

Rules of the Lincolnshire Football Association Ltd

Junior, Sunday and Women's County Cup Competitions

1. These Competitions shall be called "THE LINCOLNSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION LTD JUNIOR, SUNDAY AND WOMEN'S COUNTY CUP COMPETITIONS", and shall be conducted on the knock-out system. All matches shall be played in accordance with the Rules, Regulations and Byelaws of the Football Association and the Laws of the Game.
2. The Hon Treasurer and Secretary for the time being of the Lincolnshire Football Association Ltd shall be, for all intents and purposes, the legal owners of the Cups in trust for the Association.
3. The Competitions shall be open to all Clubs acceptable to the Cup Committee, and affiliated to the Lincolnshire Football Association Ltd, entering the appropriate competition. The annual subscription for each competing Club: £20.00. All Clubs in the top division of any League must enter the Junior, Sunday and Women's Cup Competitions.
4. The Cups shall not be won outright but shall be competed for annually. The entire control and management of the Competitions shall be vested in the Cup Committee of the Lincolnshire Football Association Ltd whose decisions shall be final. The Cup Committee shall have power, for breach of rule, or other misconduct, to impose fines upon Clubs, to suspend or expel any player or Club from taking part in the Competitions. The Cup Committee shall have power to alter or add to the Rules as they from time to time deem expedient.
5. In the Sunday and Women's Competitions, all matches prior to the Final shall be played on a Sunday. Only in exceptional circumstances will permission be granted to play on any other day. In the semi-finals the playing pitch shall be duly roped off.
6. No individual shall be allowed to play for more than one competing club, but the members of each representative team may be changed during the series of matches. A playing member is one who is a properly registered player of that Club thus making him/her eligible to play in one or other of their respective League Competitions. Players must be registered by 12 Noon on the Friday prior to the date of the game. Only players who are eligible to play in any rounds up to and including the quarter-finals shall be allowed to play in the semi-finals and final. No player shall be allowed to play in more than one Lincolnshire FA County Cup Competition during the same season. (Lincolnshire Intermediate, Youth and Sunday Challenge Competitions excepted.) In the Women's Competition all players must be females. Contract players shall not be eligible to play in any of the competitions.

Any objection to the qualification of any player or substitute of the opposing club shall be made within three days after the match with a protest fee of £50.

7. In cases of postponed matches, only those players shall be allowed to play who were eligible to play on the original date fixed for playing the match. A player who has been suspended may, if otherwise qualified, play in a postponed tie after the term of his/her suspension has expired. Such matches shall be played on the following Saturday or Sunday, unless the Clubs mutually agree to an earlier date, and at once intimate their decision to the Secretary of the Association, or obtain consent of the Cup Committee to another date mutually agreed upon.
8. Any team short of complement at the commencement of the game shall be fined up to a maximum of £20.00 at the discretion of the Cup Committee. Clubs must hand copies of a list of names of players taking part in the game (including the names of nominated substitutes), along with their numbers, to the referee and a representative of their opponents in the presence of the referee at least thirty minutes before the advertised time of kick-off. Any Club failing to carry out these provisions will be fined a sum not exceeding £20.00.
9. In all rounds up to the final the Club drawn first in the ballot shall have choice of ground and the duration of the game being ninety minutes. Half-time interval shall be of ten minutes' duration which may be altered only with the permission of the Referee. If a draw at full time, extra time of fifteen minutes each way will be played, and if still a draw after extra time has been played, then the match shall be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with instructions in the Football Association handbook. The Referee shall allow for time wasted or lost through accident or other cause. 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.

In all matches the Home team shall notify in writing the Visiting club and match official(s) the date of the match, situation of ground, playing colours and time of kick-off not less than seven days prior to the match taking place. Failure to notify, a fine of £20.00 shall be imposed in each case. The visiting team to acknowledge this notification in writing and to give details of the playing colours. In the event of the club colours liable to clash the visiting team shall change.

In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control it shall (subject to the following relevant clauses) be replayed in its entirety on a date and ground to be fixed by the Cup Committee. The Cup Committee shall review all abandoned matches and in cases where it is to the advantage of the Competitions and does no injustice to either Club, shall be empowered to order the score at the time of abandonment to be recorded as the result. In all cases where the Cup Committee is satisfied that the game has been abandoned owing to the conduct of one team or its Club member or members, it shall be empowered to award the game to its opponents and/or take whatever other action is deemed necessary. In cases where a game is abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams or their Club members, the Cup Committee shall take such action as it considers appropriate. The first and second rounds of the Sunday Cup will be drawn on a regional basis.

10. The Cup Committee shall select the ground on which the Final Tie is to be played. The gate money for such match after expenses are paid, go to the funds of the Association, or as the Cup Committee may determine. A sum considered reasonable by the Cup Committee for travelling actually paid by the visiting team or teams may be paid out of the gate receipts for the match providing such match receipts are sufficient to cover such claim(s) and said claim is submitted within fourteen days of playing the match.

