



WORCESTERSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (WORCESTERSHIRE FA) COUNTY CUP RULES

(Last amended in August 2022)

1. COMPETITIONS

a) The following Rules shall apply, except where specified, to all Worcestershire FA County Cup Competitions, which shall be played annually:

Worcestershire FA Senior Invitation Cup	Rules 1-21 inclusive and Rule 22
Worcestershire FA Saturday Cup	Rules 1-21 inclusive and Rule 23
Worcestershire FA Sunday Premier Cup	Rules 1-21 inclusive and Rule 24
Worcestershire FA Sunday Junior Cup	Rules 1-21 inclusive and Rule 24
Worcestershire FA Sunday Minor Cup	Rules 1-21 inclusive and Rule 24
Worcestershire FA Sunday Women's Cup	Rules 1-21 inclusive and Rule 25
Worcestershire FA Midweek Under 18 Cup	Rules 1-21 inclusive and Rule 26
Worcestershire FA Saturday Under 18 Cup	Rules 1-21 inclusive and Rule 26
Worcestershire FA Saturday Under 18 Girls Cup	Rules 1-21 inclusive and Rule 26
Worcestershire FA Saturday Under 16 Cup	Rules 1-21 inclusive and Rule 26
Worcestershire FA Saturday Under 16 Girls Cup	Rules 1-21 inclusive and Rule 26
Worcestershire FA Saturday Under 15 Cup	Rules 1-21 inclusive and Rule 26
Worcestershire FA Saturday Under 15 Girls Cup	Rules 1-21 inclusive and Rule 26
Worcestershire FA Saturday Under 14 Cup	Rules 1-21 inclusive and Rule 26
Worcestershire FA Saturday Under 14 Girls Cup	Rules 1-21 inclusive and Rule 26
Worcestershire FA Sunday Under 14 Cup	Rules 1-21 inclusive and Rule 26
Worcestershire FA Sunday Under 15 Cup	Rules 1-21 inclusive and Rule 26
Worcestershire FA Sunday Under 16 Cup	Rules 1-21 inclusive and Rule 26
Worcestershire FA Sunday Under 18 Cup	Rules 1-21 inclusive and Rule 26

b) No competition will run unless a minimum number of 8 entrants are received, with 50% or more of the entrants required to be primary affiliated to Worcestershire FA.

2. CONTROL OF THE COMPETITIONS

a) The ownership, organisation, control and management of the competitions shall be vested entirely and exclusively in Worcestershire FA.

b) The Council of Worcestershire FA shall have the power to make, delete and amend the Rules for the organisation, control and management of the competitions as it deems expedient.

c) All clubs and teams participating in the competitions shall be bound by and comply with the competition Rules.

d) The Council shall appoint a Football Services Committee. The Football Services Committee shall have the authority to exercise all powers of the Council in relation to each competition and to make decisions on all matters arising out of or in relation to the organisation, control and management of the competition. The decisions of the Football Services Committee shall be final and binding on all participants in the competition.

e) In relation to any matter not specifically mentioned in the Competition Rules, the Football Services Committee shall, on behalf of the Council, have the power to take such action and make such decisions, orders, rulings and impose such penalties as it deems necessary and follow such procedures as it considers appropriate.

f) All decisions of the Council and/or Football Services Committee shall be accepted as final with the exception of the following provisions concerning protests (Rule 17):

- i) A club or team that is refused entry or expelled from a Competition may appeal against that decision to an appeal board of Worcestershire FA in accordance with the procedures for appeals.
- ii) For the avoidance of doubt, a club or team may not appeal against any penalty imposed on it other than when entry is refused or expulsion from the Competition.

3. TROPHY & MEDALS

a) The Chairman and Chief Executive Officer shall be the legal owners of the Cup, in trust for Worcestershire FA. Each Cup shall be a Challenge Cup and cannot be won outright. The successful winning club of the competition shall, upon receiving the Cup, hand to an Officer of Worcestershire FA an indemnity signed by 2 Officers of the winning club agreeing to keep the Cup in good order and condition when on loan to the winning club. Any club not returning the Competition Trophy by the due date or returning them in poor condition shall be fined. Worcestershire FA shall insure the Cup against all risks and shall be responsible for all engraving.

b) In addition to the Cup, up to 16 medals for the winners and the runners-up of each team competing in the Final may be presented by Worcestershire FA, which shall not be transferable. When a player or official taking part in the Final is ordered to leave the field of play for misconduct, the medal to which they may be entitled shall be withheld until the matter has been dealt with by Worcestershire FA.

