

- SCOTTISH COMMUNITY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
- CONSTITUTION AND RULES

GENERAL RULES

1. The Association shall be called the Scottish Community Football Association and shall be affiliated to the Scottish Football Association Ltd.
2. The objects of the Association shall be to foster and support the game of Association Football among all Football clubs in Scotland. The SCFA exists to organise and administer the Scottish Community Cup. It does not exercise governance over league football, which is administered by autonomous regional or national leagues.
3. The Association shall have jurisdiction only in matters relating to the Scottish Communities Cup. The Committee shall have the power to take disciplinary action in relation to participating clubs, players, officials or teams for any breach of the competition rules or for any conduct prejudicial to the interests of the Association.
4. All correspondence requiring a reply shall be acknowledged by email. All correspondence to the Association must be addressed to the Secretary.
5. Any official or player failing to reply in writing to a communication of the Chief Operating Officer, Treasurer, Discipline Secretary or Secretary within five days, shall be liable to be fined the sum of £20.
6. The playing season shall commence as determined by each individual League at their AGM and terminate on the third Saturday in June the following year. Committee shall have the power to amend this as may be necessary.
7. Any club in membership of the Association resigning or being expelled shall have no right or interest in the property or assets of the Association.
8. The Committee of the Association shall have the power to add to these Rules and Cup Competition Rules as they from time to time may deem expedient, provided they do not annul or conflict with any rule adopted at the Annual General Meeting.
9. In the event of any alteration being deemed necessary to the Rules of the Association, notice of the proposed alteration shall be sent in writing to the Secretary on or before 30th April by a club in membership. The retiring Committee shall have power to nominate amendments which must be sent in writing to the Secretary on or before 30th April.
10. Membership of the Scottish Community Football Association confers Registered Membership of the Scottish Football Associates.
11. All clubs in membership of the Scottish Community Football Association must by the 1st July of each season have adequate Public Liability Insurance (PLI) in line with the minimum requirements laid down by their respective Leagues.
12. All clubs in membership of the Scottish Community Football Association must, by the 1st July in each season, demonstrate that they have adequate Player Accident Insurance.
13. All clubs must appoint a Club Safeguarding Officer and enter their contact details on the Club Annual Return.

14. Safeguarding Officer - Any player, club official, team staff or volunteer involved in Football and who is the subject of an allegation against a child as defined within the SCFA policy “Children’s Well-being in Scottish Football” shall be subject to the disciplinary procedure as detailed in that document.

15. Prior to registering an Under 18 player, the club’s Safeguarding Officer must complete the Well-being in Scottish Football E-Learning course.

MEMBERSHIP

1. All clubs shall be eligible for membership subject to the approval of the Committee aforementioned and on admission each club, their respective officials, representatives, players and members shall be bound by the decisions of the Committee where applicable and such decisions shall be final and binding on all concerned, subject to all existing rights of appeal. All such clubs, officials, representatives, players and members shall be subject to the Articles, Rules & Procedures of Association for the time being of the Scottish Football Association Ltd., so far as the said Articles, Rules & Procedures affect this Association and such Articles, Rules & Procedures shall be read and held as part of these Rules. In cases of dispute, legal proceedings shall not be taken except with consent of Committee.

2. All clubs who have not been members of the Scottish Junior Football Association this season shall be treated as new applicants and must make application to the Secretary on the prescribed form prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting. Clubs admitted as members of the Scottish Community Football Association must be members of a League.

3. Application for membership shall be made in writing to the Secretary of the Association and shall be signed by the Secretary and another Office Bearer of the club seeking admission.

4. All new clubs making application for membership of the Scottish Community Football Association must have a ground complying with the requirements of their League.

5. The annual subscription for each club shall be £50 and shall be payable on or before a date advised by the Treasurer of the Association.

MANAGEMENT OF ASSOCIATION

Office-Bearers

1. At the Annual General Meeting, Office-Bearers shall be appointed for the ensuing season, and shall consist of President, Vice-President, Chief Operating Officer, Treasurer, Discipline Secretary, Secretary and Match Secretary, all of whom shall be granted Honoraria. Roles may be combined should it be deemed necessary by the Management Committee

2. Any Office-Bearer who is eligible and who seeks re- election at the ensuing Annual General Meeting shall not later than 30th April deliver into the Secretary’s hands written intimation of his desire to continue in office. Any other candidate shall, by 30th April, inform the Secretary in writing by email, of the office to which he seeks election. If the interval between 30th April and the date of the Annual General Meeting an Office Bearer or candidate intimates withdrawal of his desire for election or if any eventuality which would prelude election has arisen, the Secretary shall proceed as instructed by the Management Committee of the Scottish Community Football Association.

3. The Secretary shall, on issuing the Notice and Agenda for the Annual General Meeting, intimate to the members the names of the candidates for office.

