



## **RULES OF SCOTTISH WOMEN'S FOOTBALL YOUTH SCOTTISH CUP – 2023-2024**

### **INTRODUCTION**

- (a) Unless the context otherwise requires, words or expressions contained in the Cup Competition Rules shall bear the same meaning as in the Articles of Scottish Women's Football.
- (b) Unless the context otherwise requires, words importing the singular only shall include the plural and vice versa.
- (c) The headings are inserted for convenience only and shall not affect the construction of the Rules.
- (d) All references to a ground shall mean a registered ground, unless otherwise specified, within the context of these Rules.
- (e) Disciplinary matters relating to on field offences and club officials' misconduct shall be dealt with in accordance with the relevant Disciplinary Procedures of SWF and Scottish Football Association.

### **1. Name of Competitions**

The Cup shall be called the SWF Youth Scottish Cup, hereinafter referred to as "Youth Scottish Cup". Teams eligible are 14s, 16s and 18s as at as of the start of the 2023- 2024 season.

### **2. Control**

The control and management of the above competitions shall be vested in the SWF Competitions Manager ("Cup Administrator"). Participating clubs can appeal decisions of the Cup Administrator in line with the appeals process detailed in SWF Articles.

### **3. Entry**

All Academy teams (National Academy Pathway) are automatically entered into the Youth Scottish Cup and must opt out if they do not wish to enter by the end of the affiliation window.

Regional teams (Club Pathway) may opt out of the Youth Scottish Challenge Cup and into the Youth Scottish Cup by affiliating to their Cup of choice by end of the affiliation window. Regional teams may only enter either the Youth Scottish Challenge Cup or the Youth Scottish Cup.

Any withdrawal from the SWF Youth Scottish Cup after a draw may be subject to a monetary penalty of £50 unless agreed by the Cup Administrator that there are reasonable unexpected circumstances for the withdrawal.

### **4. Draw Procedure**

- (a) The draw for all rounds shall be determined by the number of entrants, undertaken by the Club Administrator, and the clubs involved shall be advised of the draw format of the competition no later than 21 days prior to the first round.
- (b) The Youth Scottish Cup will be an all-in draw. Ties shall be arranged between the respective clubs and shall be played on the dates advised by the Cup Administrator.

### **5. Playing Months**

The months in which the cup competitions shall run shall be determined by the Cup Administrator. All reasonable endeavors will be made to not arrange any cup ties on days of National Academy League fixtures.



## 6. Eligible Clubs

The Youth Scottish Cup competition is open by invitation to all affiliated clubs who have registered teams participating in SWF Youth Leagues within the specified age groups.

## 7. The Cup– Ownership and Presentation

- (a) The Cup(s), including any replica, is the property of Scottish Women's Football.
- (b) The Cup(s) shall be presented to the club which wins the competition.
- (c) The Cup(s) shall be returned to Scottish Women's Football no later than one month prior to the Cup Final date in the following year and in good order and condition.

## 8. Awards to Players and Officials

- (a) For 14's, 16's and 18's Scottish Women's Football shall present a medal, 20 in total to the winners and the runners up of the Cups.
- (c) A memento shall be presented to the Match Referee, Assistants and Fourth Official if appointed, for the Final ties only.

## 9. When Competed For

- (a) All matches shall be played on or before the prescribed date, as agreed between both clubs and confirmed by the Cup Administrator and shall be played on the recognised day on which the team drawn at home normally plays.

The only exception is semi-final and final ties, which shall be played on dedicated dates determined within the Fixtures Calendar.

