

## Rule Updates for the County Challenge Cups 2020-21

### Overview

As a result of the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, prior to the County Cups recommencing, it has been necessary to make a number of amendments to the County Cup rules. As such, the following rule changes will apply for all County Cup matches played after 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

For each rule update, the removed text is struck through, and added text is highlighted in red and a rationale for the change is also provided. For the avoidance of doubt, only the part(s) of the rule that has changed are included below. All other elements of the Rules remain as per the existing Rules.

A full set of the updated rules is also available.

If you have any questions regarding any matters relating to County Cups, please email [CountyCups@NorfolkFA.com](mailto:CountyCups@NorfolkFA.com)

## RULE 10

### Specific Competition Eligibility

#### 10 (a) Norfolk Senior Cup

A player shall be eligible to play for his Club in the above mentioned Competition provided that he has not started in ~~10~~ **five** or more matches for a team that competes at Step 3 or above of the National League System.

#### (b) Norfolk Junior Cup

(i) A player shall be eligible to play for his Club in the above mentioned Competition provided that he has not played in ~~ten~~ **five** or more matches in a more senior Competition during the current season.

For the purpose of this rule a more senior Competition is defined as any Cup Competition or division within a League where the competing Clubs are eligible to enter the Norfolk Senior Cup or the equivalent Cup of any other County Association.

#### (c) Norfolk Primary Cup

(i) A player shall be eligible to play for his Club in the above mentioned Competition provided that he has not played in ~~ten~~ **five** or more matches in a more senior Competition during the current season.

For the purpose of this rule a more senior Competition is defined as any Cup Competition or division within a League where the competing Clubs are eligible to enter either the Norfolk Senior Cup or Norfolk Junior Cup or the equivalent Cup of any other County Association.

(iv) Where a Club has more than one team eligible to enter the Junior Cup and they have entered their most senior eligible team into that Competition, a Club may choose to enter their next most senior team into the Primary Cup if they wish to do so, irrespective of the League / Division that such team plays in.

For example if a Club enters their First or Reserve Team into the Junior Cup they may then enter their Reserves or A Team respectively into the Primary Cup.

Where a team is entered in these circumstances, a player shall be eligible to play for this team in the Primary Cup provided that he has not:

- i) Played in ~~10~~ **five** or more matches for a team eligible to enter the Senior Cup or the equivalent Cup of any other County Association
- ii) Played in ~~10~~ **five** or more matches for any other team that is eligible to enter the Junior Cup or the equivalent Cup of any other County Association, including the more senior team(s) of this Club
- iii) Played in the Norfolk Senior Cup or Norfolk Junior Cup in the current season
- iv) Played in the Norfolk Primary Cup for any other team in the current season

**(e) Norfolk Sunday Junior Cup**

(i) A player shall be eligible to play for his Club in the above mentioned Competition provided that he has not played in ~~ten~~ **five** or more matches in a more senior Sunday Competition during the current season.

For the purpose of this rule a more senior Sunday Competition is defined as any Cup Competition or division within a League where the competing Clubs are eligible to enter either the Norfolk Sunday Senior Cup or the equivalent Cup of any other County Association.

### ***Rationale for the change to Rule 10***

*With the season being severely disrupted by the pandemic, teams have played significantly fewer matches than they would normally have done. As such it has been necessary to halve the maximum number of matches a player has played to make them ineligible for the relevant cup in order to ensure that Clubs cannot play too many players from a more senior level of football.*

## **RULE 14**

### **Venues**

14. ~~(c) In the Norfolk Senior Cup, if the ground of the first drawn Club is not available due to adverse ground conditions or FA Competitions on the date fixed, the match shall be moved to the next available match day or if both Clubs are in agreement and the consent of Norfolk County Football Association has been obtained may be played at an alternative venue reversed and played at the ground of the away club, then the venue of the tie shall be switched to the ground of the opposing team. In the event of a tie being switched to the ground of the second drawn Club, they shall become the home team and shall be responsible for payment of the Match Officials fees and pitch fees if applicable~~

~~In all Competitions except the Norfolk Senior Cup, if the ground of the first drawn Club is not available due to adverse ground conditions, more Senior County Cup games, FA Competitions, or matches being played at Step 6 and above of the National League System, the match shall be moved to the following weekend, or the match may be played at an alternative venue if requested by the home club and the consent of Norfolk County Football Association is obtained.~~

**Not applicable. Please refer to Cup Rule 21 for all other matters concerning match arrangements**

- ~~(d) In all Competitions, if the ground of the first drawn Club is not available for any other reason, and the ground of the opposing team is available, then the venue of the tie shall be switched to the ground of the opposing team. In the event of a tie being switched to the ground of the second drawn Club, they shall become the home team and shall be responsible for payment of the Match Officials fees and pitch fees if applicable.~~

