

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

THE WOMEN'S FA CUP

SEASON 2026-27

ENTRY CRITERIA

Participation in the Competition shall be open to the first team only from Clubs competing in a **Tier 6 League or above**, as set out in the Women's Football Pyramid Regulations, which has been sanctioned by The Association or an affiliated Association for season 2026-27.

Participation in The Women's FA Cup Competition is currently under review by The FA. In the meantime, the Competition will broadly replicate the format used for the 2025–26 season.

Clubs at Tier 7 of the Women's Football Pyramid will not be automatically accepted and will be notified separately by The FA if their application has been successful.

If places are available in the Competition for Tier 7 Clubs, allocation will be based on merit, determined by each Club's points-per-game record at Tier 7 of the Women's Football Pyramid from the previous season.

Applications from Clubs affiliated to off-shore Associations will be considered on an annual basis and if accepted special provisions may apply to such Clubs.

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

MINIMUM GROUND STANDARDS

- a) A ground staging a match in all rounds **up to and including the Second Round Proper** must fully conform to the requirements of **Women's Grade E** which are the ground grading requirements applicable for Tier 5 of the Women's Football Pyramid.
 - b) A ground staging a match **in the Third Round Proper** must fully conform to the requirements of **Stadium Accreditation Grade 5** which are the ground grading requirements applicable for Tier 4 of the Women's Football Pyramid.
 - c) A ground staging a match **in the Fourth Round Proper up to and including the Semi Final** must fully conform to the requirements of **Stadium Accreditation Grade 4** which are the ground grading requirements applicable for Tier 3 of the Women's Football Pyramid.
2. The Women's Football Board shall have the power to order that any match be played on an alternative ground or date, other than a Sunday, if it is considered appropriate and necessary.
3. Artificial pitches will be permitted in The Women's FA Cup provided the pitch is listed on The Associations register of 3G football turf pitches and with the prior consent of The Association.