



ENGLAND
FOOTBALL



MANCHESTER FA PREMIER CUP RULES



2024/25

Manchester FA



2024/25 FRANK HANNAH PREMIER CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION RULES

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The ownership, organisation, control and management of the Competitions shall be entirely and exclusively by the Manchester Football Association (MFA). MFA shall have the power to make, delete and amend rules for the organisation, control, management of the Competitions as it, from time to time, deems expedient and all the decisions shall be binding on all participants in the Competition

Competition Title ~ “Frank Hannah Manchester FA Premier Cup”

Competition Information

- 1 **Competition ~ draw**
 - 1.01 The competition is competed for annually unless otherwise specified by the RSG.
 - 1.02 The Competition will be in knockout format.
 - 1.03 Draw for all rounds will be published and communicated no later than 7 days following each previous round.
 - 1.04 Results will appear on the MFA Website within 3 working days of the fixtures.

2 **Competition ~ entry** (contact competitions@manchesterfa.com)

2.01 Entry fee for Clubs is £60 per team.

2.02 MFA Full Member Clubs will complete entry into all competitions via the Clubs Portal when completing membership. Entries will be accepted up to and including 1st August. Applications after this date are at the discretion of the competition.

2.03 Associate Member Clubs must make an application before 1st August with full team details. This will be completed by sending an application form to competitions@manchesterfa.com.

2.04 Any team located within Greater Manchester shall be considered eligible to enter MFA Competitions. For any team located outside of Greater Manchester, a 16 mile radius from Manchester Town Hall will apply, with those teams falling outside not eligible to enter.

3 **Competition ~ final ties**

3.01 MFA will appoint the venue for the final tie.

3.02 Match Referee and Assistant Referees will be appointed and paid by MFA.

3.03 Seventeen (17) individual trophies will be presented to each team and no further medals shall be supplied.

3.04 The Manchester Premier Cup (owned by MFA) will be presented to the winning team (see also Rule 25 for return conditions and insurance etc.)

3.05 Squad lists, pen pics, managers notes and any other requested information must be sent within **14 days** of the request to Competitions@ManchesterFA.com .

3.06 Teams failing to attend the final will automatically be disqualified.

3.07 Clubs competing in the final will be allocated 100 tickets each for sale to their supporters with more available if required. All clubs will receive a rebate of 5% of ticket sales.

3.08 Finalist are required to complete a survey regarding the final and competition, following their final.

4 **Competition ~ fixtures**

4.01 Conference Dates

Fixtures shall be played on the week commencing dates below. These dates will take precedence over any league fixtures for MFA Full Members. If two clubs agree a fixture date different to below, the home club must apply to MFA by email Competitions@ManchesterFA.com

PREMIER CUP	
ROUND	CONFERENCE DATE
Preliminary	Week commencing 16th September
Round 1	Week commencing 7th October
Quarter Finals	Week commencing 11th November
Semi Finals	Week commencing 3rd February
Final	TBC

4.02 At least 14 days before a fixture, the home team must notify the away team & also the match officials to provide directions to the ground & their colours. (See also Rule 23.06)

4.03 Fixtures played on the ground of the first drawn club.

4.04 Friendly matches cannot be played in lieu of a cup tie.

4.05 Non fulfilment of fixtures by either or both teams will invoke disciplinary action (see also Rule 23.02).

4.06 Reasonable expenses incurred due to one team failing to attend may be claimed by e-mailing Competitions@ManchesterFA.com

5 **Competition ~ grounds**

5.01 Goal Nets and Corner Flags must be used in all fixtures. (See also Rule 23.09)

5.02 Clubs shall not play on a neutral ground without the consent of the Association. No monetary or other consideration shall be asked for, offered or paid in connection with negotiations for change of venue (see also Rule 23.08).

5.03 Where there is a possibility of a postponed fixture due to weather, the home club must contact a MFA Registered Referee to inspect the ground and so save expense of the away team travelling.

5.04 Unsuitable grounds for a fixture may be appealed against within 7 days of receiving the draw by contacting **Competitions@ManchesterFA.com**.

5.05 Fixtures may be played on approved artificial surfaces. The artificial surface must have passed the accredited FIFA test and be held on the FA register of tested facilities (see also Rule 23.08).

5.06 Clubs must have a ground where a charge for admission is made. Dressing and washing accommodation must be separate for each team and Match Officials. Separate toilets must be provided for dressing rooms used by Players and Match Officials of both sexes and must not be available for spectator use.

