



*"Football for Everyone
Everyone for Football"*

**PREMIER CUP COMPETITION (1928)
RULES**

1. TITLE

The Cup shall be called 'The Somerset Football Association Ltd Premier Cup Competition'. The Cup shall not become the property of any one Club, but shall be competed for annually by Clubs in membership with the Association and whose status has been approved by the Council.

2. CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT

- (a) The Cups Committee of the Association shall have the entire control and management of the Competition and shall have the power to disqualify, impose fines or other such penalties and may order the payment of costs and expenses against any competing Club, for the breach of any of the Rules of the Competition. No appeal will be allowed against a decision of the Management Committee other than to the County Association whose decision shall be final and binding.
- (b) The Cups Committee shall decide upon the interpretation of the Rules of the Competition, adjudicate upon any dispute, claim or protest and their decision shall be final and binding.
- (c) The Competition shall be conducted on the principles of The Football Association Challenge Trophy Competition, and the Rules of that Competition shall apply so far as is practicable.
- (d) All Somerset FA Cup Competitions are to be played in accordance with the FA Respect Programme, to which all competing clubs must adhere
- (e) For the purposes of discipline, the Premier Cup is designated as Saturday type football

3. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- (a) No Club shall enter the Competition later than 30 April in each year. All competing clubs MUST supply two mobile phone numbers for use with reporting results; these shall be supplied on the entry form. No entry will be accepted without numbers supplied
- (b) All Clubs entering the Competition must have the use of floodlights and must be of minimum Western League status.
- (c) Each Club shall play its full strength team in all matches, except for the reserve team strength of Football League Clubs, or be dealt with by the Management Committee and Clubs could be fined up to a maximum of £1000.00.
- (d) All clubs shall send the county association a colour photograph of their kit (and change strip if appropriate) before their entrance to the competition is accepted. In the event that their kit is changed during the duration of the competition they shall seek permission to do so from the association and submit a picture at that point. The picture may be in hard or soft copy

4. ENTRANCE FEE

Clubs or teams entering the Competition shall pay a fee as set out under the Fees and Fines Section in addition to the annual affiliation fee payable in respect of membership of the Association. The holders from the previous season (if entered in the competition) shall receive free entry into the competition. This is not transferrable if the team enters a different competition in the subsequent season.

5. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

- (a) In all rounds of the Competition a Player must have been a registered member of his Club by 12 noon on the day prior to the original date of the match being played. This will also include loan arrangements between clubs, providing that the lending club agrees in writing that the player is permitted to play in the Competition, a copy of which should be available for the County Association. No player shall be eligible if registered after the dates reserved for the playing of semi-final ties.
- (b) A registered member has to have been registered according to the Rules of The Football Association, or with the League of which his Club is a member. The Football Association or League registration receipt to be accepted for the purpose of this Rule.
- (c) A Player shall not in the same Season play for more than one competing Club.
- (d) In the case of a postponed or abandoned match, only those Players who were qualified to play

- on the original date fixed for the round shall be eligible to play in the re-arranged match.
- (e) Substitute(s): Up to a maximum of three substitutes may be used: a maximum of five may be nominated. Any substitute(s) who has/have not been used is/are entitled to play for another Club in the same Season if qualified under Clause (a) above. In the event that extra time is played, a club may at its discretion use one additional substitute player (a fourth in total) from the nominated five substitutes during such period of extra time
 - (f) Clubs must hand copies of a list of names of players taking part in the game (including names of nominated substitutes) to the Referee and a representative of their opponents, in the presence of the Referee, 30 minutes before commencement of the match. The home Club must supply two match balls. Any Club failing to carry out these provisions will be fined as set out under the Fees and Fines Section.

6. VALIDITY OF PLAYERS QUALIFICATIONS

If the Cups Committee have any doubt as to the qualification of any Player taking part in the Competition they shall have power to call upon such Players of the Club to which he belongs, or for which he played, to prove that he is qualified according to the Rules and failing satisfactory proof the Cups Committee may disqualify such Players and may remove the Club from the Competition and impose such other penalty as they may think fit.

