

## RULES OF THE WELSH CUP COMPETITION

Name of the Cup	1. The Cup shall be called “The Football Association of Wales Challenge Cup”.
Cup Ownership	2. <b>The Cup is the property of The Football Association of Wales Limited.</b>
Medals	3. In addition to the Cup, the Association shall present medals to the players and substitutes in the Final Tie. When a player taking part is ordered to leave the field of play for misconduct, the medal to which he may be entitled may be withheld at the discretion of the Council.
Control of Competition	4. The entire control and management of the Competition shall be vested in the Council. The Council shall have the power to formulate Rules of the Competition and to alter or add to the Rules as they, from time to time, deem expedient. The Council shall appoint a Committee to control and manage the Competition on their behalf and to give decisions on matters arising out of the Competition which, within the Rules laid down by the Council, shall be deemed decisions of the Council. Clubs shall be bound by any Contract entered into by the Council in relation to the Competition. In any matter not specifically mentioned in these Rules, the Committee shall have the power to take such action and impose such penalties as it deems necessary.
Eligible Clubs	5. <b>The Competition shall be open to all men’s clubs in Wales, which meets the Ground Criteria (Rule 9b) and who are eligible to represent Wales in the UEFA Europa League. Entry shall be mandatory for all clubs currently playing in level one and two of the Pyramid system.</b>  6. (a) Each Club desirous of competing shall give notice to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association on a form on or before the 1 <sup>st</sup> June immediately prior to that season, in which such club proposes to compete and shall, with such notice, forward an entrance fee of thirty eight pounds 77p sterling including vat. The Council may reject the entry of any Club if they deem such a course desirable.  Clubs entering for this Competition must play their best team, or be dealt with for misconduct by the Council.  (b) Clubs seeking to play ties on artificial pitches shall return with the entry form such information as they wish to place before the Council when it considers authorisation of an artificial pitch, or pitches under Rule 9(e) of these Rules. The consideration of such information may be delegated by the Council.
The Draw	7. The four Clubs which competed in the Semi-Final Ties in the previous season, and other Clubs to be selected by the

Council, shall be exempted from taking part in the Competition until the later stages. The Council may divide the remainder of the Clubs who have entered into groups as nearly equal in number and as conveniently situated geographically as may be possible.

8. (a) The clubs after having been placed by the Council in their groups shall be drawn in couples. These couples shall compete, and the winners shall be drawn and shall compete in the same manner and this shall be continued until the end of the Competition, when the winning Club shall hold the Cup.

(b) Immediately after each draw, the Chief Executive Officer shall intimate to the Secretary of each Club in writing, the name of the club it is drawn against, the date on which the round has to be completed, which date shall be known as the Conference Date, subject to the proviso stipulated in the third paragraph of this rule, and the time of the Kick-off. Clubs shall not mutually arrange to play a match in lieu of a Cup Tie. If a match is played to a conclusion it must be a Cup Tie.

(c) In any Round where paired Clubs desire to play on a date other than the Conference Date, both Clubs shall notify the Chief Executive Officer of the Association of their request within 7 days of the draw. If their request is granted, then the re-arranged date shall be regarded, for all purposes, as the Conference Date for the Round concerned.

(d) Immediately upon receipt of the Draw for each round, Secretaries of Clubs drawn at home must communicate with their opponents, agree upon a date, time of kick-off and venue for the replay, in accordance with Rule 12(b) (ii) and notify the Chief Executive Officer of the Association of the decision within 7 days of the Draw. Where Clubs fail to agree as to the date fixed for the Tie, or any postponed Match or Replayed Match as the case may be, The Football Association of Wales shall decide the issue upon such terms and conditions as it shall deem expedient.

