

**THE EMIRATES FA CUP  
SEASON 2026-27  
LIST OF EXEMPTIONS**

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

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

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

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

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

AFC Fylde	FC Halifax Town	Solihull Moors FC
Aldershot Town FC	Forest Green Rovers FC	Southend United FC
Altrincham FC	Gateshead FC	Sutton United FC
Barrow AFC	Harrogate Town AFC	Tamworth FC
Boreham Wood FC	Hartlepool United FC	Wealdstone FC
Boston United FC	Hornchurch FC	Woking FC
Carlisle United AFC	Kidderminster Harriers FC	Worthing FC
Eastleigh FC	Scunthorpe United FC	Yeovil Town FC

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

AFC Telford United	Braintree Town FC	Chorley FC
AFC Totton	Buxton FC	Dagenham & Redbridge FC
Bedford Town FC	Chelmsford City FC	Darlington FC
Billericay Town FC	Chesham United FC	Dorking Wanderers FC
Brackley Town FC	Chester FC	Dover Athletic FC

Ebbsfleet United FC  
Farnborough FC  
Farnham Town FC  
Folkestone Invicta FC  
Hampton & Richmond Borough FC  
Harborough Town FC  
Hebburn Town FC  
Hednesford Town FC  
Hemel Hempstead Town FC  
Hereford FC  
Horsham FC

King's Lynn Town FC  
Macclesfield FC  
Maidenhead United FC  
Maidstone United FC  
Marine FC  
Merthyr Town FC  
Morecambe FC  
Oxford City FC  
Radcliffe FC  
Salisbury FC  
Scarborough Athletic FC

Slough Town FC  
South Shields FC  
Southport FC  
Spalding United FC  
Spennymoor Town FC  
Tonbridge Angels FC  
Torquay United FC  
Truro City FC  
Walton & Hersham FC  
Weston Super Mare FC  
Worksop Town FC

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

AFC Whyteleafe  
Alfreton Town FC  
Alvechurch FC  
Anstey Nomads FC  
Ashton United FC  
Aveley FC  
Avro FC  
Bamber Bridge FC  
Banbury United FC  
Basingstoke Town FC  
Bath City FC  
Berkhamsted FC  
Bishop's Stortford FC  
Bracknell Town FC  
Brentwood Town FC  
Bromsgrove Sporting FC  
Burgess Hill Town FC  
Bury FC  
Bury Town FC  
Carshalton Athletic FC  
Chatham Town FC  
Chertsey Town FC  
Cheshunt FC  
Chichester City FC  
Chippenham Town FC  
Cleethorpes Town FC  
Cray Wanderers FC  
Curzon Ashton FC  
Dartford FC  
Dulwich Hamlet FC

Eastbourne Borough FC  
Emley AFC  
Enfield Town FC  
Evesham United FC  
FC United of Manchester  
Frome Town FC  
Gainsborough Trinity FC  
Gloucester City FC  
Gosport Borough FC  
Guiseley AFC  
Halesowen Town FC  
Hanwell Town FC  
Hanworth Villa FC  
Havant & Waterlooville FC  
Hitchin Town FC  
Hyde United FC  
Ilkeston Town FC  
Kettering Town FC  
Lancaster City FC  
Leamington FC  
Leatherhead FC  
Leek Town FC  
Leighton Town FC  
Leiston FC  
Lewes FC  
Maldon & Tiptree FC  
Malvern Town FC  
Needham Market FC  
Peterborough Sports FC  
Plymouth Parkway FC

Poole Town FC  
Quorn FC  
Racing Club Warwick FC  
Ramsgate FC  
Real Bedford FC  
Redcar Athletic FC  
Redditch United FC  
Rushall Olympic FC  
Sholing FC  
St Albans City FC  
Stamford AFC  
Stanway Rovers FC  
Stockton Town FC  
Stourbridge FC  
Stratford Town FC  
Taunton Town FC  
Three Bridges FC  
Uxbridge FC  
Warrington Rylands FC  
Warrington Town FC  
Welling United FC  
Whitby Town FC  
Whitehawk FC  
Wimborne Town FC  
Wingate & Finchley FC  
Worcester City FC  
Workington AFC  
Yate Town FC

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

AFC Croydon Athletic  
AFC Portchester  
AFC Sudbury  
Barwell FC  
Basford United FC  
Belper Town FC  
Biggleswade FC  
Biggleswade Town FC  
Bishop's Cleeve FC  
Bootle FC  
Bradford (Park Avenue) FC  
Canvey Island FC

