

COUNTY CUP RULES 2022 / 23



**NORTHANTS
FOOTBALL**



These rules apply to all cups apart from the Hillier Senior Cup

1. NAMES OF TROPHIES

The Northamptonshire Football Association County Cup Competitions shall comprise of;
The Maunsell Cup, The Hillier Senior Cup, The Les Underwood Junior Cup, The Lower Junior Cup, The Area Cup, U12 Boys Cup, U14 Boys Cup, U16 Boys Cup, U12 Girls Cup*, U14 Girls Cup*, U16 Girls Cup*, The Sunday Cup, The Sunday Vase, The Veterans Cup, The Under 18 David Joyce Cup, The Under 18 Youth Cup
The Women's Cup, The Futsal Cup and The Walking Football Cup.

2. OWNERSHIP OF THE TROPHY

The Trophy shall never become the absolute property of any Club.

The President and Chief Executive Officer for the time being and for intents and purposes will be the legal owners of the Cups in trust of the Association.

3. MANAGEMENT OF COMPETITIONS

The County Cup Competitions shall be under the control and management of the Northamptonshire FA and the appointed County Cup Committee.

The draws shall be made by those designated by Northamptonshire FA.

The County Cup Committee, at their first meeting at the beginning of each season, will confirm the appointment of a Sub-Committee that will deal with all matters of discipline and interpretation of the rules for the season.

4. ENTRY FEES

Entry fees shall be paid upon Affiliation to the County FA each year.

Entrance fees for the 2022/23 season are as follows.

Adult Competitions - £18

Youth Competitions - £10

The Walking Football Cup - £15

The Futsal Cup - £15 (a small additional fee will be charged to each team for each round they participate in)

5. METHOD OF ENTRY & REQUIREMENTS

All affiliated Teams in Northamptonshire, who play in a sanctioned league, must compete in the relevant NFA Cup Competition, unless an application for exemption is granted.

A written application for exemption must be sent Northamptonshire FA by August 1st of each year. The Sub-Committee will then accept or reject the exemption application.

No team shall be allowed to enter a County Cup Competition unless they are registered with a league that is affiliated to with the FA/NFA.

Entry into each Cup shall be as follows;

- (a) The Les Underwood Junior Cup - To be competed by Teams that play at Step 6 & 7 and teams who compete in League whose senior Division is considered to be of a suitable standard *
- (b) The John Prentice Lower Junior Cup - To be competed by Teams that are considered to be of a suitable standard *
- (c) The Area Cup Competition - To be competed by Teams that are considered to be of a suitable standard *
- (d) The Sunday Cup - To be competed by Teams that are considered to be of a suitable standard *
- (e) The Sunday Trophy - To be competed by Teams that are considered to be of a suitable standard *
- (f) The Sunday Vase - To be competed by Teams that are considered to be of a suitable standard *
- (g) The Veteran's Cup - To be competed for by bona-fide Veterans Clubs.
- (h) The Women's Cup - To be competed for by bona-fide Women's Clubs.
- (i) The Youth Invitation Boys Cup - To be competed for by Clubs selected by Council.
- (j) The Youth Invitation Girls Cup - To be competed for by clubs selected by Council.
- (k) The U18 David Joyce Cup - To be competed for by bona-fide U18 clubs with senior teams of step 6 or above.
- (l) The U18 Youth Cup - To be competed for by bona-fide Under 18 clubs.
- (m) The Futsal Cup - To be competed for by bona-fide Futsal Teams.
- (n) The Walking Football Cup - To be competed for by Walking Football groups registered with the County FA or from Affiliated Clubs.

*Suitable standard is decided by the County Cup Committee.

The Cup in which each team shall compete in shall be determined by a matrix agreed upon by the County Cup Chair. This matrix shall allocate the divisions of leagues to a competition according to the standard of football played within that division.

Where two teams from the same Club align within the same competition, both teams shall be permitted to compete within the competition, however, will be treated as separate entities with the players only being permitted to play for one of the teams.

6. DATES OF FIXTURES

The dates that the fixtures shall be played will be determined by the County Cup Committee at the start of the season.

