



Rules of the Benevolent Cup

Text in bold italics denotes changes to the rules from last season.

1. Name

The Competition shall be called "The Hunts FA Benevolent Challenge Cup".

2. Cup Ownership

The Cup 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:-

WeSecretary Chairman
Andbeing members of the
Football Club having been declared winners of the Hunts FA Benevolent 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 engage to return same to the Secretary of the Association for the time being, in good order and condition, on or before the 2nd Monday of January next, failure to comply could render the Club liable to a fine at the discretion of the Council, or at any time when called upon by him to do so; any claim not recognised by the Insurance Company we agree to refund the Association with the amount of its current value or cost of thorough repair.

3. Souvenirs

In addition to the Cup, 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.

4. Control

The Council of the Huntingdonshire Football Association Limited shall have the power to alter or add to the Rules of the Competition as they may from time to time deem expedient.

5. Competition - Eligible Clubs

The Competition shall be on a knock-out basis. It shall be open to bona-fide Clubs affiliated to the County Association, subject to the approval of the Council. A player who has played in a recognized Senior Cup Competition shall not during that season play in this competition.

A player who has taken part in his club's senior team more than twice in the 6 games preceding the cup tie shall not be eligible to play in that cup tie.



6. Entry Application - Date and Entry

Each Club's entry fee for the competition shall be made in writing on the form 'A' to the Secretary of the Association on or before May 31st in each year together with an entrance fee as per the Schedule.

Any withdrawal after entry has been accepted will be liable to a fine not exceeding as per the Schedule.

7. Colours

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. **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)**

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.

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]**

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. Failure to comply with the provisions of rule 7 will result in a fine not exceeding as per the schedule.

8. Provision Regarding Qualifications of Players

- (a) A Player shall not in the same season of this Competition play for more than one competing Club.
- (b) **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 either, in the case of a player under written contract, registered with The Football Association or, in the case of a player without a written contract, registered with a League in which his club competes in the current season. Any such registration must have been received and accepted by The Football Association or 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.

- (c) 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.
- (d) A player who has been suspended may play in postponed or replayed tie **providing** the term of his suspension has expired.
- (e) A player who has played in the Senior Challenge Cup previously in the season shall be ineligible to play in the Benevolent Cup.
- (f) A player who has played more than twice for the first team of a club in the six games preceding the Cup tie in a recognised Senior Competition shall not be eligible to play in the tie.
- (g) If the Council have any doubts as to the qualifications of any players taking part in this competition, they shall have power to call upon such players or Club to which he belongs, or for which he played to prove that he is qualified according to the Rules and failing such satisfactory proof the Council may disqualify such player, and may remove the Club from the Competition, order the game to be replayed or awarded to the opponents and may impose a fine not exceeding as per the Schedule.

For information

Where a player plays for his club in the Premier Cup, Scott Gatty Cup, Junior Cup or Lower Junior Cup this does not make a player ineligible to play for the club in the Benevolent Cup.

9. 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 FA, 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.

10. 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.



11. System of Competition

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.

12. Date of Play

The Council shall fix the date by which various rounds of the Competition shall be played and also the times of kick-off.

For matches played on grounds that have floodlights, the time for kick off for matches played on a Saturday will be 3.00pm.

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. Any request for such change must be made having received the agreement of their opponents.

Any team not on the field of play at the time fixed for the kick-off shall be fined to a sum not exceeding as per the Schedule unless satisfactory explanation is furnished.

The Referee's decision as to the time of the teams' arrival on the field of play shall be final, but he shall acquaint each captain prior to the kick-off.

The council shall have the power to arrange for any Cup fixture to be played under floodlights

13. Short Teams

The Referee shall report any team failing to field a full side to the Secretary of the Association, and any Club guilty of fielding less than 11 bona-fide players will be fined as per the Schedule for each man short.

14. Notice of Result

- (a) Notice of result of each match together with the full names of competing players and the Referee mark shall be sent by each Club to reach the County Secretary within 3 days of the match. Both the Home and Away Clubs shall telephone the result of the match within two hours of the end of the match to the County Secretary, failing to abide by this Rule the defaulting Club shall be fined as per the Schedule.
- (b) ***In the event of any match in the Competition 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 report of circumstances in writing 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.***



15. Ground for Cup Ties

The playing ground for Cup Ties shall not measure more than 130 yards in length, and 100 yards in breadth, and not less than 100 yards in length and 50 yards in breadth.

