

## **RULES OF THE WELSH YOUTH CUP COMPETITION**

### **1. Name**

The Cup shall be called “The Football Association of Wales Youth Challenge Cup”. The competition for the Cup shall be annual and shall be open to registered clubs of the Association and Affiliated Associations.

### **2. Control**

The entire control and management of the competition shall be vested in the Council of The Football Association of Wales.

### **3. Admittance**

Each Club desirous of competing shall give notice to the Chief Executive of the Association on or before the 30<sup>th</sup> June, immediately prior to that season in which such club proposes to compete and shall with such notice forward an Entrance Fee of Fifteen Pounds sterling (including VAT). The Council may reject the entry of any club if they deem such a course desirable.

### **4. Number of Players and Kit**

- (a) The competing teams shall number sixteen players each in accordance with the list handed to the Referee before the match and there shall be no change of numbering during the match except for a change of goalkeeper.
- (b) Every player must wear the distinctive colours of the Club for which he is a playing member, and should two clubs have similar kit, the Away Club shall change its kit. Should both Clubs concerned in a Semi Final / Final have similar kit, then it will be decided by the toss of a coin and in the event of such Clubs not agreeing upon the kit to be worn, the Chief Executive will decide.
- (c) Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from the other players and the Match Officials.
- (d) Advertising up to a maximum of 32 sq. ins (200 sq. cm) may be worn on players' clothing.
- (e) Clubs must adhere to the FAW Kit Regulations.

### **5. Definition of Playing Member**

- (a) A player shall not in the same season play for more than one competing Club, but the members of each respective team may be changed during the series of matches.
- (b) A player who has been suspended may play in postponed, drawn or replayed ties after the term of his suspension has expired.

- (c) A substitute who is not used is entitled to play for another Club in the same season.
- (d) A player must not have attained the age of 19 years before the 1st September of each season.
- (e) A player must have reached the age of sixteen on the day that the match is played.
- (f) A playing member is one who has been registered on a League Form for the Club for which he proposes to compete (play) 24 hours prior to the aforesaid Conference date.

## **6. Postponed Matches**

In the case of postponed matches, only those players shall be allowed to play who were eligible on the Conference Date.

## **7. The Field of Play**

- (a) The dimensions of the field of play for all Cup Ties shall be as follows:
  - Length: Between 91m and 105m (100-115 yards)
  - Width: Between 45m and 68m (50 – 74.36 yards)
- (b) Football turf must be in accordance with the 'FAW Regulations for the use of Synthetic Turf in all Competitions' and the pitch must be listed on the FAW's Register of Artificial Grass Pitches.

## **8. Byes**

- (a) The four Clubs which competed in the Semi-Final ties in the previous season shall be exempted from taking part in the Competition until the later stages. Other Byes shall be drawn at the discretion of the Council
- (b) The Council shall divide the remainder of the Clubs who have entered into groups, as nearly geographically as may be possible for the Draw, as described in Rule 9.

## **9. The Draw**

- (a) The lots shall be drawn, and the Competition matches played as the Council of the Association may determine.
- (b) Immediately after each drawing the Chief Executive Officer shall intimate to the Secretary of each club, the name of the Club it is drawn against and the time of Kick-Off, and the time within which the Tie must be played.
- (c) Immediately upon receipt of the Draw for each round, Secretaries of Clubs drawn at Home must communicate with their opponents and agree upon a date for the match.

- (d) Any further changes to the draw as stated in the original correspondence (Rule 9b) must be authorised by The Football Association of Wales.
- (e) Secretaries of Clubs drawn at home must notify the Chief Executive Officer of The Football Association of Wales of the agreed date in writing within 7 days of receipt of the draw.
- (f) Any club failing to carry out these provisions will be fined a sum not exceeding £10 at the absolute discretion of the Committee.
- (g) Clubs shall not mutually arrange to play a match in lieu of a Cup Tie.
- (h) If a match is played to a conclusion it must be a cup tie.
- (i) Postponed matches shall be played the following Sunday and notify the same to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association.
- (j) All Cup Dates are Conference Fixtures and must be strictly adhered to unless otherwise authorised by the Council.

#### **10. Provision for all Matches**

- (a) *Duration*  
The match lasts two equal periods of 45 minutes. The Referee shall allow for time wasted or lost through accident or other cause. The Referee is the sole judge of allowance of time whether lost through accident or other cause and their decision on this matter is not subject to appeal.
- (b) *Extra-Time*  
If the match ends in a draw after 90 minutes played, or if in the opinion of the Referee prevailing circumstances would not permit the match being finished, 15 minutes each way may be played. In this case, the Referee shall decide at the end of full time and prior to the commencement of extra time and notify both Teams.
- (c) *Penalties*  
When a match has resulted in a draw after extra time it must be decided on penalties in accordance with the rules of the International Football Association Board.
- (d) *Late-Kick-Off*  
Any late kick-off must be reported by the Referee to The Football Association of Wales and the Council shall have power to impose a fine.
- (e) *Matches which are postponed or abandoned*  
When a first match has been postponed or abandoned before the completion of 90 minutes and neither club being at fault, it must be played on the same ground.