4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

a) Teams of clubs in the County which meet the entry criteria laid down from time to time by the Council shall compete. For an Invitation Cup, teams of other clubs which meet the entry criteria may be invited to compete by Worcestershire FA. The Council may reject the entry of any team.

b) Applications from teams wishing to compete in a Competition must be received by Worcestershire FA on or before 9am on 1st August for the season that the team wishes to compete. Worcestershire FA may accept late entries received prior to the draw for the first round ties, and in such cases Worcestershire FA may impose a fine upon the club making the application.

c) Entry fees are included within the teams' primary or secondary affiliation to Worcestershire FA.

5. THE DRAW

a) The names of all teams accepted for entry into a Competition shall be placed in the appropriate Competition round. Each match shall be played on the ground of the first drawn team, unless otherwise mutually agreed by the clubs or specified in the Competition Rules and the consent of the Council obtained.

b) Whenever possible the Council shall arrange all necessary byes in the First Round and no team, if avoidable, shall have more than one bye during each season.

c) Immediately after each draw is made, notice shall be given to each team of the name of their opponents, and the date on or before which the match must be played.

d) Immediately upon receipt of the draw for each round, Secretaries of clubs drawn at Home must communicate with their opponents and agree upon a date and kick-off time and notify Worcestershire FA of the decision at least 14 days prior to the date of playing. In the event of no agreement between both clubs, the default date is the conference date and the default kick-off time is as per the relevant Competition Rule.

e) The **home** club **must** advise their opponents, the match officials and Worcestershire FA Members (if appointed) of the Ground address, changing room facilities and team colours not less than **7 days** prior to the date of the match. This should be acknowledged by opponents, match officials and Worcestershire FA Members.

6. THE FIELD OF PLAY

a) All matches shall be played on a natural grass pitch or a 3G pitch on The FA National Register. The dimensions of the field of play for all matches shall be as detailed within The FA Standard Code of Rules (SCOR), Standard Code of Rules for Youth (SCORY) and/or the International Football Association Board (IFAB) Laws of the Game. Goal nets must be used in all matches.

7. DURATION OF MATCHES

a) The duration of each match and half-time shall be as detailed in the table below. Any match that is level at full-time will be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark. There is no extra time. The Referee shall allow for time wasted or lost through accident or other cause. The Referee is the sole judge of allowance of time whether lost through accident or other cause and their decision on this matter is final and not subject to appeal.

Competition Name	Length of Match (2 equal halves)	Maximum half-time length
WFA Senior Invitation Cup	90 minutes	15 minutes
WFA Saturday Cup	90 minutes	15 minutes
WFA Sunday Premier Cup	90 minutes	15 minutes
WFA Sunday Junior Cup	90 minutes	15 minutes
WFA Sunday Minor Cup	90 minutes	15 minutes
WFA Sunday Women's Cup	90 minutes	15 minutes
WFA U18 Youth Competitions	90 minutes	15 minutes
WFA U16 Youth Competitions	80 minutes	10 minutes
WFA U15 Youth Competitions	80 minutes	10 minutes
WFA U14 Youth Competitions	70 minutes	10 minutes

8. PROVISIONS CONCERNING MATCH OFFICIALS

a) In all matches the Referee (and Assistant Referees/Fourth Official where appropriate) shall be appointed by Worcestershire FA. In the event of any of the match officials failing to arrive or being incapacitated the two teams must agree to a substitute.

b) In all matches preceding the Final, the fees and expenses of all match officials shall be paid as detailed below:

Competition Name	Referee Fee	Assistant Referee Fee (if appointed)	Fourth Official Fee (if appointed)	Payment By
WFA Senior Invitation Cup	£65	£40	£30	Home Club
WFA Saturday Cup	£45	£30	£30	Home Club
WFA Sunday Premier Cup	£37	£25	£25	Home Club
WFA Sunday Junior Cup	£37	£25	£25	Home Club
WFA Sunday Minor Cup	£37	£25	£25	Home Club
WFA Sunday Women's Cup	£37	£25	£25	Home Club
WFA U18 Youth Competitions	£36	£25	£25	Split equally
WFA U16 Youth Competitions	£36	£25	£25	Split equally
WFA U15 Youth Competitions	£36	£25	£25	Split equally
WFA U14 Youth Competitions	£36	£25	£25	Split equally

c) The match officials in the Final shall receive a souvenir medal.

d) Match officials attending the ground are entitled to £10 expenses if the match is not played, paid by Worcestershire FA. However, if either team is responsible for the non-playing of a fixture that team shall pay the attending match officials their full fee.

