



# RULES OF THE SHROPSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITIONS 2023/2024.



- 1. The Saturday Cups shall be called:**  
“SFA TJ Vickers Premier Challenge Cup”  
“SFA Air 2 Root Saturday Challenge Cup”

**The Sunday Cups shall be called:**  
“SFA Tom Farmer Women’s Challenge Cup”  
“SFA Sunday Premier Challenge Cup”  
“SFA Sunday Challenge Cup”

- 2. Cup Ownership.**

The Cups are the property of the Shropshire Football Association. When the winning Club shall have been ascertained, the Association shall loan the Cup to such Club, which shall be responsible for its return to the Association on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> day of February in the ensuing year, in good order and condition. The Association reserves the right to request the Cup(s) at any time by giving seven days notice. Should the Cup(s) be lost, destroyed or damaged by fire or any other cause whilst under the care or custody of the Club, the latter shall refund to the Association the amount of its current insured value or the cost of through repair in addition to any other penalty which the Association may impose.

A copy of the cup winners document to be signed is at the back of these rules.

- 3. Medals or Trophies**

- (i) In addition to the Cup, the Association shall present medals to players competing in the final tie. Each of the competing teams will be presented with 16 medals. When a player taking part is ordered to leave the field of play for misconduct, the medal to which they may be entitled may be withheld at the discretion of the Competitions Committee.
- (ii) Any player receiving an award that is seen to throw the award after it has been awarded, the club that the player is registered with will be fined £100.

- 4. Control of all Challenge Cup Competitions**

The Competitions Committee shall have the power to exercise all powers in relation to the Competitions and to make decisions on all matters arising out of or in relation to the organisation, control and management of the Competition (including as to eligibility and qualification) and shall be final and binding on all participants in the Competition. In relation to these and any other matters not specifically mentioned in the Competition Rules, the Competitions Committee shall have the power to take such action and make such decisions, orders, rulings and impose such penalties as it deems necessary and following such procedures as it considers appropriate and such shall, subject to Rule 22, be final and binding on all participants.

The Competitions Committee shall have the power to appoint a Sub-Committee in order to expedite decisions to ensure the progress of the Competition.

- 5. Eligible Clubs**

Participation in the Competition shall be open to Clubs affiliated to a County Association and members of an affiliated Competition.

The SFA TJ Vickers Premier Challenge Cup. This Competition shall be open to Shropshire Clubs, at the appropriate level of Saturday football.

The SFA Saturday Challenge Cup. This Competition shall be open to all Saturday League Clubs not qualified to compete in the TJ Vickers Premier Challenge Cup.

The SFA Sunday Premier Challenge Cup. This Competition shall be open to all Sunday League Clubs at the appropriate level of Sunday football.

The SFA Sunday Challenge Cup. This Competition shall be open to all Sunday League Clubs not qualified to compete in the SFA Sunday Premier Challenge Cup.

The SFA Tom Farmer Women’s Challenge Cup. This Competition shall be open to all female Sunday League Clubs at the appropriate level of Sunday football.

## **6. Entry Date**

- (a) No Club is eligible to until it has paid its subscription for the current season. The Competition is annual and is open to all affiliated clubs in membership of the Association competing in an affiliated Adult Football League.
- (b) All eligible clubs shall be entered into the Competition upon the completion of their annual affiliation.
- (c) The entry fee is £25.00, to be paid directly to the Association along with the affiliation fee.

## **7. Organisation of Competitions**

The supervision of all matches and rounds will lie with the Competition Secretary who will organise conference dates, or as allowed by The Competitions Committee.

