Rules of the Senior Challenge Cup

1. Name

1.1. The Competition shall be called "The Hunts FA Senior Challenge Cup".

2. Cup Ownership

2.1. The Cup is the property of the "Huntingdonshire Football Association Limited". When the winning Club has been ascertained the Cup shall be handed to the representative of the Club on the understanding that within three days of its receipt a properly stamped agreement (subscribed by three persons) be sent to the Association as follows:-

We ……..…….……..…… Secretary ….…..... Chairman

and.....……..…….…… being members of the ……..…….……..

Football Club having been declared winners of the Hunts FA Senior Challenge Cup and having the same delivered to us by the Secretary of the Association or his authorised representative do hereby declare on behalf of the said Club, individually and co-jointly engage to return same to the Secretary of the Association for the time being, in good order and condition, on or before the 2nd Monday of January next, failure to comply could render the Club liable to a fine at the discretion of the Council, or at any time when called upon by him to do so; any claim not recognised by the Insurance Company we agree to refund the Association with the amount of its current value or cost of thorough repair.

3. Souvenirs

3.1. In addition to the Cup, the Association shall present souvenirs to the players taking part in the Final tie. When a player taking part is ordered to leave the field for any misconduct, the souvenir to which he may be entitled may be withheld at the discretion of the Council.

4. Control

4.1. The Council of the Huntingdonshire Football Association Limited shall have the power to alter or add to the Rules of the Competition as they may from time to time deem expedient.

5. Competition - Eligible Clubs

5.1. The Competition shall be on a knock-out basis. It shall be open to bona-fide Senior Clubs affiliated to the Association who hold a Football Association ground grading of at least Grade H (plus floodlights) subject to the approval of the Council. Any Club that loses its League status may be withdrawn from the Competition.

5.2. Note for clarification - This is the minimum required for entry to Step 6.

6. Entry Application - Date and Fee

6.1. Each Club's entry fee for the competition shall be made in writing on the form 'A' to the Secretary of the Association on or before May 31st in each year together with an entrance fee as per the Schedule.

6.2. Any withdrawal after entry has been accepted will be liable to a fine not exceeding as per the Schedule.

7. Colours

7.1. All Clubs on entering the competition shall notify the Secretary of the Association of their colours. Where competing colours are similar, the Club which has been drawn away shall change.

7.2. No Club shall be permitted to register or play in shirts the colour of which is likely to cause confusion with the outfits worn by the match officials (i.e. black or dark blue)

7.3. In the final where the colours of competing clubs are similar both clubs must change unless alternative arrangements are mutual agreed by the competing clubs, and colours notified to the Association **seven days** before the respective match. In the event of the clubs not agreeing upon the colours to be worn by their respective teams the Association shall decide.

7.4. In the event of the Clubs not agreeing upon the colours to be worn by their respective teams the Association shall decide.

7.5. Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from other players in the match and the match officials. *[The goalkeeper may not wear a black jersey or a predominantly black jersey]*

7.6. The players' shirts must be clearly numbered in accordance with the list handed to the match referee before the match and there must be no change of numbers during the match except for a change of goalkeeper or if permitted by the match referee because of a blood injury.

7.7. Failure to comply with the provisions of rule 7 will result in a fine not exceeding as per the schedule.

8. Provision Regarding Qualifications of Players

8.1. A player shall not in the same season of this Competition play for more than one competing Club.

8.2. In all Rounds of the Competition a player shall be a "registered player" of his club under the rules of the Competition.

8.2.1. A "registered player" is one who is either, in the case of a player under written contract, registered with The Football Association or, in the case of a player without a written contract, registered with a League in which his club competes in the current season. Any such registration must have been received and accepted by The Football Association or League by 12 noon the day before the date fixed for the playing of the match, and the registration must be continuous through to the date of the match.

8.2.2. A player shall be deemed to be registered when his club is in possession of a written acknowledgement from the registering authority.

8.3. In the case of postponed or replayed matches, only those players shall be allowed to play who were eligible on the original date fixed for playing the round.

8.4. A player who has been suspended may play in postponed or replayed tie providing the term of his suspension has expired.

8.5. If the Council have any doubts as to the qualifications of any players taking part in this competition, they shall have power to call upon such players or Club to which he belongs, or for which he played to prove that he is qualified according to the Rules and failing such satisfactory proof the Council |may disqualify such player, and may remove the Club 'from the Competition, order the game to be replayed or awarded to the opponents and may impose a fine not exceeding as per the Schedule.

