

THE S.F.A. SOUTH REGION CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION REGULATIONS

1. INTRODUCTION

Any word or phrase used in these Regulations which is defined in the Articles or Rules of The Scottish Football Association and which is not defined in these Regulations has the defined meaning ascribed to it in the Articles or Rules. The SFA South Region Cup guidance notes also form part of these regulations.

2. TITLE

The Competition shall be known as The S.F.A. South Region Challenge Cup ("the Competition").

This name may from time to time be changed in terms of any sponsorship agreement or agreements that may be concluded.

The Competition shall be registered with the Scottish Football Association.

3. COMPETITION COMMITTEE

The Competition Committee shall comprise 6 members.

The East of Scotland Football League, the South of Scotland Football League and Scottish Lowland Football League shall each provide two members who shall be Office Bearers of the League they represent.

The Competition will be administered by a Competition Secretary ("the Secretary").

4. COMPETITION COMMITTEE POWERS

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

The Competition Committee shall have full power to temporarily suspend, amend or add to the rules as circumstances dictate from time to time, as it deems appropriate in its reasonable discretion, to facilitate the smooth running of the Competition.

The Competition Committee shall have full power to agree the terms and conditions of any sponsorship agreement.

5. FORMAT

5.1 The Competition shall be held annually and shall be open to and contested by

- (1) All Clubs eligible to participate in the Scottish Association Qualifying Cup (South) in Season 2006/2007 and
- (2) the Clubs in the East of Scotland Football League, South of Scotland Football League and Scottish Lowland Football League in the current Season not included in (1) above.

No club may enter more than one team in the Competition.

The Competition is not open to clubs in membership of the Scottish Professional Football League.

5.2 The Competition Committee shall decide the format of the Competition for the forthcoming season.

The Secretary will communicate the format decided to the appropriate Leagues and the eligible clubs by the beginning of July.

5.3 The Clubs will be balloted in pairs and these clubs will play a single tie on the ground of the first club named.

Any club whose name is not drawn will receive a bye into the next round.

For the Second Round, the winning Clubs from the First Round and the clubs which received a bye in the First Round will be balloted in pairs and these clubs will play a single tie on the ground of the club first named. This procedure will be repeated until two Clubs qualify for the Final Tie.

The Final Tie will be played on a Neutral venue decided by the Competition Committee.

After each ballot the Secretary shall inform each Club of the name of the Club against which it is drawn plus the date of the match and the time of kick off.

5.4 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.

5.5 Any Club which refuses or fails to play against the Club against which it is drawn, without, in the opinion of the Competition Committee, having sufficient reason for so doing shall be adjudged to have lost the tie and may be sanctioned by the Competition Committee.

5.6 Any Club which intends to scratch shall give notice to the Secretary and to the Secretary of the Club against which it is drawn, at least four days before the date fixed for playing the tie.

All cases of Clubs scratching shall be reported to the Competition Committee, who shall have the power to order the said Club to reimburse its opponents for any expenditure, loss or damage incurred, or to take such action or sanctions as it deems fit.

Any Club which fails to give a satisfactory reason for scratching, or which withdraws from the Competition without first obtaining the consent of the Competition Committee, shall not be allowed to take part in the Competition in the following season.

5.7 All Clubs entering this Competition agree to be bound by these rules in their entirety.

6. DATES FOR TIES

6.1 The Competition Committee shall decide the dates and kick off times for the matches to be played.

6.2 In the event of a tie being postponed due to a ground being declared unplayable where possible the tie shall be rescheduled at a date prior to the next round.

6.3 In the event of any Club's ground being declared unplayable for two dates on which a tie has been scheduled the tie may be switched, at the discretion of the Competition Committee, to a subsequent date at their opponents ground in which case the tie becomes a home tie for the Club drawn second in the ballot. . If subsequently the tie is postponed on a further two scheduled dates the tie shall be scheduled at a venue to be decided by the Competition Committee and if that venue is a neutral venue then all associated costs will be shared equally between the two competing Clubs.

6.4 Any change to the date of the match must have the prior consent of the Competition Committee.

6.5 Other than in exceptional circumstances, as deemed by the Competition Committee, East of Scotland Football League, the South of Scotland Football League and Scottish Lowland Football League matches and Scottish Football Association Challenge Cup Competition matches shall take precedence over SFA South Region Challenge Cup matches. SFA South Region Challenge Cup matches shall take precedence over other Association and Leagues Cup matches.

6.6 The Competition Committee shall decide a protocol for displaced matches prior to the commencement of each season's Competition.