Carlton Town FC  
Coleshill Town FC  
Cray Valley (PM) FC  
Dorchester Town FC  
Dunston FC  
Egham Town FC  
Felixstowe & Walton United FC  
Gorleston FC  
Harrow Borough FC  
Hashtag United FC  
Heaton Stannington FC  
Hertford Town FC

Hungerford Town FC  
Jersey Bulls FC  
Lichfield City FC  
Lower Breck FC  
Margate FC  
Matlock Town FC  
Moneyfields FC  
Morpeth Town FC  
Pontefract Collieries FC  
Potters Bar Town FC  
Prescot Cables FC  
Redbridge FC

Royston Town FC  
Runcorn Linnets FC  
Shaftesbury FC  
Shephed Dynamo FC  
Sittingbourne FC  
Southall FC

St Ives Town FC  
Stalybridge Celtic FC  
Stocksbridge Park Steels FC  
Thame United FC  
Tiverton Town FC  
Vauxhall Motors FC

Waltham Abbey FC  
Ware FC  
Westfield FC  
Weymouth FC  
Winchester City FC

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*There will be **123** 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 **91** lowest ranked Step 4 Clubs not relegated.*

**The 91 lowest ranked Step 4 Clubs shall comprise of 12 Clubs from three of the eight Step 4 Leagues and 11 Clubs from the five remaining Step 4 Leagues, from season 2025-26.**

**(32) Step 5 Promoted Clubs**

1874 Northwich FC  
AFC Stoneham  
Ashford Town (Middx) FC  
Barnstaple Town FC  
Beverley Town FC  
Boston Town FC  
Buckhurst Hill FC  
Cobham FC  
Coventry United FC  
Fakenham Town FC  
Grantham Town FC

Guisborough Town FC  
Hanley Town FC  
Haringey Borough FC  
Horley Town FC  
Little Oakley FC  
Liversedge FC  
Mulbarton Wanderers FC  
Nuneaton Town FC  
Padiham FC  
Paulton Rovers FC  
Peacehaven & Telscombe FC

Portland United FC  
Punjab United FC  
Slimbridge FC  
Steyning Town FC  
West Auckland Town FC  
Whitstable Town FC  
Windsor & Eton FC  
Winslow United FC  
Worcester Raiders FC  
Wythenshawe FC

**(91) Step 4 Lowest Ranked (2025-26)**

AFC Rushden & Diamonds  
Ascot United FC  
Ashford United FC  
Ashington FC  
Atherton Collieries FC  
Aylesbury United FC  
Barton Rovers FC  
Beaconsfield Town FC  
Bedfont Sports FC  
Bedworth United FC  
Bideford AFC  
Binfield FC  
Blyth Spartans FC  
Bognor Regis Town FC  
Boldmere St Michaels FC  
Bourne Town FC  
Bowers & Pitsea FC  
Bridlington Town FC  
Brightlingsea Regent FC  
Bristol Manor Farm FC  
Broadbridge Heath FC  
Cambridge City FC  
Chasetown FC  
Clitheroe FC  
Concord Rangers FC  
Congleton Town FC  
Consett AFC

Corby Town FC  
Crowborough Athletic FC  
Deal Town FC  
Didcot Town FC  
Eastbourne Town FC  
Erith Town FC  
Exmouth Town FC  
Falmouth Town FC  
Faversham Town FC  
Flackwell Heath FC  
Garforth Town FC  
Grays Athletic FC  
Grimsby Borough FC  
Hadley FC  
Hallam FC  
Hartley Wintney FC  
Hartpury FC  
Hastings United FC  
Hayes & Yeading United FC  
Hendon FC  
Herne Bay FC  
Kidsgrove Athletic FC  
Kingstonian FC  
Larkhall Athletic FC  
Leverstock Green FC  
Lincoln United FC  
Littlehampton Town FC

London Lions FC  
Long Eaton United FC  
Loughborough Students FC  
Lowestoft Town FC  
Marlow FC  
Melksham Town FC  
Merstham FC  
Mickleover FC  
Milton Keynes Irish FC  
Mossley FC  
Nantwich Town FC  
Newcastle Town FC  
Newmarket Town FC  
North Ferriby FC  
Ossett United FC  
Raynes Park Vale FC  
Rugby Borough FC  
Sevenoaks Town FC  
Sheppey United FC  
Shifnal Town FC  
Silsden AFC  
South Park (Reigate) FC  
Sporting Club Inkerrow FC  
Stafford Rangers FC  
Stotfold FC  
Sutton Coldfield Town FC  
Swindon Supermarine FC

Takeley FC  
Tilbury FC  
Walthamstow FC  
Wellingborough Town FC

Welwyn Garden City FC  
Westbury United FC  
Willand Rovers FC  
Witham Town FC

Witton Albion FC  
Wroxham FC