



**ENGLAND
FOOTBALL**

OXFORDSHIRE FA county cup Bye-laws

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GENERAL BYE-LAWS FOR ALL Oxfordshire fa COMPETITIONS

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE ONLY APPLY TO COUNTY CUPS AND NOT TO LEAGUE COMPETITIONS

1. CUP OWNERSHIP AND ELIGIBILITY OF ENTRY

1A. The Senior Cup, Intermediate Cup, Charity Cup, John Fathers Junior Shield, Sam Waters Cup, Patrick O’Flanagan Veterans Cup, Youth Cups, Women’s Cup and Girl’s Cups are the property of Oxfordshire FA.

They will be competed for annually by clubs affiliated to the Association and shall not become the absolute property of any club. The entire control and management of these Competitions shall be vested in the County FA.

Oxfordshire FA affiliated clubs are able to enter each County Cup competition they have a team qualified for although this is not mandatory. Clubs affiliated to other County FAs must obtain dual affiliation with Oxfordshire FA in order to participate.

Youth teams participating in multi-county FA affiliated leagues are not permitted to play in Oxfordshire FA Cup competitions unless authorised to do so by the County FA.

If a club’s disciplinary record is such that Oxfordshire FA feel that they should not play in any Competition, the OFA Governance Team shall have the power to refuse entry.

2. CUP COMPETITION DRAWS

2A. Oxfordshire FA shall be responsible for making the draw for each Competition, specifying the date when each round is to be played, and kick-off time in accordance with these Bye-Laws.

With the exception of the Senior Cup if a scheduled match is postponed for any reason then the match will be played on the following Saturday/Sunday, except when matches are played in midweek under lights. Subject to weather conditions, postponed midweek matches will be played before the next Round starts and the OFA will decide the new date.

2B. Oxfordshire FA can, at its discretion, allow teams to be seeded and determine at what stage they will enter the Competition. The seeded teams will be identified and published prior to the Competition commencing. Teams playing in Step 4 and above of the FA National League System will be considered for seeding as appropriate. If necessary to ensure there are sufficient seeds, teams competing at Step 5 shall be considered based on their league position from the previous season.

2C. The County may order any two Clubs to play on a certain date, if not otherwise engaged in a match in a competition with a higher precedence.

2D. Except in respect of the Senior Cup and John Fathers Junior Shield Semi-Finals and with the exception of each final all matches will be played at the ground of the first-named team (if deemed suitable by Oxfordshire FA). All finals, including the Senior Cup and John Fathers Junior Shield, will be played at grounds determined by the Oxfordshire FA. If any game is left unfinished owing to a late start, the replay will be on the ground of the Club not in fault on the following Saturday, Sunday in the case of the Sam Waters Cup and/or Youth Cups, or mid-week in case of the Patrick O’Flanagan Memorial Veterans Cup unless Oxfordshire FA otherwise directs. The defaulting club will be responsible for all expenses.

2E. The semi-finals of the Senior Cup and the John Fathers Junior Shield may be played on neutral grounds as determined by Oxfordshire FA.

2F. For the Senior Cup, if the first drawn club has floodlights, then they shall play their fixture mid-week. From the quarter final stage onwards all matches shall be played midweek under floodlights. Should the first drawn club not have floodlights then they will have the opportunity to find an alternative suitable ground or failing that play on their opponents ground if they have floodlights.

KICK-OFF

3A. The official kick off time for all adult competitions will be 1.30pm with the exception of:

- Sam Waters Sunday Cup: 10:30am
- All Girl's Cups: 10:30am
- Patrick O'Flanagan Memorial Veterans Cup: 7:45pm

Clubs drawn at Home who have floodlighting which meets the standard requirement for the League in which they participate will be permitted to stage a 3.00 p.m. kick-off or be permitted to arrange a mid-week match only with the agreement of their opponents and the OFA. Where played mid-week, these games shall kick-off no later than 7.45pm.

Kick off times can only be changed if an agreement has been reached between both teams and the appointed match official and then with this in place approved by Oxfordshire FA.

3B. Any Club not ready to kick-off at the official time in any Competition game may be liable to a fine as laid down in the Schedule of Charges.

