

RULES OF N.E.W.F.A. CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION

1 (a) The cup shall be called the "N.E.W.F.A. Challenge Cup" or such name as a Sponsor may require.

(b) The competition shall be held annually and shall be open to all registered Clubs of the Association (except for those Clubs playing solely Sunday Football).

(c) The entire control and management of the competition shall be vested in the Council of the North East Wales Football Association.

2 (a) Clubs should give notice via COMET and pay the entrance fee by the closing date set by N.E.W.F.A

(b) The Association may reject the entry of any Club if they deem such course desirable.

(c) Clubs entering this competition shall play their strongest available team or be dealt with for MISCONDUCT by the Association.

3 (a) The competing teams shall number 11 players each.

(b) Each player shall wear the distinctive colours of the Club of which they are a playing member, and the shirts shall be numbered individually.

(c) Clubs can nominate up to five substitutes, all five of which can be used during the match.

The substitutions must be made in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game, so during the match, each team:

- i. may use a maximum of five substitutes.
- ii. has a **maximum of three substitution** opportunities.
- iii. may additionally make substitutions at half-time (Includes ET)
- iv. in the event of ET each team would have one additional opportunity to make a substitution in open play from any of the 5 unused names substitutes
- v. where both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as one substitution opportunity for each team.

(d) Details of both teams and the substitutes shall be given to the Referee before the match starts in accordance with Rule 9(c).

(e) Failure so to do will render EITHER Club to be dealt with for MISCONDUCT.

(f) In all ties if both Clubs have similar colours, then the AWAY team must change its colours.

(g) In the Semi-Final & Final the first drawn team is deemed to be the home team

(h) In the event of such Clubs not agreeing upon the colours then the Association will decide.

4 (a) The members of each team may be changed during the series of matches if considered necessary but, they must be a playing member of the Club with which they propose to compete.

(b) A bona fide playing member of a team is one who has completed and fully registered via COMET and has been registered by 5.30 p.m. on the night prior to the original scheduled date of the Tie.

(c) In the cases of drawn or replayed ties only those players shall be allowed to play who were eligible to play on the original scheduled date fixed in accordance with Rule 7.

5 (a) Affiliated Clubs playing in Tiers 4 & 5 will enter the competition at Round 1 (association holds the right to hold a qualifying round if required due to numbers). Clubs playing in Tiers 3 and above will enter the competition in round two.

(b) The Council of the Association at their discretion may divide the Clubs who have entered the Competition into groups as nearly equal in number and as conveniently situated geographically as may be possible.

(c) The names of the Clubs in each group shall be drawn in pairs, these pairs shall play each other.

(d) Byes shall be drawn, as necessary.

(e) The winner of each tie shall continue in the same manner to the Final Tie and the winner of this Final Tie shall be the holder of the cup for the current year.

6 (a) Any appeal relevant to the qualification of any player must be made to the Secretary of the Association within TWO days of the conclusion of the match (Sundays & Bank Holidays excluded).

(b) This appeal should be in writing and give full particulars of the player concerned

(c) No Appeal will be considered unless it is accompanied by the Appeal fee of FIFTY Pounds.

7 (a) The lots shall be drawn, and the Competition matches played as the Council of the Association may determine.

(b) As soon as possible after each draw NEWFA shall intimate in writing to the Secretary of each Club the name of the Club they have been drawn against and the conference date. All other details will be updated to COMET.

(c) Clubs shall not mutually arrange to play a match in lieu of a Cup Tie.

(d) All postponed and replayed matches shall be played on or before the following Saturday or as stipulated by the Area Association.

(e) The date and venues of Semi-Final and Final ties will be decided by the Area Association.

(f) Where Clubs fail to agree as to the date fixed for this tie, or any postponed match, the Association shall decide the issue upon such terms and conditions as shall be deemed expedient.

(g) In the event 2 clubs are drawn together where both grounds are without floodlights for a midweek conference date then the cost of hire of a venue with floodlights will be split 3 ways (Home Team, Away Team & NEWFA)

8(a) The duration of the match shall be 90 minutes (being two equal periods of 45 minutes).

(b) In the event of the scores being equal at the end of this period (rule 8a) for all rounds up to and including the Quarter Final the game will be decided by a series of PENALTY KICKS in accordance with the Referee's Chart. No extra time to be played.

