



NORTHUMBERLAND FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
COUNTY CUP RULES 2025/2026

NFA County Cup Competitions, eligibility, and formats

1. The grid below details formats and basic eligibility for all NFA County Cups. Further details of player eligibility are outlined in the 'Player Eligibility' section.

COUNTY CUP	TEAM ELIGIBILITY	PLAYER AGE ELIGIBILITY	FORMAT	MATCH LENGTH (minutes)	BALL SIZE	GOAL SIZE (feet)	MIN PITCH SIZE (yards)	MAX PITCH SIZE (yards)
NFA Men's Senior Cup	Step 1-6 men's teams & EPL/EFL 'Reserve' sides. Invitational Cup.	16+	11v11	90	5	24x8	100 x 50	130 x 100
NFA Women's Cup	Open-age Women's teams below Step 3 and/or outside of WNLS *	16+	11v11	90	5	24x8	100 x 50	130 x 100
NFA Men's Benevolent Bowl	Regional Feeder League men's teams (and invitations**). Invitational Cup.	16+	11v11	90	5	24x8	100 x 50	130 x 100
NFA Men's Minor Cup	Open-age Saturday male teams below RFL. U23/21/19 Saturday male teams may also enter.	16+	11v11	90	5	24x8	100 x 50	130 x 100
NFA Men's Sunday Cup	Invitational based on previous season's standings. ***	16+	11v11	90	5	24x8	100 x 50	130 x 100
NFA Men's Sunday Minor Cup	Open-age Sunday male teams not in Sunday Cup	16+	11v11	90	5	24x8	100 x 50	130 x 100
NFA U18 Sunday Junior Cup	Teams competing in boys/mixed U18 & U17 Sunday leagues	Aged 15, 16 or 17 on 31 st August	11v11	90	5	24x8	100 x 50	130 x 100
NFA U16 Cup	Teams competing in U16 Sunday leagues. Cup = NFL Prem-Div3 Trophy = NFL Div4 & below	Aged 14 or 15 on 31 st August	11v11	80	5	24x8	90x50	110x70
NFA U16 Trophy								
NFA U16 Girls Cup	Teams competing in U16 Saturday Girls Leagues	Aged 14 or 15 on 31 st August	11v11	80	5	24x8	90x50	110x70
NFA U15 Cup	Teams competing in U15 Sunday leagues. Cup = NFL Prem-Div3 Trophy = NFL Div 4 & below	Aged 13 or 14 on 31 st August	11v11	80	5	24x8	90x50	110x70
NFA U15 Trophy								
NFA U15 Girls Cup	Teams competing in U15 Saturday Girls Leagues	Aged 13 or 14 on 31 st August	11v11	80	5	24x8	90x50	110x70
NFA U14 Cup	Teams competing in U14 Sunday leagues. Cup = NFL Prem-Div3 Trophy = NFL Div 4 & below	Aged 12 or 13 on 31 st August	11v11	70	4	21x7	90x50	110x70
NFA U14 Trophy								
NFA U14 Girls Cup	Teams competing in Girls U14 leagues	Aged 12 or 13 on 31 st August	11v11	70	4	21x7	90x50	110x70
NFA U13 Cup	Teams competing in U13 Sunday leagues. Cup = NFL Prem-Div4 Trophy = NFL Div 5 & below	Aged 11 or 12 on 31 st August	11v11	70	4	21x7	90x50	100x60
NFA U13 Trophy								
NFA U13 Girls Cup	Teams competing in U13 Saturday Girls Leagues	Aged 11 or 12 on 31 st August	9v9	70	4	16x7	70x40	80x50
NFA U12 Cup	Teams competing in U12 Sunday leagues. Cup = NFL Prem-Div4 Trophy = NFL Div 5 & below	Aged 10 or 11 on 31 st August	9v9	60	4	16x7	70x40	80x50
NFA U12 Cup Trophy								
NFA U12 Girls Cup	Teams competing in U12 Saturday Girls leagues	Aged 10 or 11 on 31 st August	9v9	60	4	16x7	70x40	80x50



1a. U12, U13, U14, U15, and U16 Mixed-Pathway Cups (Sundays) are to be split into two Cup Competitions. A Cup and a Trophy. Teams will be split based on their division at the start of the present season (if known). Previous season's tables will be used if draws are required before the confirmation of League divisions. Northumberland FA retains the right to alter this split.

