



COUNTY CUP COMPETITION RULES - 2022/23

1. Name / Control of Competition

(a) The following rules shall apply to all the Wiltshire FA Cup Competitions, which shall be played annually:

- (1) Premier Shield
- (2) Senior Challenge Cup
- (3) Junior Challenge Cup
- (4) Sunday Cup
- (5) Women's Challenge Cup
- (6) Youth Challenge Cup
- (7) Minor Challenge Cup (U14)
- (8) Minor Challenge Cup (U15)
- (9) Minor Challenge Cup (U16)
- (10) Girls Minor Challenge Cup (U13)
- (11) Girls Minor Challenge Cup (U14)
- (12) Girls Minor Challenge Cup (U15)
- (13) Girls Minor Challenge Cup (U16)
- (14) The Frank Peart Veterans Cup (over 35s)

(b) The entire control and management of the Competitions shall be vested by the Football Services team and Football Services Committee of the Wiltshire FA, who 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 necessary.

2. Competition Entrance

(a) Competition entry fees shall be in accordance with charges published in the fees and fines tariff.

(b) Clubs who have not affiliated in line with their League affiliation deadline will not be entered into their relevant Competition but will still have to pay the entry fee as per fees and fines tariff.

(c) Any team withdrawing from the Competition after entry or affiliation or fails to fulfil the fixture including forfeiting will be fined in accordance with the fees and fines tariff.

(d) In Youth and Minor Competitions where a Club has multiple qualifying teams in that age group then it is only mandatory for 1 entry per Club. However, multiple team entries from the same age group with that Club are welcomed. Players shall only be allowed to play for one team in the Competition. Only those players registered for the team entering the Wiltshire County FA Cup Competition will be eligible to play, players registered for their Clubs 'other' team(s) within the same age group are not eligible to play.

3. Eligible Clubs

(a) The Competitions are mandatory to all Clubs affiliated to the Wiltshire FA. No Reserve or Development teams will be accepted into any Competition. The following specific rules are to apply:

- (1) **The Premier Shield** is mandatory for all teams who play in Steps 5 and above of the National League System and do not have Reserve noted in their name. All such eligible teams must enter the Competition.
- (2) **The Senior Challenge Cup** is mandatory for all clubs who play in Steps 6 & a Feeder League (Previously 7) of the National League System and do not have Reserve noted in their name. All such eligible clubs must enter the competition.



- (3) **The Junior Challenge Cup** is mandatory for all Wiltshire FA affiliated Junior Status teams (below NLS - Previously Step 7, open age male Saturday teams) playing in a Wiltshire or other County FA or FA Sanctioned League.
- (4) **The Sunday Cup** is mandatory for all Wiltshire FA Sunday adult male affiliated teams playing in a Wiltshire or other County FA or FA Sanctioned League.
- (5) **The Women's Challenge Cup** is mandatory for all women's teams in Step 2 in the National Women's Pyramid that are affiliated to the Wiltshire FA.
- (6) **Youth Challenge Cup** is mandatory to all Wiltshire FA affiliated Clubs who have a U18 or U17/U18 team(s) playing in a Wiltshire or other County FA or FA Sanctioned League.
- (7) **The Minor Challenge Cups U14, U15 and U16** is mandatory to all Wiltshire FA affiliated Clubs who have U14, U15 and U16 team(s) playing in a Wiltshire or other County FA or FA Sanctioned League.
- (8) **Girls Minor Cup U13, U14, U15 and U16** is mandatory to all Wiltshire FA affiliated Clubs who have U13, U14, U15 and U16 Girls team(s) playing in a Wiltshire or other County FA or FA Sanctioned League.
- (9) **The Frank Peart Veterans Cup** is mandatory for all Wiltshire FA affiliated Clubs who have a Veterans team (for players aged 35 or over) playing in a Wiltshire or other County FA or FA Sanctioned League.

(b) In all adult fixtures each club shall be represented by its best available players.