e) Appointed match officials shall acknowledge their acceptance of appointments for all matches in each Competition to Worcestershire FA within **3 days** of receipt of the appointment.

f) The duties of the match officials shall be as defined in the IFAB Laws of the Game. Sin Bins are in operation for dissent offences committed by players on the field of play.

g) Appointed match officials shall wear the traditional black uniform. In the event of a colour clash with a shirt of either team, appointed match officials aged 18+ shall be permitted to wear an alternative colour shirt. Where a team of match officials is appointed, they may only wear an alternative colour shirt provided they all have the same colour. In the event that all appointed match officials do not have the same alternative colour, black should be worn and the team responsible for the clash will be required to change.

h) Match officials must wear the Worcestershire FA badge on their uniform.

9. APPEAL – UNSUITABILITY OF GROUND

a) If the ground of the team first drawn is considered unsuitable for the match, having regard to all the circumstances, the opposing club may appeal to the Council within **7 days** of the receipt of the draw. In any event, the Council shall have the power to order that any match be played on an alternative ground or date if it is considered appropriate or necessary. For matches switched from the ground of the team first drawn, the Council shall determine the financial conditions in which the match shall be played. In the case of a ground being rendered temporarily unfit for any reason a protest may be lodged before the commencement of the match with the Referee, who shall declare the ground fit or unfit for the match to be played.

10. PLAYING CONDITION OF THE GROUND

a) Each team must take every precaution to keep its ground in good playing condition. If appropriate, either competing club may appeal to the Council through their Secretary to require the Referee or another appropriately qualified Referee to examine the ground and decide as to its fitness for play in sufficient time to save the expense of unnecessary journeys being incurred by competing clubs. Subject to this rule, the Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and their decision shall be final. In the case of the ground being declared unfit for play, the home team must obtain a report from the Referee declaring the ground unfit and forward it to Worcestershire FA to be received within **3 days** of the postponement (Sundays excluded). Clubs in default of these instructions may be fined.

11. TEAM COLOURS

a) Where the colours of two competing teams are similar the **away team** must change, unless alternative arrangements are mutually agreed by the competing clubs. In the event of clubs not agreeing upon colours to be worn by their respective teams Worcestershire FA shall decide. Team colours should not clash with the outfit worn by the match officials. Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from the other players and the match officials. Player shirts shall be clearly and uniquely numbered on the back in accordance with the list handed to the Referee before the match and there must be no change of numbers during the match except on a change of goalkeeper. The captain of each competing team shall wear a distinguishing armband to indicate their status. Advertising which fully complies with current FA Regulations may be worn on player clothing.

12. PROVISIONS CONCERNING QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

a) All players taking part in the Cup Competition shall be qualified according to the Rules of Worcestershire FA.

b) In any one season a player shall not play for more than one competing team in any Competition.

c) An eligible player who has been suspended may play in postponed or replayed matches after the term of their suspension has expired.

d) Teams must hand a list of names of players taking part in the game (including the names of the nominated substitutes) to the Referee and a representative of their opponents in the presence of the Referee at least 30 minutes before the advertised kick-off time. Any club failing to carry out these provisions may be liable to a fine. Late changes to the nominated list of players and substitutes may be made provided the Referee and opponents are informed prior to the commencement of the match.

e) Should any nominated player or substitute sustain an injury after the submission of the team sheet to the Referee and before the kick-off they may be replaced provided the Referee is informed. A player who has been sent off before the kick-off may be replaced only by one of the named substitutes. A named substitute who has been sin binned, or sent off either before the kick-off, or after play has started, may not be replaced.

f) Except for the Senior Invitation Cup, no registered contract players shall be allowed to compete in any of these Competitions.

g) In the event of the Final of any Competition being held over to the following season a player who has played for their team in the previous season shall be eligible to play for their team in the Final notwithstanding that they may be registered with another team in the current season.

h) In the event of a team playing in any match with less than 11 players a fine shall be imposed for each missing player. A minimum of 7 players will constitute a team for a Competition match.