1a(i). It is the responsibility of Clubs to ensure their Teams are entered into the correct Competition and inform Northumberland FA at the earliest opportunity if a Team is entered into the wrong competition. Northumberland FA will change entries when possible. Where a Club has entered a Team into their age-group's Trophy Competition, who should in-fact be in their age-group's Cup Competition, and a 1st Round Draw has been made, the Team will be removed from the competition, with drawn opponent being provided a bye.

1b. From Season 2026/27, the Women's Cup will be split into the Women's Cup and Women's Trophy. The NFA Women's Cup will include all NFA teams in Tiers 4-6 of the Women's National League System (WNLS) and Professional Game Academy League. If this equals less than 8 teams, the highest placed teams from Tier 7, from the previous season, will make up the NFA Women's Cup. All remaining teams will compete in the NFA Women's Trophy.

1c. **If less than 16 NFA affiliated teams are in the Regional Feeder League (RFL), teams that finished highest in the RFL system the previous season will be included in the Benevolent Bowl up to 16 teams.

1d. ***8 teams will qualify for the NFA Sunday Cup. The holders qualify for the next season's competition, along with the highest placed teams across the Sunday Leagues sanctioned by Northumberland FA. If team entries cannot be spread evenly across all Sunday Leagues, the League of the holders will gain an additional place in the Sunday Cup, followed by the league of the runners-up. If additional places to leagues need to be awarded, this will be decided by the NFA Cup Committee.



1e. Default Match Days and kick off times (please also see rules 6a-d).

COUNTY CUP	Default Fixture Day	Default Fixture Time
NFA Men's Senior Cup	Midweek	19:00
NFA Women's Cup	Sunday	13:30
NFA Men's Benevolent Bowl	Saturday	13.30
NFA Men's Minor Cup	Saturday	13.30
NFA Men's Sunday Cup	Sunday	10:30
NFA Men's Sunday Minor Cup	Sunday	10:30
NFA U18 Sunday Junior Cup	Sunday	13:30
NFA U16 Cup & Trophy	Sunday	12:00
NFA U16 Girls Cup	Saturday	12:00
NFA U15 Cup & Trophy	Sunday	10:30
NFA U15 Girls Cup	Saturday	10:30
NFA U14 Cup & Trophy	Sunday	12:30
NFA U14 Girls Cup	Saturday	12:30
NFA U13 Cup & Trophy	Sunday	10:30
NFA U13 Girls Cup	Saturday	10:30
NFA U12 Cup & Trophy	Sunday	11:30
NFA U12 Girls Cup	Saturday	11:30

Management of Competitions and Entry

2. The entire control and management of all County Competitions shall be vested in the Northumberland FA, whose decision shall, in all matters affecting such Competitions, be final.

3. The various Cups shall be competed for annually in accordance with these Rules and Instructions.

4a. The closing date and entry fees for all County Cup Competitions shall be decided by Northumberland FA each season.

4b. Northumberland FA may reject the entry of any team for any Competition if they deem such a course is required for the benefit to the competition.

4c. Open-age teams in membership of Leagues of the National League System at Step 6 and above will be required to enter the Senior Cup and teams below Step 6 will be required to enter the relevant competition for their level of football. The final decision will be made by Northumberland FA.



5. The teams in each Competition shall be drawn in pairs. Each round shall be drawn separately. Northumberland FA may choose to draw multiple rounds in advance. The team drawn out first shall be the home team, the team drawn out second the away team.

5a. For the purposes of determining the 'home' team for the Final tie, the 'home' team shall be the winner of the first drawn semi-final, and the 'away' team the winner of the second drawn semi-final.

5b. For Round 1 Draws, where entry numbers mean teams will receive 'byes' into Round 2, Northumberland FA will determine for individual competitions if byes are to be determined by the draw, or pre-determined based on previous performance or league level.

6a. Following each draw, or completion of previous round, notice shall be given to each team of the name of its next opponent, and the date and time when the tie shall be played.

