Season 2021-22 (Version 1 August 2021)

RULES OF THE KENT FA WOMEN'S CUP AND PLATE

BOARD OF APPEAL

A. For all Kent County Competitions, the entire control and management of the Competitions shall be vested in the Kent FA (hereinafter known as the "Association") from whose decision there will be no appeal, with the only exception of when a Club has been removed from a Competition due to a decision from the Association.
B. The Board of Appeal will be independent and will not include members of the Competitions Committee or the Competitions Officer.
C. Within 14 days of the posting of written notification of any decision from the Association, a Club against whom action has been taken may appeal against such decision by lodging particulars in duplicate with the Chief Executive of the Association, including a fee of £25 for adjudication of a Board of Appeal.
D. The grounds of appeal shall be in accordance of FA Rules. The Board of Appeal may order the appeal fee to be forfeited and shall decide by whom the costs of the appeal shall be borne.
E. The decision of the Board of Appeal is final and binding on all parties concerned.

1. CONTROL OF COMPETITION – RULES AND REGULATIONS

A. The entire control and management of the Competition shall be vested in Kent County Football Association Limited (hereinafter known as the "Association") from whose decision there shall be no appeal (with the exception of when the association has removed a team from a competition).
B. The Association shall have the power to appoint Committees or Sub-Committees and may delegate all or any of their powers to such Committees.
C. The Association shall have the power to alter, add or amend the rules of the Competition should it be deemed expedient.
D. The Association, Committee or Sub-Committee appointed by the Association, shall have the power to deal with any incident not catered for specifically in the forgoing Competition rules.

2. ENTRIES

A. It is compulsory for all affiliated women's Teams to participate in accordance with FA regulation 23. All Teams competing at Women's Step 5 or below will be entered into a separate Plate Competition to be covered by this rule set.
B. Applications for entry, accompanied by the appropriate fee, must be made to the Chief Executive of the Association (hereinafter known as the "Chief Executive") on the appropriate form, to the County Office on or before the 1st July in the season the club proposes to compete in.
C. The Association may reject the application of any Club if such course is deemed desirable.
D. Any Club withdrawing from the Competition after the draw is made may incur a fine not exceeding £50.

3. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

A. All players must be bona fide members of the Club and duly registered as playing members on the day prior to the match taking place.
B. No player registering to play for a Club after the end of February in the current season shall be eligible to compete.
C. A player shall not be allowed to play for more than one competing Club in this Competition in any season.
D. Although the Women's Cup and Plate is divided according to the playing strength of each participating Club, each Competition is regarded as one. Therefore a player, who has previously in the current season, played for a Club in the Women's Cup, shall not be eligible to play for a team in the Women's Plate.
E. A player may play for her Club in a higher section of the Competition, but once having done so she shall, not be eligible to return to the Club in the lower section of the Competition.
F. A suspended player may play in a postponed match after his term of suspension has expired, provided he was otherwise eligible to play on the date of the original match. Emergency registrations are not permitted.
G. Any Club found guilty of playing an ineligible player and failing to give a reason acceptable to the Association will be removed from the Competition and be liable to other penalties as may be imposed by the Association.
H. In this event, where the non-defaulting Club has lost the tie, it may be reinstated back into the Competition at the discretion of the Association.
I. Any player found guilty of doing so shall be disqualified from further participation in the Competition and may be fined up to £50.

4. POWER TO PROVIDE PROOFS

A. If the Association has any doubt as to the qualification of any player taking part in the Competition it shall have the power to call upon him or the Club to which he has played for, to prove that he is qualified according to the rules.
B. Failing satisfactory proof, the Association may disqualify him, remove the Club from the Competition and impose such other penalty as it deems fit.
C. A Club making a frivolous objection shall be liable to removal from the Competition or dealt with as the Association may decide.

5. SUBSTITUTIONS

Cup: Three substitutes from up to five nominated to the Referee in accordance with Rule 9 below are permitted at any time other than to replace a player suspended from play by the Referee.

