



# *Lancashire FA County Cup Rules*

Amateur Cup  
Amateur Shield  
Sunday Trophy  
Women's Senior Cup  
Women's Challenge Trophy  
Veteran's Cup  
All Youth Cups

# *2023/24*



## COUNTY CUP COMPETITION RULES - 2023/24

### 1. Name / Control of Competition

The following rules shall apply to all the Lancashire FA Cup Competitions, which shall be played annually:

- (1) Amateur Shield
  - (2) Amateur Cup
  - (3) Sunday Trophy
  - (4) Women's Senior Cup
  - (5) Women's Challenge Trophy
  - (6) Veteran's Cup
  - (7) U12 Youth
  - (8) U12 Girls
  - (9) U13 Youth
  - (10) U13 Girls
  - (11) U14 Youth
  - (12) U14 Girls
  - (13) U15 Youth
  - (14) U15 Girls
  - (15) U16 Youth
  - (16) U16 Girls
  - (17) U18 Youth
  - (18) U18 Girls
- (a) The ownership, organisation, control, and management of the Competition and any rights associated with it of any nature shall be vested entirely and exclusively in The Association.
  - (b) The Committee shall have the power to make, delete and amend regulations for the organisation, control, and management of the Competition as it, from time to time, deems expedient (The "Competition Rules").
  - (c) All Clubs participating in the Competition shall be bound by and comply with the Competition Rules.
  - (d) The Committee shall have the power to exercise all powers concerning the Competition and to make decisions on all matters arising out of or concerning the organization, control, and management of the Competition (including as to eligibility and qualification) which shall be final and binding on all participants in the Competition. In relation to these and any other matters not specifically mentioned in the Competition Rules, the Committee shall have the power to take such action, make such decisions, orders, and rulings, and impose such penalties as it deems necessary. Following such procedures as it considers appropriate, decisions shall be final and binding on all participants, subject to Rule 10. In considering such matters, the Committee shall not be bound by any enactment or Rule of Law relating to the admissibility of evidence in proceeding before a Court of Law.
  - (e) The Committee shall have the power to appoint a Sub-Committee, such as a Football Advisory Board (FAB) to exercise the powers of The Committee to expedite decisions to ensure the progress of the Competition.
  - (f) Subject to applicable FIFA, UEFA and FA rules or regulations, Clubs may enter commercial arrangements in relation to matches in the Competition, which do not in any way conflict with the commercial contracts and duties of Clubs. Clubs must indemnify the Association and its Officers, Directors, employees, and authorised representatives from and against any claims for direct or consequential loss or damage by any party to a commercial contract caused or otherwise attributable to any failure or breach by the Club to fully perform or observe to obligations and responsibilities under these provisions.

### 2. Competition Entrance and withdrawal

- (a) A Club wishing to participate in the Competition shall complete the application on the club

portal via the manage competition tab before 1<sup>st</sup> August, prior to the season in which such Club proposes to compete.

- (b) Competing Clubs shall pay the required entrance fee before the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, or will be withdrawn from the competition.
- (c) No entries will be accepted after the 1<sup>st</sup> of August.
- (d) Any Club intending to withdraw from the Competition after the affiliation process will be charged and a fine of £50 will be incurred.
- (e) Failure to comply with rule 2(d) will be dealt with by The Committee, which has the power to compel the offending Club to pay any expenses incurred and take any further action as deemed expedient.
- (f) Failure to provide a satisfactory reason for their withdrawal may mean the Club will not be allowed to play in the Competition in the following season.
- (g) The non-participation fee position will also be reviewed.
- (h) In the Semi-Final and Final Tie, any Club failing to play may be adjudged by the Association to have been guilty of serious misconduct and liable to be dealt with by The Committee

