



## SCOTTISH WOMEN'S YOUTH CHALLENGE CUP

### RULES OF SCOTTISH WOMEN'S FOOTBALL YOUTH CHALLENGE CUP – 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 field offences and club officials misconduct shall be dealt with in accordance with the relevant Disciplinary Procedures of Scottish Women's Football.

#### 1. Name of Competitions

The Cup shall be called the "SWF Youth Challenge Cup" (14, 16, 18) unless title sponsorship is secured.

#### 2. Control

The entire control and management of the above competitions shall be vested in the Youth League Administrator(s). Their decision shall be deemed final.

#### 3. Entry

Regional teams (Club Pathway) must enter into the Youth Scottish Challenge Cup via the affiliation window and must opt in for each team they wish to enter.

Regional teams (Club Pathway) may opt out of the Youth Scottish Challenge Cup and into the Youth Scottish Cup by the date prescribed by the Cup Administrator. Regional teams may only enter either the Youth Scottish Challenge Cup or the Youth Scottish Cup. Community teams (Community Pathway) may opt into the Youth Scottish Cup or Challenge Cup, by the date prescribed by the Cup Administrator.

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 draw for the Youth Scottish Challenge Cup will be regionalised at rounds prescribed by the Cup Administrator on confirmation of the number of participating entries. Ties shall be arranged in the manner approved by the League Administrator and shall be played on the dates advised by the League Administrator.

#### **5. Playing Months**

The months in which the cup competitions shall run shall be determined by the League Administrator. There shall be no other games played on Cup Final Day, and no domestic games played three days prior to a Cup date, unless approval is granted by the League Administrator.

#### **6. Eligible Clubs**

*The Youth Challenge Cup competition is open by invitation to all affiliated clubs who have registered teams participating in youth football. It shall be open by invitation to Community team type members who have paid their subscription for that season.*

#### **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 the first day of October in the year following presentation, fully engraved 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, in such form as the League Administrator may decide to the winners and the runners up of the Cups.
- (b) A medal 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 in which the team drawn as home normally plays. Should agreement not be met, the arrangement of the Cup tie shall be referred to, and decided by, the Cup Administrator.

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

- (b) All 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 - 80 minutes (two halves of 40 mins)

14's - 70 minutes (two halves of 35 mins)

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 for a period of time it will be the duty of the Cup Administrator to confirm to both clubs, the date of the re-arranged 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, the Scottish Cup Rules (youth) 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) Kick-off times for a Saturday or Sunday match kick off times shall be between 9am and 5pm. If the distance travelled one way exceeds 100 miles, the kick-off times shall be between 12pm and 4pm.

(c)

If a club wishes to apply for a postponement of a fixture date, such notification must be made to the League 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 Regional Management Committee containing the reason for the application, the opposing club's approval and an agreed proposed new fixture date.

Postponement of a cup/plate game shall only occur with mutual agreement between both the opposing teams and the League Administrator. In the absence of unanimous agreement regarding postponement, the original fixture date must be adhered to.

If a club cancels or postpones a fixture after they receive notification of their match appointment, the club may be liable to remunerate the referee with half of the match fee. Any dispute between match official and club as to the arrangement of payment shall be referred to, and decided by the League Administrator and the appropriate referee coordinator.

(d) 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.

(e) 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.

(f) No alterations of fixtures, dates, kick-off times, grounds can be made without the prior confirmation of the Cup Administrator.

(g) 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. Any club failing to comply with instructions in this regard shall be referred to Scottish Women's Football.

(h) 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.

(i) The postponement or abandonment of a Cup fixture requires to be immediately reported in writing to the Cup Administrator by the club(s) concerned. Factors that will be considered are duration of match played, reason for abandonment, time of season, calendar constraints.

(j) Any match not completed, except as provided for in Rule 28 "Infringements of Rules", may be ordered to stand as a played match, or may be replayed in its entirety as the League Administrator may determine.

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

(l) 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 shall be liable to such sanctions as the League Administrator may determine, but not limited to including a fine or expulsion from the competition.

(m) 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 League Administrator.

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

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

(p) 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.

(q) The home club must ensure that the visiting club and the match official(s) have access to the changing facilities (for the avoidance of doubt this includes toilet and hand washing facilities) a minimum of 60 minutes prior to a League and League Cup/Plate match. If venue cannot be found with toilet facilities and all possible options explored, clubs must instead sign post the nearest appropriate facilities.

