



## **RULES OF THE SENIOR CHALLENGE CUP (MEN AND WOMEN)**

In the event of a nationwide epidemic or global pandemic occurring such that specific Rules need to be introduced to address any potential or actual impact on the Competition, then the Hunts FA will act to make any changes to the Rules it deems necessary. Where any Rule changes are required, they will be communicated to the Clubs participating in the Competition as soon as reasonably possible. This or a similar approach may be adopted by the Hunts FA in response to any event or series of events it deems are affecting, or could affect, the Competition during the season.

### **1. CONTROL OF COMPETITION – RULES & REGULATIONS**

- 1.1 The Council of the Association shall have the power to make, delete and amend regulations for the organisation, control and management of the Competition as it, from time to time, deems expedient (the “Competition Rules”) (to include, for the avoidance of doubt, where the Competition has commenced in the relevant season) subject only to the authority of the Hunts FA Board where such matters relate to financial or commercial matters. Unless explicitly provided for within the Competition Rules definitions of terms used within the Competition Rules are those included within the Rules of The Football Association for the relevant season.
- 1.2 All Clubs and players participating in any way in the Competition shall be bound by and comply with the Competition Rules (and any rules or regulations issued pursuant to the Competition Rules).
- 1.3 The Council shall have the power to make decisions on all matters arising out of or in relation to the organisation, control and management of the Competition (including as to eligibility and qualification) which shall be final and binding on all participants in the Competition. In relation to these and any other matters relating to the Competition but not specifically



mentioned in the Competition Rules, the Council, shall have the power to take such action and make such decisions, orders, rulings and impose such penalties as it deems necessary and following such procedures as it considers appropriate and such shall, subject to Rule 23, be final and binding on all Participants. In considering such matters, the Council shall not be bound by any enactment or Rule of Law relating to the admissibility of evidence in proceeding before a Court of Law.

- 1.4 The Council may, at its sole discretion, appoint from time to time a Committee to take such action and make such decisions, orders, rulings and impose penalties on its behalf which shall be deemed decisions of the Council.
- 1.5 A Club participating in the Competition shall have only such rights in relation to the Competition (and any match in the Competition) as are expressly granted to the Club under the Competition Rules or by the Hunts FA in writing.
- 1.6 In addition to any other action or penalty, The Council shall have the power to disqualify any competing Club, or Player for any competing Club(s), which it determines to have breached the Rules of The FA, Hunts FA or the Competition Rules (and any rules or regulations issued pursuant to the Competition Rules), and the decision of the Council shall, subject to Rule 23, be final and binding.

## **2. NAME**

The Competitions (Mens & Womens) shall be called the Huntingdonshire FA Senior Challenge Cups.

## **3. COMPETITION - ELIGIBLE CLUBS**

- 3.1 The Mens Competition shall be on a knock-out basis. It shall be open to the first team only of bona-fide Senior Clubs affiliated to the Association who play at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System and who hold a Football Association ground grading of at least Grade 6 (plus floodlights) subject to



the approval of the Council. Any Club that loses its League status may be withdrawn from the Competition.

- 3.2 The Women's Senior Challenge Cup entry clarification is for teams who play in Leagues up to Step 4 of the Women's Football Pyramid and shall be played on a knock out basis.
- 3.3 The Hunts FA may reject the application of any Club/Team to participate in the Competitions at its entire discretion.

#### **4. ENTRY APPLICATION - DATE AND FEE**

- 4.1 Each Club's entry fee for the competition shall be as per the schedule and made via the FA Club Portal

#### **5. PROVISIONS FOR WITHDRAWING FROM THE COMPETITION**

- 5.1 Any Club intending to withdraw from the Competition must notify its intention to do so to the Hunts FA and the opposing Club, not less than 8 days before the date fixed for playing the match in any other circumstances.
- 5.2 A Club failing to comply with this shall be reported to the Council, who shall have power to compel such offending Club to pay the expenses incurred and to take such other action as the Council considers appropriate.
- 5.3 If a Club decides to withdraw from the Competition after a postponed or abandoned match, notice must be given to the Hunts FA and its opponent at the end of the match or as soon as possible after the match has been postponed.
- 5.4 A Club failing to give satisfactory reason for withdrawing from the Competition shall in addition to any other action considered appropriate not be allowed to enter the Competition in the following season and shall be liable to such fine as the Council considers appropriate.
- 5.5 Where a Club fails to fulfil any fixture the Council shall take such action as it deems appropriate.



- 5.6 In the Semi-Final and Final Ties any club failing to play, without showing a good and sufficient cause for such failure to play, may be adjudged by the Council to have been guilty of serious misconduct, and liable to be dealt with under FA. Rule E1-E2.

