

**League Cup**

**Rules for 2024/25**

These rules apply to all competitions.

Competitions in each age group will be structured to ensure sufficient time to be completed (as per SCOR / SCORY).

1. All normal League rules apply unless specifically altered by these cup rules. This includes matters such as kick off times, playing time, kit, player registrations, inspection of squad sheets and the number of players in a match day squad.

1. The format shall be on a knockout basis.

1. The draw for each round shall be random and made after the completion of the preceding round.

1. All fixtures up to and including the semi-finals shall be played on the ground of the first drawn team. League pitch shares will not be applied.

1. If for any reason the home team venue is not available or unplayable, then the tie will automatically reverse to the away team ground on the original date given. In such circumstances, a minimum of 24 hours’ notice must be given to club officials, league appointed match officials, and the fixtures secretary (fixtures@lwgfl.uk).

1. All games shall be played on the date specified although may be brought forward with the consent of the League and both teams.

1. Postponements due to weather conditions/pitch conditions must follow SCORY rules. No other reasons for postponement are permitted.

1. Any games not played due to weather conditions will be reversed to be played at the venue of the away drawn team on or before the following Sunday.

1. Any team deemed in default of playing (including postponement for any reason other than weather) shall forfeit the tie and may be fined (as per SCORY rules).

1. If the scores are level at the end of normal time, no extra time shall be played; the match will be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark as per FA standard code of practice (not abba format). Penalties shall be the best of 5 for 9v9 and 11v11 format. If still level, penalties continue in the sudden death format.

1. No player shall be allowed to play for more than one club in the competition. Any team found breaking this rule will be disqualified from the competition.

1. No player can play for two teams at the same club in the same age group.

Any team found breaking this rule will be disqualified from the competition.

1. No player can play for two teams at the same club in different age groups unless approved by the League Registration Officer (LRO) 3 days before the match. The LRO will provide written approval. Any team found breaking this rule will be disqualified.

1. A player must have been registered to play for a team a minimum of 3 clear days prior to a fixture (except for semi-finals and finals (see 15))

1. For semi-finals and finals, team sheets must be sent to the League Registrations Officer (registrations@lwgfl.uk) 7 clear days before the fixture.

1. To participate in the semi-final or final the player must have played in a minimum of 3 league fixtures (NB. this does not include county cup or league cup ties) for the team during the current season.

1. The referee’s match fee (for league appointed match officials) shall be paid by the AWAY team. The normal match fees for league games apply for all cup games. Referees’ fees for finals will be covered by the league.

1. Where a league appointed referee is not available it is the responsibility of the home team to find a referee.

1. Strictly no coaching should be carried out by the referee; he/she must always remain neutral to ensure the game is fair for both teams.

1. Any disputes arising from the competition will be dealt with by the league committee whose decision will be final subject to any subsequent appeal.

1. Any complaints will need to be raised with the league on the day of the game to allow a decision to be made and complete the competition in the short time frame to play the competition.

1. The finals will all be played at central venues. A league referee and committee official will be present for each final. Individual medals will be awarded per player taking part in the final with a trophy for the winning team.

**A NOTE FROM THE COMMITEE**

Please enjoy the cup and treat it as just another grassroots game. We often have issues with cups, and these rarely stem from the players (who are the most important focus for the competition).

There will be fixtures between strong teams and newer/less developed teams in each age group. Please be conscious of this and do all you can to avoid cricket scores that benefit no-one (winners progress whether it is 2-0 or 20-0).