

THE NORTH RIDING FA SENIOR CUP RULES.

1) TITLE:

The Cup shall be called "The North Riding Senior Challenge Cup".

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:

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 Competition. The Association shall have powers to amend, cancel or add to the Rules as they deem expedient.

3) NOTICES:

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.

4) (a) CUP OWNERSHIP AND CARE:

The Cup is 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 Cup in trust for the Association.

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.

The Association shall insure the Cup against fire and other accident but reserves the right to require a team under whose care the Cup is held to meet such costs as the Association may determine should the Cup be damaged, destroyed, stolen or lost.

4) (b) SOUVENIRS – PROVISION:

In addition to the Cup the Association may present suitable souvenirs to the players, substitutes and 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 may be entitled shall be withheld at the discretion of the Association.

5) TEAMS – ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY:

The Competition shall be open to Senior teams whose first affiliation is with the NRCFA. Each team shall be entered into the competition via the Club Portal with the appropriate entry fee on or before the closing date. The closing date is 1st August 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. The appropriate fee to be decided annually by the Association. A club having entered an F.A. Competition, (Challenge Cup, Vase or Trophy), in the current season must compete in the Senior Cup.

All clubs must have floodlights or have access to a ground with floodlights, or if drawn at home against a team with floodlights must agree to play on the opponents' ground.

Clubs can apply for exemption by paying a scaled exemption fee as follows;

LEAGUE	FEE
Premier League	£4000
Football League Championship	£2000
Football League One	£1500
Football League Two	£1000
National Football League Steps 1&2	£750
Steps 3-6 of the FA National League System	£500

Levels of entry to be;

- A) Premier League, Football League and National Football League.
- B) Northern Premier League, Northern League Division One, Northern Counties East Premier Division.
- C) Northern League Division Two, Northern Counties East Division One & National League System Feeder Leagues.

6) TEAMS WITHDRAWING AFTER COMMENCEMENT OF THE COMPETITION:

Any team intending to withdraw from the Competition after its commencement must, in writing/by e-mail, give an explanation of such intention to the Secretary and information of such intention to the Secretary of the opposing team not less than 7 days before the date fixed for playing the match. In the case of a postponed match, the period of time here indicated shall be observed so far as circumstances permit. Their opponents will progress to the next round. Teams failing to give a satisfactory explanation / reason for withdrawal shall be liable to a fine.

A team failing to comply with this rule shall be reported to Association who shall have the power to compel the withdrawing team to pay any expenses incurred by the opposing team and to take such other action as may be deemed expedient.

7) PLAYERS QUALIFICATIONS:

A player shall not, in the same season, play for more than one team in the Competition, but players of a team may be changed during the series of matches. A player must be a recognised player of the team.

A recognised player is one, who in the current season has been registered with the Football Association and/ or Leagues in which the team plays or is trialist who has completed the appropriate FA / EFL registration form.

Only players qualified to play in the original tie are eligible to play in any game to be replayed, or game that was postponed.

A player must have reached the age of 16 years to be eligible to play in this Competition.

Any team found guilty of playing an ineligible player will be eliminated from the competition as well as incurring a minimum fine of £25.

8) PLAYERS – EXCHANGE OF LISTS:

The home team shall, not less than 5 days before the match, confirm in writing/by e-mail, with the opposing team and the Match Officials, details of ground directions, kick off time and colours or be fined a minimum of £20. A written list of actual players (Forename and Surname) on the official team sheet shall be exchanged prior to the commencement of the match in the presence of the Referee, at least 30 minutes before the kick off time. Such list should reach the Secretary of the Association within 3 days of the conclusion of the match. Teams infringing this Rule shall be fined a minimum of £20 and this will be increased for any further offences during the same season. Shirts must be numbered and the numbers must correspond to the numbers and names of players detailed on the team sheet.

9) NUMBER OF SUBSTITUTES:

A team may use, at its discretion, 3 substitute players at any time, except to replace a player who has been suspended from the game by the Referee after play has been commenced. The substitution can only be made when play has stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission.

A maximum of 5 substitutes may be nominated the names of who must be included on the official team sheet handed to a representative of their opponents and the Referee prior to the commencement of the match. Substitutes not named may NOT take part in a match.

10) BALLS:

The home team must provide at least two suitable match balls for use in each tie.

