MANCHESTER FA YOUTH CUP RULES 2025-2026

ENGLAND FOOTBALL

Manchester FA

GREATER MANCHESTER FOOTBALL

Manchester FA

2025/26 **YOUTH** 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, manage-ment 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

Under 12 Cup - 9v9
*Under 13 Cup - 9v9 or 11v11**
Under 14 Cup - 11v11
Under 15 Cup - 11v11
Under 16 Cup - 11v11
Under 18 Cup - 11v11

B) Male Gender Competitions

Under 12 Cup - 9v9
Under 13 Cup - 11v11
Under 14 Cup - 11v11
Under 15 Cup - 11v11
Under 16 Cup - 11v11
Under 18 Cup - 11v11

*Under 13 Girls Cup – 9v9 or 11v11. At discretion of teams competing, should one team select 9v9, then this format will take precedent, including the competition final.

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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Registered in England & Wales: 03937501 | VAT Registration: 149 0226 78
Telephone: 0161 225 1966 | Website: www.ManchesterFA.com | Email: Support@ManchesterFA.com

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 and individual competitions (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, to the leading full-time primary contact, no later than 7 working days following each previous round.

1.04 Results will appear on the MFA Website within 5 working days of the fixtures.

1.05 Where possible teams that reach the Quarter Finals will be provided a bye in the opening round of the subsequent season competition.

2 Competition ~ entry (contact Support@ManchesterFA.com)

All Clubs that enter MFA Youth Competitions must be affiliated and have the minimum status of one-star accredited club. MFA member teams will be given preference. Applications from Associate Counties will be considered if numbers allow.

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 £**
Youth (U12-U18)	£20	£25

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 **5th August**. Applications after this date are at the discretion of the competition.

2.03 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.

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

2.06 MFA affiliated and non MFA affiliated clubs/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**. Applications after this date are at the discretion of the competition.

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

2.08 Saturday and Sunday teams are allowed to enter. All fixtures will take place on a Sunday unless approved otherwise by MFA, in which teams can play fixtures on an alternative day. Should a Saturday & Sunday team be drawn, whilst priority will be given to the fixture being played on a Sunday, the same application can be made as above for the fixture to be played on an alternative day (See also Competition ~ Fixture Rules 4)

2.09 In all cases of an alternative day being arranged these must be either within the week prior to or proceeding the original conference date.

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

2.10 Clubs cannot combine two (2) team squads into one (with the exception of Under 12's Girls wishing to compete in 9v9 formats).

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

2.12 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 venues for the final ties.

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

3.03 Fourteen (9v9 competitions) and Seventeen (11v11 competitions) individual medals will be presented to each team. No further medal will be supplied.

3.04 A major trophy (owned by Manchester FA) will be presented to each team (see also rule 25 for return

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 regarding the final and competition, following their 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.**

Youth (Male) Under 12s to U14s		Youth (Female) Under 12s to U18s	
ROUND	**CONFERENCE DATE**	**ROUND**	**CONFERENCE DATE**
Preliminary	Sunday 7th September	Preliminary	Sunday 5th October
Round 1	Sunday 28th September	Round 1	Sunday 9th November
Round 2	Sunday 30th November	Round 2*	Sunday 11th January*
Round 3*	Sunday 18th January	Quarter Finals	Sunday 22nd February
Quarter Finals	Sunday 1st February	Semi Finals	Sunday 15th March
Semi Finals	Sunday 22nd March	Final	TBC
Final	Date TBC		

*Round 2 for the U12 to U18s Girls Cup, is only required for the U13s Girls and U15 Girls, due to competition entry numbers.

Youth (Male) Under 15s to U18s	
ROUND	**CONFERENCE DATE**
Preliminary	Sunday 21st September
Round 1	Sunday 12th October
Round 2	Sunday 7th December
Round 3*	Sunday 11th January
Quarter Finals	Sunday 1st February
Semi Finals	Sunday 22nd March
Final	Date TBC

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*Round 3 for the U15-U18 Boys Cup will only be required for U15 Boys and U18 Boys, due to competition entry numbers.

AGE	FORMAT	BALL SIZE	PITCH SIZE (YDS)	MAX GOAL SIZE (FT)
U12	9 V 9	4	70 x 40 to 80 x 50	16 x 7 to 21 x 7
U13*	11 V 11	4	90 x 50 to 100 x 60	21 x 7 to 24 x 8
U14	11 V 11	4	90 x 50 to 100 x 60	21 x 7 to 24 x 8
U15	11 V 11	5	90 x 50 to 110 x 70	24 x 8
U16	11 V 11	5	90 x 50 to 110 x 70	24 x 8
U18	11 V 11	5	90 x 50 to 110 x 70	24 x 8

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

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

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.

5 Competition ~ grounds

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

5.02 Provision of pitches and appropriate goal posts sizes must be in accordance with the FA Regulations (see table for details).

5.03 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).

5.04 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 by emailing to confirm postponement to Support@manchesterfa.com

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

5.06 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)

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 24.21).

