

COMPETITION RULES 2025-26

June 2025

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1: Competitions

The following Rules shall apply, except where specified, to all Sussex County FA Competitions, which shall be played annually:

Adult Competitions	Rules	Additional Rules
Senior Challenge Cup	1-22 inclusive	-
Women's Challenge Cup	Rules 1-21 inclusive	23
Community Shield	1-4, 6, 8 10-12, 14-15, 19-21, 24	-
Royal Ulster Rifles (RUR) Charity Cup	Rules 1-21 inclusive	25
Intermediate Challenge Cup	Rules 1-21 inclusive	26
Under 23's Challenge Cup	Rules 1-21 inclusive	27
Junior Challenge Cup	Rules 1-21 inclusive	28
Sunday Challenge Cup	Rules 1-21 inclusive	29
Sunday Challenge Trophy	Rules 1-21 inclusive	30
Women's Challenge Trophy	Rules 1-21 inclusive	31
Veterans Challenge Cup	Rules 1-21 inclusive	32
ALL Youth Competitions		
Under 18 Challenge Cups	Rules 1-21 inclusive	33-34
Under 16 Challenge Cups	Rules 1-21 inclusive	33-35
Under 15 Challenge Cups	Rules 1-21 inclusive	33-36
Under 14 Challenge Cups	Rules 1-21 inclusive	33-37
Under 13 Challenge Cups	Rules 1-21 inclusive	33-38
Under 12 Challenge Cups	Rules 1-21 inclusive	33-39

2: Competitions

All trophies shall remain the property of the Sussex County Football Association ("the Association")

3: Control of Competition

All trophies shall remain the property of the Sussex County Football Association ("the Association")

- (a) The Association shall have entire control and management of the Competition and have the power to disqualify, impose fines or other such penalties and may order the payment of costs and expenses against any competing Team, or the players of any competing Team, in breach of any of the Rules of the Competition.
- (b) The Association shall decide upon the interpretation of the Rules of the Competition, adjudicate upon any dispute, claims, protest and Appeals, and their decision shall be final and binding.
- (c) The Association shall have power to formulate the Rules of the Competitions, and to alter or add to the Rules as they, from time to time, deem expedient.

4: Eligible Teams

- (a) Teams eligible for each Competition are as set out in Rules 22 39 inclusive.
- (b) The number of Teams per Club eligible for each Competition is set out in Rules 22 33 inclusive.

5: Competition Entries, Withdrawals, Unfulfilled Ties

- (a) Only Teams whose parent Association is the Sussex County Football Association shall be eligible to enter Competitions listed under Rule 1.
- (b) Applications to enter County Cup Competitions must be completed by each Team entering each Competition and submitted via Club Portal on or before 31st July each season. Each application must be accompanied by an Entry Fee, as decided by the Association and set out in the Fees Tariff.
- (c) The Association may accept late entries until the first round of the relevant Competition

is drawn.

- (d) The entry of any Team may be rejected by the Association.
- (e) An invoice will be issued for each entry fee which must be settled within 14 days of the invoice date. Failure to pay an invoice within the stated period shall result in a fine as set out in the Fines Tariff, to be paid within 14 days, failing which further disciplinary action may be taken.

Withdrawal

(f) Any Teams withdrawing from any Cup Competition may be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff or otherwise dealt with, as the Association decides.

Unfulfilled Ties

- (g) If any Team refuses or fails to play a tie on the date fixed for it, that Team shall be removed from the Competition and shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff, and shall pay any expenses incurred by the opponents, including the charge for hire of a ground, if applicable.
- (h) Extenuating circumstances may be considered by the Association.
 - (i) In the case of medical extenuating circumstances, written evidence and any medical certification must be received within 3 days of the date set for the tie.
 - (ii) For youth ties, where school or school organisations activities are cited, priority must be given at all times (see Rule 33).
 - (iii) Any other requests for extenuating circumstances may be considered by the Association on a case-by-case basis.

A Team failing to adhere to any part of this rule shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

6: Qualification of Players, Substitutes, Team Sheets

- (a) Each competing Team shall only consist of bona fide playing members of their Team. Any Team failing to carry out these provisions shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (b) A player shall not play for more than one Team in the same Competition during the current playing season, but the members of each respective Team may be changed during the series of ties. Each Team can nominate up to 16 players per tie (See: Rules 38(b) and 39(b).
- (c) A player must have been registered by the Team at least 24 hours immediately prior to the commencement of the tie.
- (d) For all Competitions other than the Senior Challenge Cup, for a player to qualify to play in a Semi-Final or Final tie, they must meet one of the following criteria:
 - They must have played in at least three league and/or cup matches during the current Playing Season for the relevant team.
 - Alternatively, if they have not met the above condition, they must have played
 in at least one tie in the relevant County Cup Competition earlier in the same
 Playing Season.

Written applications for player dispensation to include any player who has not played the required number of games must be submitted to the Association using the Microsoft online dispensation form via the Associations' website. Any decision by the Association shall be final.

- (e) Players must be Under 12/13/14/15/16/18/23 years on the 31st August in the current playing season to participate in the Under 12, Under 13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 16, Under 18 and Under 23 Competitions respectively. See Appendix A for the full age eligibility criteria for all competitions.
- (f) If the Association shall have any doubts as to the qualification of a player taking part in

a tie it shall have the power to call upon that player, the Team for which the player took part and the Team with which the player is a member, to prove to its satisfaction that the player was qualified according to the Rules. Failing such proof, the Association may determine such player to have been ineligible and will remove the Team from the Competition and deal otherwise with such player and/or Team as it deems fit.