## **8. The Draw**

The names of the Clubs entered for the Competition shall be placed in one lot and shall be drawn from such lot, in couples at a time. Those couples shall compete with each other, and the names of the winning clubs shall be placed in a lot, drawn in couples and compete as in the first tie, and so on, until the Final is reached. The drawing of couples to compete together in the first round shall be done in such manner as to prevent byes occurring in the succeeding rounds. When the Final ties has been played, the winning Club shall hold the Cup until February 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

## **9. Grounds / Facilities for Cup Ties**

### **(a) Choice of Ground**

In each tie, the game will be played on the ground of the Club first drawn, or as otherwise directed by the Competitions Committee, as hereafter provided.

Clubs shall not play on a neutral ground without the consent of the Competitions Committee. In the event of a tie being postponed (due to the playing surface being declared unfit for play) the Competition Secretary will decide the venue for a replayed fixture. Should a tie, at the discretion of the Competitions Committee, be reversed, both Clubs will be equally liable for the costs of ground and match officials (except where individual competition rules apply). Football Turf Pitches (3G) are allowed in these competitions providing they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA's register of Football Turf Pitches. Facilities to include showers, changing rooms, toilets.

### **(b) Dimension of Field of Play**

The dimension of the field of play for all Cup ties shall comply with the Laws of the Game.

### **(c) Appeal – Unsuitability of Ground**

If the ground of the Club entitled by the draw to have the Cup tie played on its ground is considered unsuitable for the Cup tie, having regard to all the circumstances, the opposing Club may appeal to the Competitions Committee within three days of the receipt of the official intimation of the draw. Such appeal must be accompanied by a fee of £50 which may be forfeited if the appeal is not sustained. The Competitions Committee may order the match to be played on the ground of the appealing Club, or on a neutral ground. The payment of the expenses incidental to the Appeal shall be at the discretion of the Competitions Committee.

### **(d) Playing Conditions of Ground**

Each Club must take every precaution to keep its ground in playing condition, and if necessary, the Club shall apply to the Association, and the Secretary shall require a qualified Referee to examine the ground and decide on its fitness for play in sufficient time to save expenses of unnecessary journeys being incurred by Clubs. Subject to this Rule and if the venue owner has given their approval the Referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and must report to the ground where the match is to be played at least one hour before the time of kick-off, or earlier if requested.

## **10. Club Colours**

Where the shirts of two competing Clubs are similar, the visiting club must change, unless alternative arrangements are mutually agreed by the competing clubs, Stockings must also be changed if the colours are similar and of a distinctive pattern. Shirts dominated by Black are not permitted in any Shropshire Cup competition.

In the event of the Clubs not agreeing upon the colours to be worn by their respective teams, the Competitions Committee shall decide. Goalkeepers must wear shirts (not black) which distinguish them from other players. Competing Goalkeepers will not be allowed to wear the same-coloured shirts. Player's shirts must be numbered.

## **11. Duration of Matches**

The duration of each match will be of 90 minutes. The Referee shall allow for time wasted or lost through accident or other cause. The Referee is the sole judge of allowance of time where lost through accident or other cause, and their decision on this matter is not subject to appeal.

All matches are played to a conclusion, but for any cause a match is not completed it may be replayed in full. The time of kick-off shall be as stated, and any Club failing to commence the match at the proper time, may be subject to a fine not exceeding £50.

## **12. Procedures for Technical Areas.**

- (i) No more than Nine people allowed in the technical area, this is to include Five substitution players.
- (ii) All officials are to be named on the match day team sheet.
- (iii) No more than Two standing at any one time.

## **13. Provisions for Matches Preceding the Semi-final Ties**

For all matches preceding the Semi-final and Final ties the following provisions shall apply:

- (i) Home Clubs to notify opponents, Referee and Assistant Referees of location of Ground and dressing rooms, 4 days before the date of the fixture. Any club failing to observe this provision shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £50.
- (ii) Postponed or abandoned matches, at the discretion of the Competitions Manager and agreed by the Competitions Committee, may be replayed on a date fixed by the Competitions Manager.
- (iii) When a match has resulted in a draw after the playing of 90 minutes, the winner shall be decided by the taking of penalty kicks in accordance with the procedure adopted by the International Football association Board (IFAB)

## **14. Floodlighting.**

With the consent of the Competitions Committee matches may be played wholly or partly under floodlights, providing they are of a standard.

