

GRAY HOOPER HOLT LLP MID SUSSEX FOOTBALL LEAGUE

CHARITY CUP RULES 2026 - 2027

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GRAY HOOPER HOLT LLP MID SUSSEX FOOTBALL LEAGUE

SENIOR CHARITY CUP COMPETITION RULES 2026-2027

- 1 This competition shall be called the Mid-Sussex Senior Charity Cup and shall be under the entire control of the Mid Sussex Football League (MSFL) The Officers of the Competition shall for all intents and purposes be the legal owners of the Cup in trust for the Competition, The Cup shall never be won outright.
- 2 The competition shall be open to Clubs invited by the Mid Sussex Football League (MSFL) whose teams play in Intermediate and Junior Divisions of Leagues operating within the Sussex County boundary on the North: the Northern slope of the Downs on the South: the main Lewes - Uckfield - Crowborough - Tunbridge Wells Road (A26) on the East and the A24 Horsham to Worthing Road on the West: together with the whole of the Crawley Borough Council area, subject to approval and acceptance by the Mid Sussex Football League Management Committee. Each club entering the competition must have facilities that conform with the requirements for intermediate status football as laid down by the Sussex County Football Association.
- 3 The qualification of a player shall be that for the Competition in which he competes except that no team shall include:
 - a) A player who has registered with his club less than twenty four hours prior to taking part in a match.
 - b) any player who has, during the current season played in 9 or more matches designated Senior by the Sussex County F.A., i.e. the Southern League, Isthmian League, Southern Combination Football League (Premier and Division 1), Sussex County F.A Senior Cup, Sussex County RUR Cup, Floodlight Cup or similar competition of another County (Note: the Mid Sussex Senior Charity Cup is not a senior match for the purpose of this Rule);
 - c) has already played for another Club in this Cup during the current season.

For the semi-final and final ties, all players including the substitutes must have previously played at least four League and/or Cup matches during the current season for the team for they intend to play in this Cup, or another team of that Club participating in a lower division during the current season.

In the case of postponed, drawn, or replayed matches, only those players shall be allowed to play who were eligible on the day originally fixed for the playing of the tie.

- 4 The MSFL Competitions Committee will divide the competing clubs into couples or ties and, immediately after drawing, the Secretary of the MSFL shall notify each club the name of the club against which it is drawn. Likewise this information shall be sent to the Secretaries of the Competition in which the clubs participate. Club Secretaries shall on receiving notification of the draw inform their Competition Secretary of such draw. The Clubs which are in each instance first drawn in the ballot shall have choice of ground. In the event of a club not having a ground available, the clubs to agree upon another ground or as may be directed by the Competitions Committee. Ties may be played at an earlier date by mutual consent and with the MSFL Competitions Committee's approval. In the event of any tie, with the exception of the semi-final and final ties, not being played for whatever reason on the ground of the first drawn (home) Club on two dates appointed by the Fixtures Secretary for the playing of the tie, a further date will be appointed by the Fixtures Secretary when the tie will be played on the ground of the away club. The Final tie will be played on a neutral ground as shall be determined by the MSFL Management Committee.

5 The duration of each match shall be 90 minutes. The half time interval shall be 10 minutes, the duration of which may only be altered with prior consent of the match referee. In the event of a drawn match, the result will be decided by the taking of penalty 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. The rule refers to all rounds of the competition including the semi-finals and the Final.

- 6 For all fixtures official Team Sheets must be presented to the Referee in the Referee's changing room and to the opponents at least 15 minutes before the scheduled kick-off. Players must wear the shirt numbers shown in the team Sheets. In the event of two clubs meeting with similar colours, the visiting team will change their colours, in the Final Tie both teams will change colours. Any Club that fails to comply with any aspect of this Rule shall be fined £10.00.
- 7 The proceeds from the Final Tie, after payment of expenses incurred by the Competition, shall be distributed to such charities as the Management Committee may determine.
- 8 The Secretary of the home Club shall give notice in writing of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground, their colours and time of kick-off to the appointed Referee and Secretary or Fixtures Secretary of the opposing Club at least four clear days prior to the playing of the match.

Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture must, without delay, give notice by telephone, firstly, to the Fixtures Secretary of the Mid Sussex Football League, to the Referees Appointment Secretary of the Mid Sussex Football League, the Secretary or Fixtures Secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Referee.

