



SCEFL Challenge Cup Rules 2026-2027

- 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) **In matters not governed by these rules, the general league rules and the regulations of the Football Association shall apply.**
- 4) **The competition shall be decided on a knockout basis. Ties will be played at the first drawn team's ground. If the tie is drawn after 90 minutes the outcome will be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark. The final tie will be played at a neutral ground chosen by the Board.**

5) Players

- i) **A Club may, at its discretion nominate up to five substitutes and use five 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. A substituted player cannot return to the game.**
- ii) **Players nominated as substitutes who do not actually come on to the field of play are deemed NOT to have played.**
- iii) **No individual player shall be allowed to play for more than one club in this competition in any one season.**
- iv) **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.**
- v) **No player shall be allowed to play in a final unless he has played in at least one previous round for the club or has appeared in four league fixtures for the club, unless special permission be obtained from the League Board of Directors.**
- vi) **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.**

6) Match management

- i) **Where a tie has been postponed for any reason, the Fixtures Secretary shall determine the new date.**
 - ii) **If any tie, from any cause whatsoever, is not finished, the Board of Directors shall have the power to order that the score shall stand or that the tie shall be replayed in full.**
- 7) **The dates for all rounds shall be fixed by the 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 Board of Directors 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.**

8) Gate Receipts

- i) The gate receipts from each tie shall be retained by the home club except the semi-final.
- ii) In the semi-finals and final ties, the league shall take 50% of the net gate and the 50% shall be divided equally between the competing clubs.

9) The Board of Directors 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 club officials and 25 tickets for players, managers etc.

10) Match Officials Fees:

Referee - £70.00
Assistant Referee - £50.00

Inclusive of travel expenses.