If extra time has not been commenced or a match has been abandoned during extra time and neither Club being at fault, it must be played on the chosen ground of the Club second

drawn on the following Sunday. Matches abandoned through the fault of the Clubs shall be dealt with by the Council.

(f) *Matches which are postponed or abandoned twice*

When a match has been postponed or abandoned before its completion on two occasions, the fixture shall be reversed, with home advantage being awarded to the visiting team.

(g) *Substitutes*

(i) A club may at its discretion use three substitute players at any time in a Cup Tie, except to replace a player who has been suspended from the game by the Referee after play has commenced. Substitute Players must be nominated to the referee at least 45 minutes before the commencement of a match.

(ii) A 4<sup>th</sup> substitution is permitted if a match goes to extra time. The 4<sup>th</sup> substitute can be used whether or not the team has already used the maximum number of substitutes permitted (three substitutes).

(iii) For the 4<sup>th</sup> substitute, the same procedure applies as for the “normal” three substitutions, as described in Law 3.3.

(h) Electronic performance and tracking systems (EPTS) are permitted. In accordance with the Laws of the Game, if used:

- they must not pose any danger to the players and/or match officials
- information and data transmitted from the devices/systems is not permitted to be received or used in the technical area during the match.

(i) Post-match hospitality for players and club officials shall not be mandatory, but if it is agreed in advance by the two Clubs in writing, and one team fails to honour the agreement, the offending Club will be subject to reimbursement of reasonable costs, as agreed by the FAW.

**11. Date for Postponed matches**

(a) Postponed matches shall be played on the following Sunday unless the Clubs agree to play midweek prior to the following Saturday and notify the same to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association.

(b) When a match has been postponed or abandoned before its completion on two occasions, the fixture shall be reversed, with home advantage being awarded to the visiting team. When a fixture has been postponed by the FAW for whatever reason, this will not count as one of the ‘two occasions’ as described above. When the fixture has been reversed, the Club which will now host the match is responsible for all of the expenses as described in Rule 22.

**12. Failing to Play**

In the event of any Clubs, drawn together in any tie, failing to play the Tie within the appointed time, they shall be struck out of the Competition, unless they shall have played an extra 20 minutes, or shall have played twice before the date fixed for the conclusion of the tie, or unless sufficient reasons be given to the Council for allowing an extension of time. Any clubs drawn together in the Competition having arranged to play on a certain date, either Club failing to comply shall be disqualified.

**13. Clubs Intending to Withdraw**

No clubs shall be allowed to withdraw from any Round unless notice has been given to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association before the Draw is made for Round in question.

**14. Team-Sheet and Sending Results**

- (a) Clubs shall hand copies of a list of names of players taking part in the game (including the name of nominated substitutes) on the official team-sheet, to the Referee and a representative of their opponents in the Referee's dressing room at least 45 minutes before the official time of kick-off.
- (b) Any Club failing to carry out these provisions will be fined a sum not exceeding £10.00 at the absolute discretion of the Committee.
- (c) The Secretary of each competing Club shall within two days (Sunday excepted), after the day of the match, send notice of the result in writing, together with the full names and addresses of the players in each team, to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association. Secretaries failing to comply with this Rule shall be dealt with for misconduct.
- (d) The Secretaries of the Clubs drawn at Home must telephone or email the result to the Association as soon as possible after the end of the match. Failure to report the result on the day of the match will result in a fine of £25.

**15. Choice of Ground**

In each Tie the game shall be played on the registered ground of the Club first drawn. If the registered ground is unavailable, the fixture must be reversed to the opponents registered ground. When the fixture has been reversed, the Club which will now host the match is responsible for all of the expenses as described in Rule 22.

**16. Choice of ground for Semi-Finals and Final**

The Council shall determine the stadium for all Semi-Finals and the Final and shall have direct control of the arrangements.

**17. Provisions Concerning Match Officials**

- (a) *Appointments*

In all matches Referees and Assistant referees shall be appointed by the Association. Neither past nor present members of either contending Clubs shall be eligible. In the event of any match officials failing to arrive or being incapacitated, the two Clubs must agree to a substitute.

(b) *Payment of Fees and Expenses*

The fees and expenses of all officials appointed by the Association to officiate in any match prior to the Semi-final Tie shall be paid by the Club upon whose ground the match takes place unless otherwise instructed by the Council.

(c) *Scale of Expenses to be paid to Officials*

(i) Standard class railway fare operating on the day of the match will be allowed.

