



League Cup and Shield Rules

2025-2026

MHL LEAGUE CUP & SHIELD RULES 2025-2026

Competition Rules will apply in all MHL Cup Competitions unless specifically provided for below.

A separate competition called "The Mid Herts League Divisional Cups" shall be run annually. It shall be affiliated to the Hertfordshire FA and shall be controlled by the League Management Committee.

All matters not provided for in the foregoing Rules shall be governed by the Rules of the MHL. The League Management Committee shall deal with any matters not covered by these rules.

All decisions of the League Management Committee shall be final and binding on all parties

COMPETITION RULES

Rule 1 - Name and Constitution

- (a) The Competition shall be open to all 11v11 teams playing in the League with a Cup Competition for the higher division Teams and a Shield Competition for lower Division Teams. If there are an odd number of Divisions, the middle division will be split, top half of the table at the time of draw to be entered into the League Cup and the bottom half of the table to be entered into the League Shield. Teams are only permitted to be entered into one Competition.
- (b) The Competition shall be held annually and shall be at the Invitation of the Management Committee. There shall be one cup/one shield for the teams in each group as laid down in 1(a)
- (c) Rule 13 shall apply to the Cup Competition.
- (d) The method of conducting the competition shall be decided annually, before the commencement of the draw for the first round. Cup Final dates will be published at the beginning of the season.

Rules 18, 19, 21 & 23 shall apply to all matches in the Competition except where alternative arrangements are made by the League Management Committee when the method of conducting the Competition is decided.

- (e) The League Cup Competition for the U14 will be known as the Mathew Blease Memorial Cup and the League Shield Competition for the Under 14 called The Kevin Huttleston Memorial Trophy. These competitions are for Member Clubs only, and are by invitation of the Management Committee, and shall be played in accordance with this Rule [League Cup Rules].
- (f) The League Shield Competition at U15 will be known as "Marco Pisani U15 League Shield"

Rule 2 – Conditions of Play

- (a) Unless otherwise stated, the duration of play is in accordance with the main League Competition Rules, save for if the score in any match is level at the end of normal time, the game shall be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the Referees' Chart, unless instructed otherwise by the Management Committee. Failure to do so may result in both teams being expelled from the Competition.
- (b) Free week requests will **not** be granted for published Final Dates. If a team is unavailable for the published Final, they will be withdrawn from the Cup Competition by the Management Committee and the Competition progressed in accordance with 4b
- (c) All finals shall be played on neutral grounds (wherever possible) and published dates will not be altered except where Hertfordshire FA County Cup Competition takes precedence.
- (d) In the event that a round cannot be played (for reasons beyond the control of the Competition), the Management Committee reserves the right to decide upon the procedure to progress the Competition. To allow expediency and the smooth-running of the competition, any team not being able to play on the date fixed for the competition for any reason other than weather shall forfeit that match to its opponents
- (e) In the event that the home team's pitch is unplayable twice in succession, the match shall be reversed to the opposition's pitch for the following week.

Rule 3 – Qualification of Players

- (a) Once a Player has participated in a Cup Competition for one Team, then that Player is prohibited from playing in the same Competition for another team and/or Club within the current playing season:
- (b) A player can only play in either ONE MHL League Cup **or** ONE MHL League Shield Competition within in any one season.
- (c) Any player disqualified to play in any round shall be deemed to be disqualified in any subsequent round by virtue of the original disqualification.
- (d) All League Team Sheets **must be** produced in accordance with the League Rules; a player can only play in the team in which he is registered to. In the event of a player being dual registered, that player will only be eligible to play for one team (or age group) within this Competition. which must be declared **before** the Competition commences
- (e) Any team found guilty of playing an ineligible player (i.e., a player who does not appear on the League team Sheet) **will be** removed from the Competition

Rule 4 – Postponements, Unplayable Pitches & Non-Fulfilments

- a) In the event of a published fixture not being played due to weather, the fixture will be moved to the next weekend (and so on) until such time the fixture is completed.
- b) In the event of a match not being played because of non-fulfilment by one team, (for any reason other than weather), the match **will be** awarded to the opposition. The Management Committee reserves the right to decide upon the procedure to progress the Competition in accordance with Rule 2e

To allow expediency and the smooth-running of the competition, any team not being able to play on the date fixed for the competition for any reason other than weather shall forfeit that match to its opponents, no formal charge or financial penalty shall be imposed when forfeiting the game

- c) Home teams whose grounds are unplayable for any reason must accept any invitation from the published away team, whose ground is playable and available, to travel to and play at their opponent's venue, provided that the revised kick-off time is no later than 2.00pm.
- d) In the event that the home team's pitch is unplayable twice in succession, the match shall be reversed to the opposition's pitch for the following week.

Rule 5 – Referees

- (a) The Referees' Co-Ordinator shall appoint referees, and for all semi-finals and finals assistant referees (if available). The officials' fees for semi-finals will be split between the two teams. Payment to the referee will be made by the league and the participating clubs will be invoiced for the costs (50% each or 100% if the two teams happen to be from the same club).
- (b) In the Finals referees and assistant referees shall be entitled to such fees as laid down in League Rule 23[E] these will be paid by the MHL plus a memento.

Rule 6 – Reporting Results

- (a) A result card should be completed in the usual way via the Mitoo website for each published fixture without fail before 6pm on the following day of the scheduled game.
- (b) The Referee markings required by Rule 23, or any other information required by the Competition should be completed.