

ESSEX WALKING FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP COMPETITIONS' RULES 2017/18

1. DEFINITIONS

In these Rules:

"EWFL" means the Essex Walking Football League.

"Competition" means all EWFL Cup or League Competitions.

"AGM" shall mean the annual general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the EWFL.

"Club" means a Club for the time being in membership of the Competition and "Team" means a side from a Club especially where a Club provides more than one Team in any division or cup Competition in accordance with the Rules.

"Competition Match" means any match played or to be played under the jurisdiction of the Competition.

"Secretary" means the Fixtures Secretary or the League Secretary or the Results Secretary or any such person or persons appointed or elected to carry out the administration of the Competition.

"Player" means any who is eligible to play for a Club or team registered by that Club on the Football Association's Whole Game System.

"Fines" means as a fine imposed and as levied by the Competition Rules Committee for any breach of these Cup Competition and/or EWFL League Competition Rules.

"Venue" means the venue or an accredited centre on, which the EWFL League team(s) plays its Competition matches.

"Committee" means the Competition Rules Committee or the Rules Committee of the EWFL who are elected to manage the running of any EWFL Competition.

"Match Official" means the Referee and other official appointed to a Competition match.

"Officer" means an individual who is appointed or elected to a position in a Club or Competition which requires that individual to make day to day decisions.

"Playing Season" means the period between the dates on which the first League competitive fixture in the EWFL is played each year until the date on which the last League competitive fixture is played.

"Rules" means these rules under which all EWFL Competitions are administered. These are deemed to be the rules as specified by the Committee.

"Sanctioning Authority" means the EWFL.

"Team Sheet" means a form provided by the Competition on, which the names of the players taking part in a Competition match are listed.

"The FA" means The Football Association Limited or the Essex County Football Association as and when appropriate.

"WGS" means the Football Associations 'Whole Game System' and the procedures for the operation thereof as determined by The FA from time to time.

"Written" or "in writing" means the representation or reproduction of words or symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise.

2. RULES

All Competition rules are taken from the EWFL's Rules as determined by the EWFL Committee from time to time. In the event of any omissions from these rules then the requirements of the EWFL Rules shall be deemed to apply to all EWFL Competitions.

(A) All Clubs shall adhere to the Rules. Every Club shall be deemed, as a member of the EWFL to have accepted the Rules and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Committee in relation thereto.

(B) The Cup Competition will be known as "The Essex Walking Football League Cup Competition" (or such other name as the Competition may adopt). The Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the League or unless as specified differently by the Committee. A Club, which ceases to exist or which ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever shall thereupon automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.

(C) The administration of the Competition under the Rules will be carried out by the Competition acting (save where otherwise specifically mentioned herein) through the Committee in accordance with the rules, regulations, policies and the Constitution of The EWFL.

3. NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

(A) All Competitions shall consist of teams of Clubs approved by the EWFL.

(B) In all Competitions it is expected matches will be played on grounds or venues or accredited centre within the geographical County of Essex or the five London Boroughs of Essex. Only in exceptional circumstances will permission be granted by the Committee for matches to be played outside of this area.

(C) All venues or accredited centres must, as a minimum, have changing rooms, showers, toilet facilities, communal social area for the provision of food and drink, the use of first aid equipment and a defibrillator.

4. ENTRY FEES

(A) Applications by Clubs for admission to any EWFL Competition must be made in writing to the Committee and must be accompanied by the Competition Entry Fee, as decided by the Committee, on the form provided by the Committee or by completing entry through the Whole Game System.

(B) The entry fee shall be payable prior to the start of the Competition as requested by the Committee.

5. MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

(A) All Officers of the Competition shall be determined by the Committee.

(B) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their Club Secretary.

6. POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

(A) The Committee may appoint sub-committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary.

(B) The Committee shall have powers to apply, levy fines, act upon and enforce the Rules and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting all EWFL Competitions as specified by the EWFL Constitution.

(C) All breaches of Rule a formal written charge must be issued to the Club concerned. The Club charged shall reply to the charge and as specified by the EWFL Rules.

(D) The business of the Competition as determined by the Committee will be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

7. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A general meeting for all EWFL Competitions is to be held at least once per year and be held in accordance with the constitution of the EWFL.

8. AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

The Club shall confirm they shall conform to the Rules and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Committee, by completing the form provided for entry to the Competition or by completing entry through the Whole Game System.

9. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS FOR ALL CUP COMPETITIONS

(A) A player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, is a bona fide member of the Club and is registered on the FA's Whole Game System for the current season.

(B) For all Cup matches, up to and including the Semi-Final tie, all registrations must have been received by the League as specified under the Rules. To be eligible for the final tie, players must have been correctly registered and eligible for the Semi-Finals round of the Competition.

(C) In the case of a postponed or replayed tie, only those players who were eligible on the date originally fixed for the round shall be allowed to play, with the proviso that players who were eligible on the original date and who subsequently become disqualified within the terms of this Rule, shall not be permitted to play. Likewise a player who has been suspended may, if otherwise qualified, play in postponed matches after the terms of their suspension has expired.

(D) It shall be a breach of Rule for a player to play for more than one team in any Cup Competition in the same season.

(H) Any team playing an ineligible player will be fined and the team will be removed from the Cup Competition.

10. CLUB COLOURS. CLUB NAME

In all Competitions, where the colours of the competing Clubs are similar, the away Club shall change, unless otherwise mutually agreed.

11. PLAYING SEASON. CONDITIONS OF PLAY TIMES OF KICK-OFF. POSTPONEMENTS. SUBSTITUTES

- (A) In all Cup Competitions, the Committee shall determine the dates and times of when the matches shall be played.
- (B) All Competitions shall be played in accordance of the EWFL matchday rules. Any such game in breach of will declared null and void and the result thereby will not stand.
- (C) Subject to unavailability of any club, alternative dates may be arranged by the Clubs, in liaison with the Secretary.
- (D) The dates for the playing of ties up to and including the semi-finals will be mutually agreed between the two competing Clubs and are to be arranged by the date determined by the Secretary. If Clubs are unable to mutually agree on a date for the playing of the tie, Secretary must be informed at once, when they will set a date for the tie to be played.
- (E) The duration of each match shall be to a maximum of twenty (20) minutes or a minimum of fifteen (15) if at the expiration of this period, the scores are equal, the result of the match shall be determined by the taking of at least five kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with procedure adopted by the EWFL.
- (F) In all Cup Competitions matches MUST be played on the scheduled date for the fixture or, with the agreement of the Secretary, may be brought forward. No match will be postponed without the prior authority of the Secretary, as stated on the draw sheet. The Secretary will have the authority to order a change of match date, ground, and kick-off time or team colours for any fixture.
- (G) The Secretary shall, at least seven days before the dates prescribed for the ties to be played, where possible, send to all Clubs concerned details of the draw together with a result sheet.
- (H) Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a fixture has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club, the match officials and the ECFA Committee Member, where appointed.
- (I) Any Club failing to play without showing a good and sufficient reason for such failure will forfeit the tie, be fined in accordance with the fine imposed by the Committee
- (J) In all Competitions, providing that both teams have a minimum of nine players ready to play, one of whom is the goalkeeper, the Referee shall order the match to commence at the appointed time or as soon as possible thereafter.
- (K) All Cup Competitions shall be decided on an elimination basis. The Committee shall have power to decide whether the entrants shall be seeded and/or grouped and the stage at which such seeding and groupings shall cease to apply. The Committee shall make draws for each Competition by drawing the names of the entrants in pairs, each pair being termed a "tie". In each tie the Club first drawn is referred to in these rules as the "home" Club, and the second drawn Club as the "away" Club. The Club winning the tie shall proceed to the next stage. The use of the words "home" and "away" for Cup Competition draw purposes has no relevance to where the "tie" is to be played.
- (L) In all Competitions, in the event of any match not being played or if it is abandoned (i.e. where full ordinary time has not been played or the prescribed period of extra time has not been started or completed or a prescribed penalty Competition has not been played), both Clubs and the Referee concerned shall send a report of the circumstances to the Committee with any claims for expenses arising from the match, to reach him not more than seventy-two (72) hours after the time fixed for the match for the Committee to make a ruling.
- (M) If the reports disclose that the engagement was not fulfilled due to circumstances over, which neither competing team has control, the competing teams must make arrangements for the match to be played not later than seven days prior to the next elimination round of the competition or unless otherwise ordered by the Committee or Sub-Committee.
- (O) As with all other EWFL Competitions, teams are required to complete a team sheet.