5.07 In the fixtures up to the Semi-Final after paying the advertising and other normal expenses of the match plus a payment of 10% of the net gate receipt to MFA the remainder of the gate receipts shall be equally divided between the competing clubs,

5.08 In the Semi Final ties, one third of the net gate shall be retained by the Association and one third paid to each of the competing clubs. In the Final all gate receipts will be retained by the Association.

5.09 The home club will send a completed finance sheet and payment to the opposition and Manchester FA with in **7 days** of completion of the tie. (see also Rule 23.20). If the payment to Manchester FA is less than £10 then payment may be retained by the home club.

5.10 All fixtures shall be played in enclosed grounds.

5.11 The Managers, Coaches and Substitutes for both teams must be in provided dug outs.

5.12 Only one person (Manager or Coaches) at a time is authorised to convey tactical instructions

6 **Competition ~ grounds**

6.01 Player Qualification

> Players that are registered by the Club for their First Team in the League in which the First Team participate are eligible to play in all rounds including the final of this competition. (This is inclusive of players on loan/work experience but we require permission on the parent club)

> Players must be registered and assigned to the competing team through the appropriate registration system for the competing club

> To be eligible the player must have not represented another Club in this seasons Competition.

> Teams failing to conform to Rule 6.01 will be disqualified from further participation (see also Rule 23.01). The opposition team will receive a bye into the next round.

7 **Competition ~ protests**

7.01 Protests

> Will not be allowed if the protest documentation does not include all relevant evidence supporting the reasons for protest, including names where appropriate.

> Will only be allowed if Competition Rules **HAVE** been broken.

> Protests relating to the ground, goalposts or bars should be referred to the match official.

> Will not be allowed for other appurtenances of the game, either before, during or after the fixture.

7.02 How to Protest

- > All protests have to be in writing, and sent to **Support@ManchesterFA.com** within **seven days** of the fixture taking place. If email is not available the written protest may be delivered to the offices of MFA within seven days of the fixture taking place.
- > All protests must be accompanied by a protest fee of £20 which must be paid by credit/debit card.
- > Documents must contain your reasons for protesting (see also Rule 7.01).
- > Receipt of your protest will be acknowledged via e-mail. This is not confirmation of acceptance of a protest being heard.

7.03 The next stage

- > Your protest will be reviewed by the CWG.
- > A decision will be taken as to whether the protest is in order and acceptable.
- > Observations may be requested from the 'Club/Team/Individual' who is the subject of the protest
- > If appropriate a hearing will be arranged for yourselves and your opponents to attend. This will be conducted by an independent panel (Protest Commission) whom will be members of CWG.

7.04 Protest Hearings

- > Three members of each Club will be allowed to attend.
- > Both clubs will be given the opportunity to state their case regarding the reasons for protest.
- > The Protest Commission will then formulate their decision.

7.05 Protest Decisions

- > If the protest decision is not found in your favour, the hearing fee will be retained by the Association.
- > If found in your favour the appropriate sanction will be given out by CWG
- > All decisions taken at a protest are final and binding on all parties with the exception of decisions to expel from the Competition which can be appealed as per Rule 7.05 below

7.06 Appeals

A Club that is expelled from the Competition may appeal in writing to **Support@ManchesterFA.com** within 7 (seven) days of the dated decision correspondence. All appeals must be accompanied by a fee of £20 which must be paid by credit/debit card. If email is not available the written appeal may be posted or delivered to the offices of MFA. An appeal board comprising of 3 (three) Members will be selected by the Chair of the **RSG** or their nominee. Any such appeal shall only be permitted on one or more of the following grounds:

- > **MFA misinterpreted / failed to comply with the procedures relevant to dealing with the available evidence**
- > **MFA came to a decision on the facts of the case which no reasonable body could have reached; or imposed a sanction that is excessive.**

The appeal must be in writing and must clearly state which of the above grounds the appeal is based on and provide all relevant documentation supporting the reason for the appeal.

For the avoidance of doubt, a Club **may not** appeal against any penalty imposed on it other than expulsion from the Competition.

8 Competition ~ withdrawing

8.01 Teams wishing to withdraw must give notice at least 7 days prior to the commencement of the qualifying conference date period for each round that they are scheduled to participate in to **Competitions@ManchesterFA.com** (see also Rule 23.02). When a team withdraws from the competition their opponents will receive a bye into the next round.

8.02 All reasonable expenses (approved by MFA) incurred by an opposition team shall be reimbursed by the withdrawing team via MFA. All claims to be forwarded to **Competitions@ManchesterFA.com**. (Any Club withdrawing may be required to pay any expense incurred plus a fine decided by the RSG).

