

RULES OF THE SENIOR CUP COMPETITION SPONSORED BY RGB

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1. Constitution

- a. The first teams of all Clubs who compete at Steps 5, 6 or 7 of the National League System, together with the first teams of Clubs competing in the Cornwall Combination League, East Cornwall Premier League, North Devon League Premier Division and the Plymouth and West Devon Combination League 1st Division, all of whom are affiliated to this Association, must compete in this competition. Where an affiliated Club competes above Step 5 in the National League System, its' reserve team shall compete.
- b. No Club shall, without the consent of the County Association, be allowed to withdraw from the Competition. Any infringement of this rule will result in the Club being fined £50.

2. Entry

- a. All entries must be sent to the Association on or before the 30th June, accompanied by the appropriate entry fee.
- b. Clubs entering the competition must at the time of sending in their affiliation forms provide evidence that they have current Insurance cover for their players.

3. Powers of Management

- a. The management of the competition shall be vested in the Association whose members shall be elected in accordance with Rules and Regulations of the Cornwall County Football Association. They shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition, including any not provided for in the Rules.
- b. The Association shall have the power to inflict fines upon Clubs in the case of breaches of the Rules, and if necessary to order matches to be replayed except where otherwise provided for.
- c. The business of the Competition as determined by the Association may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

4. Ground Regulations

- a. The Field of Play must conform to the requirements of the Laws of the Game
- b. A technical area that meets the requirements of The Laws of the Game must be marked and a designated seated area provided for technical staff and substitutes. They are only to be occupied by the official team party of Team Manager, Assistant Manager/Coach, Medical Attendant and a maximum of five named substitutes. All shall remain in the technical area with only the Medical Attendant, for treatment, and the substitutes, during substitution or warm-up, leaving the area during play.
- c. County Rule 5d concerning glasses, glass bottles, or cans containing alcohol shall apply to this competition.

5. Qualification of Players

- a. The Competition shall open to all Contract and Non-Contract players who have attained the age of 16 years.
- b. The following player eligibility Rules shall apply:
 - i. In all rounds of this competition, a player shall be a registered member for the team competing in this competition, having registered with the League in which his team normally competes prior to playing and before 1st March in the current season.

- ii. Teams in this competition shall not include more than TWO players in any one game who have taken part in two or more games at Step 4 or above in the F.A. National League System during the current season unless a period of 28 days has elapsed since they last played.
- iii. A player may only play for ONE CLUB in this competition.
- c. No player shall be eligible to participate in the Final of this Competition unless, during the current season, he has played in a minimum of five competition matches for his Club. In special circumstances, and with the consent of the Association, dispensation from the qualifying games may be granted in respect of a goalkeeper.
- d. A Club may, at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game, use 3 substitute players in any match in this competition, who may be selected from 5 players. The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes before the start of the match. A player who has been selected 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.
- e. For the Semi-Finals and Final ties, competing clubs must send to each other and the County Association, the full names of their intended playing squad seven clear days prior to the match or be fined £25. Any protest as to eligibility of players shall be lodged with the County Association at least three days prior to the date of the match.
- f. A player with a written contract, having had his registration cancelled by the Football Association, ceases to be a registered member of that Club from the date of cancellation. The Club Secretary must at once notify the respective League Registration Secretary of the date of cancellation. Should the player wish to play again he must complete new registration forms for all competitions.
- g. Should a player play for more than one Club in this competition, he shall be guilty of misconduct and shall be fined of £25 and dealt with as the County Association may determine. Such player shall be deemed to be a member of the Club for which he is first registered and if transferred shall be deemed "cup tied" for his new Club. He may only represent the Club for which he was first registered in this competition if transferred back to them. It shall be the duty of all Clubs to notify the County Association in writing of any case in

which this Rule is known to have been infringed. Failure to so notify shall be dealt with as the County Association may determine.

- h. In the case of infringements of Rules 5b, 5c and 5g the match shall be awarded to Club against whom an illegible player is played.

6. Club Colours

When the colours of shirts, shorts or socks of two competing Clubs are alike or similar, the visiting Club shall change the relevant item(s) to a colour which does not clash with the corresponding item(s) of the home Club. In the Semi Final and Final ties, both teams shall change unless mutually agreed and confirmation of changes sent by both Clubs to the County Association. A goalkeeper shall play in kit clearly distinguishable from the colours of the shirts worn by all other players in the match and the Match Officials. No player, including a goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark coloured shirts.

7. Commencement of Competition, Conditions of Play, Times of Kick Off and Postponements

- a. The dates of each round shall be fixed by the County Association before the commencement of each season.
- b.
 - i. The Competition is to be run on a knock-out principle. Byes as may be considered appropriate shall be granted or made at the discretion of the Association. In each round, the Association shall make the draw and shall inform 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. Each tie shall be played on the ground of the first drawn club.
 - ii. In all matches, the first charge on the gate is Referee fees and expenses. The home club shall make all arrangements and be entitled to the net Gate and is responsible for providing the ground without charge. In the event of a dispute the decision of the Association shall be binding on both parties
- c. The Secretary of the home Club must give notice in writing, by telephone or e-mail of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground and time of kick-off, to the match officials and the Secretary of the opposing Club at least five clear days prior to the playing of the match. The away Club shall

seek and acknowledge receipt of such particulars. Any Club failing to comply with this rule shall be liable to a fine of £10.