## **6. DRAWS FOR ROUNDS AND KICK OFF TIMES**

- 6.1 The Clubs competing in each Round of the Competition shall be drawn in couples (and the Council may conduct draws for more than one Round of the Competition at the same time). The couples shall play a match subject to the Laws of the Game. The winners will compete in the next Round, the ties of which will be drawn in the same manner. This shall be continued until the Final of the Competition.
- 6.2 After the draw for each Round is made, notice shall be given to each Club of the name of its opponent Club, and the date and time when the match shall be played. All matches in each Round shall be played on such date as the Council shall determine.
- 6.3 The Competitions are deemed as Saturday Competitions, however matches shall be played on midweek evenings (unless the Hunts FA receives agreement from the Clubs Leagues' to play the match on a Saturday). The time of kick-off shall be 7.45pm for weekday matches (or 3.00pm on Saturday) unless mutually agreed otherwise, subject to the approval of the Council. In any event, the Council shall have the power to order that a kick-off time is changed, as it deems appropriate. Any late kick-off shall be reported by the Referee to the Hunts FA and the Council shall have power to impose a fine.
- 6.4 Other than the Final Tie, such scheduled dates are in effect "play by dates". Clubs requesting to play a tie before the scheduled "play by date" must submit such request in writing to the Hunts FA no later than 7 days prior to the scheduled date. Any request for such request must be made having received the agreement of their opponents.



## 7. VENUE FOR MATCHES

- 7.1 The venue of each match (save for the Final which will be played at a venue selected by Council) will be that of the first named Club unless the consent of the Council has been obtained to any change of venue or the Council has directed that there should be a change of venue.
- 7.2 No monetary or other consideration shall be asked for, offered or paid in connection with negotiations for a change of venue.
- 7.3 A match shall not be played on a neutral ground without the consent of the Council.
- 7.4 In any event, the Council shall have the power to order that any match be played on an alternative ground or date, including a Sunday, if it is considered appropriate and necessary. For ties switched from the ground of the Club first drawn, the Council shall determine the financial conditions in which the tie shall be played.

### *Protests Regarding the Suitability of Ground*

- 7.5 A Club may protest to the Hunts FA that the ground of the Home Club is unsuitable for the match. Such protest must be made to the Hunts FA and must be accompanied by a fee of £100.00, which may be forfeited if the protest is not sustained.
- 7.6 The Council shall have the power to consider the protest in such manner and following such procedures as it considers appropriate. The Council may amongst other things order the match to be played on the ground of the protesting Club, or on a neutral ground. The payment of the costs incurred by either Club and the Hunts FA incidental to the protest shall be at the discretion of the Council.



## 8. DURATION OF MATCHES

- 8.1 The Duration of each match shall be 90 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 the Referee's decision on this matter is not subject to appeal.
- 8.2 The half-time interval shall be 15 minutes for all ties in the Competition.
- 8.3 Both teams shall enter the field of play together five minutes prior to the kick-off time, along with the Match Officials.
- 8.4 In all rounds and including the Final, when a match is drawn after 90 minutes, the winner shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the procedure adopted by the International Football Association Board.

## 9. RESCHEDULED, POSTPONED AND ABANDONED MATCHES (MATCHES PLAYED PRIOR TO THE SEMI FINAL)

### 9.1 *Postponed and rescheduled matches*

- 9.1.1 The default date for playing a Round is Midweek.
- 9.1.2 If the competing Clubs are not able to play the match at the ground of the Home Club on the scheduled or agreed date, the Clubs can agree to:
  - 9.1.2.1 play the match at the ground of the Visiting Club or an alternative ground on the original date; or
  - 9.1.2.2 postpone or reschedule the match (to be played at the ground of either the Home Club, the Visiting Club or an alternative ground) to another date within eight days of the date fixed for playing the round (the



“Postponement Window”), provided that in each case the consent of the Council has been obtained.

- 9.1.3 Clubs should seek to agree arrangements and alternative options such as back-up date and having an artificial football turf pitch on stand-by to ensure the match can be played within the Postponement Window.
- 9.1.4 If the Clubs cannot agree on a date for the postponed or rescheduled match within the Postponement Window, the default date is the Tuesday immediately following the date fixed for playing the round.
- 9.1.5 If a postponed or rescheduled match is further postponed, or if one or both Clubs are not able or willing to compete in a match within the Postponement Window, the Council shall take such action as it deems appropriate (in its absolute discretion).

## 9.2 *Abandoned Matches*

- 9.2.1 When any match has been abandoned after it has commenced but before it has been completed, the Council shall deal with the matter as it sees fit in its absolute discretion.
- 9.2.2 The Council shall have the power to vary these arrangements if it is deemed necessary.

## 10. REPORTING RESULTS

- 10.1 Both the home and away club shall record the result of each match, details of the participating players, including substitutes played and the mark awarded to the referee plus any other information required by the Competition onto the Hunts FA system by 20:00 hours of the day following the fixture. Failure to do so will incur a fine as per the schedule.