6b. All ties in each round shall be played on or before the scheduled date. An earlier date, or alternative kick-off time, can be mutually agreed between Team Secretaries and Match Official. Matches may be played under floodlights.

6c. All agreed fixture changes must be communicated with Northumberland FA via CountyCups@Northumberlandfa.com. This includes any postponements of ties where the tie will roll-over to the following weekend.

6d. If no agreement on fixture dates and kick-off times can be arranged, the default day and time of that Competition shall be played.

6e. NFA Senior Cup ties will be provided with a 'completion-by' date, where teams must schedule a date for their fixture to be played on or before. If no date can be agreed, it will be determined by Northumberland FA.

6f. Use of artificial turf pitches (3G pitches) is allowed in this competition. These pitches must be on the approved FA Pitch Register. Any 3G pitch not on the approved FA Pitch Register will not be allowed to host matches. Any home side hosting a County Cup tie on a 3G pitch should include this information with their match confirmations. Participating teams cannot refuse to use any 3G pitch that is on the FA Pitch Register.

7a. In each tie, the game shall be played on the ground of the first team drawn, unless otherwise directed by Northumberland FA or otherwise mutually agreed, and the consent of the Competition obtained. The ground must provide changing facilities, including toilet facilities, for both teams and match officials. Where the ground is changed, the originally drawn home team must notify the Match Official(s). Please see the 'Postponements' section for rules where the home ground is unavailable/unplayable.

7b. Teams shall not mutually arrange to play a match in lieu of a cup tie, meaning no ties may be played as both a league, or other, and NFA County Cup match.

8. Northumberland FA shall fix the ground for the Final Ties in all Competitions and shall have direct control of the arrangements.

Player eligibility

9a. All players participating in NFA County Cups must be registered to their respective team, via the FA Club Portal, and be eligible to play based upon the rules of the Competition. Teams who field players not registered on the FA Club Portal shall be deemed to have fielded an ineligible player. Fielding an ineligible player will result in forfeiting of the tie and removal from the competition. It is responsibility of teams to check their players are displaying as registered in the Club Portal.



9b. If a team has concerns over the eligibility of an opposing player, they must check FA Full-Time for a list of registered players and inform Northumberland FA within 48 hours of the tie's completion via CountyCups@Northumberlandfa.com.

9c. In all rounds of a competition, a player must have been a registered member of their team prior to the original date and kick-off time for the tie, with their league and on the FA Club Portal.

9d. In the event of a postponement, only players eligible for the original tie may appear. The original date is the stated 'Round Date' unless the teams have agreed to play prior to this date, at which point that earlier date becomes the original date of a tie.

9e. Players named as substitutes who do not enter the field of play shall not be classed as appearing in the competition.

9f. All teams are reminded that they are responsible for the behaviour of their coaches, players, and spectators. Any reports of serious misconduct, abuse of match officials, or breaches of the Respect campaign may result in disciplinary action, including removal from the competition.

10a. A player shall not, in the same season, play for more than one team in the same competition.

10b. A player who has played in a higher level, or higher age-group, Northumberland FA competition cannot 'play-down' (within its default day category). However, a player may play up a competition level having already played in a lower level, or lower age-group, competition.

10c. Senior competitions by default day are ranked in the table below. Youth competitions are ranked from oldest age-category to youngest age-category, with the oldest being classed as the 'higher' level competition.

RANK	SATURDAY OPEN-AGE MALE COMPETITIONS	SUNDAY OPEN-AGE MALE COMPETITIONS	SUNDAY OPEN-AGE FEMALE COMPETITIONS
1	Senior Cup	Sunday Cup	Women's Cup
2	Benevolent Bowl	Sunday Minor Cup	
3	Minor Cup		

In Youth Competitions, where Cup and Trophy competitions are played at respective age-groups, the Cup shall be deemed as a higher-level competition.

A female player who is 15 on 31st August and, after turning 16, plays in a Women's Cup fixture will still be eligible to play in the Mixed U16 Youth Cup/Trophy.

11. Only players eligible for the original date of their team's Semi-Final tie shall be eligible for the Final.

12. A Player who was suspended for a cup tie that was postponed may play in the rearranged tie if the term of their suspension has expired by the rearranged date.

