

## COUNTY CUP COMPETITION RULES

### 1. Name/Control of Competition

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

- (1) Senior Challenge Cup.
- (2) Junior Challenge Cup.
- (3) Sunday Cup.
- (4) Women's Challenge Cup.
- (5) Youth Challenge Cup.
- (6) Minor Challenge Cup (U15).
- (7) Minor Challenge Cup (U13).
- (8) Girls Youth Challenge Cup (U.15).
- (9) Girls Minor Challenge Cup (U.13).

(b) The entire control and management of the Competitions shall be vested in the Council 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 expedient.

(c) The Council shall appoint a Governance Committee to control and manage the Competitions on their behalf and to give decisions on matters arising out of the Competitions which within the Rules laid down by the Council, shall be deemed decisions of the Council made under the powers delegated to the Governance Committee.

### 2. Competition Entrance

(a) Competition Entrance Fees shall be in accordance with charges published in the Wiltshire FA Handbook, Schedule of Charges (WHSC).

### 3. Eligible Clubs

(a) The Competitions are **(Mandatory)** to all Clubs Affiliated to the Wiltshire FA. No Reserve Teams will be accepted into any Competition. The following specific rules are to apply:

(1) **The Senior Challenge Cup is Mandatory** to all Clubs who play in Steps 1-7 of the National League System and do not have Reserve noted in their name. All such eligible Clubs must enter the competition.

(2) **The Junior Challenge Cup is mandatory** for all Wiltshire FA Affiliated Junior status Clubs (below Step 7 Adult male Saturday Teams) playing in a Wiltshire FA or another County FA Junior sanctioned League.

(3) **The Sunday Cup is mandatory** for all Wiltshire FA Sunday Adult Male Affiliated Clubs playing in a Wiltshire FA or another County FA Sanctioned Sunday League.

(4) **The Women's Challenge Cup is mandatory** to all Women's Clubs in Step 3 -5 in the National Women's Pyramid that are Affiliated to the Wiltshire FA.

(5) **Youth Challenge Cup** is mandatory to all Wiltshire FA Affiliated Clubs who have a U18 or U17/U18 team(s) playing in a Wiltshire FA or another County FA Sanctioned League.

(6) **The Minor Challenge Cup U15** is mandatory for all Wiltshire FA Affiliated Clubs who have a U15 Team(s) playing in a Wiltshire FA or another County FA Sanctioned League.

(7) **The Minor Challenge Cup U13** is mandatory for all Wiltshire FA Affiliated Clubs who have a U13 team(s) playing in a Wiltshire FA or another County FA Sanctioned League whether it is in a 9v9 or 11v11 format.

(8) **Girls Minor Cup (U.15)** is mandatory for all Wiltshire FA Affiliated Clubs who have a U15 Girls team(s) playing in a Wiltshire FA or another County FA Sanctioned League.

(9) **Girls Minor Cup (U.13)** is mandatory for all Wiltshire FA Affiliated who have a U13 Girls Team (s) playing in a Wiltshire FA or another County FA Sanctioned League whether it is in a 7v7 or 9v9 format.

(c) In all Adult fixtures each Club shall be represented by the full available strength of its First Team.

#### **4. Qualification of Players**

(a) The qualification of a player shall be: a registered playing member of his Club for at least 48 hours prior to the time fixed for the playing of the match. 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 his Club competes.

(b) No player shall be allowed to play for more than one competing Club in the 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. Additionally, the following Rules shall apply:

(c) No player shall be allowed to play in the Junior Challenge Cup who has played in a Senior Competition (Step 7 or above along with the FA Cup, FA Trophy and FA Vase) on more than three occasions during the current season. Also, no player after playing in the Senior Challenge Cup may play in the Junior Challenge Cup in the same season.

(d) No contract player shall be permitted to play in either the Junior Challenge Cup or the Women's Challenge Cup.

(e) For youth and minor matches, the age groups which individuals are eligible to play in, are as per the FA Regulations (Rules of the Association Paragraph C4) and Standard Code of Rules for Youth Competitions 2017-18.

(f) To qualify to play in the Semi Final or Final of a Wiltshire FA County Cup Competition a player must have played at least 5 League or Cup Games for the Team they are named for.

(g) The format for all competitions shall be 11v11 with the exception of the Girls Minor Cup U15 and the Girls Minor Cup U.13 which shall be 9v9.

(h) Substitutes

(1) **Adult Competitions Only:** A Club may at its discretion use three 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 (LOAF). 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.

(2) **Youth and Minor Competitions Only:** A Club may at its discretion use up to five substitutes on a roll on/roll off basis. This means that a player who has been substituted himself becomes a substitute and may replace another player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with the LOAF.

