

ADULT CUP COMPETITION GUIDANCE

2024-25

This quick guide will provide a basic breakdown of the Middlesex FA Cup Competition rules to support your journey through the competition. It remains the Clubs responsibility to ensure all elements of the rule are followed and should read the specific rule in the Competition Rule Book, for full details.

Pre-Match

Qualification for Entry

Rule 4(p) - In the Senior Challenge Cup, Senior Charity Cup and Premier Cup it is expected that all matches will be played on grounds within the Geographical County of Middlesex as defined in Association Rule 2. If a club participating in these competitions, whose parent Association is Middlesex County Football Association Ltd has a ground sharing agreement with a club whose ground is outside the Geographical County of Middlesex as defined in Association Rule 2, it may apply to the Committee for dispensation from this rule. The Committee's decision as to the suitability of a venue shall be final.

In all other sections of the Competition, it is expected that all matches will be played on grounds within the County of Middlesex as defined in Association Rule 2. Only in exceptional circumstances may permission be granted by the Committee for matches to be played outside of this area.

Player Registration

Rule 10(a) - All players taking part in a Middlesex FA Adult Cup Competition, with the exception of the Senior Charity Cup, must be a registered member of the Club, meaning they hold:

- a) **a written contract**, and are registered with The Football Association
- b) **no written contract**, and are registered with a League in which the Club plays.
- c) **Clubs not in membership of a league**, must register their players with Middlesex FA.

Rule 10(b) - Players must be registered **7 days** prior to matches in all competitions barring the Senior Challenge Cup and Premier Cup, in which they must be registered no later than **22:00 the day prior** to the match. In the Senior Charity Cup, players do not need to be registered members of the Club, but must have their name and date of birth listed on the team sheet.

Confirmation of Match Details with Opposition, Match Officials

Rule 7(b) - Not later than **10 days** before the date fixed for the match, the Home Club should contact the opposition Primary Contact as per The FA Full-Time email notification, the match official(s), where appointed and the Association with confirmation of the match, including Kick-Off time, Venue, Colours (no black kits), and any directions for reaching the ground.



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Closing Dates

Rule 5(c) - Clubs can request a change of date up to **28 days** prior to the date of the match, a provisional request must be made **ahead** of the previous round should there be a gap of less than 28 days between matches. Round dates have been advised for each of the competitions and will only be changed in exceptional circumstances.

On The Day

Team Sheets

Rule 6(h) - Please exchange team sheets with your opposition with match official(s) present in line with **Rule 6(h)** on matchday, this is to avoid any errors in numbering and the names of player participating in the match. The completed team sheet should then be sent to countycups@middlesexfa.com following the completion of the match.

Postponement of Matches

Rule 7(d) - If the game is postponed **48 hours prior** to the match, both sides must make every effort to provide an alternative venue.

In the case of **poor weather**, the match may be postponed by the **Ground Authority**, where control of the ground does not sit with the home club, or by the **appointed match official only**. Postponed matches must be rearranged to be played **within 7 days** of the original date of the fixture.

After **2 postponements** the committee will have the power to reverse the fixture be played at the ground of the away side, in this instance the home and away teams remain the same, with the first drawn team (home) to incur the costs of pitch hire.

Match officials are not entitled to a fee for completing a pitch inspection, they can claim expenses incurred through the use of public transport or 45p/mile if travelling in a vehicle.

If the match is postponed due to the ground not being fit for play, and the match official is in attendance they can claim expenses incurred through the use of public transport or 45p/mile if travelling in a vehicle.

Referees - No Show or No Appointment

Rule 8(i) - If the appointed Referee fails to appear at the match, an appointed Assistant Referee shall replace him. If no Assistant Referees have been appointed the competing teams must agree on an appropriate person to officiate the match, failure to do so will result in the match being classed as unfulfilled fixture.

Post Match

Protest Deadline

Rule 12 - Protests must be lodged within 72 hours of the match, and must set out in full the grounds for the protest, a £15 deposit must be paid when making a protest, which will be returned if it is upheld.



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Post Match Reporting

In addition to submitting your team sheet, there is a requirement to report the result of your match using the Full-Time SMS Update Service this should be completed within 24 hours.

Miscellaneous

Competition	Extra Time	Pens	"Sin Bins"	Substitutes 5 from 5	Substitutes 5 from 5 roll on/off	Referee Fee	A/R Fee	Travel Per Mile
Sat / Midweek								
Senior Challenge	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	£75	£50	
Senior Charity	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	£75	£50	
Premier Cup	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	£60	£40	
Intermediate Cup	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	£50	£38	
Junior Cup	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	£50	£38	
Sunday								
Sunday Premier	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	£50	£38	
Sunday Intermediate	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	£50	£38	
Sunday Junior Cup	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	£50	£38	
Veterans	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	£50	£38	

Reversing Fixture implications

If a fixture is reversed and due to be played at the Second Drawn Team's (away side) ground, the fixture remains as drawn, with the First Drawn Team (home side) responsible for the costs of pitch hire, and where a gate is taken the cost of the match official(s).

Artificial Pitches

When playing on an artificial surface, please ensure that the pitch is certified through The FA 3G Pitch Register, if the pitch is not registered the match must not be played.

Kit Clashes

Clubs must wear colours that distinguish themselves from their opposition and the black kit worn by the match official(s), where colours clash the away side shall change, unless otherwise agreed.

Trophy Returns

The Trophy presented at each Final remains the property of The Association is the responsibility of the Club and it's Officials to care for and then return the Trophy in line with The Associations Trophy Agreement form signed before the Club can take possession of the Trophy. The Trophy must be returned to the County Offices, by 1st February each season, Clubs in default of this will be fined £5 for every day after this date the Trophy is not with The Association.

Contact Info

Should you have any questions regarding County Cups, Fixtures or Rules, please email countycups@middlesexfa.com



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