11. Referees and Assistant Referees (where applicable) for matches shall be appointed by the LFA Referee Committee. In the event of the non appearance of the appointed referee the clubs shall agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall have the full powers, status, responsibilities and authority of a registered referee.

Referees fees for all matches up to the Final shall be £20.00, Assistant Referees fees for all matches up to the Final shall be £15.00. The Cup Committee shall appoint Assistant Referees in the semi-finals and final. In the Final, Referee, Assistant Referees and Fourth Official shall receive trophies in lieu of fee, and in all games officials shall be allowed travelling expenses of 30p per mile. The competing Clubs shall appoint an Assistant Referee in all rounds prior to the semi-finals. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £20.00.

In the event of a match not being played because of circumstances over which the clubs have no control the match officials, if present, shall be entitled to half fee plus allowed expenses. Where a match is not played owing to one team being in default, that Club shall pay the officials, if they attend at the ground, full fee plus allowed expenses.

12. No Club shall be allowed to withdraw without the consent of the Cup Committee. Any Club failing to play in any tie without showing a good and sufficient cause for such failure to play, may be judged to have been guilty of serious misconduct, and will be fined £100.00.

13. The dimensions of the field of play shall be in accordance with Football Association Laws of the Game. The ground must be marked out by the Home club, and goal nets must be used in all matches.

14. The Secretary of each Club shall send notice of the result to the Secretary of the Lincolnshire Football Association Ltd within three days of the match being played, together with a list of his/her players and substitutes, along with their numbers, taking part, failing which a fine of £20.00 shall be imposed.

15. All Clubs shall take their own receipts and pay their own expenses. The Referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches except where publicly owned pitches are declared unfit by the groundsman, The home club will be responsible for payment of Referee's and Assistant Referees' charges and for those incurred in the preparation of the ground. The visiting team will pay its own travelling expenses.

16. All questions of eligibility, qualification of competitors or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Cup Committee of the Association, whose decisions shall be final. No objection to the arrangement of the ground, or the goalposts, bar and ball shall be entertained by the Cup Committee unless a protest is lodged with the Referee in writing before the commencement of the match, nor shall any reference or protest of whatever kind be entertained by the Cup Committee, unless the Club lodging the protest shall have deposited with the Secretary of the Association a sum of £20.00, which shall be forfeited to the fund of the Association if the protest fails. If the Cup Committee they may also order the protesting Club to pay such sum as they may think necessary towards defraying the expenses of the Club protested against. All protests must be confirmed in writing to the Secretary of the Association within three days after the match. (Sundays not included.) Any club deemed guilty of playing an ineligible players shall be struck out of the competition and fined £50.00.
17. In the Junior Cup kick-off time shall be fixed by the Cup Committee. In the Sunday and Women's Cup the Home team shall fix the time of kick-off clubs are to notify the association of the kick-off time within 3 days of receipt of the draw, failure to notify a fine of £20.00 shall be imposed in each case. The Cup Committee shall fix the date on which the various rounds shall be played. Any team turning out later than the specified time, failing a satisfactory explanation being given, shall be fined £10.00. In the event of any late start preventing the completion of the match, the defaulting Club shall be liable to forfeit the match. Both Clubs and Referees must within three days of playing the match, report to the Association Secretary in writing the time of kick-off, in case of late starts, any shortage in complement of players at the commencement of the game, and in cases of matches not started or not completed, stating the reason.
18. Substitution of Players. In the Junior Cup and Sunday Cup a Club may at its discretion, use three substitute players from the five named to the Referee before the commencement of the match at any time except to replace a player who has been suspended from the game by the Referee. The substitutions can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission. A player who has been selected, appointed or named as a substitute before the start of a match but does not actually play in the game shall not be considered to have been a player in that game within the meaning of Rule 6 of this Competition.
19. In the Women's Cup a club may at its discretion and in accordance with the laws of the game use 5 substitute players in any match who maybe selected from five players, a player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace a player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with law 3 of the laws of association football.

A player who has been selected, appointed or named as a substitute before the start of the match but does not actually play in the game shall not be considered to have been a player in that game.

20. In all matches players' shirts shall be clearly numbered or a fine of £10.00 will be imposed.
21. In the Final the Association shall present trophies to the players, substitutes, and one official of each Club. Due to insurance purposes the County Cup / Trophy will be presented to the winning team, will then be retained by the County Association and memento will be presented in its place which the winning team shall keep.
22. Artificial grass pitches may be used in competitions provided the pitch is listed on the Football Associations register of artificial grass pitches and with the prior consent of the Lincolnshire Football Association. The home club shall notify the opponents and match officials in writing 7 days prior to the date of the match that it is being played on an artificial grass pitch.
23. The home club is responsible for providing suitable dressing room and washing facilities in all matches in these competitions. (The Rule applies to all clubs entering the competitions - including compulsory entries.)