CUP RULES

Midland Football League Cup

1. The Competition shall be called the Midland Football League Cup. All Clubs competing in the Premier Division and Division One shall play in the League Cup Competition.
2. The Competition shall observe the Rules and Regulations of the Football Association and all matches shall be played according to the Laws of the Game as settled by the International Football Association Board.
3. All rounds up to and including the final will be played on a single leg basis. In rounds played on a single leg basis, if the scores are level at the end of 90 minutes, the tie will be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with International Board decisions.
The Final tie will be played on a neutral ground to be decided by the Board. The date for each round and the Final Tie to be decided by the Board.
4. The entire management and control of the Competition shall be vested in the Board of the Midland Football League who shall have power to deal with any matter for which no specific provision is made.
5. Each Club shall pay an Entrance Fee of £40, payable before entry can be accepted.
6. The matches shall be played on such dates as the Board may decide.
7. The minimum charge for admission to matches in the Competition shall be £3 (young people under 16 and Senior Citizens excepted). All spectators will pay the Club’s advertised admission charges.
8. In each round until the Final tie, the game shall be played on the ground of the first club drawn unless mutually arranged. If a first match is postponed on two occasions the match will be played on the ground of the second drawn team, providing that their ground is playable. Should such ground be unplayable then the tie shall be played either on another nominated ground or at the ground of the first drawn club providing that agreement has been made in consultation with the League. The team thereby having the choice of Ground becomes the Home Team in terms of these Rules and the payment of Match Official(s)
9. In all rounds prior to the Final match, the gross gate receipts shall be retained by the home Club which shall be responsible for the payment of expenses. The visiting Club shall be responsible for their own travelling expenses.
10. In all matches, any Player who has been duly registered with the Midland Football League shall be eligible.No Player shall be allowed to play for more than one Club in the Competition. A Player nominated as a substitute but not being called upon to play, providing he has not played in a previous round, shall not be cup tied.
A Player who has not played in a previous round shall not play in the Semi-Final, or Final, unless he has been registered for his Club with the League for a minimum of twenty one (21) days.
Any Club found guilty of playing an ineligible Player shall be removed from the Competition and be subject to a fine at the discretion of the Board.

 Each club competing in the Final Tie, shall send at least five working days before each match, as directed by the League, the names of players for checking eligibility for qualification for taking part. List to be sent to the Registration Secretary.

1. The Referee and Assistant Referees will be appointed by the appointing authority. In the Final a Fourth Official will be appointed who will receive the same fee and expenses as an Assistant Referee.
In the Final Tie tokens will be awarded to the Referee, Assistant Referees and Fourth Official.
2. The Rules of the Midland Football League shall apply to this Competition as far as they are applicable to a League Cup Competition, except as specifically provided for in the foregoing Rules.
3. The Final Tie shall be played at the direction of the Board and shall take precedence over any other fixture except the F.A. Cup, F.A. Vase, or the Senior Cup Competition for which the Club is eligible of the County Association to which it was first affiliated, after consultation with the Clubs concerned.
4. All club’s members and season ticket holders shall pay admission for all League Cup matches.
5. When a match has been postponed through causes over which neither club has any control, the expenses shall be paid out of the receipts of the second match.
6. Referees and Assistant Referees fees in all League Cup matches shall be as for the Premier Division.
7. A club may at its discretion use five substitutes at any time in a match, except to replace a player who has been dismissed from the field of play, by the referee, for misconduct, after play has commenced. Players, who have been substitutes in any game, are cup-tied only if they took part in any game in the Cup competition.
8. If a game is abandoned through no fault of either club during the initial 90 minutes, the game will be replayed on the same ground. If a game is abandoned through no fault of either club before the taking of penalties after the initial 90 minutes the game will be replayed on the ground of the visiting team.
9. PROVISIONS CONCERNING APPEALS
	1. A Club having a Team that is dismissed from the Competition may appeal against the decision to an Appeal Board of the Sanctioning Authoritywithin seven (7) days of the date of the written notification of the decision
	2. A fee, in accordance with the Fees Tariff, must accompany the full written reasons giving rise to the appeal
	3. For the avoidance of doubt, a Club may not appeal against any penalty, award, order, or sanction imposed by the Competition Executive other than dismissal from the Competition
	4. The full written reasons for an appeal against dismissal from the Competition must identify the grounds on which the appeal based:
		1. The Competition Executive failed to give that Participant a fair hearing; and/or
		2. The Competition Executive misinterpreted or failed to comply with the Competition Rules relevant to its decision; and/or
		3. The Competition Executive came to a decision that no reasonable such body could have come; and/or
		4. The Competition Executive imposed a penalty, award order or sanction that was excessive