(g) Any Team failing to carry out these provisions shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fine Tariff, and other disciplinary action at the discretion of the Association.

Substitutes

(h) A Team may at its discretion use up to five substitute players who may be selected from up to five players nominated to the Referee prior to the commencement of the tie and may replace another at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

With the exception of the Senior Challenge Cup, Community Shield and the Royal Ulster Rifles Charity Cup, a player who has been substituted then becomes a substitute (i.e. "Roll -on/Roll-off") in accordance with Rules 23, and 26-33 inclusive.

A substitute player is not deemed a player until they enter the field of play.

Team Sheets

- (i) Teams must hand Team sheets listing the players taking part (including nominated substitutes) and their corresponding shirt numbers to the Referee and to a representative of their opponents, in the presence of the Referee. For all ties up to and including Semi-Finals this must be done at least 60 minutes for the Senior Challenge Cup and the Royal Ulster Rifles Charity Cup and at least 30 minutes for all other Competitions, and for Finals at least 60 minutes before the advertised time for kick-off. Any Team failing to carry out these provisions shall be liable to a Fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (j) Should any nominated player or substitute sustain an injury after the submission of the Team sheet to the Referee and before kick-off, that player may be replaced by another player or by a nominated substitute, provided the Referee and opponents are informed.

7: Objections to Qualifications, Protests, Appeals

- (a) All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Association.
- (b) Objections relevant to the ground, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be considered by the Association unless a protest is lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the tie. Any Team lodging such protest and not proceeding with it shall be deemed guilty of this Rule and shall be dealt with by the Association.
- (c) Any dispute occurring between Teams in the competition shall be referred for determination by the Association, whose decision shall be binding upon all parties.

Protests

- (d) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Association unless it is lodged in writing with the Association within 4 days (this can be extended in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the Association) of the tie or occurrence to which they refer and accompanied by the appropriate fee, as set out in the Fees Tariff. This fee may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaint or protest not being upheld. The Association shall have the power to order the defaulting Team, or the Team making the losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the enquiry or order the costs to be shared by the parties.
- (e) All protests will be dealt with by correspondence, unless either party requests a Personal Hearing with members of the Association. All parties must have received seven days'

notice of any hearing, together with a copy of the submission. When dealing with a protest or complaint the Association shall take into account the possession by the protesting or complaining Team of any information which, if properly used, might have avoided the protest or complaint.

Appeals

- (f) A Team may appeal against a sanction imposed against them by the Association to an Appeal Board appointed by the Association (under Rule 27 of the Sussex County FA Membership Rules, including payment of the appropriate Fee set out in the Fees Tariff). The decision of the Appeal Board is final and binding on all parties concerned.
- (g) If any County Member is connected with a Club or individual concerned in a protest or complaint, they shall not be present while the protest is being considered or be a member of an Appeal Board appointed by the Association.

8: Organisation of the Competition

- (a) The Association shall have the power to divide the competing Teams <u>in each</u> **Competition** into geographically convenient areas.
- (b) The Association shall have the power to select any number of Teams to be exempt until the second or subsequent rounds of each Competition.
- (c) The format of each Competition will be decided by the Association from time to time.
- (d) Teams competing in all Competitions shall be drawn in pairs. The pairs shall play a match, subject to the Laws of the Game and the winners shall compete in the next round in the same manner until the final tie.
- (e) Scheduled dates for all ties in all competitions may be affected by the precedence order for fixtures and shall be rearranged in the week preceding the scheduled fixture or as directed.
- (f) If Teams drawn together mutually agree, the tie may be played in the week prior to the scheduled date or as directed by the Association. The Secretaries of Teams drawn at home must advise the Association as soon as possible of the date and time of the tie if it is not to be played on the scheduled date.
- (g) Kick-off times for all open age ties shall be the time normal to the home Team, and kick-off times for all Youth Competitions shall be between 10.00am and 2.00pm unless mutually agreed otherwise. Should there be a dispute over kick off times, the Association shall be the sole arbiter.
- (h) The home Team shall notify the Association of the kick off time and record the kick-off time on FA Full-Time and Matchday App or as directed by the Association.

Any Team failing to comply with any part of this Rule shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

9: Grounds for Cup Ties

- (a) Prior to the Final (and Semi-finals for the Senior Challenge Cup), ties shall be played on the ground of the Team first drawn unless otherwise mutually agreed with the consent of the Association. Should an agreement not be reached the Association will decide and their decision will be final. No monetary or other consideration shall be asked for, offered or paid in connection with negotiations for a change of venue.
- (b) Should the tie be postponed on more than one occasion the Association may order a change of venue to further the Competition. If the ground of a Team drawn at home is considered by the opponents to be unsuitable for the tie they must protest to the Association within 36 hours of receiving official notification of the draw. Such protest must be accompanied by the appropriate fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff), which may be forfeited if the protest is not upheld.

The Association may order the tie to be played on the opponent's ground or a neutral ground. The payment of costs incidental to the protest shall be at the discretion of the Association.

