**NORTH RIDING FA ADULT DISABILITY CUP COMPETITION RULES**

1. **TITLE**
	1. **The North Riding FA Disability Cup**
	2. The North Riding County Football Association Limited shall be referred to hereafter in these rules as the Association, and their Chief Executive as the Secretary.
2. **CONTROL**
	1. The Association, or any other Committee as may be appointed from time to time to act on its behalf, shall have the entire control and management of the competitions. Association shall have the powers to amend, cancel or add to the Rules as they deem expedient.
3. **NOTICES**
	1. All communications required by any of these rules shall be addressed to the Secretary of the Competition, or in the case of correspondence to competing teams, to the Secretary of such team.
	2. **CUPS-OWNERSHIP/CARE**
	The Cups are the property of the Association, to be competed for annually. For all intents and purposes, the Board of Directors of the Association shall be the legal holders of the Cups in trust for the Association.
	3. When the winning team of the Cup shall have been ascertained the Secretary shall deliver the Cup for Presentation to such team, and receive a document of receipt, and such team shall be responsible for the return of the Cup by 1st March each year or be fined a minimum of £100.
	4. The Association shall insure the Cups against fire and other accidents but reserves the right to require a team under whose care a Cup is held to meet such costs as the Association may determine should the Cup be damaged, destroyed, stolen or lost.
4. **SOUVENIRS – PROVISION**
	1. In addition to the Cup the Association may present suitable souvenirs to the players, substitutes and team Officials of each team appearing in the Final Tie. When a player taking part in a Final Tie is ordered to leave the Field of Play for misconduct, the souvenir to which he/she may be entitled shall be withheld at the discretion of the Association.
5. **TEAMS – ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY**
	1. The Competitions shall be open to clubs whose first affiliation is with the North Riding County F.A. Each team shall be entered the competition on WGS together with the appropriate fee on or before the closing date as below.
	2. The closing date is 1st October each season, but the Association shall have the power to extend the entry date of any Cup if considered necessary, and if so, clubs will be circulated.
6. **OFFICIALS - REFEREES**

The Association shall appoint Referees who, in any match, shall not be members of either of the competing teams. The duties of the referee shall be as defined in The Laws of the Game. Any objection lodged with the referee in accordance with these rules must be reported in writing by email by the referee to reach the secretary within 3 days. A referee must not adjudicate on the qualification of any competition team or player.

1. **FIXTURES/PITCH/TIMINGS**

There will be a banding competition ahead of the county cup games. The County Cup competition will take place at a central venue as a round robin competition with the final being held on the same day.  The make-up of each category will be decided following the banding games.

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| --- | --- |
| Division  | Match Timings   |
| Premiership   | 15 Minutes Each Way   |
| Championship   | 15 Minutes Each Way   |
| Challenge 1    | 20 Minutes Straight Through  |
| Challenge 2  | 20 Minutes Straight Through   |

*If there are not enough teams to have 4 divisions, it is at the discretion of the Competitions committee to merge the bandings to allow for competitions.*

Pitches must be marked out in the correct manner with a defined viewing area a

 minimum 1 metre from the pitch. All pitches are to be marked out with cones at the corner and half way points to assist VI participants.

1. **PLAYERS**

A player shall not, following the banding games and being registered with a team, play for more than one team in the competition.

Player Registration (with photo) must be completed via the whole game system before the banding festival.

 No new player registrations will be allowed after the player banding festival, unless agreed under special circumstances by the general committee. A written statement will be required, explain the circumstances needed to register a new player. If the new player is agreed, that player must play in a ten-minute friendly/league fixture to determine his/her ability level.

The Competitions committee shall have the right to call for any other form of documentary evidence to establish player eligibility.

***See appendix for further eligibility***

9. **Number of Players/ Playing format**

 The number of players and playing format per division shall be:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Division**  | **Format**  | **Maximum number of Players**  |
| Premiership   | 7 v 7   | 10 Players   |
| Championship  | 5 v 5  | 8 Players  |
| Challenge 1 | 5 v 5   | 8 Players   |
| Challenge 2 | 5 v 5   | 8 Players   |

All divisions are allowed unlimited substitutions, roll on/ roll off. The names of substitutes must be included on the official Team Sheet, a copy of which must be handed to a representative of the opponents and the Referee prior to the commencement of the match. Substitutes not named may NOT take part in a match.

