

The Football Association Challenge

The Cup Final

Cup Final Facts

- The match is widely known as just the **Cup Final**.
- It is the last match in the **Football Association (FA) Challenge Cup**.
- From 2015 to 2018 it was also known as the **Emirates FA Cup**.
- It has about **86 000 stadium spectators** and millions of TV viewers on the BBC Sport channel.
- A women's tournament is held at the same time, the **FA Women's Cup**.
- The **FA trophy** (winner's cup) is only on loan to the winning side.
- It is the oldest cup competition in the world, first played in the **1871 - 72** season.
- The 2016 champions were **Manchester United**.

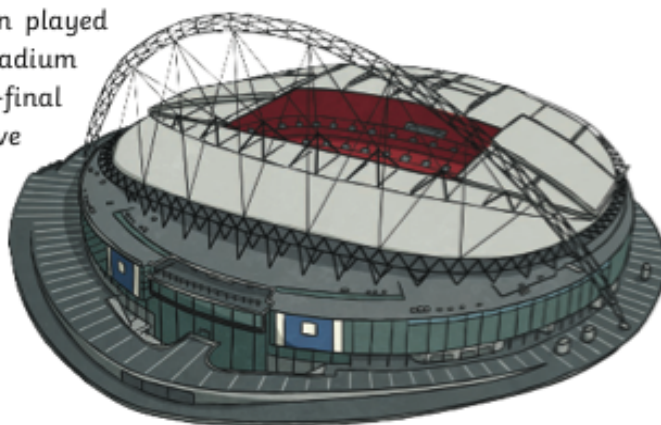
Who Can Enter?

The Challenge Cup competition is open to any club in the top ten levels of the English Football League. Once clubs have registered to play, the tournament is organised into 12 randomly drawn rounds, followed by the semi-finals and finals. The higher ranked teams join the competition in later rounds.

Where Are the Matches Held?

The first 12 round matches will usually be played at the home ground of one of the two teams. From 1923 to 2000, the old Wembley Stadium hosted the finals.

The final match has been played at the rebuilt Wembley Stadium since 2007 and the semi-final and final matches have been played there since 2008.



What Do the Winners Receive?

The winners of the final match receive the Football Association Cup, the FA Cup. It comes in three parts, the base, the cup and a lid. Over the years, there have been two designs of trophy and five different cups. The first cup, known as the 'little tin idol', was stolen in 1895 and never returned. The FA fined Aston Villa £25 to pay for a replacement as it was stolen whilst they had it in their care. An exact replica was made and used until 1910. From 1911, a new design was made. It was larger than the previous trophy, standing 61.5cm high. In 1992, another copy was made as the cup was wearing out from being handled, and another replacement was made in 2014. This took over 250 hours to make and weighs 6.3kg of solid silver. The cup is presented at the end of the match, giving the engraver just five minutes to engrave the winning team on the silver band on the base. The cup has ribbons from both teams decorating it during the final. The loser's ribbon is removed before the presentation.

Each club in the final match is given 30 winners or runners-up medals. These are given to players, staff and officials.

Fantastic Final Facts

Most wins:

Arsenal and Manchester United (12)

Most appearances in a final:

Arsenal (20)

Most defeats:

Everton (8)

Biggest winning margin:

6 goals (Bury v Derby County, 6-0)

Most goals in a final:

7 goals (Blackburn Rovers v Sheffield Wednesday, 6-1 and Blackpool v Bolton Wanderers, 4-3.)

Most appearances without losing:

Wanderers (5)

Most appearances without winning:

Leicester City (4)

Youngest FA Cup finalist:

Curtis Weston of Millwall (17 years 119 days.)

Oldest FA Cup finalist:

Billy Hampson of Newcastle United (41 years and 257 days.)

Most individual wins:

Ashley Cole (7)

Most individual appearances:

Arthur Kinnaird (9)

Did You Know?

- The first winners of the cup in 1872 were Wanderers, who also won it the following year.
- The Challenge Cup was suspended in 1915 - 1919 because of the First World War.
- In 1923, the final was played at the newly opened Wembley Stadium.
- The Challenge Cup was suspended again between 1939 - 1945 because of the Second World War.
- Tottenham Hotspur is the only non-league club to win the Cup (against league runners-up, Sheffield United, in 1901).
- 4 FA finals have finished goalless.
- In 1971, Alvechurch and Oxford City had to play 6 games to eventually produce a winner – the first five being drawn matches; an amazing 11 hours of football!