### **3. Eligible Clubs**

- (a) The Competitions are optional for all Clubs affiliated with the Lancashire FA.
- (b) Participation in the Competition shall be open to Clubs whose first affiliation is to the Association, those from other Counties who have entered their own Cup in the first instance, and who are eligible and approved by the Committee.
- (c) The Committee may reject the application of any Club to participate in the Competition at its entire discretion.
- (d) A Club that has been allowed to participate in the Competition may not assign or otherwise transfer the ability/right to participate without the prior written approval of the Committee. A request for transfer must be in writing, setting out the details of the intended transferee and the reason for the transfer. The decision on whether to approve a transfer shall be made by the Committee at its absolute discretion. A transfer shall be granted only on condition that the transferee shall be treated for the purposes of these Competition Rules and the Rules of The Association, as being the same entity as the transferor.
- (e) If a Club is removed from the League in which it is playing, once it has been accepted into the Competition, The Committee has the power to remove the Club from the Competition.
- (f) All Youth Cups shall be competed for annually by clubs that are Full Members, Associate Members, or Youth Members of the Association, and who are members of a registered Full Member, Associate Member, or Youth League only, approved by the Committee.
- (g) The Amateur Shield shall be competed for annually by first affiliated Full Members or Associate Members of Lancashire Football Association, who are members of the West Lancashire Football League, Manchester Football League, or Cheshire Football League and are approved by the Committee. Reserve teams are not permitted to enter the competition.
- (h) The Amateur Cup shall be competed for annually by Full Members or Associate Members of the Association, who are members of an affiliated Saturday League Competition outside of the National League System, approved by the Committee. Reserve teams are permitted.
- (i) The Sunday Trophy shall be competed for annually by Full Members or Associate Members of the Association, who are members of an affiliated Sunday League Competition, approved by the Committee.
- (j) The Women's Senior Cup shall be competed for annually by Full Members, or Associate Members of the Association, who are members of an affiliated Women's Competition in Tier 2 – 5 approved by the Committee.
- (k) The Women's Challenge Cup shall be competed for annually by Full Members or Associate Members of the Association, who are members of an affiliated Women's Competition in Tiers 6 and 7 approved by the Committee. (Reserve teams are permitted).
- (l) The Veteran's Cup shall be competed for annually by Full Members or Associate Members of the Association.

#### 4. Qualification of Players

Only those players who have attained the ages below, as of midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 of the current season will be eligible to participate in the competition.

Age on 31 <sup>st</sup> August of the relevant Playing Season	Age Group	Format	Minimum Pitch Size		Maximum Pitch Size		Required Goal Size (feet)	Ball Size
			Yards	Metres	Yards	Metres		
11	Under 12	9v9	70x40	64 x 36.6	80x50	73.15 x 45.75	16x7	4
	Under 13	11v11	90x50	82.3 x 45.75	100x60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
12	Under 13	11v11	90x50	82.3 x 45.75	100x60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
	Under 14		90x50	82.3 x 45.75	100x60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
13	Under 14	11v11	90x50	82.3 x 45.75	100x60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
	Under 15		90x50	82.3 x 45.75	110x70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5
14	Under 15	11v11	90x50	82.3 x 45.75	110x70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5
	Under 16		90x50	82.3 x 45.75	110x70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5
15	Under 16	11v11	90x50	82.3 x 45.75	110x70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5
	Under 17		100x50	91.44 x 45.75	130x100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5
	Under 18		100x50	91.44 x 45.75	130x100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5
16	Under 17	11v11	100x50	91.44 x 45.75	130x100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5
	Under 18		100x50	91.44 x 45.75	130x100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5
	Open Age		100x50	91.44 x 45.75	130x100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5

- (a) No player under a written contract, including Centre of Excellence or Academy players, shall be eligible to compete in all youth cups.
- (b) A club may name 7 substitutes, and these may roll on / roll off an unlimited number of times in all youth cup matches.
- (c) A substitution can only be made when play is stopped, and when the Referee has given permission.
- (d) Substitutions must be carried out following Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.
- (e) All Players shall be qualified as Players according to the Rules of the Association
- (f) A Player shall not play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same season.
- (g) A Player who has been suspended according to the disciplinary procedures under the Rules of The Association may play in a postponed or replayed match after the term of his/her suspension has expired.
- (h) A Substitute who does not play in a match is entitled to play for another Club in the Competition in the same season, subject to being transferred as per the procedure.
- (i) All issues relating to the qualification of Players' interpretation of the rules or other matters in dispute shall be referred to The Committee.
- (j) The Players shall be duly qualified according to the Rules of the Association.
- (k) If the Committee has any doubts regarding the qualification of a player taking part in the Competition, it shall have the power to call upon such player or his/her Club to prove his/her eligibility according to these rules.
- (l) The names of all Players taking part in any game, including Substitutes and Technical Area occupants must be detailed on the Team sheet and submitted via FA Fulltime within 4 days of the fixture.
- (m) Any Club found to have played an ineligible Player shall be fined up to £100 and expelled from the Competition.
- (n) Clubs must produce/download a squad list from the Club Portal before kick-off and exchange it with the opposition. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine of £30.