13. PROVISIONS FOR MATCHES

For all matches preceding the Final the following provisions shall apply:

a) Clubs shall not mutually arrange to play a match in another Competition in lieu of a Cup match.

b) Any late kick-off must be reported by the Referee to Worcestershire FA and the Council shall have the power to impose a fine.

c) In the event of any match resulting in a draw after 90 minutes of play, the match will be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game procedures.

d) When a match has been postponed or abandoned before the completion of 90 minutes of play and neither club is at fault, it must be played on the same ground within 14 days unless the Council agrees to or orders another ground or date. If the match is abandoned, with neither club at fault, either before or during the taking of kicks from the penalty-mark to decide the outcome, then **ONLY** the taking of kicks from the penalty-mark be replayed at a ground decided by Council within 14 days.

e) Matches abandoned through the fault of either or both clubs shall be dealt with by the Council. The Council shall have the power to order that the score in any abandoned match shall stand.

f) The Council shall review any Competition Match that has taken place where either or both teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by The Football Association or Affiliated Association. In each case the team that was under suspension would be dealt with in the same manner as if they had participated with ineligible players. Where both teams were under suspension the Competition Match may be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.

14. PROVISIONS FOR FINAL MATCHES

a) The Council shall fix the venue for the Final and shall have direct control of the arrangements.

15. REPORTING RESULTS

a) Post-match reporting must be completed by both clubs using **Worcestershire FA County Cups Full-Time website**. Both clubs must submit the result of each match within **2 hours** of the final whistle by responding to the automated Full-Time SMS (text message) or entering the result online. Both clubs must submit the names of the players competing, the substitutes and goal scorers on the Full-Time Match Report Form within **3 days** of the match (Sundays not included). Both clubs must also submit the Referee marking form via FA Full-Time within **3 days** of the match (Sundays not included).

b) Any club failing to comply with this Rule or submitting incorrect or incomplete returns may be subject to a fine as determined by the Council and in default of payment shall be disqualified from the competition.

16. PROVISIONS FOR WITHDRAWING FROM A COMPETITION

a) Any team intending to withdraw from either Competition must give information of their intention to do so to Worcestershire FA and the Secretary of the opposing club not less than **7 days** before the date fixed for playing the match.

b) A club failing to comply with this Rule shall be reported to the Council, who shall have power to compel the offending club to pay any expenses incurred and take such action as they may deem expedient.

c) Any team failing to give a satisfactory reason for withdrawing from a Competition may not be allowed to enter that Competition the following season and shall also be liable to a fine.

d) In the Semi-Final and Final, any team failing to play without showing a good and sufficient cause for failure to play, may be adjudged by the Council to be guilty of serious misconduct, and liable to be dealt with as the Council deems fit.

17. PROVISIONS RELATING TO PROTESTS

a) All questions relating to the qualification or eligibility of players or interpretation of these Rules, or any dispute or protest whatever shall be referred to the Council whose decision shall be final and binding.

b) Any dispute or protest must be made in writing to cups@worcestershirefa.com accompanied by a fee of £25 **by 9am on the fourth day following the match** i.e. by 9am on a Wednesday following a Saturday match. The content must contain the particulars of the grounds upon which it is founded. The fee shall be forfeited to Worcestershire FA in the event of the dispute or protest not being sustained. For the avoidance of doubt, any dispute or protest submitted after the deadline may still be investigated but will have no impact on the outcome or result of the match(es) in question.

c) The Council may order any club involved in a dispute or protest to pay such expenses as may be considered appropriate towards defraying the costs incurred.

d) No protest relating to the ground, goal posts or other accessories of the game shall be entertained by the Council unless an objection has been lodged with the Referee prior to the commencement of the match. The Referee shall require the responsible club to correct the cause of the objection if this is possible, without unduly delaying the commencement of the match.

e) When an objection has been lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the match, a protest must be made to Worcestershire FA and neither the objection nor protest shall be withdrawn except by leave of the Council.

f) Worcestershire FA shall send details of the dispute or protest to the clubs involved.

g) Each club may support its case with witnesses.

h) If a member of the Council is connected with a club concerned in a dispute or protest, the Member shall not sit on the Council while the dispute or protest is being considered.

j) If the Council should consequently decide that any rule or spirit of the rule has, in its opinion, been violated by mutual agreement or otherwise, it shall have the power to disqualify either or both clubs from the appropriate Competition(s) or order the match to be replayed. For the Council to take this action it is not necessary for a protest to have been received from any club.

18. ADMISSION TO CUP MATCHES - SALE OF TICKETS

a) The Council shall set admission prices for the Final and determine how many complimentary tickets shall be issued to the competing clubs.

b) For all matches preceding the Final where the home club charges an admission fee to enter the ground the home club shall make 10 complimentary tickets available to the away club.

c) Final Match

The whole of the proceeds shall be taken by Worcestershire FA who shall be responsible for the payment of the expenses of the match; however the two competing clubs shall meet their own travelling expenses.