Goal nets must be used in all matches. Clubs must make arrangements to restrain Spectators from encroaching within one yard of the touchline. The Clubs first drawn shall have the choice of ground. Any Club, refusing or failing to play the Club against which it is drawn, within the time intimated to it, shall be dealt with by the Council, and any Club refusing to play shall be required to pay all expenses connected therewith.

16. Proceeds

Proceeds of each match shall be taken by the Home Club who shall be responsible for all matches expenses. For matches arranged by the Council, the profit or loss to be added or deleted from the County fund after payment of officials and hire of ground.

17. Duration of Play

- (a) Duration of play in all matches shall be of 90 minutes. An extra 15 minutes each way must be played in all drawn matches. If the scores are still level after extra time, kicks from the penalty mark will take place to obtain a winner.
- (b) 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 decided by the Council.**
- (c) In the event of the Final not being completed **where** neither Club is at fault, the match shall be replayed on a ground to be determined by the Council.
- (d) **Any Match abandoned through the fault of one or both clubs shall be dealt with by the Council.**

18. Substitutes

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.

Substitutes shall be nominated to the Referee prior to the commencement of the game.

A substitution can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission.

Only three substitutions by each side will be permitted in any match



19. Technical Area

- (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.***

20. 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 witness.
- (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.

21. Provisions Concerning Referees and Assistant Referees

The Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches, and each Club 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 Level 5 or above Referee within the vicinity) at least two hours before the time advertised for the kick-off.

The Council or Referees Committee shall appoint for each round, Semi-Finals and Final a registered Referee and Assistant Referee of the Hunts, or any other Association. In the Final, a Fourth Official will be appointed who will carry out the duties as set out in the Laws of the Game. The Secretary of the Home Club must confirm the match details to the Referee and Assistant Referees where applicable at least three (3) 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. 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. 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.

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.

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.

Any Club altering its team selection or numbering after team sheets have been exchanged may be fined at the discretion of the Council. 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.

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.

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.

The Referee and Assistant Referee shall be entitled to the second class fare (actually paid) or travelling by cycle, motor car or other conveyance he shall be paid as per the Schedule.

Referees and Assistant Referees appointed for any round, Semi-Final or Final ties must acknowledge receipt accepting or otherwise within three days, failure to comply, the match will be re-appointed.

Referees and Assistant Referees appointed to the Final tie shall be awarded replicas, plus travelling expenses as per the Schedule or second class fare actually paid, by the Association.

In cases where the Referee and Assistant Referee travels to a ground and the fixture is not played for any reason, he shall be entitled to his travelling expenses and half the match fee.

Should a Referee for any reason be unable to complete the match his place shall be taken by the Senior Assistant Referee. The Senior Assistant Referee shall then be considered the appointed Referee for the remainder of the match.

Clubs shall provide separate dressing room accommodation for Officials in all cases where possible. ,

Failure of the Referee or Assistant Referee (after having accepted the appointment) to turn up at the match and without furnishing a satisfactory explanation, shall be dealt with under FA Rule E1-E2 "Definition of Misconduct".

In matches other than the Final and Semi-Finals, both Clubs shall provide a competent Club Assistant Referee who shall not be a nominated substitute, the trainer or manager for the whole match.

22. Provision for Scratching from the Competition

- (a) Any Club intending to scratch must give information of its intention to do so to the Secretary of the opposing Club not less than eight days before the date fixed for playing.
- (b) A Club failing to comply with this rule shall be reported to the Council who shall have the power to take such action as they deem expedient.



- (c) Clubs failing to give a satisfactory reason for scratching without first obtaining the consent of the Council shall be dealt with at the discretion of the Council and be liable to a fine as per the Schedule.
 - (d) In the Semi-Final and Final Ties any club failing to play, without showing a good and sufficient cause for such failure to play, may be adjudged by the Council to have been guilty of serious misconduct, and liable to be dealt with under FA. Rule E1-E2.
- 23.** The Council shall have the power to deal with any matter not provided for within the foregoing Rules.
- 24.** The Cup shall be a Challenge Cup and shall never be won outright.
- 25.** The Rules as herein printed shall be circulated to all Officers and Clubs of the Huntingdonshire Football Association Limited.



**FOR THE ATTENTION OF ALL
CLUB SECRETARIES
AND
TEAM MANAGERS**

The Council of the Association have given instruction that all enquiries relating to the clarification of Cup Rules and / or the eligibility of players are to be submitted in writing to the County Secretary, who in turn will reply in writing.

Do not telephone the Association Office seeking such clarification, Association Staff have been instructed to respond to all such enquiries advising that such enquiries must be submitted in writing to the County Secretary as above.

By order of the Council of the Association