



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION LIMITED

COUNTY CUP INFORMATION 2020-2021

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COUNTY CUP - COMPETITIONS RULES 2020-2021

1. NAMES OF TROPHIES.

The Cups shall be called "The Maunsell Cup" "The Hillier Senior Cup", "The Les Underwood Junior Cup", "The Lower Junior Cup", "The Area Cup", "The Under 12, 14 and 16 Youth Invitation Boys Cups", "The Under 12 and Under 16 Youth Invitation Girls Cups" (subject to age group team availability for girls), "The Sunday Cup", "The Sunday Trophy", "The Sunday Vase", "The Veterans Cup", "The Under 18 David Joyce Cup", "The Under 18 Youth Cup", "The Women's Cup", "The Futsal Cup" and "The Walking Football Cup".

The Trophies shall never become the absolute property of any Club. The President and Executive Officer for the time being and for intents and purposes will be the legal owners of the Cups in trust of the Association.

2. MANAGEMENT OF COMPETITIONS.

The entire control and management of the County Cup Competitions shall be vested in the Council and the County Cup Committee of the Association.

The County Cup Committee at its meeting in July each season will confirm the appointment of a Sub-Committee that will deal with all matters of discipline and interpretation of rules relating to the following season.

3. CUP COMPETITIONS AND STATUS OF CLUBS TO COMPETE THEREIN.

All affiliated Clubs in Northamptonshire, who regularly play in a sanctioned league, must compete in at least one NFA Cup Competition, unless an application for exemption is granted. A written application for exemption must be sent to the Executive Officer of the Northamptonshire Football Association by August 15th each year.

No team shall be allowed to enter a County Cup Competition unless they are registered with a league that is affiliated to with the FA/NFA.

(a) THE MAUNSELL CUP. To be competed for by the winner of the Hillier Senior Cup, at their own ground, against either Northampton Town FC or Peterborough United FC who will alternate on a yearly basis.

(b) THE HILLIER SENIOR CUP. To be competed for by Senior Clubs affiliated to the Association selected by the Council.

(c) THE LES UNDERWOOD JUNIOR CUP. To be competed for by Junior Clubs or reserve teams of Clubs competing in the Hillier Senior Cup affiliated to this Association who compete in Leagues whose Senior Division is considered by the Council to be of suitable standard.

(d) THE LOWER JUNIOR CUP. To be competed for by Junior Clubs affiliated to this Association or reserve teams of Clubs competing in the Junior Cup, which are considered by the Council to be of suitable standard.

(e) THE AREA CUP COMPETITION. To be competed for by other Junior Clubs affiliated to this Association and reserve teams of Clubs competing in the Junior and The Lower Junior Cup Competitions which are considered by the Council to be of suitable standard.

- (f) THE SUNDAY CUP. To be competed for by bona-fide Sunday Clubs only affiliated to this Association and considered suitable standard.
- (g) THE SUNDAY TROPHY. To be competed for by bona-fide Sunday Clubs, and reserve teams of Clubs competing in the Sunday Cup, considered by the Council to be of suitable standard.
- (h) THE SUNDAY VASE. To be competed for by bona-fide Sunday Clubs, and reserve teams of Clubs competing in the Sunday Cup and the Sunday Trophy competitions, considered to be of suitable standard by the council.
- (i) THE VETERANS CUP. To be competed for by bona-fide Veterans Clubs.
- (j) THE WOMEN'S CUP. To be competed for by bona-fide Women's Clubs.
- (k) THE YOUTH INVITATION BOYS CUP. To be competed for by Clubs selected by Council.
- (l) THE YOUTH INVITATION GIRLS CUP. To be competed for by clubs selected by Council.
- (m) THE UNDER 18 DAVID JOYCE CUP. To be competed for by bona-fide U18 clubs with senior teams of step 6 or above.
- (n) THE UNDER 18 YOUTH CUP. To be competed for by bona-fide Under 18 clubs.
- (o) THE FUTSAL CUP. To be competed for by bona-fide Futsal Teams.
- (p) THE WALKING FOOTBALL CUP. To be competed for by Walking Football groups registered with the County FA or from Affiliated Clubs.