(b.1) In the event of the scores being equal at the end of this period (rule 8a) for the Semi-final and Final a further extra period, 30 minutes, (being two equal periods of 15 minutes) must be played.

(c) If, for the Semi-final & Final, following the completion of the extra time the scores are still level then the game will be decided by a series of PENALTY KICKS in accordance with the Referee's Chart.

(d) Any Club failing to fulfil the fixture will be charged with misconduct and if found guilty, will be dismissed from the competition, and will be fined.

9 (a) Competing Clubs must complete a TEAM SHEET via COMET IN FULL and submitted via COMET to the Match Referee 30 MINUTES before kick-off thus ensuring that Referee is in possession of the names of the players and substitutes of BOTH teams prior to the commencement of match in accordance with Rule 3 (d).

(b) The Referee will be responsible for completing the team sheet by adding any cautions, checking the match score and any other comments, signing in the appropriate place, submitting via Comet as per FAW guidelines.

10 (a) In the event of any Clubs being drawn together in any tie, failing to play the game within the appointed time, they shall be struck out of the competition.

(b) Any Clubs drawn together in the competition having arranged to play on a certain date, either Club failing to comply shall be disqualified.

(c) No Club shall be allowed to SCRATCH from any round unless notice is given to the Secretary of the Association before the draw is made for the round in question.

11 (a) The HOME Club is responsible for notifying their Opponents and the Match Officials of the exact location of the Ground and Dressing Rooms. This must be done no later than 48 hours prior to day of match.

11 (b) Failure so to do will cause the HOME Club to be dealt with for MISCONDUCT.

12 (a) The online Referee's Report form must be completed within TWO days (Sundays and Bank Holidays excepted).

(b) Failure to do so will render EITHER Club to be dealt with for MISCONDUCT.

13 (a) The HOME Club shall provide TWO match balls in all games up to the Semi-Final. In the Semi-Final and Final matches both competing Clubs must provide suitable match ball to the Referee 30 minutes prior to kick-off.

(b) Failure to do so will cause the Clubs to be dealt with for Misconduct

(c) Each Club should provide their own Pre-Match balls

14 (a) In each tie, the game will be played on the ground of the Club drawn first in the ballot, unless otherwise mutually arranged and the consent of the Association obtained.

(b) It shall not be allowable for a Club to select any ground other than that which is registered with the Association as their Home ground, or as authorised by the Association.

(c) In the event of two clubs who share a ground being drawn at home in the same round, the team drawn first shall have priority at such ground, the other tie being played on a ground nominated by the Association.

(d) If, the ground of the Club having choice of venue shall not comply with Rule 23 or is in any way considered unsuitable for a Cup-Tie then their opponents may appeal to the Association within SEVEN business days of the notification of the draw.

(e) Such Appeal to be accompanied with the Appeal Fee of FIFTY Pounds.

(f) If, the Appeal is sustained then the Association shall order the match to be played on the ground of the appealing Club or on a neutral ground.

(g) If, such an Appeal is not sustained the complaining Club shall be called upon at the discretion of the Association to pay the expenses incurred in deciding such Appeal.

(h) It shall be permissible for a Club whose ground does not comply with Rule 23 to play this Challenge Cup Tie on an adjacent ground of requisite dimensions, providing such Club may satisfy the Association at the beginning of the season that it has done everything in its power to improve its ground or to secure another.

(i) If, a game is postponed on two occasions then the Cup Tie will be reversed and played on the registered ground of the Away Team. The Home Club remains responsible for confirming the game with match officials. If North East Wales F.A. cancels the Cup Tie, then this will not count as a postponed game.

15 In the last two ties, being the Semi-Final and Final, the ground, will be chosen by the Area Association, who shall appoint the Referee, Assistant Referees, plus 4th Official if required and have the Management thereof.

16 (a) The Referee in this Cup Competition shall not belong to either of the competing Clubs and shall be appointed by the Council of the Association. The Match Officials fee shall be shared 50/50 between the two competing teams.

(b) The Council may appoint neutral Assistant Referees and their fees and expenses in addition to those of the Referee shall be shared 50/50 between the two competing teams.

(c) If, through any cause the match is not played and the Referee and Assistant Referees, where appointed, attend the ground, they shall be paid their expenses and half their fees.