13a. OPEN-AGE CUPS: Five named substitute players nominated to the Referee will be allowed in in all competitions. Substitutions shall be fixed 5 from 5, meaning a player substituted off the field of play may not be substituted back on.

13b. YOUTH CUPS: Repeat Substitutions, also known as 'Rolling' Substitutions may be used, with players able to be substituted off and then back on again.



- i. 11v11 Youth Competitions may list seven substitutes to be used.
- ii. 9v9 Youth Competitions may list five substitutes to be used.

14. To play in any Open-Age ('Adult') County Cup, a player must be at least 16 (sixteen years old). For youth County Cups, please see rule 1 which outlines ages eligible for each competition unless dispensation has been provided by The FA.

The age-group of the competition determines the age of players who are eligible i.e. An U13 team playing in an U14 Cup may only play players eligible to play at U14.

15. A Club or Team Secretary of the Home Team playing in any Competition shall, at least five (5) days before the match, send to the opposing Team Secretary and Match Official(s) written details of ground and home team kit colours via email. The away team Secretary and the Match Official(s), should respond to confirm receipt and away team kit colours within 2 days. Please see County Cup Instructions at the end of this document.

16. A written list of players (Forename and Surname) on the official Team Sheet shall be given by each team to the Match Official at least 15 minutes before kick-off. A clear photo of the completed Result Sheet must be sent to Northumberland FA within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match via email to CountyCups@northumberlandfa.com.

17. Result Sheets should include player's names as they are registered with their league and on the FA Club Portal.

18a. If Northumberland FA have any doubt as to the qualification of any player taking part in any Competition, they shall have the power to call upon such player, or the Team to which the player belongs or for which they have played, to prove that they are qualified according to the Rules, and, failing satisfactory proof, the Committee may disqualify such player, and may remove the team from such Competition and/or impose such other penalty as they may deem fit and. Should time permit, Northumberland FA may reinstate their opponents if the defaulting team won.

18b. In the event of an ineligible player participating in a County Cup competition only coming to light following subsequent rounds taking place, only the last played round will be forfeited and no teams played in previous to the most recent round played will be able to be reinstated. If the team has fielded the ineligible player for more than one round of the competition, they will be charged for each offence of fielding an ineligible player.

19. Northumberland FA shall have the power to disqualify any competing team or player, or players for any competing teams who may be proved to be guilty of any breach of the Rules of the Association.

Kit Colours

20a. When the kit colours of two competing teams are similar, the away team must change. Goalkeepers must wear colours to distinguish them from other Players, and Match Officials.

20b. Kit colours must be communicated and agreed before the fixture date.

21. Match officials in Northumberland FA County Cups shall wear all black. No team is permitted to wear predominantly black or dark colours that may clash with match officials.

22. Numbered shirts, differentiating each player, must be worn in all cup ties. Referees are to report any club in default of this rule.

Match length and determining tied games



23. The duration of each match, as outlined in rule 1, shall be played in two equal halves.
24. The Match Official shall allow for time wasted or lost through accident or other causes. This time is solely at the discretion of the Match Official.
25. There will be no extra time in any competition, nor replays for any tied fixture. Where the scores are level after normal time a penalty kick competition shall take place to decide the winners.
- 25b. Penalty kicks will be taken in the ABAB format, in a best of five penalty kicks, before sudden death penalties if required.
- 25c. Only players on the field of play at the end of normal time may take a penalty kick. Players still in the 'sin-bin' at the end of normal time, can take part in a penalty shoot-out.
- 25d. In the event a County Cup tie is abandoned, Northumberland FA will determine whether the result stands, or whether the match must be replayed in full or from the minute of abandonment. This decision will be based on the reason for abandonment, time played, and any relevant referee reports.

Withdrawals

26. Any team who withdraws from any competition will forfeit their entry fee. Withdrawals must be communicated to Northumberland FA via email to CountyCups@Northumberlandfa.com at the earliest opportunity.
27. Any team failing to fulfil a fixture will be withdrawn from the competition and fined in line with the fines tariff.