- (b) Semi Finals and Finals rounds of the cup shall be decided in one match only. Should the score remain level after extra time is complete, then the result of the tie will be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the rules laid down by the International Football Board. (Laws of the Game)

- (c) The duration of play will be:

18's - 90 minutes (two halves of 45 mins)

16's - 90 minutes (three thirds of 30mins) [third period is split in 2x 15minutes to allow a further changing of end only]

14's - 75 minutes (three thirds of 25mins) [third period is split in 2x 12.5minutes to allow a further changing of end only]

The duration of play in extra time will be: -

18's – two periods of 15 minutes

16's - two periods of 10 minutes

14's – two period of 10 minutes

- (d) When a tie other than a semi-final or final tie is *postponed*, it will be the duty of the Clubs to confirm the rescheduled date along with the notice of postponement. No postponement will be authorized without a confirmed date to play the fixture.

- (e) A match which has started and which for any reason is abandoned, may not be continued as a "friendly" match.

- (f) The half-time interval shall be of 10 minutes duration, or as otherwise determined by the referee.



## **10. Compliance with Articles, and Cup Competition Rules**

The clubs eligible to compete in the Competitions shall be subject to the Articles of Scottish Women's Football, these Youth Scottish Cup Rules and all SWF Policies as amended from time to time.

## **11. Procedure**

(a) The home club shall, by 6pm at least five days prior to a fixture date, confirm the venue (including travel directions), kick-off time and the colour(s) they are intending to play in, in writing to the opposing club, the Cup Administrator and the appointed match official(s) and/or the Regional Referee Co-ordinator. It is the responsibility of the home team to advise the match official(s), once appointed, of the match arrangements as outlined above. The away club shall seek and acknowledge receipt of such notification.

(b) If a club cancels or postpones a fixture after they receive notification of their match appointment, the club shall be liable to remunerate the referee with the full match fee, clubs may also be liable for part or full payment of venue hire costs that cannot be recovered.

(c) If, for unforeseen reasons, the home club is forced to change ground, the club must notify the Cup Administrator, the visiting club and the appointed match officials immediately. An unanswered email does not constitute contact. All participants must acknowledge the changes.

(d) Where a club's ground (or standby ground) is unplayable or unavailable on the day set for the playing of the match, both clubs can agree to reverse the venue subject to the permission of the Cup Administrator.

(e) No alterations of fixtures, dates, can be made without the prior confirmation of the Cup Administrator.

(f) Notice of the postponement of any match due to an unplayable ground, or other cause over which neither club has control, must be given immediately by the home club to the visiting club, the appointed match officials and the Cup Administrator. Clubs must receive confirmation from the match official and their opponent, an unanswered email or phone communication does not constitute notice. Failure to receive confirmation may mean the club is liable for match official fees.

(g) The home club should, where possible, be able to provide the Cup Administrator with written confirmation of a decision to postpone a match due to an unplayable ground signed by the ground owner.

(h) The postponement or abandonment of a Cup fixture requires to be immediately reported in writing to the Cup Administrator by the club(s) concerned.

(i) Any match not completed, except as provided for in Rule 27 "Infringements of Rules", may be ordered to stand as a played match, or may be replayed in its entirety.

(j) In extenuating circumstances, the Cup Administrator shall have the power to re-schedule matches, other than those prescribed in this Rule, to facilitate the smooth running of the Competitions.

(k) Any club without just cause failing to fulfil its fixture obligations in respect of any such match in the Cup on the appointed date or dates will be noted as a 3-0 win to the opponent. The Club will also receive a £50 fine.



(l) Any club failing to fulfil its fixture obligations shall be liable to pay compensation for any actual expenses incurred as a direct result of its failure. The amount of compensation payable in these circumstances will be determined by the Cup Administrator.

(m) Applications for reimbursement shall be lodged in writing with the Cup Administrator not later than five days following the match.

(n) In the event of a club withdrawing during the Cup, the opposing team from the previous round shall automatically qualify for the next round of the Cup, unless otherwise determined by the Cup Administrator.

(o) It is the responsibility of the home club to notify the match result and related information to the Cup Administrator (by text or e-mail) no later than 60 minutes following the conclusion of the match.

(p) The home club must ensure that the visiting club and the match officials have access to the changing facilities (including toilet) a minimum of 60 minutes prior to a Cup match.

