

## **RULES OF THE LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION**

1. The Competition shall be called the THURLOW NUNN FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION, and shall be confined to Clubs in membership of the EASTERN COUNTIES FOOTBALL LEAGUE. Clubs may opt out of participating in the competition.
2. The entire management and control of the Competition shall be vested in the Management Committee of the EASTERN COUNTIES FOOTBALL LEAGUE, who shall conduct it in accordance with the Rules, Bye-Laws and Regulations of the Football Association. The Committee shall have power to deal with any matter for which no specific provision is made in these Rules under the Rules of the League.
3. The Competition shall be conducted on the 'knock-out' principle. Clubs shall be drawn in couples. All early round matches will be drawn on a geographical basis. The first drawn of each couple shall have choice of ground in all rounds up to the Final. Should the match be postponed on more than one occasion then the second drawn of each couple shall have choice of ground in all rounds up to the final. The winner of each tie shall go forward to the next round. If necessary a decisive result to be obtained after ninety minutes play by taking kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the International Football Association Board procedure. If ninety minutes in any tie have been completed with the scores level and through no fault of either side it is not possible for the taking of penalty kicks the tie shall be replayed on the ground of the Club not having choice of ground in the first instance. If any tie is abandoned before the completion of ninety minutes and the abandonment is due to or contributed to by one of the competing Clubs, the tie shall be played in full on the ground of the non-offending Club. The Final shall be played on a neutral ground as determined by the Management Committee.
4. In all rounds up to the Final, after match expenses have been paid, the profit or loss shall be equally shared between the competing Clubs. In the Final, all profits shall be paid to the League. The Management Committee may, at its discretion, make a grant to the Clubs competing in the Final. Settlement must be made not later than 14 days following the date of the tie. All matches in the competition shall be "All Pay". Expenses chargeable shall be those incurred for police, referees, assistant referees, gatemen, floodlighting expenses not exceeding £50 travelling expenses actually incurred which must not exceed £2.50 per coach mile. The travelling expenses for visiting Clubs are to be calculated on a direct route from the Club's headquarters, with the total mileage being agreed between both Clubs prior to the first match. The mileage rate is both ways. When travelling by rail, the cost of 20 standard class rail fares at the cheapest available rate may be claimed. Clubs should use the form for FA CUP/VASE to record the various expenses and revenue. These should be made available to the Management Committee on request. No charge is permitted for ground hire.
5. All Players eligible to play in the League shall be eligible to play in this Competition but no Player shall be eligible to play for more than one Club in any one season. Any player taking part in an abandoned match shall have that appearance count as having played for that club. Any misconduct relating to abandoned matches comes under the appropriate CFA.
6. Any Club playing an ineligible Player will be struck out of the Competition, and the tie shall be awarded to their opponents. The defaulting Club shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £100.
7. The League shall provide 18 mementoes each to the winners and the runners-up of the Final. No additional trophies will be available for purchase.

8. For all Rounds up to and including the semi-final, Rule 7 of the Eastern Counties League shall apply. If however, the 2 teams reaching the final have similar colours, both shall be required to wear their registered change colours. In the event of these being similar, the choice of which Club may wear their first choice registered colours shall be decided by the toss of a coin, to be undertaken by the Secretary of the League, in the presence of a third, but neutral, party.
9. So far as applicable the Rules governing the Eastern Counties Football League shall apply to this competition.
10. Winners of the Challenge Cup to sign an agreement When the winning Club shall have been ascertained, the Cup shall be handed to the representatives of such Club, on receiving a document to the following effect, and subscribed by three persons, whose names shall be previously submitted to, and approved by, the Committee. We A.B., C.D., and E.F., members of and representing the..... Club, which has now been declared to have won the possession of the "EASTERN COUNTIES FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP", and the same having been delivered to us by the said League, do hereby on behalf of the said Club, jointly and severally promise to return the same to Secretary of the League, for the time being, on or before the 1st day of the April next, in good order and condition, and in accordance with the conditions of the Rules, and should the said Cup be destroyed or damaged by fire or any other cause, or lost whilst assigned to our possession, we do hereby further jointly and severally promise to refund to the said Eastern Counties Football League the amount of its present value or the cost of thorough repairs as may be determined by the said League. Any club failing to return the League Cup to the Secretary of the League shall be fined £50.