



SWFA Cup Competitions Regulations 2026–27

These regulations govern the administration and conduct of all
SWFA Cup Competitions.

The Cups shall be called:

- Hugh James South Wales Football Association Men's Senior Cup
- Hugh James South Wales Football Association Intermediate Sunday Cup
- Hugh James South Wales Football Association Women's Senior Cup
- Hugh James South Wales Football Association Junior Boys Cup
- Hugh James South Wales Football Association Under-15 Boys Cup
- Hugh James South Wales Football Association Under-14 Boys Cup
- Hugh James South Wales Football Association Under-15 Girls Cup
- Hugh James South Wales Football Association Under-14 Girls Cup

An Association Cup shall not be won outright.

All competitions shall be run annually at the discretion of the Association

1. CLUBS

- 1.1 The Competitions for the Cups shall be annual and shall be open to the Affiliated Clubs in the South Wales Football Association, whose entries are approved by the Council. The entire control and management of

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the competitions shall be vested in the Council or nominated Committee, Board or Officers of The South Wales Football Association, known as SWFA.

- 1.2 The Junior Boys Cups U14's, U15's & U16's will be on an invitation basis only with clubs nominated by their respective leagues, the leagues nomination will be final and not subject to appeal.
- 1.3 The Women's and Girls cups will be open to Teams from the Gwent County FA and/or West Wales FA where the Gwent County FA and/or West Wales FA where they do not offer Cup football at that level or age.
- 1.4 No teams playing in the FAW Pyramid Tiers 1 to 3 Men's and Tiers 1 to 2 Women's clubs will be eligible to enter SWFA Cups
- 1.5 Only clubs first teams are permitted to enter Men's senior Cups.
- 1.6 Club will not be permitted to enter more than ONE team into a cup competition.
- 1.7 Entry will be via Comet with the amount of entry per cup shown on Comet, the deadline to enter will be shown on Comet.
- 1.8 Only Bona Fide Sunday Clubs will be allowed to play in the SWFA Sunday Intermediate Cup Competition.
- 1.9 Only Bona Fide Under 16 teams will be allowed to play in the Junior Cup Competitions. A Player must not have attained the age of 16 years by midnight on 31st August of each season.
- 1.10 Only Bona Fide Under 15 teams will be allowed to play in the Under 15's Cup Competitions. A Player must not have attained the age of 15 years by midnight on 31st August of each season.
- 1.11 Only Bona Fide Under 14 teams will be allowed to play in the U14's Cup Competitions. A Player must not have attained the age of 14 years by midnight on 31st August of each season.

2. DRAWS

- 2.1 The Two Clubs which competed in the Final Tie excluding Junior Cups in the previous season may be exempted from taking part in the competition until a later stage.
- 2.2 The Clubs in the Competition shall be drawn together as the SWFA may determine and the winner of the Final Tie shall be the holder of the Cup for the current year.
- 2.3 Byes shall be drawn at the discretion of the SWFA.
- 2.4 The lots shall be drawn, and the competition matches played as the SWFA may determine and the SWFA will use Comet for the management and notification of all cup ties.

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- 2.5 The Club which is first drawn in the ballot shall play on its home ground. In the event of the ground of the first drawn club not being available on the conference date the match will be played at the ground of the second drawn Club, or in the event of the ground of the last drawn Club not being available, the game must be played on a mutually agreed ground, that is compliant with the Laws of Association Football. Clubs competing at Tiers 4, 5 and 6 are required to play all home fixtures at the home ground specified within their Licence for participation at these tiers. Any request to play a fixture at a venue other than the home ground stated in the club's Licence must be submitted to the SWFA Competitions Secretary for approval at admin@southwalesfa.co.uk.
- 2.6 Any Clubs drawn together in a competition having arranged to play on a certain date, either Club failing to comply shall be disqualified and removed from the cup.

