

WISDEN SPORTS CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITIONS RULES

(Teams from Division Two and Division Three)

Note : This is an Junior status Competition. Teams may nominate 3 substitutes.

A Player who has been substituted himself becomes a substitute and may replace another Player at any time during the match.

1. The East Sussex Football League Rules where applicable, together with the following exceptions and additional Rules, shall apply.
2. The Chairman and Competition Secretary for the time being of the League shall be for all intents and purposes, the legal owners of the respective Cup in trust for the League. East Sussex League Rule 18 shall apply regarding the return and receipt of Cups. The Cup shall never be won outright.
3. The Competition shall be called **The Wisden Sports Challenge Cup**, competed for by teams playing in Divisions 2 and 3 and shall be under the entire control of the Management Committee of the East Sussex Football League, whose decision shall be final.
4. The entrance fee shall be £15 - to be paid on or before 1st August each year. If not paid by this date entry to the competition will be declined. Entry to the Competition is at the discretion of the Management Committee. No Club shall enter more than one team in the Competition.
5. The Competition shall be conducted with the Club first drawn having the choice of ground except in semi-final or final ties, where neutral grounds may be used at the discretion of the Management Committee.
Where teams sharing a ground/pitch are both drawn at home, the Management Committee may order one of the fixtures to be played at the opponents ground or a neutral venue, to ensure the progression of the Competition.
As soon as is practicable, the draw shall be published on the League website.
6. Where there is any doubt as to the fitness of their pitch; or in the event of its pitch becoming unfit for play, the home Club shall immediately contact the Secretary (or other responsible member – see Emergency Contact in League Directory) of their opponent Club to ascertain whether the fixture may be played on their opponent's pitch or at any other available pitch. Such a pitch being available, the match shall be played. If a fixture is postponed twice due to an unfit pitch, the Management Committee may order the game to be played at the opponents ground or at a neutral venue.
7. Kick-off time will be 30 minutes before that of League matches for that month as arranged in accordance with League Rule 10(B). The half-time interval in all matches shall be five minutes duration, with the exception of the final tie which shall be of fifteen minutes duration. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the match referee. In all rounds extra-time of fifteen minutes each way shall be played. If the scores are still level the result shall be determined by taking kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the regulations governing knock out competitions – obtaining a result – as set out in the FA Handbook and Laws of Association Football.
In the event of a match not being completed the Management Committee or Emergency sub-committee may order the match to be replayed under any terms that they may direct.
8. The Match Officials fees and expenses shall be that as for the Junior Divisions of the East Sussex Football League.
In the event of an appointed Referee failing to present himself at the ground in any match, and there is another registered Referee available, then he/she shall be invited to officiate. If at the appointed time of kick-off a Referee is not present, the Home team shall provide a Referee, who shall be entitled to receive the normal fee. Except in the case of injury or illness, the substitute Referee shall officiate for the duration of the match.
A Club Assistant Referee shall be provided by each team for the duration of the match. In semi-final ties, the fees and expenses of the match officials shall be shared by the competing Clubs.

9. All players shall be registered with the Registration Secretary and shall not play for more than one Club in the Competition during the same season.
10. A player having played **ANY** Senior football in the current season shall not be eligible to play. A player having played more than **EIGHT** games in Intermediate football in the current season shall not be eligible to play.
Any Club fielding a player deemed ineligible under this Rule shall be dealt with under Cup Rule 12.
11. Player eligibility in semi-final and final ties :
- i) Players must have played in **FIVE** games for the **CLUB** during the current season.
Matches in the following competitions count - East Sussex League games / East Sussex League Challenge Cup Competitions / outside Cup competition games.
(Note : Outside Cup competitions are defined as matches where teamlists are submitted via the East Sussex Football League website).
- ii) If the team playing is a Clubs second or third team, players must have played at least **THREE** games for the **TEAM** concerned.
- A player debarred by this rule may apply in writing at least ten days before the match, and enclosing a fee of £20, to the Management Committee stating the number of games played, the dates thereof and the competition involved.
- The exception to the above requirements would be the emergency registration of a recognised goalkeeper, application for which should be made via the Registration Secretary whom will advise if the registration meets the criteria laid down by the Management Committee.
- Any Club fielding a player deemed ineligible under this Rule shall be dealt with under Cup Rule 12.
12. Any Club including a player in their team who is ineligible for any reason shall be expelled from the Competition and shall be fined a sum not exceeding £50 for each ineligible player.
13. Any Club withdrawing from the Competition before its commencement will incur a fine not exceeding £25.
Any Club failing to fulfil its fixture shall be expelled from the Competition and the match awarded to their opponents and a fine not exceeding £100 shall be incurred.
14. The Management Committee shall make all arrangements for the final tie, where all the proceeds shall be paid into the League's funds. Clubs participating in the final tie shall comply with the instructions of the Competition Secretary conveyed to them in writing.
Failure to comply will incur a fine not exceeding £15.
In the event of two teams playing each other in the final having the same registered colours both teams shall substitute distinctive colours.
Both the winners and runners-up of the Competition shall at its conclusion receive mementos as decided by the Management Committee. The Referee, Assistant Referees and Fourth Official shall also receive mementos at the conclusion of the final tie in lieu of their match fee.
Any player(s) sent off from the field of play in the Final shall not receive any memento at the presentation at the conclusion of the final tie. Any player declining to collect his memento at the presentation shall not receive his memento.
15. All protests shall be lodged with the Competition Secretary within five days after playing the match. No protest shall be entertained by the Management Committee unless the Club lodging the same shall have deposited with the Competition Secretary a sum of £20, which may, if the Management Committee consider such protest frivolous, be forfeited.
If the Management Committee deem fit, they may also order either Club to pay such sum as they consider necessary towards defraying the expenses of the protest.
16. The Management Committee shall have the power to deal with any contingency not provided for in the rules.