

Rules for the Norfolk County FA Schools Cups 2019-20

The Cups

1. The Cups shall be called:
 - The R Simms Trophy
 - Norfolk Schools U12's Cup (9-a-side)
(Players to be born between 1/9/2007 and 31/8/2009 inclusive)
 - The Park Trophy
 - Norfolk Schools U13's Cup
(Players to be born between 1/9/2006 and 31/8/2008 inclusive)
 - The Caister Cup
 - Norfolk Schools U14's Cup
(Players to be born between 1/9/2005 and 31/8/2007 inclusive)
 - The Tom Eastell Cup
 - Norfolk Schools U15's Cup
(Players to be born between 1/9/2004 and 31/8/2006 inclusive)
 - The Mascot Cup
 - Norfolk Schools U16's Cup
(Players to be born between 1/9/2003 and 31/8/2005 inclusive)
 - The Cowles Cup
 - Norfolk Schools U19's Cup
(Players to be born between 1/9/2000 and 31/8/2003 inclusive)
 - The Norfolk Schools U13 Girls Cup (9-a-side)
(Players to be born between 1/9/2006 and 31/8/2008 inclusive)
 - The Millennium Shield
 - Norfolk Schools U14's Girls Cup
(Players to be born between 1/9/2005 and 31/8/2007 inclusive)
 - The R.A.F. Cup
 - Norfolk Schools U16's Girls Cup
(Players to be born between 1/9/2003 and 31/8/2005 inclusive)

Ownership

2. The Norfolk Schools FA shall be for all intents and purposes the legal owner of the cups.

Control and Management

3. The management of the competitions shall be vested in the Norfolk County FA Schools Cups Working Group. The words 'Competition Secretary' shall mean the Secretary from whom the school received the cup draw.

For any Schools County Cup competition to be held there must be a minimum of eight teams actually playing in the competition.

Notice & Entrance Fees

4. Each school, competing for the Cups, shall give notice to the Competition Secretary by no later than the third Friday in September and with such notice shall send an entrance fee of:

The R Simms Trophy (9-a-side)	£25
The Park Trophy	£25
The Caister Cup	£25
The Tom Eastell Cup	£25
The Mascot Cup	£25
The Cowles Cup	£25
The Norfolk Schools U13 Girls Cup (9-a-side)	£25
The Millennium Shield	£25
The R.A.F. Cup	£25

Withdrawals

5. Schools, which enter and withdraw before the First Round, will be considered as not having played and may be liable to a fine not exceeding £50.

The entry fee will not be refunded.

School Eligibility

6. All Schools County Cup competitions shall be open only to Norfolk schools and shall be competed for annually.

The Norfolk County FA Schools Cups Working Group may reject the entry of any school.

Qualification of Players

7. A school may field no more than 3 players who are part of the same centre of excellence/football academy.

A player shall be eligible to play in Norfolk County FA Schools Cup matches provided he/she meets the following criteria:

- He/she is a pupil at the school which they are to play for.
- He/she are aged appropriately for the relevant competition as per Cup Rule 1.

However, a player shall be ineligible to play in Norfolk County FA Schools Cup matches under the following circumstances:

- A player, having already played in a Norfolk County FA Schools Cup competition, is not eligible to play for another school in a Schools County Cup competition unless they have transferred schools and are enrolled in education at the new school.

Playing an Ineligible Player

8. In the event of a School playing an ineligible player, the Norfolk County FA Schools Cups Working Group may:
- Order the match in question to be replayed, or
 - Expel the offending school from the competition, or
 - Allow the result to stand

In all instances the School may be fined a sum not exceeding £50. The offending school may also be held responsible for any expenses incurred. The Norfolk County FA Schools Cups Working Group shall also have the power to impose an appropriate penalty against the player(s).

The Drawing

9. The names of the schools, entered for each competition, shall be placed in one lot, unless otherwise decided, and drawn in couples. The two schools drawn together shall compete with each other. The names of the winning schools in that round shall be drawn together in the same way and so on until the final tie is played when the winning school shall hold the Cup for the current year.