Ground for  
Ties

9. (a) *Choice of Ground*

In each tie the game shall be played on the registered ground of the Club first drawn, unless otherwise mutually arranged, and the consent of the Council obtained, subject as hereafter provided. A Club not having an enclosed ground where gate money may be taken and having not obtained the consent of the Council to the use of an alternative ground in accordance with Rule 9(b), shall play on its opponent's ground. It shall be permissible for a Club, whose ground does not comply with Rule to play their Welsh Cup Ties on an adjacent ground of requisite dimensions, providing such Club can satisfy the Council at the beginning of the season that it has done all in its power to improve its ground or to secure another. Clubs shall not play on a neutral ground without the consent of the Council. The Council shall have the power to order any match to be played on an alternative ground if it is deemed necessary.

*(b) Ground Facilities*

A club must have regular use of a ground where charge for admission may be made and a gate taken in all Cup Ties. Goal nets must be used in all ties. The playing area must be railed or walled off, except those areas and spaces excluded from spectator viewing.

**Dressing and washing accommodation must be separate for each team and Match Officials. Toilets which are not available for spectator use must be provided for dressing rooms used by Players and Match Officials.**

*(c) Appeal – Unsuitability of Ground*

If the ground of the Club entitled by the draw to have the Cup Tie played on its ground is considered unsuitable for the Cup Tie, having regard to all the circumstances, the opposing Club may appeal to the Council within **three** days of the receipt of the official intimation of the draw. Such appeal must be accompanied by a fee of £25.00 which may be forfeited if the appeal is not sustained. The Council may order the match to be played on the ground of the appealing Club, or on a neutral ground. The payment of the expenses incidental to the Appeal shall be at the discretion of the Council.

*(d) Playing Condition of the Ground*

Each Club must take every precaution to keep its ground in playing condition and, if necessary, either Club may appeal to the Association and the Secretary shall require the Referee or some other Referee to examine the ground and decide as to its fitness for play in sufficient time to save expenses of unnecessary journeys being incurred by the Clubs. Subject to this Rule, the Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and must report to the ground where the match is to be played at least one and a half hours before the time of kick-off.

During the months of November, December, January and February, the Referee shall visit the ground two hours before the time of kick-off. If necessary the home Club may require the Referee to visit the ground two hours or more before the time of kick-off any time during the season.

*(e) Artificial Pitches*

The Rules for venue and choice of ground are subject to the following provisions. Ties shall normally be played on natural grass pitches. The Council shall have the power to authorise or prohibit the playing of ties on artificial pitches generally or the playing of any tie or ties on a particular artificial pitch but, except by mutual consent it shall be allowable for a Club to select any ground other than that on which they are accustomed to play.

Club Colours

10. The competing teams shall number sixteen players each. Every player must wear the distinctive colours of the club for which he is a playing member, and should two Clubs have

similar colours, the AWAY Club shall change its colours. Should both Clubs concerned in a Final Tie have similar colours, then it will be decided by the toss of a coin. In the event of such Clubs not agreeing upon the colours to be worn the Association will decide.

Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from the other players and the Match Officials. Advertising up to a maximum of 32 sq. inches (200 sq. cms) may be worn on players' clothing.

Duration of  
Matches

11. The Duration of each match shall be one hour and a half, except that in special cases, provided for in these Rules, an extra half-hour must be played. The Referee shall allow for time wasted or lost through accident or other cause. The Referee is the sole judge or allowance of time whether lost through accident or other cause and his decision on this matter is not subject to appeal.

Provision for  
Matches

12. For all matches the following provisions shall apply:

- (a) Clubs shall not mutually arrange to play a match in lieu of a Cup Tie.
- (b) Any late kick-off or late arrival of a Match Official must be reported by the Referee to the Association and the Council shall have the power to impose a fine.

Provision for  
matches up to  
semi-final ties

13. (a) *Extra Time*

(i) When a match has ended in a draw, an extra half-hour must be played (i.e. 15 minutes each way extra time). If the scores are level at the end of extra time, the match will be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark, in accordance with International Board procedures.

(ii) When a match has been postponed or abandoned before the completion and neither club being at fault, it must be played on the same ground on or before the following Saturday.

(iii) When a match has been postponed or abandoned before its completion on two occasions, the fixture shall be reversed, with home advantage being awarded to the visiting team.

Provisions for  
Semi-Final Ties

14. (a) The Council shall fix the ground for all Semi-final ties and shall have direct control of the arrangements.

