

Southern Counties East Football League

Challenge Cup Rules 2021-2022

- 1) The Competition shall be known as 'The Southern Counties East Football League Challenge Cup'. The trophies are the property of the League and shall be competed for annually by Clubs in membership of the League.
- 2) The Southern Counties East Football League shall have entire control and management of the Competition.
- 3) Teams from clubs with no floodlight facilities will play all ties away from home.
- 4) Teams exiting the competition in the preliminary and first rounds may be eligible to enter the Southern Counties East Football League Plate competition. These rules will also apply to the Plate competition.
- 5) The Competition shall be decided on a knockout basis, or over two legs knockout competition or on a league basis at the sole discretion of the Management Committee of the League. In matters not governed by these Rules, the general League rules and the Regulations of the Football Association shall apply.
- 6) If the competition is to be decided on a knock-out basis ties will be played at the first drawn team's ground. If the tie is drawn after 90 minutes then extra time of 15 minutes each way will be played. If the tie is still drawn after extra time then the outcome will be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark.
- 7) If the Competition is to be decided on a two legged knockout basis it shall be on a home and away basis for all games up to and including the semi-final. In each tie, should the aggregate scores be level at the end of the second game, extra time of 15 minutes each way shall be played. If after this period the scores remain level the team scoring the most away goals over the two games shall be declared the winner. Should there be no outright winner the tie shall be decided by the taking of penalty kicks.
- 8) If the Competition is to be decided on a league basis the Management Committee will make arrangements for the format on a season by season basis.
- 9) (a) A Club may, at its discretion nominate up to five substitutes and use three of these at any time in a tie, except to replace a player who has been suspended from the game by the Referee. The names of all substitutes must be given to the Referee prior to the commencement of a match and substitutes not named may not take part. Players nominated as substitutes who do not actually come on to the field of play are deemed NOT to have played.

In the event that extra time is played in any match, a Club may at its discretion use one additional substitute player (a fourth in total) from the nominated five substitutes, during such period of extra time

(b) Whilst players of each team may be changed, no individual player shall be allowed to play for more than one Club in this Competition in any one season

(c) In all rounds of the Competition a player must be a bone fide member of the club and must be registered as a playing member in accordance with League rule 6.4.1. In the event of a two legged competition being determined then they must be registered in accordance with league Rule 6.4.1 prior to the first leg taking place.

(d) In all rounds of the competition if any tie is rearranged for another date, only those

players who were eligible on the date the original match was arranged to be played shall be allowed to play. A player under suspension on the original date is allowed to play if he is otherwise eligible.

(e) No player shall be allowed to play in a Final unless he has played in at least one previous round for the Club, unless special permission be obtained from the League Management Committee.

(f) Each Club competing in the Final Tie shall send their opponents and League Registration Secretary at least 14 days prior to the match, the names of the players from whom their side will be selected.

(g) Any Club found guilty of playing an ineligible or otherwise unregistered player shall be Removed from the Competition and be fined a minimum of £50.00 for each offence.

- 10) (a) If the tie is to be decided on a straight knock-out basis The Semi-Final tie shall be decided by a two-leg home and away basis with the team drawn first playing at home in the first leg. Should the aggregate scores be level at the end of the second game, extra time of 15 Minutes each way shall be played. If after this period the scores remain level the team Scoring most away goals over the two games shall be declared the winner. If the teams still cannot be separated then the tie will be decided by the taking of penalty kicks.

In the Final tie, if the scores are level at the end of 90 minutes, extra time of 15 minutes each way shall be played. If after this period there is no outright winner the tie shall be decided by the taking of penalty kicks.

(b) Where a tie has been postponed for any reason, the Fixtures Secretary shall determine the new date. In the event of a replay being required then the same shall apply.

(c) In any tie which, from any cause whatsoever, is not finished, the Management Committee shall have the power to order that the score shall stand or that the tie shall be replayed in full as they may, in their absolute discretion, determine.

- 11) The dates for all rounds shall be fixed by the League Fixture Secretary. Any Club refusing or failing to play on the date fixed may be ruled out of the Competition and be liable to a fine not exceeding £1000.00 and the Management Committee shall have the power to award further sums by way of compensation to the defaulting Club's opponents. This award to take into consideration all forms of loss that may be expected from a tie.

- 12) (a) The gate receipts from each tie shall be retained by the home club excepting the Semi-Finals and the Final Tie.

(b) In the Semi-Finals and Final Tie the League shall take half the net gate and the other half shall be divided equally between the competing Clubs.

- 13) The Management Committee will determine the charge for admission to the Final Tie. All Club Members and season ticket holders shall pay admission for all Challenge Cup games. Clubs competing in the Final Tie will be issued with 10 complimentary tickets for Directors or Management Committee members and 25 tickets for players, managers etc.

- 14) Anything not provided for in these Rules, then the General Rules of the League shall apply.