

Southern Counties East League Play Off Matches – Steps 5 and 6 – 2024-25

1. Participation

The following procedures will apply to promotion / relegation subject to the application of the Rules:

NLS regulation 5.2 contains:

Where a Club finishes in 1st position but does not meet the criteria for promotion to the next Step, the Club finishing in 2nd position shall be promoted and the Club finishing in 3rd position (and so on) shall be the Club in the next eligible position to take part in the Play Off Matches. Where a Club finishes in a Play Off Position but does not meet the Criteria for participation in Play Off Matches, the Club finishing in the next eligible position shall take part in the Play Off Matches. In each division at Step 6, the Play Off Matches shall be played so that the highest placed of the eligible Clubs plays against the lowest placed and the other two Clubs play each other. The ties will be played on a single match basis with the home Club being the Club with the best points per game ratio in the Regular Season. If there are only three eligible Clubs then the highest placed shall receive a bye to the second match where it will play the winner of the other Play Off Match and the winner of that match will be promoted. Clubs finishing below 7th position will not be eligible to take part in Play Off Matches.

NLS regulation 9 contains:

In order to qualify for Play Off Matches a Club must comply with:

- Security of Tenure – see Standardised Rule 2.3.2
- Solvency – see Standardised Rule 13.B.2
- Ground Share requirements, i.e. not ground share in order to gain promotion – see 5.7 of these Regulations
- Ground Grading – see 5.8 of these regulations and the relevant criteria document

2. Sequence of Matches – Venues

The two Play-Off Semi-Finals will comprise (1) the highest placed of the qualifying Clubs playing at home to the 4th highest placed of the qualifying Clubs and (2) the 2nd highest placed of the qualifying Clubs playing at home to the 3rd highest placed of the qualifying Clubs. The winning Semi-Finalists will meet in the final with the highest placed of the two Clubs playing at home.

The Semi- Finals and Final will be played to a conclusion as one-off games and should the scores finish level at the end of normal time then the winners will be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark.

3. Dates of Games

Premier Division semi-final matches: midweek matchday of host club w/c April 28

Premier Division final: Monday May 5, kick-off 3pm

Division 1 semi-final matches: midweek matchday of host club w/c April 28

Division 1 final: Saturday May 3, kick-off 3pm

The league fixture secretary will confirm all matches and dates in writing as soon as possible on the evening of Saturday April 26.

Should a Club that has qualified to play at home not be able to host the game at their normal home ground on the scheduled date and kick-off time then the game will be played on the ground of their opponents. Should neither Club be able to host the fixture, a venue will be selected at the discretion of the League.

4. Financial Arrangements

All Play-Off games will be played under the terms of the net gate being distributed on the ratio of 37.5% to each of the two Clubs and the balance of 25% payable to the League.

All matches are arranged as home matches of the Club on whose ground the match is played. All complimentary tickets issued must be approved by the league secretary in advance of the game.

The Club hosting any fixture must ensure that the Match Officials are paid. Details of the Match Official fees/expenses will be in accordance with the League Rules.

5. Trophies

As per League Rule 18

6. Other Matters

Any matters arising not covered above should be referred to the relevant League Secretary who will refer to the FA's Leagues Committee (as appropriate).