4. Qualification of Players

The qualification of a player shall be; a registered playing member of their team. A registered member is one who is either, in the case of a player under written contract, registered with the Football Association, or, in the case of a player without a written contract, registered with a League or Competition in which their team competes.

- (a) No player shall be allowed to play for more than one competing CLUB in any one Competition, and in the case of postponed drawn or replayed matches, only those players qualified on the original date of the match shall be eligible to take part. A player who was suspended for the original tie may play in a postponed, drawn or replayed tie if the term of their suspension has been served.
- (b) No player shall be allowed to play in either the Junior or Women's Challenge Cup who has played in a Senior Competition on more than three occasions during the current season. For the Junior Cup this refers to Step 7 or above (along with the FA Cup, FA Trophy and FA Vase) and for the Women's Cup Step 2 and above. Also, no player after playing in the Senior Challenge Cup or Premier Shield may play in the Junior Challenge Cup in the same season.
- (c) No contract player shall be permitted to play in either the Junior Challenge Cup or the Women's Challenge Cup.
- (d) For youth and minor matches, the age groups which individuals are eligible to play in, are as per the FA Regulations and Standard Code of Rules for Youth Competitions.
- (e) For the Vets Challenge Cup only players aged 35 or over are eligible to play in this competition.
- (f) For the Vets Challenge Cup only - Players who are currently registered with a Club playing in a Feeder League - previously Step 7 (or above) of the National League System are not permitted in this competition.



- (g) To qualify to play in the Semi Final or Final of:
- (A) All County Cup Competitions, excluding the Premier Shield, a player must be registered with the League of the competing CLUB they are named for by the 31st December (inclusive), or have played 3 games for their named CLUB in the current playing season.
- (B) In the event of an officially recorded 'walkover' in a County Cup or League (including League Cup) fixture then all players registered to the team progressing into the next round may be eligible to record that game as an appearance. This rule does not include an awarded bye.
- (C) The format for all competitions shall be either 11v11 (U13 9V9)
- (D) Substitutes
- (a) Premier Shield and Senior Cup:** A club may at its discretion use five substitute players from nine nominated at 3 separate points or halftime during the match, except to replace a player who has been dismissed from the field of play by the Referee for misconduct after play has commenced. The substitutions are to be made in accordance with the Laws of Association Football (LOTG). The names of the five substitutes shall be submitted to the Referee prior to the commencement of the game. When a substitute player has played, his name shall be shown on the match result sheet.
- (b) All other adult male Competitions:** A club may at its discretion use five substitute players from five nominated at any time in a match, except to replace a player who has been dismissed from the field of play by the Referee for misconduct after play has commenced. The substitutions are to be made in accordance with the Laws of Association Football (LOTG). The names of the five substitutes shall be submitted to the Referee prior to the commencement of the game. When a substitute player has played, his name shall be shown on the match result sheet
- (c) Women's, Youth and Minor Competitions only:** A club may at its discretion use up to five substitutes on a repeat basis. This means that a player who has been substituted themselves becomes a substitute and may replace another player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with the LOTG.
- 5. Provisions concerning protests:**
- (a) All issues relating to the interpretation of the Competition Rules, shall be referred to the Football Services Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding. The Football Services Committee shall consider any such matter in such manner and following such procedures as it considers appropriate.
- (b) 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 Wiltshire County FA, accompanied by a fee of £20, within two days of the match to which it relates (Sundays not included). The fee may be forfeited to Wiltshire County FA in the event of the protest not being sustained.
- (c) The Football Services Committee may make such orders as it considers appropriate in relation to any issue or protest referred to it.
- (d) Any protest relating to the ground, goal posts or bars or other appurtenances of the game shall not be considered by the Football Services Committee unless an objection has been lodged with the Referee and the home club as soon as practicable. 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.
- 6. Provisions concerning appeals**
- (a) A Club that is expelled from the Competition may appeal against that decision to an appeal board comprising of 3 members of the Football Services Committee selected by the Chair of the Football Services Committee or their nominee. Any such appeal shall only be permitted on one or more of the following grounds: (i) The Sub-committee misinterpreted/failed to comply with the procedures relevant to the hearing of the charge. (ii) The Sub-committee came to a decision on the facts of the case which no reasonable body could have reached; or (iii) The Sub-committee imposed a sanction that is excessive.



