



inspiresport™

SCOTTISH YOUTH FA CUP BOOKLET SEASON 2026-2027



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updates!

Contents

- **Introduction**
- **Teamlines**
- **Let us Know the Score**
- **Discipline**
- **SYFA Supplementary & Playing Rules**
- **Extracts from Supplementary & Playing Rules**
- **Once the Draw has Been Published**
- **On Match Day**
- **Duration of the Match**
- **Substitutions**
- **Match Official Fees**
- **Check List**
- **Get in Touch**

Introduction

This booklet has been designed to assist all teams participating in the 2026/27 inspiresport Scottish Youth FA Cup.

It contains relevant cup rules and responsibilities along with guidance on what to do before, during and after your cup ties. Please ensure to read these details carefully and ensure your team is fully compliant with all requirements.

Good luck to all teams taking part in this season's competition; enjoy your games and we'll see twelve of you in April!

Round One 12th/13th September

Round Two: 26th/27th September

Round Three: 31st October / 1st November

Round Four: 21st/22nd November

Round Five: 12th/13th December

Round Six: 16th/17th January

Quarter Finals: 6th/7th February

Semi Finals: 7th/14th March

Finals: TBC

Teamlines

All teams are to use COMET teamlines, no paper versions are to be accepted.

Only those with Club or Team Lineup Manager can do so.

These roles are given out by your Club Secretary.

Teamlines can be completed either;

1. on desktop: [Add Players, Officials and Kits to a Teamline on Desktop](#)
2. on a mobile phone: [Add Players, Officials and Kits to a Teamline on mobile app](#)

Please Note

Trialists are not eligible for any knock-out cup ties.

Players must be:

- a. fully registered with the club
- b. active in the team's catalogue

Let us Know the Score

To ensure that we can progress teams into the next round draw, please make your league secretary (or match secretary) aware of the score as possible after the final whistle. **It is the responsibility of the home team** to notify of the score.

The referee will also upload the score, along with any discipline, to COMET within 48 hours of the match.

If they have not done so, the home team should contact the referee to request they do so immediately.

Discipline

Where a player or official is sent off in a Scottish Cup match they will automatically be suspended for the next competitive match their team participates in. The suspension applies immediately.

Please read Disciplinary Procedures 2026/27 which can be found [here](#)

SYFA Supplementary & Playing Rules

All matches under the jurisdiction of the SYFA shall be played in accordance with the Supplementary and Playing Rules which can be found [here](#)

Extracts from Supplementary & Playing Rules

Rule 62

No team at age groups 13 to 17 shall have more than 20 players registered at any one time during the season. No team at age group 18 shall have more than 22 players registered at any one time during the season.

Rule 74

All 11-a-side matches to be played under the jurisdiction of the SYFA shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as set out by the International Football Association Board.

Rule 78

Size of the ball: Age 13; size 4
 Age 14-18; size 5

Rule 79

Strips – When the teams have the same or similar colours, the visiting team will have the choice of colours.

In semi-final and final ties where colours are the same or similar, and no agreement can be reached, both teams must change.

Rule 89

All players except for a player whose customary position is that of goalkeeper, registered on a Registration Form after 31st March in the current season will not be eligible to participate in any Cup Competitions for that season.

Rule 95

In all semi-final and finals, entry to the technical area will be restricted to 6 registered officials.

Rule 108

SYFA will set the dates for each round of fixtures. SYFA National Cup Fixtures must take priority over all other fixtures. If a tie is postponed or does not go ahead for any other reason, the SYFA may investigate the circumstance and may take the decision to reverse the tie. The decision will be final and binding on all parties.

In the event of a tie being postponed the rescheduled match will take place on or before the next available fixture date, which would normally be 7 days after the date of the postponed match.

When a tie has not taken place for any reason by the date of the next round, the SYFA will have the power to recast the tie at any other venue.

Rule 109

In the event of the score being level after the stipulated playing time has been completed in all rounds, result will be decided by the taking of penalty kicks.

Rule 114

Kick off and playing day – Scottish Cup ties will take place on weekends stipulated by SYFA, unless otherwise agreed by SYFA and your league. **Ties will take place on the day the home team normally plays their league fixtures.**

Matches should kick-off between 12 noon and 4pm unless otherwise agreed by both teams. In the event of non-agreement between the participating clubs the SYFA's decision will be final and binding on all parties.

All ties must have a kick off time that allows for the taking of penalty kicks.

Rule 116

On points of fact connected with fitness of the ground for play, the decision of the referee will be final, unless the ground has been closed and declared unplayable by the relevant public/private authority.

Where a referee has travelled and the pitch is declared unplayable they shall be paid half the referees fee, which shall be met by the home team.

Rule 138

If you wish to submit a protest regarding a match please see rule 138 in the Supplementary and Playing Rules.

Once the Draw has Been Published:

1. Home team to contact opponent to ensure all necessary contact details are exchanged, and initial arrangements are made.
2. Home team to make all arrangements including booking pitch.
3. Tie shall be played on day home team normally plays their league match.
4. Confirm what strip colours will be worn.
5. Home team to confirm match arrangements with opponents – including venue, kick off day/time and changing facilities.
6. Home team to contact match referee and confirm date, venue, kick off time and team colours for both teams. (If a referee cannot confirm their attendance at a match, please contact your league secretary who can help allocate another registered referee.

Please ensure that all players you intend to play in a cup tie are registered prior to the match for your Club and are active in the team's Catalogue. Any player who does not appear of the team's catalogue will not be eligible to play in a Scottish Cup tie.

On match day:

- Ensure that the pitch is set up with corner flags and goal nets
- Home team to provide two match balls of playing standard and the appropriate size (rule 78)
- Completed teamlines are confirmed on COMET
- Ensure players shirt numbers correspond with the teamline

Duration of the match:

- 13's and 14's play 70 minutes
- 15's and 16's play 80 minutes
- 17's and 18's play 90 minutes

In the event of a draw at the end of playing time in all other rounds, the tie will be decided by penalty kicks.

Substitutions:

Please see **Rule 80** of the Supplementary and Playing rules

- 7 substitutes from 7 named substitutes.

Substitutes must be marked on the team line.

Match Official Fees:

Referee £50.00 per match

Assistant referee £35.00

Referees will be allocated via your normal league appointment process. Home teams: please contact your league secretary for referee details.

Home teams are responsible for payment of match official fees in full.

Check List

HOME TEAM

- Match arrangements
- Booking appropriate venue and pitch inspection if applicable
- Changing facilities
- Notification of result to league secretary
- Payment of match officials
- Conduct of their spectators, players and officials

AWAY TEAM

- Travelling expenses
- Arriving at match on time for warm up and kick-off
- Conduct of their spectators, players and officials

Leagues

- Appointing referees on behalf of SYFA

SYFA

- Collating and publishing match results
- Collating and administering discipline
- Notification of cup draws via scottishyouthfa.co.uk

Get In Touch

If you have any questions regarding SYFA's Scottish Cup Competition please contact SYFACUP@scottish-football.com & syfaplayers@scottish-football.com