## 5. Protests

(a) All protests regarding the eligibility of players must be made in writing to the Chief Executive of the Wiltshire FA within 7 days of the match, accompanied by a deposit in accordance with the WHSC. The deposit shall be forfeited if the protest is not sustained. The Council shall deem what action is to be taken, which may include disqualifying the offending Club from the Competition and/or imposing a fine. The Council may order the protesting or offending Club to pay any costs incurred in connection with such protest. The Council may at its discretion have power to call on any player competing in a Competition to prove to its satisfaction that he/she is properly qualified to do so in accordance with the Rules, and if such proof is not forthcoming then the Council shall act accordingly.

(b) Any protest in relation to the ground, goalposts, crossbars or other appurtenances of the game shall not be entertained unless an objection has been lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the game. The Referee shall require the responsible Club to correct the cause of the objection, if this is possible, without unduly delaying the progress of the match. When an objection has been lodged with the Referee, a protest (accompanied by a deposit in accordance with the WHSC) must be made in writing to the Chief Executive of the Wiltshire FA within 7 days of the match and neither the objection nor the protest shall be withdrawn except by leave of the Council.

(c) All protests arising from 5(a), 5(b) or any other Competition Rule must contain full details of the grounds upon which they are based and must be accompanied by the stipulated protest fee/deposit.

(d) The County FA shall send a copy of the protest and its grounds to the Club protested against.

(e) Each Club may support its case by witnesses at a subsequent hearing of the protest.

(f) The protest shall be investigated by the Governance Committee. The decision of that Committee shall be final.

(g) If any member of the Council is an official, member or shareholder of a Club concerning which there is a protest, dispute or question, then the said member shall not be eligible to vote when such protest, dispute or question is being resolved.

## 6. The Draw & Playing of Ties

(a) The Club first drawn shall have choice of ground in all Rounds preceding the Final (and semi-finals of the Senior Challenge Cup). In the semi-finals of the Senior Challenge Cup, and in all Finals, the Council shall fix the ground.

(b) In the Senior Cup all home drawn Clubs who have floodlights will be required to play the fixture midweek (7.45pm KO), only those home drawn Clubs without lights will be permitted to play on a Saturday (3pm KO, except Nov, Dec & Jan 2pm 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 Senior Cup Matches. The timing of each round will be set for a designated week and the fixture will be played on the home Clubs nominated day.

(c) In all other cup competitions the fixtures will be played on a designated date & time selected by the Wiltshire FA.

Junior Challenge Cup: Saturday 2pm Kick Off (1.30pm Nov, Dec, Jan).

Sunday Cup: Sunday 10.30am Kick Off

Women's Cup: Sunday 2pm Kick Off (1.30pm Nov, Dec, Jan)

Youth Challenge Cup: Sunday 2pm Kick Off (1.30pm Nov, Dec, Jan)

Minor U15's Cup: Sunday 2pm Kick Off (1.30pm Nov, Dec, Jan)

Minor U13's Cup: Sunday 10.30am Kick Off

Girls Minor Cup U15's & Girls Minor Cup U13's: Saturday 10.30am Kick Off

(d) Any Club failing to commence a game at the appointed time shall be fined in accordance with the WHSC. The Home Club shall take every precaution to keep its ground in playing condition. Dressing rooms with washing and toilet facilities must be provided on the ground, and it is desirable (compulsory for the Senior Challenge Cup) 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 (Governance Manager) before informing their opponents of the change in kick off time/venue.

(f) In all Rounds prior to the semi-final, 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.

(g) If a game has been postponed on two occasions because of the weather, then the tie is to be reversed or played on a neutral ground if the original away teams ground is unusable. Where the original Home Club believe that there are extenuating circumstances as to why the tie should not be reversed or played on a neutral ground, then an appeal may be lodged with the Chief Executive of the Wiltshire FA. Such an appeal must be lodged within 48 hours of the second postponement. The cost of such an Appeal is in accordance with the WHSC.

(h) 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, e-mail 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 (Governance Manager). Clubs failing to comply with this Rule will be fined in accordance with the WHSC.

(i) All matches shall be played in accordance with the LOAF as settled by the International Football Association Board. 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 (Governance Manager). This date shall then be binding and the player registration qualification date detailed in Rule 4 shall apply.

(j) When the match is played at a ground where there are technical areas the following shall apply:

(1) The number of players & officials in the technical area must not exceed 8 per team.

(2) 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 WHSC.

(k) All matches with the exception of Youth and Minor games shall have a duration of 90 minutes.

In Youth and Minor matches the following shall apply:

(1) U18 90 minutes

(2) U15 80 minutes

(3) U13 70 minutes

(4) Girls U15 80 minutes

(5) Girls U13 70 minutes

(l) In all County Cup matches the half-time interval shall not exceed 15 minutes.

