

COUNTY CUP RULES

NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

1. (A) This Competition shall be designated the Essex County Football Association Cup Competition and shall consist of teams of Clubs affiliated to the Essex County Football Association (the Association).
- (B) Clubs whose parent Association is the Essex County Football Association shall be eligible to enter the Competitions listed under Rule 12(A). Additionally, the Council may, at its discretion, accept an entry from any Club whose parent Association is another recognised Football Association and is in membership of the Essex County Football Association, provided the assent of the parent Association is given. The Council shall have the power to reject any entry as they see fit.
- (C) All Senior affiliated Clubs at Step 6 and above whose Parent Association is the ECFA shall enter the Essex Senior Challenge Cup. Additionally, the Council may, at its discretion, accept an entry from any Senior Club whose Parent Association is another recognised Football Association and is in membership of the ECFA, provided the consent of the Parent Association is given. Any Club in the Premier League or Football League desiring to be exempt from competing in the Essex Senior Challenge Cup shall, in lieu of competing, contribute the sum of £1,000 to the funds of the Association. The claim for exemption, together with the sum of £1,000, shall be forwarded to the ECFA office by the first day of July, previous to the season in which the Club claims exemption.
- (D) In all Competitions it is expected matches will be played on grounds within the geographical County of Essex, as defined in Association Rule 1. Only in exceptional circumstances may permission be granted by the Council for matches to be played outside of this area.

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

2. (A) Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition must be made in writing to the Association and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee, as decided by the Directors, on the form provided by the Association.
- (B) The entry fee shall be payable on or before the 1st July in each year.

OFFICERS

3. The Officers of the Competition shall be determined by the Association Council (Council).

MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

4. (A) The Competition shall be governed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association by the Council. All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by The Association from time to time.
- (B) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their Secretary.

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

5. (A) The Council may appoint sub-committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary.
- (B) The Council shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition, including any not provided for in the Rules.

With the exception of Rules where there is a set penalty, for all breaches of Rule a formal written charge must be issued. The respondent shall be given seven days from the date of notice to reply to the charge and given the opportunity to:-

- (i) Accept or deny the charge
- (ii) Submit in writing a case of mitigation, or
- (iii) Put their case before the Council.

(C) All decisions of the Council shall be final and binding.

Decisions of the Council must be notified in writing to those concerned within seven days.

(D) A Club having failed to comply with an order or instruction of the Council, or failing to satisfactorily attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition, shall be liable to be fined or otherwise penalised at the discretion of the Council.

(E) All fines and charges shall be paid within 14 days of the date of posting of the written notification.

Any Club failing to do so will be fined £20. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional sum within 14 days will result in a further £20 fine being added. Should the fine and additional sums not be paid within a further 7 days the Club will be placed under a Sine Die Suspension.

(F) The business of the Competition as determined by the Council may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6. Not in Use

AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

7. The Club shall confirm they shall conform to the Rules and Regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Council, by completing the form provided for entry to the Competition.

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

8. (A) Contract players, as defined in Football Association Rules, are permitted in this Competition. A contract player may only play for the Club that holds his contract.

(B) A registered playing member of a Club is one who, being in all other respects eligible, is a bona fide members of the Club and [i] in the case of a player under written contract, is registered with The Football Association, or [ii] in the case of a player without a written contract, is registered for the Club with the League in which the Team competes, in the current season.

For all Senior Challenge Cup matches, up to and including the Semi-Final tie, all registrations must have been received by the League and/or The Football Association by 12 noon on the day prior to the date originally fixed for the match. In order to be eligible for the final tie, players must have been correctly registered and eligible for the Semi-Finals round of the Competition.

In all other Competitions:

Preliminary and First Rounds: Each player shall be registered with the appropriate Saturday/Sunday Competition as defined in Rule 12(F) at least seven days prior to the date of the match.

Second Round: Each player must be registered with the appropriate Saturday/Sunday Competition as defined in Rule 12(F) at least fourteen days prior to the date of the match.

Third and Subsequent Rounds: Each player shall be registered with the appropriate Saturday/Sunday Competition as defined in Rule 12(F) at least twenty-eight days and played in at least two matches in the recognised Competition for said Club prior to the date of the match, during the current season.

In all Competitions, only those players eligible to have played in the previous round are eligible to play in the Semi-Final and Final ties.

In all cases, onus shall be on the Club to produce evidence of registration, if required and requested by the Council.

(C) In the Veterans Competitions only players who have attained the age of 35 years will be eligible to play.

In the Youth & Girls Competitions:

U18s Pelly Cup - all players must be under 18 as at midnight on 31st August of the current season.

U16s Cassells Cup - all players must be under 16 as at midnight of 31st August of the current season.

U15s Rosser Cup - all players must be under 15 as at midnight of 31st August of the current season.

