

Cumberland Football Association
Cumberland Cup Rules
Season 2022-2023

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 Saturday clubs. Entry is mandatory for all clubs who must meet the facilities criteria; no exclusions are permitted. Clubs that withdraw will be fined an amount that will be determined by the County Association. Clubs consisting of two or more teams will only be permitted to enter one team but all registered players within the club will be eligible to play in the competition.
3. 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

4. A player would be considered as registered for a club in this competition if he is currently registered with that specific club as a league player. To play in this competition a player must have achieved the age of 16.
5. Clubs are allowed to register players with their respective leagues up to midnight on 31st March of the current season; any additional registrations will not be accepted after that date (except by special dispensation of the CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee). Clubs found to play unregistered players will be dismissed from the competition.
6. 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 within this competition.
7. A player representing a club without the appropriate transfer will be banned from taking part in the competition and fined for his 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

8. Matches can be played on FA approved 3rd Generation artificial surfaces. The home club is responsible for advising participants of footwear requirements when confirming match arrangements at least 3 days prior to the tie.
9. Clubs drawn at home who have floodlight facilities MUST play mid-week in order to minimise conflict with Saturday fixtures; (mid-week is classified as a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday), unless mutually agreed otherwise. The home club shall offer 2 mid-week dates (email is acceptable), one of which MUST be agreed to by the away club. The offered dates must either be during the week immediately preceding or succeeding the scheduled round date. This must be adhered to unless a mutual agreement is made between the competing clubs and the CFA to play earlier or later. This

communication is also to be copied to the CFA for reference in cases of dispute (email is acceptable – countycups@cumberlandfa.com).

Clubs at Steps 1-4 drawn away from home must play in accordance with FA Rule 8.4, matches shall not be played on a Saturday without permission of the Competition Secretary (League). Clubs should consider requesting closed dates with their League where possible for County Cup ties.

The agreed date must be confirmed directly to the County Office within 7 days of the date of issue of the draw for that particular round. Clubs not complying with this requirement may be fined and may be dismissed from the Competition. Failure to reach agreement within this timescale must be notified to the County Office following which the CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee will specify the date the game will be played. Amended dates must be prior to the end date for that particular round unless authorised otherwise by the CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee.

10. The dates for each round, indicated with the draw for the competition are binding, with the exception of clubs with floodlights (see rule 9). 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 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 unless alternative arrangements are mutually agreed by the competing clubs. In the event of a colour clash in the final the first named club is classed as the home team.
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 but only three will be permitted to participate in the match. All substitutes must be named on the team sheet following the tie. In the event that extra-time is played, a club may use one additional player from the nominated five substitutes during the period of extra-time.
14. The home team must also provide at least 3 footballs that are 'fit for play'.
15. Clubs reported for late kick off will be fined the sum of £25.
16. 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 or 07786 363035 followed up with an email to CountyCups@CumberlandFA.com.

17. If, ahead of the fixture date 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 CFA and the opposing secretary of the new arrangements
- b) Agree with The CFA and opposing secretary to travel to the opposing team's ground to fulfil the fixture
- c) The CFA finds an alternative venue and will inform both club secretaries of the new arrangements

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 and there is no alternative arrangement, as stipulated above, available then the tie will be transferred to the opposing team's ground to fulfil the fixture. If, following this action, the game is once again cancelled due to ground conditions then, based on no alternative arrangements being available, it will be re-scheduled for the following week once again at the opposing team's venue.

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 Sanctions & Competitions Committee.

19. Numbered shirts must be worn.

Reporting Results

20. Within 2 hours of completion of the game, the home club secretary or a designated contact 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

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

[For Clubs not using Fulltime]

For those teams at Step 4 and above and therefore with no registered players on Club Portal.

Within 72 hours of the conclusion of the game (Sundays accepted), the electronic team sheet must be fully completed. Each club secretary is responsible for ensuring that the team sheet is fully

completed. Failure to return the team sheet within the allotted time, returning the sheet incomplete or defaced 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.

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 in writing within 7 (seven) days against that decision to an appeal board comprising of 3 (three) Members of CFA selected by the Chairman of CFA or his nominee.

Any such appeal shall only be permitted on one or more 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 Committee 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 may be 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.

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

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