4. The affairs of the Association shall be governed by a Committee consisting of the Office Bearers of the Association.
5. (a) Any Office-Bearer (other than the Chief Operating Officer, Treasurer, Discipline Secretary, Match Secretary or Secretary) or member of the Committee ceasing to be a member of a club in membership of the Association shall vacate the office held.
(b) In the event of any vacancy occurring in the Office-Bearers or the Committee, the Committee shall have power to fill up same.
6. The President, Vice-President, Chief Operating Officer, Treasurer, Discipline Secretary, Match Secretary and Secretary for the time being shall be Trustees, ex-officio for the Association and shall hold any property of the Association and all investments shall be made in their names and their successors in office as Trustees for behalf of the Association.
7. The Treasurer, Discipline Secretary, Match Secretary and Secretary shall be neutral officials, and shall not be connected with any club in membership.
8. The office bearers may invite from time to time up to two independent people to join the Management Committee who have specific competencies and/or expertise in a relevant field.
9. The Committee shall appoint a delegate(s) to represent the Association on the Congress of the Scottish Football Association Ltd and any other bodies as required.
10. The Association Committee or any sub-committee of this Association shall be entitled to publish in the public Press or in any other manner it shall think fit, reports of its proceedings, acts, resolutions and decisions whether the same shall or shall not reflect on the character or conduct of any club, official, player or spectator shall be deemed to have consented to such publication and to regard the same as privileged in law.
11. Past-Presidents shall have the same privilege extended to them as ordinary members of Committee.
12. Each club in membership of the Association shall keep proper books showing its financial and other transactions, and the Committee shall have the right to call in same, along with the vouchers, for inspection and to deal with any irregularity ascertained. These books and vouchers etc., must be sent within twelve hours of receipt of request to the effect.

Cup Competition Committee

1. The management of the business and control of the Association Cup shall be vested in a Cup Competition Committee. This Committee will consist of the Association Committee and members of the Leagues participating in the Cup. Each participating League will be allowed 1 member. The League Representative should be a Neutral Official or Board/Committee member of the League, however if that is not possible, the representative should be involved with a club participating in the Cup Competition.
2. Each League will choose their own representatives and shall notify the Secretary of the SCFA of their chosen representatives.
3. A representative shall not be a member of more than one Club and a club shall not have more than one of its members on the Committee.

4. Any representative whose club does not take part in the Association Cup competition shall be disqualified from continuing to act on the Committee and the Committee shall have power to fill the vacancy.
5. An Appeals Committee shall be appointed in conjunction with the SCFA Disciplinary Procedures for Players and Technical Staff when required, to consider appeals from any clubs, official, member or player thereof who may be dissatisfied with an onfield decision of the match official.
6. Excepting as above mentioned, the Association will delegate to the General Secretary of the relevant Leagues, the authority to come together with the Office-Bearers of the Scottish Community F.A. to determine matters of importance within the structure of Football. The Management Committee of the Association, along with all Committees/Boards where applicable, will be encouraged to remit for the consideration of this Committee, any business which would be to the benefit of uniformity in the Scottish Community F.A. e.g. Discipline, Venues, International Matches and matters with regard to the latter stages of the Cup Competition. Any decision taken would be binding and could only be changed by the Management Committee of the Association.
7. In the event of any vacancy occurring in the Office-Bearers or the Committee, the Committee shall have power to fill up same.
8. The minimum travel fares and any other necessary expenses of members of the Committee shall be defrayed by the Association.
9. The Association shall issue to the members of the Committee a membership card in each season which will admit the holder to all grounds of clubs in membership of the Association.
10. The Committee may rescind, alter or vary any term of suspension of a club, player or official by a two-thirds majority of those present at any meeting of a Committee, provided notice of such motion is intimated at the previous meeting of Committee. This will include monetary penalties that have been imposed.

Life Members

1. Any member completing five years on Committee with 75 per cent attendance shall be created an Honorary Life Member and receive the badge or token of the Association. On application to the Secretary, a Life Member shall obtain a card entitling him to admission to all grounds of clubs in membership of the Association other than in cases where entry is controlled by capacity or pre-sale tickets. (See Rule 2.) Each President of the Association shall on retiring, be furnished with a badge other than the Life Member's badge. Life Members of the SJFA will continue to be Life members of the SCFA.
2. Life Members shall, on application to the Association Secretary, receive a complimentary ticket for personal use for matches of the Association where entry is controlled by capacity or pre-sale tickets and will be accorded the privilege of attending meetings of General Committee and Annual General Meeting of the Association but without voting powers.

Meetings of Association

1. The Annual General Meeting shall be held on the third Saturday in June in a location determined by the Management Committee and that Committee shall have power to call special General meetings when and where they may deem necessary. Online participation will be facilitated where practical.

2. The representative to General Meetings appointed by each club entitled to send a representative, must be a bona-fide member of the club he represents and will be admitted to the meeting by signing the register supplied by the Secretary of the Association. The secretary of the member club will, 14 days prior to the Meeting, inform the Secretary of the Association the name and designation of their representative to the meeting. Any changes to the representative after this time will only be allowed if notification is sent to the Secretary and acknowledged prior to the meeting.
3. At the Annual General Meeting in each year or at any special General Meeting, each club failing to send a representative shall be fined £100, also any club whose subscription remains unpaid two days previous to the Annual General Meeting shall not be entitled to have a representative at the Annual General Meeting.
4. The chairman shall have a casting as well as a deliberate vote.
5. Meetings of all Committees shall be held in Glasgow or at such other place as the President of the Association, for the time being, may determine. Online participation will be facilitated where practical.
6. Four members shall form a quorum at all meetings of the Management Committee.
7. The President, or in his absence the Vice-President shall preside at all meetings of the Committee, and in the event of neither of these office-bearers being present, the meeting shall elect a chairman.
8. Except as specially otherwise provided, four members of all sub-committees shall form a quorum, and the Chairman shall have a casting as well as a deliberate vote. The President and Vice-President shall be ex-officio members of the Appeals Committee and all subcommittees.

