

FAW REGIONS CUP
THE RULES OF THE REGIONS CUP COMPETITION 2016/2018

Name of the Cup

1. The Cup shall be called “The Football Association of Wales Regions Cup.”

Cup Ownership

2. The Cup is the property of the Football Association of Wales Limited.

Control of the Competition

3. The entire control and management of the Competition shall be vested in the Council. The Council shall have the power to formulate Rules of the Competition and to alter or add to the Rules as they, from time to time, deem expedient. The Council shall appoint a Committee to control and manage the Competition on their behalf and to give decisions on matters arising out of the Competition which, within the Rules laid down by the Council, shall be deemed decisions of the Council. Teams shall be bound by any Contract entered into by the Council in relation to the Competition. In any matter not specifically mentioned in these Rules, the Committee shall have the power to take such action and impose such penalties as it deems necessary.

Competition Format

4. The competition will be split into two Groups, one North and one South, with the three Area Associations in the North playing each other home and away over the two seasons and the two Area Associations in the South playing each other home and away during each season. Each Area Association shall play a total of four Group matches in the Competition, over the two seasons. The FAW will arrange the Final, between the winners of each Group, in April/May 2018.
5. Three points will be awarded for a win, one for a draw and zero for a defeat.

Equality of Points

6. If the teams are equal on points after all matches have been played in the Group, the following criteria are applied to determine the rankings;
 - (a) Superior goal difference, firstly in matches involving the top two teams, then, if they cannot be separated, in all group matches.
 - (b) Higher number of goals scored.
7. However, if the two teams have the same number of points and the same number of goals scored and the same number of goals conceded, at the end of the last Group match, extra time (15 minutes each way) shall be played and, if there is no winner at the end of extra time, their final rankings are determined by kicks from the penalty mark (in accordance with Rule 29).
8. In the Final match if the scores are equal after 90 minutes, extra time (15 minutes each way) shall be played. If there is no winner at the end of extra time, the winner will be determined by kicks from the penalty mark (in accordance with Rule 29).

Laws of the Game

9. Matches are played in conformity with the Laws of the Game promulgated by the International Football Association Board (IFAB).
10. Each match lasts 2 x 45 minutes.

Dates of Matches

11. The 2016- 2018 Regions Cup will be held over the period of two Seasons with two matches played by each Area Association, per Season.
12. Teams must mutually decide on the midweek fixture dates and times, as per the FAW Conference Dates and notify the Football Association of Wales. Teams shall not be compelled to play on a Sunday. If agreement cannot be reached the fixture must be played on the Conference Date for the match.
13. In the event of any postponed Match or replayed Match as the case may be, The Football Association of Wales shall declare a revised Date by which the fixture must be played.
14. Should either Team refuse to play it shall be adjudged to have lost the match. When Teams drawn together have arranged to play on a certain date, if either Team fails to comply it shall be adjudged to have lost the match. In the event of any Teams drawn together in any tie, failing to play by the Conference Date, they shall be adjudged to have lost the match, unless sufficient reason be given to the Committee, which Council has appointed to control and manage the competition, for an extension of time. In any of the preceding situations, the not guilty Team shall be awarded a 3-0 win.

Ground Facilities

15. The Home Team is responsible for selecting the ground(s) where the Group matches are to be played. Goal nets must be used in all ties. The playing area must be railed or walled off, except those areas and spaces excluded from spectator viewing. Dressing and washing accommodation must be separate for each team and Match Officials. Toilets which are not available for spectator use must be provided for dressing rooms used by Players and Match Officials. There must be covered benches for the Substitutes and Technical Staff. These must accommodate at a minimum 8 people, but preferably accommodate 13 people.
16. Matches should be played within the territory of the Home Area Association.
17. Artificial turf must be approved by the FAW. It must have been granted the required FIFA licence, meeting the FIFA quality standards for football turf. It must meet all the requirements of the National Legislation in force. The surface must also be green and marked in white.

Match Officials

18. The Match Officials for the competition will be appointed by the Football Association of Wales, where possible 21 days prior to the match. The match officials must not reside within, or be registered to the same Area of any competing Area Association. The match fees and travel expenses are to be determined by the Referees Panel of the Football Association of Wales.

Substitution of Players

19. The substitution of three players, from a maximum of seven per team, is permitted in the course of the match.
20. During the match, substitutes are allowed to leave the technical area to warm up. The referee determines where exactly they may warm up (behind the first assistant referee or behind the goal) and how many substitutes are allowed to warm up simultaneously. Normally, three substitutes per team are allowed to warm up at the same time, but if space so permits, the referee can allow all the substitutes of each team to warm up simultaneously in the determined area.

Match Team Sheet

21. Before the match, each team receives a Match Team Sheet on which the numbers, full names, club and dates of birth of the 18 players in the squad must be entered, together with the full names of the team officials (maximum of six) seated on the substitutes' bench. The match sheet must be properly completed in block capitals and signed by the authorised team official.
22. The 11 first-named players must commence the match. The other seven players are designated as substitutes. The numbers on the players' shirts must correspond with the numbers indicated on the match sheet. The goalkeepers and team captain must be identified.
23. Both teams must hand their match sheets to the referee at least 30 minutes before kick-off.
24. If the match sheet is not completed and returned on time, the matter will be submitted to the Compliance Department.
25. Only three of the substitutes listed on the match sheet may take part in the match. A player who has been substituted may take no further part in the match.
26. If there are fewer than seven players on either of the teams, the match is abandoned. In this case, the relevant Committee decides on the consequences.