Match Officials

- 28a. The expenses of all Officials to officiate in any match prior to the Final Tie shall be paid by the home team upon whose ground the match takes place. If a tie has been reversed, this means the originally drawn 'away' team will pay the Match Official's fees. Please see Appendix 2 for fees.
- 28b. If a match is postponed after the arrival of Match Officials, they are entitled to their travelling expenses and half their fee. In all games, match officials are expected to be in attendance 45 minutes prior to kick-off. Referees must report any game that does not commence on time.
- 28c. In the event a match official is unable to be appointed, or an appointed referee becomes unable to officiate the game and replacement cannot be found, teams may agree a suitable club official to officiate the game. In this instance, the appointed club official will have the same powers as per a County FA official with cautions and red cards counting the same way. If teams cannot agree a suitable replacement official, the match shall be postponed.
- 28d. For all Youth County Cup Competitions (U12–U18), match officials for ties up to but not including the Quarter-Final stage must be appointed and confirmed by the home team. From the Quarter-Final stage onwards, Northumberland FA will appoint match officials for all remaining fixtures in these competitions, as per Rule 28a. In the event that the home team is unable to secure a suitable official prior to the Quarter-Final stage, the away team may assist. If no agreement can be reached, please contact countycups@northumberlandfa.com for assistance in the matter.

NFA Senior Cup Only (29 & 30) - Postponement and Rescheduling of Cup Ties



29. NFA Senior Cup ties may be postponed following a pitch inspection by a Match Official qualified to referee at Step 6 and above, or in agreement with Northumberland FA and opposition in instances of poor weather or other circumstances where it is reasonably obvious it will not be safe to play the tie.

30. In the event of a postponement, the two sides shall agree a rearrangement at the next earliest possible free midweek of both sides and inform Northumberland FA of arrangements.

All other NFA Competitions - Postponement and Rescheduling of Cup Ties

These rules are to support a reduction in ties being postponed and rolled-over to the following weekend, impacting other competitions and Clubs. Teams drawn at home should always plan for potential travel in the event of a home postponement and the reversal of a tie.

31. A ground may be deemed unplayable by the 'Ground Owner' the day prior to, or on the day of, a tie, or by the match official on the day of the game. These decisions are final and cannot be appealed.

31a. When a home ground is deemed unplayable the tie may be:

- Played at an agreed alternate venue.
- Reversed to the opponent's ground, if playable.
- Postponed and rescheduled the following week. NFA must be notified immediately of postponements, and the reason for postponement, via email to CountyCups@northumberlandfa.com.
- Postponed games can be rescheduled to be played in the mid-week before the default rescheduling of the following weekend if both teams and match official agree.

32. If a tie has been postponed twice, the tie will automatically reverse with the originally drawn away team becoming the home team and originally drawn home team becoming the away team.

Appeals and Protests

33. All questions relating to the competitions or interpretation of the Rules, or any dispute or protest, should be directed to Northumberland FA via email on CountyCups@Northumberlandfa.com by a named Club Official. Should the competition rules not provide a clear outcome, or a potential breach of rules has occurred, the matter shall be referred to Northumberland FA's Cup Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding on both teams. Please see Appendix 1 for process diagram.

33a. Where a scenario is not covered in the NFA County Cup Rules, FA Rules and Regulations shall be used. For Senior Cup ties, FA Rules of the FA Vase shall be referred to. In absence of a rule covering a scenario, Northumberland FA's Cup Committee will make the final decision.

34. To be considered, every protest must be made in writing to CountyCups@NorthumberlandFA.com, by the Club/Team Secretary, and must contain all the information upon which the appeal is founded. Protests/Appeals must be lodged with the Association within 48 hours of the tie and/or of the incident/issue occurring.

35. Any protest relating to the ground, goal posts, or matters which could be reasonably known before the game commences, shall not be entertained by Northumberland FA unless an objection has been lodged with the Referee by a named Club or Team Official before the



commencement of the match. Where appropriate, the Referee shall require the responsible team to rectify the cause of the objection, if this is possible, without unduly delaying the progress of the match. If not possible, and the match official deems the ground safe to play the fixture, the tie may be played under protests to be considered by Northumberland FA. Where a protest of this instance is accepted, the match may be ordered to be replayed if the team at fault has won the tie.

