

Rules of the Lincolnshire Football Association Ltd

Intermediate and Youth Cup Competitions

1. These Competitions shall be called "THE LINCOLNSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION LTD INTERMEDIATE AND YOUTH CUP COMPETITION(S)", and shall be conducted on the knock-out system. All matches shall be played and carried out in accordance with the Rules, Regulations and Byelaws of the Football Association, the Laws of the Game and the guidance notes issued. The format for the Under 12 Cup shall be 9 versus 9.
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 or Trophies in trust for the Association.
3. The Competition(s) may be split into age groups at the Cup Committee discretion, each group formed shall play to those parts of the rules applicable to its own age group, and shall play for the appropriate trophy which shall be competed for annually. The Intermediate Cup Competition shall be open to all Clubs affiliated to the Lincolnshire Football Association Ltd and any Club invited by the Association Ltd but play in a recognised affiliated League outside the County boundary. The Youth Cup Competitions shall be open to all clubs which are playing members of any Youth League affiliated to the Lincolnshire Football Association or one affiliated to the Lincolnshire Football Association Ltd but play in a recognised affiliated League outside the County boundary. The entrance fee shall be £10.00 per team in every Competition, and the closing date for entry for each age group shall be decided from time to time by the Cup Committee.
4. The entire control and management of the Competition(s) shall be entirely 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 Competition. The Cup Committee shall have power to alter or add to the Rules as they from time to time deem expedient.
5. In all matches prior to the Final the Home club shall take its own receipts, but will be responsible for payment of Referee's and Assistant Referees' charges and for those incurred in the preparation of the ground. The Visiting club will play its own travelling expenses. In the semi-finals the playing pitch shall be duly roped off.
6. Players must be:
 - (a) Over 10 years of age on 31st August and under 12 years of age on 31st August.
 - (b) Over 12 years of age on 31st August and under 14 years of age on 31st August.
 - (c) Over 14 years of age on 31st August and under 16 years of age on 31st August.

(d) Over 16 years of age on 31st August and under 18 years of age on 31st August.

in the current season to play in their appropriate age group Competition. Contract players, as defined in Football League Rules, are not permitted to play in these competitions. No player with an F.A. Premier League of Football League Academy will be permitted to play in these competitions. A player registered with a Centre of Excellence may only play subject to the Regulations of the Programme for Excellence. A player must be a recognised playing member of their Club at least 7 clear calendar days previous to the time fixed for playing the match. In the case of postponed matches, only those players who were eligible for the first match shall be allowed to play. A player who has been suspended may, if otherwise eligible, play in a postponed tie after the term of their suspension has expired.

No individual shall be allowed to play for more than one competing club but 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 them eligible to play in one or other of their respective League Competitions during the current season. (Subject to Contract, Trainee/Scholarship players or those registered at Academies or Centres of Excellence as above.) 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. 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 £25. No protests will be accepted from any participant after this date. 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 prior to the commencement of the game. Any club failing to carry out these provisions will be fined a sum not exceeding £20.00.

7. Dates for completion of each stage of the Competitions shall be laid down by the Cup Committee, any extension is subject to the approval of the Cup Committee. Matches in the Intermediate and Youth Competitions shall normally be played on Sundays. These may be varied only if both clubs agree. Notice of agreed dates on which matches are to be played must be given to the Secretary of the Association at least fourteen days in advance by both clubs.

Within 3 days of receipt of the draw the home club shall notify both their opponents and Lincolnshire Football Association of the venue, playing colours and kick off time for the match. When match officials have been appointed the home club shall be responsible for ensuring that they are aware of the venue, playing colours for both teams and kick off time. The kick-off time shall be either 10.45am or 13.30pm. Failure to notify the association of the kick-off within 3 days of receipt of the draw the kick-off time shall default to 13.30pm and a fine of £20.00 shall be imposed in all cases. The Visiting team to acknowledge this notification in writing

and to give details of the playing colours. In the event of Club colours liable to clash the Visiting club shall change.