(m) In the event of a match being drawn at the expiration of 'normal' time, an extra half hour (15 minutes each way) must be played in all Adult Competitions and the Youth Challenge Cup, and an extra 20 minutes (10 minutes each way) played in all other Youth and Minor Competitions. In the event of a further draw at the expiration of extra time, the game shall be decided by the taking of penalty kicks (in accordance with the LOAF). In the event of a match not being played on the original date through unavoidable circumstances, it shall be played on the following weekend (on the same day as the original fixture i.e. Saturday or Sunday) or otherwise at the discretion of the Council.

(n) 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 Governance Committee review), it must be played on the same ground on a date to be fixed by the Council. Notice of postponement of any tie must be given by the Home Club, without delay (by telephone, email or text) to the Wiltshire FA (Governance Manager and the Referee Development Officer), the Secretary of the Away Club and to the Match Officials. The Governance 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 abandonment to be recorded as a result. In cases where the Governance 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 supporters of both teams, the Governance Committee shall take such action as they consider appropriate which may include removing both teams from the Competition.

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

(p) The procedures of the FA's Respect Programme, including the provision of a Designated Supporters Area and technical area in Youth and Minor fixtures are to be observed for all County Cup matches.

## **7. Gate Receipts - Allowable Expenses**

(a) In all Competitions up to the Semi Final (quarter finals in the Senior Cup) all costs (Pitch Hire and Referee's Fee and expenses) will be shared equally between the two competing Teams.

(b) In the Senior Cup up to the quarter finals the cost of the away Clubs travelling expenses (£1.35 per mile for a return journey from the away Clubs 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; grounds man's preparation of the pitch, cleaning of changing room, floodlights if used, along with Referee Fees and expenses can be claimed and divided evenly between the two competing clubs.

(d) (i) Where a home club charges a 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 and expenses
2. Where a team/club does not own their home ground, the cost of the hire can be included
3. Away clubs travel expenses (£1.35 per mile for a journey from the away clubs ground)
4. Floodlights if used, not to exceed £75
5. Ground expenses up to a maximum of £40
6. Stewards £40 – Only where Health & Safety Ground Regulation require them and prior approval is granted by the Wilts FA.

(ii) The maximum gate charge shall be no more than the home clubs 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 and the Semi Finals of the Senior Cup. All gate receipts from these matches will retained by the Wiltshire FA.

## 8. Appointment of Match Officials

(a) The Wiltshire FA shall appoint the Match Officials for all matches. 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 all Finals, for the Senior Challenge Cup semi-finals and for any other game as determined by the Wiltshire FA. The fees and expenses for these appointments shall be in accordance with the WHSC and as published on the Wiltshire FA Website. Where public transport is used (standard class), only fares actually paid for shall be reimbursed.

(b) In all matches preceding the Final (semi-finals in the Senior Challenge Cup), the Home Club shall be responsible for paying the Match Officials fees and expenses.

(c) In all Finals and semi-finals of the Senior Challenge Cup the Match Officials shall claim any fees/expenses through the Wiltshire FA Referee Development Officer. In all Finals, the Officials will receive a suitable memento in lieu of a match fee.

(d) Match Officials are required to report to the ground at least 60 minutes before kick-off time for 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 fee and full expenses. There is no fee for a referee to carry out an early pitch inspection; however travel expenses can be claimed.

(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 WHSC.

## 9. Club Colours

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. When there is a clash of colours in any Final (and semi-finals of the Senior Challenge Cup), then the Council shall determine if either or both clubs are to change.

## 10. Match Result 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 WHSC. Each team must submit a copy of their Wiltshire FA Team Sheet & Record Card (TSRC) along with a referees mark to the Wiltshire FA within 72 hours of the completion of the fixture. A copy of the TSRC can be downloaded from the Wiltshire FA website ([www.wiltshirefa.com](http://www.wiltshirefa.com)). Failure to comply with any part of this Rule will attract a fine in line with the WHSC.

(b) The Wiltshire FA TSRC must be handed to the Referee and to the Opposition prior to kick off (in the Senior, Junior and Sunday Cups this is to take place in the Referee's dressing room 30 minutes prior to kick off, for all other fixtures the exchange is to take place in the Referee's dressing room 15 minutes prior to kick off). Failure to comply with any part of this Rule will attract a fine in line with the WHSC.

(c) If a club awards a referee mark of 40 or below, they must give a written explanation to the Wiltshire FA Referee Development Officer within 72 hours of the fixture. Failure to do so will result in the offending Club being fined in accordance with the WHSC.

#### **11. Presentation of Trophies & Souvenirs**

(a) A Trophy shall be presented to the winning Club at the conclusion of the Final game, together with 17 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.

(c) In the Senior Challenge Cup, the losing finalists will receive the Frank Peart Trophy which is to be returned to the Wiltshire FA immediately following the Final. The losing finalists will receive a replica trophy which they are able to retain.

#### **12. Trophies - Conditions of taking over**

(a) The Premier Shield and 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.

#### **13. Other Matter**

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