- (b) Any appeal must be made in accordance with such procedures as may be determined by Wiltshire County FA from time to time.
- (c) For the avoidance of doubt, a Club may not appeal against any penalty imposed on it other than expulsion from the Competition.

7. The draw and playing of ties

- (a) The Club first drawn shall have choice of grounds in all Rounds preceding the Final. In all Finals, the Football Services Committee shall fix the ground.
- (b) In the Premier Shield and Senior Cup all home drawn Clubs who have floodlights will be required to play the fixture midweek (7:30pm KO). Only those home clubs without lights will be permitted to play on a Saturday (3pm KO, except Nov, Dec & Jan 1.30pm KO). Each club will be required to state at the start of the season what their nominated day of the week will be for playing Premier Shield and Senior Cup matches. The timing of each round will be set for a designate week and the fixture will be played on the home Clubs nominated day.
- (c) In all other Competitions the fixtures will be played on a designated date and time selected by Wiltshire County FA.

Junior Challenge Cup: Saturday 2pm Kick Off 1:30pm Nov, Dec, Jan (Final: 25/03/23)

Sunday Cup: Sunday 10:30am Kick Off (Final: 26/03/23)

Women's Cup: Sunday 2pm Kick Off 1:30pm Nov, Dec, Jan (Final: 19/02/23)

Youth Challenge Cup: Sunday 2p Kick Off 1:30pm Nov, Dec, Jan (Final: 05/03/23)

Minor U16 Cup: Sunday 2pm Kick Off 1:30pm Nov, Dec, Jan (Final: 07/05/23)

Minor U15 Cup: Sunday 2pm Kick Off 1:30pm Nov, Dec, Jan (Final: 07/05/23)

Minor U14 Cup: Sunday 10:30am Kick Off (Final: 07/05/23)

Girls Minor U13/14/15 & U16 Cups: Saturday 10:30am Kick Off (Final: 06/05/23)

The Frank Peart Veterans Cup: Flexible Mon – Friday evenings (Final: 24/03/223)

- (d) Any club failing to commence a game at the appointed time shall be fined in accordance with the fees and fines tariff. The home club shall take every precaution to keep its ground in playing condition. In the Premier Shield and Senior Cup, it is compulsory that the ground be properly enclosed. Goal nets MUST be used in all competitions.
- (e) In relation to the availability of the home drawn clubs' pitch / ground, all Wiltshire FA Cup Competitions take precedence over League and other Affiliated Competitions. Where two or more Wiltshire FA Cup Competitions are scheduled to be played on a ground/pitch on the same date and kick off time then the order of presence will determine which fixture takes priority. If this applies to two or more teams from the same competition, then the first drawn fixture shall play at the designated competition kick off time. Where a fixture is unable to take place due to the above then the home club will be responsible for arranging an alternative kick off time and/or venue then seeking clearance from the Wiltshire FA (Football Services Manager) before informing their opponents of the change in kick off time/venue.
- (f) In all Rounds prior to The Final's, if the home club's ground is not available (precedence list and weather conditions excepted) then the tie is to be played on the ground of their opponents. If this is not possible then the game will be rescheduled for the following week at the original away team venue. If the game is still not played after two weeks, then the Football Services Team will source a neutral ground. The cost will be split between the two teams.



