

CARDIFF COMBINATION FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Affiliated to The South Wales Football Association

FOUNDED 1939

**SEASON
2017 - 2018**

OFFICIAL RULEBOOK

67th Edition (2017)

CARDIFF COMBINATION FOOTBALL LEAGUE

REVISED RULES

1. Name of League

(a) This amalgamation of Clubs, affiliated to The South Wales Football Association and admitting all its rules and regulations, shall be called “The Cardiff Combination Association Football League”, and shall consist of not more than 44 Clubs, to be divided into two or more divisions, whose names are returned to The South Wales Football Association on form ‘D’ before 1st September annually, but the sanctioning authority may permit an increase in the number of Clubs as Associate Members.

(b) Affiliation Fees

All Clubs must be directly affiliated to The South Wales Football Association.

Affiliation Fees: As directed by The South Wales Football Association.

Affiliation Fees and Forms ‘A’ must be sent to the Secretary of the Association - Mr. M. Adams, 24 Ty Crwyn, Church Village, Pontypridd, CF38 2HX – by the 30th June annually with annual profit and loss A/C with balance sheet.

2. Division of Clubs

The league shall be divided into divisions as deemed fit by the Management Committee, with one Team per Division, per Club.

No Club with a Team in The Welsh Premier, The Welsh League, The South Wales Alliance League will be allowed to play in the Premier Division.

3. League, Cup and Incidental Fees

All Divisions £45.00 per team, plus Guarantee Fee of £10.00 per team where necessary. Any Club which has withdrawn in a past season, on re-entering the League, will pay a treble Guarantee Fee. Any Club which has failed to fulfil its fixtures in the previous season will pay a treble Guarantee Fee.

These fees to be paid to the Hon. Treasurer on a 'Paying-In-Night' on a date to be notified to all Clubs. Failure to send a Club representative to this night will render a Club liable to a fine of £20.00.

A Club will not be deemed in membership until the above fees have been paid, and furthermore, in the event of a Club failing to fulfil its commitments to this League, its Guarantee Fee will be deemed forfeited and shall be absorbed into League funds.

4. League Management and Officials

The affairs of the League shall be controlled by a Management Committee consisting of a President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Match Secretary and divisional representatives for each division.

These officials shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting, and any nominations for membership of the Management Committee received from this meeting will be asked to attend the next official Management Committee when duties of a Management Committee will be explained.

Clubs in membership shall be permitted to vote at this meeting on the basis of one vote per Team. In addition to the above, further members (up to a maximum of ten) may be voted to serve on the Management Committee as circumstances warrant. A minimum of five members shall be required to form a quorum of the League Management Committee. Only one member of one Club (officials excluded) shall serve on the

League Management Committee at one time. Any member failing to attend three consecutive meetings, without reasonable excuse shall be considered to have resigned. League Officers have power of voting and moving resolutions. The Chairman shall have the casting vote in all matters. No committee member involved with a Club shall be allowed to vote on matters concerning that Club. Any person who is a Treasurer of any other organisation cannot be the Treasurer of the Cardiff Combination League. No referee shall be allowed to sit upon the Management Committee of any League or other competition under whose jurisdiction he officiates (FAW rule).

5. League Funds

The funds of the League shall be lodged in a bank or invested in guaranteed stock. Such stock to be invested in the names of two trustees on behalf of the League.

The Hon. Treasurer shall present the Bank Pass Book and Cash Accounts when required by the Chairman.

Cheques drawn against League funds shall be signed by the President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. General Secretary, and Hon. Treasurer, or any two of these officials.

Not more than £25.00 shall be retained by the Hon. Treasurer at any time to meet current expenses.

6. Registration of Players

(a) Each Club must send completed FAW Non-Contract forms to the Hon. Registration Secretary within 5 days of registration dates on the Registration Form. Incomplete forms will not be accepted. Clubs with Senior Teams should send ALL their Registration Forms to the relevant Senior Teams League Registration Secretary.

