. Should a Club intentionally submit a wrong or false name, such Club shall be deemed guilty of misconduct and be dealt with by the Association as it sees fit.
- c. The Association shall arrange the checking of team sheets and report to the Club or Clubs concerned any breaches discovered within four days of receipt of the team sheet.

8. Protests and appeals

Protests and appeals must be intimated to the Referee and the Manager of the competing Clubs at the time the violation takes place (except violations covered relative to qualifications of players) and must be lodged within three days thereof with the County Association, accompanied by a deposit of £10. Any objections relative to ground, goalposts or other matters appertaining to the game must be lodged with the Referee before the start of the game.

Protests as to the eligibility of players must be lodged with the County Association within three days (Sundays excepted) of the alleged breach. Protests must be accompanied with a deposit of £10. The County Association shall check the team sheets and report to the Club or Clubs concerned any breaches discovered within four days of receipt of the team sheet.

All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players, interpretation of rules or laws, as well as other matters in dispute, except where specifically provided for, shall be referred to the County Association whose decision shall be final.

The County Association shall make arrangements for all Finals to be played on a neutral ground, unless otherwise agreed, fixed by the County Association, who shall take all receipts and pay all expenses.

The winners of the Cup will be required to complete an agreement to confirm receipt of the Cup, confirming the current condition and ensuring it is kept safely. All Cups shall be returned by 31st January failing which a fine shall be incurred.

No Club shall, without the consent of the County Association, be allowed to withdraw from the Competition and the County Association shall have power to penalise any Club as they deem necessary for the infringement of this Rule.

In the event of two Clubs having similar playing colours the visiting team shall change. No player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark colours. Any player not wearing his/her Club colours shall be subject to a fine. This does not apply to the acting goalkeeper.

After the conclusion of each competition match, the Secretary of each club shall send to the County Association within three days (Sundays excluded) the official form containing a list of players participating, the result of the match certified by the Referee and a Club marking of the Referee. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule will be fined £10. Should a Club intentionally submit a wrong or false name, such Club shall be deemed guilty of misconduct and be dealt with as the County Association may determine.

A Match Official shall be appointed to each fixture. He/she must be contacted by the Home Club Secretary before the match takes place and be informed of the pitch location, kick off time etc. He/she is entitled to payment of £25.00 inclusive of match fee and travelling expenses payable in full by the home club in the Luke and Rathbone Trophy Competitions. The payment is to be shared equally by both the home and away club in all other Youth Cup competitions. With the applicable fee payable for a team of 3 (£50) officials in the Semi-finals.

Glasses, glass bottles, or cans containing alcohol are NOT permitted outside of the clubhouse and must not be brought into grounds. No alcohol is to be consumed in the ground or premises during the match, except as may be governed by the terms of the club licence with regards to its own members, but notwithstanding such, no alcohol is to be taken or consumed outside the licensed clubhouse or any other authorised area during such match period or brought into the ground.

The County Association shall have the power to deal with any matter not provided for in the Rules regulating the competition.