9. Objection to Qualification

9.1. No protest shall be entertained unless written notice containing particulars of the ground of complaint be lodged with the Association Secretary (and the Secretary of the opposing Club) within three days (72 hours) of the match (Sundays not included). Each protest must be accompanied by a fee as per the Schedule. This fee if the protest is not upheld may be forfeited to the funds of the Hunts F.A., and whether or not the protest is upheld the Council of Emergency Committee shall have power to say which party shall pay such expenses incurred. In the case of postponed, drawn or replayed matches the above periods of time shall be observed so far as circumstances permit.

10. Disqualifications

10.1. The Council shall have power to disqualify any competing Club, or Player or Players for any competing Club, who may be proved to be guilty of any breach of the Rules of the Association.

11. System of Competition

11.1. The Competition shall be on the English system to be decided by drawing. No Club shall be allowed more than one bye in the Competition. "The Laws of the Game" shall be those governing association football.

12. Date of Play

12.1. The Council shall fix the date by which various rounds of the Competition shall be played and also the times of kick-off.

12.2. Following a request to the County Secretary, not later than 7 days before the scheduled date, kick off times can be moved to 1.30pm between October and February each year, where a club does not have suitable floodlights. Any request for such request must be made having received the agreement of their opponents.

12.3. Other than the Final Tie, such scheduled dates are in effect “play by dates”. Clubs requesting to play a tie before the scheduled “play by date” must submit such request in writing to the County Secretary no later than 7 days prior to the scheduled date. Any request for such request must be made having received the agreement of their opponents.

12.4. Any team not on the field of play at the time fixed for the kick-off shall be fined to a sum not exceeding as per the Schedule unless satisfactory explanation is furnished.

12.5. The Referee's decision as to the time of the teams’ arrival on the field of play shall be final, but he shall acquaint each captain prior to the kick-off.

13. Short Teams

13.1. The Referee shall report any team failing to field a full side to the Secretary of the Association and, any Club guilty of fielding less than 11 bona-fide players will be fined as per the Schedule for each player short.

14. Notice of Result

14.1. Both the home and away club shall record the result of each match, details of the participating players, including substitutes played and the mark awarded to the referee plus any other information required by the Competition onto the County FA system by 20:00 hours of the day following the fixture. Failure to do so will incur a fine as per the schedule.

14.2. In the event of any match in the Competition not being played or if it is not completed (i.e. where full time has not been played or completed or the penalty competition has not been played), both Clubs concerned shall SMS such details to the County FA system no later than two hours after the time that the match was called off or ended and must send a report of circumstances in writing to the County Secretary to reach

him no later than 72 hours after the time fixed for the match. Any Club failing to SMS details to the County FA system and/or submit a report shall be fined as per the schedule.

14.3. Both clubs shall SMS the result of each match to the County FA System within 1 hour of the conclusion of the match. Failure to do so will incur a fine as per the schedule.

14.4. Prior to marking a referee, the appropriate club representative shall make him/herself fully aware of the marking criteria in the FA Guide to marking referees contained within the County Handbook. Any Club awarding the referee a mark of 61 or less must compile a report outlining the referees perceived shortcomings. This written report must be received by the County Secretary within five days of the match. Failure to do so will incur a fine as per the schedule.

15. Ground for Cup Ties

15.1. Matches may be played on grass or any artificial surface approved by The Football Association. The dimensions of the field of play for all matches shall be as follows:

15.1.1. Maximum length120 metres (130 yards)

15.1.2. Minimum length 90 meters (100 yards)

15.1.3. Maximum breadth 90 metres (100 yards)

15.1.4. Minimum breadth 45 metres (50 Yards)

The length of the touch line must be greater than the length of the goal line. All lines must be the same width, which must not be more than 12 cm (5in).

15.2. Any Club, refusing or failing to play the Club against which it is drawn, within the time intimated to it, shall be dealt with by the Council, and any Club refusing to play shall be required to pay all expenses connected therewith.

15.3. Goal nets must be used in all matches.

15.4. Clubs must make arrangements to restrain Spectators from encroaching within one yard of the touchline.

15.5. Up to and including the semi-final ties, the clubs first drawn shall have the choice of ground. The Final tie will be played on a ground chosen by the Association.

15.6. Up to and including the semi-final ties, the home club shall furnish the visiting club with 10 complimentary passes for their Club Officials, plus passes for 16 players and 3 Team Officials.

15.7. In the Final Tie, Clubs will be furnished with 10 complimentary passes for their Club Officials, plus passes for 16 players and 3 Team Officials.

16. Proceeds of Matches

16.1. The proceeds of all matches prior to the Final Tie (except replayed matches in consequences of a breach of rule) shall be equally divided between the competing Clubs after the expenses have been deducted.

16.2. The only charge to be allowed on the gate shall be Match Officials Fees and Expenses and, if applicable floodlighting to a maximum cost of up to £40. In exceptional circumstances where the cost of stewarding / policing is expected to be excessive, application may be made to the County Secretary in advance of the match for the amount to be charged against the gate to be increased. Should the request be agreed, both Clubs will be notified in advance of the match of the additional amount that has been agreed. Should receipts not be sufficient to cover the expenses then the Home Club will be responsible for meeting these expenses.

