



# MANCHESTER FA ADULT CUP RULES 2025-2026



**GREATER  
MANCHESTER  
FOOTBALL**



# GREATER MANCHESTER FOOTBALL

OUR GAME IN MANCHESTER  
>PLAY >VOLUNTEER >COACH >REFEREE

## Manchester FA

### 2025/26 ADULT COMPETITION RULES

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The ownership, organisation, control and management of the Competitions shall be entirely and exclusively by the Manchester Football Association (MFA). MFA shall have the power to make, delete and amend rules for the organisation, control, management of the Competitions as it, from time to time, deems expedient and all the decisions shall be binding on all participants in the Competition

## Competition Titles and Format (all are individual competitions)

- A) Female Gender Competitions**  
*Women's Challenge Cup - 11v11*  
*Women's Super Cup - 11v11*
- B) Male Gender Competitions**  
*Saturday Challenge Trophy - 11v11*  
*Saturday Amateur Cup - 11v11*  
*Sunday Challenge Shield - 11v11*  
*Sunday Amateur Cup - 11v11*  
*Veteran's Cup - 11v11*





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## Grassroots EDI Commitment Pledge

For Clubs and Leagues Across Greater Manchester

As a proud member of Greater Manchester's grassroots football community, we recognise our shared responsibility in creating a game that is safe, inclusive, and representative of the rich diversity within our communities. We therefore commit to the following pledge, inspired by Manchester FA's mission to "inspire positive change through football by uniting communities, tackling inequalities, and improving the health of Greater Manchester.

### Our Pledge

1. We commit to inclusion.

We will actively create an environment where individuals of all backgrounds, regardless of race, gender, age, disability, faith, sexual orientation, or gender identity feel welcome, respected, and empowered to participate.

2. We will tackle discrimination.

We will challenge and report all forms of discrimination, bullying, or harassment, both on and off the pitch, and work with Manchester FA and our communities to build safer, more respectful spaces.

3. We will promote diverse leadership.

We will create opportunities for underrepresented groups to lead, coach, referee, and volunteer in our clubs and leagues, working towards leadership that reflects the communities we serve.

4. We commit to continuous learning.

We will engage with EDI training, education, and awareness programmes made available by Manchester FA, and apply these learnings to strengthen our culture and practices.

5. We will listen and grow.

We will actively seek and listen to the voices of all those involved in our club, especially young people, women and girls, ethnically diverse groups, and disabled individuals, to inform decisions and co-create a game that works for everyone.

By entering and competing in a Manchester FA County Cup Competition, we affirm our commitment to being agents of positive change within Greater Manchester football. We stand united with Manchester FA in building a future where football is truly For All.





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## Competition Information

### 1 Competition ~ draw

- 1.01 The competition is competed for annually unless otherwise specified by the RSG.
- 1.02 The Competition will be in knockout format (Unless the number of entries deems MFA to consider an appropriate alternative competition format).
- 1.03 Draw for all rounds will be published and communicated no later than 7 days following each previous round.
- 1.04 Results will appear on the MFA Website within 5 working days of the fixtures.

### 2 Competition ~ entry (contact [Support@ManchesterFA.com](mailto:Support@ManchesterFA.com))

2.01 The entry fees for teams entering MFA competitions are detailed below. This is located on Clubs Portal > Manage Competitions > Manage County Cups (withdrawal of the competition see Rule 24.21).

Competition	MFA Team (£)	Non-MFA team (£)
Women's Challenge Cup	£35	£45
Challenge Competitions (Sat & Sun)	£35	£45
Amateur Competitions (Sat & Sun)	£25	£35
Veterans Cup Competition	£25	£35

2.02 MFA teams and associated teams will complete entry into all competitions via the Clubs Portal System when completing affiliation. Entries will be accepted up to and including **4th August 2025**. Applications after this date are at the discretion of the competition.

2.03 ONLY affiliated teams can enter the MFA County Cup

2.04 Clubs must apply on Clubs Portal before 4th August entering all eligible teams that wish to enter.



PRELIMINARY



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2.05 Clubs are to set their lead Primary Contact on full-time. Communication will be issues to this contact regarding the competition (\*minus finals where correspondence is issued to club secretaries).