- 10.2 In the event of any match in the Competition not being played or if it is not completed (i.e. where full time has not been played or completed or the penalty competition has not been played), both Clubs concerned shall SMS such details to the Hunts FA system no later than two hours after the time that the match was called off or ended and must send a report of circumstances in writing to the Chief Operating Officer to reach him no later than 72 hours after the time fixed for the match. Any Club failing to SMS details to the Hunts FA system and/or submit a report shall be fined as per the schedule.
- 10.3 Both clubs shall SMS the result of each match to the Hunts FA System within 1 hour of the conclusion of the match. Failure to do so will incur a fine as per the schedule.
- 10.4 Prior to marking a referee, the appropriate club representative shall make themselves fully aware of the marking criteria in the FA Guide to marking referees which will be sent out to all clubs prior to the commencement of the season (*also available via the Hunts FA App*). Any Club awarding the referee a mark of 65 or less must compile a report outlining the referees perceived shortcomings. This written report must be received by the Chief Operating Officer within five days of the match. Failure to do so will incur a fine as per the schedule.

## 11. FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

### 11.1 *Artificial Football Turf Pitch*

- 11.1.1 Artificial football turf pitches may be used in the Competition provided conditions (11.1.2) to (11.1.4) below have been met (the “Performance Standard”):
- 11.1.2 The pitch must be surfaced with artificial football turf that has laboratory type approval according to the FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf (2012 & 2015 editions) – to a minimum of FIFA Quality Standard and must have satisfied the performance and construction



- requirements at the time of its most recent annual assessment.
- 11.1.3 The artificial football turf pitch must be listed on The Football Association's register of artificial football turf pitches by no later than 31 July prior to the commencement of the Competition.
- 11.1.4 Where an artificial football turf pitch is not listed on The Football Association's register by 31 July prior to the commencement of the Competition (for example if it is a newly installed pitch), in order to be able to use the pitch for a match in the Competition a club must obtain a Performance Test Certificate and submit it to the Football Association by no later than seven days prior to the default date of the round in which that match is scheduled to take place.
- 11.1.5 The Football Association reserves the right to instruct a Club to have its pitch tested at any time in order to ensure that it meets the Performance Standard. All such tests shall be at the Clubs expense.
- 11.1.6 The Hunts FA may order a tie to be played at an alternative venue where it is not satisfied the pitch meets the Performance Standard.
- 11.1.7 The artificial football turf, including run-offs, shall be one continuous playing surface and shall be green in colour at least one metre from the outer edge of the touchline and goalline. All line markings shall be in accordance with the Laws of Association Football.
- 11.1.8 The home Club shall allow their opposition the opportunity to use the pitch and train on the surface two hours prior to the kick-off and there must not be another game or event on the pitch following the training period. If it is intended to water the pitch before



the match, the pitch shall be watered prior to the training period.

- 11.1.9 The Club using the artificial football turf shall advise their opposition at least 10 days before the match of limitations or recommendations on the types of boot or stud that may be used on the surface.
- 11.1.10 The Club shall provide all necessary assistance and data relating to player assessments, injury records, maintenance etc as requested by The Football Association, FIFA or UEFA

## 11.2 *Ground Facilities*

- 11.2.1 Clubs must have a ground where all home First Team League matches are played which fully conforms to Grade 6 of The FA National Ground Grading (appropriate to entry to Step 6 of The FA National League System) or higher save where (i) National League System Regulations permit a Club at Step 6 of The FA National League System to play its home matches at a ground which does not fully conform to Grade 6 and (ii) where Clubs are in their first season after promotion from Regional National League System Feeder League level, provided their ground fully conforms to a Grade 7.
- 11.2.2 The consumption of alcohol in the ground or premises during the period of a match shall be subject to the terms of the Club licence agreement and the Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol) Act 1985 and/or any successor legislation. Glasses, Glass bottles or cans containing alcohol are not permitted outside of the Clubhouse and must not be brought into grounds.



### 11.3 *Playing Condition of the Ground*

- 11.3.1 Each Club must take every precaution to ensure that its ground is in a fit playing condition. In the event of doubt regarding the condition of the pitch, the Home Club shall immediately notify the Hunts FA to enable a Match Official to conduct a pitch inspection.
- 11.3.2 A Referee shall whenever possible examine the ground and decide as to its fitness for play in sufficient time to save the expense of unnecessary journeys being incurred by Clubs. The pitch inspection must be made by the Match Referee or a Referee appointed by the Hunts FA who must immediately contact the Hunts FA with details of an inspection (and the Match Referee if relevant).
- 11.3.3 Subject to this Rule, the Referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches.
- 11.3.4 The Referee must report to the ground 60 minutes before the time of kick-off. If necessary, the Home Club or the Hunts FA may, by notice, require the Referee to visit the ground more than 60 minutes before the time of kick-off any time during the season.
- 11.3.5 Under exceptional circumstances the Hunts FA has the authority to postpone the game.