DURATION OF GAMES

4. The duration of all games shall be not less than 35 minutes each way unless FA Regulations dictate otherwise due to age restrictions. The half-time interval shall not exceed 15 minutes, it may only be altered with the consent of the match referee.

If the scores are level at full-time there will be NO extra-time and the game will be decided by penalty kicks.

PATRICK O'FLANAGAN VETERANS CUP ONLY:

In all rounds, the duration of the veteran games shall not be more than 40, nor less than 30 minutes, each way. If after this time the scores are level, then the game shall be decided by penalty kicks.

CONFIRMATION OF FIXTURES

5. Home clubs must confirm the fixture with the visiting club and match officials, stating venue, site of dressing rooms and time of kick-off. This must be done at least three days prior to the game being played. Failure to comply with this Bye-Law shall be liable to a fine laid down in the Schedule of Charges.

5A. In exception to the above, arrangements for the Semi-Finals of the Senior Cup and John Fathers Junior Shield as well as all Finals will be handled by Oxfordshire FA.

QUALIFICATION OF CLUBS

6. The qualification of clubs for each competition is as follows:

Senior Cup - Open to all professional and Senior clubs as defined by competing in the National League System or a Regional Feeder league.

Intermediate Cup - Open to all professional and Senior club reserve/development teams (excluding Veteran teams) of clubs playing at, or in competitions, operated by leagues at Regional Feeder League or above. First teams playing within Hellenic Division Two and Oxfordshire Senior League Division One and Two or equivalent are also eligible subject to approval by Oxfordshire FA.

Only one team per club will be eligible to participate in this competition.

Sam Waters Sunday Cup - Open to all Sunday clubs who are competing members of a recognised Sunday League by the 1st August of the playing season. Friendly teams are not eligible to enter this competition.

John Fathers Junior Shield - Open to all first teams playing in the Oxfordshire Senior League Division Three, Witney & District FA, Banbury District & Lord Jersey FA or equivalent junior leagues as approved by Oxfordshire FA.

Charity Cup – Open to first teams in the Oxfordshire Senior League Premier, First and Second Divisions, Witney & District FA Premier Division and Banbury & Lord Jersey FA Premier Division. The final selection of teams to take part in the Charity Cup Competition shall be determined by Oxfordshire FA.

Competing teams must have prior permission from their respective league.

Patrick O’Flanagan Memorial Veteran’s Cup - Open to all Oxfordshire FA affiliated veteran’s teams. All players must be aged 35 years or over.

Women’s Cup - Open to all Oxfordshire FA affiliated teams on a one team per club basis.

All Youth & Girls Cups - Open to all Oxfordshire FA affiliated youth teams as approved by the OFA.

PLAYERS AND QUALIFICATIONS

7A. No individual may play for more than one team in the same competition in the same season.

7B. The team-sheet provided must be completed with the full first and last names of competing players, the nominated substitutes and the occupants of the technical area. This must be given to the referee and opponents at least 30 minutes before kick-off.

Players and substitutes not named on the team-sheet will not be permitted to play. Any subsequent alteration to the team-sheet must be notified to the referee and opponents before the kick-off.

7C. A Club entering a team in the Intermediate Cup shall not include more than two players in any particular match that have played in the current season’s Senior Cup or are classed as Senior player (See 8 below).

7D. Except in a competition where a reserve team is so entered, a club should play their strongest

side from the available and duly qualified members. Failure to do so may incur a fine and any other action as determined by Oxfordshire FA.

7E. All Adult Competitions - To qualify, a player must be registered to a club playing in a recognised league at least seven full days prior to the original cup fixture date they wish to play in.

7F. Sam Waters Sunday Cup – To qualify, a player must be eligible to play adult football, registered to the club they are representing and not under contract.

7G. All Youth Competitions – To qualify, a player must be registered to the specific team they wish to play for in the cup competition they have entered at least seven full days prior to the original cup fixture date they wish to play in.

7H. Any Club playing an unqualified or suspended player shall be adjudged to have lost the match, or otherwise be dealt with by Oxfordshire FA.

7I. A junior player who plays in the Charity Cup shall not lose his junior status.