- (o) In The Amateur Shield and the Women's Senior Cup, a Club may at its discretion use five from seven nominated Substitute Players at any time in a match. A substitution can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission. A maximum of seven Substitutes may be nominated and they must be included on the Official Team Sheet handed to the Referee before the match.
- (p) In The Amateur Cup, Sunday Trophy, Women's Challenge Cup, Veteran's Cup a Club may roll on/roll off substitutes at any time in a match. A substitution can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission. The club may name 5 substitutes, and these may roll on / roll off an unlimited number of times at any time subject to the substitution being carried out following Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.
- (q) All Players shall be qualified as Players according to the Rules of the Association.
- (r) A Player shall not play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same season.
- (s) Each Club shall provide a team sheet of Players taking part in the game (including the names of Substitutes) to the Referee.
- (t) In The Amateur Shield, Amateur Cup, Sunday Trophy and Veteran's Cup in matches up to and including the Quarter-Final, these shall be presented the Referee at least 15 minutes before kick-off. Any Club failing to do so will be liable to a fine of £15.
- (u) In the Semi-Final and Final ties of The Amateur Shield, Amateur Cup, Sunday Trophy and The Veterans' Cup, these shall be presented to the Referee at least 45 minutes before kick-off. Any Club failing to do so will be liable to a fine of £15.
- (v) In the Women's Senior Cup and The Women's Challenge Cup, in matches up to and including the Semi-Final, these shall be presented at least 15 minutes before kick-off. Any Club failing to do so will be liable to a fine of £15.
- (w) In The Women's Senior Cup and The Women's Challenge Cup Final ties, these shall be presented at least 45 minutes before kick-off. Any Club failing to do so will be liable to a fine of £15.
- (x) Should any nominated Player or Substitute sustain an injury after the submission of the Official Team Sheet to the Referee and before the kick-off, they may be replaced, provided the Referee and opponents are informed before the commencement of the match.
- (y) In all rounds of the Competition, a "registered Player" is one who is registered on the Club Portal with the League in which their Club's first team competes in the current season. Any such registration must have been received and accepted by the League by 12 noon on the Friday prior to the date fixed for playing the round and the registration must be continuous through to the date of the match.
- (z) Unless dispensation has been given, to be eligible for the Semi-Final and Final, the Players must have been correctly registered and eligible for their Quarter Final round of the Competition.
- (aa) A player who was not eligible for a tie that was postponed but is then registered in time for the revised date, will be eligible providing that all other criteria are met.
- (bb) Any Club found to have played an ineligible Player shall be fined up to £100 and expelled from the Competition.
- (cc) In the Amateur Shield, Amateur Cup, and Sunday Trophy, no Player under a written contract, including Centre of Excellence or Academy Players, shall be eligible to compete.
- (dd) In the Women's Senior Cup and Women's Challenge Cup, Players under written contract may compete, providing they are registered to the Club that they are representing in this Competition.

## **5. The Draw for Rounds**

- (a) The Teams shall be drawn in individual ties.
- (b) The winner of each tie will proceed to the next round, until two Clubs remain to play the Final Tie.
- (c) The Association will communicate details of each tie to be played throughout the Competition.
- (d) They will also indicate the closing date for each round, which must be observed.
- (e) In each tie, the game shall be played on the ground of the Club first drawn, unless otherwise mutually arranged within 7 days, and the consent of The Committee obtained, subject as hereafter provided. Failure to comply with this requirement shall incur a fine of £10.
- (f) Any Club refusing or failing to play the Club against which it has been drawn upon the date fixed for the tie to be played shall unless otherwise decided by the committee.

## 6. Venue for Matches:

- (a) The Club first drawn shall be entitled to have the match played on its home ground, providing it meets the requirements of the Competition Rules. Such a match shall be played on that ground unless the consent of the Committee has been obtained for any change of venue.
- (b) No monetary or other considerations shall be asked for, offered, or paid in connection with negotiations for a change of venue.
- (c) A match shall not be played on neutral ground without the consent of the Committee.
- (d) The Committee shall have the power to order that any match be played on an alternative ground or date if it is considered appropriate and necessary.
- (e) No other activity must be played on the day of the match on the same pitch to be used for the match unless otherwise authorised by the committee.
- (f) All matches shall be played on either a natural grass or a 3G surface which is listed on the FA approved ([Pitch Register](#)).
- (g) If 3G facilities are to be used, they must be booked for a minimum of the match length plus 30 minutes. This will allow time for warmups/cooldowns and penalties should the match result in a tie. For matches up to and including the Semi-Finals, the grounds of all Clubs whose entry is received and accepted for the Competition shall be accepted as meeting the requirements.