(ii) An allowance of £0.35 per mile will be allowed to all officials officiating who travel by private car.

(iii) Officials shall be entitled to claim a meal allowance of up to £10, upon production of receipts, for all matches where travel exceeds 150 miles. In the event of doubt, a route finder must be used to prove distance travelled.

(d) *Scale of Fees to be paid to Officials*

Qualifying Round - Round 3:

Referee £25 Assistant Referees £18 each

Round 4 to Round 6:

Referee £30 Assistant Referees and 4th Officials £22 each

Semi-finals:

Referee £60 Assistant Referees and 4th Officials £40 each

Final:

Referee £90 and a souvenir medal.

Assistant Referees and 4th Officials £60 each and a souvenir medal

(e) Officials are entitled to their travelling expenses if incurred and half their fees if the match to which they were appointed is not played.

(f) The home Club shall send details of the match to the Referee and Assistant referees who shall acknowledge receipt.

(g) Referees and Assistant referees shall acknowledge acceptance of appointments for all matches in the Competitions to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association.

(h) The duties of the Referee and Assistant referees shall be defined in Laws of the Game 5 and 6.

**18. Question of eligibility**

All questions of eligibility, qualifications of competitors, or interpretation of the Rules, or Laws for the game, shall be referred to the Council, whose decision shall be final.

**19. Protests**

- (a) Should any Club in connection with any dispute or protest have a member on the Council, the said member shall not be eligible to sit on the Council while such dispute or protest is being considered.
- (b) No protest relative to the playing ground, goal-posts, or bars, or other appurtenances of the game shall be entertained by the Council, unless it is laid with the Referee before the commencement of the match, nor shall any protest relative to the interpretation of the Rules or Laws of the Game be entertained unless laid with the Referee on or before the conclusion of the match. Such protests may be made verbally but must be handed to the Referee in writing before he has left the ground or dressing room. A written notice of such protest or protests, and two copies thereof, must be lodged with the Chief Executive Officer of the Association, within two days (Sunday excepted) after the conclusion of the Match within which time a written protest against the eligibility of any player may be lodged.
- (c) The sum of One Hundred Pounds sterling must be deposited with the Chief Executive Officer of the Association, together with all such protests, which sum shall be forfeited to the funds of the Association in the event of such protest not being sustained.
- (d) In the event of a protest being laid against a club for playing any player over age, such club playing him shall, within two days of receiving a copy of such protest produce to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association a copy of the birth certificate of any player so claimed ineligible, and should the protest fail under this heading, the cost of such birth certificate shall be met by the club protesting.
- (e) If it is found on enquiry that a protest is frivolous, the Club laying the protest, in addition to forfeiting the protest fee or otherwise, may be held liable for the costs of the Commission of Enquiry.

**20. Playing Ineligible players**

- (a) In the case of any player being found ineligible, the Club playing him must be adjudged to have lost the match.
- (b) If the Council have any doubt as to the qualification of any player competing in this competition, it shall have the power to call upon such player, or the Club to which he belongs or for which he played, to prove to the satisfaction of the Council that he is properly qualified according to the Rules, and failing such satisfactory proof, the Council shall have power to disqualify such player, and remove such Club from the Competition or to take such other action as deemed expedient.

**21. Clubs leaving ground before expiration of the game**

Any Club leaving the ground before the expiration of the game must be adjudged to have lost the match and shall be liable to be dealt with by the Council for misconduct.

**22. Division of Gates**

- (a) The proceeds of the 'Gate', after paying printing, posting, advertising (the total charge for same not to exceed £25.00 except by mutual arrangement) police charges, charge of the Referee and Assistant referees (where appointed), shall be equally divided between the two competing Clubs.
- (b) In the semi-final and final ties, the nett gate shall be equally divided between the two competing Clubs respectively.

**23. Receipt for safe-keeping of Cup**

When the winning Club have been ascertained the Chief Executive Officer of the Association shall hand the Cup to the representatives on receiving a document to the following effect, and subscribed to by them –

*“We, Secretary of the Club, and Members of and representing the said Club, which has been declared to have won The Welsh Youth Cup for the current year, and the same having been delivered to us by or on behalf of the said Association, do hereby, on behalf of the said club, individually and collectively, engage to return the same to the said or to the Chief Executive Officer of Association for the time being, 28 days before the Final match, in the next season, in like good order and condition, and in accordance with the conditions of the annexed Rules, to which also we have subscribed our respective names.”*

The Club winning the Cup shall insure the same through The Football Association of Wales at its current value.

In addition to the Cup, the Council shall present Souvenirs to the Players and the substitutes in the Final Tie.

**24. Rules governing Competition**

The Rules to be observed in the Competition shall be those of The Football Association of Wales.