Under certain circumstances, fixtures may be subject to alteration with the agreement of the County Cup Committee.

Any closed date request will be considered by the County Cup Committee in the event that the Team has advised their League at least four weeks prior to the date of the fixture

The dates of the final of all Competitions will be decided by the County Cup Committee, who shall have control of all arrangements in connection with the match.

7. POSTPONEMENT OF FIXTURE

Should a fixture be postponed, both teams must complete the form on the below link. This must be completed within 24 hours of the fixture date.

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/dbb002e85fed4080aaa76bcf2ed090e7>

All postponed matches will be taken to the County Cup Sub-Committee to make a decision on what happens next to the game.

In the event of a cup match being postponed for two consecutive weeks due to the non-availability of the designated pitch, or weather conditions, the County Cup Sub-Committee have the power to order the game to be played at the away team ground.

8. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GAME

(a) Notification

The home team shall notify to their opponents and match officials full match details, including location and directions at least 4 days before the match.

Teams playing in the U18 David Joyce Cup must contact the away team to agree match details within 5 days of receiving the cup draw. Notification of the agreed match date must be submitted to the Association.

(b) Venue

In all Cup Matches, except Finals, the Club first drawn shall have choice of ground. The Northamptonshire FA reserves the right to change the venue of any match if deemed necessary.

(i) The Home Club is required to provide suitable washing and toilet facilities for opponents and match officials, including washing facilities.

(ii) The home team must provide a correctly marked out pitch complete with goal posts, goal nets, corner flags and at least two suitable match balls.

(iii) Both teams must provide suitable first aid equipment for each match.

(iv) In all Youth fixtures, the home team is required to provide a respect barrier set at least one metre back from the side line on the opposite side of the pitch to the management teams and substitutes. All supporters must stand behind this barrier during game time.

(v) Where dug-outs are provided only the Named Substitutes, Manager (Coach), Assistant Manager (Assistant Coach), and person responsible for the treatment of injuries to players are to be allowed in the area, up to a maximum of 8 people. Where a technical area is designated, a maximum of 2 people are allowed to stand at once, and Law 1 of the Laws of the Game is to be applied.

(vi) In matches where dug-outs are not provided and a technical area not defined, the Manager/Coach may convey tactical instructions to players during the match, however the Manager/Coach must conduct themselves in a responsible manner at all times.

(vii) Only FA Approved 3G and artificial football turf surfaces may be used in all County Cup Competitions. In the event of a dispute or protest over the suitability of the surface, in accordance with rule 16, the Association will adjudicate with its decision being final and binding. Any protest on suitability must be lodged 5 days prior to the date of the match. The home club shall allow their opposition the opportunity to use the pitch to warm up prior to kick off. The club using the 3G football turf shall advise their opposition at least 10 days before the match of limitations or recommendations on the type of boot or stud that may be used on the surface.

9. MATCH OFFICIALS

(a) Appointment

(i) In all Cup matches the referee(s) shall be appointed by the Northamptonshire Football Association.

(ii) The Association may appoint assistant referees in ties if they deem necessary. Fourth Officials may also be appointed by the Association to all final ties.

(iii) Referee and Assistant Referees (when appointed) must arrive at the venue for the match at least 30 minutes before the kick-off.

(iv) Where assistant referees are not appointed, both Clubs must provide a suitable assistant Referee. Club Assistant Referees are to report to the Referee not later than 15 minutes prior to kick-off to receive instructions.

(v) In cases where there is no officially appointed Match Official, the Clubs shall agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that Competition Match, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee.

(vi) Match Officials Appointed to Youth Games

Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any adult competition.

Individuals under the age of 14 must not participate either as referee or assistant referee in any Competition match.

Referee's between the ages of 14 and 16 are only eligible to officiate in competitions where the Players' age band is at least one year younger than the referee. E.g. a 15 year old may only officiate in competitions where the age banding is 14 or younger.

Match Officials appointed to Youth games must have an in-date DBS and completed the Safeguarding Children Workshop.

(b) Payment

In all matches except final ties the home Club shall be responsible for paying the Referee their fee.