7J. In the case of postponed or replayed matches only those players eligible by registration and not suspended on the original date fixed by Oxfordshire FA may participate.

The “original date fixed” shall mean the date as published by Oxfordshire FA or such date as agreed by both clubs and formally accepted by the county.

7K. No player participating in an FA registered Centre of Excellence, Female Regional Talent Club or Professional Club Academy Elite Player Performance Pathway programme shall be allowed to participate in any of the County Cup Competitions.

7L. To play in the competitions below you may have played in those to the right indicated with a ✓:

	Senior Cup	Intermediate Cup	Junior Shield	Sunday cup	Charity Cup	Veterans Cup	Women’s Cup	U18 Cup	U16 Cup
Senior cup		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	*
Intermediate Cup				✓	✓				*
Junior Shield				✓	✓	✓			*
Sunday cup	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	*
Charity Cup		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	
Veterans Cup	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Women’s Cup									*
U18 Cup									

*A Youth player may play in any open aged football competition they qualify for, on or after their 16th birthday. This will apply even if they may have played or are due to play in a youth side in an OFA U16 county cup competition.

DEFINITION OF A SENIOR PLAYER

8. A player is defined as a "Senior" if after 1st November in the current season they have taken part in five Senior Competition Matches or any other Competition deemed by Oxfordshire FA to be of Senior standing.

A Senior Player may only make one application for reinstatement per season. The application must be in writing, either on paper or e-mail, and be sent to Oxfordshire FA. It should contain the details of the clubs involved, a list of fixtures played and reasons for application.

Senior/Intermediate status is only applicable to non-Sunday football, therefore allowing any non-contract player to play on a Sunday irrespective if their other club is Senior or Intermediate status.

PLAYING KIT

9. Clubs must state their Home and Away kit colours at the time of entry and inform Oxfordshire FA if there are any subsequent changes.

Club colours must be clearly distinguishable from the match official(s) regulation black uniform and on this basis outfield player or goalkeeper shirts that are predominately black will not be permitted for use.

Goalkeepers must wear colours that distinguish them from other players.

All player shirts must be clearly numbered in accordance with the match result card submitted to Oxfordshire FA and there must be no change of numbers during the match.

In the event of the colours of two clubs being similar, the Home Team will change colours. In any match on neutral ground the first named team must change.

Failure to carry out this instruction will result in a fine as per the Schedule of Charges being imposed.

SUBSTITUTIONS

10. A club may at its discretion use substitute players at any time. Rules specific to competitions are as follows:

Senior Cup - 5 from 5, these shall not be interchangeable

Intermediate Cup, John Fathers Junior Shield, Sam Waters Sunday Cup, Charity Cup, Women's Cup, Veterans Cup, Youth & Girls Cups - 5 from 5 interchangeable substitutes (A player who has been substituted themselves becomes a substitute and may replace another player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football).

TECHNICAL AREA

11. No more than 8 people are permitted to occupy the Technical Area (if available). These occupants must be notified to the Referee before

the start of the game along with the role they are fulfilling. Only one person at a time is authorised to convey tactical instructions and they must return to their position immediately after giving these instructions.

GROUND S

11A. The size of pitches will be in accordance with the FA Laws of the Game. Length will in all cases exceed the width and there must be an additional minimum of 3m safety run-off on all sides:

Age Group	Format	Metres (without 3m run-off)			
		Width		Length	
		Min	Max	Min	Max
U13 & U14	11v11	45m	55m	82m	91m
U15 & U16	11v11	45m	64m	82m	100m
U17 & U18	11v11	45m	90m	90m	120m
Over 18	11v11	45m	90m	90m	120m

Age Group	Format	Yards (without 3m run-off)			
		Width		Length	
		Min	Max	Min	Max
U13 & U14	11v11	50yds	60yds	90yds	100yds
U15 & U16	11v11	50yds	70yds	90yds	110yds
U17 & U18	11v11	50yds	100yds	100yds	130yds
Over 18	11v11	50yds	100yds	100yds	130yds

In the event of a ground not meeting these requirements or being otherwise unsuitable, temporarily unfit or unavailable, the home club will provide another ground, to be approved by Oxfordshire FA or will be required to play on their opponents ground if that is fit for play and available. (Also see Bye-Law 12.A)

11B. The first drawn club is responsible for payment of ground expenses unless played on a neutral ground where both clubs are equally responsible or it is the Semi-Final of the Senior Cup or Junior Shield or the Final where it is the responsibility of Oxfordshire FA.