7. VENUES FOR TIES

7.1 The Clubs drawn to compete in all rounds except the Final shall play on the ground of the first named Club drawn in the ballot. The venue registered with their League as their home ground will be considered to be the venue at which the tie will be played. If the ground of the Club drawn at home in the ballot is unavailable, except when the Club concerned has an approved ground sharing arrangement in place and their fellow sharers have a home match, then Clubs must apply for permission from the Competition Committee to play the fixture at an alternative venue, such venue to be equidistant from or nearer to their opponents ground unless their opponents agree otherwise. Any Club whose ground is unavailable except in the above ground sharing circumstance must secure and confirm an alternative, approved venue at least seven days before the tie is scheduled to be played, failing which the tie will revert to a home tie for the Club drawn second in the ballot. If a Club's ground is unavailable due to a ground sharing agreement the their tie will be moved to an alternative date, and or time, as approved by the Competition Committee unless both they and their opponents agree to play at an alternative, approved venue on the original date on which the fixture is cast.

7.1.1 Any alternate venue must be approved by the Competition Committee whose decision will be final and binding.

7.2 The venue for the Final Tie will be decided by the Competition Committee.

7.3 Any change to venue or kick off time of the match must have the prior consent of the Competition Committee.

7.4 Any decision to declare a ground unplayable must, where possible, be made by a qualified, practising referee.

7.5 It is the Home Club's responsibility to immediately communicate any postponement to the Secretary, the Visiting Club and the Match Referee.

7.6 The Home club is responsible for ensuring compliance with Law 1 of the Laws of the Game – The field of Play.

7.7 Any objections to the ground, facilities, or any appurtenances of the game must be intimated to the referee and the Secretary or other recognised official of the opposing team prior to the start of the match.

8. DISLOCATION OF MATCHES

8.1 Dislocation of matches, from any cause whatever, shall be immediately reported to the Secretary by the Club(s) concerned, and it shall be the duty of the Home Club in each instance to notify immediately the appointed Match Officials of such dislocation.

8.2 Any Club without just cause failing to fulfil its fixture obligations in respect of a Competition match on the appointed date or dates shall be liable to be disqualified and/or subject to such other punishment as the Competition Committee may determine.

8.3 The Club failing to fulfil its obligations under this Regulation 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 Competition Committee.

9. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

Taking part is defined as being listed either in the starting eleven or taking the field as a substitute during the course of the game.

9.1 Players taking part in the Competition must first be registered with the Scottish FA for the Club for which he is to play.

9.2 No Club shall play, or list as a named substitute, any Player who, in the same Season, has already played in this Competition match by entering the field of play whether in the starting eleven or by being used as a substitute by another Club in the Competition.

9.3 It shall be the responsibility of each Club participating in the Competition to ensure that its Players are eligible to play in any SFA South Region Challenge Cup match. If a Player participates in a Competition match, such Player being ineligible to play in the Competition 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 Competition match shall be liable to such penalty as the Competition Committee may decide.

9.4 Any Club infringing this Regulation may be disqualified from the Competition and the tie awarded to its opponent.

10. SUBSTITUTE PLAYERS

10.1 A Club may at its discretion use three from up to seven nominated substitutes.

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

10.1.2 The substitute Players must be nominated in accordance with this Regulation and in any case prior to the commencement of the game.

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

10.2 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 Regulation 11.1 must be formally endorsed in writing by an Official and signed by the referee as evidence of his consent pursuant to this Regulation.

10.3 Any Club failing to carry out these provisions will be dealt with at the discretion of the Competition Committee.

11. TEAM LINES

Team lines to be used should be the style of documents, unedited, available to all Clubs via the Scottish FA Admin Data System.

11.1 Clubs must hand copies of a list of names of Players participating in any Competition match (including the names of the nominated substitutes) to the referee and a representative of its opponents in the presence of the referee twenty minutes before the advertised time of kick-off.

11.2 All occupants of the Technical Area must be named and their designation shown in the section provided on the team lines. The maximum number of occupants of the Technical Area excluding named substitutes will be five.

11.3 Any substitutions during the match must be recorded by the referee on the team lines.

11.4 At the conclusion of the match, within 3 working days, the referee shall forward the team lines, duly completed, to the named recipient.

12. CLUB COLOURS

12.1 In all matches Clubs shall play in their registered first choice strip.

12.2 When two competing Clubs having the same or similar first choice colours engage in a SFA South Region 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.

12.3 At least 72 hours prior to all matches in the various rounds of the Competition, excluding the Final Tie, the competing Clubs shall establish contact with each other and the match referee to advise of the exact colours and description of the respective Clubs' playing kits.

12.4 In the event of a clash of colours on match day then the Home Club will wear an alternative playing kit and the matter will be reported to the Competition Committee who will impose such sanction as they deem appropriate on the offending Club.

12.5 Both Clubs shall change under similar circumstances, when playing on a neutral ground including the Final Tie.

12.6 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.

12.7 Goalkeepers shall wear colours which distinguish them from the other Players and from the referee.

12.8 The Players' jerseys and shorts must be clearly numbered and the numbers must be distinct in colour from the remainder of the Players' kit.

