

## AMATEUR FOOTBALL ALLIANCE YOUTH & GIRLS CUP RULES

(Recent rule changes under-lined)

### 1. TROPHIES

- (a) The Alliance will provide permanent mementoes for all finalists in each of the competitions, for retention by the Clubs and players.
- (b) For the Under 16 Sunday Cup, in addition to the permanent mementoes, The Alliance will also present a Cup to the winning Club, to be held for one year only. The conditions under which this cup is held are detailed in Rule 1 (a) – (c) of the adult AFA Cup Rules.

### 2. CONTROL OF CUP COMPETITIONS

- (a) The entire control and management of the Youth Cup competitions shall be vested in the Council who shall have power to delegate some or all of their authority to the Cup Committee.
- (b) The Council shall have the power to interpret any existing Rule and to alter or add to these Rules as they may from time to time deem expedient.
- (c) Clubs or any of their teams infringing the Cup Rules shall be liable to a fine and such other sanction as from time to time may be decided by Council.
- (d) In all matters relating to or arising from an Alliance Cup Competition, not otherwise provided for in these Rules, an Appeal against a decision of the Cup Committee may be made by a Club to the AFA Council whose decision shall be final and binding and not subject to any further Appeal (see Section H of the Rules of The Football Association page 116).

### 3. LAWS OF THE GAME

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

### 4. QUALIFICATION AND ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS:

Under 11 Youth - the player must have attained the age of 10 but be under the age of 11 by midnight 31st August in the playing season.

Under 12 Youth - the player must be under the age of 12 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 13 Youth - the player must be under the age of 13 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 14 Youth - the player must be under the age of 14 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 15 Youth - the player must be under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 16 Youth - the player must be under the age of 16 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 17 Youth - the player must be under the age of 17 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 18 Youth - the player must be under the age of 18 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 12 Girls - the player must have attained the age of 10 but be under the age of 12 by midnight 31st August in the playing season.

Under 14 Girls - the player must have attained the age of 12 but be under the age of 14 by midnight 31st August in the playing season.

Under 16 Girls - the player must have attained the age of 14 but be under the age of 16 by midnight 31st August in the playing season.

Under 18 Girls - the player must have attained the age of 16 but be under the age of 18 by midnight 31st August in the playing season.

- (a) Each player must have been a *bona-fide* member of his or her club for at least 28 days before taking part in the competition, except in the Preliminary and First Round when qualification shall be fourteen days.
- (b) No player shall be allowed to play for more than one team in the current season nor shall they play for more than one age group competition in the same season.
- (c) All players taking part in the Semi Finals or Final Ties must have played during the current season, on three different occasions for the team they represent. Players joining a club after the date set for the Semi-Final will not be eligible to play in the Final.
- (d) The Alliance may, at any time, require a club to produce a Registrar's Birth Certificate, or any other satisfactory documentary evidence, in order to verify the correctness of the date of birth of any player.
- (e) All teams must have personalised Identity Cards for each player which includes a passport-type photograph and date of birth which shall be available for inspection by the opposing team manager on match days.  
Such a card issued by a League is acceptable provided it has been signed and dated by the authorized League Secretary(s) at least seven days before the match. Failure to produce these registration cards will make the player(s) ineligible to play in the match. Teams who do not have such cards should contact the AFA Office for a set of identity cards for all players enclosing copies of their birth certificates, passport-size photographs plus an administrative charge of £1.00 per card, not less than seven days before the match.
- (f) Any team failing to produce Identity Cards before any match shall forfeit the game, be disqualified from the competition and pay the full fees of the match official(s).
- (g) All teams shall appoint a Match Delegate, whose duties shall be determined by the Cup Committee and set out in the notes accompanying each cup draw.

- (h) Objections which relate to the qualifications of any players who may have taken part must be made in writing to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the provisions of Rule 17 below, to be received within four days of the tie in question. The Cup Committee shall have power to call upon any player or Club concerned and may require either to prove qualification to their satisfaction. In the event of failure to give such proof, the Committee shall have power to act as it thinks fit: such power to include awarding the tie, ordering a rematch and/or initiating disciplinary action in respect of the player and/or the Club.

## 5. ELIGIBLE CLUBS AND TEAMS

- (a) It shall be a requirement of all Clubs wishing to compete that they are in current affiliation with The Alliance as approved by Council, and further that their entry be approved by the Cup Committee.
- (b) It shall be a condition of entry that in any match each Player and Substitute wears a uniquely-numbered shirt. Clubs unable to comply shall have their entry refused.

## 6. ENTRY FEES AND DATES

- (a) Entry for all Competitions closes on 1st July in each year.
- (b) The Entry Fees for all Competitions shall be ~~£16.00~~ per team.
- (c) All such fees shall be paid upon making application for entry.

## 7. NUMBER OF TEAMS

In the event that a club has more than one team in an age group, each team must be clearly designated. In such cases, players may play for one team only.

## 8. DRAWING DATES AND KICK OFF TIMES OF TIES

The Ties shall be drawn, the dates fixed and the matches kick off as the Alliance may determine.

## 9. PROVISION FOR POSTPONEMENTS/ABANDONMENTS

- (a) The Honorary Referees Secretary must be advised immediately by the Home Club of any postponed game, and abandoned games must be similarly advised by noon on the day following.
- (b) When a tie is postponed through circumstances over which neither Club has control, it shall be rearranged for the nearest Saturday (Saturday cups) or Sunday (Sunday cups) following, except with the express permission of the Cup Committee to do otherwise.
- (c) In the event of a Cup match being postponed or abandoned, neither Team being at fault, Match Officials who travel to the venue shall receive the full match fee indicated in Rule 14. However, if a team defaults to cause postponement, then its Club shall be responsible for reimbursing in full the match fee to any Match Officials travelling to the venue, together with the expenses of the non-offending Club.