(b) When a match has resulted in a draw, an extra half-hour must be played, and in this event the game shall recommence as provided by Law 8 and fifteen minutes shall be played each way.

(c) – When a match has resulted in a draw after extra-time, the winner shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the International Board recommended procedures.

- Provisions for Final Tie
15. (i) The Council shall fix the ground for the Final Tie and shall have direct control of the arrangements.
- (ii) When a match has resulted in a draw, an extra half-hour must be played, and in this event the game shall recommence as provided by Law 8, and fifteen minutes shall be played each way.
- (iii) If the score is still level at the end of extra time, the winners shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with The International Board recommended procedures.
- (iv) Competing Clubs must settle all ticket accounts with the staging Club/Organisation within 14 days of the match.
- Floodlighting
16. (i) Matches may be played under floodlight conditions provided that the installation meets with the approval of the Association or by mutual agreement of the two Clubs.
- (ii) Clubs may appeal to the Council within three days of the receipt of the official intimation of the draw if they consider the floodlights of the Club on whose ground the tie is to be played to be below the required standard. Such appeal must be accompanied by a fee of £25.00, which may be forfeited if the appeal is not sustained.
- (iii) The Referee will decide at what point in the game the lights shall be switched on. This will necessitate a discussion with responsible officials of the competing Clubs before the game when an agreed signal must be arranged. The cost of floodlighting not exceeding (i) in Rounds 1 and 2 £50.00 and (ii) from Round 3 onwards £100.00, may be charged to match expenses at Welsh Premier League grounds and £50.00 at any other ground.
- Reporting Results
17. (i) The Secretaries of each Club shall send notice of the result, on the Match Report Form supplied, with the names of the Players competing, to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association so that it is received within two days of the match (Sundays not included).
- (ii) Clubs failing to comply with this Rule or submitting an incorrect Match Report Form shall be subject to a fine as determined by the Council and in default of payment shall be struck out of the Competition.
- (iii) The Secretaries of the Clubs drawn at Home must telephone the result to the Association as soon as possible after the end of the match.

Provisions for  
Scratching from  
the Competition

18. (i) Any Club intending to scratch must give information of their intention to do so to the Secretary of the opposing Club, not less than eight days before the date fixed for playing.
- (ii) A Club failing to comply with this rule shall be reported to the Council, who shall have power to compel such offending Club to pay the expenses incurred and take such action as they may deem expedient.
- (iii) If a Club decides to scratch after a drawn game intimation must be given to its opponent at the close of the match.
- (iv) Clubs failing to give a satisfactory reason for scratching or withdrawing shall not be allowed to enter the Competition the following season and shall be liable to a fine.
- (v) In the Semi-Final and Final Ties any Club failing to play without showing a good and sufficient cause for such failure to play, may be adjudged by the Council to have been guilty of serious misconduct, and liable to be dealt with under Rule of the Association.

Provisions  
Concerning  
Qualifications of  
Players

19. (i) The Cup shall be competed for annually in accordance with these Rules and matches shall be placed under the Laws of the Game as approved by the International Football Association Board. Unless a satisfactory reason is given, each team shall represent the full available strength of each competing Club.
- (ii) A club may at its discretion use three substitute players at any time in a Cup Tie, except to replace a player who has been suspended from the game by the Referee after play has commenced. Substitute Players must be nominated to the referee at least 30 minutes before the commencement of a match.
- (iii) The players shall also be duly qualified according to the Rules of the Association.
- (iv) A player shall not in the same season play for more than one competing Club, but the members of each respective team may be changed during the series of matches.
- (v) A player who has been suspended may play in postponed, drawn or replayed ties after the term of his suspension has expired.
- (vi) A substitute who is not used is entitled to play for another Club in the same season.
- (vii) Clubs must hand copies of a list of names of players taking part in the game (including the names of the nominated substitutes) to the Referee and a

representative of their opponents in the presence of the Referee at least 30 minutes before the advertised time of kick off. Any Club failing to carry out these provisions will be fined a sum not exceeding £100.00. Should any nominated player or substitute sustain an injury after the submission of the team sheet to the Referee and before the kickoff he may be replaced provided the Referee is informed.