19. VALIDITY OF PLAYER QUALIFICATIONS

a) If the Council has any doubt as to the qualification of any player taking part in either Competition, it shall have power to call upon any such player, or the club to which they are or were registered, to prove that they were qualified according to these Rules and failing satisfactory proof the Council may disqualify such player and may remove the club from the appropriate Competition and also impose such other penalty as it may deem necessary.

20. DISQUALIFICATION

a) The Council shall have the power to disqualify any club, team or player found guilty of breaching the Rules of Worcestershire FA or of any Cup Competition.

21. NOTICES

a) All notices required to be given to Worcestershire FA by any of these Rules shall be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer of Worcestershire FA.

RULES RELATING TO PARTICULAR COMPETITIONS

The Rules which follow relate to the Competition named but must be read in conjunction with Rules 1-21 which apply to all County Cup Competitions.

22. SENIOR INVITATION CUP

a) Ground for Matches

i) Teams must have regular use of a ground where a charge for admission may be made and gate receipts must be taken in all matches.

ii) The playing area must be enclosed by a permanent fixed barrier except those areas and spaces excluded from spectator viewing. Some covered accommodation for spectator viewing must be provided. Dressing and washing accommodation must be separate for each team and match officials. Toilets which are not available for spectator use must be provided for dressing rooms used by players and match officials. Adequate entrances and exits to the ground must be provided.

b) Floodlighting

i) All matches must be played on grounds enabling matches to be played either partly or wholly under floodlight conditions, provided that the installation meets with the approval of Worcestershire FA.

c) The Draw (Rule 5 and the following)

i) Teams at Step 4 and above shall enter at the Quarter Final stage. All teams at Step 5 and Step 6 shall enter the Preliminary Round and play such rounds so that the required number of teams join the available places in the Quarter Final after teams at Step 4 and above have been entered.

d) Team Benches

i) In all rounds of the Competition, the number of team players and team officials seated on the team benches, in the designated technical area, must not exceed 11 unless the team bench facility provides more than 11 individual seats.

ii) A maximum of two team officials may stand inside the technical area at any time. Only one person has the authority to convey tactical instructions to the players during the match at any one time. This person shall be the team manager or a team coach.

iii) The occupants of the technical area must behave in a responsible manner at all times. Misconduct by occupants of this area will be reported by the Referee to the appropriate Association, who shall have the power to impose sanctions as deemed fit. With the exception of the team manager or team coach and any substitutes who are warming up or warming down, all other personnel are to remain seated on the team bench.

e) Provisions concerning qualification of Players (Rule 12 and the following)

i) A team may at its discretion use up to **5** substitute players at any time in a match, except to replace a player who has been suspended from the game by the Referee after play has commenced. Any substitution can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission. A maximum of **5** substitutes may be nominated whose names shall be given to the Referee prior to the commencement of the match. **After a player has been substituted, they may not re-enter the field of play.**

ii) Only those substitutes who have participated in a match shall be considered to have been players in that match for qualification purposes. A substitute who is named but not used is entitled to play for another team in the same season.

iii) In all rounds of each Competition a bona-fide player is one who has been registered with their team in a league in which their team competes in the current season by 12 noon on the day previous to the date on which the match is to be played. In exceptional circumstances a player who does not qualify under this rule may be granted permission to play by the Football Services Emergency Sub-Committee.

iv) A player on temporary (loan) transfer is **ineligible** to compete the Competition, unless permission is given by the lending club in writing and a copy is submitted to Worcestershire FA by 12 noon on the day previous to the date on which the match is to be played. A registered Trainee on a Scholarship for work experience may play for another club, subject to written permission being given by the club that he is registered to and provided that such permission is received by Worcestershire FA by 12 noon on the day previous to the date on which the match is played. Any permissions must clearly state that the player has approval to play in the Worcestershire FA Senior Invitation Cup. Worcestershire FA will not give permission for players on loan to play against the lending club.

v) A player who has played for one team in the Worcestershire FA Senior Invitation Cup in the current season shall **not** be eligible to play in the Worcestershire FA Saturday Cup Competition in the current season.

vi) In the event of the Final being held over to the following season a player who has played for their team in the previous season shall be eligible to play for their team in the Final notwithstanding that he may be registered with another team in the current season. In such circumstances a bona-fide player is one who has been registered with their team in a League in which their team competes in the current season by 12 noon on the date previous to the date on which the match is played, or a registered player, as above, who has played in a match in a recognised affiliated Competition for their team prior to the date on which the match is played. In exceptional circumstances a player who does not qualify under this Rule may be granted permission to play by the Officers of Worcestershire FA on behalf of the Council.