- (d) In the event of a Team being unable to kick off 30 minutes or more after the scheduled kick off time for a match, the appointed Referee shall be the sole arbiter as to whether there is sufficient time to play the match, depending on the prevailing conditions. If the match does not take place, the Cup Committee will determine the outcome.
- (e) In the event of inclement weather causing a pitch to be known to be unavailable for play, the Cup Committee shall have the power to decide an alternative venue where a Tie shall be played in order to avoid delaying the progress of the competition. The Cup Committee will subsequently determine and recommend to Council the allocation of costs in such circumstances.
- (f) Notice of postponement of any match must be given by the club concerned. Such notice must be given at least 28 days in advance of the fixture in writing to the AFA Office.

## 10. DURATION OF MATCHES

The duration of play shall be as follows:

For under 11, 25 minutes each half;

For under 12, 30 minutes each half

For under 13 & under 14, 35 minutes each half;

For under 15 and under 16, 40 minutes each half;

For under 17, 45 minutes each half.

For under 18, 45 minutes each half.

In all competitions, where extra time is required, 10 minutes each way shall be played, but may be reduced to seven minutes each way.

If, in the opinion of the referee, conditions do not allow sufficient time for the minimum permitted period of extra time, then the match shall be decided by taking kicks from the penalty mark immediately after the end of normal time. A result must be achieved on the day.

## 11. MATCH BALLS

The home team must provide at least two footballs fit for play.

The size of football to be used shall be:

size 4 for those playing under 11, 12, 13 and 14 age groups;

size 5 for all other age groups.

## 12. TEAM COLOURS

(a) Teams must play in colours registered with The Alliance.

(b) When colours to be worn by both Teams are similar, the Home Team shall change unless mutual arrangements are made to the contrary – except where matches are played on a neutral ground, when both Teams shall change into contrasting colours.

- (c) Each goalkeeper must wear colours that distinguish him/her from the other players, the Referee and the Assistant Referees.
- (d) Team Captains are required to wear an identifying arm-band.

### 13. REFEREES

- (a) In ties prior to the Final, Referees will be appointed by The Alliance. In the event of a Club being advised by The Alliance that it is not possible to make an appointment, it shall be the responsibility of the Home Club to provide a Referee. The provision of Assistant Referees shall be at the discretion of The Alliance.
- (b) In Final ties all Match Officials will be appointed by The Alliance.
- (c) In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed Referee or an Assistant Referee, the competing Teams may mutually agree upon substitute Officials and, provided the game is played to a finish, it shall rank as a cup tie.
- (d) Match Officials are appointed until a tie is decided and will be required to officiate in postponed games unless otherwise directed by The Alliance.
- (e) Match Officials shall inform the AFA and/or league or competition directly responsible if unable to referee a team or teams for any reason.

### 14. SCALE OF FEES FOR MATCH OFFICIALS

Matches of 80 or 90 minutes duration:-

Referees £30.00

Assistant Referees £24.00

Matches of less than 80 minutes:-

Referees £20.00

Assistant Referees £15.00

### 15. PROVISION FOR SUBSTITUTES

- (a) In competitions involving age groups U'16 and below, a Team may use up to five substitute players from up to five nominated players at any time during a match, except to replace a player who has been suspended from the game by the Referee. A substitution can be made only when play has been stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission.
- (b) In competitions involving age groups U'17 and U'18, a Team may use up to three substitute players from up to five nominated players at any time during a match, except to replace a player who has been suspended from the game by the Referee. A substitution can be made only when play has been stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission.
- (c) In competitions involving age groups U'16 and below, roll-on, roll-off substitutions are permissible.
- (d) An AFA Result card, listing the names of the players and substitutes, must be handed to the Referee prior to kick off and retained by him for the duration of the

game. Failure to comply will result in a fine. Substitutes not so named may not take part in the match.

## 16. REPORTING RESULTS

- (a) Clubs shall forward written notification of the result on the card provided. This pre-paid card must be sent no later than the day following the match. The card must be completed in its entirety, including the Referee's name and marking which, if less than 51, must be justified by a written report to be submitted within seven days of the date of the match. The Home Club must telephone results of Cup matches in accordance with the requirements set out on Cup Circulars.
- (b) Fines levied for breaches of Rule 16(a) will be doubled if not paid within fourteen days and, in default of Payment, Clubs may be barred from the Competition in the season following.

## 17. DIMENSIONS OF THE FIELD OF PLAY

- (a) In all competitions, 100 - 130 yards x 50 - 100 yards.
- (b) Goal nets must be used in all competitions.
- (c) Notification of any appeal as to the unsuitability of a ground shall be intimated to the referee prior to the commencement of the game, but shall additionally be forwarded to The Alliance, in writing, so as to be received within three days (Sundays included) of the date of the tie. The Honorary Referees' Secretary shall be notified by noon on the day following the game.

## 18. PROTESTS

- (a) All protests shall be made in writing and addressed to the Chief Executive at the Office of The Alliance so as to be received not later than four days from the date originally arranged for the match in question. Such protests shall be accompanied by a deposit of £50 which shall be forfeited if the protest is deemed unjustified.
- (b) Any protest relating to the ground or its appurtenances must comply with the provisions of Rule 15(c) of the Youth Cup Rules.