U14s Andrews Cup - all players must be under 14 as at midnight of 31st August of the current season.

U13s Cordell Cup - all players must be under 13 as at midnight of 31st August of the current season

U12s Cup - all players must be under 12 as at midnight of 31st August of the current season

U11s Cup - all players must be under 11 as at midnight of 31st August of the current season

U16s Girls Cup - all players must be under 16 as at midnight of 31st August of the current season.

U14s Girls Cup - all players must be under 14 as at midnight of 31st August of the current season.

In accordance with the foregoing qualifications a player under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season must not play in a match where any other player is older or younger by 2 years or more.

(D) It shall be a breach of Rule for a player to play for more than one Club in any Competition in the same season.

A player, who has played in the Junior Challenge Trophy, Junior Challenge Cup, or Premier Cup, may in the same season compete in a higher status Competition.

(E) Saturday Premier Cup: A player is disqualified from playing in the Competition if, in the current season, he has played in more than eight (8) matches for a recognised First Team of a Club at Step 6 of the National League System or above.

Saturday Junior Cup, Saturday Junior Trophy and Saturday Veterans Cup: A player is disqualified from playing in these Competitions if he has played in:

(i) More than four (4) matches for a recognised first team of a Club at Step 6 of the National League System or above, or any senior representative match, in the current season.

(ii) The Essex Senior Challenge Cup, Saturday Premier Cup, or any other County Association Senior, Saturday Intermediate or Saturday Premier Cup in the current season.

A player is further disqualified from playing in the Saturday Junior Trophy if he has played in the Saturday Junior Cup, in the current season.

(F) Sunday Competitions: Players who have played in the Sunday Premier Cup may not play in the Sunday Junior Cup or Sunday Junior Trophy, in the same season. A player is further disqualified from playing in the Sunday Junior Trophy if, in the same season, he has played in the Sunday Junior Cup.

(G) Women's Competitions: Players who have played in the Women's Cup may not play in the Women's Trophy in the same season.

(H) Youth Competitions: No trainees, scholarships, contract, centre of excellence or academy registered players are eligible to play in the Youth Competitions. A player who has played in the County Association Sunday Premier Cup, Sunday Junior Cup or Sunday Junior Trophy in the same season is ineligible to play in the Youth Competitions.

(I) A Club shall keep a list of the players it registers and a record of the games in which they have played, and shall produce such records upon demand by the Council.

(J) Any Club playing an ineligible player may be fined and the Club shall be removed from the Competition.

If, upon a protest raised from a Club or otherwise, the Council has doubt as to the qualification of a player taking part in the Competition, it shall have the power to call upon such player and/or Club of which he/she is a member, or for which he/she played, to prove that he/she is qualified according to Rule 8. Failing satisfactory proof, the Council may disqualify the player and fine the Club and shall remove the Club from the Competition. In the Youth and Veterans Competitions, in the event of a protest being lodged under the age clause, the player concerned must produce the necessary birth certificate or other official documents, as appropriate.

(The following Clause applies to Competitions involving players in full-time secondary education):-

(K) (i) Priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations activities.

(ii) The availability of children must be cleared with the Head Teachers (except for Sunday Leagues).

(iii) To play open age football the player must have achieved the age of 16.

(L) In all Youth and Girls Competitions, Identity cards with current photo, duly endorsed by the respective leagues, must be exchanged before the match and returned. Defaulting Clubs shall be fined twenty pounds (£20) and may forfeit the match.

(M) In the case of a postponed or replayed tie, only those players who were eligible on the date originally fixed for the round shall be allowed to play, with the proviso that players who were eligible on the original date and who subsequently become disqualified within the terms of this Rule, shall not be permitted to play. Likewise a player who has been suspended may, if otherwise qualified, play in postponed matches after the terms of their suspension has expired.

(N) A player, who receives payment (above his allowable expenses) for playing, may play in the Saturday Premier Cup, but not in any of the Junior Competitions.

(O) A player on temporary (loan) transfer is ineligible to compete unless permission is given by the lending Club in writing and a copy is received by the Secretary of the Association by 12 noon the working day prior to the date fixed for the playing of the match. A registered trainee or a player who is registered on a scholarship may play for another Club subject to written permission being given by the Club he is registered to which must be received by the Association by 12 noon the working day prior to the date fixed for playing the Round. The Association will not give permission for players on loan to play against the lending Club.

A player recalled, at any time prior to the date of the Round, to his original Club from temporary (loan) transfer, in accordance with the terms of the loan agreement, may represent his original Club. Such player may only play in postponed and replayed matches if he had been recalled in time for the first match.

CLUB COLOURS. CLUB NAME

9. (A) In all Competitions, where the colours of the competing Clubs are similar, the away Club shall change, unless otherwise mutually agreed.