CUP COMPETITION RULES

1. The Cup shall be called “THE SCOTTISH COMMUNITIES CUP”. The Management of the Association shall have the authority to change the title to reflect any sponsorship deal.
2. The competition for the Cup shall be annual, and shall be open to all member clubs of the Association and all tier 5 teams and below on payment of entry fee, subject to the approval of the Committee. All matches shall be played under the laws of the Association game.
3. The names of clubs entered for the competition by virtue of membership, shall be placed in a receptacle and except that a club may be balloted as having a ‘bye’ into the Second Round of the competition, the clubs shall be balloted in couples to compete with each other in the First Round of the competition. Those clubs who have qualified to participate in the Scottish Senior Challenge Cup will receive a bye in the first round of the Cup. The names of the winning clubs in the First Round, together with the names of the clubs which may have received a ‘bye’ in the First Round, shall be placed in a receptacle and balloted in couples to compete with each other in the Second Round. This process shall continue until the clubs qualifying for the Final Tie are known. ‘Byes’ shall be balloted in the First Round of the competition to the number necessary to ensure an even run through the competition to finality.
4. The SFA will be responsible for appointing Match Officials to Scottish COMMUNITIES Cup ties and will notify both clubs of name(s) and contact details of Match Officials. Details of Cup draws will be posted on the SCFA website.
5. Any club refusing or failing to play the club against which it is drawn within the time intimated to it, and without sufficient reason for doing so, shall be adjudged to have forfeited the tie and their

opponents will progress to the next round. Exit Prize Money will not be paid to any club forfeiting a tie.

6. In rounds prior to the Final, the home club as drawn in each tie shall have a choice of ground provided its ground or the ground it secures (which must be a reasonable alternative and agreed by the Management Committee, to that club's registered ground), efficiently prevents the public having access thereto without payment and has dressing accommodation, including full toilet and washing facilities for the teams of each club within the ground. If the ground fails in these requirements and the ground of their opponents meets these requirements, the tie shall be played on the latter ground. If neither ground conforms to the said requirements the Chief Operating Officer shall fix a ground conforming thereto for the playing of the tie.

7. A club may have its opponent's ground inspected as to those requirements provided five days' notice, prior to the date of the tie, is given to the Association Secretary who shall forthwith appoint an inspector to examine the ground. The report of this inspector shall be fixed and binding.

8. Exchange of ground rights is forbidden except by permission of the Association officials.

9. Any club intending to withdraw from the Competition must give notice of their withdrawal to the Secretary of the Association, 7 days prior to the date of the draw for the initial round of the Competition. They will be reported to the Cup Committee of the Association who shall have the power to take such action as they deem expedient. Any club withdrawing from the competition after this period shall be reported to the Cup Management Committee of the Association who shall have the power to compel such offending club to pay compensation to their opponents and / or the Scottish Community FA in respect of expenses or loss of income incurred. The Cup Management Committee will also consider any other action they deem appropriate including further participation in the Competition in future seasons.

10. Ground Inspections and Postponements.

a. Where ground or weather conditions place the playing of a Cup tie in doubt, the home club may contact a registered referee to carry out a ground inspection. The referee must be currently registered with the Scottish FA.

b. An official of the home club must meet the referee at a mutually agreed time and facilitate access to the premises and playing area.

c. The inspecting referee shall report their findings immediately to the Association Secretary or the appropriate League Secretary. The club requesting the inspection shall be responsible for payment of the inspection fee, which shall be 50% of the referee's standard fee. This amount may subsequently be deducted from the gross gate of the tie.

d. Following a ground inspection, only the appointed match referee shall have the authority to declare the ground unplayable and postpone the tie.

e. If ground conditions combined with the weather present and forecast are such that the playing of the game is clearly not possible and providing clear video and photographic evidence can be provided to the appropriate Secretary. The home club may ask for a postponement. In such cases the need for a ground inspection may be avoided if the appropriate Secretary is in agreement.

f. Where clubs are travelling in excess of 100 miles, a request for ground inspection should be made not later than 12.00 p.m. on the day before the game and the inspection should be carried out 24 hours prior to KO time on the preceding day. This inspection does not negate the need for a morning inspection should the climatic conditions deteriorate further.

g. Requests for an inspection on the day of the game should be not later than 7.30 a.m. The inspection should be carried out with consideration given to the Away team's circumstances.

11. If the game is postponed, the home club will be responsible for notifying their opponents and the match officials immediately the decision is made and this match will be played on the first available Saturday/Sunday or any date set aside for this purpose by the committee.

12. The Association reserve the right to appoint an inspector to carry out an inspection of any ground where a Scottish Communities Cup Tie is due to take place. The SCFA in these circumstances will advise the home club that such a request has been made and the home club will carry out the arrangements as above.