16.3. All cash must be paid within 14 days of the match and a copy of the statement forwarded to the County Secretary and the Visiting Club. Failure to do so will result in an automatic fine in accordance with the schedule of fines and fees.

16.4. The Huntingdonshire FA shall take the proceeds of the Final Tie and shall be responsible for meeting the expenses of the tie.

17. Duration of Play

17.1. Duration of play in all matches shall be of 90 minutes. In the event that the scores at the end of the second half are level, kicks from the penalty mark will take place to obtain a winner.

17.2. In the event of a match not being completed and neither Club being at fault, the match shall be replayed on the ground of the Club first drawn or as decided by the Council.

17.3. In the event of the Final not being completed where neither Club is at fault, the match shall be replayed on a ground to be determined by the Council.

17.4. Any Match abandoned through the fault of one or both clubs shall be dealt with by the Council.

18. Substitutes

18.1. A Club may at its discretion use three (3) substitute players from five (5) nominated players at any time in the match, except to replace a player who has been dismissed from the field of play by the Referee for misconduct after play has commenced.

18.2. Substitutes shall be nominated to the Referee prior to the commencement of the game.

18.3. A substitution can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission.

19. Technical Area

19.1. The number of Clubs players and officials seated on the team benches in the designated technical area, must not exceed 11 unless the team bench facility provides for more than 11 individual seats. The Home Club must ensure that a technical area is marked around each designated seating area.

19.2. Only one person at a time has the authority to convey tactical instructions to the players during the match. The International FA Board (IFAB) have agreed that

"provided they behave in a responsible manner, one person be permitted to remain in the technical area and no longer be required to return to their position on the bench after conveying tactical instructions".

19.3. All team officials and substitutes seated on the bench shall be listed on the official sheet when it is handed to the Match Officials. Only those persons listed on the official sheet shall be permitted in the technical area.

19.4. The occupants of the technical area must behave in a responsible manner at all times. Misconduct by occupants of this area will be reported by the Referee.

19.5. The coach and other officials must remain within its confines except in special circumstances, for example, a physiotherapist or doctor entering the field of play, with the referee's permission, to assess an injured player.

19.6. All affiliated clubs to have a minimum of one person who has attended the Football Association Emergency Aid course to be present and in the technical area at each match. Failure to do this will result in a fine of not exceeding £50.

19.7. Each team must have a fully kitted Koolpack First Aid Kit bag or Equivalent present during each game. Failure to do this will result in a find not exceeding £50.

20. Objections and Protests

20.1. All questions relating to matches, the qualification of competitors, or interpretation of the Rules, or any dispute, protest or complaint whatever, shall be referred to the Council, whose decision shall be final and binding on both Clubs.

20.2. Every protest or complaint whatever kind must be made in writing and must contain the particulars of the grounds upon which it is founded. Two copies of the protest or complaint must be lodged with the Secretary of the Association, accompanied by a fee as per the Schedule within two days of the match to which it relates. Sunday excluded. The fee shall be forfeited to the Association in the event of the protest not being sustained or the complaint considered unreasonable.

20.3. The Council may order any Club engaged in the dispute, protest or complaint to pay such sum as may be considered necessary towards defraying the expenses incurred.

20.4. Any protest relating to the ground, goal posts, cross bars, or other appurtenances of the game, shall not be entertained by the Council unless notice with the particulars has been given to the Club immediately it comes to their knowledge and an objection has been lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the match. The Referee shall require the responsible Club to remove the cause of objection if this is possible without unduly delaying the progress of the match.

20.5. When an objection has been lodged with the Referee, a protest must be made to the Association, and no objection or protest shall be withdrawn except by leave of the Council.

20.6. In dealing with any protest, the Council may take into consideration the possession by the protesting Club of any knowledge, which, if properly used, might obviate the protest.

20.7. The Secretary of the Association shall send a copy of the protest and particulars to the Club protested against.
20.8. Each Club may support its case by witness.
20.9. If a member of the Council is connected with a Club concerned in a dispute or protest, they shall not sit on the Council while the dispute or protest is being considered.

