

**THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**  
**THE FA CUP, THE FA TROPHY, THE FA VASE AND THE FA YOUTH CUP**  
**SEASON 2023-24**

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**ENTRY CRITERIA**

**THE FA CUP**

- Clubs to be automatically accepted subject to the ground fully conforming to the minimum standard
- Clubs in The Premier League, English Football League and in Steps 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 of The FA National League System.

- Clubs to be accepted subject to available places and subject to the ground fully conforming to the minimum standard
- Clubs in Step 6 of The FA National League System.

***In the event there are places available in the Competition for Step 6 Clubs, these will be determined based on a Clubs points per game at Step 6 of The FA National League System in the previous season.***

- Clubs at Steps 1 – 6 must also be participating in either The FA Trophy or The FA Vase Competitions, in season 2023-24.

**THE FA TROPHY**

- Entry is restricted to Clubs participating in Steps 1-4 of The FA National League System subject to the ground fully conforming to the minimum standard.

***A Club moving between Step 4 and 5 of The FA National League System will be moved accordingly by The FA between The FA Trophy and The FA Vase Competitions.***

**THE FA VASE**

- Entry is restricted to Clubs participating in Steps 5 & 6 of The FA National League System subject to the ground fully conforming to the minimum standard.

***A Club participating below Step 6 of The FA National League System in season 2022-23 shall only be permitted to apply for entry if it has applied for promotion to Step 6 for season 2023-24. However, acceptance into the Competition will be subject to such Club receiving promotion to Step 6 for season 2023-24.***

***A Club moving between Step 4 and 5 of The FA National League System will be moved accordingly by The FA between The FA Trophy and The FA Vase Competitions.***

**THE FA YOUTH CUP**

- Clubs to be automatically accepted subject to the ground fully conforming to the minimum standard:
- Clubs participating in The FA Cup, The FA Trophy or The FA Vase in season 2023-24.
  - Clubs participating in a recognized Youth League or suitable Competition in season 2023-24 that is sanctioned by The Association or an affiliated Association.
  - Youth Teams representing a Club must be properly integrated, in the opinion of The Association, with the Club.

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**MINIMUM GROUND STANDARDS**

**THE FA CUP**

Clubs must have a ground where all home first team League matches are played, which fully conforms to a Grade 5 of The FA National Ground Grading (appropriate to Step 5 of The FA National League System) or higher.

**THE FA TROPHY**

Clubs must have a ground where all home first team League matches are played, which fully conforms to a Grade 4 of The FA National Ground Grading (appropriate to Step 4 of The FA National League System) or higher.

## **THE FA VASE**

Clubs must have a ground where all home first team League matches are played, which fully conforms to a Grade 7 of The FA National Ground Grading (appropriate to entry to Step 6 of The FA National League System) or higher.

***Any Club with a ground which does not fully conform to the minimum ground standard, as referenced above, WILL NOT be permitted entry into a Competition by nominating an alternative ground solely for the purpose of being used in FA Competitions.***

## **THE FA YOUTH CUP**

Clubs outside of The Premier League and English Football League must have a ground where all home first team league matches are played which fully conforms to a Grade 7 of The FA National Ground Grading (appropriate to entry to Step 6 of The FA National League System) or higher.

Details of The FA National Ground Grading requirements can be found under the following link <http://www.thefa.com/get-involved/player/clubs-leagues/ground-grading>