

ESSEX COUNTY SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES FA COMPETITION RULES

Inter-District Championships

THE CHARLES SMEATHERS CUP	(Under 16s)
THE ROBERT JOHNSON CUP	(Under 15s)
THE JAS T CLARK CUP	(Under 14s)
THE HJ WELSH SHIELD	(Under 13s)
THE LF BIRMINGHAM CUP	(Under 12s)
THE FL FINCH SHIELD	(Under 11s)

Individual Schools' Championships

THE BRYON COOMER TROPHY	(Under 19s Schools and Colleges)
THE U19 OPEN TROPHY	(Under 19s Schools and Colleges)
THE 2ND XI TROPHY	(Under 19s Schools and Colleges)
THE 3RD XI TROPHY	(Under 19s Schools and Colleges)
The U19 1st XI, 2nd XI, 3rd XI Leagues	(Under 19s Schools and Colleges)
THE RH PRATT TROPHY	(Under 19s Schools)
THE ALAN CHILD CUP	(Under 16s)
ROBERT COOK CUP	(Under 15s)
ALF E WOOD JUBILEE CUP	(Under 14s)
THE CHAIRMAN'S TROPHY	(Under 13s)
THE KEN ASTON TROPHY	(Under 12s)
THE PARISH CUP	(Under 11s)
THE REG WINTERS TROPHY	(Under 16s Girls)
THE GEORGE CASH TROPHY	(Under 14s Girls)
THE JOHN EDWARDS TROPHY	(Under 13s Girls)
THE MALCOLM MOFFATT TROPHY	(Under 11s 7-a-Side)
THE JIM SMITH MEMORIAL CUP	(Under 11s 7-a-Side)
THE GIRLS 7-A-SIDE CUP	(Under 11s 7-a-Side)

RULES

1. The Charles Smeathers Cup, the Robert Johnson Cup, the Jas T Clark Cup, the HJ Welsh Shield, the LF Birmingham Cup and the FL Finch Shield shall be offered for annual competition between the affiliated District Associations. Entries for the following season must be sent in writing to the General Secretary on or before the Annual General Meeting. Each trophy shall be held by the winning Association for one year.

The Malcolm Moffatt Trophy shall be offered for competition between Primary Schools as a seven-a-side tournament and each District Association shall submit the name of its representative school to the General Secretary not later than two weeks prior to the competition. Entries may also be accepted from individual schools in areas where the local District Association does not organise a competition to determine the representative(s) from that Association.

The RH Pratt Trophy, the Bryon Coomer Trophy, the Under 19 Open Trophy, the Under 19 2nd XI Trophy, the Under 19 3rd XI Trophy, the Under 19 1st, 2nd and 3rd XI Leagues, the Alan Child Cup, the Robert Cook Cup, the Chairman's Trophy, the Alf E Wood Jubilee Cup, the Ken Aston Trophy, the Parish Cup, the Jim Smith Memorial Cup, the John Edwards Trophy, the George Cash Trophy and the Reg Winters Trophy shall be offered for annual competition between schools and colleges affiliated to the ECSFA whose entries have been sent to the organising Hon. Competitions Secretary and received by him by the 1st July prior to the commencement of the competition. Entry forms will not be accepted without the appropriate fee.

2. The winners of each Trophy shall be financially responsible for taking it away from the ground where the final has been played and having it suitably engraved. Holders must return the trophy to any Officer or member of the General Purposes Committee **no later than 1st March**. The holders shall ensure its safe custody during the year it is held.

If the trophy is not returned to the Association by the 1st March, the holders shall incur the cost of retrieving the trophy and, if not engraved, shall incur the cost of this.

3. 16 mementoes shall be awarded to teams playing in the finals.
4. (a) Each District Association shall pay an annual affiliation fee, the amount to be determined by the General Purposes Committee, based on the number of secondary and primary schools in affiliation to that Association. The fee should be paid before the AGM each year.

(b) Where no District Association is in existence, affiliation will be accepted from Schools Sport Partnerships, the fee being dependent on the number of secondary and primary schools in that Partnership and decided by the General Purposes Committee.

(c) Where a school is unable to affiliate to either a local District Association or a School Sport Partnership it may, at the discretion of the General Purposes Committee, affiliate directly to the Association, the fee being determined by the General Purposes Committee.