- (g) The home club shall notify the Match Officials and away club of all match particulars i.e. ground entrance fee (if applicable), ground address, colours, dressing rooms, time of kick off, **at least 7 days before the match**. Such details can be communicated in writing, email or text. In the event of the **away club not being notified within 3 days** of the match it will be their responsibility to contact the home club and the Wiltshire FA (Football Services Team). Clubs failing to comply with this Rule will be fined in accordance with the fees and fines tariff.
- (h) All matches shall be played in accordance with the LOTG 2022/23. In the event that a match is not able to be played because of the precedence of another competition (according to the Association's Precedence list), then the following shall apply: within 5 days of the publication of the draw, clubs shall mutually agree a date for the match to be played BEFORE the due date, and this date shall be notified to the Wiltshire FA (Football Services Team). This date shall then be binding and the player registration qualification date details in Rule 4 shall apply.
- (i) When the match is played at a ground where there are technical areas the following shall apply:
 - (a) The number of players and officials in the technical area must not exceed 12 per team.
 - (b) Only named substitute players, managers, coaching and medical staff shall be permitted in the technical area.

NOTE: In default, a Club shall be fined as per the fees and fines tariff.

- (j) All matches except Minor and Veteran's shall have duration of 90 minutes. The following shall apply:
 - i. Vets 50 minutes (also roll in substitutes permitted)
 - ii. U16 80 minutes
 - iii. U15 80 minutes
 - iv. U13 & U14 70 minutes
- (k) In all County Cup matches the half-time interval shall not exceed 15 minutes.
- (l) In the event of a match being drawn at the expiration of 'normal' time, the game will go straight to penalty kicks (in accordance with the LOTG).
- (m) Sin Bins will be used in accordance with LOTG (except in The Premier Shield and Senior Challenge Cup)
- (n) In the event of a match not being played on the original date through unavoidable circumstances, it shall be played 7 days after the originally agreed date or otherwise at the discretion of the Football Services Committee.
- (o) When a match has been postponed or has been abandoned before the completion of full time and neither club has been at fault (subject to Football Services committee review), it must be played on the same ground on a date to be fixed by the Football Services Committee. Notice of postponement of any tie must be given by the home club, without delay (by telephone, email, or text) to the Wiltshire FA (Football Services Team), the Secretary of the away club and to the match officials.

The Football Services Committee shall review all abandoned matches and in cases where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to any of the Clubs involved, shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to be recorded as a result. In cases where the Football Services Committee are satisfied that a match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of the players, officials or supporters of one team, they shall be empowered to award the match to their opponents and/or take what other action they deem necessary. In cases where a match is abandoned owing to the conduct of the players, officials or supports of both teams, the Football Services Committee shall take such action as they consider appropriate which may include removing both teams from the Competition.

- (p) Artificial grass pitches may be used in County Cup Competitions provided that the pitch is listed on the FA's registered of such pitches and that prior consent of the Wiltshire FA has been given.



8. Gate Receipts - Allowable Expenses

- (a) In all Competitions up to the final all costs (Pitch Hire and Referee's Fee's) will be shared equally between the two competing Teams.
- (b) In the Premier Shield and Senior Cup up to and including the semi-final the cost of the away club's travelling expenses (£1.35 per mile for a return journey from the away club's ground) can be added to the match expenses that are divided between the two Clubs.
- (c) Where a home club does not need to hire a pitch due to the fact that they have their own ground, reasonable costs such as groundsman's preparation of the pitch, cleaning of changing room, floodlights if used, along with Referee's fees can be claimed and divided evenly between the two competing clubs.
- (d) Where a home club charges an entrance fee for a fixture, they must submit to the Wiltshire FA within 3 days of the fixture a receipt and payments form outlining the total gate income and any permissible expenditure listed below that they have incurred. The profit or loss made on the fixture will then be split evenly between the two competing clubs. Clubs have 14 days in which to settle payment to their opponents.

The home club may deduct the following permissible expenditure:

1. Match officials' fee Where a team / club does not own their home ground, the cost of the hire can be included
2. Away club's travel expenses (£1.35 per mile for a journey from the away club's ground)
3. Floodlights if used, not to exceed £75
4. Ground expenses up to a maximum of £40
5. Stewards £40 - only where Health and Safety Ground Regulations require them, and prior approval is granted by the Wiltshire FA.