Immediately after each respective draw the Competition Secretary shall intimate the cup draw result to the competing schools along with the date by which the ties must be organised by and played by. The to be played by date for all the rounds shall be fixed by the Norfolk County FA Schools Cups Working Group before the beginning of each season, but may be altered at any time if the Norfolk County FA Schools Cups Working Group so determine.

All rounds consisting of more than 16 teams will be regionalised however once a competition reaches 16 or less teams it becomes an open Countywide competition.

Venues & Match Arrangements

10. The venue of each match (apart from the Final) will be that of the first drawn School unless the consent of the Norfolk County FA Schools Cups Working Group has been obtained to any change of venue.

The school drawn at home must provide at least 3 dates for the fixture to be played, which must not all be on the same day (i.e. must not be 3 consecutive Wednesdays) and must not all be within the same week. If agreement on a date cannot be reached by the to be organised date, a date and venue will be set by the Norfolk County FA Schools Cups Working Group. Confirmation of the date of the game must be made to Norfolk County FA prior to the to be organised date and at least 5 days prior to the scheduled fixture..

In any event, the Norfolk County FA Schools Cups Working Group 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 school first drawn, the Cup Committee shall determine the financial conditions in which the tie shall be played.

Each school drawn at home shall at least five days before its respective cup tie, confirm with its opponents the match arrangements including the venue, colours and kick off time.

Any School in default shall be fined the sum of £10.

Late Arrivals

11. Should a team arrive so late as to cause the cancellation of the tie, the Norfolk County FA Schools Cups Working Group may expel that team from the competition and the team may be liable to pay the expenses of both its opposition and the match officials (if applicable).

The Ground and Match Balls

12. The field of play for cup ties shall be a rectangle as follows:

Competitions	Max Length	Max Width	Min Length	Min Width	Recommended Length	Recommended Width	Goalpost Sizes
U12 Competitions	80 yards/ 73 metres	50 yards/ 46 metres	70 yards/ 64 metres	40 yards/ 37 metres	80 yards / 73 metres	50 yards / 46 metres	16 feet wide by 7 feet tall or 21 feet wide by 7 feet tall
U13 & U14 Competitions	100 yards/ 91 metres	60 yards/ 56 metres	80 yards/ 73 metres	50 yards/ 46 metres	90 yards / 82 metres	55 yards / 50 metres	21 feet wide by 7 feet tall or 24 feet wide by 8 feet tall
U15 & U16 Competitions	110yards/ 101 metres	70 yards/ 64 metres	90 yards/ 82 metres	50 yards/ 46 metres	100 yards / 91 metres	60 yards / 56 metres	24 feet wide by 8 feet tall
U19 Competitions	130 yards/ 119 metres	100 yards/ 91 metres	100 yards/ 91 metres	50 yards/ 46 metres	110 yards / 101 metres	70 yards / 64 metres	24 feet wide by 8 feet tall

All the lines must be clearly defined according to Law 1 of the Laws of the Game

In all Schools County Cup competitions goal nets must be used.

Match Ball Size	Competition
4	The R Simms Trophy (9-a-side) The Park Trophy The Caister Cup The Norfolk Schools U13 Girls Cup (9-a-side) The Millennium Shield
5	The Tom Eastell Cup The Mascot Cup The Cowles Cup

Artificial Pitches

13. New generation rubber infill pitches will be permitted in all Schools County Cup competitions. Such pitches must conform to the FIFA 1 star standard, or the equivalent International Artificial Turf Standard (IATS).

Colours

14. All players in Schools County Cup ties shall wear School colours, but in the event of two Schools having the same or similar colours, the visiting School must change. Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from the other players and the match officials.

Substitutes

15. In all Schools County Cup Competitions, rolling substitutes are allowed. Schools may name and use five substitutes on a roll on roll off basis as often as it wishes with the permission of the referee.

