

**THE EMIRATES FA CUP
SEASON 2025-26
LIST OF EXEMPTIONS**

44 CLUBS EXEMPT TO THIRD ROUND PROPER (*Premier League & EFL Championship*)

AFC Bournemouth	Fulham FC	Preston North End FC
Arsenal FC	Hull City	Queens Park Rangers FC
Aston Villa FC	Ipswich Town FC	Sheffield United FC
Birmingham City FC	Leeds United AFC	Sheffield Wednesday FC
Blackburn Rovers FC	Leicester City FC	Southampton FC
Brentford FC	Liverpool FC	Stoke City FC
Brighton & Hove Albion FC	Manchester City FC	Sunderland AFC
Bristol City FC	Manchester United FC	Swansea City FC
Burnley FC	Middlesbrough FC	Tottenham Hotspur FC
Charlton Athletic FC	Millwall FC	Watford FC
Chelsea FC	Newcastle United FC	West Bromwich Albion FC
Coventry City FC	Norwich City FC	West Ham United FC
Crystal Palace FC	Nottingham Forest FC	Wolverhampton Wanderers FC
Derby County FC	Oxford United FC	Wrexham AFC
Everton FC	Portsmouth FC	

48 CLUBS EXEMPT TO FIRST ROUND PROPER (*EFL 1 & 2*)

Accrington Stanley FC	Crawley Town FC	Notts County FC
AFC Wimbledon	Crewe Alexandra FC	Oldham Athletic FC
Barnet FC	Doncaster Rovers FC	Peterborough United FC
Barnsley FC	Exeter City FC	Plymouth Argyle FC
Barrow AFC	Fleetwood Town FC	Port Vale FC
Blackpool FC	Gillingham FC	Reading FC
Bolton Wanderers FC	Grimsby Town FC	Rotherham United FC
Bradford City FC	Harrogate Town AFC	Salford City FC
Bristol Rovers FC	Huddersfield Town FC	Shrewsbury Town FC
Bromley FC	Leyton Orient FC	Stevenage FC
Burton Albion FC	Lincoln City FC	Stockport County FC
Cambridge United FC	Luton Town FC	Swindon Town FC
Cardiff City FC	Mansfield Town FC	Tranmere Rovers FC
Cheltenham Town FC	Milton Keynes Dons FC	Walsall FC
Chesterfield FC	Newport County AFC	Wigan Athletic FC
Colchester United FC	Northampton Town FC	Wycombe Wanderers FC

24 CLUBS EXEMPT TO FOURTH ROUND QUALIFYING (*Step 1 of The FA National League System*)

Aldershot Town FC	FC Halifax Town	Southend United FC
Altrincham FC	Forest Green Rovers FC	Sutton United FC
Boreham Wood FC	Gateshead FC	Tamworth FC
Boston United FC	Hartlepool United FC	Truro City FC
Brackley Town FC	Morecambe FC	Wealdstone FC
Braintree Town FC	Rochdale AFC	Woking FC
Carlisle United AFC	Scunthorpe United FC	Yeovil Town FC
Eastleigh FC	Solihull Moors FC	York City FC

48 CLUBS EXEMPT TO SECOND ROUND QUALIFYING (*Step 2 of The FA National League System*)

AFC Fylde	Bath City FC	Chesham United FC
AFC Telford United	Bedford Town FC	Chester FC
AFC Totton	Buxton FC	Chippenham Town FC
Alfreton Town FC	Chelmsford City FC	Chorley FC

Curzon Ashton FC
Dagenham & Redbridge FC
Darlington FC
Dorking Wanderers FC
Dover Athletic FC
Eastbourne Borough FC
Ebbsfleet United FC
Enfield Town FC
Farnborough FC
Hampton & Richmond Borough FC
Hemel Hempstead Town FC
Hereford FC

Hornchurch FC
Horsham FC
Kidderminster Harriers FC
King's Lynn Town FC
Leamington FC
Macclesfield FC
Maidenhead United FC
Maidstone United FC
Marine FC
Merthyr Town FC
Oxford City FC
Peterborough Sports FC

Radcliffe FC
Salisbury FC
Scarborough Athletic FC
Slough Town FC
South Shields FC
Southport FC
Spennymoor Town FC
Tonbridge Angels FC
Torquay United FC
Weston Super Mare FC
Worksop Town FC
Worthing FC

88 CLUBS EXEMPT TO FIRST ROUND QUALIFYING *(Step 3 of The FA National League System)*

AFC Sudbury
Alvechurch FC
Ashton United FC
Aveley FC
Bamber Bridge FC
Banbury United FC
Barwell FC
Basingstoke Town FC
Berkhamsted FC
Billericay Town FC
Bishop's Stortford FC
Bracknell Town FC
Brentwood Town FC
Bromsgrove Sporting FC
Burgess Hill Town FC
Bury Town FC
Canvey Island FC
Carshalton Athletic FC
Chatham Town FC
Chertsey Town FC
Cheshunt FC
Chichester City FC
Cleethorpes Town FC
Cray Valley (PM) FC
Cray Wanderers FC
Dartford FC
Dorchester Town FC
Dulwich Hamlet FC
Evesham United FC
Farnham Town FC

FC United of Manchester
Folkestone Invicta FC
Gainsborough Trinity FC
Gloucester City FC
Gosport Borough FC
Guiseley AFC
Halesowen Town FC
Hanwell Town FC
Harborough Town FC
Hashtag United FC
Havant & Waterlooville FC
Hebburn Town FC
Hednesford Town FC
Hungerford Town FC
Hyde United FC
Ilkeston Town FC
Kettering Town FC
Lancaster City FC
Leek Town FC
Leiston FC
Lewes FC
Morpeth Town FC
Needham Market FC
Plymouth Parkway FC
Poole Town FC
Potters Bar Town FC
Prescot Cables FC
Quorn FC
Ramsgate FC
Real Bedford FC