A Registration Fee of £1.00 per player will be charged. Registrations will be permitted in accordance with the FAW Registration Period for non-directly Affiliated Leagues in Wales. No Registrations can take place outside these dates. Any Club Official or player proved guilty of falsifying a registration or transfer form will be subject to a fine of £10.00 for each offence.

(b) Registrations with a club will remain in effect until the end of the football season (as defined by the FAW) unless the player transfers, has his registration withdrawn, or the club withdraws (or is removed) from the league.

7. Results of Matches

Results must be telephoned to the Match Secretary by the HOME side by 5.30 pm on the Saturday of the match. Evening game results must be telephoned in by the HOME side by 9.00pm on the day of the match. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £5.00.

8. Eligibility of Players

(a) A bona fide member of a Club shall be allowed to play provided he has not signed for any other Club in the competition during the same season. If he has so signed, action under rule 9 must be first taken. A bona fide member of a Club is one who has been registered with the Hon. Registration Secretary before date of playing, unless otherwise provided for in Rule 6.

(b) No player who has played for any Club in The South Wales Football Association Senior Cup, The Football Association of Wales, Welsh F.A., English F.A., S.A. Brain Cups, The League of Wales, English, Scottish, Irish Leagues, The South Wales Alliance League or any such League of equal status, during the present season shall be allowed to play in this League without special sanction of the League Management Committee, unless he is a bona fide non contract player, in which case, provided he is duly registered, he shall be eligible to play for any club in all Divisions of this league. Any Club breaking this clause shall be dealt with as deemed fit by the League Management Committee.

Any player affected by the above restrictions shall be eligible to play in Cup competitions of the Cardiff Combination Football League as per Cup Rule 1(d).

(c) No contract player shall be allowed to take part in any Division of this League.

(d) Clubs having more than one team, must however still register at least twelve players per team and the existing rules still apply for the Cup Competitions.

(e) In the event of any Club disbanding, the players of that Club shall be eligible to play for another Club, subject to the consent of the League Management Committee, but they will be re-registered for their new Club in accordance with procedure outlined in Rule 6.

(f) Should any doubt arise as to the eligibility of any player, any committee member shall give such information as is necessary.

(g) No Club in any Division shall be allowed to play un-registered players. Any team found guilty of playing an ineligible player will be fined £30.00 for each offence. Furthermore, the guilty team will forfeit any points gained in the match, and the game will be awarded to their opponents with a 3-0 scoreline.

(h) A team that has been found to have played an un-registered player shall be disciplined for the first offence only until that team has been notified by a committee member.

(i) A team may use three further registered players as substitutes, only with the referee's permission. A maximum of five nominated players shall be given to the referee, before the game.

9. Transfers and Transfer Fees

(a) Applications for Transfers must be made using the FAW Transfer of Registration of a non-contract Player Form. Completion process and Fees payable are as shown on the form and should be adhered to at all times.

(b) Transfers will be granted in accordance with the FAW Registration period for Non-Directly Affiliated Leagues in Wales. No Registrations can take place outside these dates.

10. Fixtures

(a) All matches must be played under the Laws of the game and the rules of the competition.

(b) Postponement of Fixtures

No Club shall be allowed to postpone a League fixture with another Club unless it is to play a Football Association cup-tie, a South Wales Football Association cup-tie, a League cup-tie, or unless as provided in Rule 13(c). When a Club, running more than one team, finds it incumbent to cancel a match, the one in the lower or lowest section or Division MUST be cancelled and the higher division(s) game(s) played. In other circumstances, the permission of the League Management Committee must be sought. Postponed matches should be reported immediately to the Hon. Match Secretary by both Clubs. Failure to carry out this procedure will result in the offending Club being fined a sum not exceeding £20.00.

No Club shall postpone a match on account of the weather, or the state of the ground. Both teams must proceed to the field of play and await the referee's decision in such cases.

(c) Any team failing to fulfil a listed League engagement without reasonable cause shall for the first offence, be fined the sum of £15.00 and for the second offence be fined £20.00 and warned that further contravention of this rule will result in the team being expelled from the League.