2.06 Any team located within Greater Manchester shall be considered eligible to enter MFA Competitions. For any team located outside of Greater Manchester, a 16-mile radius from Manchester Town Hall will apply, with those teams falling outside not eligible to enter.

2.07 Entry into the Sunday Shield Competition is only at the invitation of Manchester FA. Where this invitation is declined, teams will not be permitted to enter the Sunday Amateur Competition within the same playing season.

2.08 Teams in the top two divisions of a supply league, top division of the Lancashire & Cheshire League and any Step 2-6 reserve teams will compete in the Saturday Challenge Trophy and not the Saturday Amateur Cup. Leagues and teams are responsible and required to confirm their position and league division by 10th August to ensure teams are entered into the correct competition (\*any changes after this date may result in team(s) not being entered into the MFA competitions)

2.09 Teams who have won the Sunday Amateur cup will be entered into the Sunday Challenge Shield for the following season

2.10 Clubs cannot split a team squad into two (2) teams.

2.11 Clubs cannot combine two (2) team squads into one.

2.12 Failure to pay for competition entry in full by 1st September 2025 will result in the team being withdrawn from the Competition.

2.13 As part of the FA Behavioural Improvement Programme (BIP), teams reaching 50 or more discipline points within a season will not be eligible to enter any Manchester FA County Cup competition the following season.

### 3 Competition ~ final ties

3.01 MFA will appoint the venue for the final tie.

3.02 Match Referee and Assistant Referees will be appointed and paid by MFA.

3.03 Seventeen (17) individual trophies will be presented to each team and no further medals will be supplied.





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3.04 A major trophy (owned by MFA) will be presented to the winning team (see also Rule 25 for return conditions and insurance etc.)

3.05 Squad lists, pen pics, managers’ notes and any other requested information must be sent within 14 days of the request to Support@ManchesterFA.com. Where the deadline is not met, a £20 fine shall apply. Additionally, information not sent within the deadline will not be included in the match day programme.

3.06 Teams failing to attend final ties at their appointed time without reason will automatically be disqualified. 3.07 For MFA Final Competitions, the captain of each team must wear the captain’s armband provided by MFA. 3.08 Finalist are required to complete a survey following the final.

## 4 Competition ~ fixtures

### 4.01 Conference Dates

> Played on dates decided by MFA (see tables below)

> Request for change of date to be in writing at least 14 days prior to the conference date. This includes ground sharing. Contact [Support@ManchesterFA.com](mailto:Support@ManchesterFA.com).

Saturday Challenge Trophy		Sunday Challenge Shield	
ROUND	CONFERENCE DATE	ROUND	CONFERENCE DATE
Preliminary	Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Preliminary	Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> September
Round 1	Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Round 1	Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> September
Quarter Finals	Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Quarter Finals	Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> October
Semi Finals	Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Semi Finals	Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> November
Final	Date TBC	Finals	Date TBC





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Women's Challenge Cup		Veterans Cup	
ROUND	CONFERENCE DATE	ROUND	CONFERENCE DATE
Preliminary	Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Preliminary	Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> September
Round 1	Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	Round 1	Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> October
Round 2	Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Quarter Finals	Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> January
Quarter Finals	Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Semi Finals	Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> February
Semi Finals	Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	Final	Date TBC
Final	Date TBC		

Saturday Amateur Cup		Sunday Amateur Cup	
ROUND	CONFERENCE DATE	ROUND	CONFERENCE DATE
Preliminary	Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	Preliminary	Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> September
Round 1	Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Round 1	Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> October
Round 2	Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Round 2	Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November
Round 3	Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Round 3	Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November
Quarter Finals	Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Quarter Finals	Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> January
Semi Finals	Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	Semi Finals	Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> February
Final	Date TBC	Final	Date TBC

4.02 At least 5 days before fixture, home team must notify away team & match official re kick off time, directions to the ground & their colours. (See also Rule 24.06)

4.03 Fixtures played on the ground of the first drawn club.





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4.04 Friendly matches cannot be played in lieu of a cup tie.