Trophy

36. When the winning team in any Competition is known, the Association shall deliver the Trophy to such team, which shall sign a Bond, signed by the Secretary who will be responsible for its return to Northumberland FA on or before the 1st March in the following year, in good order and condition, with the Club's name engraved next to the year they won the competition. Should the Trophy be destroyed, lost, or damaged whilst under care or custody of the team, the team shall refund to Northumberland FA the amount of its value, the cost of thorough repair, or the cost of its replacement as determined by Northumberland FA.

36b. Any team failing to return a Trophy by 1st March in good and clean condition as required, will be fined £50 plus the costs of repairs, replacement, and/or cleaning.

37. All fines imposed upon teams relating to County Cup competitions shall be paid to the Association within 14 days from the date which fines are imposed.

ADDITIONAL

38. In all County Cup ties, corner flags and goal nets must be used. If a team is reported for not providing goal nets or corner flags, they will be fined £50.00.

39. The fees and expenses for Match Officials shall be fixed by Northumberland FA. Referee fees can be found in Appendix 2.

40. The Home team must provide suitable changing accommodation for both teams and match officials.

41. The half-time interval shall be a minimum of five minutes and not exceed fifteen minutes as agreed with the match official.

42. Teams who have requested, and have been approved, a 'Free-Weekend' or 'Blank-date' from their league, within the rules of their league, must inform Northumberland FA if this would fall on a weekend of a County Cup Fixture or potential County Cup fixture. Northumberland FA will honour such approvals from sanctioned Leagues and postpone ties to be played the following weekend.

43. Teams reaching the Final tie of their competition must fully and accurately complete the requested Cup Final Information Form provided to finalists by Northumberland FA within the deadline stated.

GATE RECIEPTS AND PROFIT SHARE

43. In ties where the home team charges a fee to enter the ground, the Home Team Statement of Expenses Form must be completed and provided to the away team. Any surplus in income from the tie, minus expenses listed, shall be divided equally between the two Clubs.



INSTRUCTIONS FOR NORTHUMBERLAND FA COUNTY CUP COMPETITION MATCHES

1. The Home Club/Team Secretary must communicate with the Referee (and Assistant Referees if appointed) and opponents' Secretary, at least 5 days before the stated date/time of the tie, who should reply with confirmation (e.g. Saturday ties require confirmation of details to be sent by close of play of the Monday before, Sunday ties require confirmation of details to be sent by close of play of the Tuesday before).

The following information should be included within match confirmations:

- a. Cup and Round Number.
- b. Fixture date.
- c. Venue and post code, with directions, if necessary, e.g. if post code does not lead directly to the ground.
- d. Pitch type e.g. Grass or 3G. If the Home team play on grass but could arrange a 3G Pitch alternative to play the tie in the event of adverse weather, this possibility should also be communicated.
- e. Kick-off time.
- f. Home team kit colours – Players & Goalkeeper (shirts, shorts, socks)
- g. Location of nearest Defibrillator.
- h. Any additional instructions pertinent to the fixture and or venue.

2. Referees unable to accept appointments must notify Northumberland FA of their decision.

3. Referees must report late starts and the defaulting team or Referee must forward a full explanation within seventy-two hours of the conclusion of the match.

4. In cases of a postponed fixture, the same Official(s) will be appointed, unless the Official(s) has closed that date.

5. There is no extra-time in any Northumberland FA County Cup competition. Drawn ties go straight to a penalty shoot-out taken in the ABAB format.

6. Both teams' Secretaries, or nominated Full-Time Contact, will respond with the result of their game in the format requested by the auto-result text message service within 1 hour of the match finishing. Failure to report the result will incur a £25.00 fine.

In absence of an auto-result text, the result must be emailed to CountyCups@northumberlandfa.com with Competition Name as the subject. In the email please include the full team names and score.

7. The Result Sheet/Team Sheet, with match result, goal scorers, substitutes who entered the field of play, cautions, and referee's marks added following the game, must be sent to



Northumberland FA by the Home Team Secretary within 48 hours of the game's kick-off time. Emailing a clear photograph of the sheet is acceptable. Completed Result Sheets should be emailed to CountyCups@Northumberlandfa.com.

8. The Referee, and Assistant Referees when appointed, shall attend the ground a minimum of 45 minutes before the advised time of kick-off.