Fixture Information

9 **Fixtures ~ duration**

9.01 All fixtures shall be 45 minutes each way.

9.02 Half-time interval shall not exceed 15 minutes.

9.03 Fixture undecided at the end of normal time, the winners shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

(No Extra Time will be played in any MFA Competitions) See also Rule 23.17

9.04 Fixtures not having played the full time shall be replayed on the same ground subject to the reasons for the match not being completed. (for abandoned fixtures see Rule 10).

10 **Fixtures ~ abandoned fixtures**

10.01 Abandoned Fixtures for reasons outside of the control of either team are replayed the following week on the same ground.

10.02 Abandoned for late kick-off, replayed the following week as per below.

> Visiting team responsible, replay on same ground.

> Home team responsible, visiting team have choice of ground.

10.03 The RSG shall review all matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both clubs. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition, the RSG shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the RSG is satisfied that a match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one Club they shall be empowered to award the match to the opponent. For cases where a match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Clubs, the RSG has the power to remove both teams from the competition. The RSG can make this decision irrespective of any impending disciplinary procedures (see also Rule 23.12)

11 **Fixtures ~ disqualification**

11.01 Breach of competition rules may result in disqualification (see also Rule 23).

12 **Fixtures ~ floodlights**

12.01 Fixtures may be played under approved floodlighting.

12.02 Match Official shall decide when floodlighting is required.

13 **Fixtures ~ kick off times**

13.01 Kick off times shall be as home club league fixtures.

13.02 The home team must inform **Competitions@ManchesterFA.com**, their opponents and the Match Officials of all changes to kick off times from those issued on the draw within 7 days of the draw being made (see also 23.07).

Rule

14 **Fixtures ~ postponements**

14.01 When owing to adverse weather, fixtures may only be postponed by a designated match official, ground owner or local authority if the ground is under local authority jurisdiction (see also Rule 23.18)

14.02 Postponed fixtures to be played on the same ground the following week.

14.03 In postponed fixtures only players who were eligible to play in the original fixture (discipline sanctions notwithstanding) can take part (see also Rule 23.01).

15 **Fixtures ~ match cards**

15.01 Both teams are required to complete all requirements stated on the match record card.

15.02 The home team shall send a scanned/photo image of the completed match card to **Competitions@ManchesterFA.com** within 7 days of the fixture. Postal copies are no longer accepted. (see also Rule 23.03).

15.03 Teams submitting an incorrect match report card may be disqualified.

15.04 Teams must specify which substitutes have been used during the fixture.

15.05 Teams must submit a Match Card to the Match Official 45 minutes prior to kick off. Any changes after submission to the document must be agreed with the match officials. (see also Rule 23.13).

15.06 Should any player sustain an injury prior to kick off and after completion of the match card they may be replaced provided the Match Officials and opponents are informed before the commencement of the match.

16 **Fixtures ~ match officials**

16.01 A fourth official will be appointed for the Semi-Final and Final.

16.02 All Match Officials will be appointed by MFA.

16.03 Match Officials fees shall be the responsibility of the home club. In the final ties the Association will pay the match officials.

16.04 Match Officials in final ties will receive a souvenir.

16.05 Where a Match Official is in attendance and postpones the match they will be entitled to receive half their match fee plus full expenses.

16.06 Match officials will be permitted to wear a coloured referee jersey should the team kit colours require it. The colour of which is designated by the Association.

17 **Fixtures ~ results**

17.01 The home team shall communicate the fixture result to MFA by email to **Competitions@ManchesterFA.com** or via FA Full-Time within 24 hours of the fixture completion, detailing home & away team names & result (including penalties if applicable) (see also Rule 23.05).

18 **Fixtures ~ substitutions**

18.01 All substitutions shall be carried in accordance with Laws of the Game 3.

18.02 Substitutions are allowed from any 3 players from a maximum of 5 named on the match form.

19 **Fixtures ~ team colours**

19.01 Away team must change if a clash occurs.

19.02 Teams are not allowed to wear black or dark colours.

19.03 Players shirts shall be numbered in all fixtures (see also Rule 23.11).

19.04 The captain shall wear a distinguishing armband.

19.05 In all fixtures the Respect hand shake shall take place.

19.06 Advertising on shirts shall be in accordance with FA regulations.

20 **Fixtures ~ first aid & risk assessment**

20.01 First Aid.

> Each team must have a fully qualified First Aider with a First Aid Kit.

> The Team Manager cannot be the first aider, due to possible discipline eventualities.