MATCH OFFICIALS FEES

CUP COMPETITION	REFEREE	ASSISTANT REFEREE
Les Underwood Junior Cup	£40	£30
John Prentice Lower Junior Cup / Area Cup	£35	£25
Women's Cup	£35	£25
Sunday Cup/Trophy/ Vase	£35	£25
U18 David Joyce	£35	£25
U18 Youth	£35	£25
U16 Girls / Boys	£30	£25
U12 & U14 Girls / Boys	£25	£20

Walking Football	£30	
Futsal	£10 per hour	

If the game is postponed or is not played, and the Referee and/or Assistant Referee are in attendance they will be entitled to half their fee.

In Final ties, referees shall not be paid their fees but are entitled to claim their expenses. This does not apply to referees appointed to the Walking Football County Cup competition.

c) Colours

Match Official's must wear black shirt, shorts and socks. They are not permitted to wear coloured shirts in the competition.

10. THE MATCH

(a) Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

(b) The half time interval will not be more than 15 minutes

(c) Should the match be drawn at Full-Time, there is no provision for a replay, and the match will go straight to penalty kicks. The penalty kicks will be taken with procedure adopted by the International Football Association Board.

(d) If for any reason the match is not completed within the County Cup rules, the entire match must be played again. This includes if extra-time is played incorrectly.

(e) Matches abandoned through the fault of one or both clubs shall be dealt with through the Northamptonshire FA Disciplinary Process, before the Sub-Committee make a decision of the outcome of the game.

(f) Should the match be abandoned, due to no fault of either club, during the penalty shootout, then just the penalties will be replayed.

(g) Kick off day & times will be as follows;

CUP COMPETITION	DAY	TIME
Les Underwood Junior Cup	Saturday	2pm
John Prentice Lower Junior Cup	Saturday	2pm

Area Cup	Saturday	2pm
Women's Cup	Sunday	2pm
Sunday Cup / Trophy / Vase	Sunday	10:30am
Veteran's Cup	Sunday	10:30am
U18 David Joyce Cup		7:45pm
U18 Youth	Sunday	2pm
U14 & U16 Boys	Sunday	2pm
U12 Boys	Sunday	10:30am
U12, U14 & U16 Girls	Saturday	10:30am

No variance to these kick off times is permitted, unless both clubs, referee are in agreement and permission is granted by the County Cup Committee.

(i) Duration of Match

U12 - 60 mins (30 mins each way)

U14 - 70 mins (35 mins each way)

U16 - 80 mins (40 mins each way)

U18 - 90 mins (45 mins each way)

Adult & Veterans Fixtures - 90 mins (45 mins each way)

(j) Ball Size

U12 & U14 - Size 4 ball

U16 & U18 - Size 5 ball

Adult & Veterans Fixtures - Size 5 ball

(k) Team Sheets prior to kick-off - Les Underwood Junior Cup & U18 David Joyce Cup ONLY

Each Club must provided a list of names of players taking part in the game, including the names of the substitutes to the referee and the opponents at least 45 minutes prior to kick off.

Should any nominated player, or substitute sustain an injury or become ill after the submission of the Team Sheet to the Referee and before kick-off, they maybe replaced, provided the Referee and the opponents are informed before the start of the match. In these circumstances, the Team Sheet must be updated by the relevant Club to include the replacement player and exclude the injured or ill player prior to the start of the match.

No player shall be eligible to take part in the match unless their name appears on the Team Sheet.

11. TEAM COLOURS

(a) The two competing teams must wear colours that distinguish them from each other and the Match Officials. Where there is a clash, the Away Team must change.

(b) Goalkeepers must wear colours that distinguish them from the other players and the Match Officials.

(c) In the event of Teams not agreeing on the colours being worn, Northamptonshire FA shall decide.

(d) No player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts that will clash with the Match Officials kit.

(e) All Players' shirts shall be clearly numbered on the back in accordance with the team sheet.

(f) The Captain of each team shall wear a distinguishing armband to indicate their status.

12. PROVISIONS CONCERNING PLAYERS

(a) Qualification of Players

(i) A player eligible is one who has been a bona-fide registered playing member of the Club registered with either the Football Association or respective League for at least 24 hours prior to the match.