7. DISQUALIFICATION

The Cups Committee shall have the power to disqualify any competing Club, or Player, or Players for any competing Club who may be proved guilty of any breach of the Rules of the Association and impose a minimum fine as set out under the Fees and Fines Section.

8. CONDUCT OF CLUBS

All clubs shall be held responsible for the conduct of their Players, members and spectators and shall give every assistance to the rulings of the Referee whose decisions as to the state of the ground, laws of the game and interference of spectators shall be unquestioned save by the Cups Committee of the Association.

9. THE DRAW

- (a) All ties shall be drawn, the dates fixed and the matches played as the Cups Committee may determine. Clubs shall advise the county office the date agreed for the playing of the match to the county Office no later than 7 days after having received the draw. This shall be the case for all rounds save round 1 in the event the draw is made prior to the commencement of the season and the production of teams fixtures lists in which case the date agreed must be advised to the county office no later than the second week of August. In the event that the draw is made after the production of the fixture list then the rule shall be as all other rounds. Failure to do so shall result in a fine as listed on the tariffs of fines.
- (b) In each tie the game shall be played on the ground of the Club first drawn, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon and the consent of the Cups Committee obtained.
- (c) No Club shall receive a bye in two consecutive rounds.
- (d) No Club shall, unless unavoidable, receive more than one bye in the course of the Competition each Season but the Cups Committee shall have power to give sufficient number of byes to ensure four clubs competing in the Semi-final ties.
- (e) In the event of Clubs sharing the same pitch the first drawn will have priority unless mutually agreed; the second Club to play the following week.
- (f) Where the number of teams in the preliminary or first round will result in a bye or byes being necessary, the holders from the previous season (if entered in the competition) shall receive a bye in that round. Any team receiving a bye in this scenario shall NOT be subject to clause (c) in the subsequent round and/or (d) as above. This is not transferrable if the team enters a different competition in the subsequent season.

10. GROUNDS

For the purpose of this rule where Ground is referenced this shall refer to the entire facility on which the playing pitch is situated and all of the pitches thereof, with the exception of Artificial Grass pitch facilities where it shall refer to the specific artificial grass surface.