### **\*\*All Youth Competition (Venue for matches) \*\***

The dimensions of the field of play for all matches shall be compliant with the Laws of the Game, or the Football Association's recommendations on pitch sizes.

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Max Length</u>	<u>Min Length</u>	<u>Max Width</u>	<u>Min Width</u>
U12 Boys	80yds / 73.15m	70yds / 64m	50yds / 45.75m	40yds / 36.6m
U12 Girls	80yds / 73.15m	70yds / 64m	50yds / 45.75m	40yds / 36.6m
U13 Boys	100yds / 91.44m	90yds / 82.3m	60yds / 54.9m	50yds / 45.75m
U13 Girls	80yds / 73.15m	70yds / 64m	50yds / 45.75m	40yds / 36.6m
U14 Boys	100yds / 91.44m	90yds / 82.3m	60yds / 54.9m	50yds / 45.75m
U14 Girls	80yds / 73.15m	70yds / 64m	50yds / 45.75m	40yds / 36.6m
U15 Boys	110yds / 100.58m	90yds / 82.3m	70yds / 64m	50yds / 45.75m
U15 Girls	110yds / 100.58m	90yds / 82.3m	70yds / 64m	50yds / 45.75m
U16 Boys	110yds / 100.58m	90yds / 82.3m	70yds / 64m	50yds / 45.75m
U16 Girls	110yds / 100.58m	90yds / 82.3m	70yds / 64m	50yds / 45.75m
U18 Boys	130yds / 118.87m	100yds / 91.44m	100yds / 91.44m	50yds / 45.75m
U18 Girls	130yds / 118.87m	100yds / 91.44m	100yds / 91.44m	50yds / 45.75m

- (h) The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.
- (i) Goal nets must be used in all matches and shall be provided by the Home Club
- (j) A Club may protest to the Committee that the ground of the home club is unsuitable for the match. Such protest must be made in writing to the Committee within four days of the draw and must be accompanied by a fee of £25, which shall be forfeited if the protest is not sustained.
- (k) The Committee shall have the power to consider the protest in such a manner and follow such procedures as it considers appropriate. The Committee may amongst other things order the match to be played on the ground of the protesting Club, or on a neutral ground. The payment of the costs incurred by both Club and The Association incidental to the protest shall be at the discretion of the Committee.
- (l) Each Club must take every precaution to ensure that its ground is in a fit playing condition.
- (m) In the event of any doubt as to the condition of the pitch, the match Referee, or a local registered Referee should examine the ground and decide as to its fitness for play in sufficient time to save the expense of unnecessary journeys being made.
- (n) Subject to this rule, the Referees shall have the power to decide the fitness of the ground in all matches. The referee shall have the power to abandon or postpone the match if they believe the weather conditions are detrimental to the welfare of the participants. Failure to comply with this requirement shall incur a fine of £40. Unless blanket coverage of pitches (council or school pitches-proof will be required) Payment will be paid to the Referee should the game not go

ahead of half fee and mileage as per Rule 12(e).

- (o) The Referee must report to the ground 45 minutes before the time of kick-off. If necessary, the Home Club or The Association may, by notice, require the Referee to visit the ground more than 60 minutes before the time of kick-off any time during the season.
- (p) Except in instances where Local Authorities, Schools, Colleges, or privately owned pitches declare a blanket postponement for pitches that they control, all grounds must be inspected by a registered Referee before a match is postponed. Failure to have the pitch inspected by a registered Referee before postponing a game shall result in the matter being referred to the Committee, who may adjudge the home side to have lost the tie and impose a fine of £50.
- (q) In the event of a match being postponed, the Home Club must notify the Match Official and their opponents immediately and update the postponement on FA Fulltime within 12 hours of the tie being postponed.
- (r) Failure to comply with this rule may result in a fine of £10 being imposed.