(d) Clubs shall be notified of Referee and Assistant Referees Fees before the start of each season. Travelling expenses will be at a rate decided by Council but if Public Transport is used then the actual fare paid will be reimbursed. To minimise travelling costs Match Officials should travel together whenever possible.

(e) In Semi-Final and Final ties, the match official costs will be paid by NEWFA if played on a neutral ground by appointment of NEWFA.

(f) No Member of the Association shall be appointed as an Official.

17 (a) In order to achieve maximum publicity for the competition the HOME Club shall telephone the appointed person by 6.00 p.m. In addition, the Home Club must also complete match details on COMET as per FAW Guidelines.

(b) Failure so to do will cause the HOME Club to be dealt with for MISCONDUCT.

18 Clubs are reminded that they are RESPONSIBLE for the conduct of their PLAYERS, OFFICIALS and SUPPORTERS and the strongest DISCIPLINARY action will be taken against any OFFENDING CLUB.

19 (a) All questions of eligibility, qualification of players, interpretation of the Rules of the Competition and the Laws of the game shall be referred to the Association whose decision shall be final.

(b) Should any Club in connection with any dispute or protest have a Member on the Council of the Association, then the said Member shall not be eligible to sit on the Association while such dispute or protest is being considered.

(c) No protest relative to the playing ground, goal posts or other appurtenances of the game shall be entertained by the Association unless it was laid before the Referee, in writing, BEFORE the commencement of the game.

(d) No protest relative to the interpretation to the Laws of the Game shall be entertained unless it was laid with the Referee in writing, on or before the conclusion of the match.

(e) (i) A written report of such protest and a COPY thereof must be lodged with the Secretary of the Association within TWO days (Sundays and Bank Holidays excepted) after the conclusion of the match, within which time a written protest regarding the eligibility of any player may be lodged.

(ii) The sum of £50 (FIFTY POUNDS) must accompany such Appeals and Protests, which sum shall be forfeited to the Funds of the Association in the event of such Appeals and Protests are not sustained.

(iii) If, it is found on enquiry that a Protest or Appeal is frivolous, the Club laying such Protest or Appeal, in addition to forfeiting the Appeal fee, may be held liable for the Costs of the Appeals Commission.

(f) In the case of any player being found ineligible, the Club, playing him shall be adjudged to have lost the tie and shall be dealt with by the Association for MISCONDUCT.

20 Any Club leaving the Field of Play before the expiration of the game shall be adjudged to have lost the match and be dealt with for MISCONDUCT.

21 If, the Association have any doubts as to the qualification of any player competing in this competition it shall have the power to call upon such player, or the Club to which he belongs or for which he has played, to prove to the satisfaction of the Association that he is properly qualified in accordance with the rules of the competition, and, failing such satisfactory proof, the Association shall have the power to disqualify such player and remove his Club from the competition or to take such action as is deemed expedient.

22 (a) The Field of Play for all Cup Ties shall be not less than 100 yards by 50 yards and not more than 120 yards by 80 yards.

(b) The Field of Play MUST be ROPED or preferably RAILED off a minimum of 2 metres from the TOUCH lines and GOAL NETS must be used in all ties.

(c) Failure so to do will cause the HOME Club to be dealt with for MISCONDUCT.

23 In addition to the Cup, the Association will present suitable mementos to the Players, Substitutes and Match Officials in the Final Tie.

24 The Rules governing this competition shall be those of the NORTH EAST WALES FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION and the FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES.

25 (a) In the interests of administration the draw for successive rounds will be made by the cup committee with independent council members and will be made no later than 6 days prior to the conference date.

(b) This draw shall be communicated to the League Fixture Secretaries as quickly as possible.

26 (a) At the conclusion of the Final Tie the Cup and Mementos will be distributed on the ground.

(b) Clubs winning trophies shall be responsible for their safekeeping and good condition. Any damage sustained whilst in the care of the clubs shall be repaired at the Clubs expense. Repairs to be conducted at the direction of the NEWFA Cup Committee.

Trophies to be returned by 1st March each year or Clubs shall be fined £20 (TWENTY POUNDS) for each Trophy not returned. A Club failing to return Trophy/Trophies by the above date due to loss, theft or damage of such Trophy/Trophies shall bear the cost of replacing such Trophy/Trophies at the current value as determined by the NEWFA Cup Committee.