

## THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION RULES

### 1. TITLE

The competition shall be known as The Scottish Football League Challenge Cup or by any other title given to it by The Scottish Football League Management Committee from time to time.

### 2. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE POWERS

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

### 3. FORMAT

The Competition shall be contested by the clubs in the First, Second and Third Divisions in the current season.

**3.1** The ballot for the First Round shall be made in two regional sections and so arranged that a combination of ties and byes will produce sixteen clubs to compete in the Second Round (i.e. 14 Ties and 2 Byes). The clubs will be balloted in pairs and these clubs will play a single tie on the ground of the first club named. The fourteen winning clubs will qualify to play in the Second Round.

**3.2** For the Second Round, the fourteen winning clubs from the First Round and the two clubs which received a bye in the First Round shall be inserted into a ballot and drawn in pairs. The clubs will play a single tie on the ground of the club first named and the eight winning clubs will qualify to play in the Third Round. This procedure will be repeated in the Third and Semi-Final Rounds until two clubs qualify for the Final Tie.

**3.3** In all rounds, including the Semi-Final and Final Rounds, if a match is drawn at the end of ninety minutes, an extra thirty minutes will be played, and if still undecided, the winner shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the Rules laid down by the International Board.

### 4. DATES FOR TIES

All ties will be played on dates decided by the Management Committee. The venue for the Final Tie will be decided by the Management Committee.

### 5. DISLOCATION OF MATCHES

Dislocation of matches, from any cause whatever, shall be immediately reported to the Chief Executive/Secretary by the club(s) concerned, and it shall be the duty of the home or ground club in each instance to notify immediately the appointed match officials of such dislocation. The home or ground club must similarly advise the match officials as soon as possible of all the relevant details concerning the re-arrangement of the dislocated match.

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

**5.2** The club failing to fulfil its obligations under this Rule 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 Management Committee.

**5.3** It is the responsibility of the home or ground club in cup matches to ensure that a person suitably qualified in emergency first aid treatment is in attendance throughout the match.

### 6. SUBSTITUTE PLAYERS

A club may at its discretion use three from up to five nominated substitutes.

**6.1** In the event that five substitutes are nominated, one from their number must be a goalkeeper.

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

**6.3** The substitute players must be nominated in accordance with this Rule and in any case prior to the commencement of the match.

- 6.4** Not more than three substitutes from each club shall warm up on the pitch perimeter at any one time.
- 6.5** Clubs must hand copies of a list of names of players participating in any cup match (including the names of the nominated substitutes) to the referee and a representative of its opponents in the presence of the referee sixty minutes before the advertised time of kick-off. Any club failing to carry out these provisions will be dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.
- 6.6** 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 sub-paragraph 6.5 must be formally endorsed in writing by an accredited club official and signed by the referee as evidence of his consent pursuant to this paragraph 6.6.
- 6.7** The players' jerseys and shorts must be clearly numbered and the numbers must be distinct in colour from the remainder of the players' kit.
- 6.8** The numbers must appear on the back of the players' jerseys and must be not less than 25cms in height. The numbers on the players' shorts must appear on the leg and must be not less than 10cms in height.
- 6.9** Those players commencing the match shall be numbered one to eleven in accordance with the list handed to the referee before the match and the substitutes numbered from twelve onwards.
- 6.10** There must be no change of numbers during the match except on a change of goalkeeper.

## **7. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS**

Players taking part in the competition must be registered in terms of Scottish Football League Rules. No club shall play, or list as a substitute, any player who, in the same season, has already played or been a named substitute for another club in the competition.

- 7.1** It shall be the responsibility of each club participating in the competition to ensure that its players are eligible to play in any cup match. If a player participates in a cup match, such player being ineligible to play in the cup 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 match shall be liable to such penalty as the Management Committee may decide.

## **8. ADMISSION MONEY AND SHARE OF GATES**

- 8.1** Where First, Second and Third Division clubs are in opposition, the Management Committee Minimum Recommended Prices of Ground Admission shall be those charged by the club in the higher division.
- 8.2** In all rounds of the competition excluding the Final Tie, clubs shall only be entitled to deduct a limit of 10% of the total number of spectators admitted to the match in the competition subject to such limit not exceeding 1,000 persons. The numbers in excess of this figure must be returned in the gross gate and divided in the ratio 75% adult and 25% juvenile and senior citizens of the Management Committee Minimum Recommended Prices of Ground Admission with the visiting club. In the Final Round of the competition, after paying match expenses, 5% of the net receipts will be deducted by the League and the sum of £5,000 or 10% of the remaining balance, which ever is the greater, will be deducted and paid to the club providing the neutral venue. The remaining receipts shall be equally divided between the two competing clubs. The allowance to be paid to the club providing the neutral venue shall be calculated on the entire stands, enclosures and ground admissions after providing for the aforementioned deductions so far as is applicable to such ground.

## **9. FINANCIAL RECORDS**

All clubs shall keep detailed financial records and the Management Committee may arrange for an inspection of all such books with particular reference to turnstile arrangements.

**10. TROPHY**

The winners of the Challenge Cup shall hold the trophy and when it is handed over to the winner, that club shall grant an obligation to insure the trophy and to return same to the Chief Executive/Secretary if and when required and in any case prior to the commencement of the next season's competition in the like good order and condition in which it was received. The winner and runners-up in the competition shall be presented with such awards as the Management Committee may decide. It shall be the responsibility of the winning club to arrange appropriate insurance cover for the trophy throughout the period when it is held by the club.

**11. GENERAL**

Any matter not covered by the above Rules shall be determined by the Management Committee generally along the lines of The Scottish Football League Cup Competition.

**THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION****MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINIMUM RECOMMENDED PRICES OF ADMISSION**

First Division £12.00 Juveniles and Senior Citizens £6.00

Second Division £10.00 Juveniles and Senior Citizens £5.00

Third Division £9.00 Juveniles and Senior Citizens £4.50