4.05 Non fulfilment of fixtures by either or both teams will invoke disciplinary action (see also Rule 24.02).

4.06 Reasonable expenses incurred due to one team failing to attend may be claimed by e-mailing **Support@ManchesterFA.com**.

4.07 Should a team not be permitted to participate due to local/national restrictions at the time of their fixture they will be withdrawn from the competition.

4.08 Women's Teams operating within the Women's National League and Tier 5 of the Women's Football pyramid will not be included in rounds which take place prior to the 1st of January of the relevant playing season.

## 5 Competition ~ grounds

5.01 Goal Nets and Corner Flags must be used in all fixtures. (See also Rule 24.09)

5.02 Clubs shall not play on a neutral ground without the consent of the Association. No monetary or other consideration shall be asked for, offered or paid in connection with negotiations for change of venue (see also Rule 24.08).

5.03 Where there is a possibility of a postponed fixture due to weather, the home club must contact an MFA Registered Referee to inspect the ground and so save expense of the away team travelling. If the pitches used are Council owned then the home Club must inform their opponents and the Match Official as soon as a decision to cancel is made by the Council. All postponements must be notified to MFA in the same way as results are notified (see also Rule 24.18).

5.04 Unsuitable grounds for a fixture may be appealed against within 7 days of receiving the draw by contacting **Support@ManchesterFA.com**

5.05 Fixtures may be played on approved artificial surfaces. The artificial surface must have passed the accredited FIFA test and be held on the FA register of tested facilities (see also Rule 24.08).

5.06 For teams playing at grounds where there are no suitable changing facilities, clubs must confirm this with both the opposition and match officials at the time of confirmation of fixture (see also Rule 24.06).



## 6 Competition ~ player qualification & registration

### 6.01 Player Qualification

- > Players must be registered and assigned to the competing team through Clubs Portal Player Registration facility.
- > Photo ID using **only** the Clubs Portal player registration facility must be shown prior to any competition fixture (see also Rule 24.20).
- > Players have to be registered with the team and the League that the team plays in, prior to the date of the original conference date.
- > Players can only play for **one team in a competition** (see Competition titles & formats).
- > A player who plays in the MFA Saturday Challenge Trophy shall not be eligible to play in the MFA Saturday Amateur Cup.
- > A player who plays in the MFA Sunday Challenge Shield shall not be eligible to play in the MFA Sunday Amateur Cup.
- > In order to be eligible to play in the Final, players must have been correctly registered prior the original Semi-Final conference date
- > Contract players are **NOT** allowed to play in these competitions.
- > Players having played in the Premier Cup are **NOT** allowed to play in Saturday competitions.
- > All players must be a minimum of 35 years of age to be eligible for the Veteran's Cup.
- > Teams failing to conform to Rule 6.01 will be disqualified from further participation (see also Rule 24.01). The opposition team will receive a bye into the next round.

## 7 Competition ~ protests

### 7.01 Protests

- > Protests will not be accepted if the protest submission is asking Manchester FA to investigate potential competition breaches and offers limited or no evidence. All relevant evidence supporting the reasons for protest, including names where appropriate need to be included. For example, should an ineligible player be fielded, the name of the ineligible player needs to be provided, and photos where applicable.





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- > Will only be allowed if Competition Rules **HAVE** been broken.
- > Protests relating to the ground, goalposts or bars should be referred to the match official.
- > Will not be allowed for other appurtenances of the game, either before, during or after the fixture.

## 7.02 How to Protest

- > All protests have to be in writing, and sent to **Support@ManchesterFA.com** within **seven days** of the fixture taking place. If email is not available the written protest may be delivered to the offices of MFA within seven days of the fixture taking place.
- > All protests must be accompanied by a protest fee of £20 which must be paid by credit/debit card.
- > Documents must contain your reasons for protesting (see also Rule 7.01).
- > Receipt of your protest will be acknowledged via e-mail. This is not confirmation of acceptance of a protest being heard.

## 7.03 The next stage

- > Your protest will be reviewed by the CWG.
- > A decision will be taken as to whether the protest is in order and acceptable.
- > Observations may be requested from the 'Club/Team/Individual' who is the subject of the protest
- > If appropriate a hearing will be arranged for yourselves and your opponents to attend. This will be conducted by an independent panel (Protest Commission) whom will be members of CWG.