21. Provisions Concerning Referees and Assistant Referees

21.1. The Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches, and each Club must take every precaution to keep its ground in good condition, and if necessary, either Club may require the Referee to visit the ground (or a Referee appointed by the Association) at least two hours before the time advertised for the kick-off.
21.2. Under exceptional circumstances the County Secretary or his designated representative has the authority to postpone the game.
21.3. The Council or Referees Committee shall appoint for each round, Semi-Finals and Final a registered Referee and Assistant Referee of the Hunts, or any other Association. In the Final, a Fourth Official will be appointed who will carry out the duties as set out in the Laws of the Game. The Secretary of the Home Club must confirm the match details to the Referee and Assistant Referees where applicable at least three **5** days prior to the day of the match.
21.4. If Match Officials are not informed they must report this failure to the Secretary of the Association. Failure to comply by the Home Secretary will result in a Fine as per the Schedule. Where the appointed Match Officials fail to appear, the Clubs must mutually agree for a person to officiate the match in order for the match to be played on the day. Match Officials should at all times report to the appointed match unless directed otherwise by the Association or the Home Club's Secretary or their appointed representative.
21.5. Referee and Assistant Referees where appointed should be at the ground at least 60 minutes before the kick-off, failure may result in a fine as per the Schedule.
21.6. Each Club must hand copies of a list of name(s) of players taking part in a match (including the name(s) and numbers of the nominated substitute(s) to the referee and a representative of their opponents in the presence of the Referee at least 30 minutes before the scheduled time of the kick off. The players' numbers and the colours of the playing strip must be clearly stated. Any Club in breach of this rule may be fined in accordance with the schedule of fines.
21.7. Any Club altering its team selection or numbering after team sheets have been exchanged may be fined at the discretion of the Council. A Player who is named on the team sheet exchanged under this rule may be replaced without fine if he is injured warming up after the exchange of team sheets. Such alteration must be advised to the Referee and opponents before the commencement of the match.

21.8. The Fee payable to the Referee in qualifying and Semi-Final tie shall be as per the schedule and for Assistant Referee as per the Schedule and paid by the Home Club. The Referee and Assistant Referee shall be entitled to the second class fare (actually paid) or travelling by cycle, motor car or other conveyance he shall be paid as per the Schedule.

21.9. Referees and Assistant Referees appointed for any round, Semi-Final or Final ties must acknowledge receipt accepting or otherwise within three days, failure to comply, the match will be re-appointed.

21.10. Referees and Assistant Referees appointed to the Final tie shall be awarded replicas, plus travelling expenses as per the Schedule or second class fare actually paid, by the Association.

21.11. In cases where the Referee and Assistant Referee travels to a ground and the fixture is not played for any reason, he shall be entitled to his travelling expenses and half the match fee.

21.12. Should a Referee for any reason be unable to complete the match his place shall be taken by the most senior Match Official appointed. The replacement shall then be considered the appointed Referee for the remainder of the match.

21.13. Clubs shall provide separate dressing room accommodation for Officials in all cases where possible.

21.14. Failure of the Referee or Assistant Referee (after having accepted the appointment) to turn up at the match and without furnishing a satisfactory explanation, shall be dealt with under FA Rule E1-E2 "Definition of Misconduct".

22. Provision for Scratching from the Competition

22.1. Any Club intending to scratch must give information of its intention to do so to the Secretary of the opposing Club not less than eight days before the date fixed for playing.

22.2. A Club failing to comply with this rule shall be reported to the Council who shall have the power to take such action as they deem expedient.

22.3. Clubs failing to give a satisfactory reason for scratching without first obtaining the consent of the Council shall be dealt with at the discretion of the Council and be liable to a fine as per the Schedule.

22.4. In the Semi-Final and Final Ties any club failing to play, without showing a good and sufficient cause for such failure to play, may be adjudged by the Council to have been guilty of serious misconduct, and liable to be dealt with under FA. Rule E1-E2.

23. The Council shall have the power to deal with any matter not provided for within the foregoing Rules.

24. The Cup shall be a Challenge Cup and shall never be won outright.

25. Provisions Concerning Appeals

25.1. A Club that is expelled from the Competition may appeal against that decision to an appeal board in accordance with the procedures for FA appeals.

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

26. The Rules as herein printed shall be circulated to all Officers and Clubs of the Huntingdonshire Football Association.

27. Refreshments for Match Officials, Players and Visiting Officials

All clubs are required to provide the following refreshments at all matches in the competition up to and including the Semi Final Ties.

Players

(a) To be provided with the choice of a hot or cold drink at half time and full time.
(b) Such refreshments should be made available before the match if requested.
(c) To be provided with the choice of a hot or cold drink and sandwiches or other similar light refreshments at the end of the match.

Match Officials

(a) To be provided with the choice of a hot or cold drink upon their arrival at the ground.
(b) To be provided with the choice of a hot or cold drink at half time.
(c) If the match requires extra time, to be provided with a drink on the pitch before extra time commences.
(d) To be provided with the choice of a hot or cold drink and sandwiches or other similar light refreshments at the end of the match.

Visiting Officials

(a) To be provided with the choice of a hot or cold drink and sandwiches or other similar light refreshments at half time.