

## THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION RULES

### 1. TITLE

The Competition shall be known as The Scottish Football League Challenge Cup or by any other title given to it by The Scottish Football League Board or Committee of Management (herein "Board") from time to time.

### 2. BOARD POWERS

The Board shall have full power to conduct and control the Competition and amend the Competition Rules as appropriate.

### 3. FORMAT

The Competition shall be contested by the clubs in the First, Second and Third Divisions in the current season and at the sole discretion of the Board two Clubs from any other league recognised by the SFA from time to time (a "Recognised League"). No later than the AGM before the start of the Competition the Board shall decide at its sole discretion whether to invite two Clubs from any other Recognised League to join the Competition. The selection process by which Clubs will be so invited shall be decided by the Board whose decision shall be final and binding on all parties concerned. All decisions made by the Board shall be made at its sole discretion.

**3.1** The ballot for the First Round shall be made in two regional sections and so arranged that a combination of ties and byes will produce sixteen clubs to compete in the Second Round (i.e. 14 Ties and 2 Byes). The clubs will be balloted in pairs and these clubs will play a single tie on the ground of the first club named. The fourteen winning clubs will qualify to play in the Second Round.

**3.2** For the Second Round, the fourteen winning clubs from the First Round and the two clubs which received a bye in the First Round shall be made in two regional sections and so arranged that a combination of ties and byes will produce eight clubs to compete in the Third Round. The clubs will be balloted in pairs and these clubs will play a single tie on the ground of the club first named and the eight winning clubs will qualify to play in the Third Round.

**3.3** For the Third Round, the eight winning clubs from the Second Round shall be inserted into a ballot and drawn in pairs. The clubs will play a single tie on the ground of the club first named and the four winning clubs will qualify to play in the Semi-Final Round. This procedure will be repeated in the Semi-Final Round until two clubs qualify for the Final Tie.

**3.4** In all rounds, including the Semi-Final and Final Rounds, if the scores are equal at the end of ninety minutes, an extra thirty minutes will be played and, if still undecided, the winner shall be ascertained by taking kicks from the penalty mark as laid down by the International Football Association Board.

**3.5** In the event that the Competition is contested by Clubs in the First, Second and Third Divisions and 2 other Clubs from other Recognised Leagues then the ballot for the First Round shall be made in two regional sections and so arranged that a combination of ties will produce 16 Clubs to compete in the Second Round. For the Second Round the 16 winning teams from the First Round shall be made in to regional sections and so arranged that a combination of ties will produce 8 Clubs to compete in the Third Round. For the Third Round the 8 winning teams from the Second Round shall be inserted into a ballot and drawn in pairs. Except as herein provided the remaining provisions of Rules 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 will apply.

**4. DATES FOR TIES**

All ties will be played on dates decided by the Board. The venue for the Final Tie will be decided by the Board.

**5. DISLOCATION OF MATCHES**

Dislocation of matches, from any cause whatever, shall be immediately reported to the Chief Executive by the club(s) concerned, and it shall be the duty of the Home or ground Club in each instance to notify immediately the appointed match officials of such dislocation.

**5.1** The Home or ground Club must similarly advise the match officials as soon as possible of all the relevant details concerning the re-arrangement of the dislocated match.

**5.2** Any club without just cause failing to fulfil its fixture obligations in respect of a Cup match on the appointed date or dates shall be liable to be disqualified and/or subject to such other punishment as the Board may determine.

**5.3** The club failing to fulfil its obligations under this Rule 5 shall be liable to pay compensation for any expenses incurred as a direct result of the failure. The amount of compensation will be decided by the Board.

**5.4** It is the responsibility of the Home or ground Club to ensure that a qualified medical practitioner, or failing which, a qualified paramedic, is in attendance throughout the match.

**6. SUBSTITUTE PLAYERS**

**6.1** A Club may at its discretion use three from up to five nominated substitutes. In the event that five substitutes are nominated, one of their number must be a goalkeeper.

**6.1.1** The substitution can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the referee has given permission.

**6.1.2** The substitute players must be nominated in accordance with this Rule 6 and in any case prior to the commencement of the game.

**6.1.3** Not more than three substitutes from each Club shall warm up on the pitch perimeter at any one time.

- 6.2** Clubs must hand copies of a list of names of players participating in any Cup match (including the names of the nominated substitutes) to the referee and a representative of its opponents in the presence of the referee sixty minutes before the advertised time of kick-off.
- 6.3** Any Club failing to carry out these provisions will be dealt with at the discretion of the Board.
- 6.4** Any substitutions during the match must be recorded by the Club on the substitution slips and handed to a match official prior to each substitution taking place.
- 6.5** Should any nominated player or substitute sustain an injury or due to extenuating circumstances be unable to participate after the submission of the list of players to the referee and prior to kick-off, he may be replaced at the discretion of the referee provided the opponents are informed prior to kick off. Any alterations made to a completed list of players pursuant to Rule 6.2 must be formally endorsed in writing by an Official and signed by the referee as evidence of his consent pursuant to this Rule 6.5.

