

Lancashire Football Association Senior Cup Competition Rules

1. Name of the Competition

The Competition shall be called “The Lancashire Football Association Senior Cup Competition.”

2. Cup Ownership

- a. The Competition Cup is the property of the Association.
- b. The Cup cannot be won outright.
- c. The Competition shall be annual unless otherwise specified by the County Cup Forum.
- d. The Association shall present the Cup to the winning Club, which must return it to the Association before leaving the facility the same evening.
- e. A replica Cup shall be presented to the winning Club as a keepsake.

3. Medals

- a. The Association shall present 20 souvenir medals to each of the competing finalists.
- b. Match Officials shall also receive medals.
- c. Any player or official dismissed for misconduct may have their medal withheld at the discretion of the County Cup Forum/Sub-County Cup Forum (County Cup Forum).

4. Control of the Competition

- a. All rights, ownership, organisation, and control rest with the Association.
- b. The County Cup Forum may amend rules as necessary.
- c. All participating Clubs must comply with the Competition rules.
- d. The County Cup Forum's decisions are final and binding. It is not bound by standard legal evidentiary rules.
- f. Clubs may enter commercial arrangements if they don't conflict with the Association's rights. Clubs are liable for any contractual breaches.

5. Eligible Clubs

- a. Only Clubs whose First Affiliation is to the Association and are approved by the County Cup Forum may participate.
- b. Applications may be rejected at the County Cup Forum's discretion.
- c. Non-participating Clubs must pay a fee, as invoiced.
- d. Clubs removed from their League may be removed from the Competition.
- e. Eligible Clubs include Full Members of the Premier League and English Football League, who are affiliated to Lancashire FA and approved by the County Cup Forum.

6. Entry Dates and Fees

- a. Clubs must enter by 1st August.
- b. Clubs must be affiliated by the 7th August
- c. Entry fees must also be paid within 7 days of issue.

7. Organisation of the Competition

- a. The Competition is a knock-out format.
- b. Only First Affiliation Members may participate.

8. Draw for Rounds

- a. Ties will be drawn individually.
- b. Winners proceed to the next round until the Final.
- c. The Association will communicate fixture details.
- d. Each round will have a closing date.
- e. Matches are to be played at the ground of the first-named Club unless otherwise agreed and approved.

9. Venue for Matches

- a. Clubs without suitable enclosed grounds must play at the opponent's ground.
- b. No compensation may be offered for venue changes.
- c. Neutral grounds require County Cup Forum approval.

- d. The County Cup Forum may alter the ground/date as needed.
- f. Proper changing, washing, and toilet facilities are mandatory.
- g. Unsuitable grounds may be appealed within three days, accompanied by a £25 fee.
- h. Grounds must be kept in good condition.
- i. Early inspections should be arranged where pitch conditions are in doubt.
- j. Replay costs from tie default are borne by the defaulting Club.
- k. Admission fees are permitted; the County Cup Forum sets Final Tie pricing.
- l. Goal nets and corner flags are mandatory.
- m. The home Club must notify the opposition and Association of match details at least seven days prior.

10. Club Colours

- a. The away Club must change if colours clash unless otherwise agreed.
- b. Black & predominantly black kits are not permitted – a copy of the kit must be submitted to the County FA before the competition commences.
- c. The County Cup Forum decides if Clubs can't agree on kit colours.
- d. Goalkeepers must wear distinct colours.
- e. Duplicate shirt numbers are not allowed.
- f. Numbers must match the team sheet.
- g. Shirt number changes are allowed only for goalkeepers or blood injuries.
- h. The captains must wear armbands.
- i. Kit advertising must comply with FA rules.

11. Duration of Matches

- a. Matches are 90 minutes (2x45).
- b. Half-time not to exceed 15 minutes.
- c. No extra time—proceed directly to penalties if drawn.
- d. Late kick-offs must be reported within 48 hours.

12. Provisions for Playing Matches

- a. Clubs may not mutually agree to play a friendly instead of a Cup tie.
- b. Drawn matches go to penalties.
- c. Postponed ties must be replayed at the original venue unless agreed otherwise.
- d. Abandoned games must be replayed unless misconduct is involved.
- e. Uncompleted ties must be resolved within 14 days or at an alternative venue.
- f. Failure to fulfil a fixture will result in a £50 fine.
- g. Repeated failure may result in expulsion.
- h. All games must be played by the 31st July in the current playing season, otherwise the County Cup Forum will decide on the outcome.