If the League in which the Team plays has a closing date for registration then, after such closing date, special permission for additional players must be obtained from the County Cup Committee.

(ii) A player, shall not, in the same season play for more than one Club in the same Saturday Competition, or more than one Club in the Sunday Competition.

(iii) Players may play in a more Senior Saturday or Sunday Competition, provided they have been transferred/registered properly. A player may not return to a lower Competition having played in a more senior Competition. This rule does not apply for the Maunsell Cup. For Clarity, the Hillier Senior Cup is classed as a Saturday Competition.

(iv) Veterans Cup - Players must have attained the age of 35 years on or before 1st September in the current season.

(v) Youth Competitions - Identity Team Sheets with a current photo (can be downloaded via the Club portal), must be available for inspection at every match should either team request it.

(vi) U18 Cups - A player must be under the age of 18 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

(vii) A player becomes eligible to play for their team once they have been registered with their respective league on or before 31st March. However, if they have played in the same or a higher cup for a different team, they will be ineligible.

(viii) Players are only available to play in a Semi-Final or Final if they have played in a previous round. Special permission for ineligible players maybe requested to the County Cup Committee at least 3 days prior to the fixture.

(b) Clubs with two or more teams

Clubs who are eligible to enter both Saturday and Sunday Competitions must only play players who are registered for Saturday Football in Saturday Competitions, and those registered for Sunday Football in Sunday Competitions. In exceptional cases permission by the County Cup Committee, upon request, may be granted for a variance of this rule.

As per Rule 5, where two teams from the same Club align within the same competition, both teams shall be permitted to compete within the competition, however, will be treated as separate entities with the players only being permitted to play for one of the team.

(c) Replayed and Abandoned Matches

If a match is replayed due to a postponement or abandonment, only players that were eligible on the original fixture date are allowed to play in the rearranged game, with the exception of a player who has completed their suspension.

(d) Substitutions

In the Les Underwood Junior Cup, a Team may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use 3 substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from 5 players.

In all other Adult & Veteran competitions 5 substitutes players may be named.

In all Youth Competitions 7 substitutes may be named.

A player who has been substituted, then becomes a substitute and may replace a player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes no later than 15 minutes before the start of the match and a Player not named may not take part in that match.

A player who has been selected, appointed or named as a substitute before the start of the match but does not actually play in the game shall not be considered to have been a player in that game.

(e) Replayed or postponed Matches

All players must have been eligible to play in the original tie in order to play in a match which is replayed or postponed. However, a player who has been suspended according to the disciplinary procedures under the Rules of The Association may play in a match which is replayed or postponed after the term of their suspension has expired.

A Club may request dispensation from the County Cup Sub-Committee to allow ineligible players to play. This must be received in writing to Northamptonshire FA no later than 72 hours prior to the commencement of the match. Dispensation will be at the complete discretion of the County Cup Sub-Committee, with their decision being final.

(f) Contravention of Rule 12

Any Club contravening this Rule maybe struck out of the Competition, and maybe fined a minimum of £30.00

13. FAILING TO FULFIL FIXTURE

Any Club refusing to play, failing to play, scratching from playing, or failing to complete the match against the Club with whom it has been drawn against may be struck from the competition.

The Club may also be fined £100 for Les Underwood Junior Cup, £75 for all other adult competitions, U18 David Joyce Cup and the U18 Youth Cup and £35 for all other Youth Cups.

14. RESULT OF THE MATCH

(a) Full Time

Clubs are asked to text the result of the match to the Northamptonshire Football Association via the FA Full Time text service.

If a Club does not receive the message, please contact Northamptonshire Football Association within 24 hours of the fixture.

(b) Result Sheet - After the match

Each Team must complete a full Match Result Sheet and send this into Northamptonshire Football Association within 3 days of the fixture. This can be completed via Full Time or using a League Team Sheet.

Incorrect or falsified result sheets will be referred to the County Cup Committee, who will deal with as deemed necessary.