Redditch United FC
Royston Town FC
Rushall Olympic FC
Sholing FC
Spalding United FC
St Albans City FC
St Ives Town FC
Stamford AFC
Stocksbridge Park Steels FC
Stockton Town FC
Stourbridge FC
Stratford Town FC
Taunton Town FC
Tiverton Town FC
Uxbridge FC
Walton & Hersham FC
Warrington Rylands FC
Warrington Town FC
Welling United FC
Weymouth FC
Whitby Town FC
Whitehawk FC
Widnes FC
Wimborne Town FC
Wingate & Finchley FC
Worcester City FC
Workington AFC
Yate Town FC

49 CLUBS EXEMPT TO PRELIMINARY ROUND *(Step 4 of The FA National League System)*

Anstey Nomads FC
Ascot United FC
Avro FC
Barton Rovers FC
Basford United FC
Beckenham Town FC
Belper Town FC
Biggleswade Town FC
Bishop's Cleeve FC
Blyth Spartans AFC
Bognor Regis Town FC

Bowers & Pitsea FC
Brightlingsea Regent FC
Carlton Town FC
Chasetown FC
Congleton Town FC
Corby Town FC
Dunston FC
Emley AFC
Exmouth Town FC
Felixstowe & Walton United FC
Flackwell Heath FC

Frome Town FC
Hadley FC
Hanworth Villa FC
Hastings United FC
Hayes & Yeading United FC
Hendon FC
Hitchin Town FC
Kingstonian FC
Long Eaton United FC
Lowestoft Town FC
Malvern Town FC

Margate FC
Marlow FC
Matlock Town FC
Merstham FC
Mickleover FC
Nantwich Town FC

Newton Aycliffe FC
Sittingbourne FC
Sporting Khalsa FC
Stalybridge Celtic FC
Swindon Supermarine FC
Thame United FC

Tilbury FC
Vauxhall Motors FC
Waltham Abbey FC
Winchester City FC

*There will be **127** Step 4 Clubs that are not exempt to the Preliminary Round and will instead enter the Competition in the Extra Preliminary Round.*

*These Clubs will be the **32** newly promoted Clubs from Step 5 and also the **95** lowest ranked Step 4 Clubs not relegated.*

*The **95** lowest ranked Step 4 Clubs shall comprise of **12** Clubs from seven of the eight Step 4 Leagues and **11** Clubs from the one remaining Step 4 League, from season 2024-25.*

(32) Step 5 Promoted Clubs

AFC Portchester
AFC Whyteleafe
Bedfont Sports FC
Blyth Town FC
Bourne Town FC
Brantham Athletic FC
Brixham FC
Bury FC
Crowborough Athletic FC
Downham Town FC
Egham Town FC

Fareham Town FC
Faversham Town FC
Hallam FC
Hartpury University FC
Hassocks FC
Jersey Bulls FC
Lichfield City FC
Lincoln United FC
London Lions FC
Lower Breck FC
Milton Keynes Irish FC

Portishead Town FC
Redcar Athletic FC
Rugby Borough FC
Shifnal Town FC
Silsden AFC
Sporting Club Inkberrow FC
St Neots Town FC
Stanway Rovers Community FC
Takeley FC
VCD Athletic FC

(95) Step 4 Lowest Ranked (2024-25)

AFC Croydon Athletic
AFC Dunstable
AFC Rushden & Diamonds
Ashford United FC
Ashington FC
Atherton Collieries FC
Aylesbury United FC
Bashley FC
Beaconsfield Town FC
Bedworth United FC
Bideford AFC
Biggleswade FC
Binfield FC
Bishop Auckland FC
Boldmere St Michaels FC
Bootle FC
Bradford (Park Avenue) FC
Bridlington Town AFC
Brighouse Town AFC
Bristol Manor Farm FC
Broadbridge Heath FC
Cambridge City FC
Clitheroe FC

Coleshill Town FC
Concord Rangers FC
Consett AFC
Coventry Sphinx FC
Darlaston Town FC
Deal Town FC
Didcot Town FC
East Grinstead Town FC
Eastbourne Town FC
Enfield FC
Erith Town FC
Falmouth Town AFC
Garforth Town FC
Gorleston FC
Grays Athletic FC
Grimsby Borough FC
Harrow Borough FC
Hartley Wintney FC
Heaton Stannington FC
Herne Bay FC
Hertford Town FC
Heybridge Swifts FC
Horndean FC

Kidsgrove Athletic FC
Larkhall Athletic FC
Leatherhead FC
Leighton Town FC
Leverstock Green FC
Littlehampton Town FC
Loughborough Students FC
Maldon & Tiptree FC
Melksham Town FC
Metropolitan Police FC
Mildenhall Town FC
Moneyfields FC
Mossley AFC
Mousehole FC
Newcastle Town FC
Newmarket Town FC
North Ferriby FC
Northwood FC
Ossett United FC
Pontefract Collieries FC
Racing Club Warwick FC
Rayners Lane FC
Raynes Park Vale FC

Redbridge FC
Rugby Town FC
Runcorn Linnets FC
Sevenoaks Town FC
Shaftesbury FC
Sheppey United FC
Shepshed Dynamo FC
South Park (Reigate) FC
Southall FC

Stafford Rangers FC
Stotfold FC
Sutton Coldfield Town FC
Tavistock AFC
Three Bridges FC
Trafford FC
Walthamstow FC
Ware FC
Wellingborough Town FC

Welwyn Garden City FC
Westbury United FC
Westfield FC
Willand Rovers FC
Witham Town FC
Witton Albion FC
Wroxham FC
Wythenshawe Town FC