13. The clubs balloted to play each other in the Semi-Final ties shall compete over two legs, with each club playing one leg at their home venue. Each club shall be responsible for all costs associated with staging their home leg, with the exception of match official fees, which shall be met by the Association. The dates for both legs shall be arranged by the Committee, who shall also make all necessary arrangements in connection therewith. Under penalty of paying all expenses incurred by the Association and under any penalty assessed for inconvenience, no club shall scratch in the Semi-Final ties.

14. (a) On qualifying for the Semi-Final and Final tie of the Scottish Communities Cup (or any competition managed by the SCFA in which case the rule will apply from the start of the competition) each club will require to submit to the Secretary of the SCFA, fourteen days prior to the date set for the match, if this is not possible, within a period ordered by the Committee of the Association, the names and ID numbers of all players who would be eligible in their opinion to take part in the competition for their club.

(b) The Association Secretary will transmit to the club's opponents a copy of such lists.

c. The SCFA will verify the eligibility of all listed players, including checks on:

Valid COMET registration. Cup-tied status. Suspension or disciplinary status. Proper transfer clearance. Compliance with dual registration, amateur/professional status, and any other relevant competition rules

As all eligibility matters will be reviewed by the SCFA, objections from opposing clubs will not be accepted unless they present new and material evidence that could not reasonably have been known to the Association at the time of verification. Whether such evidence merits investigation shall be determined solely by the Cup Committee, whose decision will be final and binding.

(d) The Association Secretary will check the eligibility of all players whose names have been submitted by clubs. If any infringement is found, the club concerned would be notified and provided it was rectified according to the Articles of Association at least seven days prior to the date of the match or within a time specified by Committee, the player or players would be declared eligible to take part in the Cup competition.

(e) Only players who have been verified by the SCFA, whose details have been submitted in accordance with this rule, and who are not subject to any unresolved eligibility issue, will be allowed to take part in the Semi-Finals and Final tie of the Scottish Communities Cup unless otherwise decided by Committee

(f) Permission to include a player or players after the lists have been submitted and approved will only be granted in exceptional circumstances and the decision of the Committee on such matters would be final and binding. If such circumstances arise, the Committee may hold the club responsible for the expenses of such meetings to consider the application.

g. Where a Semi-Final is played over two legs, the original list of eligible players submitted in accordance with clause (a) will apply to both legs unless a second list is submitted for the second leg within the same timeframe and conditions as outlined above. If no second list is submitted, the original list will remain valid and binding.

15. The Cup Committee will take whatever action they deem necessary for the smooth running of the Semi-Final and Final tie of the competition but under no circumstances will a replay be granted

to any club raising objections after a tie has been played. The Committee may impose a monetary penalty on clubs in keeping with the severity of the offence committed.

16. The club colours are to be lodged on the Club Annual Return and on the Comet System. Players must appear in these registered colours in Cup-ties otherwise their club may be liable to be disqualified, but when clubs have the same or nearly the same colours, the AWAY club must change and notify opposing club and Secretary of the Association of change. In the Final tie when the first choice colours of the teams are the same or similar then choice of strip/kit will be decided by the toss of a coin. In the Final tie, if there is any dispute as to whether the colours of the clubs are the same or similar, the Chief Operating Officer or Secretary together with a representative of the SFA Referee Department will decide and this decision will be final and binding on the clubs.

17. In all competition matches, teamlines must be submitted via the Comet System in accordance with SFA procedures. Both clubs shall ensure that all players listed are properly registered and eligible to play. Clubs who believe a player is incorrectly listed on Comet must notify the Association at least 48 hours prior to kick off.

The match referee shall be provided with access to the Comet teamline prior to kick-off. The Comet submission will serve as the official record for both the Association and the opposing club. Clubs failing to submit teamlines correctly or in time may be subject to disciplinary action as the Committee deems appropriate.

18. Players must be numbered and this should correspond with the player's name on the team list. The Association Secretary shall keep a register of all the players taking part in the competition and the registration lists shall be open for inspection. Up to a maximum of five from a maximum of seven Substitutes nominated may be used in any match played in the competition.

19. The duration of each match shall be one hour and a half and the half-time interval shall not exceed 15 minutes. The Scottish Communities Cup rounds, prior to the Semi-Final, will be decided over 1 game. At the conclusion of 90 minutes play, if the game is drawn, the tie will be resolved by the penalty kick system.

20. In the event of the Semi-Finals or Final tie resulting in a draw, then the penalty kick system will be used to determine the winner. NB No extra time. The penalty kick system will be in accordance with the conditions laid down by the International Football Board.

21. Visiting clubs in ties previous to Semi-Final ties are entitled to ten admission tickets for Committee Members, who must show their passes.

21. It is expected that the home club shall provide half-time hospitality to the opposition committee and any SJFA observers and full-time hospitality to opposition players and coaches.

22. Goal nets and corner flags shall be used in all matches played under the jurisdiction of the Association.

23. The Committee shall present to the winners of the Final tie the Scottish Communities Cup Trophy along with 25 medals. The beaten finalists will receive 25 medals. The winners of the Cup shall grant a guarantee for the safe custody and return of the Cup by the first day in April the following year.

24. No club shall be compelled to play on 25th December or 1st January in any year.

25. The Association shall have power to make Cup Competition Rules which shall be binding on clubs, club officials, members and players as they present, exist, or as they may from time to time be altered, and such rules shall be read and held as part of these rules.