**\*\*All Adult competitions (Venues for Matches) \*\***

- (a) The dimensions of the field of play for all matches shall be as follows:

Maximum length:	130 yards (120 meters)
Minimum length:	100 yards (90 meters)
Maximum width:	100 yards (90 meters)
Minimum width:	50 yards (45 meters)

- (b) Goal nets and corner flags to be used in all ties.
- (c) Separate toilets must be provided for changing rooms used by the Players and Match Officials, which are not available for spectator use.
- (d) Clubs failing to provide any of the above facilities may be removed from the Competition and fined £50.
- (e) If the ground of the home Club is considered unsuitable for the tie, having regard to all the circumstances, the opposing Club may appeal to the Association within 3 days of the receipt of the draw. Such an appeal is to be accompanied by a fee of £25, which may be forfeited if the appeal is not sustained. The Committee will make its decision, which shall be binding to both parties.
- (f) Each Club must take every precaution to keep its pitch in a good playing condition.
- (g) Where there is doubt relating to the fitness of the pitch for play, then a qualified Referee must be brought in to decide on the fitness of the ground, no later than 2 hours before the advertised kick-off time.
- (h) Where there is doubt, Clubs are asked to arrange an early inspection to prevent unnecessary travel.
- (i) Any Club refusing or failing to play against the Club which it has been drawn shall, unless otherwise decided by The Committee will be adjudged to have lost the match and will be fined £50.
- (j) The Club first drawn must communicate with the opposing Club to notify the location of the ground and other match details and notify The Association of its receipt within seven days of the advertised date of the tie. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine of £10 being imposed.

**7. Duration of Matches**

- (a) Kick-off times for matches in the Amateur Shield & Amateur Cup Competitions up to and including the Quarterfinals shall be 2.00 pm or earlier if mutually agreed by both Clubs.
- (b) Kick-off times for matches in the Sunday Trophy, Women's Senior Cup, and Women's Challenge Cup competitions can vary between 10.30 am – 1.30 pm as determined by the Home Clubs' normal League match time or unless mutually agreed by both Clubs. The duration of each match shall be 90 minutes, except in cases provided for in these Competition Rules. The Referee shall allow for time wasted or lost through injury or other causes. The Referee is the sole judge of allowance of time whether lost through accident or other cause and his decision on this matter is not subject to appeal.

- (c) Kick-off time for matches in the Veterans Cup is to be determined by both clubs that mutually agree and inform the association within 7 working days of the tie. The duration of these ties will be 40 mins each way.
- (d) The half-time interval shall be up to 15 minutes in all games.
- (e) Clubs may prior to the kick-off mutually agree to play less than 45 minutes each way, but not less than 35 minutes each way shall be played.
- (f) Any Club being reported for a late kick-off will be dealt with by the Committee. If a Club is found guilty of such misconduct, they will be fined a minimum of £10 and up to a maximum of £25 as determined by the Committee.

### **\*\*Youth\*\***

- (a) Youth Kick off times can vary between 10.30 am – 1.30 pm, as determined by the Home Club normal League match time unless:
  - i. Both Clubs mutually agree on a different kick-off time which MUST be confirmed to the County FA no later than 7 days prior to your fixture. Any Club failing to fulfil this rule shall be dealt with by the Committee or
  - ii. The Away Club faces a round traveling distance of more than 140 miles.
  - iii. In this case, in the event both Clubs are unable to agree to a mutual kick-off time, this shall be determined by the Association.
- (b) The duration of each match shall be as listed below, except in cases provided for in these Competition Rules.
- (c) The Referee is the sole judge of allowance of time, whether lost through accident or other cause and his/her decision on this matter is not subject to appeal.

<b><u>Age Group</u></b>	<b><u>Duration</u></b>
U12 Boys & Girls	60 minutes in two equal halves of 30 minutes
U13/U14 Boys & Girls	70 minutes in two equal halves of 35 minutes
U15/U16 Boys & Girls	80 minutes in two equal halves of 40 minutes
U18 Boys & Girls	90 minutes in two equal halves of 45 minute

- (d) The half-time interval shall be up to 15 minutes in all games.
- (e) In the event of inclement weather and provided that the Referee is notified prior to the commencement of the tie, Clubs may prior to the kick-off mutually agree to play less than the time stated in rule 10 (b).
- (f) The minimum time of games for each age group is as follows:

<b><u>Age Group</u></b>	<b><u>Duration</u></b>
U12 Boys	50 minutes in two equal halves of 25 minutes
U13/U14 Boys & Girls	50 minutes in two equal halves of 25 minutes
U15/U16 Boys & Girls	70 minutes in two equal halves of 35 minutes
U18 Boys & Girls	70 minutes in two equal halves of 35 minutes

- (g) Any Club being reported for a late kick-off will be dealt with by the Committee.
- (h) If a Club is found guilty of such misconduct, they will be fined a minimum of £10 and up to a maximum of £25 as determined by the Committee.

