

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FOOTBALL LEAGUE (Youth)

KO CUP, TROPHY, SHIELD & PLATE RULES 2026/27 SEASON



1. FEE

The entrance fee for all of the cup competitions shall be £5.00 per team.

2. ELIGIBILITY of PLAYERS

- 2.1 A player who is eligible to play for his/her Team in Championship matches shall be eligible to play for that Team in the K.O. Cup Competitions provided he/she has not played for any other Club or Team in any other Notts Youth Football League Cup Competition during the same season.
- 2.2 A player is not qualified to play in a semi-final or final unless he/she has played in at least THREE bona-fide matches comprising any combination of Notts Youth Football League and/or Notts Youth Football League Cup Competition matches for his/her team prior to the date fixed for playing the match.

3. THE COMPETITION

- 3.1 The K.O. Cup Competitions shall be treated as one competition although being arranged into its associated age groups for the purposes of the Constitution of the League. In the event that there are three or more divisions in an age group, the teams may be seeded so that teams in division 1 and division 2 shall be exempt from the Competition until later rounds at the discretion of the Management Committee as determined by the total number of teams participating. If there are more than four divisions a Trophy Competition may be organised and if more than six divisions a plate competition as well, all at the discretion of the Management Committee.
- 3.2 No player shall play for more than one team in the same competition during the same season and may only play in one KO Cup Competition in any one season.
- 3.3 Any Club having played a player, whether knowingly or unknowingly, in any stage of the Competition in direct contravention of the foregoing, may be immediately suspended from further participation in the Competition, fined and/or otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee determine.

4. SEMI-FINALS & FINALS

- 4.1 Clubs must send the Registrations Secretary a list of their players from whom their team shall be chosen, to reach him not less than SEVEN days prior to the date of the match.
- 4.2 All semi-finals shall be played at a neutral venue for both teams where possible, the cost of the ground hire shall be paid by the league.
- 4.3 In Semi-Finals and the Final Tie each Team must provide the referee with 2 match standard footballs. The referee will decide which ball is to be used in the game. The balls not chosen will be the reserve match balls.
- 4.4 In all Final Ties the League will be responsible for all gate receipts and for the payment of expenses.

5. NOTIFICATION

- 5.1 The home team must give notice of the match to the referee and opponents in accordance with League Rules.
- 5.2 Notification to referees and opponents for cup semi-finals and cup finals will be dealt with by the Management Committee.

6. MATCHES

- 6.1 Matches shall be arranged and played in accordance with Nottinghamshire Football League Rules.
- 6.2 If the ground of the first drawn team is unavailable it will be their responsibility to provide an alternative venue so that the match can be played as advised, if an alternative venue cannot be secured and the venue of the second drawn team is available, the match must then be played at that venue.
- 6.3 Any Team failing to play any tie, without showing a good and sufficient cause for such failure to play, may be removed from the competition, fined in accordance with the fine matrix within the league Regulations 6.6 or otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee determine.
- 6.4 In the event of the scores in a match being level at the end of normal playing time in all rounds, 20 minutes extra time shall be played in two equal periods of 10 minutes. If the tie is still undecided after the periods of extra time the winners will be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the International Board Decision contained in the Laws of the Game.
- 6.5 When a match has been postponed or abandoned before the completion of normal time and neither team being at fault it must be played on the ground of the first drawn team on a date decided by the Fixture Secretary.
- 6.6 If extra time has not commenced or a match has been abandoned during extra time it must be played on the ground of the second drawn team.
- 6.7 Where a match is abandoned due to misconduct by one of the competing teams, or its supporters, the team may be removed from the competition and will be liable for further sanctions.
- 6.8 Where a match is abandoned due to a late kick-off caused by one of the teams, the match will be replayed on the ground of the team deemed to be the innocent party.
- 6.9 Should both teams be deemed equally responsible then the match must be played on the ground of the first-named team.

7. REFEREES

- 7.1 The Referee's Secretary shall appoint Match Officials. However, should an officially appointed referee be unavailable, then the competing teams must mutually appoint a referee, not necessarily on the Notts FA list, whose decisions shall be binding and not subject to revision. Rule 6.3 will be applied in the event of the game not being completed on the official date of the tie.
- 7.2 Fees for officially appointed Referees in all rounds prior to the Semi-Finals are in accordance with the Fees Tariff. These costs are to be paid in equal shares by the two competing Clubs.
- 7.3 Fees for the semi-finals for officially appointed Referees and Assistant Referees will be equally split between both participating teams and the league, Referees £40.00 Assistant Referees £40.00 each, these will be invoiced directly to the participating clubs.
- 7.4 Officially appointed Referees and Assistant Referees fees for all Cup Finals will be paid by the league.

8. RESULTS

Results of Matches will be entered into the FA Full-Time website as you would do so for any league match, the text message sent to the nominated mobile should be completed as soon as possible concluding the final whistle.

9. COLOURS

- 9.1** In all rounds except the Final where two teams have the same colours, the visiting team must change. For semi-finals, the first-named team shall be classified as the home team.
- 9.2** In the event that the teams in the Final Tie have the same colours, both teams shall change, unless otherwise mutually agreed by the Clubs.
- 9.3** Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from the other players, including the opposition goalkeeper.

10. TROPHIES

All Cups trophies and awards presented at the league cup finals are for the clubs / teams to keep and will not be returned to the league.

11. POWERS OF MANAGEMENT & APPEALS

- 11.1** The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition and shall have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition as per League Rules.
- 11.2** Clubs may respond to any charges brought against them, in the manner described in League Rules.

12. CUP FINALS

- 12.1** There will be an entrance fee for all Cup Finals.
- 12.2** Programs will be published and be available on sale within the ground

12. GENERAL

Should any circumstances arise which are not provided for in these rules, they shall be decided by the Management Committee whose decisions shall be final and binding.