1. **PLAYERS- EXCHANGE OF LISTS**

A copy of the team lists must be supplied to the Secretary of the Association within 3 days prior to the start of the competition. Teams infringing this Rule shall be fined a minimum of £10.   Shirts must be numbered, and the numbers must correspond to the numbers and names of players detailed on the official team sheet.

1. **Balls**

The home team MUST provide at least two suitable match balls, except in the Final Tie when both teams must each provide at least two suitable match balls. At the discretion of the Secretary of competition, the ball may be altered to suit the needs of the participants e.g. bell ball.

1. **OFFICIALS – REFEREES AND ASSISTANT REFEREES**

The Association shall appoint Referees and Assistant Referees who, in any match, shall not be members of either of the competing Teams.

Priority of appointments of Match Officials in these Competitions shall be in accordance with laid down Football Association Regulations.

An Official appointed to a match shall make a written/e-mail acknowledgement to reach the Appointments Officer within 5 days of receipt of the appointment, failing which the appointment may be withdrawn.

He/she shall also acknowledge the match details received from the home team in writing/by e-mail.

The duties of the Referee shall be as defined in The Laws of the Game

Any objection lodged with the Referee in accordance with these Rules must be reported in writing/by e-mail by the Referee to reach the Secretary within 3 days.  A Referee must not adjudicate on the qualification of any competing team or player.

FEES Referee

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **COUNTY CUPS**  |   |   |
|                              Banding Festival  |      |       £50                        |
|                              Finals  |   |       £50          |

In the event that no referee is appointed to a match by the Association or the appointed referee does not turn up to a match then the game should go ahead as scheduled. The away team shall be offered the opportunity to provide an individual to act as the match referee. If the away team are unable to provide an individual, then it will be the responsibility of the home team to provide an official for the game. If both teams fail to agree and the game does not go ahead then both will be removed from the competition by the Competitions Committee and charged with failing to adhere to the rules of the competition.

1. **MATCHES – PROCEEDS AND EXPENSES**

The Association shall have power to take the ground of any team affiliated to the Association for the playing of any Final Tie on such date or dates as the Association may determine.

In a Final Tie the Association shall take all and pay all, allowing the competing Teams reasonable expenses.

Any team failing or refusing to play in a Final Tie shall be adjudged to have been guilty of serious misconduct and shall be liable to be dealt with under the Rules of the Association.

1. **PROTESTS**

Any objections relating to the ground, goal posts or bars, or other appurtenances of the game shall not be entertained by the Association unless an objection has been lodged with the Referee by a representative of the complaining team in the presence of the representative of the opposing team before the commencement of the match and not later than 30 minutes before the official time of kick-off.  The Referee shall require the responsible team to remedy the objection where practicable to do so without unduly delaying the kick-off.

When an objection has been lodged with the Referee a protest must be made by the complaining team to the Association.

Any protest, dispute or complaint of whatever kind in respect of a Cup game must be made in writing/by e-mail by one of the Competing Clubs and must contain the particulars of the grounds upon which it is founded.  Protests must be lodged with the Secretary, accompanied by a protest fee of **£50** (**£100** in respect of a Final Tie), not later than 5 days after the completion of the match or other occurrences to which it relates.  The Secretary shall send a copy of such protest and particulars to the competitor protested against, who shall return an answer to the Secretary, in writing/by e-mail, who shall then send a copy of the answer to the protesting competitor.  At the hearing of a protest each competitor may support his/her case by witnesses.

No protest, objection or complaint may be withdrawn except by leave of the Association.

The Association shall have power to require the protest fee to be forfeited into the funds of the Association in the event of the protest not being sustained or may return it should they consider the circumstances warrant such return.  Where a protest is not sustained the Association may also require the protesting competitor to pay such amount as may be considered necessary towards defraying the expenses of the competitor protested against and contribute to the costs of the Commission.