Plate: Five substitutes from up to five nominated to the Referee in accordance with Rule 11 below are permitted at any time other than to replace a player suspended from play by the Referee. A player who has been a substitute himself becomes a substitute and may replace a player at any time. All substitutions are to be carried out in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

6. COLOURS

A. Where the colours of competing Clubs are similar, the visiting Club must change.
B. In the Final Tie, where colours are similar, a toss of a coin will decide which Club is required to change.
C. Match officials are permitted to wear coloured shirts as from the 2017/2018 season however, the nominated colour for match officials in the Competition (where neutral assistant referees are appointed) is YELLOW if there is a clash. All match officials must wear the same colour. If all officials cannot wear yellow then match officials must default to black.
D. Players' shirts shall be numbered including those of substitutes in all rounds of the Competition. Any Club failing to comply may be fined up to £50.
E. The names of sponsors are permissible providing the regulations of the Football Association are confirmed with.

7. GROUNDS FOR TIES

A. Prior to the Final Tie, ties shall be played on the ground of the Club first drawn, unless application to vary the venue is made to the Competitions Officer within seven days of notification of the draw, stating fully the reasons for desiring the change.
B. The right of ground shall not be varied except with the permission of the Association, which shall not be granted without acceptable reasons for change.
C. A Club shall not be allowed to select for its home ground one other than that at which it normally plays without the consent of the Association, which will only be given in exceptional circumstances.
D. Such consent will only be granted for playing on a pitch with an artificial surface; subject to the pitch meeting the required performance standards and appearing on The FA Register – http://3g.thefa.me.uk. Any Club in breach of these requirements will be dealt with at the discretion of the Association.
E. If any fixture is unfulfilled without good and sufficient reason, the offending Club will be removed from the Competition and be liable to a maximum fine of £50.00. In this event, the non-defaulting Club will go forward to the next Round of the Competition.
F. The Secretary of the Home Club, or deputy, shall send written confirmation and details etc. to the visiting Club and to match officials, not less than seven days prior to the date scheduled for the match. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £10.00.
G. Clubs entering the Competition must provide suitable changing accommodation for their home ties.

H. All matches shall be played on the dates set by the Association as the Conference Date. Postponed matches shall be played within the next seven days unless with the sanction of the Competition Officer the Clubs mutually agree otherwise in concert with other Clubs having competition games with them.

I. The Final Tie shall be played on a ground as determined by the Association who will also control the Final. In the Final Tie any Club that fails to observe the match day instructions will be fined £50.

8. APPEALS AGAINST FITNESS OF GROUNDS

A. Each Club must take every precaution to keep its pitch in good playing condition.

B. When adverse weather conditions place a tie in doubt it is the responsibility of the home Club to call in the Referee or other qualified Official to inspect the pitch and decide as to its fitness for play in sufficient time to save expenses of unnecessary journeys being incurred by their opponents.

C. Subject to this Rule, the Referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the pitch in all matches and must report to the ground where the match is to be played at least one hour before time of kick off.

D. Where the appointed Match Officials report to the ground and decide that the pitch is unfit, they shall be entitled to half their match fee and travelling expenses of 25p per mile. Where another Match Official is called to inspect the pitch they shall be entitled to travelling expenses of 25p per mile.

E. Any Club failing to observe this instruction may be fined a sum not exceeding £10 and ordered to pay any resultant costs incurred by their opponents.

9. LISTS OF TEAMS TO BE EXCHANGED

A. Each Club shall hand a completed and accurate Kent FA team sheet to the Referee and a representative of their opponents at least thirty minutes prior to the time scheduled for kick off.

B. Any club failing to carry out this requirement or furnishing an inaccurate team sheet will result in a £10 fine for each offence.

10. PROTESTS

A. All questions of qualifications of competitors shall be referred to the Association or its appointed Sub-Committee whose decision be final and binding on both Clubs.

B. Should either of the two Clubs have Member of Council of the Association, and then they shall not be eligible to sit while a protest is being considered.

C. An objection as to the fitness of ground or appurtenances shall not be entertained unless a protest is lodged with the Referee at least half an hour before the commencement of the match, such protest being confirmed by afterwards being forwarded in due form as provided by this rule. The Referee shall transmit the protest lodged with them to the Competitions Officer, together with his report, immediately after the match, but in any event within two days.