## **15. Reporting Results.**

The Home Club must use the SMS text via Full Time to submit results. The result of the match should also be submitted to its League official, or as otherwise instructed on the day of the match. Full Time SMS for results must be used.

Notice of the result of the match, giving the names of those that actually play, must be submitted, on Full Time or The MatchdayApp by both club secretaries. Results also to include Referee's mark.

Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be subject to a fine of not exceeding £50 and being in default of the payment may be removed from the Competition.

## **16. Provisions for Semi-final and Final Ties**

- (i) The semi final ties shall be a two-legged fixture, on a home and away basis. The result of the two fixtures combined will determine the finalist.
- (ii) Postponed or abandoned ties, at the discretion of the Competitions Manager and agreed by the Competitions Committee, may be replayed on a date fixed by the Competitions Manager.
- (iii) If the result of the two legged matches result in a draw after the playing of 180 minutes, the winner shall be decided by the taking of penalty kicks in accordance with the procedure adopted by the International Football association Board (IFAB)
- (iv) The Competitions Committee shall fix the grounds for all Final ties and shall have direct control of the arrangements.

## **17. Provisions for withdrawing from the Competition.**

- (i) Any Club intending to withdraw from the Competition must notify its intentions to do so to the Association and the opposing Club, not less than 5 days before the date fixed for playing the match.
- (ii) Any offending Club failing to comply with Rule.17(i) may be fined and ordered to pay any expenses incurred and to take such other action as the Competitions Committee considers appropriate.
- (iii) A Club failing to give satisfactory reason for withdrawing from the Competition may be judged by the Competitions Committee to be guilty of serious misconduct and liable to be dealt with under the Rules of the Association, and liable to a fine not exceeding £100.

## **18. Provisions concerning the Qualification of Players.**

- (i) Each team participating in a match shall present the full available strength of each competing Club.
- (ii) Each Club shall provide a list of names of players taking part in the game (including the names of the substitutes) to the Referee and a representative of their opponents in the presence of the Referee at least 30 minutes before the advertised time of kick-off. Any club failing to carry out these will be fined £25. Should any nominated player or substitute sustain an injury after the submission of the "Official Team Sheet" to the Referee before kick-off, they may be replaced without fine if they are injured warming up after the exchange of the "Official Team Sheet", provided the Referee and opponents are informed before the commencement of the match.
- (iii) A maximum of five substitutes may be nominated. A Club may name up to 5 substitute Players of whom not more than 5 may be used with a maximum of 3 breaks in play. Substitution can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission. Prior to the substitution being made the Club must identify to the Match Official(s) the number of the player out and the player in, in accordance with the Official Team Sheet.
- (iv) All players shall be qualified as players according to the Rules of the Association.