f) Admission to Matches Preceding the Final (Rule 18 and the following)

i) The minimum admission prices shall be £6.00 for adults with concessions in respect of children and senior citizens. All persons including season ticket holders must be charged admission to the ground, enclosures and stands in all matches subject to the following conditions:

- In all rounds of the Competition each club shall be entitled to **10** complimentary tickets for the use of Club Officials and Directors. In the Final, Worcestershire FA shall be responsible for issuing these tickets to each club.
- Complimentary tickets issued by the home club in excess of the above number must be accounted for at the price at which they would have otherwise been sold. A complimentary ticket is a ticket that allows admittance to any area of the ground to attend a match for no consideration where a charge would otherwise be made by the home club.
- In addition to the allowance of complimentary tickets set out above, complimentary tickets may be issued for the sole use of the following:
 - Directors or equivalent of the two participating clubs
 - Accredited Press/Media
 - Accredited Club Scouts
 - Council Members of Worcestershire FA

ii) Any variation to this pricing structure must be agreed in writing by email by both clubs and Worcestershire FA at least 7 days before the date of the fixture.

iii) The net gate receipts of a match (except replayed matches in consequence of breach of Rules) shall be the total ticket sales for the match less VAT, the fees and expenses of the match officials and cost of floodlighting (if used) not exceeding £75+VAT if applicable. The home club shall meet all other costs of staging the match. The away club shall meet its own travelling expenses.

iv) Immediately after half-time but before the conclusion of the match the home club must declare and provide in writing to the visiting club a statement of the total admission and gross gate receipts together with a list of complimentary tickets issued.

v) The net gate receipts shall be divided equally between the two competing clubs. The net gate receipts shall be divided approximately immediately after the match and a full statement and settlement shall be made by the home club to the away club within **14 days** of the match, with a copy of the statement sent to Worcestershire FA. Clubs failing to comply may be fined.

vi) The visiting club shall have the right to check and agree the sale of tickets and gate receipts and the home club shall make arrangements for an official of the away club to do so upon request.

vii) In any match ordered to be replayed in consequence of a breach of the Rules the club in default shall not receive any share of the gate receipts without the consent of the Council. If consent is not given the clubs share shall be remitted to Worcestershire FA.

g) Admission to the Final

a) The Council shall set admission prices for the Final and each team will be permitted a maximum of 30 entrants at no charge. The list of 30 entrants must be submitted in writing by email at least 7 days prior to the Final. The 30 entrants must include up to 16 players and up to 5 team officials.

23. WORCESTERSHIRE FA SATURDAY CUP

a) Eligible Teams (Rule 4 and the following)

- i) Worcestershire FA primary affiliated teams playing in a league below Step 6 of The FA National League System (NLS) are eligible to enter the Competition.
- ii) Teams entering the Competition must be members of a recognised affiliated Saturday League.
- iii) Teams affiliated to Worcestershire FA competing in Leagues not affiliated to Worcestershire FA **must** compete in the appropriate Cup Competition of this Association otherwise they shall not be permitted to enter any other Cup Competitions which are **external** to the league(s) in which the club will be in membership for the ensuing season.
- iv) A club shall be permitted to enter more than one team in the Competition, providing players are registered directly to individual teams.
- v) The Saturday Cup Competition is not linked in any way with the Sunday Cup Competitions.

b) The Draw (Rule 5 and the following)

- i) The kick-off time is 2:00pm. All matches in each round shall be played on dates and the times as the Council may determine, unless both clubs mutually agree to play on a prior date and permission has been obtained from the Council or unless the Council for any reason agrees to or orders another date or time.
- ii) Affiliated Association Cup Competition matches which involve the reserve or youth teams of a club shall not take precedence over Saturday first team league fixtures of Leagues comprising Steps 2-6 of The FA National League System (NLS) and Football Association Competitions.

c) Provisions concerning qualification of Players (Rule 12 and the following)