## 7.04 Protest Hearings

- > Three members of each Club will be allowed to attend.
- > Both clubs will be given the opportunity to state their case regarding the reasons for protest.
- > The Protest Commission will then formulate their decision.

## 7.05 Protest Decisions





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- > If the protest decision is not found in your favour, the hearing fee will be retained by the Association.
- > If found in your favour the appropriate sanction will be given out by CWG
- > All decisions taken at a protest are final and binding on all parties with the exception of decisions to expel from the Competition which can be appealed as per Rule 7.05 below

## 7.06 Appeals

A Club that is expelled from the Competition may appeal in writing to **Support@ManchesterFA.com** within 7 (seven) days of the dated decision correspondence. All appeals must be accompanied by a fee of £20 which must be paid by credit/debit card. If email is not available the written appeal may be posted or delivered to the offices of MFA. An appeal board comprising of 3 (three) Members will be selected by the Chair of the RSG or their nominee. Any such appeal shall only be permitted on one or more of the following grounds:

- > **MFA misinterpreted / failed to comply with the procedures relevant to dealing with the available evidence**
- > **MFA came to a decision on the facts of the case which no reasonable body could have reached; or imposed a sanction that is excessive.**

The appeal must be in writing and must clearly state which of the above grounds the appeal is based on and provide all relevant documentation supporting the reason for the appeal.

For the avoidance of doubt, a Club **may not** appeal against any penalty imposed on it other than expulsion from the Competition.

## 8 Competition ~ club/team officials qualification/requirements

8.01— All teams shall agree to abide by The FA's Safeguarding & Affiliation Regulations & Policies in all aspects throughout the playing season. Should a team no longer conform to these regulations their entry will be subject to review.

## 9 Competition ~ withdrawing





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9.01 Teams wishing to withdraw must give notice at least **7 days** prior to the commencement of the qualifying conference date period for each round that they are scheduled to participate in to **Support@ManchesterFA.com** (see also Rule 24.02).

9.02 When a team withdraws from the competition their opponents will receive a bye into the next round (\*unless teams have withdrawn in the preliminary round, will be the discretion of MFA to add teams in).

9.03 All reasonable expenses (approved by MFA) incurred by an opposition team shall be reimbursed by the withdrawing team via MFA. All claims to be forwarded to **Support@ManchesterFA.com**. (Any Club withdrawing may be required to pay any expense incurred plus a fine decided by the CWG).

## Fixture Information

### 10 Fixtures ~ duration

10.01 All fixtures shall be 45 minutes each way.

10.02 Half-time interval shall not exceed 15 minutes.

10.03 Fixture undecided at normal time the winners shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the Laws of the Game. **(No Extra Time will be played in any MFA Competitions)** (See also Rule 24.17)

10.04 Fixtures not having played the full time are replayed the following week on the same ground (for abandoned fixtures see Rule 11).

### 11 Fixtures ~ abandoned fixtures

11.01 Abandoned Fixtures for reasons outside of the control of either team are replayed the following week on the same ground.

11.02 Abandoned for late kick-off, replayed the following week as per below.

> Visiting team responsible, replay on same ground.





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> Home team responsible, visiting team have choice of ground.

11.03 The CWG shall review all matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both clubs. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition, the CWG shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the CWG is satisfied that a match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one Club they shall be empowered to award the match to the opponent. For cases where a match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Clubs, the CWG has the power to remove both teams from the competition. The CWG can make this decision irrespective of any impending disciplinary procedures (see also Rule 24.12)

## 12 Fixtures ~ disqualification

12.01 Breach of competition rules may result in disqualification (see also Rule 24).

## 13 Fixtures ~ floodlights

13.01 Fixtures may be played with approved floodlighting. Match Official decision when floodlighting is required.

## 14 Fixtures ~ kick off times

14.01 Saturday Challenge Trophy & Saturday Amateur Cup Kick off at 2pm – Kick off times for matches played during November, December & January shall be 1.30 pm (\*unless agreed by both teams and MFA)

14.02 All other Adult Competitions shall be as home club league fixtures but may be adjusted for ground sharing problems.