- (a) If the ground of the Club having choice of ground is considered unsuitable, the opposing Club may Appeal to the Cups Committee within three days of the receipt of the draw. Such Appeal must be accompanied by a fee as set out under the Fees and Fines Section which may be forfeited if the Appeal is not upheld. The payment of expenses incidental to the Appeal shall be at the discretion of the Cups Committee.
- (b) Each Club must take every precaution to keep its ground in a playing condition and if necessary the home or visiting Club may apply to the Chief Executive to instruct the Referee or some other suitable person to examine the ground as to its fitness for play, in sufficient time to save expenses being incurred for unnecessary journeys.
- (c) The grounds on which the Final tie is to be played shall be chosen by the Cups Committee. In the Final tie the Referee shall, if requested by the Chief Executive, visit the ground three hours before the time of kick-off.
- (d) On the day of the Final tie no match shall be played within 5 miles of the venue of the tie without the special permission of the Cups Committee.
- (e) The appointed referee shall be the sole judge as to the fitness of the ground in all matches but when adverse weather conditions prevail on the day before or on the morning of the match, the Home Club is empowered to call in a Local Referee, minimum Level 4, (**who must be over 18**) who shall have the power to postpone the match and must submit a written report to the Chief Executive. The Home Club will notify the Referees Development Officer, Opponents and Match Officials of the postponement. Clubs failing to notify will be fined as set out in the Fees and Fines section. If after the arrival of the visiting team the Referee declares the ground unfit for play, the Cups Committee may order the home Club to pay such part of the expenses of the visiting club as they may consider fair, and half the match fee plus travelling expenses must be paid by the home Club, to the Referee. In the event a match is abandoned for any reason, save for incidents when the abandonment was due to disciplinary issues, the match shall be played the following week unless otherwise specified by the Cups Committee.
- (f) If a match has to be postponed for either of the reasons in paragraph (e) above, it shall be played at the earliest available date unless advised otherwise by the County Cups Committee.
- (g) A Club not having their playing area enclosed and where gate money may be taken, or whose field of play is less than the minimum size allowed by Rule 3(b), (i.e. 110 yards x 70 yards, or metric equivalents) and not having the consent of the County Cups and Ground Committee to use an alternative ground at the time of entering the Competition, shall play its ties on its opponents' ground.
- (h) A technical area is to be provided. The technical area extends one metre either side of the designated seating area and extends forward up to a distance of one metre from the touch-line. Markings are to be used to define this area. Dressing and washing accommodation must be separate for each team and Match Officials. Dressing rooms must have heating, hot water and be secure and independent of any public access. Dressing room areas must be cleaned and maintained to a satisfactory standard. Substitute boards will be provided by the home clubs and **must** be used. A club failing to carry out any of the above provisions will be fined as set out under the Fees and Fines Section.
- (i) Artificial grass pitches may be used in the Competition provided the pitch is listed on The Associations register of artificial grass pitches and with the prior consent of The Association. This should be requested at the time of entry to the Competition in each Season, provided that the artificial turf meets the following conditions:-
 - (i) the pitch shall be surfaced with an artificial grass surface that has laboratory type approval according to the FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf (2009 edition) – FIFA Recommended One Star quality level or the International Artificial Turf Standard (2009 edition) and have satisfied the performance and construction requirements at the time of its last annual assessment. The pitch must be retested every close season and certificates must be provided to the Association by 1st August each season.
 - (ii) the artificial grass pitch, including run-offs, shall be one continuous playing surface and shall be green in colour. All line markings shall be white and in accordance with the Laws of Association Football. Any other temporary lines must be removed prior to any FA competition match. The manufacturer of the carpet should be contacted to advise on the painting of temporary lines and the correct method of removing lines.
 - (iii) 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.

(iv) the Club using the artificial grass pitch 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.

(v) the Club shall provide all necessary assistance and data relating to player assessments, injury records, maintenance etc as requested by The FA or Somerset FA.

- (j) For all rounds aside from the final, the home club shall provide their visitors with a minimum of 6 complimentary tickets, they may, at their discretion, supply more tickets should they wish up to a maximum of 10 tickets. In the final tie the Association shall provide complimentary tickets to both sides as it determines necessary

11. DURATION OF MATCHES

The duration of matches shall be 90 minutes, (45 minutes each way - with an interval not exceeding 15 minutes). If at the end of 90 minutes the scores are level, a penalty kick competition will take place as described in the Penalty Kick section, for all rounds up to and including the semi-final.

In the final tie, if the scores are level at the completion of 90 minutes, extra time of 15 minutes each way will be played. If after extra time the scores are still level then a penalty kick competition shall take place as described in the Penalty Kick section

12. REPORTING RESULTS

- (a) ***Both competing clubs MUST present a team sheet to the match referee and their opponents prior to the commencement of the match; this MUST include the names and initials of Players representing their Club; the number of the shirt that the player is to wear in the match MUST be written on the team sheet submitted next to the players name.***
After the match The Secretary of each Club shall send a copy of that team sheet to the association to include the match result and a mark of the match official's performance in the game (SEE APPENDIX A), so that it is received within four days of the match (Sundays not included). This shall be via post or via electronic copy, if the latter it shall be emailed to discipline@somersetfa.com Where clubs use electronic copy it should be a scanned version of the team sheet used. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be subject to a fine as set out under the Fees and Fines Section and in default of payment shall also be ruled out of the Competition. The club in case will not be allowed to compete in a subsequent round of the competition until the team sheet from the previous round is received by the County Association 7 days prior to the match being played
- (b) A Referees marking should be inserted on the result sheet. Failure to do so will result in a fine being imposed, as shown in the Fees and Fines Section.
- (c) Clubs shall text the result to the number supplied within 1 hour of the completion of the match; failure to do so will see the club fined as listed in the Fees and Fines section (Appendix B)

13. TIME OF KICK-OFF

This is dependant on the home Club's arrangements.