26. Matches in the Scottish Communities Cup shall be played on a natural grass surface or an artificial surface which complies with the Quality Standards set by UEFA and/or FIFA and approved by the Association Management Committee.

27. If required by Management Committee, clubs will play Scottish Communities Cup Semi Final and Final ties on a Sunday.

28. All Semi-Final ties in the Communities Cup shall be played over two legs (home and away). The first-drawn club in each tie shall play at home in the first leg.

If, in the opinion of the Cup Competition Committee, a club's home ground is not suitable to host a Semi-Final tie, the club shall be given the opportunity to secure an alternative venue acceptable to the Cup Competition Committee. Failing this, the Cup Competition Committee shall determine a suitable venue.

The following rules shall apply to two-legged Semi-Final ties:

- a. The aggregate score over both legs will determine the winner.
- b. If the aggregate score is level after the second leg, the winner shall be decided by the penalty kick system, with no extra time played.

Fixtures may be played on a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, depending on factors such as travel distance, venue availability, and the interests of the Association and the participating clubs, as determined by the Cup Competition Committee.

29. Scottish Communities Cup fixtures will be agreed prior to the start of each season. To ensure League fixtures are completed timeously, games will be scheduled and agreed by the respective football bodies to allow this to happen.

30. Eligibility of Reserve Teams and Restrictions on First Team Players

a) Reserve teams may be permitted entry to the Scottish Communities Cup only if they participate in a recognised league competition at Tier 5 or below of the Scottish football pyramid structure, as defined by the Scottish FA.

b) Where a club's Reserve team is entered into the Scottish Communities Cup, players shall be ineligible to participate in the competition if they have made three (3) or more competitive First Team appearances in the current season prior to the date of the relevant Scottish Communities Cup fixture.

A "competitive First Team appearance" is defined as participation (starting or as a used substitute) in any match in:

- the Scottish Professional Football League (SPFL),
- the Scottish Cup,
- the SPFL League Cup,
- the SPFL Trust Trophy (Challenge Cup),
- or any senior league or senior league cup competition in which the club's First Team competes.

c) Any team found to have breached this rule may forfeit the match in question and be subject to further disciplinary action at the discretion of the SCFA Cup Management Committee.

FINANCE (General)

1. The funds of the Association shall be lodged in a bank in the name of the Association.

2(a) All accounts and payments shall be paid whenever possible through digital banking and the Treasurer shall submit a financial statement at each meeting of the Committee, which statement shall be included in the minutes.

2(b) Clubs making payment to Association should whenever possible pay direct into Association bank account via digital banking, but MUST insert Clubs Name as reference.

2(c) All Clubs to submit their Clubs bank details to the Treasurer and also inform of any changes within 7 days.

3. The financial year of the Association shall end on 31st March each year and the Treasurer's books shall be closed on that date. The Treasurer accounts for each year shall be audited by a qualified auditor appointed at the A.G.M.

4. The Association shall effect a Fidelity Guarantee insurance guaranteeing the intromissions of the Treasurer.

5. The Management Committee may borrow money on behalf of the Association and may authorise the President, Vice-President, Chief Operating Officer, Treasurer, Discipline Secretary and Secretary as Trustees for the Association to execute any Documents for the purpose of giving any property of the Association in security for the payment of money by the Association.

6. In all matches arranged by the Association the drawings shall be checked by the Treasurer and a member of the Executive Committee and a report thereof submitted to the first meeting of the Management Committee thereafter.

7. The Committee shall have power to settle Cup Competition related financial disputes arising between clubs provided notice is given to the Association Secretary within twenty-eight days of the dispute arising (this to be done by email), and to adjudicate upon financial claims made against clubs. Where any club is found liable, to pay a sum to any other club or official; the officials, members and registered players thereof shall be liable to fulfil the order of Committee and the Committee shall be entitled to make a pro-rata division thereof among such officials, members or players. Any official, member or player failing to pay his pro-rata share on being notified thereof by the Secretary of this Association shall stand suspended till payment is received. Any official, member or player so suspended shall not be eligible to play or act for any club in membership of the Association while so suspended, provided always that this rule shall not apply to any dispute which fails to be determined by the Scottish Football Association Ltd.

8. All financial claims shall be submitted in duplicate within 28 days by an email to the Secretary of the Association who will forward a copy of the claim to the Secretary of the club claimed against and the limit will be fourteen days when the claim is being made against the Scottish Community Football Association; from the date of the decision made.

(Cup Competition)

1. The charge for admission to all ties shall be set annually by the members at the AGM.

(a) In all ties prior to the Semi-Finals after deduction of the referee's fees, and when appropriate assistant referees fees and expenses, the proceeds of the gate income will be allocated as follows:- 15% to the nearest £1 or a minimum of £10 will be paid to the SCFA with the remainder being split equally between the contesting clubs.

Exit payments will be as follows:-

• Last 32	• £100	• 16 Runners-up
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• Last 16	• £500	• 8 Runners-up
• Quarter Finals	• £2,000	• 4 Runners-up

(b) Semi Final ties will be played Home and Away.