### **8. Provisions for the Semi-Finals**

- (a) The First drawn club shall have a home advantage in the Semi-Finals.
- (b) When a Semi-Final has resulted in a draw at full time, the winners shall be determined by the taking of penalty kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the procedures adopted by The International Football Association Board.



- (c) When a match has been postponed or is abandoned before full time and neither Club is at fault, it shall be played on the chosen ground of the first drawn Club on the following Sunday (Saturday for the Amateur Cup and Amateur Shield)
- (d) Matches abandoned through the fault of the Clubs shall be dealt with by the Committee.
- (e) The Committee shall have the power to vary these arrangements if it is deemed necessary.
- (f) For the Amateur Shield, Amateur Cup, and Sunday Trophy, the venue staging a Semi-Final shall be agreed upon by the committee.
- (g) Adult Clubs shall be required to provide 3 match balls each to the match referee.

#### **9. Provisions for Finals**

- (a) The Association shall fix the ground for the Final and shall have direct control of the arrangements.
- (b) When the Final has resulted in a draw at full time, the winners shall be determined by the taking of penalty kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the procedures adopted by The International Football Association Board and shall be in the A, B, A, B format.
- (c) If the Final is postponed or abandoned, it shall be played as directed by the Committee.
- (d) At least seven days prior to the Final Tie, the secretaries of both competing Clubs must forward to the Association Secretary a list of Players from which the team will be selected, and the colour in which they play. Failure to do so will result in a £15 fine being imposed.

#### **10. Provisions Concerning Protests**

- (a) All issues relating to the interpretation of the Competition Rules shall be referred to the Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding. The Committee shall consider any such matter in such manner and following such procedures as it considers appropriate. The Committee shall not be bound by any enactment or Rule of Law relating to the admissibility of evidence in proceedings before a Court of Law.
- (b) Where a Club wishes to protest that there has been a breach of the Competition Rules by their opponents, such protest must be made in writing and must contain the particulars of the grounds upon which the protest is made. The protest must be received by The Association accompanied by a fee of £25, within 4 days after the playing of the match to which it relates (Sundays not included). The fee shall be forfeited to The Association in the event of the protest not being sustained. No appeal will be accepted against decisions made (pre, during, or post-match) by the Referee.
- (c) The Committee may make such orders as it considers appropriate in relation to any issue or protest referred to it. The Committee may make such orders as it considers appropriate as to the costs incurred by the parties or The Association.
- (d) Any protest relating to the ground, goal posts or bars, or other appurtenances of the game shall not be considered by the Committee unless an objection has been lodged with the Referee and the Home Club at least 30 minutes before the official time of the kick-off. The Referee shall require the Home Club to correct the cause of the objection if this is possible without unduly delaying the progress of the match.
- (e) Where an objection has been lodged with the Referee and Home Club as above, a protest must be made to The Association and neither objection nor protest may be withdrawn, except by leave of the Committee.
- (f) Members of the Committee directly connected with a Club concerned in a protest shall not have any involvement in the consideration of the matter.
- (g) A Club, Player, or any person directly connected with the management of the Club may be summoned to attend a hearing of a protest. A Club may be represented by one or more people. A Barrister or Solicitor may represent a Club only with the prior written consent of the Committee. Any person summoned to attend a hearing of a protest must attend personally and shall not be legally represented except with the prior written consent of the Committee.
- (h) Should The Committee subsequently discover that any rule or has, in its opinion, been violated by mutual agreement between the Clubs or others it shall be in its power to disqualify any such Club from further competing in ties or to order the match or match to be replayed without any formal protest having been submitted. Clubs may also be disqualified from future participation in

- competitions.
- (i) Should The Committee subsequently discover that any rule or has, in its opinion, been violated by mutual agreement between the Clubs or others it shall be in its power to disqualify any such Club from further competing in ties or to order the match or matchesto be replayed without any formal protest having been submitted. Clubs may also be disqualified from future participation in competitions.
  - (j) All fines must be paid within 14 days of date of issue, or the Club may be suspendedfrom all football.