### 11.4 *Floodlighting*

- 11.4.1 All matches shall be played on grounds enabling matches to be played either partly or wholly under floodlight conditions, provided that the installation conforms to the requirements relevant to the Grade 6 of The FA National Ground Grading save where (i) National League System Regulations permit a Club at Step 6 of The FA National League System to play its



home matches at a ground which does not fully conform to Grade 6 and (ii) where Clubs are in their first season after promotion from Regional National League System Feeder League level, provided their ground fully conforms to a Grade 7.

11.4.2 The Referee will decide at what point in the game the floodlights shall be switched on. This will necessitate a discussion with responsible Officials of the competing Clubs before the game, when a signal must be agreed.

11.4.3 The cost for floodlighting must not exceed £75.00, and this cost may be charged as match expenses, if incurred.

### 11.5 *Matchballs*

11.5.1 The Multiple Ball System (where more than one ball may be used in a match) will not operate in ties up to and including the Semi-Final. The Association shall determine whether the Multiple Ball System will operate in the Final of the Competition.

### 11.6 *Substitute Boards*

11.6.1 Electronic substitute boards should be provided by Home Clubs for the fourth official where FA appointed, to operate to display the minimum additional time allowed at the end of each half. If electronic boards are not available, the normal hand held substitute boards should be used.

### 11.7 *First Aiders, Medical Emergency Action Plans and First Aid / Emergency Medical Facilities and Equipment*

11.7.1 Nothing in these Rules replaces, reduces or affects the obligations imposed on Clubs by statute and/or common law in the fields of medicine, occupational health and/or health and safety.



## 11.8 *First Aiders*

- 11.8.1 It is the responsibility of the Home or Host Club to ensure that Qualified Medical Practitioner or First Aider (as applicable) is in attendance throughout the Competition Match. The Qualified Medical Practitioner or First Aider should, as a minimum, meet the standard of first aid provision required by the League in which the Home Club's first team participates.

## 11.9 *Medical Emergency Action Plans*

- 11.9.1 The Home or Host Club must ensure that an up-to-date Medical Emergency Action Plan (MEAP) is in place (or such other medical plan as may be required by the League in which the Club's first team participates). The MEAP should include information regarding: the deployment of medical personnel and resources, communication systems (including any unified command-control process which integrates the provision of emergency medical care and first aid into match-day safety systems) and emergency protocols for time critical emergencies. The Home or Host Club must ensure that all personnel responsible for emergency medical care and first aid at the relevant match in the Competition (including those of the Visiting Club) are briefed on the contents of the MEAP prior to kick-off. The MEAP should be provided in writing within each dressing room and summarised in a medical briefing to all personnel responsible for emergency medical care and first aid prior to kick-off.

## 11.10 *First Aid / Emergency Medical Personnel, Facilities and Equipment*

- 11.10.1 The Home or Host Club must ensure that all personnel primarily responsible for emergency medical care and first aid are provided pitch-side seating with easy



access to, and an unobstructed view of, the pitch. Where required by the League in which the Home or Host Club participates, and otherwise where possible, the medical staff of each Club shall be seated on the Trainer's bench.

The Home or Host Club is responsible for the provision of first aid/emergency medical personnel, facilities and equipment (to include extrication/ stretcher equipment) for the provision of medical care to players, match officials and spectators. The provision of first aid/emergency medical personnel, facilities and equipment for each match in the Competition should include a calculation of the appropriate number of personnel required and, where applicable, meet the minimum medical requirements as required by the League in which the Club's first team participates.

The Home or Host Club must ensure that: (i) all medical resources and/or equipment are easily accessible from the pitch and technical area, (ii) the location of those medical resources and/or equipment is appropriately signposted within the ground (including in the dressing rooms of each Club and match officials), and (iii) appropriately qualified and competent personnel are available to utilise those resources and/or equipment to deliver first aid or emergency medical care.

## 12. CLUB COLOURS

12.1 The two competing clubs must wear colours that distinguish them from each other and also the Match Officials. Where there is a clash (as determined by the Hunts FA) in a match other than the Final Tie, the Away Club must change.

In the Final Tie, each competing Club must wear its home kit (as registered with the League in which the Club's first team participates) provided there is no clash. If a clash occurs, a toss



of a coin shall determine which Club shall wear its home kit. The toss of coin shall be made by a representative of the Hunts FA and shall be witnessed by the representatives of the Finalists with the toss taking place at the Hunts FA offices or another suitable location as soon as possible after the Semi Final.

- 12.2 In the event of the Clubs not agreeing upon the colours to be worn, the Hunts FA shall decide. Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from the other players, and the Match Officials.
- 12.3 Clubs' colours must not clash with the black and white outfit worn by the Match Officials.
- 12.4 Players' shirts shall be clearly numbered on the back in accordance with the Official Team Sheet. No change of numbers during the match shall be allowed except on a change of Goalkeeper or where a player has been required by the Referee to change their shirt because of a blood injury. The Captain of each team shall wear a distinguishing armband to indicate their status.
- 12.5 Advertising may be worn on players' clothing in accordance with the Rules of The Football Association and the Laws of the Game. When participating in a match no Player shall reveal undergarments that show political, religious or personal slogans, statements or images or advertising other than a manufacturer's logo.