In Semi Final ties after deduction of the match officials' fees and expenses, and any fees determined as necessary by the SCFA, the proceeds of the gate income will be allocated as follows:- The home club will retain 50% and 50% will be paid to the SCFA.

Exit payments will be as follows:-

• Semi-Finals	• £5,000	• 2 Runners-up
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Prize Money in the Final will be as follows:-

• Final	• £20,000	• Winner
• Final	• £10,000	• Runner Up

(c) At all Scottish Communities Cup ties prior to the Semi-Final ties, away club should appoint Gate Checkers at each entry payment point for the purpose of ascertaining that each spectator has been properly issued with an appropriate numbered admission ticket and collect said ticket. Association reserve the right to appoint independent Gate Checkers at any Scottish Communities Cup tie should it determine it is appropriate to do so.

2. In all ties other than Semi-Final and Final ties, where a Financial Return is required, the home club shall within three days of the tie being played, send the completed form and any payment due, to the Association Treasurer. Both contesting clubs shall sign the form and will be held responsible for the correctness of the form. Gate Checkers shall be provided by the visiting club. In Semi-Final ties, where a Financial Return is required, the home club shall within 3 days of the tie being played, send the completed form and any payment due, to the Association Treasurer. The home club and the SCFA shall sign the form and will be held responsible for the correctness of the form. Gate Checkers shall be provided by the SCFA.

3. In all ties up to but excluding the Semi-Final stages of the Cup competition the first drawn club must guarantee to reimburse the visiting team the amount due according to the following table:-

Distance	Guarantee
51-75 miles	£120
76-100 miles	£170
101-150 miles	£220
151-200 miles	£270
201-250 miles	£310
251-300 miles	£340

Mileage shall be calculated on the basis of the shortest single journey between the competing clubs. In addition to the standard match guarantee, where the away team incurs a single journey of 101 miles or more, the Association will contribute an additional 100% of the standard guarantee towards the away club's travel expenses. This travel contribution must be claimed within three days of the tie by the away club. If there is a dispute between the competing clubs regarding the distance or the entitlement to a travel contribution, the club paying the guarantee must inform their opponents verbally at the time of the match, and follow up by notifying the Secretary of the SCFA within three

working days by email. The Secretary may refer the matter to a national motoring organisation (e.g. AA or RAC) to act as independent arbiter.

The table used to determine guarantee levels and distance-related contributions shall be reviewed annually by the Committee, who shall make any recommended amendments for approval at the SCFA Annual General Meeting.

4. Charges additional to ground admission for stand accommodation to be retained by ground club except where the ground is being used by the SCFA as a neutral venue or for representative games.

5. The charge for use of a ground as a neutral venue provided by clubs for ties shall be £100 or 10 per cent of money drawn as admission to the ground. Members' tickets and/or season tickets of the ground club will not be valid for use on such occasions.

6. The home club travelling to play at an alternative venue shall bear their own travelling expenses and share all other match expenses.

7. The Committee shall have power to examine all accounts in connection with any match and order excessive and unauthorised charges to be refunded.

8. In all rounds of the Cup Competition, including the Semi Final, where applicable, it is the responsibility of the home club to ensure that every spectator entering the ground receives a numbered ticket on entry to the ground. These tickets will ensure the proper number of people entering and the correct gate receipts thus allowing both clubs to enact Cup Competition Rules – Rule 2.

9. Should the Scottish Communities Cup be damaged in any manner whilst in the care/custody of the winner, the winner shall be liable for the cost of the repair. Any repairs required to the Scottish Communities Cup may only be carried out by the Association's approved silversmith.

10. If any of the first eleven players listed on the official team-lines is not able to start the match due to unexpected physical incapacity, he may only be replaced by one of the named substitutes. The substitute in question may be replaced by an eligible player so that the quota is not reduced. If, for any reason, team-lines require to be changed (and said changes are accepted by the Referee) then the club must notify its opponents immediately thereafter.

REFEREES

1. The SFA Referee Department will be responsible for all Match Official appointments in the Cup. Assistant Referees shall be appointed in the Quarter Finals and succeeding rounds. In rounds prior to the Quarter-Finals, the Association Chief Operating Officer or, by agreement, both clubs, can request Assistant Referees to be appointed where available.

2. The fees for referees for Cup ties shall be:

Rounds 1 – 5.....£65

Semi-Finals.....£75

Final..... £100

When Assistant Referees and 4th Officials are engaged in these ties the fees shall be 50% of those paid to referees.

These Fees shall be reviewed at the AGM.

3. In the event of a referee failing to turn up, the clubs may mutually agree to any neutral referee. The referee shall not belong to any of the competing clubs. The expenses of such referee shall be defrayed by the competing clubs and must be paid before the start of the tie.

4. In all matches an S.F.A. listed referee must be used.
5. Referees in all ties must upload the results of matches played via the Comet System.
6. No professional referee shall be eligible to take part in the administration of Scottish Community FA at any level.

INTERNATIONALS

1. The Association shall have powers to arrange such International and other representative games as they may deem expedient, and also trial matches in connection therewith.
2. On dates fixed for International or representative games in Scotland no SCFA games shall take place within a forty-five mile radius of the venue.
3. Players chosen for games under the auspices of this Association can only be released from the obligation of playing by the consent of this Committee, Clubs having a player called upon for a game by this Association shall not be under any obligation to fulfil a fixture while the player is at the service of this Association nor shall clubs having a player chosen play such player in any game within three days prior to a full international game of the Association.
4. A club must not unreasonably refuse the Association access to their ground or facilities for an International/Representative game or training.