In the final tie, if the colours of the two competing teams are similar, both Clubs shall change. In the event of the Clubs not agreeing upon the colours to be worn by their respective teams, the Council shall decide.

Advertising may be worn on players' shirts where previously sanctioned by the Association.

(B) In all Competitions, numbered shirts shall be worn, which must be easily readable and recognisable. No two of the teams' shirts shall bear the same number. Teams failing to comply with this rule shall be fined ten pounds (£10).

PLAYING SEASON. CONDITIONS OF PLAY TIMES OF KICK-OFF. POSTPONEMENTS. SUBSTITUTES

10. (A) In all Competitions, except the Senior Challenge Cup, the Council shall determine the dates and times of when the matches shall be played. If the ground of the home Club is not available on the prescribed date, the choice of ground shall transfer to the away Club. In the Saturday Premier Cup, alternative dates may be arranged by the Clubs, in liaison with the Cup Officer. These may include a midweek date, if all parties mutually agree, before the fixed date.

In the Senior Challenge Cup, the Council shall determine the dates for the completion of the ties. The dates for the playing of ties up to and including the semi-finals will be mutually agreed between the two competing Clubs and are to be arranged by the date determined by the Council. The Essex County FA must have at least seven days' notice of the arranged date. The mutually agreed dates will be telephoned to the Competitions Department as soon as they have been arranged and then confirmed IN WRITING by both Clubs within three days of receiving the draw. If Clubs are unable to mutually agree on a date for the playing of the tie, the Competitions Department must be informed at once, when they will set a date for the tie to be played.

(B) All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board.

A Club shall not be able to select a ground other than that which it is accustomed to play, without the consent of the Cup Officer.

In all Competitions, the field of play shall conform to the Laws of the Game. Matches must be played on grass or any other artificial surface approved by The Football Association. Notice must be given of the playing surface. Clubs will not be able to refuse to play on artificial grass surfaces (3 or 4G).

In accordance with the Laws of the Game, the responsibility for ensuring that the appurtenances are fitted shall be that of the Club on whose ground the game is played. A fine of ten pounds (£10) shall be imposed if the appurtenances are not provided, or if they are not fitted to the satisfaction of the Referee. Goal nets must be provided. The absence of the appurtenances shall not prevent the match being played.

If a Club has any concerns over the fitness of the ground they may appeal to the Council within three days of the receipt of the official intimation of the draw. Should the appeal be upheld, the Council shall order the match to be played on the ground of the appealing Club, if suitable, otherwise on a neutral ground. If the appeal be not sustained the complaining Club may be called upon to pay the expenses incurred in deciding to appeal. Each Club must take precaution to keep its ground in playable condition. If the Cup Officer is satisfied the ground of a Club drawn at home will not be fit for play, they may order the tie to be played on the ground of the opposing Club, or any other ground that is available. The home Club will, in these circumstances, meet any cost in connection with the use of a neutral pitch. All Clubs in all Competitions are required to provide adequate changing facilities.

(C) In the Senior Challenge Cup the duration of each match shall be ninety (90) minutes, two equal periods of forty-five (45) minutes. If at the expiration of this period, the scores are equal, the result of the match shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with procedure adopted by the International Football Association Board.

(D) In all Adult Competitions, the duration of each match shall be ninety (90) minutes, two equal periods of forty-five (45) minutes or, except in the semi-final and final ties, by agreement between the competing teams, a short period of eighty (80) minutes, two equal periods of forty (40) minutes. Any such agreement must be decided prior to the commencement of the match.

If, at the expiration of this period, the scores are equal, extra time of thirty (30) minutes will be played, two equal periods of fifteen (15) minutes. If, in the opinion of the Referee, the light or other conditions will not permit the full playing time to be played, then the extra time period can be shortened to twenty (20) minutes, two equal periods of ten (10) minutes. If the scores remain equal at the end of extra time, the result of the match shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with procedure adopted by the International Football Association Board.

(E) The duration of play for:

The Pelly U18s Cup shall be forty-five (45) minutes each way. Extra time if required shall be fifteen (15) minutes each way.

The Cassells U16s, Rosser U15s and Girls U16s Cups shall be forty (40) minutes each way with extra time, if required, of ten (10) minutes each way.

The Andrews U14s, Cordell U13s and Girls U14s Cups shall be thirty-five (35) minutes each way with extra time, if required, of ten (10) minutes each way.

The U12s and U11s Cup shall be thirty (30) minutes each way with extra time, if required, of ten (10) minutes each way.

For all youth ties if, in the opinion of the Referee, light or conditions will not permit the playing of the stated normal duration of the game, playing times may be reduced by ten (10) minutes each way. If, after the playing of extra time, the scores remain equal, the result of the match will be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with procedure adopted by the International Football Association Board.