15. MATCH EXPENSES

In all Competitions, including replayed matches, the following expenses may be made if applicable:

- Printing, Postage and Advertising
- Policing
- Floodlights (not exceeding £75)
- Pitch (cost of hire from local authority, or a maximum of £70 is privately owned. In the case of a 3G pitch the maximum is £100)
- Travelling costs of visitors, which shall be based on a maximum of 4 cars - mileage allowance, 35p per mile. (Away teams home ground, to the home teams ground and the return journey)

When gate receipts are taken, if after expenses have been deducted, any surplus or losses are to be equally divided between competing Clubs. When no gate receipts are taken the total cost of the match is to be divided between the competing Clubs.

16. PROVISIONS CONCERNING PROTESTS

All issues relating to the interpretation of the Competition Rules, shall be referred to the County Cup Sub-Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding. The County Cup Sub-Committee shall consider any such matter and following such procedures as it considers appropriate.

Where a club wishes to protest that there has been a breach of the Competition rules, such protest must be made in writing and must contain the particulars of the grounds upon which it is made. This must be made 72 hours prior to the match.

The County Cup Sub-Committee may make such orders as it considers appropriate in relation to any issue or protest referred to it. The County Cup Sub-Committee may make such orders as it considers appropriate as to the costs incurred by the parties or the Association.

Any protest relating to the ground, goal posts or bars or other arrangements of the game shall not be considered by the County Cup Sub-Committee unless an objection has been lodged with the referee and the home club at least 45 minutes before the official time of the kick-off. The referee shall require the home club to correct the cause of the objection, if this is possible without unduly delaying the progress of the match.

Where an objection has been lodged with the referee and the home club as above, a protest must be made to the Association and neither objection or protest may be withdrawn.

Northamptonshire FA shall send a copy of any protest to the club protested against, which shall lodge a defence to the protest within two working days of receipt of the protest.

Members of the County Cup Sub-Committee directly connected with a club concerned in a protest (including membership of a league the club competes in) shall not have any involvement in the consideration of the matter

A club, or a player or any person directly connected with the management of the club may be summoned to attend at a hearing of a protest. A club may be represented by one or more persons. A barrister or solicitor may represent a club only with prior written consent of the County Cup Sub-Committee. Any person summoned to attend a hearing of a protest must attend personally and shall not be legally represented except with the prior written consent of the County Cup Committee.

17. PROVISIONS CONCERNING APPEALS

A club that is expelled from the competition may appeal against the decision to an appeal board in accordance with the procedures of Northamptonshire FA appeals. The notice and grounds for the appeal must be lodged within 5 days of the County Cup Committee's decision to expel the club.

Any such appeal shall only be permitted on one or more of the following grounds:

- (i) The County Cup Committee, or Sub-Committee, failed to give the club a fair hearing; and or
- (ii) The County Cup Committee, or Sub-Committee, misinterpreted or failed to comply with the Rules of the Competition relevant to its decision; and/or
- (iii) The County Cup Committee, or Sub-Committee, came to a decision to which no reasonable such body could have come; and/or
- (iv) The County Cup Committee, or Sub-Committee, imposed a penalty, award, order or sanction that was excessive.

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

18. POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE

If the County Cup Sub-Committee discover that any rule or spirit of the rules has, in their opinion, been violated by mutual agreements or otherwise, it shall be in the power of The County Cup Sub-Committee to disqualify one or both Clubs from further competing in the ties, or order the match or matches to be replayed and to impose such other penalty as it may think fit without any protest having been laid by either or any Club.

The County Cup Sub-Committee reserves the right to re-instate any club to a competition.

All questions of eligibility, disqualification of players, interpretation of the Rule or Laws of the game, as well as other matters in dispute, shall be referred to the County Sub-Committee and thereafter the County Cup Committee, whose decision shall be final.

19. FINALS

(a) Date & Venue

The final ties of all Competitions shall be played on a date & ground selected by the County Cup Committee who shall have direct control of all the arrangements in connection with the matches.

(b) Admission

The charges for admission to Cup Final matches will be determined by the County Cup Committee.