- (c) Dimensions of the Field of Play See the Recommended Guidelines set out by The Football Association, and to Appendix A for Youth Competitions.
- (d) Goal nets must be used in all ties.
- (e) All ties shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Association.
- (f) Football Turf Pitches (3G Artificial Pitches) can be used providing they meet the required performance standards and are listed on The FA's Register of Football Turf Pitches.
- (g) Each Team must take every precaution to keep its ground in playing condition.
- (h) When the regional weather conditions are known to be extreme e.g. prolonged severe rain, frost or heavy snow, then the tie can be postponed where it is to be played on the home Team's own enclosed ground after consultation with the Association. Under such circumstances, the earliest the decision can be made is the day prior to the scheduled date of the tie; whilst the latest is one hour prior to the time the visiting Team are scheduled to commence their journey.
- (i) Should the ground on which the tie is due to be played be privately or Council owned meaning the 'home' competing Team is hiring the facility, the owner/Council shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the ground. Should the owner/Council deem the ground unsuitable for play and postpone the tie this decision must be adhered to, the tie postponed and all parties notified as early as possible.
- (j) In all other circumstances a Referee should be called in, in the following order of availability:
 - (i) the appointed Match Referee (subject to time and travelling distance).
 - (ii) another more local Referee who must not be connected with either Team, to decide on the fitness of the ground for play, in sufficient time to save journeys incurring avoidable expenses for the Team.
- (k) Subject to this Rule, the Match Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all ties.

Floodlit ties

- (I) Ties may be played wholly or partially under floodlights providing that the installation meets the approval of the Association. (Floodlights minimum standard required is Ave lux 120 divergence 25%).
- (m) The home Team is responsible for providing a minimum of three match balls of the size specified in Appendix A.
 - Any Team failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (n) In the event that the home Team has included in its pitch markings the Dugout/ Technical Area, the following shall be strictly adhered to:
 - (i) a maximum of 11 occupants, including the named substitutes, shall be allowed to occupy the dug outs.
 - (ii) only the nominated coach/manager may convey tactical instructions to the players during the tie and they must return to their position immediately after giving these instructions. They and other officials must remain within the confines of the Technical Area, and they must behave in a responsible manner all times.

10: Team Colours

- (a) Where the colours of both competing Teams are similar, the visiting Team shall change its colours and shall advise the home Team of the alternative colours.
- (b) No Team shall be permitted to wear black or very dark coloured shirts that may conflict

- with the Match Officials.
- (c) In the Final tie both Teams and/or goalkeepers may be directed to change their colours, if necessary, by the Association.

Any Team failing to adhere to this Rule shall be a liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

11: Duration of Ties

- (a) All ties with the exception of Youth Competition ties shall have a duration of 90 minutes (45 minutes each half). The half time interval shall be of 15 minutes duration and may only be altered with the consent of the Referee.
- (b) Duration of Youth Competition Ties:

Under 18 45 minutes each half Under 15 & 16 40 minutes each half Under 13 & 14 35 minutes each half Under 12 30 minutes each half

(c) In any tie in which the score is level at the end of normal time, the winner shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the procedure adopted by The International FA Board.

12: Provision for Ties

- (a) The home Team must give notice in writing to their opponents and to the appointed Match Officials stating the location of the ground and the dressing room, the Team colours and the appointed time of kick-off. Such notice must be given at least four days before the date fixed for playing the tie.
 - Any Team failing to adhere to this Rule shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (b) Senior Cup and Royal Ulster Rifles Charity Cup the visiting Team must notify the home Team of its probable Team with full names in number order at least three days prior to the tie.
 - Any Team failing to adhere to this Rule shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (c) The Association shall fix the ground, date and time for the Final Tie (and for the Semi-Final ties for the Senior Challenge Cup) and shall have direct control of the arrangements connected with the ties. Players must wear numbers on the back of their shirts and the players nominated to form the Team shall wear numbers corresponding to those listed on the Team sheet.
 - Any Team failing to adhere to this Rule shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (d) The Match Officials' fees and expenses shall be paid by the Association for the Final tie (and for the semi-final ties for the Senior Challenge Cup).
- (e) With the exception of the Senior Challenge Cup, Semi-Final ties shall be played on the ground of the first drawn Team.
- (f) Teams participating in the Semi-Final and Final ties of the Senior Challenge Cup and the Final ties of all other Competitions shall comply with the instructions given by the Association.
 - Any Team failing to adhere to this rule shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (g) The Association will determine the admission fees for all Final ties and for the Semi-Final ties of the Senior Challenge Cup.
- (h) Sin bins are to be used in all competitions except Senior Challenge
 Cup, Community Shield and Sussex Women's Challenge Cup. Please refer to Appendix A.

13: Postponed, and Abandoned Ties

- (a) Ties which are abandoned for any reason shall be dealt with by the Association which shall have the power to order:
 - (i) The score at the time of the abandonment to stand as a result of the tie; or
 - (ii) the tie to be replayed and to determine on which ground the tie shall be played; or
 - (iii) to take any other action which it may determine.
- (b) Ties which are postponed shall be rearranged by the Association to take place <u>fourteen</u> <u>days</u> after the original date of the tie (<u>seven days</u> for the Women's Challenge Cup, Women's Challenge Trophy and all Youth Competitions see Rules 23, 31 and 33) unless the Association decides otherwise.
- (c) In the circumstances where a tie is postponed owing to either Team being unable to fulfil the fixture, the Association may instruct the defaulting Team to pay such reasonable costs as decided by the Association for pitch hire and/or Match Officials expenses (if travelled) and/or opposing Teams travel (if travelled) and award the tie to the opposing Team.

Note: Abandoned ties do not count towards a players appearance i.e. a player suspended cannot count an abandoned tie as one of their suspensions, or one of the matches/ties to make them eligible to play in a Semi-Final.

14: Reporting Results

- (a) Both Teams shall ensure that on the day of the tie, the result or postponement is reported as directed by the Association.
 - Any Team failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (b) Both Teams shall ensure that an official match return form is received by the Association (not in the final) within four days following the tie. The match return form must be completed in full. When awarding a mark of 60 or less to the Referee, an explanation must be provided to the Association with comments which could help the Referee improve future performances. Cards can be submitted online to www.sussexfa.com/cups-and-competitions/rules-and-documents, or on FA Full-Time and Matchday App.
 - Any Team failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (c) A Team deliberately falsifying the information on a match return form shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff and excluded from the Competition.