> Failure to carry out this requirement may cause the team to be disqualified.

20.02 Risk Assessment

> A completed & signed ground risk assessment must be carried out before each fixture played to cover the club against any accidents and copies made available to MFA upon request.

> Failure to carry out this requirement may cause the team to be disqualified.

20.03 Accident book. The home team must ensure an accident book is available and accidents recorded in the same.

21 Fixtures ~ club responsibilities

21.01 Within 7 days of the draw being published, any teams unable to play the assigned fixture must notify the competition on **Competitions@ManchesterFA.com**.

21.02 See also Rule 4.02 regarding informing the away team & match officials.

21.03 If a club receives a competition fine from MFA this must be paid within 14 days of it being issued and the requirement must also be met. Any fines not settled within 14 days will be subject to a further £10 fine and may face expulsion from the competition and/or a team suspension.

22 Misconduct

22.01 If any Club is charged and found proven of an E20/E21 misconduct charge in a Premier Cup fixture the team will be expelled from the Competition. Where a player, Manager or coach is charged and found proven of an E3 misconduct charge in a Premier Cup fixture that individual will be expelled from the Competition. If when the charge is found to be proven the Club have already been knocked out of the Competition this will carry forward and the team and or individual will not be allowed to take part in the Competition in the following season (see also Rule 23.14). All reported Incidents of Flares/ Pyrotechnics and pitch incursions will be investigated by Manchester FA and may result in disciplinary action.

23 Breach of Competition Rules

23.01 Playing an ineligible player ~~~ Expulsion from the competition

23.02 Non fulfilment of the fixture ~~~ Expulsion from the competition

23.03 No match form returned within seven days ~~~ £10 sanction in the first and second instance and may be disqualified if there is a third instance.

23.04 Failure to pay match officials fee and expenses on match day ~~~ £10 sanction plus match officials fee plus expenses

23.05 Failure to communicate match result by Full Time text or e-mail match result to **Competitions@ManchesterFA.com** ~£10 sanction

23.06 Not confirming fixture with opponents of match official ~~~ £10 sanction

23.07 Changing kick off time without competition approval ~~~ £10 sanction

23.08 Failing to play on registered ground ~~~ £20 sanction

23.09 No corner flags or goal nets of first aid kit ~~~ £10 sanction

23.10 Late kick off of fixture ~~~ £20 sanction

23.11 All kits must be numbered in accordance with the laws of the game ~~~ £10 sanction

23.12 Causing match to be abandoned ~~~ expulsion from the competition

23.13 Failure to provide match card to referee 45 minutes before KO ~~~ £10 sanction

23.14 Team, player, coach or spectator misconduct ~~~ expulsion from the competition

23.15 Failure to complete all sections of the match card £10 sanction

23.16 Any other competition rule breaches e.g. wrong size pitch ~ Decision by Association

23.17 Playing Extra time in a MFA Competition ~~~ both teams excluded from the competition

23.18 Postponing game without referee or MFA approval ~~~ Team fined £10 the first instance, in the second instance may be disqualified

23.19 Non return of winners trophy by specified date ~~~ Team fined £10 the first instance, further £20 fee if not returned within 14 days of first fine and team suspension if not returned within 21 days of first fine.

23.20 No finance sheet returned to MFA within 7 days ~~~ £10 sanction

All breach of competition rules and resulting fines have to be paid within 14 days.

24 **Match Officials Fees**

Match Official's Fee	Referee	Assistant Referee	4th Official
Competition rounds	£75.00	£55.00	£35.00
Final Tie	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

In addition to the above fees, Officials will be able to claim expenses of 40p per mile.

In the final tie Match Officials shall receive a memento and expenses.

25 **Trophies**

25.01 All Trophies shall always remain the property of the Manchester County Football Association Ltd. That is, they can never be won outright.

25.02 When the winning Club has been ascertained, the Association shall deliver the trophy to such Club which shall be responsible for its return to the Association on or before the 5th January in the ensuing year in good order and condition. Should a club fail to return a trophy by this date then MFA will impose a fine and/or suspend the team until the trophy has been returned (See also Rule 23.19). Clubs should point out any defects to the MFA on receiving the trophy or as soon as possible afterwards. In no circumstances shall the club repair the trophy without the association's approval. Failure to obtain approval can mean repair costs may not be paid by the association or their insurers.

25.03 Whilst the trophy is in the Club's or any of its members possession should it be lost, destroyed or damaged by fire or any other cause the Club shall refund to the Association the amount of its currently insured value or the cost of thorough repair in addition to any other penalty which the Competition may impose. The value of the trophy will be advised to the Club by MFA.