11C. All clubs entering the Senior Cup MUST ensure that during any match in the Competition the Field of Play is roped off to prevent encroachment by spectators. The rope must be highly visible to both players and spectators. In the Youth Cup Competitions, the use of 'FA Respect' / designated spectator area barriers is encouraged.

11D. If a match is played then it will count as a Competition game. (It must be completed to be recognized for any player suspension(s)).

11E. Football Turf pitches (3G) are allowed in this Competition providing they meet the required performance standards and have an in-date listing on the FA's 3G Register to ensure quality and comply with player and club insurance requirements.

POSTPONEMENT OF MATCHES

12A. Matches can only be postponed for one of the following reasons:

(a) The pitch being unfit (see also Bye-Law 11A)

(b) Either team being required to play in a fixture of a higher precedence.

12B. In the event of late cancellation, where the match official(s) have reported for duty, the home team club is responsible for half the recognised fee.

12C. If a scheduled match is postponed the Home club will inform the opponents, Match Official(s) and Oxfordshire FA immediately. If the postponement is deemed valid by Oxfordshire FA then the match will be played on the following Sat/Sun, except when matches are played in Midweek under lights. If the postponement is deemed invalid the team or teams causing that postponement may be subject to sanction as determined by the County FA.

ABANDONED MATCHES

13. If a match is abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it shall be played at the same ground on the next Saturday, Sunday or midweek at some other date determined by Oxfordshire FA.

The OFA shall review all other abandoned matches and in cases where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either of the two clubs, shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to be recorded as the result.

In all cases where Oxfordshire FA are satisfied that a match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of one team or their Club members, they shall be empowered to award the match to their opponents and take what other action they deem necessary.

In cases where a match is abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams of their Club members, Oxfordshire FA shall take such action as they consider appropriate which may include removing both teams from the Competition.

REFEREES, ASSISTANT REFEREES AND CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREES

14A. Referees and Assistant Referees for all Oxfordshire FA Competitions will be appointed by the Referees Appointment Secretary or the Referees Committee.

14B All Senior Cup Ties may have official Referees and Assistant Referees appointed. Assistant Referees will be appointed for all Semi-Final and Final games. At the discretion of the Referees Appointments Secretary, any Oxfordshire FA competitive game may have Assistant Referees and a Fourth Official appointed.

14C. In the event of the appointed referee not being present within fifteen minutes of the advertised time for the match to start, the senior Assistant Referee (in games where such officials have been appointed) shall officiate. Where the appointed Referee is not present nor have Assistant Referees been appointed the clubs must agree on a person to fulfil the role. The game must be played.

14D. Where an appointed Assistant Referee fails to attend at the appointed time, or in circumstances outlined in (c) above, a Club Assistant Referee will be provided by the first named club in the draw.

14E. All clubs shall have available a Club Assistant Referee for every Oxfordshire FA Cup competition including Senior Cup ties

14F. In all Competitions, the cost of the match official(s) shall be paid by the nominated home team even if the match is reversed for whatever reason. The nominated visiting team shall be responsible for reimbursing half the total(s) to the nominated home team.

The official(s) shall be paid in full either before or within 15 minutes of the completion of the game. This shall apply to all games in all rounds up to the Semi-Final stages.

Where Semi-Finals are played on ground of a competing club, they shall pay all of the match fees and then reclaim back from Oxfordshire FA unless in the John Fathers Junior Shield or Senior Cup

Semi-Finals where fees should be claimed from Oxfordshire FA.

Clubs failing to pay match officials will be fined by Oxfordshire FA.