~~Should the ground of the second drawn Club also not be available then the delegated committee shall have the power to determine where the match be played and the financial conditions related to this.~~

Not applicable. Please refer to Cup Rule 21 for all other matters concerning match arrangements

~~(e) In any event, the delegated Committee shall have the power to order that any match be played on an alternative ground or date if it is considered appropriate and necessary. For ties switched from the ground of the Club first drawn, the delegated Committee shall determine the financial conditions in which the tie shall be played.~~

Not applicable. Please refer to Cup Rule 21 for all other matters concerning match arrangements

~~Failure to comply with the Rule may result in a fine of up to £30 for either or both Clubs~~

#### ***Rationale for the change to Rule 14***

*Other than the semi finals and final of the Norfolk Senior Cup and the finals of all other competitions, all other matters relating to the venue of County Cups ties is now covered in Rule 21.*

## **RULE 16**

### **The Ground, Match Balls and Respect Handshake**

16. ~~(f) In all Competitions, prior to the kick off a Respect handshake should be carried out by both teams and the Referee. Failure to do so may result in a fine of up to £30.~~

#### ***Rationale for the change to Rule 16***

*Respect handshakes are not taking place due to COVID-19*

## **RULE 21**

### **Match Arrangements**

21. ~~(a) The times for kick off in all the County competitions shall be arranged by the delegated Committee and detailed in the schedule of dates of rounds of Cup Competitions.~~

~~(b) Clubs may be fined up to £100 for late starts in cup matches.~~

~~(c) In the Norfolk Senior Cup the following rules shall apply to fixtures involving teams playing at Step 4 or professional team (add where relevant) of the National League System.~~

~~(i) If a team at Step 4 are drawn at home the fixture will be played at their home ground during either the midweek prior to or the midweek after the scheduled date of the round, unless both teams agree to play the fixture on the scheduled Saturday.~~

~~(ii) If a team at Step 4 are drawn away to a team with floodlights that come up to the standard that would allow them to enter the FA Vase, the fixture will be played during either the midweek prior to or the midweek after the scheduled date at the ground of the first drawn team, unless both teams agree to play the fixture on the scheduled Saturday.~~

~~(iii) If a team at Step 4 are drawn away to a team without floodlights that come up to the standard that would allow them to enter the FA Vase, the home Club can choose one of the following options:-~~

~~○ Find an alternative venue to play the tie during the midweek prior to or the midweek after the scheduled date~~

~~○ Reverse the fixture to the opponents ground during the midweek prior to or the midweek after the scheduled date, or~~

~~○ If both Clubs are in agreement, play at the ground of the home Club on the scheduled Saturday.~~

~~(d) In the event of the tie being played at an alternative ground, or reversed, where the expenses incurred for the fixture are greater than the income received, such deficit will be borne equally by both Clubs. Should the income be greater than the expenses then the side that conceded home advantage shall be entitled to keep all of the profits up to a maximum of £300. Any additional profit over that amount would be divided equally between the 2 Clubs.~~

~~(e) For all Norfolk Senior Cup ties not involving either professional Clubs or teams playing at Step 4 and above of the National League System and in all other Saturday Cup competitions the following shall apply:-~~

- ~~● A Club with floodlights of a lux value necessary for entry in the FA Vase may kick off no later than 3.00pm or may, if its opponents agree, play the fixture during the midweek prior to or the midweek after the scheduled date of the round or on the Friday evening, the day before the scheduled match.~~

~~(f) Where Clubs have floodlights installed the referee shall be the sole arbiter in deciding their use after the commencement of the match.~~

~~(g) In all Competitions except for the Norfolk Senior Cup, if both teams are in agreement, any tie prior to the Quarter Finals may be played on the weekend prior to the date of the Round or no later than the weekend following the date of the Round. Such agreement shall be confirmed with Norfolk County Football Association no later than 10 days prior to the original match date.~~

~~(h) Furthermore, in the John Savage, Stuart Dracup and Under 12's Cups, if both teams are in agreement, any tie prior to the Quarter Finals can kick off at an alternative time. Such agreement shall be confirmed with Norfolk County Football Association no later than 3 days before the date of the fixture.~~

~~(i) For the avoidance of doubt, from the Quarter Finals stage of all County Cup competitions, ties must be played on the specified date of the round and at the scheduled kick off time. Failure to comply with this Rule may result in a fine of up to £100~~

(a) Up to and including the Quarter Finals of the Norfolk Senior Cup and up to and including the Semi Finals of all other competitions, the following shall apply:

If the ground of the first drawn Club is not available on the scheduled date and time of the match for any reason, and the ground of the opposing team is available, then the venue of the tie shall be switched to the ground of the opposing team. In the event of a tie being switched to the ground of the second drawn Club, they shall become the home team and shall be responsible for payment of the Match Officials fees and pitch fees if applicable.