If a member of the Association is connected with a team, player or official concerned in a protest, dispute or complaint he/she shall not sit on the adjudicating Committee while the protest or dispute is being considered.

1. **DISQUALIFICATION – TEAM OR PLAYER**

The Association shall have power to disqualify from any Competition or otherwise deal with any competing team or teams, player or players of any competing team which or who may be proved to be guilty of any breach of the Rules of the Association or of these Competitions.

**Any team eliminated from a competition shall have the right of appeal to the Association. Any such appeal must contain the particulars of the grounds upon which it is founded and must be lodged in writing/by e-mail with the Secretary, accompanied by a fee of £50 (£100 in respect of a Final Tie), within 5 days of the date of the written notice of elimination.**

1. **ABANDONMENT OF MATCHES**

The Management Committee shall review all Competition Matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams.  Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a Competition Match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one Team or its Club member(s) they shall be empowered to award tie to the opponent. In cases where a Competition Match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Teams or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule that the match shall not be replayed and neither Team will be allowed to progress in the competition.

1. **INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES:**

Anything not covered within these rules shall be dealt with by the Association, whose decision shall be final and binding.

1. **APPEALS**

A Club may appeal against the decision of the Association to an Independent Appeal Board comprising of three members. Any appeal must be made in writing (electronic mail acceptable) together with a deposit of £50.00 to the Association within 7 days from the date of notification. The grounds of the appeal shall be fully stated, and in the case of an appeal being improperly lodged or deemed to be frivolous, the deposit fee shall be forfeited and any costs incurred may be charged. All decisions of an Appeal Board are final and binding.

1. **THROW - INS**

Premiership Division will play with overhead throw-ins. The referee to use discretion if the player has a physical impairment.  Championship, League 1 and League 2, may throw in or kick the ball from the floor due to more physical impairments.

 **20.   GOAL KICKS**

 Goals Kicks the ball must bounce once in the teams own half, if the ball lands beyond the half way line a free kick will be awarded where the ball crossed the half way line.

 21. **BACK PASS**

 Premiership and Championship, the goalkeepers cannot pick up back passes. In league 1 and League 2, goalkeepers can pick up back passes.

 **22. OFFSIDE**

 There are no off-sides in any divisional competition.

 **23.   PLAYER DISCPLINE**

The use of Sin bins, yellow and red cards will be implemented. If a player receives a red card, the player will not be allowed to play in any other fixture on the day and the details will be sent to the County FA Discipline.

It is the team manager’s responsibility to monitor his/her team and use the roll on/ roll off substitutes to effectively manage their team.

 **24.   POINTS SYSTEM**

The County Cup will be a round robin tournament, with the top two team’s competing against each other in a Final tie. If there are teams in a joint position in the table on points, Goal Difference, Goals Scored and the Head to Head result will be used to determine the final positions. In the final tie or play off, if the score is a draw there will be extra time of 1 period of 7 minutes. If the score continues to be a draw, penalties In accordance with The Laws of the game or 3 from 3 etc will be taken until a winner has been decided.

The points for a Win = 3, Draw = 1 and Loss = 0

**Appendix**

**Eligibility**

Players with the following disabilities will be eligible to participant and compete within the North Riding FA Adult Disability Cup.

1. **Blind and Visual Impairment**

This refers to payers with any condition that interferes with normal vision and complies with the British Blind Sports Association category below:  British Blind Sports Association categorisation for partial sighted - Visual acuity (VA) up to 20/200 and / or a visual field of less than 20 degrees and more than 5 degrees in the best eye with the best practical eye correction.

Players must have partial vision, as it is suggested that a bell ball is not used for the purpose of pan-disability football.