Duration

16. The duration of all County Cup fixtures will be as per the tables below

Original Fixtures

Competition	Duration	Half Time Interval	Extra Time	Penalties
U12 Competitions	2 x 30 minute periods	Shall not exceed 5 minutes, except by special permission of the referee	2 x 5 minute periods	Yes
U13 & U14 Competitions	2 x 35 minute periods	Shall not exceed 5 minutes, except by special permission of the referee	2 x 5 minute periods	Yes
U15 & U16 Competitions	2 x 40 minute periods	Shall not exceed 5 minutes, except by special permission of the referee	2 x 5 minute periods	Yes
U19 Competitions	2 x 45 minute periods	Shall not exceed 5 minutes, except by special permission of the referee	2 x 5 minute periods	Yes

Postponed and/or Abandoned Fixtures

17. In the event of a match being postponed or abandoned because of weather conditions, it shall be the responsibility of the home school to notify the Competition Secretary by email of the postponement/abandonment as soon as possible and by no later than 48 hours after the scheduled completion time of the fixture.

Failure to do so will result in the School being fined £10.

A postponed or abandoned match shall be played on the next available date as agreed by both competing schools within 3 days of the postponement or abandonment, and shall take place prior to the round conclusion date set by the Norfolk County FA Schools Cups Working Group other than in extenuating circumstances as determined by the Norfolk County FA Schools Cups Working Group.

In cases where the abandonment of a match is due to the fault of one of the competing Schools, the Norfolk County FA Schools Cups Working Group may, on application of the School not in default, allow such a result to stand.

The Norfolk County FA Schools Cups Working Group may also, providing 70 minutes of the match has been played in the U19 County Cup competition, 60 minutes in the U15 & U16 competitions, 50 minutes in the U13 & U14 competitions and 45 minutes in the U12 competition, where no team is considered to be at fault, allow the score at the time of the abandonment to be declared the final result.

Notice of Result

18. The winning school is required to notify the Competition Secretary of the result of their respective Cup match by email no later than 48 hours following completion of the match.

Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine not exceeding £10.

In the event of a match being abandoned the home school is required to email the score at the time of the abandonment in line with the above procedure within 48 hours of completion of the match.

Appointment of Referees and Assistant Referees

19. The Norfolk County FA Schools Cups Working Group shall be responsible for appointing all match officials for each respective County Cup Final in conjunction with the Norfolk County FA Referee Appointments Officer and Referee Development Officer.

The Norfolk County FA Referee Appointments Officer will appoint a referee to each Semi Final fixture. In all other County Cup fixtures it shall be the responsibility of the home school to appoint a referee. In all rounds up to and including the Semi Finals schools are required to provide an assistant referee. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £10

Referees appointed by the County FA, shall receive travelling expenses for journeys between their residence and the ground at a rate not to exceed 30p per mile and fees as per the following scale:

Referees Fees:

(a) U19 Competitions	£18
(b) U15 & U16 Competitions	£16
(c) U13 & U14 Competitions	£14
(d) U12 Competitions	£12

It shall be the responsibility of Norfolk County FA to pay the Referee and any other officials their expenses and applicable match fee where appointed.

Referee No Show

20. In the event of the appointed referee failing to arrive, a referee shall be chosen at the ground and must be mutually agreed by both teams. This individual will be considered as an official appointment by the Association for the duration of the match. The absence of the appointed referee shall not be deemed sufficient cause for the match not being played.

Schools, failing to comply with this rule, shall be fined an amount of £20 and may be expelled from the competition.

Abortive Journey

21. In all unplayed matches, where the referee or any appointed assistant referees attend they shall be entitled, if no school is at fault, to expenses and half match fee, should the official deem it appropriate.

If the Norfolk County FA Schools Cups Working Group deem any School is at fault for the non-playing of a fixture it may be required to pay the appointed official(s) their full fees and expenses.

County Cup Final Appointments

22. A medal or memento will be presented to the referee and the assistant referees, who officiate in the finals of all County Cup competitions, instead of a match fee. Match travel expenses will still be paid.

Examination of Ground

23. A School may apply to the Competition Secretary, who shall require a referee or some other suitable person to examine the ground and decide as to its fitness for play, in sufficient time to save expenses being incurred by the Schools for unnecessary journeys.