8. The duration of the game shall be ninety minutes for the Intermediate Competition, eighty minutes for the Under-16 Competition, seventy minutes for the Under-14 Competition, and sixty minutes for the Under-12 Competition, but if circumstances demand, a minimum of sixty minutes may be played in all games providing it is agreed in advance by both Clubs and the Referee is informed. 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 ten minutes each way shall be played in the Intermediate, Under-16 and Under-14 Competitions, and five minutes each way in the Under-12 Competition. If still a draw after extra time has been played, the game shall be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with instructions in the Football Association handbook. In all rounds up to the final the Club drawn first in the ballot shall have choice of ground. 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.

The referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches except where privately owned pitches are declared unfit by the groundsmen.

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 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.

9. The Cup Committee shall select the ground on which the Final Tie is to be played. The proceeds shall go to the Youth Account, or as the Cup Committee may determine, after expenses have been paid. A sum considered reasonable by the Cup Committee for travelling expenses 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.
10. Referees for all matches shall be appointed by the LFA Referee Committee. In the event of a non appearance of the appointed referee, the clubs shall agree upon a referee. An individual thus agree upon shall have the full powers, status, responsibilities and authority of a registered referee. Referees' and Assistant Referees' fees (where appointed) shall be: Referees in the Under 18 and Under 16

cup competition in all rounds up to the Final £20.00 and Assistant Referees (where appointed) £15.00; In the Under 14 and Under 12 cup competition in all rounds up to the Final £15.00 and Assistant Referees £10.00. The Cup Committee shall appoint Assistant Referees in all age group Semi-Finals. In the Final the Referee and Assistant Referees shall receive trophies in lieu of fee, and in all games Officials may charge travelling expenses of 30p per mile.

The Cup Committee shall appoint Assistant Referees in the Semi-Finals and Final. The competing clubs shall appoint a competent assistant referee in each of their matches 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 club being in default, that Club shall pay the officials, if they attend at the ground, full fee plus allowed expenses.

11. Any Club prior to the Semi-Finals intending to withdraw must give information in writing to the Secretary of the Association and to their opponents, not less than seven days before the date of the match, or shall be reported to the Cup Committee who shall have the power to compel the offending club to pay the expenses incurred by their opponents, or take such action as they deem expedient. Any club failing to comply with this rule shall be considered guilty of serious misconduct, and shall be dealt with accordingly. No Club shall be allowed to withdraw in the Semi-Finals and/or Final.
12. The Secretary of each Club shall send notice of the result in writing to the Chief Executive of the Association within three days of the match being played, together with a list of his players and substitutes, along with their numbers, taking part, failing which a fine of £20.00 shall be imposed. Each club playing in the Competition shall play its best available team.
13. Any Club failing to play in a match without showing good and sufficient cause for such failure to play may be judged to have been guilty of serious misconduct, and fined £75.00.
14. 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 Youth Account if the protest fails. If the Cup Committee deem fit 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 player shall be struck out of the competition and dealt with as the Cup Committee deems fit.

15. The Home team shall fix the time of kick-off. Any club turning out later than the specified time, failing a satisfactory explanation being given, shall be fined according to the severity of the offence. 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 exact 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.
16. Substitution of Players. A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use 5 substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from 5 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 within the meaning of Rule 6 of this Competition.
17. In all matches players' shirts shall be clearly numbered or a fine of £10.00 will be imposed.
18. 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 then retained by the County Association then a memento presented in its place which the winning shall keep.
19. In the Under-12 and Under-14 Competitions a size 4 football will be used; with the Under-16 and Under-18 Competition using a size 5 football.
20. Artificial grass pitches may be used in competitions provided the pitch is listed on the Football Association register of artificial grass pitches and with the prior consent of the Lincolnshire Football Association. The home club shall notify there opponents and match officials in writing seven days prior to the date of the match that it is being played on an artificial grass pitch.
21. 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.)