15: Trophies, Mementos

- (a) The winners of the Competitions shall be presented with a Trophy which shall be held by that Team for the current season.
- (b) The Association shall present up to 16 plaques (See: Rules 38(c) and 39(c)), medals or other suitable mementos to players in each Team and a suitable memento to the manager of each Team in the Final tie. A Team which is participating in a Final tie may apply in writing to the Association for other players who took part in the Competition during the current playing season to receive a memento. Any such mementos approved by the Association shall be at the expense of the applying Team. All applications for additional mementos must be submitted to the Association within 7 days of the Final tie.
- (c) When the winners of the Competitions have been determined, the Association shall hand over the trophy to that Team, which in return shall give a written undertaking, on a form approved by the Association, to return the trophy in good condition to the

Association on or before the 31st January in the following season. Before the trophy is returned it must be cleaned and engraved at the expense of the Team and in accordance with the Association's instructions.

Any Team failing to return, clean or engrave the trophy on time shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff, plus the cost of any engraving.

- (d) The Association shall present a permanent memento to winning Teams.
- (e) In the event that a Team ceases to exist after winning a competition, any trophies held by that Team will be returned immediately to the Association.

16: Provisions Concerning Match Officials

- (a) The Association shall appoint a Referee to all ties. The Association shall appoint Assistant Referees, and if possible, a fourth official, to the Final Tie of each Competition.
- (b) The Association shall appoint Match Officials to all ties in the Senior Challenge Cup, Women's Challenge Cup, Royal Ulster Rifles Charity Cup and the U23s Challenge Cup.
- (c) For all other Competitions Teams shall appoint an Assistant Referee, ideally this should not be a named substitute, in all ties prior to the Final tie.
 Any Team failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (d) The fees and of all Match Officials appointed by the Association to officiate in any tie, prior to the Final of all Competitions excluding the Senior Challenge Cup, the Royal Ulster Rifles Charity Cup and the Intermediate Challenge Cup shall be paid by the home Team, in accordance with the Fees Tariff.
- (e) The fees of all Match Officials appointed by the Association to officiate in any tie prior to the Semi-Finals and Final of the Senior Challenge Cup; and the Finals of the Royal Ulster Rifles Challenge Cup and the Intermediate Challenge Cup shall be paid by the home Team in accordance with the Fees Tariff.
- (f) Where play is not possible owing to causes beyond the control of either Team, the Match Officials shall be entitled to their travelling expenses. In the event of a Match Official attending a tie cancelled or postponed without their knowledge, the home Team will be required to pay one half of the usual fee.
- (g) The scale of fees to be paid to Match Officials are as set out in the Fees Tariff. These Fees are subject to an annual review by the Association.
- (h) It is permissible for Match Officials within all Competitions to wear coloured shirts, but they must be of the same colour. Should the Match Officials coloured shirt clash with either Teams' kit, the Match Officials must revert to black (i.e., the Match Officials cannot choose to wear yellow and make a Team change their kit, as the main colour for Match Officials remains black).

The shirt(s) must be entirely of a single colour and must be worn by all Match Officials. Where the Association appoint neutral Assistant Referees, only one non-black coloured shirt is permitted: the colour must be designated, and competition rules must ensure the Match Officials can wear black or the designated colour without clashing with the players.

The Association's designated coloured shirt for Competitions shall be purple (officially colour known by Nike as Dynamic Berry).

17: Late Start

Referees shall report late starts to the Association and inform the defaulting Team that it is being reported. The Secretary of the defaulting Team must send an explanation in writing for the late start to the Association within four days of the tie.

The defaulting Team shall be liable for a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

18: Proceeds of Ties

- (a) Prior to the Final tie (with the exception of the Semi-Finals of the Senior Challenge Cup) the proceeds of ties shall be retained by the home Team unless otherwise determined by the Association.
- (b) The maximum admission fees for ties shall be those charged by the home Team for its normal matches. Any other admission fee must be agreed by both Teams . If Teams fail to agree a fee it will be set by the Association.
- (c) The proceeds of the Final tie will be taken by the Association, which will bear any losses.

19: Payment of Fines

Failure to comply with the requirements of these Rules will result in a charge of breaching Competition Rules and a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. All fines are to be paid within fourteen days of notification, failing which further disciplinary action may be taken by the Association.

20: Contingency

The Association shall have the power to deal appropriately with any contingency not provided for in these Rules, including the imposition of any sanction.

21: Respect

The Association will require the procedures of the Respect Programme to be observed for all ties.

Any Team failing to comply with any part of this Rule may be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Rules Relating to Particular Competitions

The Rules which follow relate to the Competition named but must be read in conjunction with the foregoing rules, which apply generally to all County Competitions.