(d) The entry fee for all Individual Schools' and District Competitions shall be decided by the General Purposes Committee each year. Only schools affiliated for the current season are allowed to enter these competitions.

5. No boy or girl shall be allowed to play for more than one District Association, or for more than one school or college in an individual schools' competition, in any one season without the consent of the General Purposes Committee. At Under 19s level a boy who has played in the Bryon Coomer competition may not play in the schools' competition
6. Where a professional club establishes its Centre of Excellence/Academy for players under the age of 16 at a particular school, those players cannot represent that school in any Essex County Schools' competition.
7. Only those boys and girls who are bona fide scholars on the roll of a school or college, affiliated to the local association, shall be allowed to take part in a competition. Boys who are on the roll at the end of the Easter term may be permitted to play in ties played after the Easter holidays have commenced. A player who signs as a trainee with a professional club is no longer eligible to play in schools' football. The names of schools or colleges other than those controlled or aided by a Local Education Authority, or in receipt of a direct grant from the Department of Education, shall be annually submitted to and approved by the Council before their scholars can become eligible to play in these competitions.

Schools and colleges may only affiliate to their local associations in accordance with a list submitted by that association. Any exceptions must be approved by the General Purposes Committee. A list of affiliated schools and colleges must be submitted by each Association.

8. The ages for these competitions shall be as follows:

All ages to be that of the boy or girl as at midnight between 31st August-1st September at the start of the season in which the game is played:

Charles Smeathers Cup	-	over 15 and Under 16s years
Robert Johnson Cup	-	over 14 and Under 15s years
Jas T Clark Cup	-	over 13 and Under 14s years
HJ Welsh Shield	-	over 12 and Under 13s years
LF Birmingham Cup	-	over 11 and Under 12s years
FL Finch Shield	-	over 10 and Under 11s years
Chanticleer Cup	-	over 9 and Under 11s years
RH Pratt Trophy	-	over 16 and Under 19s years
Bryon Coomer Trophy	-	over 16 and Under 19s years
The Under 19 Open Trophy	-	over 16 and Under 19s years
2nd XI Trophy	-	over 16 and Under 19s years
3rd XI Trophy	-	over 16 and Under 19s years
U19 1st XI, 2nd XI, 3rd XI Leagues	-	over 16 and Under 19s years
Alan Child Cup	-	over 15 and Under 16s years
Reg Winters Girls Trophy	-	over 14 and Under 16s years
Robert Cook Cup	-	over 14 and Under 15s years
Alf E Wood Jubilee Cup	-	over 13 and Under 14s years
George Cash Girls Trophy	-	over 12 and Under 14s years
Chairman's Trophy	-	over 12 and Under 13s years
John Edwards Girls Trophy	-	over 11 and Under 13s years
Ken Aston Trophy	-	over 11 and Under 12s years
Parish Cup	-	over 10 and Under 11s years
Jim Smith Memorial Cup	-	over 9 and Under 11s years
Malcolm Moffatt Trophy	-	over 9 and Under 11s years
Girls' 7-a-Side Cup	-	over 9 and Under 11s years

9. Similar Colours. Where Association's schools or colleges have similar colours, the visiting team shall be entitled to retain their colours and the home team shall change theirs for the match.
10. All results must be notified by the Secretary of the winning side to the appropriate competition secretary within 48 hours of the match being played.
11. In all ECSFA competition matches, a maximum of five substitutes from any five named players shall be allowed. In all age groups repeated substitutions may be made.
12. The General Purposes Committee shall:
 - (a) determine the limit dates of all matches in all rounds of all competitions which are Saturdays but any game, subject to the mutual agreement of the two Associations/Schools/Colleges concerned and the consent of the appropriate Competitions Secretary, may be brought forward and played before the limit date
 - (b) arrange for the appointment of referees and for neutral linesmen in semi-finals and finals for all matches, in all competitions through the appropriate Competitions Secretary
 - (c) arbitrate on all questions of eligibility, qualifications of competitors and all interpretations of competition rules
 - (d) be empowered to call any Disciplinary Commission necessary, the costs of which shall borne by the District Association/School/College concerned in the enquiry at the discretion of the Commission
 - (e) approve of the suitability of any ground suggested for any competition match
 - (f) have the powers to deal with any protest made to a Competition Secretary

(g) fix dates and ground for each final tie

(h) arrange the necessary grouping and drawing of ties for all competitions.