(viii) In all rounds of the Competition a player must have been a registered member of his Club by 5:00pm on the last working day before the Conference Date of the Competition. In the case of postponed, drawn or replayed matches only those players shall be allowed to play who were eligible at the Conference Date.

(ix) In the case of a Semi-Final Replay, only those players shall be allowed to play who were eligible at the time of the first match.

(x) A registered member is one who has either, in the case of a player under written contract, registered with the Association or, in the case of a player without a written contract, registered with a League in which his Club competes in the current season.

(xi) A player on temporary (loan) transfer is ineligible to compete unless permission is given by the loaning Club in writing and a copy is submitted to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association prior to the tie.

Validity of  
Players'  
Qualifications

20. If the Council have any doubt as to the qualifications of any player taking part in this Competition, they shall have power to call upon such player, or the Club to which he belongs, or for which he played, to prove that he is qualified according to the Rules, and failing satisfactory proof the Council shall remove the Club from the Competition, and may impose such other penalty on the Club or player as they may think fit.

Disqualification

21. The Council shall have the power to disqualify any competing Club, or Official, or player or players for any competing Club, who may be proved to be guilty of any breaching of the Association Rules.

Provisions  
Concerning  
Referees and  
Linesmen

22. (i) In all matches Referees and Assistant referees shall be appointed by the Association. Neither past nor present members of either contending Clubs shall be eligible. In the event of any match officials failing to arrive or being incapacitated, the two Clubs must agree to a substitute.

(ii) The fees and expenses of all officials appointed by the Association to officiate in any match prior to the Semi-final Tie shall be paid by the Club upon whose ground the match takes place unless otherwise instructed by the Council.

(iii) ***Scale of Expenses to be Paid to Officials***

- (a) Standard class railway fare operating on the day of the match will be allowed.
- (b) An allowance of £0.30 per mile will be allowed to all officials officiating who travel by private car.
- (c) Officials shall be entitled to claim meal allowance as under:

- (a) Where the travelling time exceeds 6 hours: £4.00
- (b) Where the travelling time exceeds 4 hours: £3.00
- (c) Where the travelling time exceeds 2 hours: £2.00

(iv) ***Scale of Fees to be Paid to Officials***

**Qualifying Rounds - Round 2**

Referee, £30.00; Assistant Referees, £22.00 each.

**Round 3 to all rounds prior to the Semi-Final Ties;**

Referee, £50.00; Assistant Referees and 4<sup>th</sup> Official, £35.00 each.

**Semi-Final Ties;**

Referee, £80.00; Assistant Referees and 4<sup>th</sup> Official, £55.00 each.

**Final Tie;**

Referee, £125.00 and a Souvenir Medal; Assistant Referees, £75.00 and a souvenir Medal each; 4<sup>th</sup> Official, £75.00 and a Souvenir Medal.

(v) Officials are entitled to their travelling expenses if incurred and half their fees if the match to which they were appointed is not played.

(vi) The home Club shall send details of the match to the Referee and Assistant referees who shall acknowledge receipt.

(vii) Referees and Assistant referees shall acknowledge acceptance of appointments for all matches in the Competitions to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association.

(viii) The duties of the Referee and Assistant referees shall be defined in Laws of the Game 5 and 6.

Provisions  
Relating to  
Protests

23. (i) All questions relating to the qualification of competitors, or interpretation of the Rules, or any dispute whatever shall be referred to the Council, whose decision shall be final and binding on both Clubs.

(ii) Every protest must be made in writing and must contain the particulars of the ground upon which it is founded. Two copies of the protest must be lodged with the Association, accompanied by a fee of **£25.00** within



two days of the match to which it relates (Sundays not included). The fee shall be forfeited to the Association in the event of the protest not being sustained.

(iii) The Council may order any Club engaged in a dispute or protest to pay such sum as may be considered necessary towards defraying the expenses incurred.