### **13. PROVISIONS CONCERNING PLAYERS**

- 13.1 Each team participating in a match shall represent the full available strength of each competing Club.
- 13.2 Each Club must provide a list of names of players taking part in the game (including the names of the substitutes) (the "Official Team Sheet") to the Referee and a representative of



their opponents in the presence of the Referee:

- 45 minutes before kick-off for all matches.

Any Club failing to do so will be liable to be fined by the Council a sum not exceeding £100.00.

- 13.3 Should any nominated player or substitute sustain an injury after the submission of the “Official Team Sheet” to the Referee before kick-off, the player may be replaced without fine if the injured warming up after the exchange of the Official Team Sheet, provided the Referee and opponents are informed before the commencement of the match. In such circumstances the Official Team Sheet must be updated by the relevant Club to include the replacement player and exclude the injured player prior to the commencement of the match.
- 13.4 A player may be deemed ineligible to take part in a match unless their name appears on the Official Team Sheet.

### 13.5 *Substitutes*

A maximum of 5 substitutes may be nominated. A Club may at its discretion use five substitute players at any time in a match.

A substitution can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission. Prior to the substitution being made the Club must identify to the Match Officials the number of the player out and the player in, in accordance with the Official Team Sheet.

### 13.6 *Repeat Substitutions*

- 13.6.1 Repeat Substitutions in the Men’s Senior Challenge Cup Competition **are not permitted.**
- 13.6.2 Repeat Substitutions In the Women’s Senior Challenge Cup Competition **are permitted.**



- 13.6.3 In the Womens Senior Challenge Cup - A player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace a player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of the Game.
- 13.7 All players shall be qualified as players according to the Rules of The Association.
- 13.8 A player shall not play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same season.
- 13.9 All players must have been eligible to play in the original tie in order to play in a match which is postponed or ordered to be replayed; however a player who has been suspended according to the disciplinary procedures under the Rules of The Association may play in a match which is postponed or ordered to be replayed after the term of the players suspension has expired. In the event of an order to replay, a postponement or an abandonment of a match, a Club may request dispensation from the Council to select a replacement goalkeeper who is a registered player, but was not a registered player prior to the “Registration Deadline” (as defined below). Any such request must be made to the Hunts FA in writing (together with evidence substantiating the reasons for the request), and received no later than 24 hours before the scheduled commencement of the relevant match. Dispensation will be at the complete discretion of the Council.
- 13.10 A substitute who does not play in a match is entitled to play for another Club in the Competition in the same season.
- 13.11 In all Rounds of the Competition a player shall be a “registered player” of their Club under the Rules of the Competition.
- 13.12 A “registered player” is one who is either, in the case of a player under written contract, registered with The Football Association or, in the case of a player without a written contract, registered with a League in which the players Club competes in the current season. Any such registration must have been received



(with all relevant documents completed) by The Football Association or League by 12 noon on the day immediately prior to the date fixed for playing the match/round (whichever is the earlier date), (the “Registration Deadline”). The Football Association (for players under written contract) or League (for players without a written contract) must also have confirmed in writing to the Club submitting the application to register the player that the registration has been accepted in order for the player to be eligible to play in the match. The player must also still be registered with the Club which submitted the application as at the date of the match. The Football Association (for players under written contract) or League (for players without a written contract) may confirm its acceptance of a registration after the Registration Deadline provided that such registration was received, along with all relevant documents, by the Registration Deadline. However, if The Football Association (for players under written contract) or League (for players without a written contract) has not confirmed in writing its acceptance of a registration 75 minutes before the scheduled commencement of the match, the player shall not be eligible to play in the match.

- 13.13 An International Transfer Certificate for Players coming from overseas associations (including Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland) must be received at least 75 minutes before the scheduled commencement of the match in order for the Player’s registration to be valid.

*Note for clarification:*

*To play in the Final, players must be registered in accordance with the above rules, but do **not** have to have been eligible to play in the Semi Final.*



## 14. VALIDITY OF PLAYERS' QUALIFICATIONS

- 14.1 The Council shall have power to call upon a Player, and/or the Club to which the Player is registered, or for which the Player played, to prove that the Player is qualified according to the Competition Rules.
- 14.2 Subject to 14.3 below, where a Player that is or is found to be ineligible under either the Rules of the Competition and/or the Rules of the Hunts FA plays for a Club in a Competition match, the Council may remove the Club from the Competition, and may impose further penalties against the Club.
- 14.3 However, where the Club satisfies the Council that the Club (or any of its officers) did not know and could not reasonably have known, even had it made every reasonable enquiry (with the exercise of the utmost caution), that the player was ineligible, the Club shall not be removed from the Competition but may still be subject to any other penalty. (e.g. fine, ordered to replay the match).
- 14.4 In the event The Football Association is instructed to sanction a Player and/or Club in such circumstances by FIFA, The Football Association will follow such instructions unless there are exceptional circumstances which would, in the Council's absolute discretion, lead to The Football Association challenging such instruction.