14.03 The home team must inform **Support@ManchesterFA.com**, their opponents and the Match Official of all changes to kick off times from those issued on the draw within 7 days of the draw being made (see also Rule 2.07). Failure to confirm kick off time with MFA, **at least 5 days** before the round fixture, may result in no official being appointed by MFA (subject to referee availability) to the fixture, and will result in a in accordance with the fines tariff (See Rule 14.04). Repeat offences may result in expulsion.

14.04 Match Officials **will not** be appointed to fixtures **unless** there is a confirmed Kick off time provided to the Association **at least 5 days** prior to the fixture taking place.



## 15 Fixtures ~ postponements

15.01 When owing to adverse weather, fixtures may only be postponed by a designated match official, ground owner or local authority where the ground is under local authority jurisdiction (see also Rule 24.18).

**15.02 Postponed fixtures to be played on the same ground the following week. Where an artificial pitch is available Manchester FA would encourage its use regardless of which team has been drawn home.**

15.03 In postponed fixtures only players who were eligible to play in the original fixture (discipline sanctions not withstanding) can take part (see also Rule 24.01).

15.04 Fixtures will be reversed if not completed within 14 days of the conference date. Similarly, if not completed within a further 14 days will see the fixture re-reversed to the original ground.

15.05 In the event that a team is unable to participate on the scheduled conference date due to team member(s) isolating, the team will be withdrawn from the competition.

15.06 Where an alternative pitch is available or the away team can host a fixture due to adverse weather impacting the home team ground, the fixture must be fulfilled with the alternative arrangements.

## 16 Fixtures ~ reporting results

16.01 It is the requirement of both teams to report the result into Full-Time, within **12 hours** of the completion of the fixture **(See Also Rule 24.03)**

It is the requirement of both teams to submit full reports into Full-Time listing players who has played in the match (including substitutes) and goal scorers , within **2 days**. PLEASE NOTE Match Cards are NO LONGER accepted to the Association (MFA). Match cards sent to MFA will not be accepted as evidence of playing. All match reporting is to be completed on FULL-TIME **(See Also Rule 24.04)**

16.02 Team sheet must be completed and handed to the referee prior to the game for **their reference only NOT for reporting results**

16.03 Teams submitting an incorrect match reports may be disqualified.





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16.04 Teams must tick select on full-time when substitutes have been used during the fixture.

16.05 If the referee requests a paper match card, this must include all the players taking part (including substitutes) must be provided to the Match Official and opposition prior to kick off. For final ties this must be at least 60 minutes prior to kick off. Any changes after submission to the document must be agreed with the match official (See also Rule 24.13)

16.06 Should any player sustain an injury prior to kick off and after completion of the match card they may be replaced provided the Match Official and opponents are informed before the commencement of the match.

## 17 Fixtures ~ match officials

17.01 In the event of the Match Official failing to attend on the day of the fixture the clubs will agree to a substitute. The substitute official must officiate for the whole game; the responsibility must not be shared. In the event a match official appointed by Manchester Football Association rejects the appointment after 5pm on the Thursday prior to a Saturday/Sunday fixture, the home team can appoint a Match Official. Any incident of this nature must be reported to [Support@ManchesterFA.com](mailto:Support@ManchesterFA.com).

17.02 All Match Officials will be appointed by The Referee Appointments Officer at Manchester FA\*.

\*Unless the home team participate within a league which has opted into the league appointments process. For these teams, the league will appoint match officials to all home fixture up to but not including the Quarter Final

17.03 Queries and information regarding Match Official need to be submitted to [appointments@manchesterfa.com](mailto:appointments@manchesterfa.com)

17.04 Match Officials fee shall be shared between both teams. The home team is responsible for organising the payment which should be paid to the referee before kick-off. In the final ties the Association will pay the match officials.

17.05 Match Officials in final ties will receive a souvenir in lieu of payment.

17.06 Where a Match Official is in attendance and postpones the match they will be entitled to receive half their match fee.