(c) Programmes

A programme will be produced for all finals. After winning their Semi Final match each finalist is required to submit information, as requested by Northamptonshire FA, for the programme by a deadline set.

(d) Trophy

Following the presentation of the Trophy, a representative of Northamptonshire FA shall ensure that a representative of the winning Club sign a document on behalf of the Club accepting the Trophy.

The Trophy to be returned to Northamptonshire FA in good condition on or before the 1st March of the following season.

The Trophy must be returned engraved with the winner of the previous season.

If the Trophy is destroyed, damaged, or not in good conditions when returned, the Club concerned shall be responsible for all expenses incurred in the repair or replacement.

(e) Mementoes

The Association will present mementoes to the winners of the final tie. Mementoes will also be presented to the runners-up in all Competitions.

When a player taking part in any final tie of the Competition is ordered to leave the field of play for misconduct, the award to which he is entitled may be withheld until the matter has been dealt with by Northamptonshire FA.

Applications to purchase extra mementoes can be submitted to Northamptonshire FA.

In final ties of Competitions, the appointed Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials will receive a memento.

The Association may also award a player of the match and a club volunteer award.

FINES TARIFF

RULE	RULE BREACH	SANCTION
7	Should a fixture be postponed, both teams must complete the form on the below link. This must be completed within 24 hours of the fixture date.	Fine of £15
8a	The home team shall notify to their opponents and match officials full match details, including location and directions at least 4 days before the match	Fine of £15
8b(i)	Failure to provide adequate facilities	Fine of £20
8b(ii)	The home team must provide a correctly marked out pitch complete with goal posts, goal nets, corner flags and at least two suitable match balls.	£10 in each case
8b (iii)	Both teams must provide suitable first aid equipment for each match.	Fine of £10
8b (iv)	Respect barriers to be provided at all Youth Games	Fine of £10
9a (iv)	Clubs failing to provide an Assistant Referee	Fine of £20
9a (v)	Clubs failing to agree on a referee, if no referee appointed	Dealt with as the County Cup Sub-Committee deem appropriate

RULE	RULE BREACH	SANCTION
10d	The match was not completed within the County Cup Rules. Including if extra-time is played incorrectly.	Entire match to be replayed.
10k	Failing to Complete a Team Sheet prior to Kick-Off	Fine of £10
11d	No player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts that will clash with the Match Officials kit.	Dealt with as the County Cup Sub-Committee deem appropriate
12f	Contravention of Rule 12	Maybe struck out of the competition and maybe fined a minimum of £30
13	Any Club refusing to play, failing to play, scratching from playing, or failing to complete the match against the Club with whom it has been drawn against	<p>Fine of up to;</p> <p>Les Underwood Junior Cup: £100</p> <p>Adult & U18 Competitions: £75</p> <p>Youth Competitions: £35</p> <p>Team may also be struck from the Competition</p>
14a	Clubs are asked to text the result of the match via the FA Full Time text service.	Fine of £10

RULE	RULE BREACH	SANCTION
14b	Failure to submit a Match Result Sheet	Fine of £20
14b	Incorrect or falsified result sheets	Dealt with as the County Cup Sub-Committee deem appropriate
19d	The Trophy to be returned to Northamptonshire FA by the 1st March of the following season.	Fine of £50
19d	The Trophy must be returned engraved with the winner of the previous season.	Engraving cost to be paid by the Club.
19d	If the Trophy is destroyed, damaged, or not in good conditions when returned.	The Club shall be responsible for all expenses incurred in the repair or replacement.

ADMINISTRATION OF COUNTY CUPS

The County Cup Committee are appointed a number of Members from Northamptonshire FA Council at the beginning of the season to assist the Office in the administration of the County Cup Competitions for 2022/23 season.

Any queries about the competition should be sent to Callum White or Harley Collyer;
info@northantsfa.com

Any queries about referee appointments should be sent to Luke Scott or Harley Collyer;
info@northantsfa.com

If your query is out of work hours (Monday to Friday 9am-5pm), or during the 24 hours prior to the match, please contact the County Cup Chairman, Tony Major on; 07887875671

KEY SAFEGUARDING CONTACTS



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