3. PLAYERS

- 3.1 Any Club found to have played an ineligible Player shall be dealt with for misconduct.
- 3.2 In the case of any player being found ineligible, the club playing them must be adjudged to have lost the match and removed from the cup.
- 3.3 Any club found guilty of playing an ineligible player will be fined and may be refused entry to the following Season's competition at the SWFA discretion.
- 3.4 Clubs requiring information regarding the eligibility of a player, or players may receive same, on payment of a fee of £50.00 per player.
- 3.5 All junior clubs are required to roster their players to the SWFA Cup Roster in compliance with the FAW's Small Sided and Junior Regulations and SWFA Rules and Regulations..
- 3.6 Each club's roster must reflect their official league roster for the team entered and shall not exceed a maximum of 20 players in accordance with SWFA Supplementary Rule 12.2.
- 3.7 A Club may at its discretion use up to five (5) substitute players in Senior football and seven (7) in Junior football at any time in a match for any reason except to replace a player who has been suspended from the game by the Referee.
- 3.8 The substitution can only be made when play has stopped for any reason, and only after the Referee has given permission.
- 3.9 The substitute players shall be nominated prior to the commencement of the game. (Attention is drawn to Law 3 of The Laws of the Game.)

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- 3.10 Returning substitutes (commonly known as rolling subs) may be used in accordance with the Laws of Association Football in South Wales FA Cup junior competitions but NOT in any senior Cups.
- 3.11 The members of each team may be changed during the series of matches if thought necessary but must be a registered playing member of the Club with which he/she proposes to play.
- 3.12 A registered playing member is one who has been registered for that club accepted by the appropriate FAW Registration system.
- 3.13 The 'cup-tied' rule: - Players can play for more than one club in SWFA Cup Competitions, provided that they are registered correctly in accordance with the FAW Rules and Regulations.
- 3.14 Any player registered as a contract player with a recognised Football Association shall be ineligible to participate in any SWFA Cup Competition.
- 3.15 If the SWFA 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 Club to which they belong or for which they have played, to prove to the satisfaction of the SWFA that they are properly qualified according to the Rules and regulations, and failing such satisfactory proof, the SWFA shall have power to disqualify such player and remove such club from the competition.

4. MATCHES

4.1 Duration of Matches

Competition	Match Duration
Senior Cups (male and female)	90 minutes
Youth Cup Competition	90 minutes
U16's & U15's Cups	80 minutes
U14's Cups	70 minutes

The half-time interval lasts 15 minutes.

- 4.2 There is no extra time in any SWFA Cup Competitions.
- 4.3 Any match not completed may be ordered to stand as a completed match or replayed for the full period as stated above as the SWFA may direct.

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- 4.4 Any Club guilty of delaying the start shall be reported by the Referee, and the SWFA shall have the power to fine or otherwise deal with the offending Club if its explanation is unsatisfactory.
- 4.5 In all Cup competitions, if the scores are level at the end of regulation playing time, extra time shall NOT be played but the match will be decided by a competition under the penalty kick system in accordance with Law 10.
- 4.6 For Sunday Intermediate, Youth, and Junior Cup matches scheduled during November, December, January, and February, the SWFA may sanction matches consisting of two equal halves of no less than 30 minutes each. Such an arrangement shall only be permitted where a written or verbal agreement between both team Captains (or Secretaries) has been submitted or communicated to the Referee prior to the commencement of the match.
- 4.7 The Home Club must provide 3 match balls, the marking of the ground and provide suitable and private accommodation (commonly known changing rooms) for the officials and changing rooms for both teams & the referee.
- 4.8 Each Club shall play its recognised First Team in all Cup Matches unless satisfactory reasons are given to the SWFA. For non-observance of this rule the SWFA shall have the power to inflict a fine not exceeding £100.00 for each offence.
- 4.9 Postponement or Abandonment (excluding Sunday intermediate Cup Matches & Junior Cup Matches). When a match has been postponed or abandoned before its completion and neither Club being at fault (i.e. the game has started but not completed), it must be played on or before the following Friday for ties where the Clubs are geographically located within 50 miles and with floodlights or the home team propose to move the game to the ground with floodlights, any club refusing to play a postponed cup tie midweek will be removed from the cup.
- 4.10 For all other ties, it must be played on or before the following weekend. If the Clubs concerned fail to agree on a mutually agreeable date, the SWFA will fix the date. Clubs failing or refusing to play will be removed from the cup.
- 4.11 Postponement or Abandonment for Sunday intermediate Cup Matches. When a match has been postponed or abandoned before its completion and neither Club being at fault, it must be played the following Sunday.
- 4.12 The Association will not recognise any free dates that leagues may have approved or accept an application for a free date for the conference date or the rearranged date if applicable.