11) 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 matches shall be in accordance with procedure laid down by the Football Association. 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 and Assistant Referees shall be 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.

The expenses of Officials shall be halved by the competing clubs in the First Round only. The Home Team shall pay the Match Officials fees from the second round proper up to and including the semi-final.

FEES:

	REFEREES	ASSISTANTS	4th OFFICIAL
First Round	£40	£30	-
Round Two	£55	£35	-
Quarter Finals	£60	£40	-
Semi Finals	£65	£40	£35
Final	£65	£40	£35

Half fees and expenses shall be paid in respect of any match cancelled before its commencement by the Referee because of ground or weather conditions, subject to the Match Official actually being in attendance at the ground.

Travel: By Rail – Standard return fare when actually incurred.
By Public Road Transport – standard bus return fare.
By other means, e.g. private or hired – not to exceed public road transport return fare.
By private car – not to exceed 30p per mile.

12) DRAW AND NOTIFICATION:

The Competition shall commence and be continued, the Rounds shall be drawn and the matches played as the Association may determine. The teams shall be drawn in couples and the winners shall be drawn and shall compete in the same manner and this will continue to the end of the Competition when the winning team shall be declared. At the beginning of the Competition provision of all byes shall be made. As early as possible the Secretary shall intimate to each of the teams concerned the team against which it is drawn and the date by which the game is to be played. Any team found responsible for delaying the kick off shall be fined a minimum of £20, and on repetition shall be dealt with at the discretion of the Association.

13) MATCHES PRIORITY:

Priority to these matches must be given, except by permission of the Association. Only Cup Competitions and League matches of the Football Association, Premier League, Football League and National League shall take preference.

14) MATCHES DURATION:

The duration of a match shall be 90 minutes with a half time interval of no more than 15 minutes and be in conformity with Laws of the Game number 7.

If the scores are level at the end of normal time the match will be decided by the taking of penalty kicks in accordance with the procedure as laid down by FIFA. No extra time will be played.

If a match is postponed or is not completed through no fault of either team, it must be played again to the full time of 90 minutes plus penalties if needed. If a match is not completed due to the fault of one of the competing teams, the team not in default shall have the right to claim, without protest fee, that the match should be awarded to such team.

15) MATCHES – NOTIFICATION:

When two teams are drawn together the home team must, not less than 5 days before a match, notify the visiting team of its colours (Shirts, shorts and socks) in writing/by e-mail or be fined a minimum of £20. The colours of competing teams should be distinguishable. When the colours are similar to the home team, the visiting team must change unless alternative arrangements are mutually agreed by the competing teams. In the Final Tie where the game is played on a neutral ground, the competing teams must both change unless they mutually agree otherwise. The home team must inform the Match Officials in writing/by e-mail, not less than 5 days before a match, of match details, ground location etc. Failure to do so will result in a minimum fine of £20.

16) MATCHES – NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS:

Each team shall, on the Official Team Sheet, send notice in writing to the Secretary of the result of a match together with the Surname and Christian names (or forenames) of the players representing the team, and the marks awarded to the Referee. Such notice should reach the Secretary within 3 days following the match. A team failing to comply with this rule shall be subject to a minimum fine of £20, or, if in default, be dealt with by the Association as they think fit.

Both teams are required to communicate the result of the game by SMS Text immediately after the game has ended. In the unlikely event of problems being encountered with the SMS Text system, the result of the game must then be communicated to the County Office no later than the close of business on the first working day following the playing of the game. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in an automatic fine of £20 (for the first offence), and this will be increased for any further offences during the same season.

17) GROUNDS – FIELD OF PLAY:

Grounds shall conform to Law 1 of the Laws of the Game. Teams must have a ground at which gate money can be charged. A team not having a ground as stated shall provide an enclosed ground approved by the Secretary at which gate money can be charged or play on its opposing teams ground if suitable.

From Round Two of the competition onwards matches must be played on grounds that comply with at least Grade G (National League System Step 6) of The FA's National Ground Grading criteria or as approved by the Competitions Committee.

18) GROUNDS – CHOICE:

A match shall be played on the ground of the team first drawn except with the approval of the Secretary. No monetary or other consideration shall be asked for, offered or paid in connection with negotiations for any change of venue.