Replacement of players on the match sheet

27. After the match sheets have been completed and signed by both teams and returned to the referee, and if the match has not yet kicked off, the following instructions apply:
 - If any of the first 11 players listed on the match sheet are not able to start the match for any reason, they may be replaced by any of the seven substitutes listed on the match sheet. Such replacements will reduce the quota of substitute players accordingly. During the match, three players may still be replaced.
 - If any of the seven substitutes listed on the match sheet are not able to be fielded for any reason, they may not be replaced, which means that the quota of substitute players will be reduced accordingly.
 - If a goalkeeper listed on the match sheet is not able to be fielded for any reason, he may be replaced by another goalkeeper not previously listed on the match sheet.

Half-time interval

28. The half-time interval lasts 15 minutes.

Kicks from the Penalty Mark

29. If, at any stage, kicks from the penalty mark are required the procedure laid down in the Laws of the Game applies.
30. If the taking of kicks from the penalty mark cannot be completed because of weather conditions or for other reasons beyond control, the result will be decided by the drawing of lots by the referee in the presence of the Match Delegate (if appointed) and the two team captains.
31. If through the fault of a team, the taking of kicks from the penalty mark cannot be completed, the relevant Committee will decide the outcome of the Match.

Player Eligibility

32. Players are eligible to play in the competition if they meet all of the following criteria throughout the competition.
 - (a) Players must respect the criteria regarding amateur status and must be non-contract players.
 - (b) Players must never have signed a contract as Professionals (see Chapter II of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players).
 - (c) Players must never have played in a non-amateur championship (professional league).
 - (d) Players must never have played in the Welsh Premier League/League of Wales.
 - (e) Players must be registered with a club that plays at Level 4 of the FAW pyramid or below. If a player is registered with a club that plays at Level 4 of the FAW pyramid or below on 1st September 2016, but is then transferred, or promoted with his Club to a higher league/division, (not Welsh Premier League), he remains eligible for the remainder of the FAW Regions Cup. If a player is registered with a club that plays above Level 4 on 1st September 2016 he is ineligible for the entirety of the FAW Regions Cup.
 - (f) Players must respect the age requirements:
 - i. Players must be at least 19 on the date of their first appearance in the competition.
 - ii. Players must be under 40 on the date of their first appearance in the competition.
 - (g) Players - including an unlimited number of foreign players - must have been duly registered on the FAW Player Registration Database for at least two years without interruption on the date of their first appearance in the competition.
 - (h) Players must never have played in UEFA competition matches (excluding the youth competitions, i.e. the European Under-17, Under-19 and Under-21 Championships, as well as previous UEFA Regions' Cups and Futsal Competitions).

33. If the Committee, which Council has appointed to control and manage the competition, has any doubt as to the qualification of any player competing in this Competition, it shall have power to call upon such player or the Team to which he belongs, or for which he has played, to prove to its satisfaction that he is properly qualified according to the Rules, and, failing such satisfactory proof, the Committee shall have power to disqualify such player. Any matches in which the disqualified player has played and which his Team won points shall be adjudged to have been lost and the not guilty Team shall be awarded a 3-0 win.

Yellow and red cards

34. A player who is sent off the field of play is suspended for the next match of the FAW Regions Cup competition, unless there is evidence of an obvious mistake of identity by the referee.
35. In the case of repeated cautions in different matches, the offending player is suspended for one match in the same competition after the second and fourth caution.
36. Single yellow cards that have not resulted in a suspension expire on completion of each FAW Regions Cup and are not carried forward to future competitions.

Declaration of protests

37. Area Associations are entitled to protest as per FAW Rules and Regulations.
38. Protests must reach the Compliance Department in writing, stating the reasons, within 2 Business Days of the completion of the match. This time limit cannot be extended.
39. The protest fee will be confirmed by the FAW Compliance Department. It must be paid at the same time as the protest is filed.

Reasons for protest

40. A protest is directed against the validity of a match result. It is based on a player's eligibility to play, a decisive breach of the Regulations by the referee, or other incidents influencing the match.
41. Protests concerning the state of the field of play must be submitted to the referee in writing by the relevant official before the match. If the state of the field of play becomes questionable in the course of the match, the team captain must inform the referee, in the presence of the captain of the opposing team, orally without delay.
42. Protests cannot be lodged against factual decisions taken by the referee.
43. A protest against a caution or expulsion from the field of play after two cautions is admissible only if the referee's error was to mistake the identity of the player.

Appeals

44. The standard FAW Competition Appeals Procedure will apply.

UEFA Regions Cup

45. The Winner of the FAW Regions Cup will be nominated to represent Wales in the following UEFA Regions Cup.

46. The Rules of the UEFA Regions Cup are a different set of Rules to the FAW Regions Cup. The FAW Council controls the Rules to the FAW Competition as confirmed in Rule 3. UEFA controls the Rules to the UEFA Regions Cup.