

The National League System

Play Off Matches – Steps 6

1. Participation

Please refer to Regulation 5.2 of the National League System Regulations.

2. Sequence of Matches – Venues

Subject to four Clubs qualifying to participate, the two Play-Off Semi-Finals will comprise (1) the highest placed of the qualifying Clubs playing at home to the 4th highest placed of the qualifying Clubs and (2) the 2nd highest placed of the qualifying Clubs playing at home to the 3rd highest placed of the qualifying Clubs. The winning Semi-Finalists will meet in the final with the highest placed of the two Clubs playing at home.

Should only three Clubs qualify for participation in the Play-Offs then the highest placed of the qualifying Clubs will receive a bye to the final in which they will play at home to the winner of the one Semi-Final that will comprise the 2nd highest placed of the qualifying Clubs playing at home to the 3rd highest placed of the qualifying Clubs. Should only two Clubs qualify for the Play-Offs then the Final will comprise the highest placed Club playing at home to the 2nd highest placed Club.

If there is only one qualifying Club, then they shall be automatically promoted.

The Semi- Finals and Final will be played to a conclusion as one-off games and should the scores finish level at the end of normal time then 15 minutes each way extra time will be played. Should the scores still be level at the end of extra time then the winners will be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark.

3. Dates of Games

As agreed by the Board/Committee each Season in conjunction with the Season End dates set by the FA Leagues Committee.

Should a Club that has qualified to play at home not be able to host the game at their normal home ground on the scheduled date and kick-off time then the game will be played on the ground of their opponents. Should neither Club be able to host the fixture, a venue will be selected at the discretion of the Committee.

4. Financial Arrangements

[All Play-Off games will be played under the terms of the net gate being distributed on the ratio of 37.5% to each of the two Clubs and the balance of 25% payable to the League.]

All matches are arranged by the Board/Committee and are not treated as “Home” matches of the Club on whose ground the match is played. All complimentary tickets will be issued by or at the direction of the League who must be consulted on all arrangements including the allocation of Directors Box tickets.

The the Club hosting any fixture must ensure that the Match Officials are paid. Details of the Match Official fees/expenses will be in accordance with the League Rules.

5. Trophies

As per League Rule 18

6. COVID-19 and variance of these conditions

The Committee(s) will endeavour to adhere to the protocols set out above, however, particularly in relation to matters which are beyond the Committees' control, all rights are reserved by the Committee(s) to amend this document and/or the format of Play-Offs as deemed appropriate from time-to-time.

7. Other Matters

Any matters arising not covered above should be referred to the relevant League Secretary who will refer to the The FA's Leagues Committee (as appropriate).