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17.07 Match officials will be permitted to wear a coloured referee jersey should the team kit colours require it. The colour of which is at the designation of the Association.

## 18 Fixtures ~ results

18.01 Teams shall communicate the fixture result to Manchester FA by submitting into Full-Time within **12 hours of the fixture** completion, detailing home & away team names & result (including penalties if applicable) (see also Rule 24.03).

## 19 Fixtures ~ substitutions

19.01 All substitutions shall be carried in accordance with Laws of the Game 3.

19.02 A player substituted becomes a substitute & may replace a player at any time during the fixture. (roll on roll off substitutes from 5 named on match card). This rule is for all competitions excluding the Saturday Challenge Trophy.

19.03 In the Saturday Challenge Trophy substitutions are allowed from any 5 players from a maximum of 5 named on the match form (not rolling).

## 20 Fixtures ~ team colours

20.01 Away team must change if a clash occurs.

20.02 Players shirts shall be numbered in all fixtures (see also Rule 24.11).

20.03 The captain shall wear a distinguishing armband.

20.04 In all fixtures the Respect hand shake shall take place.

20.05 Advertising on shirts shall be in accordance with FA regulations.

20.06 Teams shall not be permitted to wear kits that are black or very dark in colour in these competitions.

## 21 Fixtures ~ first aid & risk assessment

21.01 First Aid. Each team must have a fully qualified First Aider with a first aid kit.





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21.02 Risk Assessment. The home team must ensure a pitch inspection is completed prior to the commencement of the game. If the ground is privately owned a completed and signed ground risk assessment must be carried out before each fixture played to cover the club against any accidents.

21.03 Accident book. The home team must ensure an accident book is available and accidents recorded in the same.

## 22 Fixtures ~ club responsibilities

22.01 Within 7 days of the draw being published, any teams unable to play the assigned fixture must notify the competition on **Support@ManchesterFA.com**. (See rule 24.21).

22.02 See also Rule 4.02 regarding informing the away team & match officials.

22.03 If a club receives a competition fine from Manchester FA this must be paid within 14 days of it being issued and the requirement must also be met. Any fines not settled within 14 days will be subject to a further £10 fine and may face expulsion from the competition and/or a team suspension

## 23 Misconduct

23.01 If any Club is charged and found proven of an E20/E21 misconduct charge in a Cup fixture the team will be expelled from the Competition. Where a player, Manager or coach is charged and found proven of an E3 misconduct charge in a Cup fixture that individual will be expelled from the Competition. If when the charge is found to be proven the Club have already been knocked out of the Competition this will carry forward and the team and or individual will not be allowed to take part in the Competition in the following season. All reported Incidents of Flares/ Pyrotechnics will be investigated by Manchester FA and may result in disciplinary action.

## Appendage

### 24 Breach of Competition Rules

24.01 Playing an ineligible player ~~~ expulsion from the competition

24.02 Non fulfilment of the fixture ~~~ expulsion from the competition

24.03 Failure to report match results by full-time within 12 hours, may result in a fine being imposed ~~~ £10 sanction





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- 24.04 Failure to impute team details listing players played in the match and goal scorers within 2 working days on FA Full-Time ~~~ £15 sanction in the first and second instance and may be disqualified if there is a third instance.
- 24.05 Failure to pay match officials fee and expenses on match day ~~~ £10 sanction plus officials Match Fee and expenses
- 24.06 Not confirming fixture with opponents and match official ~~~ £10 sanction
- 24.07 Changing kick off time without competition approval ~~~ £10 sanction
- 24.08 Failing to play on registered ground ~~~ £20 sanction
- 24.09 No corner flags or goal nets or first aid kit ~~~ £10 sanction
- 24.10 Late kick off fixture ~~~ £15 sanction
- 24.11 All kits must be numbered in accordance with the laws of the game ~~~ £10 sanction
- 24.12 Causing match to be abandoned ~~~ expulsion from the competition
- 24.13 Failure to provide match card to referee 30 minutes before KO ~~~ £10 sanction
- 24.14 Team, player, coach or spectator misconduct ~~~ expulsion from the competition
- 24.15 Failure to complete all sections of the match card ~~~ £10 sanction
- 24.16 Any other competition rule breaches e.g. wrong size pitch~~Decision by Association
- 24.17 Playing Extra time in a MFA Competition ~~~ both teams excluded from the competition
- 24.18 Postponing game without owner/council, referee or MFA approval ~~~ Team fined £10 the first instance, in the second instance may be disqualified.
- 24.19 Non return of winner's trophy by specified date ~~~ Team fined £50 the first instance, further fee determined by the association if not returned within 14 days of first fine and team suspension if not returned within 21 days of first fine
- 24.20 Failure to produce Club Portal Squad list or Photo ID Cards~~~ £10 sanction, for repeat offences further disciplinary action including expulsion may be imposed.
- 24.21 Failure to inform MFA of withdraw within 7 days of fixture date ~~ £25 sanction All breach of competition rules and resulting fines have to be paid within 14 days.





