

Cumberland Football Association
Women's County Cup Rules
Season 2021-2022

Constitution

1. The Competition will be played within the rules and regulations of the Cumberland Football Association and the Football Association and will be in accordance with the 'laws of the game' (as determined by the International Football Association Board).

Entry

2. The Competition is for all affiliated Senior Women's teams. Teams wishing to enter the competition must follow the criteria stipulated by the CFA. Clubs having more than one team may enter additional teams on notification to the County FA. Teams withdrawing from the competition following the first-round draw will be fined an amount that will be determined by the CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee.
3. Clubs consisting of two or more teams will be permitted to enter additional teams.
4. Clubs must have changing facilities with running water for their visitors. It is mandatory for all clubs to provide bathing facilities for players and match officials after the game.

Qualification of Players

5. A player would be considered as registered for a club in this competition if they are currently registered with that specific club as a league player. To play in this competition a player must have achieved the age of 16. With regards the 'Summer League Teams' entered into the competition, no more than 2 players per team can be registered who have played/continue to play at Step 7 League level or above for more than 4 games in the 2021-22 season.
6. A player may not be registered for a club in the competition after midnight on 31st March of the current season, except by special permission of the CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee. Clubs found to play unregistered players will be dismissed from the competition.
7. Transferred players are permitted to play for their new club within this competition providing they have been approved by their relevant league's management committee and have not appeared on a team sheet for a previous club in this competition.
8. A player representing a club without the appropriate transfer will be banned from taking part in the competition and fined for their action, the amount to be determined by the CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee. The offending club will also be expelled from the competition.

Conditions of Play, Times of Kick off, Postponements, Substitutes

9. Matches can be played on 3rd Generation artificial surfaces.
10. The dates for each round, indicated with the draw for the competition are binding. Clubs not complying with these dates will be dismissed from the competition.

Any club wishing to alternate from the specified date must submit a written request, within 7 days of the issue of the draw, to the CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee for their consideration. Any decision made is final and binding.

11. Both secretaries are to contact each other to confirm colours and directions to the ground. When colours clash the away team will change. In the event of a colour clash in the final tie both teams will change. Home clubs should inform opponents of any specific Covid-19 stipulations or procedures that are in place for their facility (e.g. changing rooms, club houses etc.) and in line with current or any updated Government or FA guidance.
12. The duration of the game will be 90 minutes, 45 minutes each way (minimum period allowed is 35 minutes each way). Any reduction is to be mutually agreed with the referee prior to kick off. Should the game be tied at full time, 30 minutes extra time will be played (15 minutes each way) with a minimum period of 10 minutes each way permissible. If the game is still tied, then kicks from the penalty mark will decide the winners. Extra time can be dispensed with if this is agreed mutually between both teams and notified to the match official. The half time interval shall not exceed 15 minutes and can only be altered with the consent of the match referee.
13. A total of five substitutes can be named and all five are permitted to participate in the match. 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 5 players.

A player who has been substituted herself becomes a substitute and may replace a player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of the Game. All substitutes must be named on the match return following the tie.

14. The home team must also provide at least 3 footballs that are 'fit for play'. Goal nets must be used.
15. Clubs reported for late kick off will be fined the sum of £25.
16. Any competition matches postponed on account of the ground conditions should comply with FA procedures. Should the ground be declared unfit it is the responsibility of the home club to immediately advise the visiting club, the Match Officials (if known) and the County FA (Monday to Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm via 01900 511800 or e-mail CountyCups@CumberlandFA.com).

Notification of postponements after 5pm or during the weekend should be made to the County FA Officer on 07704 156779 followed up with an email to CountyCups@CumberlandFA.com

17. Games cancelled due to ground conditions will be rescheduled for the following week at the home club's venue.

If, after the second week, the ground is still not playable then the tie will be transferred to the opposing teams ground to fulfil the fixture. If, following this action, the game is once again cancelled due to ground conditions then it will be re-scheduled for the following week once again at the opposing team's venue.

If the designated venue is considered unplayable then clubs are encouraged to, wherever practically possible, make alternative arrangements. The options available are:

- a) the home team to find an alternative venue and inform the opposing secretary of the new arrangements
- b) travel to the opposing teams ground to fulfil the fixture.

The CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee shall have the power to order a match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponents ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances. Any decision made is final and binding.

18. The CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee shall review all matches abandoned and rule in line with FA regulations. Any clubs found to be in default of these rules may be subject to any action decided by the CFA Competition Committee.

19. Numbered shirts must be worn.

Reporting Results

20. Within 2 hours of completion of the game, the home club secretary is responsible for notifying the result to the County Office. This should be done by the automated SMS service.

Where a text has not been received, or you have been instructed otherwise, clubs should ensure that the result is confirmed by sending an e-mail to countycups@cumberlandfa.com

Notification is also required if the game is postponed. Failure to comply will result in the offending club being fined £10. Clubs should also communicate the result of the game to their relevant league secretary.

21. Within 72 hours of the conclusion of the game (Sunday accepted), each club secretary is responsible for ensuring that the team sheet is fully completed on Fulltime or Match Day* (*when available), including details of scorers, substitutions, referee's name, marks awarded, Respect marks, any cautions or dismissals highlighted against the player concerned and any other information requested. Failure to complete this within the allotted time, will result in that club being fined £5.

Referees

22. The match officials' fees will be £50 (where appointed, assistant referees fees will be £25). These fees will be shared equally between both clubs with the club secretary of the team drawn at home being responsible for payment to the match officials as quickly as possible following completion of the game but no later than 30 minutes after this. This is still applicable if the game is transferred to another venue, in compliance with Rule 17.

In the event of a match not being played because of circumstances over which the clubs have no control, the match officials, if present, shall be entitled to half their match fee plus expenses.

23. A Referee not keeping their engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non appearance, must be reported to the CFA.

Protests

24. Any protests must be received at the County Office within 72 hours of the completion of the game (Sundays accepted). These must be received in writing, signed and accompanied with a £25 appeal fee.

25. A Club that is expelled from the Competition may appeal within 7 (seven) days against that decision to an appeal board comprising of 3 Members of the CFA selected by the Chairman of the CFA or his nominee.

Any such appeal shall only be permitted on one of the following grounds:

- a) The CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee or appointed Sub Committee misinterpreted/failed to comply with the procedures relevant to dealing with the charge.
- b) The CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee or appointed sub group came to a decision on the facts of the case which no reasonable body could have reached; or imposed a sanction that is excessive.

Any appeal must be made in accordance with such procedures and appeal fee as determined by The Association from time to time.

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

Trophy

26. The CFA shall present a trophy and medals to the winners and runners up (match day squad only) in the competition.

The trophy is the property of the Company and may never be won outright.

27. The Recipient club must sign an agreement with the CFA and shall be responsible for engraving their details on the trophy.

28. Any club not returning the Competition trophy by the due date, returning them in poor condition or without being engraved may be fined.