(q) Any dispute between two or more clubs as to the arrangement of Cup ties shall be referred to, and decided by, the Cup Administrator.

(r) In each round of the Cup Competitions, except for the Final, ties will be played on the ground of the club first drawn in the ballot.

(s) The Final tie of the Cup Competition will be played at a neutral venue, unless otherwise decided by the Cup Administrator.

#### **12. Grounds for Cup Ties**

(a) All ties shall be played at the recognised ground of the home team, the specific details of which will be provided to the Cup Administrator during the club affiliation process.

(b) Choice of ground for the final shall be made by Scottish Women's Football.

#### **13. Number of Players, Substitutes and Club Officials**

(a) For 14's, 16's and 18's age groups a team shall consist of eleven players and is permitted to list up to 7 substitutes of whom all may take part in the match.

Rolling Substitutes will be permitted at 14s and 16s age group only.

(c) Up to a maximum of six approved officials may be listed on the official Team Line.

(d) All players must comply with the requirements of Section 19.

(e) The substitutes' requested details must appear on the team list and be numbered respectively. The Referee will record on team list the names and number of the substitutes who actually participated in the tie.

#### **14. Dimensions of the Field of Play**

(a) For 14's, 16's and 18's age groups the length of the field of play shall be compliant with the dimensions provided in the IFAB Laws of the Game,



(c) Spectators should be separated from the field of play by a wall, a rope, a railing or a fence (the distance from the touchline should be a minimum of 1m).

(d) Technical areas, on the same side of the field of play, marked by lines/markers etc., shall be provided at each ground (the distance from the touchline should be 1m). Spectator areas and Technical Areas must be on opposite sides of the field of play.

#### **15. Playing Field**

(a) Matches in the Youth Scottish Cup Competition(s) shall be played on a natural grass surface or on an artificial turf surface. Artificial turf surfaces must comply with quality standards set for football by FIFA.

(b) The home club is responsible for ensuring that the ground is of a standard that will not compromise the safety of players or spectators.

#### **16. Goals, Goal Nets, Corner Flags**

Appropriate size goals with goal nets and corner flags shall be used at all matches.

#### **17. Provision of Footballs**

(a) Two Match balls of first grade quality shall be provided by the home club for each match played.

(i) 14's, 16's and 18's shall use a size 5 football

(ii) Scottish Women's Football shall provide the match balls for the final.

#### **18. First Aid Provisions**

It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that a club official in possession of a current Sports First Aid Certificate or equivalent qualification recognised by the Association, is available at all matches.

#### **19. Player Registration and Eligibility**

(a) To be eligible to participate in the Youth Scottish Cup Competition football, players must be registered with the Association through Scottish Women's Football, in accordance with the terms of the Scottish Women's Football Registration Procedures.

(b) For all rounds up to and including the semi-final, a player must have been a recognised registered playing member of her club. This registration must be processed by SWF no later than 5pm on the Friday preceding the fixture.

(c) No player shall be allowed to play in the Cup Final unless she was eligible to participate in the semi-final. This rule, however, is not relevant to goalkeepers who may gain exemption at any time, should her club contact the Cup Administrator and their request be accepted. Should a goalkeeper gain exemption, she may not under any circumstances whatsoever, play in any other position.

(d) To be eligible to participate in the Youth Scottish Cup Competitions, players must comply with the following Age Eligibility;

Age eligibility for Season 2023-2024:



18's must be born on or after 1st January 2006\*

16's must be born on or after 1st January 2008

14's must be born on or after 1st January 2010

\* 18s teams can play three overage players in a match. Two overage outfield players and a goalkeeper are eligible to be fielded at any one time. There are no limitations on the number of overage players listed on the team line.

(e) Players can play within their club, in their own age group or one age group above. The player will be able to return to their recognised team and not be deemed Cup tied. Players should only play in one Cup match on any one day.

Players who have participated in any match within the Youth Scottish Challenge Cup are not eligible to participate in the Youth Scottish Cup. The only exceptions to this is where a player has changed registered club within the same season, or a player has changed registration within a club from regional to NAP season registration or circumstances detailed below.