14. REFEREES AND ASSISTANT REFEREES

- (a) Referees and Assistant Referees shall be appointed by the Referees Committee of the Association. Where the appointed referee and (where appointed) assistant referees are under the age of 18, this will be communicated to the respective home club in advance of the match by the Referee Appointment Officer. When the under 18 match official(s) arrive at the ground the home club shall get the match official(s) to sign in on the appropriate space on the team sheet and sign out on the appropriate space on the team sheet after the match when they leave. Failure to carry out this action will result in a fine of £10 against the offending club. Where a club is informed that the match official(s) are under 18 separate changing/showering facilities from adult officials MUST be provided or if this cannot be arranged, separate changing and showering times from adults MUST be arranged
- (b) It is the responsibility of the Home club to notify the Match Officials and their opponents of the location of their ground and the time of kick off 4 days prior to the match being played. Failure

to do so will incur a fine as set out under the fees and fines section.

- (c) If a match is postponed on arrival of the Referee, half the match fee plus traveling expenses must be paid by the home Club.

15. LATE STARTS

- (a) All late starts must be reported by the Referee.
- (b) Clubs responsible for late starts shall be fined as set out under the Fees and Fines Section

16. SHARING OF GATES

From the gate money taken at all matches prior to the Semi-Final tie, the home team shall pay all match expenses (Match Officials, travelling expenses of the visiting team, advertising, printing, postage, floodlighting not to exceed £60 and police charges).

- (a) In matches prior to the Semi Final, 10 per cent shall be submitted to the Association and the balance equally divided between the two competing clubs.
- (b) In the Semi Final Tie, 15 per cent shall be submitted to the Association and the balance equally divided between the two competing clubs.
- (c) In the Final Tie, the net gate shall be equally divided between the two competing Clubs, and the Association.
- (d) The monies taken in all matches shall be accounted for to the Association within 14 days of the match. The defaulting Clubs shall be fined as set out under the Fees and Fines Section.
- (e) In any match ordered to be replayed in consequence of a breach of Rule, the Club in default shall not receive any share of the proceeds of such replayed match without the consent of the Cups Committee and such consent shall only be given under special circumstances. If consent is not given, the share shall be taken by the Association.
- (f) Charges of the visiting team shall not exceed 80p per mile for the whole party.

17. ADMISSION CHARGE

The minimum charge for admission shall be £4.00. All Club members and Season ticket holders shall pay the admission charge to the ground and any charges for enclosure or stand accommodation.

18. WITHDRAWAL OF CLUBS & FAILURE TO PLAY

- a) Any Club withdrawing from the Competition after the draw has been made shall be fined at the discretion of the committee, although not less than £100, and additionally, at the discretion of the Cups Committee, will be precluded from entering any Cup Competition for the following season, along with any other action the committee may deem necessary.
- b) Any club failing to fulfil a fixture in any round prior to the Semi-Final ties, save for unfitness of ground, shall be ruled out of the competition and fined at the discretion of the committee, although not less than £100, and additionally, at the discretion of the Cups Committee, will be precluded from entering any Cup Competition for the following season, along with any other action the committee may deem necessary. In the event that that a club fails to fulfil a tie in the semi-final or final tie the minimum fine shall be no less than £150
Any club withdrawing under clause a or failing to fulfil a fixture under clause b, MUST inform the County Office, County Referees Appointment Officer, their opponents and appointed match official(s) of such. In the event that some or all of these parties are not informed and either match officials or opposing teams travel, then the Cups Committee shall reserve the right to award costs arising against the defaulting club as they see fit.
The Cups committee shall reserve the right to award any other costs arising from a cancelled match due to a club defaulting under clauses a and/or b

19. PROTESTS

All questions arising out of these Rules shall be dealt with by the Cups Committee.