Any Club failing to comply with any aspect of this Rule shall be fined £10.00.

- 9 The Home and Away club shall telephone, text or submit electronically on the on-line match return card the result of each fixture (even if unfulfilled) to the Fixture Secretary of the MSFL on Saturday by 5.30 pm. In respect of matches completed before that time, and as soon as possible after completion of the match for any other match, and for mid-week evening matches by 10.00 pm. on the day of the match. Each club shall within three days after each match send to the Registration Secretary of the MSFL, on the official form provided, the result, the names and initials of the players taking part together with their respective Competition Registration Numbers and the name of the Referee with an assessment of his ability, together with the names of the Assistant Referees and the Certificated First Aider acceptable to the Competition. In the event of a drawn game club secretaries must notify their respective Competition Fixtures Secretary immediately. Any club forwarding a result form bearing the names of players other than those who took part in the match specified or who were not bona fide registered players according to their respective League Rules, will be dealt with as the MSFL Management Committee shall determine. Clubs failing to comply with this rule or any part thereof will be dealt with as the MSFL Management Committee will determine and shall be liable to a fine of £10.00 for each offence except where a club is responsible for the deliberate falsification of a result form when it shall be subject to a fine not exceeding £100.00.

Where an assessment mark of 60 or less is given for the referee a letter giving full explanation of the reasons for the low mark shall be sent to the Referee Appointments Secretary of the MSFL.

- 10 The time of kick-off shall be the normal kick off time in challenge cup competitions of the home team, and Referees will report all late starts and incomplete teams to the Secretary of the MSFL

and will inform the defaulting club that they are being reported. The club shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £10.00. Each club must provide an assistant referee, who as far as this competition is concerned only must not be a substitute as defined in Rule 17 below, for the duration of the match, failure to do so will incur a fine of £10.00

- 11 Any club failing to keep a fixture without an explanation acceptable to the MSFL Management Committee shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £50.00 and may be ordered to pay all or part of the expenses incurred by their opponents and the match involved may be awarded to their opponents, or as the MSFL Management Committee shall determine. A Club withdrawing from the competition after the draw has been made without an explanation acceptable to the MSFL Management Committee shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £50.00.
- 12 Breaches of the rules of this competition shall be dealt with by the MSFL Management Committee. Breaches of the Laws of the Game and Rules and Regulations of The Football Association shall be dealt with in accordance with F.A. Rules 9 & 26. by the sanctioning authority (SCFA). All questions of eligibility, qualification or interpretation of the Rules shall be referred to and decided by the MSFL Management committee. Where it is proved that a club has played an ineligible player, the club shall be liable to a Fine not exceeding £100.00 and excluded from the competition. Any protests relating to the ground, goal posts, ball and any other appurtenances of the game shall not be entertained unless an objection has been lodged in writing with the Referee before the commencement of the match. The Secretary of the protesting Club must forward a copy of this protest to the Secretary of the MSFL within 3 days of the match. Protests with regard to the eligibility of players must be lodged with the Secretary of the MSFL within 3 days of the match. If it is proved that a Club has played an ineligible player that Club shall be excluded from the competition and the tie will be awarded to their opponents. All protests must be accompanied by a fee of £30.00 which shall be returned or forfeited as the MSFL Management Committee may decide. No protest shall be withdrawn except with the consent of the MSFL Management Committee who may order either Club to pay the whole or part of the expenses of the protest and shall have power to fine the offending Club.
- 13 Sixteen mementoes shall be awarded to each team participating in the Final tie and one memento to each manager. Mementos will be granted to other players who have taken part in the competition at the discretion of the MSFL Management Committee.
- 14 The Cup will be handed over to the Winners on their giving a receipt and written undertaking to return the Cup to an appointed place on or before a date to be advised by the Secretary of the MSFL in the same condition as that in which it was received. Any damage caused to the Cup whilst in the Club's custody to be made good at the Club's expense less any payment received from the insurers. A Club failing to return the Cup suitably engraved on or before the first of March in the same condition to which it was received shall be fined. Failure to comply will result in a fines not exceeding £50.00 as determined by the Management Committee.
- 15 Referees for Cup matches shall be appointed by the MSFL Management Committee or any person to whom they may delegate their powers. In the Semi Final tie, neutral Assistant Referees may be appointed when available. Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Authority, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid an Intermediate level match fee, inclusive of travel expenses in accordance with the Competition Fees Tariff. In the event of a match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control the Referee, if present, and any other appointed Officials, if they attend the ground, shall be entitled to the reduced fee, inclusive of travel expenses. Where a match is not played owing to one Club being in default, the Club shall be ordered to pay the Referee, if present, and any other appointed Officials, if they attend the ground, their full fee and expenses.

