

2021-22 LEAGUE AND CUP COMPETITION RULEBOOK

RULE 1: ELIGIBILITY OF INSTITUTIONS

- 1.1 Full Membership of AoC Sport is available to further education and sixth form colleges included on the schedule of institutions of the Further Education Corporations Order (1992), and any new corporations formed by the subsequent merger of these colleges as well as sixth form colleges which have converted to academies.
- 1.2 Where a merger takes place between a college included on the schedule of institutions of the Further Education Corporations Order (1992) and institutions that are not on the schedule, the college will be permitted to become a full member of AoC Sport and the other institutions can apply to compete as Associates.
- 1.3 Entry to AoC Sport league and cup competitions is also open to any training provider that is part of the corporation defined in 1.1, providing that it is based in the same AoC Sport Region.
- 1.4 Entry to AoC Sport league and cup competitions is also open to any provider that is sub-contracted to a corporation defined in 1.1 providing that: -
 - 1.4.1 the team plays under the name of the college, although the name of the provider can also be included in the name, eg, Seaside FC (Coastal College)
 - 1.4.2 either the academic programme is taught at the provider's premises as defined in 1.1
 - 1.4.3 or the academic programme is taught by staff from the member as defined in 1.1.
- 1.5 Where the criteria set out in 1.3 cannot be met, the sub-contracted provider will be entitled to apply to become an Associate.
- 1.6 The following categories of institution may apply on an annual basis to compete in AoC Sport league and cup competitions as Associates: -
 - 1.6.1 Training providers that are part of the corporation defined in 1.1 but based in another AoC Sport region

- 1.6.2 Educational providers that are sub-contracted to a corporation defined in 1.1 but who do not meet the criteria set out in 1.3
 - 1.6.3 Any training provider or institution that is in partnership with a Training Provider that is directly funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)
 - 1.6.4 Schools and Academies that are in receipt of ESFA funding
 - 1.6.5 Independent Schools.
- 1.7 All applications from institutions identified in 1.5 to compete in Championships and Regional Leagues will be forwarded to the relevant regional operations group, who will have the final decision on whether they can become Associates.
- 1.8 The regional operations groups may: -
- 1.8.1 create leagues in specific sports which include both Members and Associates
 - 1.8.2 in specific sports, create standalone 'invitation leagues' made up of Associates
 - 1.8.3 reject the applications.
- 1.9 To protect the financial viability of its competitions, AoC Sport reserves the right to refuse the application of any institution that it has had to pursue for unpaid debts or where there is evidence that the institution has unpaid debts with any other provider of competitions.
- 1.10 In order to protect the integrity of its competitions, AoC Sport reserves the right to refuse an institution entry into a competition where there is evidence that an institution has breached the code of conduct or competition rules of AoC Sport or any other competition provider in the previous season.
- 1.11 Applicants who do not meet the entry criteria for any competition will be contacted by the AoC Sport competitions administration team and provided with reasons for their rejection.
- 1.12 Applicants who are refused entry have a right of appeal using the process described in rule 18.