(F) Whenever extra time is necessary it must be started and completed, as detailed in Rule 10 (D) and (E).

(G) Kick-off times for the Saturday Competitions shall be: during November, December and January, 1:30pm, all other months, 2:00pm. Kick-off times for men's Sunday Competitions shall be 10:30am. Kick-off for the Women's Cup and Trophy shall be 1:30pm. If Clubs mutually agree, the kick-off may be changed. The Cup Group Officer is to be advised of the new time by the home Club.

Kick-off times for the Youth and Girls Competitions shall be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and shall be between 10:00am and 2:00pm. The Cup Group Officer must be informed of the kick-off time by the home Club. Should there be a dispute over kick-off time, the Cup Group Officer shall be sole arbiter.

Matches may be played either partly or wholly under floodlights, kick off, in the case of Saturday matches at 3:00pm or in the case of midweek matches at 7:30pm, unless mutually agreed otherwise.

(H) Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition. Any team causing a match to kick-off late in the Senior Challenge Cup shall incur a fine not exceeding fifty pounds (£50); in any other Competition and team causing a match to kick-off late shall be fined ten pounds (£10). If the allotted time for the match cannot be played, due to the late arrival of one team, the Club at fault shall forego choice of ground for the replay, unless the Committee order to the contrary.

(I) In the Senior Challenge Cup the home Club shall supply to the Referee, in his dressing room, for his approval prior to kick-off at least three match balls conforming to the Laws of the Game.

In all other Competitions, the home Club shall supply to the Referee, in his dressing room, for his approval prior to kick-off at least two match balls conforming to the Laws of the Game.

Teams failing to comply with this rule shall be fined ten pounds (£10).

(J) In all Competitions, excluding the Senior Challenge Cup, matches MUST be played on the scheduled date for the fixture or, with the agreement of the Cup Officer, may be brought forward. No match will be postponed without the prior authority of the Cup Officer, as stated on the draw sheet. The appointed Cup Group Officer will have the authority to order a change of match date, ground, kick-off time or team colours for any fixture.

The relevant Cup Officer shall, at least seven days before the dates prescribed for the ties to be played, where possible, send to all Clubs concerned details of the draw together with a result sheet.

(K) The home Club shall notify, in writing, the opposing Club, Match Officials, and ECFA Council Member, where appointed, the date of the match, kick-off time, the location, and the best way of reaching the ground and Club colours, no later than five days before the prescribed date of the tie. In the Senior Challenge Cup, the home Club shall also confirm admission charges for the match.

The away Club and Match Officials must acknowledge receipt of these particulars in writing. In the Senior Challenge Cup, the away Club shall, when confirming the match, send, not later than five days before the scheduled date of the tie, a list of probable players who will represent the Club in team list order for inclusion in the matchday programme.

In the event of the tie being postponed, it is the responsibility of the home Club to inform their opponents, if not responsible for or aware of the postponement, match official(s) and the ECFA Council Member, where appointed, of the postponement.

Any Club failing to comply with Rule 10(K) shall be liable to a fine of £20.

(L) In all Competitions, excluding the Senior Challenge Cup, each competing Club shall be represented by their full eligible strength, unless a satisfactory explanation is given.

(M) In all Competitions, providing that both teams have a minimum of eight players ready to play, one of whom is the goalkeeper, the Referee shall order the match to commence at the appointed time or as soon as possible thereafter.

In the event of a Club starting the match in the Senior Challenge Cup, with less than eleven players, they shall be liable for a fine of twenty pounds (£20) per player.

(N) All Competitions shall be decided on an elimination basis. The Council shall have power to decide whether the entrants shall be seeded and/or grouped and the stage at which such seeding and groupings shall cease to apply. The Council shall make draws for each Competition by drawing the names of the entrants in pairs, each pair being termed a "tie". In each tie the Club first drawn is referred to in these rules as the "home" Club, and shall have the choice of ground, unless mutually agreed by the Cup Officer, and the second drawn Club as the "away" Club. The Club winning the tie shall proceed to the next stage.

(O) In all Competitions, in the event of any match not being played or if it is abandoned (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 and the Referee concerned shall send a report of the circumstances to the Cup Officer with any claims for expenses arising from the match, to reach him not more than seventy-two (72) hours after the time fixed for the match.

If the reports disclose that the engagement was not fulfilled due to circumstances over which neither competing team has control, the competing teams must make arrangements for the match to be played not later than seven days after the date fixed for the match, unless otherwise ordered by the Council or Sub-Committee. If a match is postponed or abandoned in ordinary time, the choice of ground shall be that of the home Club. If a match is abandoned when extra time has not been started or has not been completed, the choice of ground shall transfer to the away Club.