- 16 The Entrance Fee for this competition will be £15.00 being payable at the time of entry or as notified by the Secretary of the MSFL. The closing date for entries will be 15 May.
- 17 A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use 5 substitute players in any match in this competition who may be selected from 5 players. A player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football. The substitutes nominated must be eligible in accordance with Rule 3 of this competition. The referee must be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than 15 minutes before the start of the match and any other player or players substituted shall for the purpose of this Rule be regarded as ineligible. Any Club offending this Rule may be subject to a fine not exceeding £100 and the match may be awarded to their opponents. In any match in this competition a player who has been nominated as a substitute before the start of the match but does not actually play is deemed not to have played in the match.
- 18 All teams in this competition shall have a certificated First Aider present at all matches, whose name shall be entered in the match result form. All Teams shall have a First Aid Kit, as approved by the Competition, available at all matches. Any Club that fails to comply with either aspect of this Rule shall be fined £25.00.
- 19 The MSFL Management Committee shall have the power to deal with any contingency not provided for in the foregoing Rules.
- 20 All games shall be played under the laws of the Game and the rules and Regulations of the Football Association.
- 21 Each team playing in a Final tie must provide a steward to assist with spectator control at the final. The nominated person must be in attendance 15 minutes prior to scheduled kick off time and remain until 30 minutes after the final whistle. The steward will be responsible for addressing any issues with their team's supporters and to raise any concerns with the League Officers in attendance. The nominated steward must not be a player or club official named on the team sheet. Failure to comply with this rule will incur a fine of up to £100.

GRAY HOOPER HOLT LLP MID SUSSEX FOOTBALL LEAGUE

JUNIOR CHARITY CUP RULES 2026-2027

- 1 This competition shall be called the Mid-Sussex Junior Charity Cup and shall be under the entire control of the Mid Sussex Football League (MSFL). The officers of the Competition shall for all intents and purposes be the legal owners of the Cup in trust for the Competition. The Cup shall never be won outright.
- 2 The competition shall be open to Clubs invited by the Mid Sussex Football League (MSFL) who are competing in Division 2 or below of the Mid Sussex Football League, in Division 2 or below of the Brighton, Hove and District Football League or in Division 3 or below of the West Sussex League.
- 3 The qualification of a player shall be that for the Competition in which he competes except that no team shall include:
 - a) A player who has registered with his club less than twenty four hours prior to taking part in a match.
 - b) any player who has, during the current season played in 9 or more matches designated Senior by the Sussex County F.A., i.e. the Southern League, Isthmian League, Southern Combination Football League (Premier and Division 1), Sussex County F.A Senior Cup, Sussex County RUR Cup, Floodlight Cup or similar competition of another County (Note: the Mid Sussex Senior Charity Cup is not a senior match for the purpose of this Rule);
 - c) no more than 3 players who have played 9 or more times in any for that club in divisions higher than those set out in Rule 2 or any comparable Saturday League or Cup which includes but not limited to Southern Combination FL Division 2 and Under 23 competitions or
 - d) has already played for another Club in this Cup during the current season.

For the semi-final and final ties, all players including the substitutes must have previously played at least four times in League and/or Cup matches during the current season for the team for they intend to play in this Cup, or another team of that Club participating in a lower division during the current season.

In the case of postponed, drawn, or replayed matches, only those players shall be allowed to play who were eligible on the day originally fixed for the playing of the tie..

- 4 Referees for cup matches shall be appointed by the MSFL Management Committee or any person to whom they may delegate their powers. Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Authority, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a Junior level match fee, inclusive of travel expenses in accordance with the Competition Fees Tariff. In the event of a match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control the Referee, if present, and any other appointed Officials, if they attend the ground, shall be entitled to the reduced fee, inclusive of travel expenses.
- 5 The entrance Fee for this Competition will be £15.00, being payable at the time of entry or as notified by the Secretary of the MSFL. The closing date for entries will be 15 May.
- 6 In all other respects Rules 3a, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 9a, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 governing the Senior Charity Cup shall apply to this competition.