**L & C/LAL KNOCK-OUT CUP COMPETITION RULES**

* Each Club will have free entry to the Competition. Teams entered will be from each league’s Premier division.
* The control of this cup competition will be by members of each League’s Management Committee, using the FA standard Code of League competition rules as the base except for additional requirements provided by these rules.
* The competition will be with knock-out rounds in the first of which all byes will occur.
* In the draw each league will be the home team alternately.
* All rounds will be drawn in pairs and except for the semi-finals and final, the first drawn Club of each pair will use and pay for their home ground and be responsible for all arrangements. If the teams wear similar colours, the away team will change.
* The clubs will share the referee’s fee. The home league will supply the referee.
* Confirmation by home team to opposition and referee by Wednesday night.
* Should a ground be unfit the match will be postponed only once, the fixture will be rescheduled on the original ground, at a 3G venue, or at the away club’s ground at the discretion of the home league’s fixture’s secretary. The home league’s fixture’s secretary will arrange a new date which is mutually acceptable. When the fixtures secretary arranges an alternate venue, it will be paid for by the competition
* Matches will begin at times appointed by the Competition The half time interval shall be of a maximum ten-minute duration.
* Should a match have equal goals result after 90 minutes and added time (not extra time), the winner shall be decided by penalty kicks in the manner prescribed by the International Board. In special circumstances alternative arrangements for deciding the tie may be made by the Competition Management Committee. The Cup Final will have extra time (two 15-minute halves), then penalties if necessary.
* Should a match be not completed because of either Club’s breach of rules, any replay scheduled will be at the discretion of the joint management committee. Failures to fulfil Cup matches will result in punishment of the offending team by expulsion from the competition, and exclusion from the following season’s cup.
* The semi-finals (one per league) and final will be arranged by the two league’s Competition committee, which will take all the receipts and pay the expenses.
* Clubs provide match footballs for the semi-finals, the league provide match balls for the finals.
* No player may play in this competition who was not registered (see Competition Rule 18) on the last day of March of the current season, nor for more than one L & C or LAL Club in the same cup competition, in the same season.

* Prior to the semi-final league rule 18 (O) (i, ii and iii) determine player eligibility
* No player may play in the semi-finals or final of this competition who has played in less than 5 matches for the Club concerned in their Competition’s league or cups during the current season.
* Any Club playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player will be disqualified and may be liable to a fine for each offence and required to pay any match expenses and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the joint Competition Management Committee. They may also be excluded from the following season’s cup.
* Cup and medal costs will be shared by the two leagues. The financial credit or debit of this competition will be transferred annually to each Competition’s General Account.
* A list of up to 17 outfield players plus 3 goalkeepers (maximum total 20) qualified players from which its team will be selected, with the number of matches they have played, must be notified to the League, the Registrations and Match Reports Secretaries by each competing Club seven days before the semi-finals and final. The squad in the final will be the same as the semi-final. No change requests will be accepted by the management committee.
* Referees and assistants for semi-finals and finals will be paid a flat rate of £40 and £28 respectively.
* Host clubs for semi-finals/finals will be paid an amount negotiated by the fixture secretary/chairman, and only allowed to claim additional expenses which are supported by an invoice.