Matches, which will normally be played on a mid-week evening unless otherwise agreed by the Association, must be played on or before the date determined by the Association and if a suitable ground is not available, provision must be made to provide a suitable ground or play on the opponents ground. In the event of a match not being completed and neither team being at fault, it shall be replayed in full on the ground of the team which had the choice for the incomplete match. The Association will allow matches to be played on artificial grass surface pitches provided they comply with current FA requirements

The Association shall decide the ground for the playing of the Final Tie.

19) GROUNDS – UNSUITABILITY:

If the ground of a team having choice of ground is considered unsuitable, the opposing team may protest in writing/by e-mail to the Secretary within 5 days of the receipt of the official notification of the draw. The Association may order the match to be played on the original ground or on the ground of the appealing team or on a neutral ground. If the protest is not sustained, the protesting team may be required to pay expenses incurred in dealing with the protest. Each team must take every precaution to keep its ground in playing condition and if necessary either team may apply to the Secretary, who at the team's expense, shall require the appointed Referee, or some other Senior Referee, to examine the ground and decide as to the fitness for play in sufficient time to save expenses of unnecessary journeys being incurred by the teams
Subject to this Rule, the Referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches.

On a Saturday, if there are any doubts to the fitness of the ground, an inspection by a match Referee, County FA or affiliated league official must take place before 10.00 a.m. on the day of the match. For evening games, if there are any doubts about the fitness of the ground, an inspection by a match Referee, County FA or affiliated league official must take place no later than 2.00 p.m. on the day of the match.

North Riding County FA shall have the power to instruct that a ground be used for any given tie throughout

20) PROCEEDS OF MATCHES:

From Round Two of the competition onwards there will be a minimum admission price for spectators of £6 for adults and £2 for Under 16s, students and OAPs.

With the exception of the Final Tie, the nett proceeds of each game shall be divided equally immediately after the match between the two competing teams and a full statement of accounts and settlement shall be made within 7 days following the match by the home team. In the event of a dispute between the competing teams, the Secretary shall require each team to submit a statement of accounts with supporting vouchers and receipts.

Allowable expenses are travelling expenses of the visiting team (not exceeding 22 in number). Travelling expenses of the home team, the preparation of the ground and the marking of the field of play shall not be a charge upon the match. Of any match where there are no proceeds or proceeds less than the expenses allowed, the deficit must be shared equally between the two competing teams. A home team, having an enclosed ground shall charge for admission and all members and/or ticket holders shall pay the admission charges to the ground and stands. Such team shall provide for the sale of tickets or record of admissions (the visiting team for checking the same). The expenses of the sellers and checkers shall not be a charge on the match except when turnstiles are used when the home team may charge for the persons who work on them. When a match is postponed through causes over which neither team has any control, the allowable expenses shall be shared equally between the teams except where the Association may otherwise determine. In any match ordered to be replayed in consequence of a breach of Rule, travelling expenses shall be a charge on the defaulting team, and such team shall share any deficit where the allowable expenses (excluding travelling expenses) exceed the proceeds and shall not, without the consent of the Association, receive any share of the proceeds where they exceed match expenses. Such consent shall only be given under special circumstances and if consent be not given the share forfeited into the funds of the Association.
The Association will have sole responsibility for arranging the taking of the gate at The Final Tie and any nett proceeds shall be divided equally between the two competing teams and the Association.

21) MATCH PROCEEDS AND EXPENSES:

Other allowable expenses are Match Officials fees and expenses, floodlights £60, cost of safety officers, cost of provision of suitable first aid/medical helpers and police charges inside the ground (net of V.A.T.) and reasonable after-match hospitality for both competing teams and match officials.

Coach travelling expenses of the visiting team not to exceed £3.00 per coach mile.

If private cars are used then the expenses claimed will be a maximum of five cars at 30p per mile. A stretcher must be made available by the host or home team for all matches and a fully qualified person to administer first aid shall be in attendance

22) FINAL TIE

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.

23) PROGRAMME:

A programme or team sheet must be produced for spectators and should show details of competing teams.

24) 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 must be made in writing/by e-mail 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, and 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 the 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.

25) DISQUALIFICATION – TEAM OR PLAYER:

The Association shall have the power to disqualify from the 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 this Competition.

26) 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.

27) COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS:

A list of complimentary tickets issued must be kept by the home team and supplied to the Association, if required.

28) INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES:

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

29) 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 (£100 for the Final Tie) 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.