- (v) A player shall not play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same season. Explanation. This Rule relates to a player appearing for their Club in this Competition who then transfers to another Club in that season. They will become cup tied in this competition and would be ineligible to play for their new Club in that same season.
- (vi) All players must have been eligible to play in the original tie in order to play in a replayed or postponed match; however, a player who has been suspended according to the disciplinary procedures under the Rules of the Association may play in a postponed, drawn or replayed match after the term of their suspension has expired.
- (vii) A substitute who does not play in a match is entitled to play for another Club in the Competition in the same season.
- (viii) In all rounds of the Competition a player shall be a "registered" of their Club under the Rules of the Competition.
- (ix) A "Registered Player" is one who is registered with a League in which their Club competes in the current season. Any such registration must have been received by 12 noon on the day previous for the date fixed for playing the match.
- (x) In order to be eligible to play in the Semi-Final and Final the registered player must have played 3 (three) times for that Club, in recognised matches, during the current season.
- (xi) (a) Clubs with a first and Reserve side. A player who has played in a recognised match for a Club's first team who are entered in the TJ Vickers Premier Cup cannot play for their Reserve team who have been entered in the Saturday Challenge Cup.  
**Explanation. This relates to players who have played in a higher Competition either on Saturday or Sunday football. In Cup Competitions an unfair advantage could be given to the Reserve team by using players who predominantly play in the first team.**  
 (b) A player who has played in the Senior Cup and/or TJ Vickers Cup will not be eligible to play in the Saturday Challenge Cup.  
**Explanation. Relates to players who have played in a higher Competition either on Saturday or Sunday football. Once they play in that higher Competition, they cannot play for any Club in a lesser Competition e.g., Challenge Cup. Stops Clubs seeking to gain an advantage by using their dual signed players who play for Clubs at a higher level and competed in a higher level of Cup Competition.**  
 (c) A player who has played in the Sunday Premier Cup will not be eligible to play in the Sunday Challenge Cup.
- (xii) An International Transfer Certificate for Players coming from overseas Associations (Including Wales, Scotland and N Ireland and Republic of Ireland) takes precedence over a players Registration. Therefore, this is also required by 12 noon on the day previous for the date fixed for playing the match.

#### 19. Validity of Players Qualification (All Cups)

- (i) The Competitions Committee shall have the power to call upon a player, and/or the Club to which they are registered, or for which they have played, to prove that the Player is qualified according to the Competition Rules.
- (ii) Subject to (iii) below where a player is found to be ineligible plays for a Club in a Competition match, the Competitions Committee shall remove the Club from the Competition and may impose further penalties against the Club.
- (iii) However, where the Club satisfies the Competitions Committee that the Club (or any of its Officers) did not know and could not of reasonably known, even had it made every reasonable enquiry (with the exercise of the utmost caution), that the player was ineligible, the Club shall not be removed from the competition but may still be subject to any other penalty. (E.g., fine, ordered to replay the match.

#### 20. Safeguarding

- (i) All teams that play at Under 18s and below must be supervised by TWO responsible adults who are members of the club & both of whom holds an in date FA DBS, an in-date FA Safeguarding Children Workshop and an in date FA Introduction to First Aid in Football. At least one of the named adults should hold a FA Level One Coaching Badge.
- (ii) All named managers, coaches & assistants must be listed on The Whole Game System as a named official against that team in accordance with their league rules.
- (iii) All teams must carry adequate First Aid kits at all training sessions & fixtures. The use of freeze spray or pain-killer sprays is forbidden. The use of a bucket & sponge is forbidden.
- (iv) Clubs failing to provide responsible supervision & comply with the Competition shall be liable to be fined as per Fine Tariff.

#### 21. Disqualification.

The Competitions Committee shall have the power to disqualify any competing Club or player, or players of any competing Club, who may be proved to be guilty of any breach of the Rules of the Association.

## 22. Provisions concerning Referees and Assistant Referees

- (i) In all matches in the Competition, Referees and Assistant Referees shall be appointed by the Appointments Secretary (neither past nor present members of either of the competing clubs shall be eligible) of the Shropshire Football Association.
- (ii) If Officials appointed do not confirm within three days of receipt of notice of appointment to the Appointments Secretary, they may be taken off the appointment.
- (iii) In case a match is postponed through any cause, the Referee and Assistant Referees will only receive half their fee, in addition to their travelling expenses if they are in attendance at the of where the match is being played.
- (iv) If the match is postponed before the match officials travel, they will not receive any form of fee or travel expenses.

### Scale of Fees and Expenses to be paid to Officials.

For rounds up to the Semi-Finals, Match Official's expenses are to be shared 50/50 between the two competing Clubs.

	Referee	Assistant Referee
TJ Vickers Cup	£50-00	£25-00
Saturday Challenge Cup	£50-00	£25-00
Sunday Challenge Cups	£40-00	£25-00

Plus travelling expenses for the use of own vehicle in accordance with the appropriate rate per mile currently in force. Please be advised that if you are officiating with a colleague who resides in the same town or area joint travel will be required.