The club originally drawn at home shall notify Norfolk County FA that the tie has been reversed no later than 3 days prior to the scheduled date of the match.

If the ground of the second drawn Club is also not available on the scheduled date and time of the match for any reason, then the two Clubs shall agree to play the match at an alternative venue. Under these circumstances, the Match Official and pitch fees shall be borne equally by both Clubs.

In the event of the tie being played at an alternative venue, details of the venue and kick off time shall be provided to Norfolk County FA by the club originally drawn at home no later than 3 days prior to the date of the match.

(b) All matches shall be played on the published date and kick off at the published time, unless:

(i) In the Norfolk Senior Cup, if the home team has floodlights that come up to the standard that would allow them to enter the FA Vase, the match may be played either the midweek before, or the midweek after the originally scheduled date.

(ii) In all other competitions, if the home team has floodlights that come up to the standard that would allow them to enter the FA Vase, and both teams agree, the match may be played either the midweek before, or the midweek after the originally scheduled date

(iii) In all competitions, if both teams agree, the kick off time of the match may be altered as follows:

(a) Ties played in the Senior, Junior, Primary, Women's and Veterans Cups may kick off between 10.30am and 7.45pm

(b) Ties played in the Sunday Senior and Sunday Junior Cups may kick off between 10.30am and 4pm

(c) Ties played in the U12's, Stuart Dracup and John Savage Cups may kick off between 10am and 6pm

(d) Ties played midweek under floodlights shall kick off at 7.45pm unless both teams agree otherwise

In the event of the match date and/or kick off time changing, the home club shall inform Norfolk County FA no later than 3 days prior to the date of the match

(c) If the two Clubs are either unable to find, or cannot agree on a suitable venue, then the matter shall be referred to the delegated Committee, who shall have the power to:

(i) Determine the venue that the match is to be played at and/or the date and kick off time of the match, or

(ii) Award to tie to either of the competing teams, or

(iii) Remove both teams from the competition, or

(iv) Determine that the tie be decided by the drawing of lots, or

(v) Make any other determination that it deems appropriate.

(d) In any event, the delegated Committee shall have the power to order that any match be played on an alternative ground or date if it is considered appropriate and necessary. For ties switched from the ground of the Club first drawn, the delegated Committee shall determine the financial conditions in which the tie shall be played.

### ***Rationale for the change to Rule 21***

*With the season being severely disrupted by the pandemic, there is very little time between the remaining rounds of each competition and as such the conditions regarding match arrangements have been updated to ensure that all ties get played as quickly as possible.*

## RULE 25

### Postponed and/or Abandoned Fixtures

#### 25. ~~(e) Norfolk Senior Cup~~

~~(i) In the Norfolk Senior Cup a postponed or abandoned match shall be played in the midweek following the Friday/Saturday fixture, provided there is enough daylight to complete the match or the home Club has floodlights, that come up to the standard that would allow them to enter the FA Vase. Otherwise the match will be played seven days after the original date.~~

~~(ii) If a midweek fixture is postponed or abandoned the match shall be played in the following midweek, provided there is enough daylight to complete the match or the home club has floodlights that come up to the standard that would allow them to enter the FA Vase, unless both clubs agree to play on the Saturday following the original midweek date. Should there be any further postponements this process shall then be repeated until a result is achieved.~~

#### **(f) All ~~Other~~ Cup Competitions**

~~In all other Cup Competitions a postponed or abandoned match shall be played seven days after the original date, or if both Clubs are in agreement and the consent of Norfolk County Football Association has been obtained, the tie may be played in the midweek following the original date provided there is enough daylight to complete the match or the home Club has floodlights, that come up to the standard that would allow them to enter the FA Vase.~~

**In the event of a tie being postponed, the delegated Committee shall have the power to determine all matters relating to the match, including, but not limited to:**

- (i) The date and kick off time that the match shall be rearranged for**
- (ii) The venue the rearranged match shall be played at**
- (iii) The financial conditions relating to the rearranged match**

#### ***Rationale for the change to Rule 25***

*With the season being severely disrupted by the pandemic, there is very little time between the remaining rounds of each competition and as such the conditions regarding postponed and abandoned matches have been updated to ensure that all ties get played as quickly as possible.*