The Competitions in which each team shall compete within shall be determined by a matrix agreed upon by the County Cup Committee. This matrix shall allocate the divisions of leagues to a competition according to the standard of football played within said division. Where two teams from the same Club align within the same competition, both teams shall be permitted to compete within the competition but however will be treated as separate entities with the players only being permitted to play for one of the teams.

4. DATES OF CUP TIES.

The dates of which the matches of each Competition shall be played shall be fixed by the Council, but under certain circumstances may be subject to one alteration by agreement with County Cup Committee, other than postponement for weather conditions. Any closed date request during the season will only be considered in the event that the Club has advised their League at least six weeks before the date of the fixture.

5. ENTRANCE FEES.

Clubs shall forward entrance fees by August 1st each year as follows: Hillier Senior Cup £25.00; All other Adult competitions £18.00. The fee for the Youth Competitions is £10.00.

The Futsal Cup entrance fee shall be £15.00 (a small additional fee will be charged to each team for each round they participate in). The Walking Football Cup entrance fee shall be £15.00.

6. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GAME.

(a) Notification

The Secretary of the home club shall notify to their opponents full match particulars including location and directions at least 3 days before the match. Clubs playing in the Hillier Senior Cup and U18 David Joyce Cup must contact the away team to agree match details within 5 days of receiving the cup draw. Notification of the agreed match date must be submitted to the Association. Clubs failing to notify the Association of the match date will be fined £15.

(b) Venue

In all Cup Matches, except Finals, the Club first drawn shall have choice of ground. The Association reserves the right to change the venue of any match if deemed necessary.

The Home Club is required to provide suitable washing and toilet facilities for opponents and match officials, including washing facilities. Failure to provide adequate facilities may result in a fine of £20.

The home team must provide a correctly marked out pitch complete with goal posts, goal nets, corner flags and at least two suitable match balls, failure to do so may result in a fine of £10 in each case.

Both teams must provide suitable first aid equipment for each match, failure to do so may result in a fine of £10.

In all Youth fixtures, the home team is required to provide a respect barrier set at least one metre back from the line on the opposite side of the pitch to the management teams and substitutes, all supporters must stand behind this barrier during game time.

In all matches where assistant referees are appointed, or when instructed by the County Cup Committee, Clubs must provide barriers or roping to ensure no encroaching on the field of play or the impeding of assistant referee. Clubs being unable to comply, due to local conditions must seek guidance of the Association. Failure to comply will be dealt with by the County Cup Committee.

Where technical areas are provided only the Named Substitutes, Coach (Manager), Assistant Coach (Assistant Manager), and persons responsible for the treatment of injuries to players are to be allowed in the technical area, a maximum of 8 persons. In Maunsell or Senior Cup competitions a maximum of 10 persons may be allowed, subject to the agreement of the Referee. All other persons are to remain behind the barriers. Where a technical area is designated, Law 1 of the Laws of the Game to apply. In matches where dug-outs are not provided and a technical area not defined, the Coach (Manager) may convey tactical instructions to players during the match, however the Coach (Manager) must conduct himself, at all times, in a responsible manner.

Only FA Approved 3G and artificial football turf surfaces may be used in the Competitions with the prior consent of the NFA. In the event of a dispute or protest over the suitability of the surface, in accordance with rule 15, the Association will adjudicate with its decision being final and binding. Any protest on suitability must be lodged 5 days prior to the date of the match. The home club shall allow their opposition the opportunity to use the pitch, warm up, and train on the surface prior to kick off. The club using the 3G football turf shall advise their opposition at least 10 days before the match of limitations or recommendations on the type of boot or stud that may be used on the surface.

In the event of a cup match being postponed for two consecutive weeks due to the non-availability of the designated pitch, or weather conditions, the Management Committee may have the power to order the game to be played at the away team ground.

The final ties of all Competitions shall be played on grounds selected by the County Cup Committee who shall have direct control of all the arrangements in connection with the matches.

7. ADMISSION TO CUP TIES.

The charges for Maunsell, Hillier Senior Cup and Les Underwood Cup ties shall not be less than the normal admission charges unless special permission is granted by the Association. The charges for admission to final ties will be determined by the County Cup Committee.