If the reports disclose that one or both competing teams were at fault in not fulfilling their engagement in a match in the Senior Challenge Cup, the defaulting team(s) shall be fined a sum not exceeding one thousand pounds (£1,000) each and, in any other Competitions, the defaulting team(s) shall be fined a sum not exceeding one hundred pounds (£100) each.

The Council shall decide whether the defaulting team(s) shall be expelled from the Competition and to what extent the claims for expenses by a non-defaulting team shall be met by their opponents.

The Council shall have the power, in cases of abandoned matches, to be able to award the score at the time of the abandonment.

(P) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use 3 substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from 5 players.

In the Veterans, Youth and Girls Competitions, up to and including the Under 16s Cassells Cup and Girls U16 Cup Competitions, a player who has been substituted during the match, they become a substitute and may, in turn, replace another player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with the Laws of the Game. A team in these Competitions may use all five nominated substitutes.

(Q) The Referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than 5 minutes before the start of the match in all Competition, except the Essex Senior Challenge Cup.

In the Senior Challenge Cup all competing teams will be supplied with team sheets, which shall be submitted to the Referee and to a representative of the opposing Club in the presence of the Referee in his dressing room not later than thirty minutes before the scheduled kick-off time. The Players names shall correspond with the numbers worn by the Players. The Referee shall report any Club that fails to comply with this section of the Rule, and any defaulting Club shall be fined a sum not exceeding fifty pounds (£50). Any Club that alters the composition of its team or changes the numbers of players after the team sheets have been handed over shall incur a fine not exceeding twenty pounds (£20). Should any nominated player or substitute sustain an injury after the submission of the team sheet to the Referee and before kick-off, he may be replaced providing the Referee and opposing team are informed.

(R) A player who has been selected, appointed or named as a substitute before the start of the match but does not actually play in the game shall not be considered to have been a player in that game within the meaning of Rule 8 of this Competition.

(S) The half time interval shall be of 10 minutes duration, but it shall not exceed fifteen minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.

REPORTING RESULTS

11. (A) The Secretary of each Club shall send written notice, in block capitals, of players, including substitutes, the result of the tie, and name and initials and marking of the Referee, to the Cup Officer, as stated on the draw sheet of the Competition, on the form provided, to be received by them within three days of the playing of the tie.

(B) In all matches in the Senior Challenge Cup the home Club must telephone the result of the match to the Competitions Result Line at the Essex County Football Association on (01245) 393085 and designated press agencies, immediately after the end of the match, according to the instructions issued prior to the match. Clubs failing to comply with this rule will be fined twenty pounds (£20).

In all other Competitions, the Winning Club must telephone the result of the match to the designated Cup Officer, between the stipulated times. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule will be fined ten pounds (£10).

(C) In the Senior Challenge Cup, Clubs failing to comply with rule 11(A) shall be fined fifty pounds (£50), in all other Competitions, Clubs failing to comply with rule 11(A) shall be fined ten pounds (£10) and shall be subject to such additional fines and penalties as the Council or Sub-Committee may decide. If the tie is not played, a report giving the circumstances must be submitted by both Clubs to the Cup Officer, as stated on the draw sheet.

COMPETITION SPECIFIC INFORMATION

12. (A) The Competitions shall be as follows: Senior Challenge Cup, Saturday Premier Challenge Cup, Saturday Junior Challenge Cup, Saturday Junior Challenge Trophy, Sunday Premier Challenge Cup, Sunday Junior Challenge Cup, Sunday Junior Challenge Trophy, Women's Challenge Cup, Women's Challenge Trophy, Saturday Veterans' Challenge Cup, Sunday Veterans' Challenge Cup, Under 18s Pelly Challenge Cup, Under 16s Cassells Challenge Cup, Under 15s Rosser Challenge Cup, Under 14s Andrews Challenge Cup, Under 13s Cordell Challenge Cup, Under 12s Challenge Cup, Under 11s Challenge Cup, Under 16 Girls Challenge Cup, Under 14 Girls Challenge Cup.

(B) The Competitions will be competed for annually.

(C) In all Competitions the Council may decline entry of any Club if it deems such a course desirable, or transfer such entry to an appropriate Competition. Any Club in the Junior Cup or Trophy Competitions who have two teams eligible to play in the same Competition shall be allowed to enter their higher status team in a higher status Competition, as long as they qualify for the Competition.

(D) A team shall only be permitted to enter one Competition listed under rule 12(A). In the Youth and Girls Cup Competitions, Clubs may enter two teams in one Competition.

(E) In the Adult Competition, any Club wishing to enter their Reserve or Third Team in a Competition must enter their First and Second teams, where applicable, into the relevant County Competition.

(F) In cups (iii), (iv), (vi) and (vii), if the League reconstitutes after 1st July then any team affected may remain in the cup it entered.

(i) Senior Challenge Cup - senior Clubs affiliated to the Association who participate at Step 6 of the National League System or above.