In addition to the above fines, any team failing to fulfil a listed League/Cup engagement without reasonable cause shall forfeit the game with a 3-0 score in favour of the opposition unless this is deemed by the League Management Committee to be to the advantage of the offending team in which case a point will be deducted from the offending team and the game replayed. In all cases, the decision as to what constitutes reasonable cause will be the prerogative of the League Management Committee.

(d) Any Club proved guilty of delaying the start of a fixture must be reported by the referee and may be dealt with as deemed fit by the League Management Committee.

11. In all Divisions, matches may be reduced in exceptional circumstances and subject to mutual agreement between the referee and both captains, to a minimum of 70 minutes.

12. No Club in membership of this League shall play matches with any Club not affiliated with some recognised Football Association. No Club will be allowed to play friendly matches when it has League matches outstanding. Special permission must be obtained from The Football Association of Wales, via The South Wales Football Association, to play ALL friendly matches including against clubs of other areas, both home and abroad.

13. Special Matches

(a) The League Management Committee shall have the power to arrange special matches, subject to the consent of The South Wales Football Association. Proceeds from such matches, less expense, shall go to League funds.

All Clubs that are in membership of this League, shall be bound to place their players at the disposal of the League.

(b) In all such special matches involving a representative side of the League, the team and reserves shall be selected by a selection sub-committee, nominated from the league Management Committee. Any player selected to play in any special match arranged by the League, failing or refusing to play shall, in the absence of any good or sufficient cause, in writing to the Hon. General Secretary, be considered guilty of misconduct. Similarly, any Club which shall be found to have encouraged or instigated such conduct on the part of a player shall also be deemed guilty of misconduct.

(THIS CLAUSE WILL BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO).

(c) Any Club affected by the playing of a special match shall have the option of postponing a League Fixture.

14. Results of Matches

BOTH teams must forward the result of the match and a list of the players, stating full Christian and Surname, who took part in the game, to reach the divisional representative not later than the Wednesday subsequent.

Failure to comply with this rule will render the offending Club to a fine of £5.00, which will be strictly enforced, for HOLIDAY or EVENING matches 48 hours are allowed. Furthermore, if the match card is not received within seven days the fine will be £5.00 with £3.00 being added to the fine for every seven days the card is overdue.

Any Club sending in a result card not correct in its entirety or not containing the correct list of players who took part in the match, shall be fined £5.00 for each offence. Result cards must be signed by the referee. Failure to obtain the referee's signature will render the offending team liable to a fine of £5.00.

15. Awarding of Points

(a) Points shall be awarded on the following basis:

3 points for a win and one for a draw in respect of completed matches.

(b) The League Management Committee shall be empowered to authorise that a match be played for more than the points referred to in (a) above, when circumstances demand it.

16. Promotion and Relegation

(a) At the end of each season's competition the two Clubs obtaining the highest number of points in each Division, or the two Clubs scoring the highest number of points in percentage to the number of matches played shall, at the discretion of the League Management Committee, be styled the champions and runners-up for that Division. In the event of two Clubs being equal in points, goal differential will decide the championship and runners-up positions. In the event of equal goal difference, the team with the highest number of goals will be deemed the higher.

(b) The champions and runners-up of each Division shall enter the next higher Division in the season following the one in which they have been declared champions and runners-up.

(c) At the end of each season's competitions, the two Clubs obtaining the lowest number of points in each Division may be relegated to the next lower Division.

(d) The League Management Committee shall have the power to exclude from the following season's competition, any Club whose conduct has been, in their opinion, objectionable.

(e) In the event of a Club disbanding or being suspended by The South Wales Football Association its League record shall be deleted.

17. Referees and Linesmen

(a) Referees for all League fixtures and Cup games will be appointed by a committee member from the list available. In the event of an appointed referee being unable to officiate, he should inform the Hon. Match Secretary, who is empowered to appoint a substitute.

