



Rules of the  
**COUNTY PAN DISABILITY CUP**

**2023/24 Season**

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If you have any queries regarding the interpretation of any of these Rules, then please do not hesitate to contact the Association directly during office hours (contact details below) for further guidance.

*NOTE. These Rules are to be adopted on a trial basis for the 2023/24 Season. They will be reviewed prior to commencement of the 2024/25 Season. The review will take account of their effectiveness and suitability during this introductory season.*

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## **1. Details of the Cup**

- (a) The Cup is named 'The Staffordshire Football Association County Pan Disability Cup' but may be referred to as the 'County Pan Disability Cup' or any other name that the Competition may adopt from time to time.
- (b) The Cup is the property of the Staffordshire Football Association, which is referred to as 'the Association'.
- (c) The Association President (or his Deputy) shall present the Cup to the team winning the final tie. The team shall return it in good order and condition to the Association on or before 1<sup>st</sup> February in the following year.
- (d) Should the Cup be lost, destroyed or damaged by fire or any other cause whilst under the care or custody of the team, the team shall refund to the Association the amount of its current insured value or the cost of thorough repair, in addition to any other penalty which the Association may impose.

## **2. Medals**

- (a) The Association shall present medals to the players, substitutes and Secretaries in the final tie.
- (b) If a player taking part in the final tie is ordered to leave the field of play for serious misconduct, the medal to which they may have been entitled may be withheld at the discretion of the members of the Committee who are present at the match.

## **3. Control of the Competition**

- (a) The ownership, organisation, control and management of the Competition is vested entirely and exclusively in the Association.
- (b) The Association's Regulatory Committee ("the Committee") have the power to make decisions on all matters concerning the organisation, control and management of the Competition, save that having regard to the special nature of this Competition, the Association shall appoint an Event Manager to ensure the proper progress of each Event.
- (c) In addition to any other action or penalty, the Committee have the power to disqualify any competing team, or player or players of any competing team, which they determine to have breached the Rules of the Association or the Competition Rules. Such decisions are deemed to be decisions of the Association's Council and are binding on all participants in the Competition.
- (d) The Committee have the power to make, amend and delete rules for the organisation, control and management of the Competition as, from time to time, it considers expedient.
- (e) All teams taking part in the Competition shall be bound by and comply with the Competition Rules.

#### **4. Eligible Teams and Entry Fee**

- (a) The Competition is annual and is open to teams of affiliated clubs in membership of the Association competing in the Staffordshire County Ability Counts League, together with teams of other affiliated clubs meeting the Association's disability criteria for this Competition. Mixed-gender teams may participate in this Competition subject to the approval of The Football Association..
- (b) The entry fee is £20.00 per team. A contribution towards the costs of Events is required to be made by each team pursuant to Rule 7(a).

#### **5. Organisation of the Competition**

- (a) The Competition is a 7-a-side competition and shall be played in the form of Events, on dates and at central shared venues arranged by the Association.
- (b) Matches shall be played on a single day on a group stage basis, followed on subsequent separate dates by the semi finals and the final tie.
- (c) The names of the teams entered for the Competition and the playing schedule for each team shall be published not later than seven days prior to each relevant Event.
- (d) Each team shall submit a match-day squad list to the Event Manager not later than one hour before the commencement of an Event. The list shall comprise the names of not more than 12 eligible players in accordance with Rule 9(a).
- (e) At the end of each game, each team shall inform the Event Manager of which players took part in the game, including as substitutes.
- (f) The Committee shall have the power to review all matches abandoned owing to the conduct of one team or its team members, or to the conduct of both teams or their team members, and shall take such action as they deem appropriate.

#### **6. Grounds for Matches**

- (a) The dimensions of the field of play for all matches shall be in accordance with the Laws of the Game for Small-Sided games. Goal nets shall be used.
- (b) Artificial football turf pitches shall be used in this Competition providing that they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA's Register of Football Turf Pitches. To meet the criteria a football turf pitch shall pass a test every three years as defined in the FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf.

#### **7. Expenses and Proceeds of Matches**

- (a) In the group stage and semi-final Events, each competing team shall contribute towards the cost of staging such Events, to cover the facility costs and match officials' expenses. The Association shall inform each team of the amount of that contribution together with the playing schedule notification under Rule 5(c). Each team shall remit the contribution to the Event Manager before the commencement of the Event.

