

# **GRAY HOOPER HOLT LLP MID SUSSEX FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

## **CHALLENGE CUP RULES 2017 - 2018**

### **FRED PRETTY VETERANS CHALLENGE CUP RULES**

- 1 The competition shall be called 'The Fred Pretty Veterans Challenge Cup' and shall be under the control of the Management Committee of the Mid Sussex Football League. The Cup shall never be won outright. The Officers of the Competition shall for all intents and purposes be the legal owners of the Cup in trust for the Competition.
- 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. Clubs outside of the boundary may be considered for entry to the competition to fill any spaces in the competition with the agreement of Clubs at the Annual Veterans Meeting and endorsed by the Management Committee. Each Club entering the competition must have a pitch and facilities that conform with the requirements for intermediate status football as laid down by the Sussex County Football Association.
- 3 The eligibility, qualification and registration not specifically covered within the Rules of this Cup shall be the same as those applying in the Competition except that no player shall be under 37 years on 1 October, or on reaching 37 years of age after that date, must register separately irrespective of Club and that no player shall during the current season be eligible to play in this competition who has already played for another club in this Cup during the current season.

A team must not include in any match any player who has played eight times or more for a team designated as Senior.

A team may include up to two players who have each played less than eight games for a team designated as Senior

A team designated as Senior by the Sussex County FA are those playing in the Southern League, the Isthmian League, Southern Combination Football League (Premier and Division 1), Sussex County FA Senior Cup Competition, Sussex County RUR Charity Cup, Floodlight Cup or similar competition of another County (Note: The Mid Sussex Football League's Senior Charity Cup is not a senior match for the purpose of this Rule);

- 4 Matches shall be played on Sundays, normally on the basis of one fixture in each month from mid September to end of January, and must not be played on any other day without the mutual agreement of the opposing club and the Management Committee. The time of kick off is at the discretion of the home club but must be notified to the Fixtures Secretary when submitting available dates in accordance with Rule 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 the prior consent of the match referee.

5. The Management Committee determines the arrangements for the competition. Clubs must notify the Fixtures Secretary by 31 July of the dates on which their pitch is available for home fixtures to enable production of a fixture list for the season for circulation to clubs by 31 August. Any club failing to notify the dates when home pitch is available by the due date shall be fined £20.00. In the event of teams being drawn in Groups any postponement after the League has

issued the fixtures list for the season, except due to adverse weather conditions, shall be treated as failure to keep an engagement and the defaulting club shall be subject to a fine not exceeding £50.00 with the points in the match awarded to their opponents.

Where teams are drawn in Groups at the conclusion of the Group matches team rankings will be in accordance with Rule 12(A) of the MSFL'S Standard Code of Rules and the winner and runner up in each Group will go forward to the knock-out stages of the Competition.

Where teams have been drawn in Groups in the knock-out stages each tie will be on the ground of the highest ranking club or as ordered by the Management Committee, except the final tie which will be played on a neutral ground as determined by the Management Committee. In the event of any tie in the knock-out stages, with the exception of the semi-final and final ties, not being played for whatever reason on the ground of the highest ranking (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. For the purpose of this paragraph any club failing to keep an engagement without an explanation acceptable to the Management Committee shall be subject to a fine not exceeding £50.00 and excluded from the competition.

The Management Committee reserves the right to organise the competition as a straight knock-out competition with the final tie being played on a neutral ground. For the purpose of this paragraph, any club failing to keep an engagement without an explanation acceptable to the Management Committee shall be subject to a fine not exceeding £50.00 and excluded from the competition.

Any team withdrawing from the competition without an explanation acceptable to the Management Committee after the annual fixtures list has been issued shall be subject to a fine not exceeding £50.00

- 6 A club shall register 15 players eligible to play in the competition on Mid Sussex Football League registration forms by 1 September. Failure to do so shall result in the club being excluded from the competition and fined £20.00.

Contract players, as defined by Football Association Rules, are not permitted in this competition.

A registered playing member of a club for this competition is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has each season signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink, countersigned by an Officer of the Club, and who has been registered with the Registration Secretary of the Mid Sussex Football League at least 48 hours prior to playing and whose completed registration document has been received by the Club prior to playing. Registrations made after 30 September will not be accepted unless accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

A fee of £1.00 shall be paid each season for each player registered to play veterans football, except those players registered to play open age football on Saturdays in the Mid Sussex Football League for the same club for which they play in this competition. An invoice will be issued by 15 March for registrations and payment must be made by 31 March, failing which a fine of £20.00 for each week or part week payment is overdue shall be imposed.