CLUBS & PLAYERS

1. The Secretary will provide a link to an online form to be used to provide information relevant to the clubs Official Return. This form must be completed to allow the Secretary to compile the Club Directory.
2. All clubs in membership of the SCFA can have as many season ticket holders as they so wish, but the season tickets will not be valid for any Cup Ties.
3. Any person or club that has been, or is, connected with Senior football must declare such an interest. The circumstances will be considered by the Management Committee of the Association before any permission be granted to take part in Football.
4. Clubs shall have the power to fine and suspend players for misconduct or who fail to turn up to games when notified and without sufficient reason for doing so.
5. It shall be permissible for clubs to play matches on Sundays during the playing season as may be arranged by the Association or at the request of clubs if such request is considered by the Association to be reasonable but in any match arranged to be played on a Sunday both clubs must be agreeable to so play, and there shall be no compulsion on a player or official to take part in a match on a Sunday. In any match so arranged and agreed to be played on a Sunday, a club can only play its own registered players.
6. A player on being transferred during the currency of a season may play in any competition other than a competition he has already taken part in provided he is signed and registered as per rule.
7. Any player taking part in football outwith Scotland unless in a representative game or games with his own club sanctioned by the SFA SCFA, will require International clearance. NB. Before signing

a player who has or may have played outwith the country except in the circumstances mentioned above, then the signing club must ensure that International Clearance is obtained from the SFA.

8. Players of a club in membership of the SCFA reverting to youth or amateur football while subject to being dealt with by this Association, are not grounds for protest unless reversion takes place between the expiry of one playing season and the commencement of the next season.

9. An amnesty shall be granted to players for offences committed prior to 21 June 2025 except in cases which have been subject to report prior to that date and may not have been dealt with or brought to a conclusion by the retiring Committee. The amnesty does not include debt and sin-die suspensions or field offences committed up to and including 21 June 2025.

REGISTRATIONS

1. A player shall not be eligible for any club (except as aforementioned) in membership of this Association unless he signs either the Player Registration Form or Transfer Form of the Scottish Football Association Ltd.

(a) Registration shall be binding on all contracted players in accordance with their respective League Rules

(b) A player may only play for the club for which he is registered.

2. Player Eligibility

a) All players must be properly registered with their club through the Scottish FA Registration system and be eligible to play in official matches under the rules of their parent league and the Scottish FA.

b) Only players registered with their club by 1st April shall be eligible to participate in that season's Scottish Communities Cup, except in the case of a recognised goalkeeper, who may be registered after that date and may only play in the goalkeeping position.

c) A player may not represent more than one club in the Scottish Communities Cup during the same season, regardless of any subsequent change in registration, league, or club membership.

d) It is the responsibility of each club to ensure the eligibility of all players fielded. Breach of this rule may result in forfeiture of the tie and/or further disciplinary action.

3. Before taking part in a Cup-tie, the player must sign one or other of the registration forms and transfer forms of the Scottish Football Association Ltd. All registration forms must be received by the Scottish Football Association in accordance with Comet Registrations procedures. Clubs failing to comply with this rule shall be dealt with as the Cup Committee deem necessary.

4. The Scottish Football Association shall have power to cancel the registration of players in cases of clubs for which they are registered becoming defunct, or where reasons satisfactory to the Committee are adduced why the registration should be cancelled.

5. Registered players who are members of the Armed Forces and Emergency Services may, during camping season, take part in Armed Forces and Emergency Services football and shall not be deemed to have committed any irregularity under these rules.

DISCIPLINE

1. In the event of the Officials of the SCFA, taking the view that public order may be at risk when a Cup Tie is to be played, they shall be empowered to consult with the Police authority within the area concerned. If employment of Police is considered necessary then the cost of such Police shall be paid for by the SCFA and the two competing clubs, on the basis of 50% from the SCFA, and 25% from each club involved.

2. When it can be proven that the spectators at the cup-tie match conduct themselves in such manner as to cause the game to be abandoned, the Committee shall, on application of either club, have the power to order the match to be replayed on another ground, neutral if possible, and to make arrangements, financial and otherwise as they may think fit, or to award the tie to either club.

3. Clubs will be held responsible for the behaviour or conduct of their supporters, and ground clubs are instructed and empowered to take the necessary steps for the expulsion from the football enclosure of any spectator using foul, abusive or threatening language and/or unacceptable or inappropriate conduct and also to refuse admission to their ground of any spectator known to be guilty of using foul or abusive language. Clubs failing to satisfy the Association that they have taken the necessary steps to have such individuals dealt with, shall be liable to be expelled from the competition or be dealt with as the Committee may deem necessary.

4. A club shall take all steps that are reasonably practical to ensure the safety, good conduct and good behaviour of its supporters in any ground.