(ii) The maximum gate charge shall be no more than the home club's normal league gate charge. They will also be required to issue the away team with 20 players / playing staff with ground passes along with 5 additional passes for Club Committee Members.

- (e) The Wiltshire FA will be responsible for the running and management of all Finals. All gate receipts from these matches will be retained by the Wiltshire FA.
- (f) All County Cup Finals that will be played at WCFA headquarters, there will be an entry fee decided by the Football Services Committee, this excludes players participating in the game and club nominated officials. Passes will be provided prior to the game and will need to be shown at point of entry.

9. Appointment of Match Officials

- (a) The Wiltshire FA with support from League Referee Appointment Officers shall appoint the Match Officials for all matches via YesRef. Neutral Assistant Referees will be appointed for all Semi-Finals and Finals, and for any other game as determined by the Wiltshire FA. Fourth Officials will be appointed for the Premier Shield/ Senior & Women's Cups Semi-finals & Finals, and any other game as determined by the Wiltshire FA. The fees for these appointments shall be in accordance with the fees and fines tariff and as published on the Wiltshire FA website. Where public transport is used (standard class), only fare actually paid for shall be reimbursed.
- (b) In all matches preceding the Final, it is the responsibility for both teams to pay equal contributions towards match officials' fee, however the home club shall be responsible for paying the Match Officials'.
- (c) In all Finals, the match officials shall claim their fees through the Wiltshire FA Football Services Team.



- (d) Match Officials are required to report to the ground at least 60 minutes before kick-off time for Premier Shield and Senior Challenge Cup matches, 45 minutes before kick-off time for all other adult fixtures and 30 minutes before kick-off time for all Youth and Minor matches. If on their arrival the game has been postponed, or after a pre-match pitch inspection the referee postpones the match, then they can claim half their fee. There is no fee for a referee to carry out an early pitch inspection.
- (e) In matches where neutral assistants are not appointed, each competing club shall nominate its own Club Assistant, and such particulars as may be required shall be given to the Referee at least 15 minutes before kick-off. Clubs failing to comply shall be fined in accordance with the fees and fines tariff.
- (f) In the event of the non-appearance or non-appointment of a Match Official the Clubs shall agree upon a referee. This individual shall, for that game, have full powers, status, and authority of a registered Referee. Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate as a referee or assistant referee in open age competitions.

10. Club Colours

- (a) In the event of two teams having similar colours, then the AWAY team shall change. The players' shirts shall be clearly and individually numbered. Goalkeepers must wear colours that distinguish them from the other players and the match officials. No player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black shirts. Any disputes on kit colours should be made to the Football Services Manager at least 7 days prior to the fixture.

11. Match Results Forms

- (a) The result of each match (including all Finals) must be entered on **Full Time by both Clubs, within 48 hours** of the completion of the fixture. Clubs failing to comply shall be fined in accordance with the fees and fines tariff. Each team must enter their results and match stats via Fulltime within 48 hours of the completion of the fixture. Failure to comply with any part of this Rule will attract a fine in line with the fees and fines tariff.
- (b) If a club awards a referee a mark of 60 or below, they must give a written explanation to the Wiltshire FA Football Services Team within 48 hours of the fixture. Failure to do so will result in the offending Club being fined in accordance with the fees and fines tariff.

12. Presentation of Trophies & Souvenirs

- (a) A trophy shall be presented to the winning Club at the conclusion of the Final game, together with suitable souvenirs to each Finalist, which shall include one for each Secretary.
- (b) Each winning finalist will receive a replica trophy which they are able to retain. The original Cup is to be returned to the Wiltshire FA immediately following the final.

13. Trophies

- (a) The Premier Shield and all County Cups shall remain the sole property of the Wiltshire FA and shall be responsible for the cost of engraving each year's winner's name in the style prescribed by the Council.

14. Other Matters

In any matter not specifically mentioned in these Rules, the Football Services Committee shall have the powers to take such action and impose such penalties necessary, and all such decisions shall be final.