

# Rules of the Under 18, Under 16, Under 15, Under 14 Under 13 and Under 12 Cups.

*2011-12 changes appear in bold type*

## **1. Name**

The Competition shall be called "The Hunts County Youth Under ..... Years Cup, as determined by the County Association.

## **2. Eligible Clubs**

All Clubs registered with the County F.A. having teams playing in a youth competition shall be required to compete in an appropriate Hunts County Youth Cup Competition.

## **3. Entry Fee**

The entry fee shall be as per the Schedule payable at the time of application on a date stated by the County Secretary.

## **4. Control**

Control of all County Youth Competitions shall be vested in the Council of the Hunts F.A.

## **5. Trophy Ownership**

The Trophy is the property of the "Huntingdonshire Football Association Ltd". When the winning Club has been ascertained the Cup shall be handed to the representative of the Club on the understanding that within three days of its receipt a properly stamped agreement subscribed by three persons) be sent to the Association as follows:

We ..... Secretary ..... Chairman and ..... being members of the ..... Football Club having been declared winners of the Hunts County Youth Under ..... Years Cup, and having the same delivered to us by ..... the Secretary of the Association or his authorised representative do hereby declare on behalf of the said Club, individually and co-jointly to return same in good order and condition, on or before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of January next, or at any time when called upon by him to do so, failure to comply could render the club liable to a fine at the discretion of the Council, and if the said trophy be destroyed or damaged by fire or any other cause or lost while in our care we agree to refund the Association with the amount of its cost through repair or its current value.

## **6. Souvenirs**

In addition to the Trophy, the Association shall present souvenirs to the players taking part in the Final tie. When a player taking part is ordered to leave the field for

any misconduct, the souvenir to which he may be entitled may be withheld at the discretion of the Council.

## **7. Colours**

- (a) All Clubs on entering the competition shall notify the Secretary of the Association of their colours. Where competing colours are similar, the Club which has been drawn away shall change.
- (b) No Club shall be permitted to register or play in shirts the colour of which is likely to cause confusion with the outfits worn by the match officials (i.e. black or dark blue)
- (c) In Semi-Final and Final ties where the colours of competing Clubs are similar both Clubs must change unless alternative arrangements are mutually agreed by the competing Clubs, and colours notified to the Association. In the event of the Clubs not agreeing upon the colours to be worn by their respective teams the Association shall decide.
- (d) Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from other players in the match and the match officials. [The goalkeeper may not wear a black jersey or a predominantly black jersey]
- (e) The players' shirts must be clearly numbered in accordance with the list handed to the match referee before the match and there must be no change of numbers during the match except for a change of goalkeeper or if permitted by the match referee because of a blood injury.
- (f) Failure to comply with the provisions of rule 7 will result in a fine not exceeding as per the schedule.

## **8. Qualification and Registration of Players**

- (a) In all Rounds of the Competition a player shall be a "registered player" of his club under the rules of the Competition.
  - (i) A "registered player" is one who is registered with a League in which his club competes in the current season, and where necessary registered with a specific team of the club. Any such registration must have been received and accepted by the League by 12 noon the day before the date fixed for the playing of the match, and the registration must be continuous through to the date of the match.
  - (ii) A player shall be deemed to be registered when his club is in possession of a written acknowledgement from the registering authority.
  - (iii) In order to be eligible to play in the Semi-Final, the players must have been correctly registered by 12 noon the day before the date fixed for the playing of the match. In order to play in the Final, the players must have been correctly registered and eligible for the Semi-Final.
  - (iv) Where a club enters more than one team in a cup, the teams must be identified with the suffix in which the team is registered with its League.

(v) Players will be recognised as being registered for a team of a club and may only play for that team except as permitted in (vi) below.

(vi) A player will be eligible to play in a County Cup if he has been transferred to another of his Club's teams or to another club, provided that he has taken no part in any previous match in the Competition either as a player or as a substitute. Any such transfer must have been made in accordance with the rules of the League in which the club competes, and must have been duly completed by 12 noon of the day prior to the date fixed for the playing of the match.

- (b) In the case of postponed or replayed matches only those players shall be allowed to play who were eligible on the original date fixed for playing the round.
- (c) A player who has been suspended may play in postponed or replayed ties providing his term of suspension has expired.
- (d) No player may play in more than one age group in the competition in the same season.
- (e) No player may play for more than one Club in the competition in the same season.
- (f) In accordance with the Regulations of The Football Association Programme for Excellence, any player who is registered with any Academy or a Centre of Excellence shall be ineligible to participate in the Competition.
- (g) If the Council has any doubts as to the Qualification of any players taking part in this competition, they shall have the power to call upon such players or club to which he belongs to prove that he is qualified, according to the rules and failing such satisfactory proof, the Council may disqualify such player and remove the club from the competition, or order the games to be replayed or award the match to the opponents, and may impose a fine not exceeding as per the Schedule.