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- 4.13 Clubs must submit a list of the names of players taking part in the game, including names of the nominated substitutes who can be used in the match in accordance with the Laws of the Game, using the COMET system, at least 30 minutes before the advertised kick-off time.
- 4.14 The team management and/or technical staff and/or coaches and/or first aider and all club officials within the Technical Area or an area designated as a technical area must be submitted together with their role on the same team sheet and all are to comply with FAW regulations regarding Enhanced DBS Checks for Regulated Activity, coaching and first aid qualifications.
- 4.15 Referees must access a copy of the team line up, using COMET (or the system in current use by the FAW).
- 4.16 Only if there is a system failure, should the back-up paper copy team sheets be used, and the team must be uploaded to Comet (or the system in current use by the FAW) within 4 hours of the final whistle.
- 4.17 A representative of each of the clubs must provide live goal updates and the result, using the COMET (or the system in current use by the FAW) system for all cup ties.
- 4.18 The FAW Comet system (or the system in current use by the FAW) will be used for all Competition management. Only as a back-up should the paper team sheets be used. (same regulation as 6.9)
- 4.19 Please note the FAW's Mercy Rule (as defined in the FAW's Small-sided and Junior Regulations) will apply to all SWFA junior Cups in all rounds including the final.
- 4.20 Any club leaving the field of play before the expiration of the game must be adjudged to have lost the match.
- 4.21 Any Club failing to play a Cup Fixture for any cause when required will be removed from the Competition, this includes midweek cup ties.
- 4.22 Any Club intending to withdraw from the cup, must give information of its intention to do so to the SWFA Competitions secretary (admin@southwalesfa.co.uk) and the Secretary of the opposing club not less than five (5) business days before the date fixed for playing, or shall be reported to the SWFA, who shall have power to compel such offending club to pay the expenses incurred by their opponents or of taking such action as may be deemed expedient.
- 4.23 If a club decides to withdraw from the cup, after a drawn game, intimation must be given to its opponents at the close of the match and to the Secretary of the Association.

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- 4.24 In the event of any club scratching (withdraw) or declining to play from any cause in a Semi-final tie, the SWFA may, if time and circumstances permit, select any other club of the original entrants for the Competition to play. Other things, being equal, preference may be given to the club, which was next in merit, judged from the result of the rounds, and if more than one club has equal claims, the club should be selected by lot from those having equal claims if there is not time to permit of their playing off.
- 4.25 Each Home Club shall confirm its full playing kit colours, including the goalkeeper's kit, with the Visiting Club and the Match Referee no later than three (3) business days prior to the Match. The Visiting Club and the Match Referee shall also confirm their respective full kit details, including goalkeeper colours, no later than three (3) business days prior to the Match. In addition, the Home Club shall provide the Visiting Club and the Match Referee with full directions to the venue no later than three (3) business days prior to the Match.4.26 For all matches, the home club has the first choice as to which of its official kits listed on Comet for its home matches it uses in the tie. It is the responsibility of the home team to change if there is a clash of kit colour including the goalkeeper.
- 4.27 The competing teams shall number eleven players each. Every player must wear the distinctive colours of the Club for which he is a playing member.
- 4.28 When the home club is booking a facility the home club must ensure they have access to the pitch or a suitable area to allow teams to warm up for at least 30 minutes before kick-off. In addition, they must ensure that the length of the booking allows time to accommodate a possible penalty shoot-out at the end of normal time.
- 4.29 If the match is in doubt, and following consultation between the clubs, the home club MUST arrange for a pitch inspection to avoid the potential of unnecessary travel. Only the match referee, or an FAW or SWFA approved deputy, may postpone a match
- 4.30 If more than one Club with the same registered ground is drawn to play a home in the same Round and it is deemed, for whatever reason, that their Matches cannot be played on the same day or at the same kick-off time then the SWFA shall determine when each such fixture shall be played and the relevant Clubs will be bound by such determination, priority will be given the club playing at a higher level of the pyramid.
- 4.31 The SWFA shall have the power to order any match to be played on an alternative ground and/or time if it is deemed necessary.