- (a) Any Club wishing to make a protest against the result of a match must do so within seven days of the match being played.
- (b) The protest must be in writing clearly stating the grounds upon which it is made and must be signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the Club.
- (c) Two copies of the protest must be sent to the Chief Executive together with a fee as set out under the Fees and Fines Section which may be forfeited if the protest is not upheld.

- (d) The defaulting Club may be called upon to pay the whole or part of the expenses of the meeting and the expenses of the other Club SEE ALSO MEMBERSHIP RULES 5 AND 6 RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION.

20. TROPHY: SAFE KEEPING AND RETURN

Trophy Agreement

When the winners of an Association Cup shall have been ascertained, the Chief Executive shall hand over the Cup to such winners on their subscribing to the following effect:

We the undersigned on behalf of (name of Club or League) having been declared winner and taken possession of the Somerset Football Association Ltd (Competition) Trophy, which we understand remains the property of the Somerset Football Association Ltd, do hereby jointly and severally, undertake to keep the said Trophy in safe custody.

Furthermore we agree to return the Trophy (and box) no later than 1 March in the ensuing year in good order. We also undertake to pay for any damage to the Trophy whilst in our care.

Signed Club/League Secretary

Signed Position

Any Club or League failing to comply with the above requirements will be fined, as set out in the Fees and Fines Section, in addition to the cost of any repair.

21. SHIRT COLOURS

- (a) No player or goalkeeper shall be permitted to wear black or very dark coloured shirts.
- (b) Clubs shall play in the colours registered by them for publication in Association Handbook. In the event of a similarity of colours between two teams in a match the visiting team must change. Shorts and Socks must be of different colours between teams. Defaulting clubs shall be fined, as set out in Fees and Fines Section.
- (c) 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 his shirt because of a blood injury.

22. DATES

All reserved County Cup dates are to be strictly adhered to. Failure to do so will mean disqualification from the Competition.

23. RULES

These Rules shall not be altered or rescinded save at the Annual General Meeting or special meeting of the Association of which fourteen days notice shall be given.

24. AGM/MEETING

Any Club not represented at any convened meeting of the Premier Clubs will be fined as set out under the Fees and Fines Section.

25. BREACH OF RULES

In the event of an alleged breach of Rules the Club concerned will be informed of the position and invited, should they wish, to submit any comments or observations to the Cups Committee (within 7 days of notification) or request to appear before them.

26. CUPS COMMITTEE

The Cups Committee can deal with any matter not covered by these Rules in accordance with FA Trophy Rules.

FINES REFERRED TO IN THE RULES

Premier Cup

Rule 4	£30.00
Rule 5(f)	£10.00
Rule 7	£25.00
Rule 9(a)	£20.00

Rule 10(a)	£25.00
Rule 10(e)	£10.00
Rule 10(g)	£10.00
Rule 10(i)	£25.00
Rule 12(a)	£15.00
Rule 12(b)	£10.00
Rule 12(c)	£10.00
Rule 14(b)	£10.00
Rule 15(b)	£10.00 - for first 15 minutes or part thereof and £5.00 - for each succeeding 5 minutes or part thereof
Rule 16(d)	£20.00
Rule 18(a)	£100.00 (Minimum)
(b)	£100.00 (Minimum)
	£150.00 (Minimum) Re: Semi Final & Final
Rule 20(c)	£25.00
Rule 21	£50.00
Rule 22(b)	£16.00
Rule 25	£25.00

Rule 8

Referees Fees	£45 (Plus travel expenses – see below for mileage rate)
Assistant Referees	£30 (Plus travel expenses – see below for mileage rate)

Travel Expenses - Referees and Assistant Referees

Rule 8 Referees and Assistant Referees if they have to use their own transport to travel to appointments or attend misconduct Personal Hearings, they shall be entitled to charge **30p** per mile out and home. (See note below) If public transport is used, only public transport charges actually paid will be permitted.

N.B. The county mileage rate shall be decided by the Board of Directors at their discretion, from time to time. When this change may occur after the printing of this handbook the new rate shall apply in place of the one listed here. The new rate shall be communicated by the county office to all members as and when it occurs