8. APPOINTMENT AND PAYMENT OF REFEREES.

(a) Appointment

In all Cup matches the referee(s) shall be appointed by the Association.

The Association may appoint assistant referees in ties if they deem such a course necessary. Reserve Officials may also be appointed by the Association to all final ties (Fees as per Assistant Referee). Referee and Assistant Referees (when appointed) must arrive at the venue for the match at least 30 minutes before the kick-off.

Where assistant referees are not appointed, both Clubs must provide a suitable assistant Referee. Club Assistant Referees are to report to the Referee not later than 15 minutes prior to kick-off to receive instructions. Clubs failing to provide a Club Assistant Referee may be fined £20.00.

In all matches, except final ties, the secretaries of the Home Clubs shall notify to the appointed Referee and Assistant Referee, full match particulars at least 3 clear days before the match. Failure to do so may result in a fine of £10. Referees must report Clubs, which fail to observe this instruction.

Separate changing accommodation must be provided for the officials appointed to the matches. Two match balls and Assistant Referee flags must be provided by the home team or may be subject to a fine of £10 in each case.

Referees must report short teams, late starts, abandoned matches, failure to provide linesman etc. to the Association.

Appointed Match Officials to wear standard black uniform.

(b) Payment

In all matches except final ties the home Club shall be responsible for paying the Referee his fee and expenses. Such fee and expenses shall be paid at the conclusion of the match.

In Final ties, referees shall not be paid their fees but are entitled to claim their expenses. This does not apply to referees appointed to the Walking Football County Cup competition.

MATCH OFFICIAL FEES

	Referee	Assistant
Maunsell and Senior Cup	£50.00	£34.00
Junior Cup/Lower Junior/Area Cup	£30.00	£20.00
Sunday Cup/Sunday Trophy/ Sunday Vase/Veterans	£30.00	£20.00

Women's Cup	£30.00	£20.00
Under 18 Cups	£30.00	£20.00
Youth Invitation Boys and Girls Cup Cups	£23.00	£17.00
Futsal Cup	£10.00 per hour	£10.00 per hour
Walking Football Cup	£23.00	£17.00

Match Officials may claim travelling expenses from their home address at a rate determined by the Association, currently 35p per mile. If the game is postponed or is not played, and the Referee and/or Assistant Referee are in attendance they will be entitled to half plus expenses.

9. (a) THE MATCH.

Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

In all Cup matches in the event of a draw the match will go straight to penalty kicks.

If a match is played to a conclusion it must be a cup tie, but if for any cause a match is not completed (within the 90 minutes) it must be played again the full time.

Matches abandoned through the fault of the clubs shall be dealt with by the Association.

The half time interval will not be more than 15 minutes.

THE KICK-OFF TIMES SHALL BE:

Senior Cup and U18 David Joyce Cup	7.45pm	
Les Underwood Junior Cup/Lower Junior/Area Cup	2pm	Saturday
Sunday Cup/ Sunday Trophy/ Sunday Vase/Veterans	10.30am	Sunday
Women's Cup	2pm	Sunday
Under 18 Youth Cup	2pm	Sunday
Youth Invitation Boys Under 12	10.30am	Sunday
Youth Invitation Boys Under 14 & 16	2pm	Sunday
Youth Invitation Girls Cup (subject to the choice of the Home team)	10.30am	Saturday
	2pm	Sunday
Futsal Cup and Walking Football Cup	TBC	TBC

No variance to these kick off times is permitted, unless both clubs and the referee are agreed **and** permission is granted by the Association.

The Senior Cup ties must be completed by the end of the week stated.

(b) REGULATIONS FOR YOUTH MATCHES

Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

Duration of Match

U12 60 mins (30 mins each way)

U14 70 mins (35 mins each way)

U16 80 mins (40 mins each way)

U18 90 mins (45 mins each way)

All Youth Under 12 fixtures must kick off at 10.30am on a Sunday whilst all Under 14 and 16 fixtures must take place at 2pm on a Sunday, except where both teams and the Association are in agreement to any change.

A size 4 ball must be used for all Under 12 and 14 fixtures whilst a size 5 ball shall be used for Under 16 and Under 18 fixtures.