## 15. PROGRAMME

A printed or digital version of a Programme or Team Sheet must be produced by the Home Club and made available for spectators on the day of a match.



## 16. TEAM BENCHES

- 16.1 In all Rounds of the Competition, the number of Clubs players and Officials seated on the team benches, in the designated technical area, must not exceed 11 unless the team bench facility provides more than 11 individual seats.
- 16.2 Only one person has the authority to convey tactical instructions to the players during the match. They are allowed to move to the edge of the technical area to issue instructions to their team.
- 16.3 All Team Officials and substitutes seated on the bench shall be listed on the Official Team Sheet when it is submitted to the Match Officials. Only those persons listed on the Official Team Sheet shall be permitted in the technical area.
- 16.4 The occupants of the technical area must behave in a responsible manner at all times. Misconduct by occupants of this area will be reported by the Referee to the Hunts FA, who shall have the power to impose sanctions as deemed fit.
- 16.5 With the exception of the Team Manager, the Team Coach and any substitutes who are warming up or warming down, all other personnel are to remain seated on the team bench. The Team Manager or Team Coach is allowed to move to the edge of the technical area to issue instructions to their team.
- 16.6 In the Final, Clubs will be advised by the Association of the number of technical staff and substitutes who may occupy the team benches and a list of the permitted number of authorised personnel must be provided by each Club to the Referee at least one hour before kick-off.

## 17. PROVISIONS CONCERNING MATCH OFFICIALS

- 17.1 Match Officials shall be appointed by The Hunts FA in accordance with its appointing procedures. The Secretary of the Home Club must confirm the match details to the Referee



and Assistant Referees where applicable at least five **5** days prior to the day of the match. If Match Officials are not informed they must report this failure to the Hunts FA. Failure to comply by the Home Secretary will result in a Fine as per the Schedule.

- 17.2 The Hunts FA reserves the right to appoint a Reserve Official to officiate in the event of an appointed Match Official failing to arrive or being incapacitated. In the Final the Hunts FA shall appoint a Fourth Official.
- 17.3 Match Officials where appointed should be at the ground at least 60 minutes before the kick-off, failure may result in a fine as per the Schedule.
- 17.4 In the event of any of the Match Officials failing to arrive or being incapacitated, the match shall be completed under the control of the remaining Match Officials plus the Clubs must mutually agree for a person to officiate the match who is acceptable to the match referee, in order for the match to be played on the day. Should the appointed Match Referee fail to appear then the most senior Assistant Referee or Fourth Official must take charge. Any substitute agreed for a match shall be considered a Match Official for the purposes of that match.
- 17.5 The fees and expenses of all Match Officials appointed by the Hunts FA to officiate in any match prior to the Final shall be paid by the Club upon whose ground the match takes place unless otherwise instructed by the Council. For cash payments, these should be made on the day of the match. For electronic bank transfers, these should be made within 48 hours following the conclusion of the match.
- 17.6 The Fee payable to the Referee in qualifying and Semi-Final ties shall be as per the schedule and for Assistant Referee as per the Schedule and paid by the Home Club. The Referee and Assistant Referee shall be entitled to the second class fare (actually paid) or travelling by cycle, motor car or other conveyance shall be paid as per the Schedule.



- 17.7 Match Officials appointed for any round, Semi-Final or Final ties must acknowledge receipt accepting or otherwise within three days, failure to comply, the match will be re-appointed.
- 17.8 Match Officials appointed to the Final tie shall be awarded souvenirs, shall also be paid by the Hunts FA a match fee plus travelling expenses as per the Schedule, or second class fare actually paid.
- 17.9 In cases where the Match Officials travel to a ground and the fixture is not played for any reason, they shall be entitled to travelling expenses and half the match fee.
- 17.10 Should a Referee for any reason be unable to complete the match their place shall be taken by the most senior Match Official appointed. The replacement shall then be considered the appointed Referee for the remainder of the match.
- 17.11 Clubs shall provide separate dressing room accommodation for Officials in all cases where possible.
- 17.12 Failure of the Match Officials (after having accepted the appointment) to turn up at the match and without furnishing a satisfactory explanation, shall be dealt with under FA Rule E1-E2 "Definition of Misconduct".

## **18. PROCEEDS OF MATCHES PRIOR TO THE FINAL**

- 18.1 The proceeds of all matches prior to the Final Tie (except replayed matches in consequences of a breach of rule) shall be equally divided between the competing Clubs after the expenses have been deducted.
- 18.2 The only charge to be allowed on the gate shall be Match Officials Fees and Expenses and, if applicable floodlighting to a maximum cost of up to £75, cost of £20 per Steward and a maximum of £20 for a Turnstile Operator . In exceptional circumstances where the cost of stewarding / policing is expected to be excessive, application may be made to the Hunts FA in advance of the match for the amount to be charged



against the gate to be increased. Should the request be agreed, both Clubs will be notified in advance of the match of the additional amount that has been agreed. Should receipts not be sufficient to cover the expenses then the Home Club will be responsible for meeting these expenses.