13. That not less than one week's notice of the arrangements made for a match be given to opponents and to the appropriate Hon. Competitions Secretary.

14. Playing of Ties. All matches shall be played in accordance with the laws of the F.A. except as provided hereunder:

(a) Ball: Under 19s, 16, 15 competitions - Size 5
 Under 14s, 13, 12 competitions - Size 4
 Under 11s competitions - Size 4

Any alterations to size of ball recommended by the ESFA will apply to the above age groups in ESFA competitions.

(b) Ground: Minimum 80 yards long by 50 yards wide. Primary schools may use a pitch under this size if their opponents agree by written consent, the written consent being retained after the game.

(c) For all competitions except the Under 11s competitions, goal posts shall be 8 yards apart and 8 feet high. For Under 11s competitions, goal posts shall be 8 yards apart as a maximum and yards as a minimum and bars a maximum of 8 feet and a minimum of 7 feet.

(d) In small-sided competitions, both pitch and goal size should be in line with ESFA recommendations.

15. In the event of a referee failing to appear, the Associations/Schools must agree one, in writing, so that the game shall be conducted in accordance with the rules. The Official so acting shall have the powers of the appointed referee.

16. Match officials only shall be allowed on the field of play.

17. Matches shall last 45 minutes each way in the Under 19s competitions, 40 minutes each way in the Under 16s boys, Under 16s girls and Under 15s boys' competitions, 35 minutes each way in the Under 14s boys, Under 14s girls, Under 13s boys and Under 13s girls' competitions, 30 minutes each way in the Under 12s boys competitions. In Under 11s eleven-a-side competitions a maximum of 30 minutes each way shall be played and in small-sided competitions a maximum of 20 minutes each way shall be played.

In all drawn games in knock-out competitions, extra time shall be played in all cases; in Under 19s, 16, 15, 14 and 13 competitions 10 minutes each way, in Under 12s and 11 competitions 5 minutes each way.

In knockout competitions, if, in the opinion of the referee, it should not be possible to commence or complete any necessary extra time, the game shall be deemed to be complete at the conclusion of full time.

There will be no replays in any knockout competitions. If scores remain level at the end of extra time, or if it is not possible to play extra time, the tie will be settled by the taking of penalties in accordance with FA regulations at the time.

18. (a) In group or league matches, three points shall be awarded for a win and one to each team for a draw. No back to back matches or matches played for double points shall be allowed.

(b) In the event of two or more teams finishing level on points in any group or league, goal difference will decide first and second places. In the event that there still be a tie, the team scoring most goals shall be the winner.

(c) The semi-finals and finals shall be played on a knockout basis.

19. All protests shall be referred to the appropriate Competition Secretary within three days of the date of the match, such protests to be accompanied by a deposit of £10 which will be forfeited if the General Purposes Committee decide that the protest is frivolous.

20. No objection relative to the ground, goal posts or bars or other appurtenances of the game shall be entertained by the General Purposes Committee unless a protest is made in writing to the referee before the start of the game.

21. All competition games shall be played on a local private pitch equipped with ropes or on a local enclosed round. All grounds shall be properly marked and equipped with dressing accommodation within reasonable distance and shall be approved by the General Purposes Committee.

22. In all ECSFA competitions:

(a) The home team shall pay the expenses of match officials, advertising costs and the cost of the ball shall not be included in the expenses

(b) The visiting team shall pay its own travelling expenses

(c) In all rounds up to but not including the semi-finals, any resulting profit shall be retained by the home Association

(d) In semi-finals and finals, distribution of profits, after payment of expenses, shall be 50% to the staging Association and 50% to the visiting Association

(e) At each final, a gate shall be taken

(f) All arrangements shall be carried out by the home team who, within three weeks of the date of the match, shall forward to the Hon. Treasurer of the visiting Association one copy of the audited Balance Sheet and the appropriate proportion of the net gate.

- 23.** Any Association not able to provide an approved private or enclosed ground shall, at least seven days prior to the limit date fixed for the match, notify their opponents to whom choice of ground shall revert.

The date and ground of the final tie shall be fixed by the General Purposes Committee.

In the event of a draw in the final after extra time, the tie will be settled by the taking of penalties in accordance with FA regulations at the time.

- 24.** Any reports from referees must be forwarded to the Essex County FA within 48 hours (Sundays excepted).