- i) A maximum of **5** substitutes may be nominated whose names shall be given to the Referee prior to the commencement of the match. A team may at its discretion use up to 5 substitute players at any time in a match. Any substitution can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission, except to replace a player who has been suspended from the game by the Referee after play has commenced. **A player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace another player at any time**, subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game.
- ii) Substitutes as per clause i) above shall be considered to have participated in that match for qualification purposes and therefore are not entitled to play for another club or team in the Competition in the same season.
- iii) In all rounds prior to the Final, a bona-fide player is one who has been registered with their team in a league in which their team competes in the current season at least **14 clear days** prior to the date on which the match is played, or a registered player who has played in a match in a recognised affiliated Competition for their team prior to the date on which the match is played. In exceptional circumstances a player who does not qualify under this Rule may be granted permission to play by Worcestershire FA.
- iv) If a player has not played in a previous round of this competition, to be eligible to play in the Final they must have been registered with their team at least 28 days clear and played in a minimum of 4 league or internal cup matches prior to the date fixed for playing the Final. Should a player not meet this criteria permission may be sought from the Council. The names of all players proposing to compete in the Final of each Competition shall be sent by the Secretary of each competing club to their opponents and also Worcestershire FA to be received at least 7 days prior to the date of the Final. Failing this a club shall be liable to be fined. Any player not listed on this submission shall not be eligible to play in the Final unless dispensation has been requested by the club no less than before 12 noon on the last working day (Monday to Friday) prior to the Final.
- v) A player who has, in the current season, played in the Senior Invitation Cup shall not be eligible to play in the Saturday Cup.

24. WORCESTERSHIRE FA SUNDAY PREMIER, SUNDAY JUNIOR AND SUNDAY MINOR CUPS

a) Eligible Teams (Rule 4 and the following)

- i) Teams entering the Competitions must be members of a recognised affiliated Sunday League.
- ii) The Sunday Cup Competitions are not linked in any way with the Saturday Cup Competitions.
- iii) Teams affiliated to Worcestershire FA competing in Leagues not affiliated to Worcestershire FA **must** compete in the appropriate Cup Competition of this Association otherwise they shall not be permitted to enter any other Cup Competitions which are **external** to the League(s) in which the club will be in membership for the ensuing season.
- iv) A club shall be permitted to enter more than one team in any Competition. Clubs who have a team/teams in a Sunday Cup may have additional eligible teams entered into other Sunday Cups.

b) The Draw (Rule 5 and the following)

- i) The kick-off time is 10:30am.

c) Provisions concerning qualification of Players (Rule 12 and the following)

- i) A maximum of **5** substitutes may be nominated whose names shall be given to the Referee prior to the commencement of the match. A team may at its discretion use up to 5 substitute players at any time in a match. Any substitution can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission, except to replace a player who has been suspended from the game by the Referee after play has commenced. **A player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace another player at any time**, subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game.

- ii) Substitutes as per clause i) above shall be considered to have participated in that match for qualification purposes and therefore are not entitled to play for another club or team in the same Competition in the same season.

- iii) In all rounds of each Competition prior to the Final, a bona-fide player is one who has been registered with their team in a league in which their team competes in the current season at least **14 clear days** prior to the date on which the match is played, or a registered player, as above, who has played in a match in a recognised affiliated Competition for their team prior to the date on which the match is played. In exceptional circumstances a player who does not qualify under this Rule may be granted permission to play by the Officers of Worcestershire FA on behalf of the Council.

- iv) If a player has not played in a previous round of this competition, to be eligible to play in the Final they must have been registered with their team at least 28 days clear and played in a minimum of 4 league or internal cup matches prior to the date fixed for playing the Final. Should a player not meet this criteria permission may be sought from the Council. The names of all players proposing to compete in the Final of each Competition shall be sent by the Secretary of each competing team to their opponents and also Worcestershire FA to be received at least 7 days prior to the date of the Final. Failing this a club shall be liable to be fined. Any player not listed on this submission shall not be eligible to play in the Final unless dispensation has been requested by the club no less than before 12 noon on the last working day (Monday to Friday) prior to the Final.

- v) A player who has in the current season played in the Sunday Minor Cup, shall be eligible to play in the Sunday Premier Cup or Sunday Junior Cup **for the same club only**, but having done so will not be eligible to play again in the Sunday Minor Cup. A player who has in the current season played in the Sunday Junior Cup shall be eligible to play in the Sunday Premier Cup **for the same club only**, but having done so will not be eligible to play again in the Sunday Junior Cup or Sunday Minor Cup. A player who has in the current season played in the Sunday Premier Cup **cannot under any circumstances** in the current season play in either the Sunday Junior Cup or Sunday Minor Cup.