(h) (i) ***Under 18 Cup***

Only those players are eligible to take part who have reached the age of 15 years by midnight on 31 August of the current season and not reached the age of 18 years as at midnight on 31 August of the current season. **(For season 2011/12 a player must have been born on or after 1 September 1994 and on or before 1 September 1997)**

(ii) ***Under 16 Cup***

Only those players are eligible to take part who have reached the age of 13 years by midnight on 31 August of the current season and not reached the age of 16 years as at midnight on 31 August of the current season. **(For season 2011/12 a player must have been born on or after 1 September 1995 and on or before 1 September 1998)**

(iii) ***Under 15 Cup***

Only those players are eligible to take part who have reached the age of 12 years by midnight on 31 August of the current season and not reached the age of 15 years as at midnight on 31 August of the current season. **(For season 2011/12 a player must have been born on or after 1 September 1996 and on or before 1 September 1999)**

(iv) ***Under 14 Cup***

Only those players are eligible to take part who have reached the age of 11 years by midnight on 31 August of the current season and not reached the age of 14 years as at midnight on 31 August of the current season. **(For season 2011/12 a player must have been born on or after 1 September 1997 and on or before 1 September 2000)**

(v) ***Under 13 Cup***

Only those players are eligible to take part who have reached the age of 11 years by midnight on 31 August of the current season and not reached the age of 13 years as at midnight on 31 August of the current season. **(For season 2010/11 a player must have been born on or after 1 September 1998 and on or before 1 September 2001)**

(vi) ***Under 12 Cup***

Only those players are eligible to take part who have reached the age of 11 years by midnight on 31 August of the current season and not reached the age of 12 years as at midnight on 31 August of the current season. **(For season 2011/12 a player must have been born on or after 1 September 1999 and on or before 1 September 2002)**

## **9. Substitutes for U12, U13, U14, U15 & U16 County Cups**

- (a) A Club may at its discretion use five (5) substitute players from five (5) nominated substitutes at any time in the match, except to replace a player who has been dismissed from the field of play by the Referee for misconduct after play has commenced.
- (b) The substitution can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission.

Note: For teams in the under 16 age group and below, a player who has been substituted himself becomes a substitute and may replace another player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

## **10. Substitutes for the U18 County Cup**

- (a) A Club may at its discretion use three (3) substitute players from five (5) nominated players at any time in the match, except to replace a player who has been dismissed from the field of play by the Referee for misconduct after play has commenced.

- (b) The substitution can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission.

### **11. Technical Area**

Where provision exists at the ground on which the match is to be played of a trainers bench and technical area the following rules shall apply:-

- (a) The number of Clubs players and officials seated on the team benches in the designated technical area, must not exceed 11 unless the team bench facility provides for more than 11 individual seats. The Home Club must ensure that a technical area is marked around each designated seating area.
- (b) Only one person at a time has the authority to convey tactical instructions to the players during the match. The International FA Board (IFAB) have agreed that “provided they behave in a responsible manner, one person be permitted to remain in the technical area and no longer be required to return to their position on the bench after conveying tactical instructions”.
- (c) All team officials and substitutes seated on the bench shall be listed on the official sheet when it is handed to the Match Officials. Only those persons listed on the official sheet shall be permitted in the technical area.
- (d) The occupants of the technical area must behave in a responsible manner at all times. Misconduct by occupants of this area will be reported by the Referee.
- (e) The coach and other officials must remain within its confines except in special circumstances, for example, a physiotherapist or doctor entering the field of play, with the referee’s permission, to assess an injured player.

### **12. Objection to Qualification**

No protest shall be entertained unless written notice containing particulars of the ground of complaint be lodged with the Association Secretary (and the Secretary of the opposing Club) within three days (72 hours) of the match (Sundays not included). Each protest must be accompanied by a fee as per the Schedule. This fee if the protest is not upheld may be forfeited to the funds of the Hunts F.A., and whether or not the protest is upheld the Council of Emergency Committee shall have power to say which party shall pay such expenses incurred. In the case of postponed or replayed matches the above periods of time shall be observed so far as circumstances permit.