Failure to Play

24. Any School, intending to withdraw from the competition, must give information of their intention to do so to the Secretary of the opposing school and the Competition Secretary not less than five days before the date fixed for playing or they shall be reported to the Norfolk County FA Schools Cups Working Group, who shall have power to compel such offending School to pay the legitimate expenses incurred by their opponents or of taking such action as they deem expedient.

Teams, failing to comply with this rule, shall be fined an amount not exceeding £50 and be liable for any expenses.

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 £50 and be responsible for any legitimate expenses incurred.

Schools County Cup Finals

25. The final ties of all County Cup competitions shall be played on a ground to be determined by the Norfolk County FA Schools Cups Working Group.

In the event a final match is level after normal time it shall be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with regulations laid down by the International Board.

The Norfolk County FA Schools Cups Working Group shall have direct control of all arrangements for the Cup Finals.

In all County Cup finals the only persons allowed in the technical areas will be the named substitutes and School officials as named on the official Team Sheet on the day of the match. All named persons shall act in a responsible manner. The names of all individuals, eligible to enter the technical areas, must be submitted to the match referee, opponents and a designated person from the Norfolk County FA Schools Cups Working Group at least 30 minutes prior to kick off when submitting the schools completed pre match Cup Final team sheet.

Responsibility for the Cups

26. The cups shall be presented to the captain of each winning School immediately after the completion of the Final. An officer from each winning School will be required to sign the 'Custody of County Cups' form, confirming the School knows and accepts its personal responsibility for the cup and its value along with the undertaking that the School will be financially liable for any damage caused.

Each County Cup shall be returned to the Competition Secretary no later than 1st March in the following year or earlier if so requested.

Before it is returned the name of the winning School must be inscribed thereon. Failure to return the cup by the stipulated date, properly inscribed, will result in the School being fined an amount not exceeding £50 and invoiced for the inscribing costs.

Medals

27. In addition to the County Cup trophy the Association shall provide 16 medals for the winners of the competition and 16 medals for the runners-up of the competition. No further medals will be issued to Schools under any circumstances.

Players Sent Off In County Cup Finals

28. Any player, who is sent from the field of play for misconduct during a final, is prohibited from receiving his/her memento during the official presentation unless given permission by Norfolk County FA Staff present at the Final.

County Cup Final Programme Notes

29. Any school reaching a Final of a competition will be required to submit programme details as requested by the Norfolk County FA Schools Cups Working Group. Details must be returned within 10 days of them being requested. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £10.

Protests

30. Protests, regarding the arrangements of the ground and size of the ball, must be made to the referee in writing prior to the commencement of the match.

Protests, regarding the qualification of any member of the competing teams, shall be sent in writing to the Competition Secretary in duplicate and be accompanied by the particulars of the grounds, on which each protest is founded, within five working days of the match, together with a deposit of £20.

All protests shall be referred to the Norfolk County FA Schools Cups Working Group, who shall have power to refer them to a sub-committee. The decision of the Norfolk County FA Schools Cups Working Group or the sub-committee shall be final.

The Competition Secretary shall send a copy of the protest and particulars to the School protested against. Each School may support its case by witnesses.

No barrister or solicitor shall represent a School at the hearing of a protest unless he/she is the Secretary of the school concerned and appears as such on the application form to enter the competition.

In the event of any protest not being upheld, the deposit of £20 shall be forfeited to the funds of the Association. Additionally the protesting School may be required to meet the costs of the hearing.

No protest shall be allowed to be withdrawn by a School without the consent of The Association.

Payment of Fines

31. All fines and costs shall be paid to The Association within 14 days of the date of notice to the school. Any school, failing to pay any fine and/or cost, shall be dealt with by an appointed sub committee of the Norfolk County FA Schools Cups Working Group.

Alteration of Rules

32. Alterations in these rules shall be approved only by the Norfolk County FA Schools Cups Working Group. Notice of any proposed alteration shall be given to the Norfolk County FA Schools Cups Working Group not later than 1st February in any given year.

Powers of the Norfolk County FA Schools Cups Working Group

33. The decision of The Norfolk County FA Schools Cups Working Group or appointed sub-committee on all matters relating to Norfolk County FA Schools Cup competitions shall be final and binding and shall not be subject to appeal.