25. WORCESTERSHIRE FA SUNDAY WOMEN'S CUP

a) Eligible Teams (Rule 4 and the following)

- i) Teams must participate in a recognised affiliated Women's Football League.
- ii) Teams affiliated to Worcestershire FA competing in Leagues not affiliated to Worcestershire FA **must** compete in the appropriate Cup Competition of this Association otherwise they shall not be permitted to enter any other Cup Competitions which are **external** to the League(s) in which the club will be in membership for the ensuing season.

b) The Draw (Rule 5 and the following)

- i) Teams at Tier 5 and above shall enter at the Quarter Final stage. All teams Tier 6 and below shall enter the Preliminary Round and play such rounds so that the required number of teams join the available places in the Quarter Final after teams at Tier 5 and above have been entered.
- ii) The kick-off time is 2:00pm.

c) Provisions concerning qualification of Players (Rule 12 and the following)

- i) A maximum of **5** substitutes may be nominated whose names shall be given to the Referee prior to the commencement of the match. A team may at its discretion use up to 5 substitute players at any time in a match. Any substitution can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission, except to replace a player who has been suspended from the game by the Referee after play has commenced. **A player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace another player at any time**, subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game.
- ii) Substitutes as per clause i) above shall be considered to have participated in that match for qualification purposes and therefore are not entitled to play for another club or team in the Competition in the same season.
- iii) In all rounds of each Competition a bona-fide player is one who has been registered with their team in a league in which their team competes in the current season at least **14 clear days** prior to the date on which the match is played, or a registered player, as above, who has played in a match in a recognised affiliated competition for their team prior to the date on which the match is played. In exceptional circumstances a player who does not qualify under this Rule may be granted permission to play by the Officers of Worcestershire FA on behalf of the Council.
- iv) If a player has not played in a previous round of this competition, to be eligible to play in the Final they must have been registered with their team at least 28 days clear and played in a minimum of 4 league or internal cup matches prior to the date fixed for playing the Final. Should a player not meet this criteria permission may be sought from the Council. The names of all players proposing to compete in the Final of each competition shall be sent by the Secretary of each competing club to their opponents and also Worcestershire FA to be received at least 7 days prior to the date of the Final. Failing this a club shall be liable to be fined. Any player not listed on this submission shall not be eligible to play in the Final unless dispensation has been requested by the club no less than before 12 noon on the last working day (Monday to Friday) prior to the Final.

26. WORCESTERSHIRE FA YOUTH CUPS

a) Eligible Teams (Rule 4 and the following)

i) Teams must participate in a recognised affiliated League at the relevant age group.

b) The Draw (Rule 5 and the following)

i) Midweek U18 Competition matches must kick-off between 7:30pm and 7:45pm

ii) Saturday Youth Competition matches must kick-off between 9:15am and 11:30am

iii) Sunday Youth Competition matches must kick-off between 12:00 noon and 2:30pm

iv) For the **Midweek U18 Cup only**, where a Worcestershire FA primary affiliated team is drawn against a non-primary Worcestershire FA affiliated team the match will be reversed if the playing ground of the non-primary Worcestershire FA affiliated team is not within the Worcestershire County boundary.

v) A size 4 football will be used for all Under 14 Cups. A size 5 football will be used for all Under 15, Under 16 and Under 18 Cups.

c) Provisions concerning qualification of Players (Rule 12 and the following)

i) A maximum of **5** substitutes may be nominated whose names shall be given to the Referee prior to the commencement of the match. A team may at its discretion use up to 5 substitute players at any time in a match. Any substitution can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission, except to replace a player who has been suspended from the game by the Referee after play has commenced. **A player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace another player at any time**, subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game.

ii) Substitutes as per clause i) above shall be considered to have participated in that match for qualification purposes and therefore are not entitled to play for another club or team in the Competition in the same season.

iii) In all rounds of each Competition a bona-fide player is one who has been registered with their team in a league in which their team competes in the current season at least **14 clear days** prior to the date on which the match is played, or a registered player, as above, who has played in a match in a recognised affiliated competition for their team prior to the date on which the match is played. In exceptional circumstances a player who does not qualify under this Rule may be granted permission to play by the Officers of Worcestershire FA on behalf of the Council.

iv) If a player has not played in a previous round of this competition, to be eligible to play in the Final they must have been registered with their team at least 28 days clear and played in a minimum of 4 league or internal cup matches prior to the date fixed for playing the Final. Should a player not meet this criteria permission may be sought from the Council. The names of all players proposing to compete in the Final of each competition shall be sent by the Secretary of each competing club to their opponents and also Worcestershire FA to be received at least 7 days prior to the date of the Final. Failing this a club shall be liable to be fined. Any player not listed on this submission shall not be eligible to play in the Final unless dispensation has been requested by the club no less than before 12 noon on the last working day (Monday to Friday) prior to the Final.

v) The Sunday Youth Competitions are not linked in any way with the Saturday or Midweek Youth Cup Competitions.