5. GROUNDS USED FOR CUP TIES

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- 5.1 Toilets MUST be provided for players, the referee, and assistants (if appointed) and spectators and/or supporters.
- 5.2 If the ground of the club having choice of ground shall not comply with Regulation 5.1, or in any other way be considered unsuitable for a cup-tie, their opponents may appeal within seven days of the draw to the SWFA, who, if such appeal be sustained, shall order the match to be played on the ground of the appealing club, or on a neutral ground. If such an appeal is not sustained, the complaining club may be called upon at the discretion of the SWFA to pay the expenses incurred in deciding such an appeal.
- 5.3 A club at the time of entering the Cup Competition shall register the name and location of its home ground, or in the event of a club playing on public parks, shall play on the ground allocated to it by its parent League or Local Authority.
- 5.4 In the event of pitch non-availability due to bad weather, the match must be played on or before the following weekend at the same ground or a ground approved by the SWFA,
- 5.5 In the event of such a re-arranged fixture not being played due to bad weather, the match reverts to the ground of the original second drawn Club, and so on. In All Association Cup Matches, all rounds will be played to a conclusion on the conference date.
- 5.6 In exceptional circumstances (e.g. bad weather being forecast) the home club may arrange to transfer a game to an artificial playing surface (commonly known as 3G), but this can only be done with the prior permission of the Association which can only be obtained via Assistant Secretary (Competitions) admin@southwalesfa.co.uk or Secretary secretary@southwalesfa.co.uk.
- 5.7 The size of the pitch for the Cup Tie shall be in accordance with the laws of the game if possible, to be roped off three yards from the touch and goal lines, which are to be clearly defined. Goal nets must be used in all Cup Matches. Pitches with artificial surfaces (commonly known as 3G) will be acceptable for the playing of Association Cup Matches.
- 5.8 Goal nets and corner flags must be used in all Cup Matches.
- 5.9 Pitches with artificial surfaces (commonly known as 3G) will be acceptable for the playing of Association Cup Matches.

6. MATCH OFFICIALS

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- 6.1 The Match Officials in all matches shall not belong or be connected in any way to either of the competing clubs and shall be appointed by the SWFA.
- 6.2 Referees' fees for all senior ties shall be, £45.00; Youth and Junior Cups £35.00.
- 6.3 Assistant referees' fees for all senior ties £35.00; Youth and Junior Cups £30.00.
- 6.4 Travelling expenses for all Officials shall be second class rail or service bus fare, whereas a car is used £0.55 per mile will be paid.
- 6.5 Referee's fee and expenses are to be paid by both competing teams in equal parts. It is the responsibility of the Home Club to pay the Referee their fee and expenses in full immediately following the match. Any club failing to pay the referee or failing to pay their opponents half their fee and expenses will be subject to a fine of £100.00
- 6.6 In accordance with SWFA Referee Regulations, referees are NOT permitted to travel to games with clubs and/or spectator/supporters of either club.
- 6.7 In the semi-finals (senior ties only) & Finals the Match Officials shall be paid by the SWFA via bank transfer. Travelling expenses for Officials will be paid as above.
- 6.8 If, through any cause, the match is not played and the referee and linesmen attend the ground, they shall be paid half fee and expenses.
- 6.9 The Match Official is responsible for confirming the result and all other details (cautions, goal times, cautions and sending offs, etc. on COMET) within the time scale set for the submission of their reports as set out the SWFA/Area Association disciplinary reporting regulations.
- 6.10 The FAW Comet system (or the system in current use by the FAW) will be used for all Competition management. Only as a back-up should the paper team sheets be used. (same regulation as 4.18)6.11 Referees must access a copy of the team line up, using COMET, (or the system in current use by the FAW).

7. CUP FINALS

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- 7.1 The Final Ties of all Cup Competitions (and Semi-Final Ties of all Senior Competitions) shall be played on a ground which will be decided by the SWFA who shall appoint Match Officials who must be duly registered with the Association.
- 7.2 The home clubs for the finals will be drawn by the SWFA. SWFA will pay the fees and expenses of all referees and assistants for the Finals and for the Senior Semi Finals.
- 7.3 For junior semifinals the referees' fees and expenses will be shared equally by both teams.
- 7.4 The Final Tie dates arranged by the SWFA shall be strictly adhered to. (Council Resolution 5th May 1955.), any club failing to play on the date of the final will be removed from the Cup and their opponents declared the cup winners
- 7.5 In addition to the Cup, the Association shall present mementoes to the players in the Finals, but such mementoes shall not be presented to no more than sixteen players of each club in senior games and twenty for all junior games.
- 7.6 Further mementoes may be purchased at the expense of the club wishing to purchase them, please contact admin@southwalesfa.co.uk for further information.
- 7.7 When the winning club shall have been ascertained, the Association shall deliver the Cup to the representative of such club upon receiving a document to the following effect, subscribed by the three persons whose names shall be previously submitted and approved by the SWFA:

8. JUNIOR CUPS *To be read in conjunction with the general cup regulation above.*

- 8.1 BOYS AND GIRLS' UNDER-16 CUPS
- 8.1.1 Only Bona Fide Under 16 teams will be allowed to play in the Junior Cup Competitions.
- 8.1.2 A Player must not have attained the age of 16 years by midnight on 31st August of each season. A player registered as a contract player with any recognised Football Association shall be ineligible to play in this Competition.
- 8.1.3 In the event of a protest being laid against a Club for playing any player over age, such club playing him or her shall, within two (2) business days of receiving a copy of such protest, produce to the Secretary of the Association a copy of the birth certificate of any so claimed ineligible player, and

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should the protest fall under this heading, the Club laying the protest, in addition to forfeiting the protest fee or otherwise, may be held liable for the costs of the Commission of the Enquiry.

8.2 BOYS AND GIRLS' UNDER-15 CUPS

- 8.2.1 Only Bona Fide Under 15 teams will be allowed to play in the Junior Cup Competitions.
- 8.2.2 A Player must not have attained the age of 15 years by midnight on 31st August of each season. A player registered as a contract player with any recognised Football Association shall be ineligible to play in this Competition.
- 8.2.3 In the event of a protest being laid against a Club for playing any player over age, such club playing him or her shall, within two (2) business days of receiving a copy of such protest, produce to the Secretary of the Association a copy of the birth certificate of any so claimed ineligible player, and should the protest fall under this heading, the Club laying the protest, in addition to forfeiting the protest fee or otherwise, may be held liable for the costs of the Commission of the Enquiry.

8.3 BOYS AND GIRLS' UNDER-14 CUPS

- 8.3.1 Only Bona Fide Under 14 teams will be allowed to play in the Junior Cup Competitions.
- 8.3.2 A Player must not have attained the age of 14 years by midnight on 31st August of each season. A player registered as a contract player with any recognised Football Association shall be ineligible to play in this Competition.
- 8.3.3 In the event of a protest being laid against a Club for playing any player over age, such club playing him or her shall, within two (2) business days of receiving a copy of such protest, produce to the Secretary of the Association a copy of the birth certificate of any so claimed ineligible player, and should the protest fall under this heading, the Club laying the protest, in addition to forfeiting the protest fee or otherwise, may be held liable for the costs of the Commission of the Enquiry.

9. PROTESTS

- 9.1 Any questions regarding the eligibility or qualification of competitors, or the interpretation of these Rules or the Laws of the Game, shall be referred to the SWFA through the Competitions Secretary for consideration at admin@southwalesfa.co.uk. The decision of the SWFA shall be final and binding. In the event of a dispute or protest involving a club that has a representative serving on the SWFA, or where the league in which the clubs participate has a representative serving on the SWFA, such representative shall not be eligible to sit on, or take part in, any SWFA Panel/Board convened to consider that dispute or protest. This is to ensure impartiality in the decision-making process.
- 9.2 No protest relative to the playing ground, goal posts or bars, or other appurtenance of the game shall be entertained by the SWFA unless it is

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laid with the Referee before the commencement of the match, nor shall any protest relative to the interpretation of the Rules or Laws of the Game be entertained unless laid with the Referee on or before the conclusion of the match.

- 9.3 Protests may be made verbally, but must be confirmed in writing, and handed to the Referee before he has left the ground.
- 9.4 A written notice of such protest or protests must be emailed to the Secretary of the Association (secretary@southwalesfa.co.uk) within two (2) business days after the conclusion of the match. The sum of £100.00 must be deposited in the Associations South Wales Football Association bank, Sort code: 20-12-29, Account number: 40899188, which sum may be forfeited to the funds of the Association in the event of such a protest not being sustained.
- 9.5 The SWFA may order any club engaged in a protest to pay such sum as may be considered necessary towards defraying the expenses incurred. No objection or protest shall be withdrawn except by leave of the SWFA.

Definitions

In these Rules, the following words and expressions have the following meanings:-

- South Wales Football Association ("SWFA")
- Football Association of Wales ("FAW")
- Business day: Any day of the week except a Saturday or Sunday or public bank holiday in Wales.

As approved by the SWFA Board 19th August 2026

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