- (b) In the final tie the Association shall take the gate and if the proceeds are insufficient to cover the entire expenses of the tie, shall stand the loss.
- (c) In all matches the teams shall be responsible for payment of their own travelling and any other expenses.

#### **8. Duration of Matches**

- (a) The duration of each match shall be as follows:
  - \* Group stage matches, one period of fifteen minutes.
  - \* Semi finals and the final tie, two halves of twenty minutes, with a half time interval of ten minutes
- (b) The Referee shall allow for time wasted or lost through accident or other cause. The Referee is the sole judge of allowance of time whether lost through accident or other cause, and his decision on this matter is not subject to appeal.
- (c) When a semi final or final tie match has resulted in a draw it shall be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark, commencing with 5 penalties by each team.

#### **9. Provisions Concerning Players**

- (a) All players shall be registered members of their team in the league in which that team normally competes. Any such registration must have been received and accepted by the league not later than seven days prior to the date of the Event.
- (b) Only players who have played (including having played as a nominated substitute) in an earlier round of the Competition are eligible to play in the final tie. The team shall provide evidence of a player's qualification under this Rule if required by the Association.
- (c) To play in this competition the player must have reached the age of 16 years on 31<sup>st</sup> August in the current season.
- (d) A player shall not in the same season play for more than one competing team in this Competition.
- (e) A team may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use five substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from five players. Players who have been substituted themselves become 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 the Game. A substitute who is not used is entitled to play for another team in the same season, subject to paragraph (a).
- (f) If the Committee have any doubt as to the qualification of any player taking part in this Competition, they have the power to call upon such player, and/or the team to which they belong, or for which they played, to prove that they are qualified according to the Rules, and failing satisfactory explanation the Committee have the power to disqualify such player and remove the team from the Competition, and impose such other penalty as they think fit.

## **10. Team Colours**

- (a) All players shall wear distinguishable colours.
- (b) In the event of a colour clash in the semi finals or the final tie, the Association may order both teams to change unless a mutual agreement is reached by the teams.

## **11. Match Officials**

- (a) In all matches the Committee shall appoint the Match Officials.
- (b) The Match Officials shall report to the ground at least thirty minutes before the commencement of the Event. Their duties are as defined in the Laws of Association Football for small-sided football.
- (c) The fees of the Match Officials shall be paid by the Association as follows:  
Group Stage Event: £60.00 per Official  
Semi Finals £35 each for two Officials (Referee and Reserve Official)  
Final Tie Referee £35 and two Assistants.£25 each..
- (d) In the final tie, the Match Officials shall receive the match fee and a medal.

## **12. Protests**

- (a) All questions relating to the qualification of players, or interpretation of the rules, or any dispute or protest whatever shall be referred in the first instance to the Event Manager for determination.
- (b) In the event that a team elects to submit a formal protest, it shall be made in writing and shall contain the particulars of the grounds upon which it is founded. Two copies of the protest shall be lodged with the Association accompanied by a fee of £50.00 within two days of the match to which it relates (Sundays not included). The fee shall be forfeited to the Association if the protest is not sustained.
- (c) The Committee may order any team engaged in a dispute or protest to pay such sum as may be considered necessary towards defraying the expenses incurred.
- (d) Any protest relating to the ground, goalposts or bars or other appurtenances of the game shall not be entertained by the Committee unless an objection has been lodged with the Event Manager before the start of the match. The Event Manager shall ensure the correction of the cause of objection, if this is practicable, without unduly delaying the progress of the match.
- (e) The Association shall send a copy of the protest and particulars to a team protested against.
- (f) A member of the Committee who is in any way involved with a club or team concerned in a dispute or protest shall not be present at any meeting of the Committee while the dispute or protest is being considered.
- (g) A team summoned to attend a hearing or a dispute or protest may be represented by one or more of its members. Each team may support its case by witnesses.

### **13. Appeals**

- (a) A team that is expelled from the Competition may within seven days of receipt of written notification of the decision appeal against such decision by lodging the particulars in duplicate, accompanied by a fee of £50.00 which shall be forfeited if the appeal is not upheld. Any such appeal shall be addressed to the Association for the adjudication of a Board of Appeal, whose decision shall be final and binding on all parties.
- (b) A team may not appeal against any penalty imposed on it other than expulsion from the Competition.
- (c) The Board of Appeal have the power to compel any party to the appeal to pay such expenses as they deem fit.

### **14. General**

The Laws and Rules of the Association apply to this Competition, and the Committee have the power to deal with anything not provided for in these Rules, including dismissal from the Competition.