D. No reference or protest of any kind shall be entertained unless it is accompanied by a protest fee of £20, which may be forfeited if the protest is dismissed. The Association may, if it deems fit, order the protesting Club to pay a sum as considered necessary to defray expenses of the other Club.
E. A protest shall not be withdrawn except by leave of the Association. In the Final tie, a protest shall not be considered unless it is lodged in writing before the close of the match.
F. All protests, except from those relating to fitness of ground or appurtenances, must be sent in duplicate to the Association together with the requisite fee to arrive no later than three days (excluding Sundays) of the match in which they relate.
G. In the Final tie, a protest shall not be considered unless it is lodged in writing before the close of the match.

11. DURATION OF MATCHES

A. Kick off times will be the time normal to the Home Club unless otherwise sanctioned by the Competitions Officer.
B. The duration of all matches shall be one hour and a half. The half-time period shall not exceed 15 minutes.
C. If the scores are level after normal time then two (equal) periods of extra time will be played and then if required the tie will be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark.
D. The Referee shall allow for time lost through accident or other cause. The Referee is the sole judge of allowance of time and his decision on this matter shall be final.

12. MATCH OFFICIALS

A. The Association shall appoint all Match Officials for this Competition. Assistant Referees will be appointed at the discretion of the Association.
B. Match Officials shall be entitled to the under mentioned fees and expenses;
C. (i). Referee £40 inclusive of expenses
(ii). Assistant Referee (where neutral) £27.50 inclusive of expenses
Match Fees are to be shared by both Clubs. The home Club is responsible for paying Match Officials directly at the conclusion of the match, and then must recoup half of these expenses from the away team on the day. In the Final tie, Officials will receive a souvenir in lieu of a fee.
D. In the event of a match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs had no control, the appointed Match Officials if present, shall be entitled to half their fee.
E. Where a match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Match Officials, if present, their full fee.
F. Match Officials who fail to accept County appointments without good and sufficient reason will be dealt with at the discretion of the Association.
G. In the event of an appointed Official failing to arrive, Clubs must mutually agree on a replacement.
H. Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each Club must supply one competent person to act as Club Assistant Referee for the duration of the game. Any Club failing to provide a Club Assistant Referee for any part of the match will be fined £10.

I. Clubs will award Referees a mark on the form provided in accordance with Football Association requirements.

13. CLUB RESULTS SHEETS

A. The Secretary of each Club shall send a completed and accurate Kent FA Match Report Form to the Competitions Officer, within three days (excluding Sundays) of the match being played. Failure to comply will incur a fine of £10 or the Club will be otherwise dealt with as the Association may decide.

B. The home Club must reply to the text from Full-Time or email the result of the match to the Competitions Officer within two hours of the completion of the match. Failure to do so will result in the Club being fined £10.

14. MATCH EXPENSES

A. In all matches prior to the Final tie, all income received by gate or programme sales shall be retained by the home Club who shall be responsible for the paying the normal match expenses.

B. Visiting Clubs shall be responsible for meeting their own travelling expenses for the match.

C. The Final tie will be arranged by the Association, who shall retain any excess and meet any deficit incurred in staging the match.

15. TROPHY

A. The Trophy is the property of the Association. When the winning Club has been ascertained, the Association shall deliver the Trophy to such Club who shall be responsible for its return in good condition on or before the first day in March in the ensuing year. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £100.

B. The Trophy will be insured by the Association. The holder will be required to pay the standard £250 excess fee for each and every claim made against the insurance to the Association for the period that the Trophy is held by the holder.

C. A Club must take every precaution to ensure the safe custody of the Trophy whilst it is in its possession. Should the Trophy become lost or damaged in any way, the Association reserves the right to issue charges against the Club and act in any other manner deemed to be fitting.

D. The winning Club must have the Trophy suitably inscribed before returning it to the Association. Failure to do so will incur a fine not exceeding £50.

16. MEDALS

A. In addition to the Trophy, the Association will present souvenirs to the winners and runners-up in the Final tie.

B. A player guilty of misconduct in the Final tie may forfeit his right to a souvenir at the discretion of the Association.

17. CONDUCT OF PARTICIPANTS

A. Clubs entering the Competition are responsible for the actions of their players, officials and spectators. Any Club whose conduct is found to be objectionable will be dealt with at the discretion of the Association and may, if the Association deem it, be disqualified.