Registration forms shall be obtained from the Registration Secretary of the MSFL or downloaded electronically and are free of charge.

- 7 Any match not completed may be ordered to stand as a completed match or ordered to be replayed for a full 90 minutes or as the Management Committee may direct.
- 8 A club may use five substitutes. In all other respects Rule 10(G) in the Mid Sussex Standard

Code of Rules applies except in this competition a player who has been substituted during the match himself become a substitute and may, in turn, replace another player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

- 9 For the Quarter-Final, Semi-Final and Final ties, all players including the substitutes, must have previously played in at least one match during the current season for the team for which they intend to play in this Cup.
- 10 In the event of a draw in the knock-out stages no extra time will be played and the result will be decided by the taking of 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.
- 11 Numbered shirts must be worn. 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.
- 12 The Secretary of each home club shall give notice to their opponents and the appointed referee (if applicable) in writing stating the position of their ground, dressing room, colours and confirm time of kick off. This information must be received by the visiting club's Secretary and the appointed referee not later than Tuesday evening preceding the Sunday match.

Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture in the competition must, without delay, give notice by telephone to the Fixtures Secretary of the Mid Sussex Football League, the Referees Secretary (knock-out stage only), the Secretary or Fixtures Secretary of the opposing Club and the appointed Match Referee.

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

- 13 Clubs are responsible for appointing currently registered referees for all matches except the knock-out stages, for which match officials will be appointed by the Management Committee through the Referees Appointments Secretary. The referee's fee for Fred Pretty Veterans Cup matches is that for rounds of the Sussex Intermediate Cup. Second class rail or bus fares, where used, may be claimed or 30p per mile (up to a maximum of £12) which the Management Committee may increase during the season to reflect significant increases in fuel oil prices allowance if using own transport. In the event of a match not being played due to no fault of the Clubs, the referee will charge his expenses only if he attends the ground. Each club must provide an assistant referee for the duration of the match for all games, except the Final Tie, who shall not be a substitute and failure to do so shall incur a fine of £10.00.
- 14 Both the home and away club shall telephone, text or electronically submit on the on-line match return card, the result of each fixture (even if unfulfilled) to the Fixture Secretary of the MSFL on Sunday by 5.30 p.m. and for mid-week evening matches by 10.00 p.m. on the day of the match. Any club failing to do so shall incur a fine of £10.00.
- 15 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, initials and registration numbers of the players taking part, the name of the referee, with an assessment of his ability where applicable, and the names of the assistant referees who officiated at the match. Any club failing to comply with this Rule or any part thereof shall be liable to a fine of £10.00 for each offence. Any club forwarding a match result form bearing the names of players other than those who took part in the match shall be deemed to be responsible for the deliberate falsification of a match return form and subject to a fine not exceeding £100.00 and the match will be forfeited with all the points in the match awarded to their opponents. In the knock-out stages a team will be excluded from the competition and subject to a fine not exceeding £100.00 if it is responsible for the falsification of a match return form.

- 16 Breaches of the Rules of this competition shall be dealt with by the MSFL Management Committee. Breaches of the Laws of the Game and the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association shall be dealt with in accordance with Rules 9 and 26 by the Sussex County Football Association, the sanctioning authority. All questions of eligibility, qualification or interpretation of the Rules shall be referred to and decided by the MSFL Management Committee. All protests shall be made in accordance with Rule 15 of the Mid Sussex Football League's Competition Rules.
- 17 Sixteen mementoes shall be awarded to each Team participating in the Final and one memento to each manager. Mementoes will be granted to other players who have taken part in the competition at the discretion of the MSFL Management Committee.

The Cup will be handed over to the winners on their giving a receipt and written undertaking to return the Cup by 1 March to an appointed place advised by the Secretary of the MSFL in the same condition as that in which it was received. Any damage caused to the Cup while in the Club's custody to be made good at the Club's expense less any payment received from the insured. A Club failing to return the Cup suitably engraved on or before the 1 March and in the same condition to which it was received shall be fined. Failure to comply will result in a fine not exceeding £50.00 as determined by the Management Committee.

- 18 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 Mid Sussex Football League.
- 19 In all other respects the Rules governing the Mid Sussex Senior Charity Cup, except Rules 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8,10 and 11, shall apply to this competition.
- 20 Any point not covered by the Rules shall be determined by the Management Committee.