- d i All matches prior to the Semi Finals and Final shall start at 2.00pm. Where floodlights are available, a later kick off may be arranged, or the fixture may be arranged in the 5 days preceding the scheduled fixture date. Any such change to the scheduled date and, or, time must be notified to the Association for approval within 7 days of the draw being made and must have been mutually agreed by both clubs. Kick off times and venues for the Semi Finals and Final shall be determined by the Association. The Referee and Clubs shall report all cases of late starts. Clubs failing to supply a satisfactory explanation shall be fined £10. Where the late start is attributable to the referee then the referee shall be referred to the Referees committee.
- ii. In the event of any match not being completed due to a late start the Club responsible for the late start shall replay the match on its opponents ground and shall not be entitled to any share of the gate receipts.
- e. All matches shall be of two equal periods of 45 minutes. In special circumstances, such as poor light and/or weather the referee and the two team captains may agree, before the start of play, to reduce the duration of the periods of play to not less than 35 minutes each way.
- f. The half time interval shall be of 10 minutes duration and may only be altered with the consent of the referee. It shall not exceed 15 minutes.
- g. There shall be no replays. If the ties are level at the end of full time, extra-time of 15 minutes each way shall be played. After extra-time, if the scores are still level the tie shall be decided by the taking of penalty kicks accordance with FIFA instructions.
- h. If from any cause over which neither Club has control a match is not played to a conclusion, the match shall be replayed. In the event of any match not being played on the date arranged through the ground being declared unfit by the appointed match referee, or a more local referee nominated by him, the match shall be played on the following Saturday unless a prior date has been mutually agreed or unless otherwise decided by the Association. In the event of such postponement, the Home team must notify their opponents, the Association and the Referees Appointments Officer. The Association may,

after two postponements or any postponement thereafter, order a fixture to be reversed.

- i. In case of replays being ordered for breach of Rules in rounds prior to the Semi Finals, the first charge on the gate shall be the Referee's expenses, then the expenses of the non-offending team. Any surplus shall be paid to the non-offending team.
- j. Any Club failing to play on the appointed date without showing a good and sufficient cause shall be eliminated from the competition and fined £50. The Club may also be subject to further penalties as determined by the Association.

8. Determining Competition Winners

- a. i. When the Clubs have been reduced to four, two Semi Finals shall be played on neutral grounds to be fixed by the Association. The Semi Finals may be played under floodlights. The Association is to make all arrangements, take all receipts and pay all expenses for the Semi Finals.
- ii. In the Semi Finals if the scores are level after 90 minutes extra time of 15 minutes each way shall be played. If the scores are still level the tie shall be decided by the taking of penalty kicks from the penalty mark as per FIFA instructions.
- iii. The winners of the Semi Finals shall compete for the Cornwall Senior Cup at a neutral venue on a date and time selected by the Association.
- b. i. The Final shall be played to a conclusion on the day. If the scores are level after 90 minutes extra time of 15 minutes each way shall be played. If the scores are still level the tie shall be decided by the taking of penalty kicks from the penalty mark as per FIFA instructions.
- ii. In all these matches the Association is to make all arrangements, take all receipts and pay all expenses.
- iii. A set of 16 Trophies to be provided for each team in the Final.

9. 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 as the Association may determine.
- 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.

10. Protests and Complaints

- a. Protests and appeals must be intimated to the Referee and the Captains of the competing Clubs at the time the violation takes place (except violations covered by Rule 5, relative to qualifications of players) and must be lodged with the Association, in duplicate within three days thereof and accompanied by a deposit of £10. Any objections relative to ground, goals or other matters appertaining to the game must be lodged with the Referee before the start of the game. Any protest or appeal received without the required deposit shall be rejected.
- b. Protests as to the eligibility of players must be lodged with the Association within three days (Sundays excepted) of the alleged breach. Protests are to be submitted in duplicate and accompanied by a fee of £10. Any protest received without the required fee shall be rejected.

The Association may summon representatives of the Club or Clubs involved to a meeting to state their case. The expenses of the representatives are to be borne by their respective clubs

- c. All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players, interpretation of Competition Rules, as well as other matters in dispute, except where specifically provided for, shall be referred to the Association whose decision shall be final.

11. Trophy. Legal Owners, Conditions of Taking Over, Agreement to be Signed, Awards

- a. When the winner of the Senior Cup has been ascertained, the Association shall hand over the Cup to such winners on their subscribing to a document to the following effect. OR '....on their completion of the document described at County Rule 34.'

I, _____ of _____, representing the said Club, having been declared winners of the Junior Cup, the same delivered to us by the Chief Executive of the County Association, do hereby, on behalf of the said Club, and individually and collectively, engage to return the same to the Chief Executive of the Association when called upon to do so, that is by 31st January in good order and condition and in accordance with the conditions of the County Rules, to which also we have subscribed our respective names.

Further, I confirm that adequate security provision and insurance by an approved Insurance Company or Broker is in place to cover the value of the cup at £____. It is the Club's responsibility to ensure that the Junior Cup is engraved accordingly and with continuity.

Failure to comply will result in a fine plus any expenses incurred by the Association in the recovery, repair, or engraving of the cup.

- b. The Chief Executive of the Association shall be for all intents and purposes the legal holder of the Cup, in trust for the Association, and is to whom the Cup shall be returned. Any Club failing to return the Cup by the due date shall be fined £25.
- c. From the profits of the County Competitions the Association may in their absolute discretion make grants to the competing finalists.

12. Alteration to Rules

The Association shall have the power to alter or add to the above rules as they from time to time may deem expedient, but such alterations shall be notified to the Clubs in membership not later than the date of the Annual General Meeting.