> 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).

> In order to be eligible to play in the Final, players must have been correctly registered prior the original Semi-Final conference date

> All Male Academy Players in any of the 4 categories are **NOT** allowed to play in our Youth competitions.

> Male Players registered to clubs, with a FA Professional Game Academy Category 1 and Category 2 licences are **NOT** allowed to play in the Manchester FA Youth County Cup competitions.

> For Female/Girls Academies please contact support@manchesterfa.com for further guidance.

> 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.

> 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

> 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

9.01 Teams wishing to withdraw must give notice at least 7 days prior to the commencement of the qualifying conference date period (See Rule 24.21) 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 team have withdrawn in the preliminary round, will be the discretion of MFA to add a team 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 Youth Competitions

> Under 12 - 30 minutes each way > Under 13 & 14 - 35 minutes each way > Under 15 & 16 - 40 minutes each way > Under 18 - 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 subject to the reasons for the match not being completed. (for abandoned fixtures see Rule 11).

10.05 In fixtures with format of 9v9 the offside law is played.

10.06 Size 4 for Under 11s, 12s, 13s and 14s

10.07 Size 5 for Under 15s, 16s & 18s.

10.08 Respect barriers or appropriate alternatives including rope or cones must be used for all fixtures. The Managers & Coaches for both teams must be on the same side of the pitch. All spectators must be on the opposite side of the pitch to the Managers & Coaches .

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.

> 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 under approved floodlighting.

13.02 Match Official shall decide when floodlighting is required.

14 Fixtures ~ kick off times

14.01 Kick off times shall be as notified to MFA prior to the commencement of the competition, but may be adjusted for ground sharing problems. The kick off time will be stipulated by the home team.

14.02 The home team must inform Support@ManchesterFA.com of all kick off times from those issued on the draw within 7 days of the draw being made (see also Rule 24.07). 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 (See Rule 14.03).

14.03 Match Officials may 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 and will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff. Repeat offences may result in team expulsion.

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 YOUTH - (Fixtures – Postponements) - 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 sheets 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.

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 be 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 MFA 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.

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 their fee.

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.

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

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 email 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).

19.03 The number of players in a squad is as follows:

> 9v9 format - 9 team members plus 5 substitutes.

> 11v11 format - 11 team members plus 5 substitutes.

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 Emergency First Aid Qualified. Each team must have a fully qualified First Aider, Emergency First Aid Qualification with a first aid kit.

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.

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.

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 results on full-time within 12 hours, may result in a fine being imposed ~~~ £10 sanction
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 Failure to communicate match result by Full Time ~~£10 sanction
24.07 Not confirming fixture with opponents and match official ~~~ £10 sanction
24.08 Changing kick off time without competition approval ~~~ £10 sanction
24.09 Failing to play on registered ground ~~~ £20 sanction
24.10 No corner flags or goal nets or first aid kit ~~~ £10 sanction
24.11 Late kick off fixture ~~~ £15 sanction
24.12 All kits must be numbered in accordance with the laws of the game ~~~ £10 sanction
24.13 Causing match to be abandoned ~~~ expulsion from the competition
24.14 Failure to provide match card to referee 30 minutes before KO ~~~ £10 sanction
24.15 Team, player, coach or spectator misconduct ~~~ expulsion from the competition
24.16 Failure to complete all sections of the match card ~~~ £10 sanction
24.17 Any other competition rule breaches e.g. wrong size pitch~~Decision by Association
24.18 Playing Extra time in a MFA Competition ~~~ both teams excluded from the competition
24.19 Postponing game without owner/council, referee or MFA approval ~~~ Team fined £10 the first instance, in the second instance may be disqualified.
24.20 Non return of winners trophy by specified date ~~~ Team fined £10 the first instance, further £20 fee if not returned within 14 days of first fine and team suspension if not returned within 21 days of first fine
24.21 Failure to produce Club Portal Squad list or Photo ID Cards~~~ £10 sanction, for repeat offences further disciplinary action including expulsion may be imposed.
24.22 Failure to inform MFA of withdraw within 7 days of fixture date ~~ £25 sanction
24.23 Non compliance of FA Safeguarding requirements may result in expulsion. All breach of competition rules and resulting fines have to be paid within 14 days.

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25 Match Officials Fees

Match Officials Fee	Referee	Assistant Referee
Youth Competitions (U18 ONLY) (11v11) Semi Final Tie	£45.00 £45.00	N/A* £35.00
Youth Competitions (U13*-U16) (11v11) Semi Final Tie	£40.00 £40.00	N/A* £30.00
Youth Competitions (9v9) Semi Final Tie	£35.00 £35.00	N/A* *if requested within 14 days of the conference date

25.01 In the final tie Match Officials shall receive a memento and expenses.
*There are no expenses for Youth Cup fixtures, the above fees are inclusive of expenses.
**If Assistants are deemed necessary in any other rounds the fee will be as for semi-final/final tie

25.02 Match Official fees are split between both teams.

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 sus-pend 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:

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

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