### **13. Disqualifications**

The Council shall have power to disqualify any competing Club, or Player or Players for any competing Club, who may be proved to be guilty of any breach of the Rules of the Association.

## 14. Fixtures

- (a) The competition shall be on the English system to be decided by drawing. No club shall be allowed more than one bye in the competition. "The Laws of the Game" shall be those governing Association Football. **Up to and including the semi finals the Clubs first drawn shall have the choice of ground. The Final tie will be played on a ground chosen by the Association.**
- (b) (i) The Council shall fix the dates by which various rounds of the competition shall be played and also the kick off times. **(The Association Standard Day and Time of kick off is Sundays at 10.30Hrs.)**
- (ii) Clubs requesting a change to the scheduled date and or time of kick off of a match, must submit such request in writing to the County Secretary no later than 7 days prior to the scheduled date and or time of kick off subject to the provisions of rule 14(b)(iv). Any request for such change must be made having received the agreement of their opponents.
- (iii) Any team not on the field of play at the time stated for kick off shall be fined a sum no exceeding as per the Schedule unless a satisfactory explanation is furnished. The referee's decision as to the times of the teams arrival onto the field of play shall be final. But he shall acquaint each captain prior to the kick off.
- (iv) A match may be played on a midweek evening under floodlights provided that permission is sought in writing from the County Secretary at least 14 days prior to the original scheduled date of the match. Both teams must be in agreement to play the match under floodlights. Any such change of date of a match must be on a date prior to the originally scheduled match date. It shall be the responsibility of the home team to inform the opponents and match officials(s) of such changes if approved by the County Secretary.
- (c) (i) Unless permission is given by the County Secretary, all fixtures must be played on the dates given, re-arranged matches must be played within seven days on the ground of the team first drawn or as decided by the Council. Should the ground be unavailable, the County Secretary will decide as to the date and venue.
- (ii) If the Team's ground provider insists on a pm kick off, the match shall be in accordance with the provisions of the ground provider. Such change of kick off time must be notified in writing to the County Secretary, opponents and match official(s) no later than 7 days prior to scheduled date of the match.

## 15. Duration of play in all rounds of the competition shall be: -

- (a) Under 10 - 11 30 minutes each half  
Under 12 - 14 35 minutes each half  
Under 15 - 16 40 minutes each half  
Under 17 - 18 45 minutes each half
- (b) Size 4 footballs shall be used in all matches up to and including U14s, size 5 footballs in all other age groups.

- (c) In the event that the scores at the end of the second half are level extra time of ten minutes each way in all matches up to age U16 shall be played and in the case of the U18 Cup 15 minutes each way. If the scores are still level after Extra Time, kicks from the penalty mark will take place to obtain the winner.
- (d) In the event of a match not being completed and neither Club being at fault, the match shall be replayed on the ground of the Club first drawn or as the decided by the Council.
- (e) In the Final match the duration of the match shall be as indicated in the Rules of the Competition and Extra Time must be played as stated above. If the scores are still level after Extra Time, kicks from the penalty mark will take place to obtain the winner. In the event of the Final not being completed and where neither Club is at fault the match shall be replayed on a ground to be determined by the Council.
- (f) Any match abandoned through the fault of one or both clubs shall be dealt with by the Council.

## **16. Provisions Concerning Referees and Assistant Referees**

- (a) Referee's shall be appointed by the Association. Club Assistant Referees must be appointed by each club for the entire game up to the semi-final.
- (b) Assistant Referees may be appointed by the Association for the semi-finals.
- (c) Where the Association does not appoint Assistant Referees, Club Assistant Referees must be appointed. Assistant Referees and a Fourth Official shall be appointed by the Association for the finals.
- (d) The Secretary of the Home Club must confirm the match details to the Referee and Assistant Referees where applicable at least three (5) days prior to the day of the match. If Match Officials are not informed they must report this failure to the Secretary of the Association. Failure to comply by the Home Secretary will result in a Fine as per the Schedule.
- (e) Where the appointed Match Officials fail to appear, the Clubs must mutually agree for a person to officiate the match in order for the match to be played on the day.
- (f) Match Officials should at all times report to the appointed match unless directed otherwise by the Association or the Home Club's Secretary or their appointed representative.
- (g) Referee and Assistant Referees where appointed should be at the ground at least 45 minutes before the kick-off, failure may result in a Fine as per the Schedule.
- (h) The Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches, and each Club, which is custodian of its own ground must take every precaution to keep its ground in good condition, and if necessary, either Clubs may require the Referee to visit the ground (or a Referee within the vicinity) at least two hours before the time advertised for the kick-off.