#### **11. Provisions Concerning Appeals**

- (a) A Club may appeal against expulsion from the competition imposed on it by the Committee.
- (b) An Appeal Board shall comprise three members of the Council, selected by the Chair of the Discipline Committee, or his/her nominee. Any such appeal shall only be permitted on one or more of the following grounds:
  - (I) The Committee or Sub-committee appointed to consider the charge misinterpreted/failed to comply with the procedures relevant to the hearing of the charge.
  - (ii) The Committee or Sub-committee appointed to consider the Charge came to a decision on the facts of the case which no reasonable body could have reached.
  - (iii) The Committee or Sub-committee appointed to consider the Charge imposed a sanction that is excessive.
- (c) Any appeal must be made in writing within four days (Sundays excluded) of the Club being notified of the decision of the Committee, and accompanied by a fee of £25, which shall be forfeited in the event of the appeal being dismissed.
- (d) Once in receipt of the appeal, the Association shall arrange for a hearing to be held within five days (Sundays excepted) of its receipt. The decision of this hearing shall be final and binding on all parties and shall have no bearing on any other matters, including those of any disciplinary hearing.

#### **12. Provisions concerning Match Officials**

- (a) In all matches the Referee shall be appointed by the Association.
- (b) A Fourth Official will be appointed for all Final Ties.
- (c) In the event of the official Referee failing to attend, both Clubs must agree to a registered Referee, who may be connected to one of the competing Clubs, officiating. If there is no registered Referee in attendance, then both Clubs must agree to another person officiating. If the Clubs cannot agree on a match Referee, then the Home Clubs nominee must take charge of the game. If the game fails to go ahead, the matter will be referred to the Committee for their consideration.
- (d) The Match Officials' fee and travel Expenses shall be split between both clubs.

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Referee</i>	<i>Assistant Referee</i>	<i>4<sup>th</sup> Official</i>	<i>Travel Expenses</i>
U12 Boys & Girls 9v9, U13 Girls	£25	£20	£18	£0.40ppm
U13-U16 Boys & U14-U16 Girls	£35	£25	£20	£0.40ppm
U18 Boys & Girls	£37	£28	£23	£0.40ppm
Amateur Shield	£45	£35	£25	£0.40ppm
Amateur Cup, Sunday Trophy, Veteran's Cup & Women's Challenge Cup	£40	£32	£25	£0.40ppm
Women's Senior Cup	£45	£35	£25	£0.40ppm

- (e) Match Officials shall be entitled to the following fees:
- (f) It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure the Match Official receives payment.
- (g) For the Final, the Association will be responsible for paying all the match officials' fees & expenses.

- (h) Match Officials are entitled to their traveling expenses if incurred, and half their fees if the match to which they were appointed is not played.
- (i) Match Officials shall acknowledge acceptance of appointments for all matches in the Competition to The Association.
- (j) The Home Club must notify the appointed Match Officials of the precise details of the match, specifically the name and location of, and directions to the ground and the kick-off time, this information is to be received by the Match Official not later than 7 pm on the Wednesday prior to the date of the match. Failure to comply will result in the Home Club being fined up to a maximum of £20. Referees must immediately, upon receipt of the draw, acknowledge receipt to the Association.
- (k) The duties of the Match Officials shall be as defined in the Laws of the Game. This also includes the use of Temporary Dismissals (Sin Bins)
- (l) If, by Thursday 5 pm prior to the scheduled tie, the appointed Referee is not available, it is the responsibility of the Home Club to contact their League Referees Appointment Officer who will appoint a replacement Referee for that tie up to and including any Quarter Final for youth fixtures. For Adult Ties (AM Cup, Amateur Shield, Womens Challenge Cup, Sunday Trophy, Veterans Cup ) If, by Thursday 5 pm prior to the scheduled tie, the appointed Referee is not available, it is the responsibility of the Home Club to contact their League Referees Appointment Officer who will appoint a replacement Referee for ties up to and including the 4th round (except the Women's Senior Cup) In all Adult and youth matches up to and including Quarter Final, Clubs must provide an Assistant Referee, whose duties will be determined by the match official on the day. Failure to do so will result in a £25 fine. In addition, the Match Official at their discretion may request both Club Assistant Referees give offside as one of their duties. For U12 (9v9) and any U13 (9v9) ties, In all matches up to and including the semi-Final, Clubs must provide an Assistant Referee, whose duties will be determined by the match official on the day. Failure to do so will result in a £25 fine. In addition, the Match Official at their discretion may request both Club Assistant Referees give offside as one of their duties.
- (m) Match Officials may wear coloured shirts in this Competition in accordance with the following provisions:
  - i. Black shirts shall be worn wherever possible.
  - ii. There will be no designated colour for the alternative shirt. However, it shall not clash with the Team's colours.
  - iii. With Teams unable to wear black or dark colours, when there are instances of a colour clash, the Referee must revert to their black shirt.
  - iv. When Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials are appointed, all the Officials must wear the same-coloured shirt.
  - v. Officials must always wear black shorts and socks.