12.8.1. The numbers must appear on the back of the Players' jerseys and must be not less than 25 cms in height.

12.8.2. Those Players participating in the match and substitutes shall be numbered in accordance with the list of Players handed to the referee before the match.

12.8.3. There must be no change of numbers during the match except in circumstances whereby the referee instructs a player to change his strip for any reason.

13. MATCH OFFICIALS

13.1 Referees for each tie will be appointed by the Scottish Football Association.

13.2 The Competition Committee will be responsible for setting the match tariff and level of expenses to be paid to Match Officials.

13.3 Where appointed Assistant Referees will receive a flat fee without expenses.

13.4 The Home Club will be responsible for paying all Match Official tariffs and expenses including those due to Assistant Referees and will recover the cost of one Assistant Referee from the visiting Club.

13.5 Where a tie has been switched in venue to either an alternative ground or to an opponent's ground due to pitch unavailability (other than in a ground sharing situation), the initial Host Club will still be responsible for paying all the Match Official tariffs and expenses including those due to Assistant Referees but will recover the cost of one Assistant Referee from the visiting Club. Where a tie has been switched in venue to an opponent's ground due to a pitch being unplayable on two scheduled dates, the Club then playing at home will be responsible for paying all Match Official tariffs and expenses including those due to Assistant Referees but will recover the cost of one Assistant Referee from the visiting Club.

13.6 The Home Club must confirm details of the fixture, colours, travel directions and kick off time etc with both the visiting Club and the Match Referee at least three days prior to the date of the match.

14. ADMISSION MONEY AND SHARE OF GATES

14.1. In all matches except the Final tie the Home Club will be responsible for deciding the level of admission charges and will retain all gate receipts

14.2 In the Final Round of the Competition the Competition Committee will decide the level of admission charges.

14.3 In the Final Round of the Competition, the Host Club will receive a ground rental, the amount to be decided by the Competition Committee, and may organise such other fund raising activities as they desire (subject to approval of the Competition Committee).

14.4 In the final Round the Competition Committee shall be responsible for the costs of :- Ground Rental, Match Officials, Catering, Match Balls, Stewarding (if required), Publicity plus any other costs considered appropriate by the Competition Committee.

Any surplus of income over expenditure from the Final will be held in a bank account by the Competition Committee for use as they deem appropriate.

15. FINANCIAL RECORDS

15.1 The East of Scotland Football League, South of Scotland Football League and Scottish Lowland Football League shall be responsible for financing the Competition at a level to be agreed by Official Representatives of the three Organisations.

15.2 This agreed funding may be supplemented by any sponsorship agreement.

15.3 The Competition Committee shall be responsible for maintaining financial records for the administration of the Competition.

15.4 A full account of income and expenditure for the Competition should be available within 28 days of the Final tie.

16. TROPHY

16.1 The winners of the SFA South Region 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 Secretary if and when required and in any case 42 days prior to the Final of the next Season's Competition in the like good order and condition in which it was received.

16.2 The winners and runners-up in the SFA South Region Challenge Cup will receive such awards as the Competition Committee may decide. There shall be eighteen Players awards plus one Manager award for each of the two Final teams. Clubs may apply to the Competition Committee to purchase additional awards if they so desire.

16.3 The Match Officials for the Final tie will receive such awards as the Competition Committee may decide.

16.4 The Competition Committee has full discretion to refuse to present a Player of a 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.

17. DISCIPLINE

17.1 The Scottish Football Association will deal with all disciplinary matters in relation to field offences by players and other misconduct reports submitted by referees.

17.2 Player suspensions as confirmed by the Scottish Football Association will be Competition specific. Existing Scottish Football Association Disciplinary / Judicial Protocol rules will also apply

17.3 Any Club, Official, Player or other Person, who is found to be in breach of any of these rules, shall be liable to any sanctions as the Competition Committee deem appropriate.

17.4 Any penalties imposed may, at the Appellant's expense, be appealed to the Scottish Football Association under the terms of the current Judicial Panel Protocol.

18. PROTESTS

18.1 When a Club intends to lodge a protest they must do so by writing to the Secretary within three days of the playing of the match. Written protests will be accepted via electronic mail or recorded delivery mail.

At the same time the Club protesting must also provide an exact copy of the protest to the Club protested against. This copy may also be provided via electronic mail or recorded delivery mail.

18.2 A Club lodging a protest must also provide, within three days, to the Secretary, a deposit of £100 which may be wholly or partially retained as the Competition Committee deem fit.

18.3 The Competition Committee shall have the power to order either Club to pay such sum towards defraying the expenses incurred and take such action as they deem fit.

18.4 No individual who is connected with a Club involved in a protest may take part in the hearing of the protest other than in the presentation of their Club's case to the adjudicating body.

Any matter not covered by the above Regulations shall be determined by the Competition Committee

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