## RULE 26

### Notice of Result

#### 26. (b) Return of Team Sheet

(i) Each Club shall give notice of the result and mark awarded to the referee to the Competition Secretary together with a list of players taking part in the match, indicating any substitutes that have been used and all goal scorers on the team sheet completed on the day of the match. ~~In the event of the official Post Office postmark on the envelope being later than the Monday following a weekend match or Friday following a midweek match or, if posted, the team sheet is sent by other than first class mail, the club sending the same may be fined the sum of up to £30. If the team sheet is delivered by hand, a club may be fined up to £30 if the result sheet is not in the hands of the Competition Secretary within 48 hours of the end of the match.~~

(ii) Completed team sheets ~~can~~ **must** be scanned **or photographed** and emailed to CountyCups@NorfolkFA.com and must be received by Norfolk County Football Association within 48 hours of the end of the match.

(iii) In the event of the returned team sheet not be correctly and fully completed, a Club may be fined up to £30

#### ***Rationale for the change to Rule 26***

*As there is very little time between the remaining rounds, team sheets must be returned electronically to allow time for them to be checked ahead of the next round*

## RULE 32

### Failure to Play

32. (a) Any Club, intending to withdraw from the Competition, must give information of their intention to do so to the Secretary of the opposing Club and Norfolk County Football Association not less than eight days before the date fixed for playing ~~or they shall be reported to the delegated Committee, who shall have power to compel such offending Club to pay the legitimate expenses incurred by their opponents or of taking such action as they deem appropriate.~~

**Should a Club withdraw giving less than eight days' notice, the delegated Committee shall have the power to order the withdrawing Club to pay some or all of any legitimate expenses incurred by their opponents.**

(b) A team, unable to fulfil its fixture, shall, other than in extenuating circumstances be deemed to have scratched from the Competition and ~~may be fined an amount not exceeding £100 and be responsible for any legitimate expenses incurred.~~

***Rationale for the change to Rule 32***

*Clubs will not be fined if they withdraw from a Cup competition, but if there is a late withdrawal and the opponents have already incurred expenses, the withdrawing team may be required to cover some or all of those costs.*

## **RULE 37**

**Protests**

37. (b) Protests, regarding the qualification of any member of the competing teams, shall be sent in writing to Norfolk County Football Association and be accompanied by the particulars of the grounds on which each protest is founded, within ~~two~~ **five** working days of the match, together with a deposit of £35.

***Rationale for the change to Rule 37***

*As there is very little time between the remaining rounds, protests must be submitted more quickly in order to maximise the chances of the protest being dealt with before the next round.*

## **RULE 42**

**Provisions Concerning Appeals**

42. (b) Any such intention to appeal must be received by the Norfolk County Football Association within ~~7~~ **two** days of the posting of written notification of the decision of the delegated Committee or appointed sub-committee, detailing the grounds on which the appeal is being made and including an appeal fee of £35

***Rationale for the change to Rule 42***

*As there is very little time between the remaining rounds, appeals must be submitted more quickly in order to maximise the chances of the appeal being dealt with before the next round.*

## **RULE CV1**

Any team that is unable to fulfil a County Cup fixture due to COVID-19 related reasons shall be deemed to have forfeited the match and withdrawn from the competition.

For the avoidance of doubt, this includes, but is not limited to:

- Any team that cannot fulfil a fixture due to COVID-19 related reasons directly relating to their own team / club
- Any team that chooses not to play a fixture for COVID-19 related reasons, despite it being possible for the match to be played in line with the relevant government and FA Rules and guidance that are in place at the time of the fixture.

~~This Rule applies to all rounds up to, but not including, the Quarter Finals of each respective Cup Competition, at which point the Rule will be reviewed.~~

***Rationale for the change to Rule CV1***

*The rule has been reviewed and shall apply to all County Cup matches this season.*

## **RULE CV2**

~~In the Norfolk Senior Cup only, for all matches played up to and including the Quarter Finals, if the home team have floodlights that come up to the standard that would allow them to enter the FA Vase, the tie must be played either the midweek prior to or the midweek after the scheduled date of the round.~~

~~The two teams shall be required to agree the revised date of the tie and the home team shall notify Norfolk County FA of the revised date at least 7 days prior to the tie being played. Should the two teams be unable to agree on a revised date, the date shall be set by Norfolk County Football Association and this decision will be final and binding on both teams.~~

~~Failure to comply may result in a fine of up to £100~~

***Rationale for the change to Rule CV2***

*This rule was introduced to reduce pressure on Leagues getting league fixtures completed. As the relevant Leagues have declared their competitions null and void the rule is no longer required.*