At least one team official must have a minimum of FA Level 1 Coaching qualification or equivalent, DBC Clearance and have also attended Safeguarding and FA Emergency Aid courses.

(c) REPLAYS.

There is no provision for replays. If a match is abandoned during penalties, then it is just the penalties that are replayed on the following Saturday/Sunday.

(d) BREACHES OF COUNTY CUP RULES

Reports of short teams, late starts, abandoned matches, failure to provide assistant referees etc. shall be referred to the County Cup Committee, who will determine any action that may be required.

(e) TEAMS SHEETS

For all Maunsell, Hillier Senior, Les Underwood and U18 David Joyce County Cup fixtures the referee and opponents must receive team sheets together with the name of the substitutes not later than 15 minutes before the start of the match. The referee is to report to the NFA any team sheets that are not submitted. Any team failing to comply with this rule will make the Club liable to a fine of £10.

A Player who has been selected, appointed or named as a substitute before the start of the match but does not actually play in the game shall not be considered to have been a player in that game within competition.

10. TEAM COLOURS.

Where the colours, including shirts, shorts and socks, of two competing teams are similar, the visiting team must change. Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from other players and the Referee. All shirts must be distinctly numbered on the back. No player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts. Teams failing to comply will be dealt with by the County Cup Committee.

11. (a) QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

(i) A player eligible is one who has been a bona-fide registered playing member of the Club registered with either the Football Association or respective League for at least 24 hours prior to the match.

A boneafide playing member is one who has been registered to play in the League in which the Club competes. If the League in which the Club plays has a closing date for registration then, after such closing date, special permission for additional players must be obtained from the Association.

(ii) A player, shall not, in the same season play for more than one Club in the same Saturday Competition, or more than one Club in the Sunday Competition, but may play for an additional Club in a more senior Saturday Competition or a more senior Sunday Competition, provided that he has

been properly transferred/registered, this does not apply to the Maunsell Cup. A player may not return to a lower Competition having played in a more senior Competition.

(iii) Veterans Cup - Players must have attained the age of 35 years on or before 1st September in the current season.

(iv) Youth Competitions - Identity cards with a current photo, duly endorsed by the respective leagues, must be available for inspection at every match.

(v) U18 Cups - A player must be under the age of 18 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

In any competition a player shall not play for more than one competing team in the same season, excepting the David Joyce Cup and the Youth Under 18 Cup where a player may play in one, or both, of these Youth competitions as well as an Adult Saturday or Sunday Cup competition.

(vi) A player becomes eligible to play for their team once they have been registered with their respective league on or before March 31st. However, if they have played in the same or a higher cup for a different team, they will be illegible.

(b) CLUBS WITH TWO OR MORE TEAMS.

Members of each respective team may be changed during the series of matches in any of the Competitions. A player who is a member of the Club with two or more teams entered in two or more Competitions will be ineligible to play in the Lower Competition/s by virtue of his playing in a higher Competition. Clubs who are eligible to enter both Saturday and Sunday Competitions must only play players who are registered for Saturday Football in Saturday Competitions, and those registered for Sunday Football in Sunday Competitions. In exceptional cases permission by the Association, upon request, may be granted for a variance of this rule.

(c) POSTPONED AND ABANDONED MATCHES.

In cases of postponed, abandoned, or replayed matches only those players shall be allowed to play who are eligible on the date originally fixed for the tie to be played, except a player who has been suspended who may play following the expiry of any suspension.

(d) CONTRAVENTION OF RULES OF QUALIFICATION.

Any Club contravening this Rule may be struck out of the Competition, and may be fined a minimum of £30.00.

(e) SUBSTITUTIONS.

In the Hillier Senior Cup or Les Underwood Junior Cup, a Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use 3 substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from 5 players.

Substitutions will be 7 from 7 for the Maunsell Cup Final only.

In all other competitions 5 substitutes players may be used from 5 players selected.

A player who has been substituted himself becomes a substitute and may replace a player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than 15 minutes before the start of the match and a Player not so named may not take part in that match.

A player who has been selected, appointed or named as a substitute before the start of the match but does not actually play in the game shall not be considered to have been a player in that game within the meaning of Rule 8 of this Competition.

