

Cumberland Football Association
Sunday County Cup Competition Rules
Season 2023-24

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 Sunday clubs that are members of a Sunday League that is currently registered with the Cumberland Football Association. Clubs that withdraw will be fined £25.

The Cumberland Football Association may reject the application of any Club/Team to participate in its Competition at its entire discretion. If a Club/Team is removed from the league in which it is playing or its league fixtures are suspended, once it has been accepted into the competition, the Cumberland FA has the power to remove the Club/Team from the Competition.

3. Clubs must have changing facilities with running water for their visitors. It is mandatory for all clubs from the Quarter Final 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 they are currently registered with that specific Club/Team as a league player.

To play in this competition a player must have achieved the age of 16.

A Player can only play for one Team in this competition.

In the event of a postponed or replayed match, only those players shall be allowed to play who were registered to play at the time fixed for playing the original round or CFA approved game date, except by special permission of the CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee.

5. 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 as a starting player or used substitute upon a team sheet for a previous club within this competition.
6. A player representing a club without the appropriate transfer will be banned from taking part in the competition and the offending club and/or team will also be expelled from the competition.
7. In order to be eligible for the Semi-Final and Final, the players must have been correctly registered and eligible for the Quarter Final of the Competition, except by special permission of the CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee.

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. 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. The draw shall be made in two sections, east and west. The last four teams from each of these sections will be included in a draw for the quarter final stage. Start times for games will be determined by the home team's League designated kick off time.

However:

- a) Clubs/Teams wishing to play their ties prior to the end date specified are eligible to do so if the proposed date is mutually agreeable with both Clubs/Teams, the CFA appointed match official and the authorising authorities (league and CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee). Clubs/Teams wishing to play prior to the specified draw date must submit a written request to the CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee at least 7 days prior to the specified draw date. The CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee will then make a decision, which is final and binding.
- b) Any Club/Team wishing to play after the specified draw date must submit a written request to the CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee (outlining the reason for the application) at least 7 days prior to the specified draw date. The CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee will then make a decision, which is final and binding.
- c) Any proposed changes to venue and/or designated kick off time must be mutually agreed by both Clubs/Teams. Both Clubs/Teams must notify the CFA of the requested change for their approval by 12pm on the Friday proceeding the stipulated match date. Any CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee decision is final and binding.

Clubs/Teams not complying with these dates or a decision made by the CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee will be dismissed from the competition.

10. The date and venue for the Final tie will be specified by the County FA.
11. Both secretaries are to contact each other to confirm colours and directions to the ground and any other relevant factors including access to changing facilities, after match hospitality etc. 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 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 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 Association Football. All substitutes must be named on the team sheet following the tie.
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 £15.
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. Contact 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 07786363035 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 Competition Committee.
19. Differently numbered shirts must be worn.

Reporting Results

20. Within 2 hours of completion of the game, the home club secretary / Team Manager Contact as per County Cup Entry Form 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 £5. 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, 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. All County Cup games must be officiated by a registered and appointed referee. This referee must have been approved by the CFA Appointments Officer or a designated Appointments Officer.
23. In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed referee the competing clubs/teams can agree upon a substitute who is acceptable to both sides. A referee thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status, and authority of a registered referee.

If clubs/teams are unable to agree upon an acceptable substitute, then the match will be abandoned and referred to the CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee for their deliberation. The CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee decision is final and binding.

24. The match officials' fees will be £30, (where appointed, assistant referees' fees will be £20). These fees will be shared equally between both clubs/teams with the club secretary or delegated official 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.

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.

25. A Referee not keeping their engagement must be reported to the CFA.

Protests and Appeals

26. 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 fee.
27. 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 their nominee.

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

- (i) The CFA Sanctions & Competitions Committee or appointed Sub Committee misinterpreted / failed to comply with the procedures relevant to dealing with the charge.
- (ii) 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

- 28. 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.

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

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