- 18.3 All cash must be paid within 14 days of the match and a copy of the statement forwarded to the Hunts FA and the Visiting Club. Failure to do so will result in an automatic fine in accordance with the schedule of fines and fees.
- 18.4 Up to and including the semi-final ties, the home club shall furnish the visiting club with 10 complimentary passes for their Club Officials, plus passes for 16 players and up to 5 Team Officials.

## **19 PROVISIONS FOR THE SEMI FINAL**

- 19.1 The Council may impose any arrangements where it is deemed appropriate.
- 19.2 The Semi Final shall be played as per the previous rounds and clubs drawn as couples. The first team drawn for each semi final shall be the home team.
- 19.3 Both matches shall be of 90 minutes duration.
- 19.4 If the score is level at the end of 90 minutes, the winner shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the procedure adopted by the International Football Association Board.
- 19.4.1 The home club shall furnish the visiting club with 10 complimentary passes for their Club Officials, plus passes for 16 players and up to 5 Team Officials.

### **19.5. *Postponed Matches***

When a Semi-Final match has been postponed, it shall be played as directed by the Council.



### 19.6. *Abandoned Matches*

When a Semi-Final match has been abandoned after it has commenced but before it has been completed, the Council shall deal with the matter as it sees fit in its absolute discretion.

- 19.7. The Council shall have the power to vary these arrangements if it is deemed necessary.

## 20. **PROVISIONS FOR THE FINAL**

- 20.1 The Council shall determine the ground for the Final and shall have direct control of the arrangements.
- 20.2 The Hunts FA shall take the proceeds of the Final Tie and shall be responsible for meeting the expenses of the tie.
- 20.3 Clubs will be furnished with 10 complimentary passes for their Club Officials, plus passes for 16 players and 3 Team Officials.

### *Postponed Match*

- 20.4 When a Final match has been postponed, it shall be played as directed by the Council.

### *Abandoned Match*

- 20.5 When a Final match has been abandoned after it has commenced but before it has been completed, the Council shall deal with the matter as it sees fit in its absolute discretion.

## 21. **THE HUNTS FA MENS SENIOR CUP - THE HUNTS FA WOMENS SENIOR CUP / FINALISTS MEDALS**

The Cup(s) are the property of the Hunts FA. The Cups shall be Challenge Cups and shall never be won outright.

- 21.1 When the winning Club has been ascertained, the Hunts FA shall loan the Cup to such Club, which shall be responsible for its return to the Hunts FA on or before the second Monday in January in the ensuing year in good order and condition. The Hunts FA reserves the right to request the return of the Cup at



any time by giving seven days notice. Should the Cup be lost, destroyed or damaged by fire or any other cause whilst under the care or custody of the Club the latter shall refund to the Hunts FA the amount of its current insured value or the cost of thorough repair in addition to any other penalty which the Council may impose.

- 21.2 In addition to the Senior Cup, the Hunts FA shall present 16 medals to players of both Clubs in the Final. When a player taking part is ordered to leave the field of play for misconduct, the medal to which they may be entitled may be withheld at the discretion of the Council.

## **22. PROVISIONS CONCERNING PROTESTS**

- 22.1 All issues relating to the interpretation of the Competition Rules, shall be referred to the Council, whose decision shall, subject to Rule 23, be final and binding. The Council shall consider any such matter in such manner and following such procedures as it considers appropriate. The Council shall not be bound by any enactment or Rule of Law relating to the admissibility of evidence in proceeding before a Court of Law.
- 22.2 Where a Club wishes to protest that there has been a breach of the Competition Rules, such protest must be made in writing and must contain the particulars of the grounds upon which it is made. The protest must be received by The Association, accompanied by a fee of £100.00, within twenty-four hours of the match to which it relates. The fee may be forfeited to the Hunts FA in the event of the protest not being sustained.
- 22.3 The Council (or a subcommittee) may make such orders as it considers appropriate in relation to any issue or protest referred to it. The Council (or a subcommittee) may make such orders as it considers appropriate as to the costs incurred by the parties or the Hunts FA.
- 22.4 Any protest relating to the ground, goal posts, or bars, or other appurtenances of the game shall not be considered by the



Council (or a subcommittee) unless an objection has been lodged by a duly authorised representative on behalf of the Visiting Club with a duly authorised representative on behalf of the Home Club in the presence of the Referee at least one hour before the official time of the kick-off. The Referee shall require the Home Club to correct the cause of the objection, if this is possible without unduly delaying the progress of the match. The Referee shall record the lodging of any protest made under this Rule in their match report.

