

# COUNTY CUP RULES 2022 / 23



**NORTHANTS  
FOOTBALL**



**HILLIER SENIOR CUP RULES**

# These rules apply to the Hillier Senior Cup only

## 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.

Hillier Senior Cup - £25

## 5. METHOD OF ENTRY & REQUIREMENTS

The Hillier Senior Cup - Teams that play at Step 5 and above.

Northampton Town U23's & Peterborough United U23's are also invited to compete.

Every eligible team must enter the Senior Cup upon affiliating to the Northamptonshire FA.

## 6. DATES OF FIXTURES

All fixtures shall be given a date which they must be played before.

The First Round of the Hillier Senior Cup shall take place before the start of the League season, unless agreed otherwise by Northamptonshire FA.

## 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>

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) Date & time of the game*

Both clubs shall make arrangements for the fixture between themselves within 5 days of receiving the cup draw. Notification of the agreed match date & time must be submitted to Northamptonshire FA.

### *(b) Notification prior to the game*

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.

### *(c) Venue*

In all Cup Matches, except Finals, the Club first drawn shall have choice of ground, except where Northampton Town U23's or Peterborough United U23's are drawn at home. If either of these teams are drawn at home, the fixture will be switched so they are the away team.

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) Where technical areas are provided only the Named Substitutes, Manager (Coach), Assistant Manager/s (Assistant Coach/es), and persons responsible for the treatment of injuries to players are to be allowed in the technical area, a maximum of 10 people. All other persons are to remain behind the barriers.

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

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 within the time stated, may be struck from the competition.

## **9. MATCH OFFICIALS**

### *(a) Appointment*

In all matches the referee and two assistant referee's shall be appointed by Northamptonshire Football Association.

In Semi-Final and Finals a fourth official maybe appointed by Northamptonshire Football Association.

### *(b) Payment*

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

#### **MATCH OFFICIAL FEES**

<b>CUP COMPETITION</b>	<b>REFEREE</b>	<b>ASSISTANT REFEREE</b>	<b>FOURTH OFFICIAL</b>
Hillier Senior Cup	£60	£40	£40

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

In Final ties, referees shall not be paid their fees but are entitled to claim their expenses.

### *(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) All 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.

## **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*

Registered, trialist and loan players are permitted to play in the Hillier Senior Cup.

Once a player, including a trialist, has played in the competition, they will not be permitted to play for any other team in the same competition.

E.g., If a trialist player plays for Team A in the first round, but subsequently signs for Team B, they will be cup tied and ineligible to play for Team B in the competition.

### *(b) Substitutions*

In the Hillier Senior 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.

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

*(c) Team Sheets prior to kick-off*

Each Club must provide 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 may be 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.

*(d) 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.

*(e) Contravention of Rule 12*

Any Club contravening this Rule may be struck out of the competition and may be fined a minimum of £50.00

### **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 and fined

### **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 Club must complete a full Match Result Sheet and send this into Northamptonshire Football Association within 3 days of the fixture. All players full names, date of birth and addresses must be submitted on the 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 if 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 £25
8a	Clubs failing to notify the Association of the match date	£15 fine
8b	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	£15 fine
8c (i)	Failure to provide adequate facilities	£20 fine
8c (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

RULE	RULE BREACH	SANCTION
11	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
12c	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.	Fine of £25
12e	Contravention of Rule 12	Maybe struck out of the competition and maybe fined a minimum of £50
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 within the time stated.	Fine up to £500  Can be struck from the competition
14b	Each Club must complete a full Match Result Sheet and send this into Northamptonshire Football Association within 3 days of the fixture. All players full names, date of birth and addresses must be submitted on the team sheet.	Fine of £25

<b>FINES TARIFF</b>	<b>RULE BREACH</b>	<b>SANCTION</b>
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](mailto:info@northantsfa.com)

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