

# THE FA CUP, FA TROPHY, FA VASE AND FA YOUTH CUP

## SEASON 2026-27

### TERMS & CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. Applications received after the closing date may not be accepted.
2. Each Club applying to enter must complete all aspects of the application in full.
3. A Club must be a member of The Football Association and/or affiliated to a County Football Association to take part in any Competition.
4. Any Club that is removed or withdrawn from a relevant League during the season may be subject to removal from the FA Competition(s) in which it competes. In addition, a Club playing at Steps 1 to 4 of the National League System for season **2026-27** that does not hold a Licence in accordance with FA Regulations and League Rules may not be entitled to enter and or participate in any FA Competition(s) for that season.
5. Acceptance of an application shall be notified by email and publication on [www.TheFA.com](http://www.TheFA.com) (in early-mid July **2026**). Refusal of an application to enter a Competition shall be notified separately by email.
6. By entering the Competition(s) specified in this application, each Club agrees to be bound by and comply with the Rules for the relevant Competition as are determined by the Council of The Football Association from time to time. As part of these Rules, each Club acknowledges and agrees that:
  - a) The entire ownership, organisation, control and management of each Competition is vested in The Football Association.
  - b) The relevant Board has the power to formulate the rules of the Competition and to alter or add to the rules as they, from time to time, see fit.
  - c) The relevant Board shall appoint a Committee to control and manage each of the Competitions on its behalf and to give decisions on matters arising in the Competitions.
  - d) The Football Association shall be entitled to enter into contracts with third parties in relation to the Competition, including in relation to broadcasting by any media and sponsorship and other commercial matters, which shall be binding on each Club. Each Club acknowledges and agrees that The Football Association has exclusive rights to grant broadcast rights to third parties and to grant access to a Club's ground for broadcasting purposes.
  - e) The information provided in the Club's application must be complete and accurate. In the event that this is subsequently found not to be the case then The FA reserves the right to refuse an application, remove the Club from the Competition(s) and take disciplinary action against the Club.
7. Attention is drawn to **Rule 291 (FA Cup) & Rule 6 (FA Trophy, FA Vase & FA Youth Cup)** which relates to the dual interest and associations. Should any of the relevant circumstances exist at the time of the Club's application, then these must be recorded on the Club's application by answering "Yes" at Question 10. Should there be any change in the Club's circumstances in this regard after the application has been submitted, then these changes or new circumstances must be notified to The FA Competitions Department immediately for consideration.
8. Attention is drawn to **Rule 21, 22 & 33 of The FA Cup Competition Rules.**
  - (21) On or before 1 April, a Club competing in the Premier League, EFL or at Steps 1 to 5 of the National League System that wishes to participate in the Competition in the following Season must complete the online application and payment process (details of which will be provided by The Association from time to time).
  - (22) By the closing date specified, an applicant Club must have the following documentation in place and make it available to The Association upon request:
    - 22.1 annual accounts prepared in accordance with The Association's Rules in force from time to time;
    - 22.2 up-to-date Memorandum of Association, Articles of Association and/or Club rules (where applicable); and
    - 22.3 details of the Club Bank Account.
  - (33) Where a Club that is either a Full Member Club or Associate Member Club fails to pay The Association's membership subscriptions (in accordance with The Association's Rules) by 1 July immediately preceding the current Season, the Club may be subject to removal from the Competition by the Professional Game Board.
- 8(i) Attention is drawn to Rule 6 of The FA Trophy, FA Vase & FA Youth Cup Competition Rules.
  - (a) A Club wishing to participate in the Competition must complete the application and payment process on or before 1 April in the season previous to the season in which such Club proposes to compete in the Competition. A Club that is either a Full or Associate Member of The Association who fail to pay The Association's Membership subscriptions by 1 August may be subject to removal from the Competition.
  - (b) Clubs entering the Competition will be required, on the closing date for entries to have the following in place:
    - Annual accounts prepared in accordance with the Rules of The Association as are in force from time to time.
    - An up to date set of Memorandum and Articles/Club Rules.
    - A bank account in the name of the legal entity of the Club entered into the Competition.

Clubs may be required to provide evidence of the above to The Association at any stage. Clubs found to have failed to adhere to these Regulations may be subject to sanction by The Association.