5. No recognised football body, club, official, Team Official or other member of Team Staff, player or other person under the jurisdiction of the SCFA, shall in an interview, a “blog” on the internet, on a social networking or micro-blogging site, or in any other manner calculated or likely to lead to publicity

(i) criticise the decision(s) and/or performance(s) of any or all match official(s) in such a way as to indicate bias or incompetence on the part of such match official; or

(ii) make remarks about such match official(s) which impinge on his character.

For the avoidance of doubt this rule applies

(i) whether reported to the SCFA by a match official for misconduct or otherwise, and (ii) where remarks are brought to the SCFA’s attention, or of which the SCFA becomes aware, by whatever manner or means.

There shall be a presumption that any material published in such manner was published in the name of and/or with the authority of the person or body bearing to have published the material.

Any reported offences will be dealt with the Management Committee of the SCFA.

6. No recognised football body, club, official, Team Official or other member of Team Staff, player, match official or other person under the jurisdiction of the SCFA, shall in an interview, a “blog” on the internet, on a social networking or micro blogging site, or in any other manner calculated or likely to lead to publicity, make comment(s) of a discriminatory or offensive nature based on, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability, or that endorse or encourage foul play or are otherwise offensive. There shall be a presumption that any material published in such a manner was published in the name of and/or with the authority of the person or body bearing to have published the material. Any reported offences will be dealt with the Management Committee of the SCFA.

PROTESTS

1. With the exception of the Scottish Communities Cup Semi-Final and Final tie and other national competitions which are separately provided for, the procedure for protests on points of play must be formally intimated to the captain of the competing club in the presence of the referee before leaving the ground.

2. Any objection relative to ground, goal-posts, referee, team lists or other appurtenances of the game, must be lodged with the referee previous to start of the match, and the club on whose ground the match is played shall be responsible that the conditions required according to the laws of the game are complied with, failing which they shall be liable to be disqualified or otherwise dealt with as the Committee may determine.

3. Any club wishing to protest (except in Semi-Final and Final tie of the Cup which are previously provided for) must lodge same specifying the date and nature of the objection with the opponent's secretary, and a verbatim copy to the Secretary of the Association both of which must be by email and not later than the third day following that on which the tie is played, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, Public and Bank holidays. Deposit fee of £50 must be sent to the Association Treasurer at the time the protest is sent to the Association Secretary which shall be retained if protest is dismissed unless the unanimous consent of the Committee to return fee is given.
4. Protests, if sustained, which result in the match being ordered to be re-played, or result in the offending club being disqualified from the Competition, will only be granted on the following grounds:
- (i) Offending club playing a player currently under suspension.
 - (ii) Offending club playing a player whose registration lies with another club.
 - (iii) Offending club playing an un-registered player.
 - (iv) Offending club playing a player currently cup – tied in this Season's Cup Competition.
5. The Secretary shall call a meeting within seven days of receipt of protest to consider same, In the event of case not being finished at first hearing, both sides to hand all documentary evidence with names and addresses of witnesses to Association Secretary. No new evidence to be taken at second hearing.
6. Registration irregularities committed will not be considered grounds for protest unless the infringement has taken place during the current season in which case the circumstances of the infringement may be dealt with as the Committee may determine.
7. Should any club in connection with a protested cup tie have a member on Committee, the said member shall not be eligible to sit on Committee while the said protest is being considered.
8. Clubs shall be entitled to send a representative to a meeting in the interest of their case who may be heard at the discretion of the Committee. Members of Committee shall also retire when matters affecting their clubs are under discussion.
9. Debt suspensions shall not be considered grounds for a replay. A monetary fine only shall be imposed which shall go to the protesting club.
10. The Secretary of the Association and the Secretary of any other Association, League, or combination of clubs, shall, on application from the club secretary on payment of a prescribed fee, furnish, to be produced as evidence if desired, the names of clubs, date of ties, lists of names and addresses, nature of infringement, if any.
11. Any clubs, players and committees must obtain their own evidence. Documents obtained by any other club or party will not be accepted as evidence.
12. Any failure by a secretary to comply with the above request shall be reported to the Committee who shall deal with the matter as they deem expedient.
13. In matters submitted to Committee requiring proof of a player having taken part in a Cup competition match, the proof required will be by means of a certificate to be obtained by clubs from the Secretary of the Association as an extract from the lists referred to above in rule 10. Team lines which have been exchanged by clubs in Cup- ties will not be accepted by Committee as evidence of proof.

14. On a protest being sustained, the Committee may disqualify or fine the offending club in such sum as they deem expedient. In the event of a club being disqualified, the tie shall be awarded to the protesting club. If the Committee consider a protest trivial or groundless, they shall, besides retaining the fee, hold the club responsible for expenses incurred or impose a fine or both.

15. Protests and appeals once lodged cannot be withdrawn.

16. The Committee may fine and disqualify any club from taking further part in the competition which in their opinion knowingly play ineligible players. The tie will be awarded to the protesting club.

APPEALS

1. On points of fact connected with the play going on, the decision of the referee shall be final. On questions of interpretation of rules or laws of the game an appeal may be made to the Committee of the Association, but the referee's decision must be acted on in the field although under protest.

2. All questions of eligibility, qualifications of competitors or interpretation of the rules or laws shall be referred to the appropriate Committee of the Association whose decision shall be final.

Constitution as agreed with members at the AGM, held within Hampden Auditorium on Saturday 21st June 2025.