12. FAILING TO FULFIL FIXTURE.

Any Club refusing to play, failing to play, scratching from playing, or failing to complete the match against the Club with whom it has been drawn within the time stated, may be struck from the competition.

The Club may also be fined £500 for the Maunsell and Hillier Senior Cup, £100 for Les Underwood Junior Cup, £75 for all other adult competitions, U18 David Joyce Cup and the U18 Youth Cup and £35 for all other Youth Cups.

13. RESULT OF THE MATCH.

Clubs are asked to text the result of the match to the Association via the FA Full Time text service.

A result sheet, with name of the players, shall be sent by both of the competing Clubs to the Association within 3 days after the match has been played. Email or posting to full time is acceptable.

Clubs failing to comply with this rule may be subject to a fine of £20.

Incorrect or falsified result sheets will be referred to the County Cup Committee, who will deal with as deemed necessary.

14. MATCH EXPENSES.

In all Competitions, including replayed matches, the following charges may be made if applicable:

- Printing, Postage and Advertising
- Policing
- Referees and Assistant Referee
- Floodlights (not exceeding £75), pitch as per cost of hire from local authority or a maximum of £70 if privately owned, in the case of a 3G pitch a maximum of £100
- Travelling costs of visitors, which shall be based on a maximum of 4 cars - mileage allowance, rate as determined by the Association, currently 35p, which must be assessed from the headquarters of the visiting Club to the pitch or dressing rooms of the home Club and for the return journey.

When gate receipts are taken, if after expenses have been deducted, any surplus or losses are to be equally divided between competing Clubs. When no gate receipts are taken the total cost of the match is to be divided between the competing Clubs.

(a) If any match is ordered to be replayed in consequence of breach of Rules, the Club in default shall not receive any share of the proceeds of such replayed matches (except cost of travel) without the consent of the Council, and such consent will only be given under special circumstances. If consent is not given the share shall be taken by the Association.

(b) In the Maunsell Senior Cup, the Association and competing Clubs are to equally share the net gate. If any loss is sustained the Association and competing Clubs are to share such loss.

In all other competitions, the Association shall take the gross gate and be responsible for all expenses.

15. PROVISIONS CONCERNING PROTESTS

All issues relating to the interpretation of the Competition Rules, shall be referred to the County Cup Committee, whose decision shall be, subject to Rule 16, final and binding. The County Cup Committee shall consider any such matter and following such procedures as it considers appropriate. The County Cup Committee shall not be bound by any enactment or Rule of Law relating to the admissibility of evidence in proceeding before a Court of Law.

Where a club wishes to protest that there has been a breach of the Competition rules, such protest must be made in writing and must contain the particulars of the grounds upon which it is made.

The County Cup Committee may make such orders as it considers appropriate in relation to any issue or protest referred to it. The County Cup Committee may make such orders as it considers appropriate as to the costs incurred by the parties or the Association.

Any protest relating to the ground, goal posts or bars or other arrangements of the game shall not be considered by the County Cup Committee unless an objection has been lodged with the referee and the home club at least one hour before the official time of the kick off. The referee shall require the home club to correct the cause of the objection, if this is possible without unduly delaying the progress of the match.

Where an objection has been lodged with the referee and the home club as above, a protest must be made to the Association and neither objection or protest may be withdrawn, except by leave of the County Cup Committee.

The Association shall send a copy of any protest to the club protested against, which shall lodge a defence to the protest with particulars of the defence within two working days of receipt of the protest.

Members of the County Cup Committee directly connected with a club concerned in a protest (including membership of a league the club competes in) shall not have any involvement in the consideration of the matter.

A club, or a player or any person directly connected with the management of the club may be summoned to attend at a hearing of a protest. A club may be represented by one or more persons. A barrister or solicitor may represent a club only with prior written consent of the County Cup Committee. Any person summoned to attend a hearing of a protest must attend personally and shall not be legally represented except with the prior written consent of the County Cup Committee.

16. PROVISIONS CONCERNING APPEALS

A club that is expelled from the competition may appeal against the decision to an appeal board in accordance with the procedures for NFA appeals with the exception that, in the interests of expediency, the notice and grounds for the appeal must be lodged within 5 days of the County Cup Committee's decision to expel the club.