(ii) Saturday Premier Cup - teams of Clubs who play in an affiliated Saturday league who are selected by the Council having regard to the standard of football in which the Clubs are competing.

(iii) Saturday Junior Cup - teams of Clubs who play in an affiliated Saturday league who are selected by the Council having regard to the standard of football in which the Clubs are competing.

(iv) Saturday Junior Trophy - teams of Clubs who play in an affiliated Saturday league who are selected by the Council having regard to the standard of football in which the Clubs are competing.

- (v) Sunday Premier Cup - teams of Clubs who play in an affiliated Sunday league who are selected by the Council having regard to the standard of football in which the Clubs are competing.
- (vi) Sunday Junior Cup - teams of Clubs who play in an affiliated Sunday league who are selected by the Council having regard to the standard of football in which the Clubs are competing.
- (vii) Sunday Junior Trophy - teams of Clubs who play in an affiliated Sunday league who are selected by the Council having regard to the standard of football in which the Clubs are competing.
- (viii) Women's Cup - teams of Clubs who are an affiliated Women's league who are selected by the Council having regard to the standard of football in which the Clubs are competing.
- (ix) Women's Trophy - teams of Clubs who are an affiliated Women's league who are selected by the Council having regard to the standard of football in which the Clubs are competing.
- (x) Saturday Veterans Cup - veterans teams of Clubs who play in an affiliated Saturday league.
- (xi) Sunday Veterans Cup - veterans teams of Clubs who play in an affiliated Sunday league.
- (xii) Under 18s Pelly Cup - teams of Clubs who play in an affiliated Sunday league at Under 18s or Under 17s during the season in which the team will be competing.
- (xiii) Under 16s Cassells Cup - teams of Clubs who play in an affiliated Sunday league at Under 16s during the season in which the team will be competing.
- (xiv) Under 15s Rosser Cup - teams of Clubs who play in an affiliated Sunday league at Under 15s during the season in which the team will be competing.
- (xv) Under 14s Andrews Cup - teams of Clubs who play in an affiliated Sunday league at Under 14s during the season in which the team will be competing.
- (xvi) Under 13s Cordell Cup - teams of Clubs who play in an affiliated Sunday league at Under 13s during the season in which the team will be competing.
- (xvii) Under 12s Cup - teams of Clubs who play in an affiliated Sunday league at Under 12s during the season in which the team will be competing.
- (xviii) Under 11s Cup - teams of Clubs who play in an affiliated Sunday league at Under 11s during the season in which the team will be competing.
- (xix) Under 16s Girls Cup - teams of Clubs who play in an affiliated Sunday league during the season in which the team will be competing. This Competition is subject to a minimum of eight (8) teams entering.
- (xx) Under 14s Girls Cup - teams of Clubs who play in an affiliated Sunday league during the season in which the team will be competing. This Competition is subject to a minimum of eight (8) teams entering.

REFEREES

13. (A) Registered Referees and Assistant Referees for all matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Council. In the Senior Challenge Cup, all appointed Officials must be in attendance at the match venue at least one hour before the scheduled time of kick-off.
- (B) Assistant Referees shall be appointed to all Senior Challenge Cup Matches.
- In the Saturday and Sunday Premier Cup Competitions, Assistant Referees shall be appointed to matches from the Quarter-Finals onwards.
- In all other Competitions, Assistant Referees shall be appointed to matches from the Semi-Finals.
- (C) All appointed Match Officials are required to wear the Association badge.
- (D) Officials appointed under section (A) of this rule must be neither past nor present members nor officers of the competing Clubs and should an official receive such an appointment he must immediately notify the facts to the Cup Officer.
- (E) In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed Referee the appointed senior Assistant Referee shall take charge and a substitute Assistant Referee appointed by the competing Teams. In cases where there are no officially appointed Assistant Referees, the Clubs shall agree upon a Referee. A Referee thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee.
- Clubs who default on this requirement shall be fined a sum not exceeding thirty pounds (£30) and may be removed from the Competition.
- (F) Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £10 being imposed on the defaulting Team.

In the event of the non-appearance, or injury to, an appointed Assistant Referee, a substitute Assistant Referee shall be agreed by the competing teams. Clubs who default on this requirement shall be fined a sum not exceeding thirty pounds (£30) and may be removed from the Competition.

(G) (i) The appointed Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and the decision shall be final subject to either in the case of a ground of a Local Authority or the owners of a ground, the Representative of that body is the sole arbiter and whose decision must be accepted unless the ground is declared fit for play.