9. For all Youth Cup Ties (U18 and younger) a Respect Barrier/Line must be in place along at least one side of the pitch where all spectators must stand. This can be a pitch railing, rope Respect Barrier, painted line, or coned out, depending on the venue and equipment available.

10. For all Cups, when a match has a Referee and two Assistant Referees appointed by Northumberland FA, the pitch must be cordoned off, or designated area for spectators to be made, so that spectators cannot obstruct the Assistant Referee.

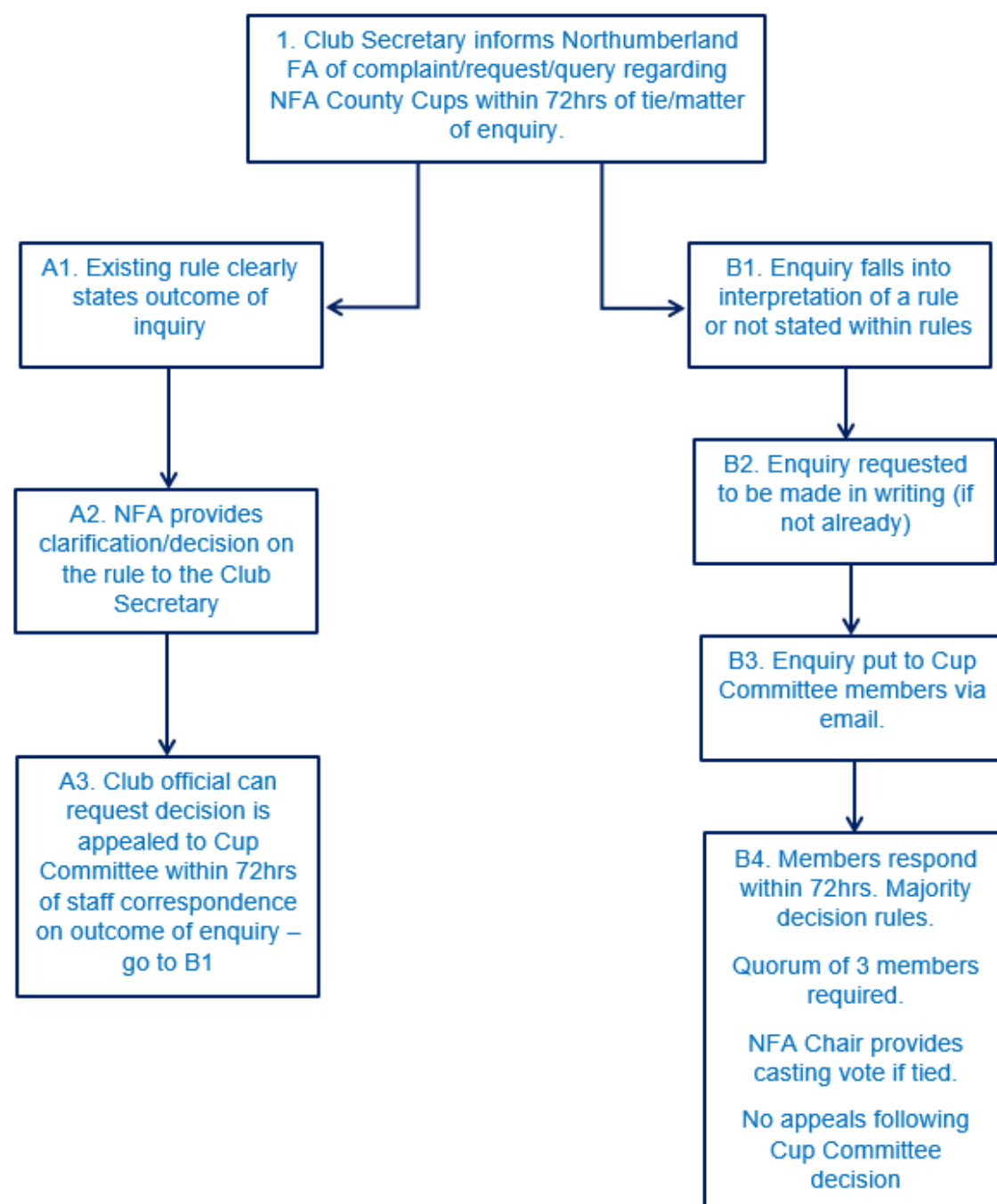
11. Where no Assistant Referees are appointed, each side shall nominate a Club Assistant to act as an Assistant Referee, operating in their side's defensive half of the field of play. Club Official Assistant Referees are to assist and guide appointed Match Officials. The Match Official's decisions remain final, as always.

