CUP COMPETITION & PLAY-OFFS RULES

Season 2026/27

1. TITLE

The Cup Competitions of the Northern Counties East Football League shall be called:-

(a) The League Cup
(b) The President's Cup
(c) The Wilkinson Sword Trophy

and shall always remain the property of the League.

2. ADMINISTRATION

The Board of the Northern Counties East Football League shall have the entire control of these competitions and shall have power to alter or add to the rules of the competitions as they from time to time deem expedient.

3. LEAGUE RULES APPLY

The Northern Counties East Football League Rules shall apply to these Competitions except when it is stated otherwise.

4. ENTRY AND ENTRANCE FEE

The Cups will be competed for annually by the member clubs of the Northern Counties East Football League as listed -

(a) The League Cup	all clubs
(b) The President's Cup	selected clubs
(c) The Wilkinson Sword Trophy	Div. 1 clubs

The Entrance Fee for each competition shall be £20.

5. EXEMPTIONS

Depending on the number of teams in the league, the number of matches in the early rounds of the League Cup shall be altered accordingly to bring the number of clubs down to the required number (32) as quickly as possible.

6. PROTESTS

As League Rules 16.1 to 16.3.

7. ONE PLAYER, ONE CLUB

7.1 Each Club competing shall consist of sixteen bona-fide members of their Club. The matches shall be played under the rules of The FA and in accordance with the Laws of the Game. No individual shall play for more than one competing club in the same competition.

7.2 Any Club found in default of this rule will be disqualified from the competition and subject to other penalties as the Management Board may deem necessary.

8. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

8.1 A bona-fide member shall be considered as such when he has duly registered with the Secretary of the Northern Counties East Football League, and if a contract player also with The Football Association except in the event of a replay in which case a player must have been eligible to play in any drawn or abandoned match.

8.2 All players taking part in the semi-finals and final rounds shall have been duly registered by the 31st March or for at least fourteen days before the match, whichever is the earlier, unless already

qualified by having played in an earlier round.

8.3 Any Club found in default of this rule will be disqualified from the competition and be subject to other penalties as the Management Board may deem necessary.

9. VENUE OF TIES

9.1 The Clubs shall be drawn together in pairs and the first Club so drawn shall have the choice of ground.

9.2 FOR LEAGUE CUP SEMI-FINALS AND FINAL ONLY - In the event of any match played on a single leg basis resulting in a draw, extra time of 15 minutes each way shall be played, or if, in the opinion of the Referee, prevailing circumstances would not permit the match being finished, 10 mins each way may be played. In this case the Referee shall decide at the end of full time and prior to the commencement of extra time and notify both teams.

9.3 If the scores are level after 90 minutes, or 120 minutes in matches where extra time has been played, the team qualifying for the next round shall be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark, in accordance with International Board decision.

9.4 In the event of the Board ordering a replay, this will take place EITHER on the ground of one of the competing clubs to be decided by the toss of a coin; OR on the ground of a neutral club.

10. FINAL ONLY

10.1 The Final may be played on the ground of one of the competing clubs, a neutral ground or on a two-legged basis at the discretion of the Board.

10.2 FINAL PLAYED ON A SINGLE LEG BASIS, if the scores are level after extra-time, the winners of the competition shall be decided by the taking of penalty kicks from the penalty mark, in accordance with International Board decision

10.3 FINAL PLAYED ON A TWO LEG BASIS, if the two teams score the same number of goals in the two matches (180 minutes) each goal scored away by the away team shall count double. The team which on the basis of this bonus reaches the higher number of goals shall win the competition. If this procedure does not bring about a decision, i.e. if the teams have scored the same number of goals away, extra time of fifteen minutes each way shall be played after the second match. If during extra time both teams score the same number of goals, the goals scored away shall count twice (i.e. the visiting team shall qualify). If no goals are scored during extra time, the team winning the competition shall be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark, in accordance with International Board decision.

11. DIVISION OF GATES

11.1 The net receipt of matches shall, after paying out the allowable expenses listed below, be divided as follows:-

(a) Up to the semi-final ties, the balance equally between the two competing Clubs;

(b) In the semi-final and final ties, the League's share shall be onethird of the net gate receipts.

11.2 Allowable expenses actually paid and for which receipts are available for inspection by the Board:

(a) Printing and Advertising (not programmes), Turnstile men and Stewards, Police - to a maximum of £50 for all expenses in this section;

(b) Floodlights (£75 maximum) when used;

(c) VAT - if the club is registered;

(d) Officials' Fees and travel expenses; and

(e) Travel expenses by coach - expenses actually incurred which must not exceed £3.60 per coach mile. If car transport is used, a mileage rate of 40p per mile for each car

used (up to a maximum of five cars) from that club's headquarters may be allowed.

(f) When a neutral ground has been used for a tie the host club shall be entitled to a payment for the use of its facilities as directed by the Board.

When a match is postponed through causes over which neither Club has control and the visitors have made a full or part journey, the postponed match expenses shall be included in the financial settlement of the match when played.

11.3 In the event of the proceeds falling short of the expenses incurred, the loss so sustained shall be divided equally between the competing Clubs All home Clubs must within 14 days of playing in a Northern Counties East Football League Cup match, send to the Secretary and opponents a copy of the Balance Sheet of such match, together with any sum that might be due to both parties. In default a fine not exceeding £20 may be imposed by the Board.

11.4 All home Clubs must within 14 days of playing in a Northern Counties East Football League Cup match, send to the NCEL General Manager, Finance Director and opponents a copy of the Balance Sheet of such match, together with any sum that might be due to both parties. In default a fine of £25-£100 may be imposed by the Board.

12. MEDALS

The Northern Counties East Football League shall provide 20 medals or other mementoes for the winners and runners-up of the competition.

13. COLOURS

As League Rule 7.

14. ADMISSION CHARGES

As League Rule 20.

15. OFFICIALS' FEES

The following shall be the scale of payment for Match Officials:

League Cup and Play-Off Matches:

Referee: £55 Assistants: £35 Mileage: 45p.

Fourth Official (where appointed) - as for Asst. Referee.