13. Reporting Results

- a. Results must be emailed to Andrea.Gratton@LancashireFA.com or submitted to FA Full-Time within 12 hours.
- b. Team sheets must be submitted within two working days of the fixture.
- c. Fines: £15 for late results; £15 for late team sheets.

14. Final Tie Provisions

- a. The County Cup Forum selects the Final venue.
- b. Postponed/abandoned Finals will be replayed.
- c. Player list and kit colours must be submitted 7 days prior.
- d. Clubs must settle all accounts within 14 days.
- e. All finals must be played by 31st May in each year

15. Withdrawal from the Competition

- a. Teams that withdraw before the first-round draw will not be subject to a fine. No fine will be imposed on teams that fold during the season.
- b. Withdrawal after the first-round draw will incur a £50 fine.

- c. Further penalties and next-season disqualification may apply.
- d. Additional expenses may also be charged.
- e. Non-compliant Clubs may be barred next season.
- f. The FA non-participation fee will be applied.
- g. Semi-Final/Final withdrawals may constitute serious misconduct.

16. Qualification of Players

- a. All eligibility matters are under County Cup Forum control.
- b. Players must be Association-qualified.
- c. Best available team rule applies unless waived by both clubs.
- d. Players can only represent one Club per season.
- e. Players must be registered before playing.
- f. The County Cup Forum can require proof of eligibility.
- g. Penalty for ineligible players: replay, disqualification, and/or £100 fine.
- h. Trialists and loan players allowed.
- i. Full team sheet (including substitutes and staff) must be emailed within 4 days.
- j. Up to five substitutions are permitted.
- k. Seven substitutes may be named.
- l. Players registered before a replay are eligible.
- m. Offending Clubs may be expelled and fined up to £100.

17. Disqualification

Breaches of rules may result in disqualification. The County Cup Forum's decision is final.

18. Match Officials

- a. All officials are appointed by the Association.
- b. Fourth Officials for all ties.

- c. Failing officials may be replaced by mutual agreement.
- d. Substitutes assume full authority.
- e. Fees paid by the Home Club:
 - Referee: £120
 - Assistants: £70
 - Fourth Official: £45
 - Travel: £0.40/mile
- f. Midweek afternoon games: £25 extra.
- g. If game not played: half fee + travel.
- h. Officials must confirm appointments and arrangements.
- i. Referees may wear coloured kits, but black is preferred.
- j. No clashes with team colours allowed.
- k. When the referee initiates "Captain Only", only one player from each team – usually the captain – is allowed to approach the referee and, when doing so, they must always interact respectfully.

19. Protests

- a. The County Cup Forum handles all disputes; its decisions are final.
- b. Protests must be submitted in writing with £25 fee within 7 days.
- c. County Cup Forum may rule on costs.
- d. Objections to ground/facilities must be made before kick-off.
- e. Eligibility protests must include evidence.
- f. Protests lodged must be followed through.
- g. Legal representation requires consent.
- h. Mutual violations may result in disqualification without protest.

20. Appeals

- a. Appeals against expulsion may be made in writing within 4 days.

- b. An independent Appeal Board of 3 will hear the case.
- c. Appeal grounds include:
 - Misinterpretation of procedures
 - Unreasonable decisions
 - Excessive sanctions
- d. Appeals must include a £25 fee.
- e. Timelines for hearing: 4 days for response, 5 days for hearing.
- f. Decision is final and does not affect separate disciplinary actions.

21. First Aid

The Home/Host Club is responsible for providing: First Aid kit, stretcher, and qualified First Aid personnel.

22. Team Benches

- a. Max 12 in the technical area unless more seats exist.
- b. Only one person may give tactical instructions.
- c. Only listed individuals on the official team sheet are allowed in the technical area.
- d. Misconduct will be reported.
- e. All others must remain seated.
- f. Final instructions for permitted numbers provided in advance.

23. Football and Religious Observance

Participants cannot be compelled to play on religious holidays unless:

- Consent is given
- Player is under contract
- Competition has defined such dates in advance

24. Notices

All notices should be addressed to: Chief Executive, Lancashire FA, The County Ground, Thurston Road, Leyland, PR25 2LF.

25. Other Matters

Any issue not covered in these rules will be decided by the County Cup Forum, whose decision is final.

*****The County Cup Forum is the provision of an independent body to provide decisions on County Cup Rules and County Cup Rule Breaches*****

Fine Tariff Summary

Rules and Fines

Rule	Description	Fine
12g & 12h	Failure to fulfil a tie	£50
13a	Late result submission	£15
13b	Late team sheet submission	£15
16g & m	Ineligible player	Up to £100
17a	Withdrawal before the first-round draw or team folding	No fine