(ii) In the Senior Challenge Cup no Club may postpone the playing of a cup game because of alleged unfitness of its ground. The Referee appointed for the game shall be the only arbiter on the fitness of the ground, which he will inspect before coming to a decision, unless the weather conditions and ground condition are such as to make extremely unlikely that a game could be played. In such emergency the home Club, with the permission of the Referee appointed for the game, or the Competitions Department, must arrange for an early inspection of the ground by a local Referee of a level equivalent to or higher than the appointed Referee or, by permission of the Competitions Department, one of the appointed Assistant Referees. He will give his opinion as to the fitness of the ground to the Match Referee and the Competitions Department, if the ground is then declared unfit by the Match Referee or Competitions Department for that game, the home Club must notify its opponents, Match Officials, Essex County FA Representative and Competitions Department forthwith, to avoid all unnecessary travel expenses. If the Match Referee or Competitions Department does not declare the ground unfit after considering the early inspection report, a final decision shall be made by the Match Referee on his arrival at the ground. Any Clubs failing to comply shall be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds (£50). Where a match is postponed, in accordance with this rule, it shall be played on the same ground by the Saturday of the week following that date arranged for the original match.

(H) Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be entitled to the match fees as detailed in the County Handbook.

All payments under this rule shall be made by the home Club immediately after the conclusion of the match, in the Referees' dressing room. Where there are no gate receipts, the away Club must pay the home Club fifty per cent (50%) of the payments made to the Match Officials only. Payments must be made by the away Club on the day of the match. In matches where there are gate receipts, the home Club should pay the Officials their fees, and then deduct from the gate receipts. Clubs in default shall be dealt with by the Council.

(I) In the event of a match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to half fee plus expenses. Where a match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Officials, if they attend the ground, their full fee and expenses. If neither team is present at the ground the Match Officials may submit their claims to the Cup Officer. The Council may order the defaulting team to reimburse the expenditure, or part of the expenditure, incurred.

(J) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The Football Association, award marks to the Referee for each match and the name of the Referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed Form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined or dealt with as the Council shall determine.

(K) The Referee shall submit a report Form, supplied by the Competition, giving the result of the match, the number of players in each team and the time of kick-off to the Cup Group Officer within three days of the match.

(L) The Cup Officer shall notify the Officials of their appointments and the Officials must acknowledge receipt within five days of receipt of the appointment notification.

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

14. (A) If, after having submitted an entry in accordance with the foregoing provisions, a Club desires to withdraw a team from any Competition, a written application must be sent to the relevant Cup Officer. If such application is received the Club in question will be liable for a fine. For the Senior Challenge Cup, the fine for withdrawal will be one not exceeding one thousand pounds (£1,000). For all other Competitions, the fine for withdrawal will not exceed one hundred pounds (£100), and penalties as the Council may decide.

(B) If a Club, prior to playing a match in the Competition, withdraws or has removed a team from the Competition, even though it still has a team qualified to be in that Competition, then all its teams of a lower status shall be removed from the relevant Competitions.

(C) Should any Club, owing to its suspension, or the suspension of Club members, by The Football Association or any County Football Association, be unable to play any County Cup game, they will be expelled from the relevant Competition.

PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS

15. (A)(i) All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Council.

(ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Council unless a protest is lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the match. Any Club lodging such protest and not proceeding with it shall be deemed guilty of a breach of this Rule and shall be dealt with by the Council.

(B) Except in cases where the Council decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged in duplicate with the Chief Executive of the Association within three days (excluding Sundays) of the match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Council.

(C) Any dispute occurring between Club in the Competition shall be referred for determination by the Council, whose decision shall be binding upon all parties.

(D) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Council unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Chief Executive of the Association a sum of £35. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the enquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.

(E) All protests will be dealt with as correspondence, unless either party requests a Personal Hearing. If a Personal Hearing is requested, all parties must have received seven (7) days notice of the hearing, together with a copy of the submission. When dealing with a protest or complaint the Council shall take into consideration the possession by the protesting or complaining Club of any information which, if properly used, might have avoided the protest or complaint.

BOARD OF APPEAL

16. All decisions are Final and Binding.

EXCLUSION OF CLUBS OR TEAMS MISCONDUCT, CLUBS, OFFICIALS, PLAYERS

17. Not in use.

TROPHY:- LEGAL OWNERS, CONDITIONS OF TAKING OVER, AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED, AWARDS.

18. (A) The Board of Directors of the Association shall be, for all intents and purposes, the legal owners of the cups and trophies, in trust for the Association and shall also have responsibility for the financial management of all Competitions.

(B) When the winning Club has been ascertained the Cup/Trophy shall be handed to the representatives of that Club on the understanding that within three days of its receipt an Agreement (subscribed by three persons) shall be sent to the Association as follows:

"We, AB, CD, and EF, being members of and representing the Football Club, which has now been declared to be entitled to hold an Essex County Football Association Cup/Trophy as specified and the said Cup/Trophy having been delivered to us by the said Association do hereby on behalf of the said Club individually and conjointly engage to return the same to the County Office, in good order, and condition, on or before the 1st day of February next, or at any other time when called upon to do so."