22: Senior Challenge Cup

- (a) This Competition shall be open to all Saturday Clubs that affiliate to the Association at Step 6 and above.
- (b) Every Full Member Club competing in a League of senior status must enter the Senior Challenge Cup each year.
- (c) Only one Team per Club may be entered into the Senior Challenge Cup.
- (d) The Association shall circulate to each Club the name of its opponent in each round and, where possible, the date and time when the tie shall be played. Scheduled dates for ties may be affected by the precedent order for fixtures and shall be rearranged in the week preceding the scheduled fixture or as directed.
- (e) All ties in each round shall be scheduled by the Association: Should a Club be drawn at home and not have the required floodlighting to play the fixture on the scheduled midweek date given by the Association, the home drawn Club will be required to find a suitable venue with floodlighting to play on the scheduled date. Should the home drawn Club not be able to find a suitable venue with floodlighting to play on the scheduled date, the tie shall be reversed and played at the ground of the away drawn Club.
 - Should neither Club in the tie have floodlighting, the Association shall decide on the Venue where the tie will be played.
- (f) The home Club shall supply 10 complimentary passes for the visiting Club officials.
- (g) The visiting Club must notify the Club of its probable Team with full names in number order, at least three days prior to the tie.
 - Any Club failing to adhere to this full shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (h) The Association shall fix the ground, date and time of kick-off for Semi-Final and Final ties and shall have direct control of the arrangements connected with these ties.
- (i) Ties which are postponed shall be rearranged by the Association to take place 14 days after the original date of the tie unless the Association decide otherwise.
- (j) In the event that an Assistant Referee is not appointed by the Association, or an appointed Assistant Referee fails to arrive for a tie, a suitable Assistant Referee shall be provided by the competing Clubs. Such Assistant Referees shall report to the Referee prior to the commencement of the tie and shall be provided with standard flags by the home Club.
 - Failure to comply with any part of this Rule shall incur a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (k) The fees of all Match Officials appointed to officiate in any tie, prior to the Semi-Final ties shall be paid by the home Club. The home Club must pay the fees of the Match Officials prior to the Semi-Final and Final ties, even if the gate takings are insufficient to do so.
- (I) All Teams participating in the Senior Challenge Cup must feature the Competition sponsor, on one page of their matchday programme.

Travelling Expenses

(m) The proceeds of Semi-Final and Final ties (except replayed matches in consequence of a

breach of a rule) shall after paying the fees of the Match Officials, and other tie expenses, ground charges, floodlights (not to exceed £75.00), advertising, printing, posting, policing charges and gatemen only, be divided as follows: 25% to each of the competing Clubs and 50% to the Association.

23: Women's Challenge Cup

- (a) This Competition shall be open to all Women's Clubs that affiliate to the Association.
- (b) Only one Team per Club may be entered into the Women's Challenge Cup Competition unless special permission has been granted by the Association.

Every Full Member Club competing at Tier 1 to Tier 6 must enter the Women's Challenge Cup each year.

- (c) The Association shall circulate to each Club the name of its opponent in each round and, where possible, the date and time when the tie shall be played.
 - If Clubs drawn together mutually agree, the tie may be played in the week prior to the scheduled date or as directed by the Association.
 - The Secretaries of Clubs drawn at home must advise the Association as soon as possible of the date and time of the tie if it
 - is not played on the scheduled date.
- (d) Kick off times shall be the time normal to the home Club. If Clubs mutually agree, the kick off time may be changed.
 - Should there be a dispute over the kick off time, the Association shall be the sole arbiter.
- (e) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use up to five substitute players who may be selected from up to five nominated to the Referee prior to the commencement of the match.
 - A player who has been substituted then 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.
- (f) Ties which are postponed shall be rearranged by the Association to take place <u>seven</u> days after the original date unless the Association decide otherwise.
- (g) All Teams participating in the Women's Challenge Cup must feature the Competition sponsor, on one page of their matchday programme.

24: Community Shield

- (a) The Association may invite two Senior Clubs to compete annually.
- (b) The proceeds of the match shall after payment of all expenses be donated to Charities as the Association shall decide.
- (c) Clubs participating in the match shall comply with the instructions of the Association conveyed to them in writing.
 - Any Club failing to comply with any part of the instruction shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

25: Royal Ulster Rifles Charity Cup

- (a) This Competition shall be open to all Saturday Clubs that affiliate to the Association at Step 5 and 6.
- (b) Only one Team per Club may be entered into the Royal Ulster Rifles Charity Cup.
- (c) The home Club shall provide 10 complimentary passes for the visiting Club Officials.
- (d) The visiting Club must notify the home Club of its probable Team with full names in number order at least three days prior to the tie.
 - Any Club failing to adhere to this Rule shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the

Fines Tariff.

(e) Where a tie is postponed through causes over which neither Club has any control, the expenses shall be paid out of the receipts of the re-arranged tie. In any tie ordered to be re-arranged in consequence of a breach of Rule, the Club in default shall not, without the consent of the Association (which will only be given in exceptional circumstances) receive any share of the proceeds of the re-arranged tie, except the reimbursement of reasonable travelling expenses for the players and officials. If such consent is not given the share shall be taken by the Association. Within fourteen days following the tie the home Club shall forward a full Receipts and Payments statement, including the number of paid admissions and the admission fees charged, together with a cheque for the amount of money due under this Rule, to the opposing Club and to the Association.

Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable for a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Travelling Expenses

The proceeds of the Final tie (except replayed matches in consequence of a breach of a rule) shall after paying the fees and travelling expenses of the Match Officials, and other tie expenses, ground charges, floodlights (not to exceed £75.00), advertising, printing, posting, policing charges and gatemen only, be divided as follows: 25% to each of the competing Clubs and 50% to the Association.

26: Intermediate Challenge Cup

- (a) This Competition shall be open to all Saturday Teams that affiliate to the Association at Intermediate level.
- (b) A Club may enter <u>up to two Teams</u> in the Competition, but each Team must be separately entered on Club Portal, and players who have played in one Team shall not be permitted to play for another Team in the same Competition in the current playing season.
- (c) Any player having played in more than 10 league and/or cup matches within the current playing season, for a Team above intermediate level, shall not be eligible to play in this Competition.
- (d) A Team may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use up to five substitute players who may be selected from up to five nominated to the Referee prior to the commencement of the tie.
 - A player who has been substituted then 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.
- (e) All ties in each round shall be scheduled to be played on the same Saturday, unless in exceptional circumstances approved by the Association.
- (f) Kick off times shall be the time normal to the home Team. If Teams mutually agree, the kick off time may be changed.