## **7. CLUB COLOURS**

When two competing Clubs having the same or similar first choice colours engage in a Challenge Cup match, the Visiting Club shall play in its second or third choice playing kit which must be different and distinct from the Home Club's first choice playing kit. At least 48 hours prior to all matches in the various rounds of the Cup Competition, excluding the Final Tie, the competing Clubs shall establish written contact with each other and the match referee to advise of the exact colours and description of the respective Clubs' playing kits. In the event of a clash of colours on match day and the Visiting Club not having with them their second/third choice registered playing kit, then the Visiting Club will require to play in the Home Club's second/third choice registered jerseys and/or shorts and/or socks.

- 7.1** Both Clubs shall change under similar circumstances, when playing on a neutral ground.
- 7.2** In the event of any dispute with regard to the playing kit to be worn by either Club, the referee's decision shall be final.
- 7.3** Goalkeepers shall wear colours which distinguish them from the other players and from the referee.
- 7.4** The players' jerseys and shorts must be clearly numbered and the numbers must be distinct in colour from the remainder of the players' kit.
- 7.4.1** The numbers must appear on the back of the players' jerseys and must be not less than 25 cms in height. The numbers of the players' shorts must appear on the leg and must be not less than 10 cms in height.

**7.4.2** Those players participating in the match shall be numbered one to eleven in accordance with the list handed to the referee before the match and the substitutes numbered from twelve onwards.

**7.4.3** There must be no change of numbers during the match except on a change of goalkeeper.

## **8. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS**

Players taking part in the Competition must be registered in terms of Scottish Football League Rules as appropriate save as outlined in Rule 8.3 below.

**8.1** No Club shall play, or list as a named substitute, any player (including a trialist) who, in the same season, has already played or been a named substitute for another Club in the Competition.

**8.2** It shall be the responsibility of each Club participating in the Competition to ensure that its players (including trialists) are eligible to play in any Challenge Cup match. If a player (including a trialist) participates in a Challenge Cup match, such player being ineligible to play in the Cup match as a result of his suspension by The Scottish Football Association or for any other reason, the Club for which the player participates in the Challenge Cup match shall be liable to such penalty as the Board may decide.

**8.3** In the First Round only, each Club shall be entitled to play, or list as a named substitute, up to a maximum of two trialists, despite the trialists not being registered in terms of Scottish Football League Rules provided the trialists are otherwise eligible to do so. Clubs playing a trialist in these circumstances must indicate the fact by adding the words “not registered” after such player’s name and address, place and date of birth, previous club, and the country in which he last played, in the list of players in their Report of Result of the game.

**8.4** Any Club infringing this Rule may be disqualified from the Competition and the tie awarded to its opponent.

## **9. ADMISSION MONEY AND SHARE OF GATES**

**9.1** Where First, Second and Third Division clubs are in opposition, the Board Minimum Recommended Prices of Ground Admission shall be those charged by the club in the higher division.

**9.2** In all rounds of the Competition, excluding the Final Tie, clubs shall only be entitled to deduct a limit of 10% of the total number of spectators admitted to the match in the Competition subject to such limit not exceeding 1,000 persons. The numbers in excess of this figure must be returned in the gross gate and divided in the ratio 75% adult and 25% juvenile and senior citizens of the Board Minimum Recommended Prices of Ground Admission with the visiting club. In the Final Round of the Competition, after paying match

expenses, 5% of the net receipts will be deducted by the League and the sum of £5,000 or 10% of the remaining balance, whichever is the greater, will be deducted and paid to the club providing the neutral venue. The remaining receipts shall be divided equally between the two competing clubs. The allowance to be paid to the club providing the neutral venue shall be calculated on the entire receipts for the Stands, Enclosures and Ground Admissions after providing for the aforementioned deductions so far as is applicable to such ground.

## **10. FINANCIAL RECORDS**

All clubs shall keep detailed financial records and the Board may arrange for an inspection of all such records with particular reference to turnstile arrangements.

## **11. TROPHY**

The winners of the Challenge Cup shall hold the trophy and when it is handed over to the winner, that Club shall grant an obligation to return same to the Chief Executive if and when required and in any case prior to the commencement of the next season's Competition in the like good order and condition in which it was received.

**11.1** It shall be the responsibility of the winning Club to arrange appropriate insurance cover for the trophy throughout the period when it is held by the Club.

**11.2** The winners and runners-up in the Competition will receive such awards as the Board may decide.

**11.3** The Board has full discretion to refuse to present a player of a Member Club with an award (including a medal, trophy, token or other form of prize), which represents their achievement as runner-up and to which they would otherwise be entitled to receive, at any time after the official presentation of such award if the player refused or failed to collect the award at the appropriate time of its presentation.

## **12. GENERAL**

Any matter not covered by the above Rules shall be determined by the Board generally along the lines of The Scottish Football League Cup Competition.

### **THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION BOARD MINIMUM RECOMMENDED PRICES OF GROUND ADMISSION**

First Division £12.00 Juveniles and Senior Citizens £6.00

Second Division £10.00 Juveniles and Senior Citizens £5.00

Third Division £9.00 Juveniles and Senior Citizens £4.50