Failure to do so will result in a fine of fifty pounds (£50). The Association is responsible for all engraving.

FINALS OF COMPETITIONS

19. (A) In all Competitions the Council shall make the arrangements for the final ties and take entire control of them.

(B) Final Ties

(i) All finals shall be played on such grounds as the Council may determine, the Association taking the receipts and paying the expenses. The admission charges shall be determined annually. Any Club failing to play without showing a good and sufficient reason for such failure shall forfeit the tie, be fined one thousand pounds (£1,000) for the Senior Challenge Cup, and two hundred pounds (£200) in all other Competitions and be reported to the Council for having been guilty of serious misconduct and liable to be dealt with under the Association Rule 11.

(ii) The Association shall present mementoes to the Players and substitutes taking part in the final tie with a maximum of sixteen (16) mementoes being provided for each team, with no additional mementoes possible. The Council may also present a memento to the Clubs participating in the final ties, with no additional mementoes possible. The Association may, at its discretion, withhold the memento to which a player is entitled where a player has been ordered from the field of play.

(C) In all final ties of the Competition, the Match Officials, including reserve Officials, if appointed, shall be presented with mementoes in lieu of a match fee. All Match Officials may claim travelling expenses, as detailed in the County Handbook, if they so desire.

ALTERATION TO RULES

20. The Council shall have power to alter, expunge, or add to the above rules as it may from time to time deem expedient, but such alteration or expunction or addition shall not come into force until the season following that in which the Council decide upon it. Amendments made by the Council during the "close" season may be immediately operative.

FINANCE

21. (A) SENIOR CUP

(i) Admission

All persons shall pay for admission to the ground, enclosures and stands, unless they are players or officials of the Club who are playing in or carrying out duties in connection with the match, Essex County Football Association Officials and any invited guests.

(ii) Gate Receipts

The two competing Clubs in all matches prior to the final match, shall agree mutually on the Admission Fee for each individual match in the Senior Challenge Cup.

In all Senior Cup matches, up to the semi-finals, the home club will retain all the revenue and be responsible for all the expenses, with the exception of the away clubs travel expenses.

A copy of the statement of receipts and expenditure is to be sent to the Competitions Department, within seven days of the match. Clubs failing to comply shall be dealt with by the Council.

For the Semi-Final ties, a full statement of receipts and expenditure with a remittance settlement shall be sent to the Secretary of the visiting Club within seven days of the match.

(iii) Match Expenses For the Semi-Final Ties

The following expenses in connection with the match shall be paid from the gate receipts. The expenses of the visiting Club, together with the fees and travelling expenses of the Referee, Assistant Referees and Fourth Official (when appointed), postage, police, gatemen and floodlights. The floodlights however, shall not exceed a charge of seventy-five pounds (£75). In all rounds, the travelling expenses of the visiting Club, actually incurred, must not exceed three pounds (£3.00) per coach mile or, if private cars are used, then the expenses which can be claimed will be for a maximum of five cars at 40p per mile. The total mileage must be agreed between both Clubs prior to the match.

(iv) Match Expenses Not Admissible

The cost of preparing the ground or protecting the ground from inclement weather or the cost of removal of snow and ice shall be borne by the home Club and shall not be admissible as a deduction from the gate receipts of the match.

(v) Gate Receipts Insufficient to Meet Cost of Match

Where the gate receipts are insufficient to meet the cost of the expenses of the match, any deficit shall be equally shared by the two competing Clubs.

(vi) Sale of Tickets Prior to Match

The home Club may arrange for tickets of admission to be provided for sale prior to the day of the match. The expenses of the distribution and sale of the tickets shall not be admissible as an expense of the match under Rule 21 (iii)

(viii) Postponed Match

Where a match is postponed for reasons for which neither Club is at fault, any expenses incurred under Rule 21(iii) shall be charged against the match receipts of the re-arranged match.

(ix) Matches Arranged by The Association

In all matches arranged by the Association under Rule 19 the whole proceeds shall be taken by the Association, who shall be responsible for the payment of the expenses of the match.

(B) Match Programmes

In ties prior to the Final of the Senior Challenge Cup the home Club must produce a match programme for sale to spectators at a price which does not exceed that for the Club's normal programme. The home Club, along with their completed team sheet, must return a copy of the programme to the County Football Association Office. Failure to comply with this rule shall incur a fine not exceeding fifty pounds (£50).

(C) First Aid

In all Senior Challenge Cup matches it is the responsibility of the home Club to ensure that first aid facilities, equipment and a stretcher are available for all ties and a fully qualified person is available to administer first aid. In addition, each Club shall have a recognised physiotherapist in attendance at all matches. Clubs in default shall be dealt with by the Council.