Should there be a dispute over the kick off time, the Association shall be the sole arbiter.

27: Under 23s Challenge Cup

- (a) This Competition shall be open to all Teams that affiliate to the Association at Under 23 level.
- (b) Only those Players who have not reached 23 years of age as at midnight on 31st August of the current Playing Season shall be eligible to compete.
- (c) Each Team will be permitted to name on the Team sheet a maximum of three over-aged out field players and one over-aged goalkeeper.
- (d) A Club may enter up to two Teams in the Competition, but each Team must be

- separately entered on Club Portal, and players who have played in one Team shall not be permitted to play for another Team in the same competition in the current playing season.
- (e) A Team may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use up to five substitute players who may be selected from up to five nominated to the Referee prior to the commencement of the tie.

A player who has been substituted then 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.

28: Junior Challenge Cup

- (a) This Competition shall be open to all Saturday Teams that affiliate to the Association at Junior level.
- (b) All ties in each round shall be scheduled to be played on the same Saturday, unless in exceptional circumstances approved by the Association.
- (c) A Club may enter <u>up to two Teams</u> in the Competition, but each Team must be separately entered on Club Portal, and players who have played in one Team shall not be permitted to play for another Team in the same Competition in the current playing season.
- (d) Any player having played in more than five league and/or cup matches within the current season, for a Team above junior status, shall not be eligible to play in this competition.
- (e) A Team may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use up to five substitute players who may be selected from up to five nominated to the Referee prior to the commencement of the tie.

A player who has been substituted then 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.

29: Sunday Challenge Cup

- (a) This Competition shall be open to all Sunday Teams that affiliate to the Association and compete in the Sussex Sunday FL Premier Division and Sussex Sunday FL Intermediate Division.
- (b) All ties in each round shall be scheduled to be played on the same Sunday, unless in exceptional circumstances approved by the Association.
- (c) A Club may enter <u>up to two teams</u> in the Competition, but each team must be separately
 - entered on Club Portal, and players who have played in one Team shall not be permitted to play for another Team in the same Competition in the current playing season.
- (d) A Team may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use up to five substitute players who may be selected from up to five nominated to the Referee prior to the commencement of the tie.

A player who has been substituted then 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.

30: Sunday Challenge Trophy

- (a) This Competition shall be open to all Sunday Teams that affiliate to the Association other than those eligible for the Sunday Challenge Cup.
- (b) All ties in each round shall be scheduled to be played on the same Sunday, unless in exceptional circumstances approved by the Association.

- (c) A Club may enter up to two Teams in the Competition, but each Team must be separately entered on Club Portal, and players who have played in one Team shall not be permitted to play for another Team in the same Competition in the current playing season.
- (d) Any player having played in more than five league and/or cup matches within the current season, for a Team who qualify for the Sussex County FA Sunday Challenge Cup (i.e. Top Division Team of a Sunday League), shall not be eligible to play in this competition.
- (e) A Team may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use up to five substitute players who may be selected from up to five nominated to the Referee prior to the commencement of the tie.

A player who has been substituted then 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.

31: Women's Challenge Trophy

- (a) This Competition shall be open to all Women's Teams that affiliate to the Association and compete in Tier 7 and below of the Women's National Pyramid System.
- (b) All ties in each round shall be scheduled to be played on the same Sunday, unless in exceptional circumstances approved by the Association.
- (c) A Club may enter <u>up to two Teams</u> in the Competition, but each Team must be separately entered on Club Portal, and players who have played in one Team shall not be permitted to play for another team in the same competition in the current playing season.
- (d) Ties which are postponed shall be arranged by the Association to take place **seven** days after the original date of the tie unless the Association decide otherwise.
- (e) A Team may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use up to five substitute players who may be selected from up to five nominated to the Referee prior to the commencement of the tie.

A player who has been substituted then 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.

32: Veteran's Challenge Cup

- (a) This Competition shall be open to any Veteran's Team affiliated to the Association, and compete in a Veteran's League sanctioned by the Association.
- (b) A player will be eligible to play in this Competition having reached the age of 35 years during the current playing season.
- (c) A Club may enter <u>up to two Teams</u> in the Competition, but each Team must be separately entered on Club Portal, and players who have played in one team shall not be permitted to play for another team in the same competition in the same season.
- (d) All ties in each round shall be scheduled to be played on the same Sunday but if floodlights of the approved level are available on the ground of the first drawn Club, except in exceptional circumstances approved by the Association, ties shall be played in the week preceding the scheduled Sunday, or as directed by the Association.
- (e) A Team may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use up to five substitute players who may be selected from up to five nominated to the Referee prior to the commencement of the tie.

A player who has been substituted then 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.

33: Youth Competitions

- (a) Competing Clubs and Teams shall be classified Under 18, Under 16, Under 15, Under 14, Under 13 and Under 12 and be affiliated to the Association.
- (b) The Age and format of all Youth Competitions is as set out in Appendix A.
- (c) All ties in each round shall be scheduled to be played on the same Sunday, unless in exceptional circumstances approved by the Association.
- (d) With regard to extenuating circumstances relating to the activities of schools and school organisations, priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations activities. 21 days' clear notice must be given prior to the date set for playing the tie, with supporting evidence in writing.
- (e) A Club may enter <u>up to 3 Teams</u> in each age group, but each Team must be entered separately on Club Portal, and no player having played for a Team shall be permitted to compete for another Team in the current playing season.
- (f) Kick off times shall be between 10.00am and 2.00pm unless mutually agreed otherwise. Should there be a dispute over the kick off time, the Association shall be the sole arbiter. Consideration should be given for Teams having to travel a distance.
- (g) A Team may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use up to five substitute players who may be selected from up to five nominated to the Referee prior to the commencement of the tie.
 - A player who has been substituted then 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.
- (h) Ties which are postponed shall be arranged by the Association to take place <u>seven</u> days after the original date of the tie unless the Association decides otherwise.