NOTICE OF RESULTS OF GAMES

15A. Each Club shall submit an online result of the match with the names of their players competing, including all substitutes, together with the name of the referee and marking of their performance. This is to be received within 4 days of the match. Failure to complete the online result card correctly will result in a fine as laid down in the Schedule of Charges. Random checks may take place where clubs are asked to submit the team sheet used on the day to allow an audit of the information against their online submission.

b) A member from each team is responsible for sending the Association an SMS containing the result of the match as directed by the "Full-Time" system within two hours of the match finishing. Failure to do so may result in a fine as laid down in the Schedule of Charges

15B. A Match Form should be downloaded by the competing clubs on which the names of the eleven competing players, the nominated substitutes and other Technical Area occupants must be noted. After completion one copy must be handed to the opposing team, one to the Match Referee (for retention) and one kept by the club. Teams can also submit their teams only to the Oxfordshire FA via Full-Time.

Match Form Download -
<https://www.oxfordshirefa.com/cups-and-competitions/rules-and-documents>

COMPETITION ENTRY FEES

16. The entry fees for all Competitions shall be paid, together with the annual Affiliation Fees to the Association to arrive on or before August 1st of each year.

FINANCE

17A. In competition rounds previous to the Final and Semi-Final ties scheduled by Oxfordshire FA to be played on neutral grounds the home club will make the financial arrangements and the visiting club will check the receipts.

In the case of a match originally scheduled by Oxfordshire FA to be played on a neutral ground but subsequently taking place on the ground of one of the competing clubs it will be treated as though the match had taken place on a neutral ground with Oxfordshire FA being responsible for the financial arrangements. All members and season ticket holders will pay the same admission as the general public.

17B. Oxfordshire FA shall be responsible for the arrangements in all Final and Semi-Final ties scheduled by Oxfordshire FA to be played on neutral grounds. Travelling expenses for Semi-Finals and Finals shall be the responsibility of the competing clubs.

17C. If, with Oxfordshire FA's permission, the clubs involved forego the opportunity to play on a neutral ground and mutually decide that one or other have home ground advantage the conditions concerning finance when a Semi-Final or Final match was originally, scheduled to be played on a neutral ground shall still apply.

17D. With the exception of the Senior Cup and John Fathers Junior Shield, Semi-Finals may be played at ground of first named team at the discretion of Oxfordshire FA. Match official expenses are the responsibility of the home team and will be reimbursed by the Oxfordshire FA on submission of the claim form provided.

PLAQUES AND MEDALS

18. In addition to the trophy, Oxfordshire FA shall present mementoes to the match officials, players and substitutes in the Final Tie. If a player receives a red card for misconduct, the memento to which they may be entitled shall be withheld at the discretion of the County FA.

Applications for additional mementoes must be made to Oxfordshire FA. If permitted, the cost of additional mementoes will be met by the club making the request. All monies are to be paid in advance.

WITHDRAWAL FROM OXFORDSHIRE FA COMPETITIONS

19A. Any club withdrawing from a Competition through being unable to raise a team during the

course of the season shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the competition and shall be liable to fine of £40.00.

19B. Any club refusing or failing to play in any Competition against the club with which it is drawn on the date specified, if play is possible, shall be adjudged to have lost the match and may also otherwise be dealt with by Oxfordshire FA as deemed appropriate.

19C. Any Club that withdraws late from a Cup Competition where the opponents and match official(s) have travelled and are proven to be at fault will be liable for any incurred costs for travelling and match officials.

INFRINGEMENT OF BYE-LAWS

20. Oxfordshire FA shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Bye-laws of Competitions and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting said Competitions, including any not provided for in the Bye-laws.

For all breaches of Bye-laws a formal written charge must be issued. The respondent shall be given seven days from the date of notice to reply to the charge and given the opportunity to:

- (i) Accept or deny the charge
- (ii) Submit in writing a case of mitigation, or
- (iii) Put their case before an Oxfordshire FA panel

All decisions made by Oxfordshire FA under this Bye-law shall be binding subject to a right of

appeal to an Oxfordshire FA Board of Appeal. Such appeals must be lodged in writing with Oxfordshire FA within 14 days of notification of the County FA's decision. A fee of £35 must accompany that appeal.

The grounds for appeal shall be given in accordance with FA Rules. The Board of Appeal may order the appeal fee to be forfeited. The decision of the Board of Appeal is final and binding on all parties concerned.