- (i) A club which hires a ground may require the Referee to visit the ground (or a Referee within the vicinity) at least two hours before the time advertised for the kick-off. But should the custodian of the ground withdraw permission for the ground to be used then the game shall be postponed.
- (j) In extreme weather conditions or circumstances the county secretary or his designated representative has the authority to postpone the game.
- (k) Each Club must hand copies of a list of name(s) of players taking part in a match [including the name(s) and numbers of the nominated substitute(s)] to the referee and a representative of their opponents in the presence of the Referee at least 30 minutes before the scheduled time of the kick off. The players' numbers and the colours of the playing strip must be clearly stated. Any Club in breach of this rule may be fined in accordance with the schedule of fines.
- (l) Any Club altering its team selection or numbering after team sheets have been exchanged may be fined at the discretion of the Council.
- (m) A Player who is named on the teamsheet exchanged under this rule may be replaced without fine if he is injured warming up after the exchange of teamsheets. Such alteration must be advised to the Referee and opponents before the commencement of the match.
- (n) In matches prior to the final tie, the fee and expenses payable to the Referee shall be as per the Schedule and paid by the home Club.
- (o) Where Assistant Referees are appointed, the fees and expenses shall be payable as per the Schedule, fees and expenses payable to the Referee and Assistant referees shall be shared equally by both the home and away club. It shall be the responsibility of the home club to pay such fees and expenses to the match officials immediately after the match. In the final officials shall receive a souvenir.
- (p) Result of the match together with the names of the players participating in the match shall be forwarded by first class post to reach the County Secretary within four days of the game. Both the home team and the away team must telephone the match result to the Association Secretary or his nominated deputy within two hours of the end of the game. Failure to observe the rule will render the defaulting club liable to be fined a sum as per the Schedule.
- (q) In the event of any match in any of the Competitions not being played or if it is not completed (i.e. where full ordinary time has not been played or the prescribed period of extra time has not been started or completed or a prescribed penalty competition has not been played), both Clubs concerned shall telephone such details to the County Cup Results Line no later than two hours after the time that the match was called off or ended and must send a written report of circumstances to the County Secretary to reach him no later than 72 hours after the time fixed for the match. Any Club failing to telephone details to the result line and/or submit a report shall be fined as per the schedule.

## **17. Objections and Protests**

- (a) All questions relating to matches, the qualification of competitors, or interpretation of the Rules, or any dispute, protest or complaint whatever, shall be referred to the Council, whose decision shall be final and binding on both Clubs.
- (b) Every protest or complaint whatever kind must be made in writing and must contain the particulars of the grounds upon which it is founded. Two copies of the protest or complaint must be lodged with the Secretary of the Association, accompanied by a fee as per the Schedule within two days of the match to which it relates, Sunday excluded. The fee shall be forfeited to the Association in the event of the protest not being sustained or the complaint considered unreasonable.
- (c) The Council may order any Club engaged in the dispute, protest or complaint to pay such sum as may be considered necessary towards defraying the expenses incurred.
- (d) Any protest relating to the ground, goal posts, cross bars, or other appurtenances of the game, shall not be entertained by the Council unless notice with the particulars has been given to the Club immediately it comes to their knowledge and an objection has been lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the match. The Referee shall require the responsible Club to remove the cause of objection if this is possible without unduly delaying the progress of the match.
- (e) When an objection has been lodged with the Referee, a protest must be made to the Association, and no objection or protest shall be withdrawn except by leave of the Council.
- (f) In dealing with any protest, the Council may take into consideration the possession by the protesting Club of any knowledge, which, if properly used, might obviate the protest.
- (g) The Secretary of the Association shall send a copy of the protest and particulars to the Club protested against.
- (h) Each Club may support its case by witnesses.
- (i) If a member of the Council is connected with a Club concerned in a dispute or protest, he shall not sit on the Council while the dispute or protest is being considered.

## **18. Teams Withdrawing**

Any team withdrawing from the competition after the draw has been made shall be fined a sum as per the Schedule.

## **19. Power of Council**

The Council shall have the power to deal with any matter not provided for within these rules.

## **20. Trophy Ownership**

The trophy shall be a challenge trophy and shall never be won outright.

**21. Breach of Rules**

Any breach of these rules shall be liable to disciplinary action by the County F.A.

**22. Rules**

The rules as herein printed shall be circulated to all Officers and Member Clubs of the Huntingdonshire Football Association Limited.