- 22.5 Where an objection has been lodged with the Referee and Home Club as above, a protest must be made to the Hunts FA and neither objection nor protest may be withdrawn, except by leave of the Council (or a subcommittee).
- 22.6 The Hunts FA shall send a copy of any protest to the Club protested against, which shall lodge a defence to the protest with particulars of the defence within twenty-four hours of receipt of the protest.
- 22.7 Members of the Council directly connected with a Club concerned in a protest shall not have any involvement in the consideration of the matter.
- 22.8 A Club, or player or any person connected with the management of the Club may be summoned to attend at a hearing of a protest. A Club may be represented by one or more persons. A Barrister or Solicitor may represent a Club only with the prior written consent of the Council (or a subcommittee). Any person summoned to attend a hearing of a protest must attend personally and shall not be legally represented except with the prior written consent of the Council (or a subcommittee).



## **23. PROVISIONS CONCERNING APPEALS**

- 23.1 A Club that is expelled from the Competition may appeal against that decision to an Appeal Board in accordance with the procedures for Competition appeals set out in Appendix 2.
- 23.2 For the avoidance of doubt, a Club may not appeal against any penalty imposed on it other than expulsion from the Competition.

## **24. NOTICES**

All notices required to be given to the Hunts FA by any of these Competition Rules shall be addressed to the Chief Operating Officer, at the offices of the Hunts FA.

## **25. MASCOTS**

All Clubs in the Final may have Mascots present. A responsible Adult/ Adults must be in attendance to assist with the Mascots. The responsible adults will have free entry with the Mascots. FA Safeguarding Policies Apply.

## **26. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED WITHIN THE RULES**

The Council shall have the power to deal with any matter not provided for within the foregoing Rules.



## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Refreshments for Match Officials, Players and Visiting Officials**

All clubs are required to provide the following refreshments at all matches in the competition up to and including the Semi Final Ties.

#### **Players**

- (a) To be provided with the choice of a hot or cold drink at half time and full time.
- (b) Such refreshments should be made available before the match if requested.
- (c) To be provided with the choice of a hot or cold drink and sandwiches or other similar light refreshments at the end of the match.

#### **Match Officials**

- (a) To be provided with the choice of a hot or cold drink upon their arrival at the ground.
- (b) To be provided with the choice of a hot or cold drink at half time.
- (c) To be provided with the choice of a hot or cold drink and sandwiches or other similar light refreshments at the end of the match.

#### **Visiting Officials**

- (a) To be provided with the choice of a hot or cold drink and sandwiches or other similar light refreshments at half time.



## APPENDIX 2

1. Where a Club intends to lodge an appeal against a decision of the Council (or a subcommittee) to remove the Club from the Competition under Rule 23, it must:
  - 1.1 Notify the Hunts FA by email ([info@Huntsfa.com](mailto:info@Huntsfa.com) and [discipline@huntsfa.com](mailto:discipline@huntsfa.com)) by 12 noon on the first business day following receipt of the decision; and
  - 1.2 Provide the Hunts FA by email (to [info@huntsfa.com](mailto:info@huntsfa.com) and [disciplinary@huntsfa.com](mailto:disciplinary@huntsfa.com)) with an appeal fee of £100 and copies of all submissions, evidence and any other relevant material upon which they intend to rely by 6pm on the first business day following receipt of the decision.
2. The grounds of appeal available to the Club shall be that the Council (or subcommittee):
  - 2.1 Failed to give the Club a fair hearing; and/or
  - 2.2 Misinterpreted or failed to comply with the rules of the Competition relevant to its decision; and/or
  - 2.3 Came to a decision to which no reasonable such body could have come; and/or
  - 2.4 The removal of the Club from the Competition was excessive.
3. An appeal board of three people will be appointed to determine the appeal. The members will be Independent from the Hunts FA.
4. An appeal shall be by way of a review of documents and oral submissions only and shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Council (or subcommittee). The Hunts FA will ensure that all documents relating to the original decision are provided to the appeal board. If the Club does not wish to be present or represented in person, the appeal board may conduct the hearing on the basis of a review of the documents only.



5. The Hunts FA must, by 6pm on the second business day following receipt of the appellant's submissions, evidence and material, provide its responses to the appellant and the appeal board.
6. New evidence may only be permitted with the permission of the Chair of the appeal board. An application for leave to present new evidence must be made when providing submissions. Such application must set out the nature of relevance of the new evidence and why it was not presented at the original hearing. Save in exceptional circumstances, the appeal board shall not grant leave to present new evidence unless satisfied with the reason given as to why it was not, or could not have been, presented to the Council (or subcommittee) and that such evidence is relevant.

Where leave to present new evidence has been granted, in all cases the other party will be given an opportunity to respond. The decision of the Chair of the appeal board shall be final.

7. The appeal board will hear the appeal at the earliest available opportunity and, in any event, before the next round of the Competition. The appeal board shall determine the procedures to be followed at any personal hearing.
8. A decision of the appeal board shall be final and binding and there shall be no right of further challenge.
9. The appeal board shall have the power to allow or dismiss the appeal