Players of teams who withdraw during the course of the playing season who had competed in the Youth Scottish Cup or Youth Scottish Challenge Cup Competition shall not be considered cup tied and may participate in the same competition for one other club in the same playing season. The Club must have withdrawn from the competition, teams knocked out of the ongoing competition will mean the players are cup tied.

Age eligible players may also play in the SFA Scottish Cup Competition, without being considered cup tied for their recognised youth team.

(h) It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that its players are eligible to play in Youth Scottish Cup matches.

(i) Any club fielding an ineligible player in a Youth Scottish Cup tie may have the result awarded 3-0 in favour of the opposing club by the Cup Administrator.

(j) If a player participates in a Youth Scottish Cup tie whilst being ineligible to play in the match as a result of a suspension imposed by SWF's or SFA Disciplinary Procedures, the club for which the player has participated will have the result awarded 3-0 in favour of the opposing club.

## **20. Playing of Players without Registration (Trialists)**

Trialists are not allowed to play or be listed as a substitute for a team in the Youth Scottish Cup Semi Finals or Finals.

## **21. Team Lines**

(a) Not later than 30 minutes before the start of a match, each team shall provide by hand or electronically to the referee, a list, and to its opponent, a duplicate, both of which shall be signed by the Secretary or other accredited club official, of the proper names, registration numbers and shirt number of the players in its team, of such substitutes as are permitted, and of the club officials (maximum of 6) on the prescribed forms.

Should any nominated player or substitute sustain an injury or due to extenuating circumstances be unable to participate after the submission of the list of players to the referee and prior to kick-off, the following provisions shall apply: -



(i) If any of the first 11 players listed on the Team Line are not able to start the match for any reason, they may be replaced by any of the substitutes. Such replacements will reduce the quota of substitute players accordingly. Rolling substitutes may still be used as required within the 14s and 16s age groups only.

(ii) If any of the substitutes listed on the Team Line is not able to be fielded for any reason, they may not be replaced, which means that the quota of substitute players will be reduced accordingly.

(iii) If a goalkeeper listed on the Team Line cannot be fielded for any reason, she may be replaced by another goalkeeper not previously listed on the Team Line.

(b) Within three days thereafter the referee shall submit to the Competitions system confirmation of the lists which were handed to him/her, and on which he/she shall intimate the result, the goal scorers, time of goals and which substitute or substitutes played in the match. Scanned copies should be submitted to the Cup administrator by e-mail.

(c) Any club, on discovering an ineligible player has been listed on a team line should bring this to the immediate attention of the Cup Administrator, who shall conduct an investigation, and take any required action.

## **22. Registered Colours**

(a) Through the SWF Club Affiliation process each year, a club shall register the colour of shirts, shorts and stockings comprising its first and second choice playing kits. Exceptionally, a club may, with the approval of the Cup Administrator, play in colours which are modified from those which have been registered.

(b) When the first choice colours of two competing teams are the same, or similar, the away club shall change and play in distinctive colours.

(c) A team may play in its second colours provided that this does not prevent its opponent from observing the terms of paragraph (b) or from playing in its first choice registered colours if it chooses to do so.

(d) If there is any dispute as to whether the colours of the teams are the same, or similar, the referee shall decide the issue.

(e) Goalkeepers shall wear colours which distinguish them from the other players and from the match officials.

(f) Every player and substitute on each team shall wear a distinguishing number on her shirt or shorts. Such a number shall be clearly distinct from the colours of the shirt and shorts in order that it is clearly visible. Numbers on shirts shall be a minimum of 25 cm and maximum of 35 cm in height, and those on shorts a minimum of 10 cm and a maximum of 15 cm. The number on the shirt must reflect the shirt number listed on the team line for that player.

## **23. Appointment of Match Officials**

(a) Match Officials shall be appointed by the Referee co-ordinators acting on behalf of Scottish Women's Football. The appointment of assistant referees may be made on behalf of the Association by a Referees' Association as deemed appropriate.