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Regulation Breach	Description	Open Age (Maximum)
24.01	Playing an ineligible player	£100
24.02	Non fulfilment of the fixture	Expulsion from the competition
24.03	Failure to report match results by full-time within 12 hours	£20
24.04	Failure to impute team details listing players played in the match and goal scorers within 2 working days on FA Full-Time.	£20
24.05	Failure to pay match officials fee and expenses on match day.	£20
24.06	Not confirming fixture with opponents and match official	£25
24.07	Changing kick off time without competition approval	£10
24.08	Failing to play on registered ground.	£20
24.09	No corner flags or goal nets or first aid kit	£20
24.10	Late kick off fixture	£25
24.11	All kits must be numbered in accordance with the laws of the game	£20
24.12	Causing match to be abandoned	Expulsion from the competition
24.13	Failure to provide match card to referee 30 minutes before KO	£15
24.14	Team, player, coach or spectator misconduct	Expulsion from the competition
24.15	Failure to complete all sections of the match card	£10
24.16	Any other competition rule breaches e.g. wrong size pitch	Decision by Association
24.17	Playing Extra time in a MFA Competition	Both teams excluded from the competition
24.18	Postponing game without owner/council, referee or MFA approval	£10 first offence Repeated offences - excluded from the competition





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24.19	Non return of winner's trophy by specified date	£50
24.20	Failure to produce Club Portal Squad list or Photo ID Cards	£10
24.21	Failure to inform MFA of withdraw within 7 days of fixture date	£25



PRELIMINARY



# GREATER MANCHESTER FOOTBALL

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## 25 Match Officials Fees

Match Officials Fee	Referee	Assistant Referee
Adult Competitions	£50.00	N/A
Competition rounds Semi-Final Tie	£50.00	£40.00

25.01 In the final tie Match Officials shall receive a memento and expenses.

\*There are no expenses for Adult Cup fixtures, the above fees are inclusive of expenses

\*\*\*If Assistants are deemed necessary in any other rounds the fees will be as for semi-final/final tie

## 26 Trophies

26.01 All Trophies shall always remain the property of the Manchester County Football Association Ltd. That is, they can never be won outright.

26.02 When the winning Club has been ascertained, the Association shall deliver the trophy to such Club which shall be responsible for its return to the Association on or before the **1st December** in the ensuing year in good order and condition. Should a club fail to return a trophy by this date then MFA will impose a fine and/or suspend the team until the trophy has been returned (See also Rule 24.19). Clubs should point out any defects to the MFA on receiving the trophy or as soon as possible afterwards. In no circumstances shall the club repair the trophy without the association's approval. Failure to obtain approval can mean repair costs may not be paid by the association or their insurers.

26.03 Whilst the trophy is in the Club's or any of its members possession should it be lost, destroyed or damaged by fire or any other cause the Club shall refund to the Association the amount of its currently insured value or the cost of thorough repair in addition to any other penalty which the Competition may impose. The value of the trophy will be advised to the Club by MFA.

26.04 A representative of the Club receiving a trophy, whose name must be submitted and approved by the Committee, shall sign a guarantee worded as follows:





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## Manchester FA County Cup Winner's Trophy Guarantee

This form hereby confirms that [.....] has won the [.....] final and have been awarded the above competitions winner's Trophy.