(iv) Any protest relating to the ground, goal posts or bars or other appurtenances of the game shall not be entertained by the Council unless an objection has been lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the match, and not later than one hour before the official time of the kick-off. The Referee shall require the responsible Club to correct the cause of the objection, if this is possible without unduly delaying the progress of the match.

(v) When an objection has been lodged with the Referee, a protest must be made to the

Association and neither objection nor protest shall be withdrawn, except by leave of the Council.

(vi) The Chief Executive Officer of the Association shall send a copy of the protest and particulars to the Club protested against.

(vii) If a member of the Council is connected with the Club concerned in a dispute of protest, he shall not sit on the Council while the dispute or protest is being considered.

(viii) A Club summoned to attend a Hearing of a dispute of protest may be represented by one (1) or more of its Members. A Barrister or Solicitor may represent the Club of which he is Chairman or Secretary at the time of the alleged offence, but otherwise only with the prior consent of the Council. Any person summoned to attend a Hearing of a dispute or protest must attend personally and shall not be legally represented except with the prior written consent of the Council.

Match Proceeds 24. The proceeds of matches shall after paying thereout the fees and expenses of the match officials, and other expenses of the match (gate attendants, turnstile operators, stewards, advertising, printing (other than match programmes), posting, police charges, floodlighting, in accordance with Rule 16, contribution to First Aid Helpers and clearing the ground of snow and water, provided the visiting Club is consulted beforehand on the approximate cost, be divided as follows:-

(i) In matches prior to the Third Round of the Competition the nett gate receipts of each tie shall be divided equally between the competing Clubs.

(ii) In matches played in the Third, Fourth and Fifth Rounds of the Competition, the nett gate receipts of each tie shall be divided as follows: 45% to each Club. 10% to the Association

(iii) In the Semi-Final and Final Ties the nett gate receipts shall be divided as follows:

33<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub>% to the Association. 33<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub>% to each Club.

(iv) The gate receipts shall be approximately divided immediately after the match and a full statement and settlement shall be made to opponents and the Association within 14 days of the match, on the Statement of Receipts and Payments Form supplied. Failure to comply with this clause will incur a fine and any further punishment as determined by the Council.

(v) Any Club failing to comply with these provisions may be ordered by the Council to pay interest on monies due calculated at 5 per cent above Midland Bank base rate for the period during which they are outstanding.

(vi) When a match is postponed through causes over which neither Club has any control, the expenses shall be paid out of the receipts of the match when played.

(vii) In any match ordered to be replayed in consequence of a breach of rule, the Club in default shall not receive any share of the proceeds of such replayed match (except standard class railway fares for the thirteen players) without the consent of the Council, and such consent shall only be given under special circumstances. If consent be not given the share shall be taken by the Association.

(viii) In cases where the receipts are not sufficient to cover the entire expenses of the match, the deficit shall be shared by the two competing Clubs.

Safekeeping  
of the Cup

25. When the winning Club have been ascertained the Chief Executive Officer of the Association shall hand the Cup to the representatives on receiving a document to the following effect, and subscribed to by them –

We, \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary of the Club, and  
Members and representing the said Club, which has been declared to have won The Football Association of Wales Challenge Cup for the current year, and the same having been delivered to us by or on behalf of the said Association, do hereby, on behalf of the said club, individually and collectively, engage to return the same to the said Association on or before the first day in March in the ensuing year in good order and condition, and in accordance with the conditions of the annexed Rules, to which also we have subscribed our respective names.

The Club winning the Cup shall insure the same through The Football Association of Wales at its current value. Should the Cup be lost, destroyed or damaged by fire or any other cause whilst under the care or custody of the Club, the latter shall refund the Association the amount of its current value or the cost of thorough repair in addition to any other penalty which the Association may impose.

26. A Programme or Team Sheet must be produced with details of both teams, two copies of which must be sent to this office.

27. All notices required to be given to the Association by any of these rules shall be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, at the offices of The Football Association of Wales, 11-12 Neptune Court, Vanguard Way, Cardiff CF24 5PJ.