Appointments shall take precedence over all other appointments, except with the permission and consent of the Association.

(b) A team may not refuse the services of any match official appointed by, or on behalf of, the Association.



(c) The home club is responsible for the payment of the match officials' fees for all Scottish Cup ties up to, and including, the Semi Final Round.

(d) Should a match official not be notified of the postponement of a match before travelling, he/she shall be entitled to payment of one half of the match fee from the home club.

(e) A match fee is deemed to be inclusive of expenses.

(f) In all Cup Competition matches each team if requested, shall supply a team official who may be called upon to act as an assistant referee

(g) In the event that the appointed referee fails to appear, the match should be abandoned, and the Cup Administrator informed to allow the match to be replayed at a date to be agreed between the teams, or stipulated by the Cup Administrator if no date can be agreed within [3] days or by the date advised by the Cup Administrator.

(h) Match official fees are as follows:

14's - £50

16s and 18's - £55

#### **24. Request for Postponement**

If a club wishes to apply for a postponement of a cup fixture date such notification must be made to the Cup Administrator not later than seven days prior to the date of the originally scheduled fixture. Such application must be made on a form supplied by the Cup Administrator containing the reason for the application, the opposing club's approval and an agreed proposed new fixture date.

Requests for the postponement of a scheduled match due to non-availability of players due to injuries shall be considered by the Cup Administrator providing that the request is not of a frivolous nature and is submitted not later than 1 day following the fixture injuries were sustained meaning the team is unable to fulfill the date of the original tie. Late requests will not be considered.

(b) Any request to postpone a match due to players on International Duty will only be accepted when players' selection is confirmed by the Scottish F.A.

#### **26. Disorderly Conduct**

Clubs are responsible, where practically possible, for the behavior of their players, officials, members, supporters and any person carrying out a function at a match on their behalf. In the event of damage being sustained to a ground where a Youth Scottish Cup match is played as a consequence of misbehaviour by a player, official, member, supporters, or any other person acting on behalf of or associated with a club, then that club shall be responsible for any costs arising in the reparation of same. Scottish Women's Football shall have the power to request such reports as may be necessary in determining responsibility for restitution and may additionally impose upon any club a censure, fine, expulsion from the competition or suspension if, in the opinion of the Scottish Women's Football Board, a ground is the subject of damage by that club's representatives or those associated with it.

Pyrotechnics and Alcohol are not permitted at any Youth Scottish Cup Fixture. Any players, officials, members, supporters and any person carrying out a function at a match on a club's behalf found to have pyrotechnics or





alcohol should be removed from the facility and reported to the Cup Administrator. Clubs will be sanctioned because of these actions and the individual may be reported to Police Scotland.

### **27. Infringement of Rules**

Any club, official, player, or other person, who infringes any of these Rules, shall be liable to a fine or suspension, or both or such other sanction(s) as specified within these Rules. Scottish Women's Football has the power to investigate, consider and determine any allegations relative to the infringement of these Rules and to impose such sanction(s), as specified within these Rules, as it considers appropriate in order to deal justly with the case in question, not limited to expulsion from the Cup competition.

### **28. Gate Money**

In Cup games money is to be shared with the away team after officials, pitch hire and any other reasonable expenses i.e. After-match receptions have been paid for, except where SWF is responsible for the arrangements, where it shall go to the SWF to help defray the costs in running cup competitions.

### **29. Alterations and Additions to Rules**

(a) Notice by Clubs of any proposed alteration or addition for consideration by the policy review committee shall be submitted in writing and be received by the Cup Administrator no later than 31st May.

(b) The above rules and regulations may be changed at any time by the SWF Board with the proviso that all clubs are informed timeously.

**30.** Anything not covered in these Rules that is required to determine the outcome of a Cup Match, shall be agreed by the Cup Administrator with approval from the Chief Executive Officer of SWF.