12. REPORTING RESULTS

- (A) The Secretary must receive within three days of the date played, the result of each Competition match in the prescribed manner.
- (B) As in all other EWFL Competitions, the tournament organiser must communicate the result of the match via means as directed by the Committee.

13. COMPETITION SPECIFIC INFORMATION

- (A) All EWFL Cup Competitions will be competed for annually.
- (B) As in all EWFL Competitions the Committee will decline entry of any Club if it deems such a course desirable, or transfer such entry to an appropriate Competition.

14. REFEREES

- (A) Registered Referees for all EWFL matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Secretary.
- (B) All appointed Match Officials are required to show their EWFL validation badge.
- (C) In the event of the non-appearance, or injury of the appointed Referee, a replacement Referee can appointed by agreement between the competing teams. In cases where there are no officially appointed Assistant Referees, or where the Competition has been unable to appoint a Referee, the Clubs shall agree upon a Referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee and whose decision must be accepted.
- (D) All Match Referees appointed under this Rule shall be entitled to the match fees as detailed in the EWFL Rules.
- (E) The tournament organiser shall pay the Officials their fees immediately after the match, in the Referees' dressing room from the fees charged to the competing clubs.
- (F) In the event of a match not being played because of circumstances over, which the Clubs have no control, the Referees, if present, shall be entitled to half fee plus expenses.
- (G) Where a match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Referee if they attend the ground, their full fee and expenses. If neither team is present at the ground the Referee Match will submit their claims to the Committee. The Committee will order the defaulting teams to reimburse the expenditure, or part of the expenditure, incurred.
- (H) A Referee not keeping his or her engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, will be dealt with by Committee. The Committee will then decide to remove the Referee from its panel of validated Referees.

15. CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

- (A) A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw any or all of its teams from the Competition after arrangement of fixtures for the season has been made. Any Club infringing this Rule shall be liable to a fine as decided by the Committee.
- (B) Should any Club, owing to its suspension, or the suspension of Club members, by the EWFL or the County Football Association, be unable to play any Cup Competition game, they will be expelled from the relevant Competition.

16. PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

- (A) All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Committee and be submitted in accordance with the Complaints procedure as specified in the EWFL Constitution.
- (B) All objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, goal areas or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Committee unless a protest is lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the match.

17. TROPHY: LEGAL OWNERS, CONDITIONS OF TAKING OVER, AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED. AWARDS.

- (A) The Committee shall be, for all intents and purposes, the legal owners of all EWFL cups and trophies, in trust for the League and shall also have responsibility for the financial management of all EWFL Competitions.
- (B) When the winning Club has been ascertained the Cup/Trophy shall be handed to the representatives of that Club on the understanding that within three days of its receipt an Agreement (subscribed by three persons) shall be sent to the Association as follows:

"We, AB, CD, and EF, being members of and representing the Football Club, which has now been declared to be entitled to hold an EWFL Cup/Trophy as specified and the said Cup/Trophy having been delivered to us by the said League do hereby on behalf of the said Club individually and conjointly engage to return the same to the County Office, in good order, and condition, on or before the 1st day of March next, or at any other time when called upon to do so."

- (C) Failure to do so will result in a fine as specified by the Committee. The EWFL is responsible for all engraving.

FINALS OF CUP COMPETITIONS

(A) In all Competitions the Committee shall make the arrangements for the final ties and take entire control of them.

(B) All finals shall be played on such grounds or accredited centre/venues as the Committee may determine.

(C) Any Club failing to play without showing a good and sufficient reason for such failure shall forfeit the tie, be fined in accordance with the fine imposed by the Committee and be reported for having been guilty of serious misconduct and liable to be dealt with by the Committee.

ALTERATION TO CUP COMPETITION RULES

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered by the Committee shall be submitted to the EWFL Chairman by 1st September in each year. The proposals shall be circulated to the Committee for a decision at the first Committee Meeting following the annual general meeting for implementation for the following season.