

Key Changes to County Cups

Below is a summary of the key changes implemented in Hertfordshire FA County Cup Competitions for the 2021/22 season, along with a reminder some which were introduced in the previous two seasons. Please refer to the relevant Rules and Guidance Notes for each competition for further information

Entry to Competitions

Entry to the competitions will be optional for season 2021-22 only. The Entry Fee will be free to each competition. In the 2021-22 season **only**, there will be no competitions organised in the Saturday Intermediate, Sunday Intermediate, Veterans', Under-12 Boys', Under-13 Boys', Under-12 Girls', or Under-13 Girls' Cups.

Youth Competitions

For the 2021-22 season **only**, entries to each of the Youth Competitions will be limited to 3 teams per age-group per gender.

Match postponements

Only matches postponed due to the weather will be rearranged.

Extra-Time

There will be no Extra-Time in any match, except for the Senior Cup and Senior Trophy Semi-final and Final ties. Matches which are drawn at full-time shall be decided on kicks from the penalty-mark (except in Semi-final and Final ties of the Senior Cup and Senior Trophy).

Sin Bins

Temporary dismissals are to be used for cautions for dissent in all competitions where no clubs from Step 1 (National League) or above are involved. Sin Bins are being introduced all across grassroots football this season having been trialled extensively with positive feedback from clubs and officials.

Youth Competitions Mercy Rule

Once a team has reached a 9 goal advantage (9-0, 10-1, 11-2) the game is considered ended and the result should be reported as such. This has been introduced to help keep matches enjoyable whilst still being competitive. The teams may choose to play a friendly or training match (with potentially more balanced sides) in the remaining time available.

Roped-Off Pitches

The home club must provide a roped or fenced off playing area in the Semi-finals of the Saturday Junior Cup and all Adult Sunday Competitions. There is no longer a requirement to provide this at the Quarter-final stage.

Assistant Referees

Neutral Assistants will be appointed to the Semi-finals of the Saturday Junior Cup and all Adult Sunday Competitions, but no longer at the Quarter-final stage.