Any such appeal shall only be permitted on one or more of the following grounds:

- (i) The County Cup Committee, or Sub-Committee, failed to give the club a fair hearing; and
or
- (ii) The County Cup Committee, or Sub-Committee, misinterpreted or failed to comply with the Rules of the Competition relevant to its decision; and/or
- (iii) The County Cup Committee, or Sub-Committee, came to a decision to which no reasonable such body could have come; and/or
- (iv) The County Cup Committee, or Sub-Committee, imposed a penalty, award, order or sanction that was excessive.

For the avoidance of doubt, a club may not appeal against any penalty imposed on it other than expulsion from the competition.

17. POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

If the County Cup Committee should subsequently discover that any rule or spirit of the rules has, in their opinion, been violated by mutual agreements or otherwise, it shall be in the power of The County Cup committee to disqualify one or both Clubs from further competing in the ties, or order the match or matches to be replayed and to impose such other penalty as it may think fit without any protest having been laid by either or any Club. The County Cup Committee reserves the right to re-instate any club to a competition.

All questions of eligibility, disqualification of players, interpretation of the Rule or Laws of the game, as well as other matters in dispute, shall be referred to the County Committee and thereafter the Council, whose decision shall be final.

18. PROGRAMMES FOR FINALS.

A programme will be produced for all finals. After winning their Semi Final match each finalist is required to submit information, as requested by the Association, for the programme by the deadline set. Failure to do so will result in an administration fine of £25.

19. CUPS AND TROPHIES.

Following the presentation of the Trophy, a representative of the Association shall ensure that two representatives of the Club sign a document on behalf of the Club accepting same in good condition.

The Trophy to be returned to the Secretary of the Association in good condition on or before the 1st March each year. Any Club failing to return the Cup, properly engraved by 1st March may be fined £50.00. If the Cup be destroyed, damaged, or not in good conditions when returned, the Club concerned shall be responsible for all expenses incurred in the repair or replacement.

20. MEMENTOES.

The Association will present mementoes to the winners of the final tie. Mementoes will also be presented to the runners-up in all Competitions.

In order to recognise the service of those Secretaries with at least 5 years' service, whose Clubs competed in the Final Ties of all Competitions, a memento similar to those presented to the players will be awarded to such Secretaries following an application to the Association in writing.

When a player taking part in any final tie of the Competition is ordered to leave the field of play for misconduct, the award to which he is entitled may be withheld until the matter has been dealt with by the Association.

Applications to purchase extra mementoes with name of Players will be dealt with by the County Cup Committee.

In final ties of Competitions, the appointed Referees, Assistant Referees and Reserve Officials will receive a memento.

The Association may also award a player of the match and a club volunteer award

Administration of County Cups – Season 2020 - 2021

The County Cup Committee has appointed the following Members of the Committee, to assist the Office in administrating the County Cup Competitions for season 2020-2021.

Should you have any queries in respect of any of the Competitions the first point of contact is:

Callum White or Harley Collyer on info@northantsfa.com

If your query is out of work hours (Monday to Friday 9am-5pm), or during the 24 hours prior to the relevant Cup Tie, the following will try to assist:

Maunsell Cup – John Moriarty (07931132911) / Tony Major (07887875671)

Hillier Senior Cup – Pat Ashby (07969825636) / Tony Major (07887875671)

Les Underwood Junior Cup – Mick Walden (07817841752)

Lower Junior Cup – Richard Gardener (07892666098)

Area Cup – Pete Gurnham (07966228275)

Sunday Cup – Dave Kitchen (01933 311267)

Sunday Trophy – Tony Nash (07515259900)

Sunday Vase – Paul Clarke (01733 266223)

U18 David Joyce – Neil Griffin (07881827188)

U18 Youth Cup – Rob Gross (07786635787) / James Duddington (07928405868) / Lesley Jones (07905828502)

U12/U14/U16 Boys Invitation - Rob Gross (07786635787) / James Duddington (07928405868) / Lesley Jones (07905828502)

Girls / Womens – Dave Conway (07785791930)

Veterans Cup – John Moriarty (07931132911)

Should you find it necessary to call a member of the committee, please respect their privacy and do not call after 9.00pm