In the event of an appointed referee failing to appear, a substitute may be nominated by mutual agreement between the two Clubs; such an occurrence must be reported however to the Hon. Match Secretary. If a registered referee is present, he must take precedence over an unregistered person.

(b) All referees officiating in this League must provide themselves with a copy of the League rulebook and must ensure that they take the necessary steps to comply with the rules laid down, in so far as such, rules impose a duty on them. Failure to do so will result in the official or officials being reported to the appropriate authority. Referees appointed shall (in writing) accept or decline appointments within three days of notification.

(c) The League Management Committee reserves the right to appoint neutral linesmen when necessary. Such appointed linesmen must be registered referees. In other cases, it is the duty of each Club to provide one official to act as linesman for any game in which they are participating.

(d) The following scale of fees will be admissible for referees and linesmen, (when appointed by the League). These fees are inclusive of travelling expenses and will be paid by the home Club, except as elsewhere provided in this rule.

Referees must be paid on the day of the match, otherwise offending Clubs will be fined £5.00.

All Divisions: Referees £26.00 Linesmen £13.00.

(e) When a match is not played through the failure of a Club to fulfil its fixture, the defaulting Club must pay the referee's full fee.

(f) In the event of a match not being played as a result of the referee's decision as to the weather, or the state of the ground, the referee shall be paid half fee; this half fee to be shared equally between both teams.

(g) Referees cannot be given appointments until they have registered with The South Wales Football Association. Potential referees shall be classified.

(h) Referees must report to grounds at least thirty minutes before kick-off time, during inclement weather, to decide upon the condition of the pitch.

18. Responsibilities of Clubs

(a) Any Club applying for admission to this League shall be prepared to accept the ruling given by the League Management Committee, subject to appeal, the Club and its officials must conform to the rules of this League as shown in the rulebook.

(b) Each Club must forward annually, on or before a date to be notified, to the Hon. General Secretary, the following details in respect of the Club.

Name of Club, name and address of Club Secretary or other responsible official, locality of ground and the registered colours of the Club.

(c) All players in League matches must play in the registered colours of their respective Clubs and must be properly attired. Failure to comply with this clause will render offending Clubs to a fine of £5.00. Referees are requested to ensure that the provision of this clause is strictly adhered to and are asked to report any breaches to the Hon. General Secretary.

(d) In the event of two teams having colours so much alike as to cause confusion, it shall be the duty of the Away Club to change its colour.

(e) No Club shall change either its name or its colours without the prior consent of The South Wales Football Association. This rule will be strictly adhered to.

(f) Clubs in all divisions must provide suitable dressing room and washing accommodation for visiting teams and officials.

(g) Any Club found guilty of inducing or attempting to induce a bona fide member of another League Club to join it, shall be deemed guilty of misconduct and shall be liable to expulsion.

(h) In order that the League competition shall be carried out in a fair and sportsmanlike manner, the League Management Committee (instructed by the Football Association) has empowered the referee in all matches in the League to put down the slightest attempt at rough play or intimidation.

(i) Any Club proved guilty of misrepresenting its strength shall be dealt with as the League Management Committee deems fit.

(j) Any NEW Clubs entering the League will be provided with Rule Books as necessary. All other Clubs will be issued each season with a set of amendments to rules, together with a directory of Club Secretaries, addresses and Club colours. An up to date rulebook will be printed and issued when deemed necessary by the League Management Committee. This will ensure that all Club officials and players are fully conversant with the League rules. In this connection it is pointed out that ignorance of published rules will not be accepted as an excuse for non-compliance.

(k) In the event of a Club changing the details regarding their Hon. General Secretary, such Club will be responsible for informing all Clubs in its Division of the League, the Hon. League Secretary and the Hon. Secretary of The South Wales Football Association of the change. For any violation of this rule the Club will be fined £10.00. Correspondence will only be accepted from an official Club Secretary and must be sent to the Hon. Divisional representative(s) concerned.