34: Under 18 Competitions (Youth Challenge Cup and Girls' Challenge Cup)

Only those players who have not reached 18 years of age as at midnight on the 31st August of the current playing season shall be eligible to compete.

35: Under 16 Competitions (Youth Challenge Cup and Girls' Challenge Cup)

Only those players who have not reached 16 years of age as at midnight on the 31st August of the current playing season shall be eligible to compete.

36: Under 15 Competitions (Youth Challenge Cup and Girls' Challenge Cup)

Only those players who have not reached 15 years of age as at midnight on the 31st August of the current playing season shall be eligible to compete.

37: Under 14 Competitions (Youth Challenge Cup and Girls' Challenge Cup)

Only those players who have not reached 14 years of age as at midnight on the 31st August of the current playing season shall be eligible to compete.

38: Under 13 Competitions (Youth Challenge Cup and Girls' Challenge Cup)

- (a) Only those players who have not reached 13 years of age as at midnight on the 31st August of the current playing season shall be eligible to compete.
- (b) Girls' Challenge Cup: Teams may nominate 14 players per tie.
- (c) Girls' Challenge Cup: The Association shall present 14 plaques, medals or other suitable mementos to players in each Team.

39: Under 12 Competitions (Youth Challenge Cup and Girls' Challenge Cup)

- (a) Only those players who have not reached 12 years of age as at midnight on the 31st August of the current playing season shall be eligible to compete.
- (b) Girls' Challenge Cup: Teams may nominate 14 players per tie.

(c) Girls' Challenge Cup: The Association shall present 14 plaques, medals or other suitable mementos to players in each Team.

FEES TARIFF

Rule	Description	Fee			
5(b)	Competition Entry Fee				
	Senior Challenge Cup	£82.00			
	Women's Challenge Cup, Intermediate Challenge Cup, U23	£32.00			
	Challenge Cup, Junior Challenge Cup, Sunday Challenge Cup,	132.00			
	Sunday Challenge Trophy, Women's Challenge Trophy,				
	Veteran's Challenge Cup				
	Royal Ulster Rifles Charity Cup	£52.00			
	All Youth Competitions	£27.00			
7(d)	Objections to Qualifications & Other Protests	£30.00			
7(f)	Appeals made under Membership Rule 27	£35.00			
9(b)	Protest against change of venue for cup tie	£35.00			
16(d)	Scale of Fees for Match Officials				
()	Senior Cup Round 1				
	Referee	£60.00			
	Assistant Referee	£45.00			
	Fourth Official (where appointed)	£45.00			
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,				
	Senior Cup & Community Shield				
	Referee	£65.00			
	Assistant Referee	£45.00			
	Fourth Official (where appointed)	£45.00			
	Devel I Heten Diffee Charity Con				
	Royal Ulster Rifles Charity Cup Referee	£60.00			
	Assistant Referee	£45.00			
	Fourth Official (where appointed)	£45.00			
	Intermediate Challenge Cup				
	Referee				
	Assistant Referee	£53.00			
	Fourth Official (where appointed)	£38.00			
		£38.00			
	Women's Challenge Cup				
	Referee	£50.00			
	Assistant Referee	£40.00			
	Fourth Official (where appointed)	£40.00			
	Junior Challenge Cup,				
	Sunday Challenge Cup, Sunday Challenge Trophy,				
	Women's Challenge Trophy, Veteran's Challenge Cup				
	Youth Challenge Cup (U18)				
	Referee	£40.00			
	Assistant Referee	£40.00 £32.00			
	Fourth Official (where appointed)	£32.00			
	U23 Challenge Cup				
	Referee	£53.00			
	Assistant Referee	£38.00			
	Fourth Official (where appointed)	£38.00			

	Girls Challenge Cup (U18), John Davey Cup (U16), Girls Challenge Cup (U16), Stan Beattie Memorial Trophy (U15), Girls Challenge Cup (U15), C.P. Mason Cup (U14), Girls Challenge Cup (U14), Les Kempster Challenge Trophy (U13), Girls Challenge Cup (U13), W.J. Jewell Trophy (U12), Girls Challenge Cup (U12) Referee	£30.00
		£30.00
	Assistant Referee	£23.00
	Fourth Official (where appointed)	£23.00
22(m), 25(f)	Mileage rate for travelling expenses	38p/mile