## 23. Provisions Concerning Protests.

- (i) All issues relating to the interpretation of the Competition Rules, shall be referred to the Competitions Committee, whose decision shall, subject to Rule 24, be final and binding. The Competitions Committee shall consider any such matter in such manner and following such procedures as it considers appropriate. The Competitions Committee shall not be bound by any enactment or Rule of Law relating to the admissibility of evidence in proceeding before a Court of Law.
- (ii) Where a Club wishes to protest that there has been a breach of the Competition Rules, such protest must be made in writing and must contain the particulars of the grounds upon which it is made. The protest must be received by a staff member of The Shropshire Football Association, accompanied by a fee of £50, and registered within 48 hours of the completion of the match it relates to (Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays not included). The fee may be forfeited to The Association in the event of the protest not being sustained.
- (iii) The Competitions Committee may make such orders as it considers appropriate in relation to any issue or protest referred to it. The Competitions Committee may make such orders as it considers appropriate as to the costs incurred by the parties or The Association.
- (iv) Any protest relating to the ground, goal posts or bars or other appurtenances of the game shall not be considered by the Competitions Committee unless an objection has been lodged with the Referee and the Home Club at least one hour before the official time of the kick-off. The Referee shall require the Home Club to correct the cause of the objection, if this is possible without unduly delaying the progress of the match.
- (v) Where an objection has been lodged with the Referee and Home Club as above, a protest must be made to The Association and neither objection nor protest may be withdrawn, except by leave of the Association.
- (vi) The Association shall send a copy of any protest to the Club protested against, which shall lodge a defence to the protest with particulars of the defence within two days of receipt of the protest.
- (vii) Members of the Association directly connected with a Club concerned in a protest shall not have any involvement in the consideration of the matter.
- (viii) A Club, or player or any person connected with the management of the Club may be summoned to attend at a hearing of a protest. A Club may be represented by one or more persons. A Barrister or Solicitor may represent a Club only with the prior written consent of the Competitions Committee. Any person summoned to attend a hearing of a protest must attend personally and shall not be legally represented except with the prior written consent of the Competitions Committee

## 24. Provisions Concerning Appeals

- (i) A Club that is expelled from the Competition may appeal against that decision to an appeal board comprising of 3 members of SFA Football Regulatory Board, selected by the Chairman of SFA or his nominee. Any such appeal shall only be permitted on one or more of the following grounds:
  - a. The Committee appointed by the SFA misinterpreted/failed to comply with the procedures relevant to the hearing of the charge.

- b. The Committee appointed by the SFA came to a decision on the facts of the case which no reasonable body could have reached; or
  - c. The Committee appointed by the SFA imposed a sanction that is excessive.
- (ii) Any appeal must be made in accordance with such procedures as may be determined by The Association from time to time.
- (iii) For the avoidance of doubt, a Club may not appeal against any penalty imposed on it other than expulsion from the Competition.

**25. Match Expenses**

Prior to the Final ties, the Home Club shall be responsible for the normal match expenses. The visiting Club shall be responsible for payment of its own travel expenses.



**SHROPSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION LIMITED**

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We \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Members of and representing \_\_\_\_\_ Football Club, which has now  
been declared to have won the Shropshire Football Association County \_\_\_\_\_

Cup and the same having been delivered to us by the Association, do hereby, on behalf of the said club  
and individually and collectively engage to return the same to the Chief Executive of the Association,  
for the time being, on or before the 1st day of February next in good condition, and in accordance with  
the conditions of the rules of this association to which we have subscribed our respective names, and  
providing the said cup be destroyed, lost or damaged by fire whilst in our care or custody, we agree to  
refund to the Association the amount of its insured value or the cost of thorough repair.

1) Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

2) Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

3) Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_