(l) The following dimensions are the maximum allowed by The Football Association of Wales for sponsored lettering on playing kit.
Single line lettering: Length 12 inches max. Height 4 inches max.
Double Line Lettering: Length 12 inches max. Height 1½ inches max. (with space between lines 1 inch max.)

(m) Each Club is responsible for the conduct of its members, both as players and spectators, on match days. Any behaviour which is found to be objectionable towards other Clubs, match officials, or officers of the League or Association, will put the offending Club's league membership at risk, or may incur a heavy fine.

19. Protests

a) Protests must be lodged with the Hon. League Secretary, in duplicate, within three days (excluding Sunday) of the date of the occurrence to which they refer. Protests must be accompanied by a fee of £10.00.

(b) If a protest is lost, the fee referred to in clause (a) may be forfeited to league funds.

(c) All protests with regard to the state of the ground must be lodged in writing with the referee, before the start of the match, unless the case arises during the course of the game, when it may be lodged in the manner referred to in rule 19(a).

(d) The League Management Committee shall be empowered to call on either Club involved in a protest to defray the necessary expenses in connection with same.

(e) In the case of any player being found ineligible, the Club playing him must be adjudged to have lost the match and the game awarded to their opponents with a 3-0 result.

(f) Any Club leaving the ground before the expiration of the game, or responsible for the abandonment of a match once it has commenced, must also be adjudged to have lost the game; in either case, Clubs to be fined at the discretion of the League Management Committee.

20. Trophies and Mementos

(a) The Championship side in each Division or Section shall be awarded mementos and should entries and finance warrant same, mementos, will be awarded to the runners-up; the value of such mementos shall be determined by the League Management Committee.

(b) Trophies and mementos as referred to in clause (a) shall be delivered to representatives of the Clubs concerned at a special meeting convened for that purpose.

(c) In order to safeguard League trophies, the winning Club, shall at the presentation give a receipt for the trophy and such Club shall be responsible for its custody and good condition whilst it is in their possession; and that all championship cups be insured, by the winners, against all risks.

(d) All League trophies must be returned in good and clean polished condition by 31st March each year. Offending Clubs will be fined £10.00.

(e) Any Club losing a trophy will be severely censured, fined accordingly and be responsible for its replacement.

21. Infringement of Rules

Any infringement of league Rules shall be dealt with in such a manner as may be deemed fit by the League Management Committee. Furthermore, this Committee shall have power to deal with other matters not provided for in the rules.

22. Fines

All fines must be paid within 14 days of notification. Failure to comply will be dealt with as misconduct and the fine will automatically be doubled. Furthermore, any fine outstanding after an additional 28 days following the doubling of a fine will lead to the offending Club being expelled from the League.

23. Appeals against League Decisions

Any Club being dissatisfied with the decision of the league Management Committee has the right of appeal to The South Wales Football Association on deposit of the relevant fee with that body. The South Wales Football Association reserves the right of giving the final decision upon any appeal made by a member of any Association, notwithstanding anything contained to the contrary thereof in the rules of that particular competition.

24. Alterations and Additions to Rules

(a) No alteration shall be made in these rules, except at an Annual Meeting or at a meeting specially convened for the purpose and such alterations must be sanctioned by The South Wales Football Association before they can become operative. A special meeting shall not be called unless requisitioned by at least ten Clubs; such requisitions to be signed by the Hon. General Secretary and Chairman of the Clubs concerned.

(b) Proposed alterations and additions must be forwarded to the league Hon. General Secretary by the 1st March, the same to be forwarded to Clubs at least seven days before the meeting. Such additions shall not be deemed carried unless supported by at least two thirds of the representatives present. (One team allowed one vote).

(c) Notices of such alterations or amendments for Annual Meetings to be sent to the League Hon. General Secretary at least 14 days before date notified or Annual Meeting.

(d) That every team **MUST** be represented at the Annual General Meeting, failure to comply with this rule shall result in the offending team being fined £25.00.

25. Clubs who have been successful in winning League trophies during the season, failing to send a representative to receive such trophies at the Annual Presentation, to be fined £25.00.