### **13. Team Colours**

- (a) Where the colours of the two competing Clubs are similar, the away Club must change, unless alternative arrangements are mutually agreed by the competing Clubs.
- (b) Team colours must not clash with the Match Officials.
- (c) In the event of Clubs not agreeing on the colours to be worn by their respective teams The Committee shall decide who must change.
- (d) Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from all other players and the Match Officials.
- (e) Duplication of shirt numbers/numbering is not permitted.
- (f) Player's shirts must be clearly numbered and be in accordance with the team sheet that has been submitted to full-time.
- (g) There must be no change of numbers during the match except on a change of Goalkeeper or where a Player has been required by the Referee to change his shirt because of a blood injury.
- (h) The captain shall wear a distinguishing armband to indicate his status.
- (i) Advertising may be worn on the Player's clothing in accordance with the Rules of The Football Association.

#### **14. Submitting Match Results**

- (a) Team sheets must be completed and handed to the referee prior to the game for their reference only, not for reporting results.
- (b) Results must be reported via FA full-time to within 12 hours of the completion of the tie.
- (c) Failure to comply with this rule may result in a £20 fine being imposed.
- (d) Team sheets listing players who played in the match and goal scorers must be submitted within 2 working days on FA full-time.
- (e) Failure to submit these details will incur a fine of £20.
- (f) Where the home team is requested to complete a safeguard risk assessment, the form provided must be returned to the Safeguard Officer at [Safeguarding@LancashireFA.com](mailto:Safeguarding@LancashireFA.com) within 4 working days of the fixture being completed. Failure to submit this risk assessment, where required, may result in a fine of up to £100.

#### **15. Medals and Trophies**

- (a) The Association shall present 20 souvenir medals to playing staff and officials of both competing teams in the Final.
- (b) Medals will also be presented to the Match Officials.
- (c) When a Player or Club Official taking part is dismissed or ordered to leave the field of play for misconduct, the medal to which they may be entitled may be withheld at the discretion of the Adult Competitions Committee.
- (d) All the Youth Trophies are the property of the Lancashire Football Association.
- (e) The Amateur Shield, Amateur Cup, Sunday Trophy, The Women's Senior Cup, and The Womens Challenge Cup are the property of the Lancashire Football Association.
- (f) When the winning Club shall have been ascertained, the Association shall present the Cup (All youth cups, Amateur Cup, Amateur Shield, and Sunday Trophy) to the representatives of such Club, upon receipt of a document to the following effect and subscribed by three persons whose names shall be previously submitted to and approved by the Committee:

*"We AB, CD, and EF members of the ( ) Club and representing the ( ) Club, which has now been declared to have won the Lancashire Football Association (insert competition name) and the same having been delivered to us by the said Association, do hereby on behalf of the said Club, and individually and collectively engage to return the Cup to the Secretary of the Association, on or before 28th January of the next calendar year, in good order and condition and that should the said Cup be destroyed or damaged by fire or by other cause, or lost whilst, under our care, we agree to refund the Association the amount of its original value or the cost of thorough repair."*

- (g) It shall be returned clean, undamaged and in good condition and failure to return by the required date will result in a fine of £50.

#### **16. Football and Religious Observance**

- (a) A Participant cannot be compelled to play football on bona fide occasions where religious observance precludes such activity, save where the Participant:
  - i. B29.1 has consented to do so on such occasions, or
  - ii. B29.2 is registered as a Player under written contract, which shall be taken as consent to play on such occasions unless otherwise provided for in the contract.
  - iii. B29.3 Annually, when planning programs, Competitions shall define and notify agreed dates of such occasions.

#### **17. First Aid**

It is the responsibility of the Home or Host Club to ensure that First Aid equipment and a suitably qualified person to administer First Aid is available.



**18. Notices**

All notices required to be given to The Association by any of these Competition Rules shall be addressed to The Chief Executive, Lancashire FA, The County Ground, Thurston Road, Leyland PR25 2LF.

**19. Other Matters**

In any matter not specifically mentioned in these Rules, the Football Services Committee shall have the powers to take such action and impose such penalties necessary, and all such decisions shall be final.