

THE FA SUNDAY CUP

SEASON 2026-27

ENTRY CRITERIA

Participation in The FA Sunday Cup Competition 2026-27 will follow the same format as the 2025-26 season. Under the current structure, a maximum of 128 Clubs can be accepted.

Participation in the Competition shall ONLY be open to Clubs competing in the **top Division** of a Sunday League for season **2026-27** that is sanctioned by The Association or an affiliated Association.

The National Game Board may reject the application of any Club to participate in the Competition at its entire discretion.

There will be a match grant provided by The FA to Clubs for all matches up to and including the Quarter Final. The purpose of the match grant payment will be a contribution to assist towards any match expenses incurred rather than covering the full amount.

The match grant amounts for distribution are still to be determined for season **2026-27**. **Payments will only be applicable for matches which have been played and will only be paid to each Club within fourteen working days of the completion of the round.**

MINIMUM GROUND STANDARDS

1. In all rounds of the Competition matches must be played on a ground which fully conforms to a **Grade 6 of The FA's Stadium Accreditation criteria (appropriate to Step 6 of The FA National League System) or higher.**

2. The consumption of alcohol in the ground or premises during the period of a match shall be subject to the terms of the Club licence agreement and the Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol) Act 1985 and/or any successor legislation.

Glasses, Glass bottles or cans containing alcohol are not permitted outside of the Clubhouse and must not be brought into grounds.

3. Artificial pitches are permitted providing they meet the minimum standards set by FIFA, in accordance with Competition Rule 13.