12. The half-time interval should be between five minutes fifteen minutes.

13. Ties in all rounds preceding the final of the Northumberland FA County Cup may be played on a date and time agreed by both sides and the Association by the date of that round's completion date. If no agreed date can be found, the game must be played on the default day of that Cup at the default time.



APPENDIX 1 – PROCESS OF DECISIONS FOR COUNTY CUP PROTESTS



APPENDIX 2 – REFEREE FEES

County Cup	Referee Fee	Assistant Referee Fee	Travel per mile
NFA Men's Senior Cup	£50.00	£35.00	40p
NFA Women's Cup	£40.00	£30.00	40p
NFA Men's Benevolent Bowl	£40.00	£30.00	40p
NFA Men's Minor Cup	£35.00	£22.00	40p
NFA Men's Sunday Cup	£35.00	£22.00	40p
NFA Men's Sunday Minor Cup	£35.00	£22.00	40p
NFA U18 Sunday Junior Cup	£30.00	£20.00	40p
NFA U16 Cup & Trophy	£28.00	£20.00	40p
NFA U16 Girls Cup	£28.00	£20.00	40p
NFA U15 Cup & Trophy	£28.00	£20.00	40p
NFA U15 Girls Cup	£28.00	£20.00	40p
NFA U14 Cup & Trophy	£24.00	£18.00	40p
NFA U14 Girls Cup	£24.00	£18.00	40p
NFA U13 Cup & Trophy	£24.00	£18.00	40p
NFA U13 Girls Cup	£22.00	£16.00	40p
NFA U12 Cup	£22.00	£16.00	40p
NFA U12 Girls Cup	£22.00	£16.00	40p



APPENDIX 3 – FINES TARIFF

FEES TARIFF		
RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE
4 A	CLUB ENTRY FEE	£25.00
4 B	CLUB/TEAM ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	n/a
4 C	DEPOSIT	n/a
7 C, 7 E, 7 G	PROTEST/APPEAL FEES	£25.00
18 D	PLAYER REGISTRATION FEE	£0.00
18 H	TRANSFER FEE	n/a
23 E	REFEREE FEES	Appendix 2
23 E	ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES	Appendix 2

FINES TARIFF		
RULE NUM-	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM
2 G	FAILURE TO AFFILIATE	£100
2 I	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	£100
2 K	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITIONS	£100
3	FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME	£100
4 C	FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT	n/a
4 E	FAILURE TO PROVIDE AFFILIATION NUMBER/DETAILS FORM	£100
5 E	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS	£50
6 I	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£100
6 J	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	£20
8 H	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	n/a
9 E	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM	n/a
10	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT OR TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO SIGNATORIES	£20
11 A	FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE DEADLINE	£100
11 B	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£200
13 A	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY	£20
16 C	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£100
18 A	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER	£25
18 B 3	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE SEASON COMMENCING	£25
18 F	REGISTERING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS, OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION FORM	£25
18 G 2	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	£25
18 K	FIELDING MORE THAN THE PERMITTED NUMBER OF PLAYERS WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN SENIOR COMPETITIONS MATCHES	£50
18 L	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£50
18 N	FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	£30
19 F	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO NO CHANGE OF COLOURS	£20



19 G	FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS	£30
19 G	FAILURE TO HAVE DIFFERENT NUMBER SHIRTS	£30
20 A	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT	£30
20 B	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED/AGREED	£100
20 C	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£30
20 D	PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS	£0
20 E 1 & 4	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE	£200
20 H	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	£20
21 A	LATE RESULT NOTIFICATION FORM	£30
21 B	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT	£30
21 C	RESULT NOTIFICATION NOT SIGNED BY APPROPRIATE SIGNATORIES	£25
23 C	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE	£25
23 E	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES AND EXPENSES	£50
23 F	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED	£50
23 H	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK	£25