25.04 A representative of the Club receiving a trophy, whose name must be submitted and approved by the Committee, shall sign a guarantee worded as follows:

Manchester FA County Cup Winner's Trophy Guarantee

This form hereby confirms that [.....] has won the [.....] final and have been awarded the above competitions winner's Trophy.

Due to the significant value of the above competition trophy Manchester FA are offering one of two options for its care;

a) Following the trophy lift & photos, Manchester FA will retain possession of the trophy making it available to the club on request for events such as the club presentation evening or any media days throughout the subsequent season.

OR

b) Following the trophy lift & photos, possession of the trophy will remain with the above winning team for an agreed period as outlined below:

1. In this case, the club **MUST** insure the trophy to the value of [.....] and accept full liability for any loss or damage whilst in its care. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes the period of transition immediately following the winners celebration on the night.
2. On return of the trophy, a full assessment will be carried out and the club invoiced for any restorative works as required
3. The trophy **must** be returned to Manchester Football Association by **1st December** the following season. A club failing to return the trophy on or before the agreed date shall be fined and subsequently suspended in line with current competition rules until the Cup is returned to Manchester FA. It is the clubs responsibility to ensure the trophy is returned to Manchester FA by the above date.

In the event that a Club ceases to exist after winning the competition, the Cup will be immediately returned to the Manchester FA where the above assessment will take place.

Please note: Do not inscribe the Cup with your club name. This will be completed by Manchester FA on return of the trophy.

By signing this guarantee on behalf of the club, you hereby confirm that you have read and fully understood the requirements of this agreement, and have expressed your chosen option to the Team Liaison Officer at your final.

Name:

Role in Club:

Club:

Above Option Selected: A OR B

26 **Association Power**

26.01 In relation to each match in the Competition, the Association itself shall be exclusively entitled to, or otherwise to authorise or grant to others, rights of access to and attendance at the ground of the Home Club or league ("Access Rights") for the purposes of filming, or otherwise recording on any media, audio and/or visual materials depicting all or any part or parts of the matches ("the Copyright Materials").

26.02 In relation to each match in the Competition, the Association shall itself be exclusively entitled to, or otherwise to authorise or grant to others:

- i) on a live, delayed, recorded or highlighted basis to broadcast or otherwise transmit by any method what so ever (now known or hereinafter devised) the Copyright Materials by way of any and all forms of television or similar technology (now known or hereinafter devised) including, without limitation, free to air television, pay television, pay-per-view, "not-video-on-demand" and "video on demand" (the Television Rights).
- ii) on a live or delayed basis to broadcast or otherwise transmit the Copyright Materials by way of radio broadcast or similar technology (now known or hereinafter devised) ("the Radio Rights").

26.03 The RSG shall review all matches where the rules of the competition have not been abided by. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition, the RSG shall be empowered to order the fixture to be replayed the following week at the same ground or order the score to stand.

SIN BINS

Temporary Dismissals - otherwise known as 'sin bins' - are mandatory for acts of dissent across all of grassroots football.

HOW DO YOU FIND YOURSELF IN THE SIN BIN?



Players will only go into the sin bin for dissent cautions



For use of words, gestures, questioning or undermining the referee's decisions



EXAMPLES OF DISSENT:

Shouting at the referee, questioning the referee's ability, slamming the ball into the ground and sarcastically clapping a decision

DURATION OF A SIN BIN



For matches of 90 minutes, players spend 10 minutes in the sin bin



For matches of all other lengths, players spend 8 minutes in the sin bin



If the sin bin period has not expired at the end of:
 1st half: Continues into the 2nd half
 2nd half: Continues into extra time
 Extra time: Players can participate in the penalty shoot out

THE MATCH DAY PROCESS



Dissent



Dissent caution: Referee issues a Yellow Card and directs the player to the touchline



Whilst in the sin bin, if the player commits a Yellow or Red Card offence they are sent off and can not be substituted



A player can only return to the field of play with the Referee's permission at a stoppage in play



If a player receives a second Yellow Card for any type of offence, they will be shown a Red Card and dismissed from the field of play

Sin bins only apply to a player's first Yellow Card. If they receive a second Yellow Card they are dismissed from the field of play.

Offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or actions is still a Red Card offence!



COUNTY CUP
CHAMPIONS



GREATER
MANCHESTER
FOOTBALL



GREATER MANCHESTER FOOTBALL

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Manchester FA Competition Rules