FINES TARIFF

RULE	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE		
5(d)	Failure to pay entry fees within 14 days on invoice	£30.00		
5(e)	Withdrawal from competition			
	Senior Challenge Cup	£750.00		
	Royal Ulster Rifles Charity Cup	£400.00		
	Intermediate Challenge Cup, U23s Challenge Cup, Sunday	£150.00		
	Challenge Cup			
	 Women's Challenge Cup, Junior Challenge Cup, Women's Challenge Trophy, Sunday Challenge Trophy, Veterans Challenge Cup, Dennis Probee Youth Cup (U18s) 	£100.00		
	 All Youth Competitions (except Dennis Probee Youth Cup (U18) 	£75.00		
5(f) & (g)	Default from competition			
	Senior Challenge Cup	£750.00		
	Royal Ulster Rifles Charity Cup	£400.00		
	 Intermediate Challenge Cup, U23s Challenge Cup, Sunday Challenge Cup 	£150.00		
	 Women's Challenge Cup, Junior Challenge Cup, Women's Challenge Trophy, Sunday Challenge Trophy, Veteran's Challenge Cup, Dennis Probee Youth Cup (U18s) 	£100.00		
	All Youth Competitions (except Dennis Probee Youth Cup (U18)	£75.00		
6(a), (b) & (c)	Fielding of ineligible players			
	Senior Challenge Cup, Royal Ulster Rifles Charity Cup	£100.00		
	 Women's Challenge Cup, Intermediate Challenge Cup, U23s Challenge Cup, Junior Challenge Cup, Sunday Challenge Cup, Sunday Challenge Trophy, Women's Challenge Trophy, Veteran's Challenge Cup 	£50.00		
	All Youth Competitions	£25.00		
6(e)	Selection of players not meeting age eligibility criteria	£25.00		
	(Under 23 Challenge Cup and all Youth Competitions			
6(i)	Failure to hand in team sheets within prescribed timescales	£25.00		
8	Organisation of the Competition	£25.00		
9(m) 10	Failure to comply with rule Team Colours	£20.00		
10	Senior Challenge Cup, Royal Ulster Rifles Charity Cup	£25.00		
12(a)	All Other Competitions Failure to notify details of tie	£15.00 £20.00		
12(a) 12(b)	Failure to notify details of tie Failure to notify home Team of away Team	120.00		
-(-/	Senior Challenge Cup, Royal Ulster Rifles Charity Cup	£10.00		
12(c)	Failure to wear shirt number as on team sheet	£5.00 per player		
12(f)	Teams not complying with Association instructions for semi- finals and finals	£100.00		
14(a)	Failure to report result or postponement of tie			
	Senior Challenge Cup, Royal Ulster Rifles Charity Cup	£100.00		
	All other competitions	£25.00		
14(b)	Failure to submit match return form, within 4 days			
	Senior Challenge Cup, Royal Ulster Rifles Charity Cup	£100.00		

All other competitions	£25.00		
Deliberately falsifying information on match return form Senior Challenge Cup, Royal Ulster Rifles Charity Cup	£100.00 and excluded from Competition		
All other competitions	£50.00 and excluded from competition		
Failure to return trophy by stipulated time, clean and engrave	£50.00		
 Failure to provide an Assistant Referee Junior Challenge Cup, Sunday Challenge Trophy, Women's Challenge Trophy, Veterans Challenge Cup, Intermediate Challenge Cup, Sunday Challenge Cup 	£10.00		
All Youth Competitions	£5.00		
Failure to report late start by defaulting Team Secretary	£25.00		
Failure to observe procedures of the Respect Programme	£25.00		
Failure to comply with instructions for Community Shield	£25.00		
Failure to provide receipts & payments statement Royal Ulster Rifles Charity Cup	£25.00		
	 Deliberately falsifying information on match return form Senior Challenge Cup, Royal Ulster Rifles Charity Cup All other competitions Failure to return trophy by stipulated time, clean and engrave Failure to provide an Assistant Referee Junior Challenge Cup, Sunday Challenge Trophy, Women's Challenge Trophy, Veterans Challenge Cup, Intermediate Challenge Cup, Sunday Challenge Cup All Youth Competitions Failure to report late start by defaulting Team Secretary Failure to observe procedures of the Respect Programme Failure to comply with instructions for Community Shield 		

Appendix A

AGE GROUP	PLAYING		PITCH SIZE		PITCH SIZE	RECOMMENDED	BALL	ROLL ON /	SIN
	FORMAT	MINIMUM	METRES	MAXIMUM	METRES	GOAL SIZE	SIZE	ROLL OFF	BIN
		YARDS		YARDS		(In feet)		SUBSTITUES	
Senior Challenge Cup	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118. 87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5	No	No
Women's Challenge Cup	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118. 87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5	Yes	No
Community Shield	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118. 87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5	No	No
Royal Ulster Rifles Charity Cup	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118. 87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5	No	Yes
Intermediate Challenge Cup	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118. 87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5	Yes	Yes
Under 23s Challenge Cup	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118. 87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5	Yes	Yes
Junior Challenge Cup	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118. 87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5	Yes	Yes
Women's Challenge Trophy	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118. 87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5	Yes	Yes
Sunday Challenge Cup	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118. 87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5	Yes	Yes
Sunday Challenge Trophy	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118. 87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5	Yes	Yes
Veteran's Challenge Cup	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118. 87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5	Yes	Yes
Dennis Probee Youth Challenge Cup	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118. 87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5	Yes	Yes
(U18s)									
Girls' Challenge Cup (U18s)	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118. 87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5	Yes	Yes
John Davey Cup (U16s)	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	5	Yes	Yes
Girls' Challenge Cup (U16s)	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	5	Yes	Yes
Stan Beattie Memorial Trophy (U15s)	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	5	Yes	Yes
Girls' Challenge Cup (U15s)	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	5	Yes	Yes
C. P. Mason Cup (U14s)	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	4	Yes	Yes
Girls' Challenge Cup (U14s)	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	4	Yes	Yes
Les Kempster Challenge Trophy (U13s)	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	4	Yes	Yes
Girls' Challenge Cup (U13s)	9v9	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	4	Yes	Yes
W. J. Jewell Trophy (U12s)	9v9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x7	4	Yes	Yes
Girls' Challenge Cup (U12s)	9v9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x7	4	Yes	Yes