Due to the significant value of the above competition trophy Manchester FA are offering one of two options for its care;

- a) Following the trophy lift & photos, Manchester FA will retain possession of the trophy making it available to the club on re-quest for events such as the club presentation evening or any media days throughout the subsequent season.

**OR**

- b) Following the trophy lift & photos, possession of the trophy will remain with the above winning team for an agreed period as outlined below:

1. In this case, the club **MUST** insure the trophy to the value of [.....] and accept full liability for any loss or damage whilst in its care. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes the period of transition immediately following the winners celebration on the night.

2. On return of the trophy, a full assessment will be carried out and the club invoiced for any restorative works as required

3. The trophy **must** be returned to Manchester Football Association by **1st December** the following season. A club failing to return the trophy on or before the agreed date shall be fined and subsequently suspended in line with current competition rules until the Cup is returned to Manchester FA. It is the clubs responsibility to ensure the trophy is returned to Manchester FA by the above date.

In the event that a Club ceases to exist after winning the competition, the Cup will be immediately returned to the Manchester FA where the above assessment will take place.

**Please note:** Do not inscribe the Cup with your club name. This will be completed by Manchester FA on return of the trophy.

By signing this guarantee on behalf of the club, you hereby confirm that you have read and fully understood the requirements of this agreement, and have expressed your chosen option to the Team Liaison Officer at your final.

Name:

Role in Club:

Club:

Above Option Selected: A OR B





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## 27 Association Power

27.01 In relation to each match in the Competition, the Association itself shall be exclusively entitled to, or other wise to authorise or grant to others, rights of access to and attendance at the ground of the Home Club or league (“Access Rights”) for the purposes of filming, or otherwise recording on any media, audio and/or visual materials depicting all or any part or parts of the matches (“the Copyright Materials”).

27.02 In relation to each match in the Competition, the Association shall itself be exclusively entitled to, or other wise to authorise or grant to others:

- i) on a live, delayed, recorded or highlighted basis to broadcast or otherwise transmit by any method what so ever (now known or hereinafter devised) the Copyright Materials by way of any and all forms of television or similar technology (now known or hereinafter devised) including, without limitation, free to air television, pay television, pay-per-view, “not-video-on-demand” and “video on demand” (the Television Rights”).
- ii) on a live or delayed basis to broadcast or otherwise transmit the Copyright Materials by way of radio broadcast or similar technology (now known or hereinafter devised) (“the Radio Rights”).

27.03 The RSG shall review all matches where the rules of the competition have not been abided by. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition, the RSG shall be empowered to order the fixture to be replayed the following week at the same ground or order the score to stand.



# SIN BINS

Temporary Dismissals - otherwise known as 'sin bins' - are mandatory for acts of dissent across all of grassroots football.

## HOW DO YOU FIND YOURSELF IN THE SIN BIN?



Players will only go into the sin bin for dissent cautions



For use of words, gestures, questioning or undermining the referee's decisions



### EXAMPLES OF DISSENT:

Shouting at the referee, questioning the referee's ability, slamming the ball into the ground and sarcastically clapping a decision

## DURATION OF A SIN BIN



For matches of 90 minutes, players spend 10 minutes in the sin bin



For matches of all other lengths, players spend 8 minutes in the sin bin



If the sin bin period has not expired at the end of:  
**1st half:** Continues into the 2nd half  
**2nd half:** Continues into extra time  
**Extra time:** Players can participate in the penalty shoot out

## THE MATCH DAY PROCESS



Dissent



Dissent caution: Referee issues a Yellow Card and directs the player to the touchline



Whilst in the sin bin, if the player commits a Yellow or Red Card offence they are sent off and can not be substituted



A player can only return to the field of play with the Referee's permission at a stoppage in play



If a player receives a second Yellow Card for any type of offence, they will be shown a Red Card and dismissed from the field of play

Sin bins only apply to a player's first Yellow Card. If they receive a second Yellow Card they are dismissed from the field of play.

**Offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or actions is still a Red Card offence!**



# **GREATER MANCHESTER FOOTBALL**

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Manchester FA Competition Rules