26. All teams in the League must provide goal nets and corner posts for all home matches. Any failure to use goal nets and corner posts on the part of any team will render that team liable to a fine of £5.00.

27. All Clubs to be allowed to change the kick-off times on Saturdays, with the obvious approval of the opposing team and at the convenience of the referee.
All morning kick-offs to be at 11.00 a.m.

CUP RULES

1. (a) The competitions sanctioned by The South Wales Football Association shall be called the MILSOM HARRIES CUP (for all teams in the league), the CARDIFF COMBINATION CUP (for the Premier and First Divisions), the SAM CORNISH CUP (for all Second Division teams and below), HARRIS PARKER SPOONER SUPER CUP, the DIVISIONAL CUPS and the CARDIFF COMBINATION SIX-A-SIDE COMPETITION (for all teams in the League). The Management Committee shall decide which competitions will be played for at the commencement of each season and have the power to suspend/cancel a Cup Competition when conditions require such action.

(b) No team in the Cardiff Combination Football league shall be allowed to enter any other League's cup competitions, other than The South Wales FA Intermediate Cup, Welsh Cup and SWFA Trophy.

(c) Cup Registrations please refer to rule 6 (a) and rule 8 (b) regarding eligibility of players.

(d) Any player playing for a club with more than one team playing in the Cardiff Combination League shall, unless cup tied, be eligible to play for the lower division team. Should a clubs senior side be playing in a league as per League Rule 8(b), their used players will be eligible to play on the proviso they have played a minimum of three games for their Cardiff Combination league division team.

2. The Competitions shall be controlled by the Management Committee of the Cardiff Combination League.

3. A player may play for only the TEAM he has registered for in cup competitions. Once a player has played in ANY cup for a team he is cup tied to that team for ALL Cardiff Combination cups in that season. He may not represent any other team in another cup without special sanction from the League Management Committee.

4. Refer to league Rule 8(i). Substitutes.

5. Matches shall be played on The South Wales Football Association cup tie system and the first drawn Club shall be the home side (including semi-finals). In drawn matches, the Club last drawn in the ballot shall be the home side and so on alternatively, unless the Management Committee shall decide to fix a neutral ground. Should cup ties be drawn, an extra 20 minutes must be played (10 minutes each way) in all rounds. Any team refusing to play extra time after being instructed to play will be struck out of the competition. Cup ties shall be for the maximum 90 minutes.

All cup matches to be concluded on the same day allowing for 20 minutes extra time and then penalties. This rule to apply to all rounds, including replays in the semi-finals, in accordance with The South Wales FA Regulations.

6. As a rule all byes shall be drawn in the first round.

7. Refer to League Rule 19. Protests.

8. Refer to League Rule 23. Appeals.

9. The Hon. Match Secretary or Referees, Appointments Secretary shall appoint referees for these matches and only registered referees shall officiate.

Fees: All Divisions - Referees £22.00 Linesmen £11.00.

Referees must be paid on the day of the match; otherwise offending Clubs will be fined £5.00.

10. Following a Cup Match, each team shall forward to the Hon. Registration Secretary, a match card showing their players taking part in the match, stating positions on field and result of the match.

The Management Committee shall have the power to strike out of the competition without a protest being made, any Club playing an ineligible player, or one sending in an inaccurate match card.

11. Finals will be staged by the Management Committee. In all rounds, except Finals, fees to be equally borne by the competing Clubs and contestants to provide suitable footballs. The home side must always ensure that the fees are paid in full and collect from the away team their half of the fees due.

12. All pitches in these Competitions should be properly marked out.

13. All cups to be competed for annually and cannot be won outright.

14. Mementos shall be awarded to, the successful Club (and should entries and finance warrant the same, mementos will be awarded to the runner-up).

15. All Clubs must be directly affiliated to The South Wales Football Association.

16. Refer to League Rule 20 (b, c and d). Trophies.

17. Refer to League Rule 24. Alterations.

18. Any matters not provided for in these rules shall be dealt with under the rules of The South Wales Football Association.