Les James Challenge Cup Rules

The Les James Challenge Cup is named after Les James, who contributed over 50 years service to the Midland Football Combination from 1957. He was the great motivator who took the League from small boundaries in Worcestershire to the large organisation that it is today.

1. The Competition shall be called the Les James Midland Football League Challenge Cup. Entrance fee shall be £40.00
2. The trophy is the property of the Midland Football League and shall be competed for annually by all Teams in Divisions 2 & 3.
3. Minimum admission charges for Challenge Cup matches, where charged, will be 50p (Senior Citizens and children excepted).
4. Other Rules as for the Midland Football League Cup
5. Referees and Assistant Referees fees in all Challenge Cup matches shall be as for Division 2.

**Presidents Cup Competition**

1. The Competition shall be known as the Midland Football League President’s Cup, Entrance fee shall be £40.00
2. The trophy is the property of the Midland Football League and shall be competed for annually by all teams in Division 2.
3. Minimum charges for The President’s shall, where charged, be 30p (senior citizens and children excepted).
4. Other rules as for The Midland Football League Cup competition
5. Referees and Assistant Referees fees in all President Cup matches shall be as for Division 2

**Challenge Vase Competition**

1. The Competition shall be known as the Midland Football League Challenge Vase, Entrance fee shall be £40.00
2. The trophy is the property of the Midland Football League and shall be competed for annually by all teams in Division 3.
3. Minimum charges for The Challenge Vase shall, where charged, be 30p (senior citizens and children excepted).
4. Other rules as for The Midland Football League Cup competition
5. Referees and Assistant Referees fees in all Challenge Vase matches shall be as for Division 3

**Challenge Trophy Competition**

1. The Competition shall be called the Midland Football League Challenge Trophy, Entrance fee shall be £40.00
2. The trophy is the property of The Midland Football League and shall be competed for annually by all teams in Reserve Division One
3. Minimum charges for Challenge Trophy matches, where charged shall be 50p (senior citizens and children excepted)
4. Other rules as for Midland Football League Cup competition.
5. All teams competing in this competition are required to play their normal Reserve Team players.
6. Referees and Assistant Referees fees in all Challenge Trophy matches shall be as for Reserve Division One
7. In the event of a group stage being implemented, a player will be free to play for another Club in the same competition by the means of transfer providing the releasing Club have not completed all of their group matches at the time of the transfer.

**Challenge Bowl Competition**

1. The Competition shall be called the Midland Football League Challenge Bowl, Entrance fee shall be £40.00
2. The trophy is the property of The Midland Football League and shall be competed for annually by all teams in the Under 21 Division.
3. Minimum charges for Challenge Bowl matches, where charged, shall be 50p (senior citizens and children excepted)
4. Other rules as for the Les James Challenge Cup competition.
5. All teams competing in this competition are required to play their normal Under 21 team players.
6. Referees and Assistant Referees fees in all Challenge Urn matches shall be as for the Under 21 Division.
7. In the event of a group stage being implemented, a player will be free to play for another Club in the same competition by the means of transfer providing the releasing Club have not completed all of their group matches at the time of the transfer.

No alteration of or addition to existing Rules shall be made except at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting convened at the request of the Board or a requisition signed by not less than two-thirds of the Clubs comprising the League and then only upon such resolution being carried by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting thereon. Notice of alteration or addition must be sent to the Secretary not less than four (4) weeks before the date of such meetings, the same to be printed and circulated to Clubs for the purpose of amendments within the following ten (10) days and any proposed amendments to be notified to the Secretary not later than a further ten (10) days. All proposed alterations and amendments to be forwarded to Clubs at least seven (7) days before the meeting

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