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

(s) In each round of the Cup Competitions, with the exception of the Semi-final and Final, ties will be played on the ground of the club first drawn in the ballot.

(t) The Semi-Final and Final ties of the Cup Competition will be played at neutral venues, unless otherwise decided by the League 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 semi-final and final shall be made by the 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. Players who have been substituted may return to the field of play as often as necessary.

(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 lists the names and number of the substitutes who actually participated in the tie.
- (f) Rolling substitutes may be used in all matches.

#### **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) Where possible 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).

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

- (a) Matches in the 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) For 16's - 18's a size 5 ball will be used, for 14's a size 4 ball will be used.
  - (ii) Scottish Women's Football shall provide the match balls for the semi-finals and 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 matches played at its registered ground or standby ground.

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

- (a) To be eligible to participate in the Youth Challenge 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 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 League Administrator and their request be accepted. Should a goalkeeper gain exemption, she may not under any circumstances whatsoever, play in any other position.

(d)

*d) To be eligible to participate in the Youth Challenge Cup Competitions, players*

*must comply with the following Age Eligibility;*

Age eligibility for Season 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

Minimum age eligibility in respective age groups:

18's must be born on or before 31st December 2008

16's must be born on or before 31st December 2010

14's must be born on or before 31st December 2012

e) Players should only play in one Cup match on any one day. Players who have participated in any match within the Youth Scottish Cup are not eligible to participate in the Youth Challenge Cup. A player is Cup-tied for a team if they have already played, as a member of the starting eleven or entered the field as a substitute for another club or team. Players of teams who withdraw during the course of the playing season who had competed in the Youth 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. Relevant age criteria must be met.

(f) To play up age-groups and out-with age-eligibility outlined above for the Youth Challenge Cup, A player must have an approved dispensation application for that seasons competitions.

(g) A team's "List of Players" shall include the name, date of birth and registration date of every registered player.

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

(i) Any club fielding an ineligible player in a Youth Challenge Cup tie may have the result awarded 3-0 in favour of the opposing club, and/or be liable to other such penalties as the League Administrator may decide.

(j) If a player participates in a Youth Challenge Cup tie whilst being ineligible to play in the match as a result of a suspension imposed by SWF's Disciplinary Procedures, the club for which the player has participated may have the result awarded 3-0 in favour of the opposing club, and/or be liable to other such penalties as the League Administrator may decide.

## **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 Challenge Cup.

## **21. Team Lines**

(a) Not later than 30 minutes before the start of a match, each team shall hand 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 of the players in its team, of such substitutes as are permitted, and of the club officials 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.

(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 send to the Cup Administrator the lists which were handed to him/her, which he/she shall also sign, and on which he/she shall intimate the result, the goal scorers, time of goals and which substitute or substitutes played in the match.

(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 advise Scottish Women's Football and the League Administrator shall conduct an investigation, and take any required action.

(d) The Cup Administrator shall keep a register of the names of all of the players who take part in the League and League Cup Competitions. The register shall be open for inspection.

## **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. Subject to the terms of the paragraphs (b) (c) and (d) below, a club shall play in its registered colours, failing which it shall be liable to disciplinary action. Exceptionally, a club may, with the approval of the League 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 of each team shall wear a distinguishing number on her shirt or shorts. Such 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.

### **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 Quarter Final Round.

(d) The postponement or abandonment of a Cup fixture requires to be immediately reported in writing to the Cup Administrator by the club(s) concerned. Factors that will be considered are duration of match played, reason for abandonment, time of season, calendar constraints.

(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, it is the responsibility of the two participating clubs to reach a signed agreement with regards to appointing a club official to supervise the match.

(h) Match official fees are as follows:

14's – 18's (11v11) - £50

### **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 shall be considered by the League Administrator providing that the request is not of a frivolous nature and is submitted not later than seven days prior to the date of the original tie. Late requests made within seven days of the tie 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. The League Administrator will make the final decision.

### **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 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 League Administrator, a ground is the subject of damage by that club's representatives or those associated with it.

### **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 reception have been paid for, except in the semi-final and final, where it shall go to the SWF to help defray the costs in running cup competitions

**29. Alterations and Additions to Rules**

(a) Alterations or additions may only be made at the Annual General Meeting of Scottish Women's Football.

(b) Notice of any proposed alteration or addition for consideration at the ensuing Annual General Meetings shall be submitted in writing and be received by the Cup Administrator no later than 31st August

(c) 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 and SWF.



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