PROTESTS

21. All questions relating to the qualifications of competitors or the interpretations of the Bye-Laws, financial claim or any dispute or protest whatever arising out of any competition managed by the Association shall be referred to Oxfordshire FA.

Every protest must be made in writing and contain full particulars of the grounds upon which it is founded. The protest shall be sent to Oxfordshire FA together with the fee of £35 within five (5) days (Sundays not included) of the match or decision to which it relates. The fee may be forfeited to the Association in the event of the protest or claim not being sustained.

The Association may order any Club engaged in a dispute or protest to pay such a sum as may be considered necessary towards defraying the expenses of the meeting incurred when deciding same.

Any protest relating to the ground, the marking out of same, goalposts, bars, or any other particulars of

Club to remove the cause of the objection, if this is possible, without unduly delaying the progress of the game. Any objection so made to the referee shall also be notified at once to Oxfordshire FA together with the protest fee.

Any protest for a late start must be made to the referee or the official in charge of the game before the commencement of the game. If the game is left unfinished owing to a late start, the replay shall be on the ground of the Club not at fault.

All decisions made by Oxfordshire FA under this Bye-law shall be final and binding.

SAFE CUSTODY OF ASSOCIATION TROPHIES

22. When the winning club in all Competitions shall have been ascertained, the trophy shall be presented to its representatives before being returned to Oxfordshire FA officials.

Trophies may be borrowed for a club event providing a written request is submitted to Oxfordshire FA. The club will be responsible for collecting the trophy and then returning it within 5 calendar days after the event.

Oxfordshire FA will be responsible for ensuring adequate insurance cover on all County FA trophies at all times. Each trophy will be returned to Oxfordshire FA after photographs have been

the game shall not be entertained by the Association unless an objection has been lodged

taken at the end of each Final.

If a Trophy is damaged in any way during the retention period the winning club shall be responsible for the subsequent cost of repair. This can be arranged by the club or, after the return of the Trophy by the Oxfordshire FA, in which case the club will be invoiced. Trophies returned in a unclean state will incur a minimum of £50 cost for cleaning for presentation.

Precedence of Competition Matches

23. The precedence of competition matches is as follows:

1 st	FA Cup, FA Challenge Trophy, FA Challenge Vase & The Football League.
2 nd	The Panel Leagues
3 rd	The FA Youth, FA County Youth Challenge Cup Competitions and FA Women's Cup 4th round and above
4 th	Contributory Leagues (recognised divisions only), National League Systems Cup and FA Sunday Cup
5 th	FA Women's Super League and Cup
6 th	Supply Leagues (marking divisions only)
7 th	Oxfordshire FA Competitions: Senior Cup, Intermediate Cup, John Fathers Junior Shield, Sam Waters Cup and Youth Cups.

with the referee before the commencement of the game. The referee may require the responsible

Original Fixtures in All Competitions take precedence over rearranged matches except F.A. and Oxfordshire FA Cup Ties.

OXFORDSHIRE FA YOUTH & GIRLS CUPS (Specific rules in addition to the General Bye-Laws)

24A. Age qualifications:

Age as of midnight on 31 st august in current playing season	Eligible age groups
12	Under 13
	Under 14
13	Under 14
	Under 15
14	Under 15
	Under 16
15	Under 16
	Under 17
	Under 18
16	Under 17

A child under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31 August in a playing season, shall not be permitted to play in a match during that playing season where any other player is older or younger than that child by two years or more.

24B. Players & Qualifications:

No player may play for more than one team in the same Competition.

Mixed gender teams are ONLY ALLOWED up to and including U18s.

All Youth Cup games will be played as an 11 v 11 format.

24C. Duration of matches:

Age Groups	Duration
Under 13 & 14	35mins each way
Under 15 & 16	40mins each way
Under 18	45mins each way

The minimum time for any game will be:

- Under 13& 14 Not be less than 25 mins each way
- Under 15 & 16 Not be less than 30 mins each way

- Under 18 Not be less than 35 mins each way

24D. Footballs:

The size of football to be used shall be:

- Size 4 for those playing Under 13-14 age groups
- Size 5 for those playing Under 15-18 age groups.