1. **Deaf / Hearing or Balance Impairment**

This refers to players with any condition that interferes with ‘normal’ hearing within the criteria below: In addition, there are many ear disorders that affect balance that would qualify:

Disability Sport England Categorisation for Deaf / Hearing impaired – a loss of hearing of 50 decibels in the better ear at three frequencies 500Hz, 1000Hz, 2000Hz

1. **Learning Disabilities**

This refers to players with an intellectual impairment who attend special school or receive supported education or day provisions. In addition, in line with INAS, any player with an IQ of 75 or below on a standardised measure of intelligence is also eligible.

With the diagnosis of learning disability, this must be a prohibiting factor preventing them from participating in mainstream football.

1. **Missing or shortened limbs** (either congenital or through amputation)

Upper Limb – This refers to players with any loss of an upper limb at the wrist joint or above as this significantly impairs their balance and motion

Lower Limb – This refers to players with any loss of a lower limb. The minimum loss must involve at least three digits of 20% of the whole foot as this significantly impairs their balance, motion or control

Any player with profound restriction or loss of use of a limb, which significantly impairs their balance, motion or control, would be eligible.

Any limb restrictions will require the player to be assessed by their team manager, and they supply evidence from doctors or specialists. Any player wishing to play with their prosthesis on, will have to comply with FA regulations.

1. **Cerebral Palsy**

These are players with a disorder of movement and posture due to damage to an area, or areas, of the brain that control and coordinate muscle tone, reflexes, posture and movement.

1. **Physical Impairment** (caused by injury or disease which restricts the person to function in mainstream sports)
* Musculoskeletal i.e. impairment of bones and joints
* Cardiovascular i.e. heart
* Respiratory i.e. lungs

This refers to ambulant players whom have a permanent physical impairment caused by injury or disease predominately affecting one area of the body.

1. **Other Impairment or Disabilities not covered**

This includes all players that do not fit into the above classifications systems, but still consider themselves to have an impairment or disability.

Team coaches should contact the registration secretary to discuss this and the individual will be assessed individually. Eligibility evidence will be requested for individuals whom consider themselves within this area.

1. **Eligibility concerns regarding a player or team**

It is the responsibility of each competing team’s management to ensure that all footballers are eligible, according to the criteria within these guidelines.

It is felt that each club’s members will rarely have any cause to query another footballer’s eligibility, however, if club members are uncertain or have genuine concerns, they should report this to the competition secretary at the earliest opportunity. All concerns to be put in writing.

It is also important for club members to remember that individuals may have genuine disabilities or impairments, and as such we request that concerns are not discussed with any other individuals other than the team manager / competition secretary.

The competition secretary will always follow up on concerns, however, it may have been proven to the competition secretary that the player is eligible. Where it has not, the competition secretary will write to the players club, and request written evidence of their player’s eligibility. The club will be given two weeks from the date of letter to respond.

In the event that the club does not produce appropriate evidence during this period, he player will have his/her registration removed from the team/competition and therefore be unable to play until a time when the eligibility evidence is supplied to the competition secretary.

Feedback will be provided to the club member whom expressed concerns regarding the player’s eligibility. However, this will not be detailed information and no information regarding the player’s disabilities and / or impairment will be given.

Rather, the concerned club member will be informed ‘yes the player is eligible’ or ‘the player’s registration has been cancelled’. No other information will be given.

The Association takes it very seriously when a club has played a player whom is not eligible. It is the responsibility of club members to ensure that their players are eligible. Disciplinary action may be enforced to clubs whom do not ensure this.

1. **Supporting Documents and Evidence**

Supporting documents and evidence which may be used when proving eligibility:

* A letter or statement from a GP;
* A letter or statement from a care and support manager / provider
* A letter or statement from an appropriate medical professional – consultant, optician, speciality doctor etc
* A letter or statement from an appropriate social service professional – care manager, social worker etc
* A letter or educational report from the school, case worker, service provider, or any other organisation which states the IQ score
* An appropriate document which informs the registration secretary of an individual’s learning disability, or impairment.

All documents should suggest that their diagnosis has a prohibiting factor preventing them from participation in mainstream football.

 If clubs have any concerns regarding the supporting documents or evidence, they must contact the competition secretary at County Headquarters at the earliest opportunity.