

## FA COMPETITIONS



THE FA are piloting Non-League finals day this season with the FA Trophy and FA Vase finals both played on the same day under the arch at Wembley – 61 per cent back the idea.

Almost 75 per cent think the home of English football is the best place to play the showpiece games. It seems our readers are sticklers

for tradition with 79 per cent against the idea that the FA Trophy should become a midweek competition. The stats also come out in favour of keeping the FA Cup as it is. Just 16 per cent would scrap replays and only 23.52 per cent would seed the first-round draw to guarantee a Non-League club plays a Football League club.

Should Step 1 clubs come into the FA Trophy sooner?

Yes 42.27%  
No 57.73%

Should Step 2 clubs come into the FA Trophy sooner?

Yes 46.13%  
No 53.87%

Should Step 1 and 2 clubs come in from the start?

Yes 31.74%  
No 68.26%

Should FA Trophy and FA Vase replays be scrapped?

Yes 45.07%  
No 54.93%

Are you in favour of both FA Trophy and Vase finals being played on the same day?

Yes 60.69%  
No 39.31%

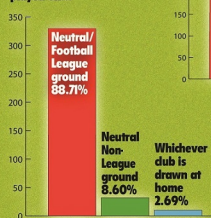
Do you think the FA Trophy should be a midweek competition?

Yes 21.30%  
No 78.70%

Is Wembley a suitable venue for both finals?

Yes 72.12%  
No 27.88%

If no should the game be played on...



Do you think Vanarama National League clubs disrespect the FA Trophy?

Yes 45.97%  
No 54.03%

Should FA Cup replays be scrapped?

Yes 19.34%  
No 80.66%

Should clubs be seeded to guarantee that a Non-League club draws a Football League club in the first round of the FA Cup and beyond?

Yes 23.52%  
No 76.48%

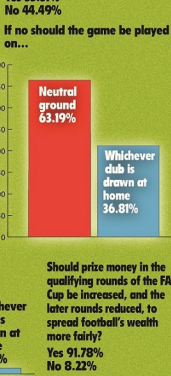
Should the draw be seeded to ensure the Non-League clubs is drawn at home in the first round of the FA Cup and beyond?

Yes 18.01%  
No 81.99%

Should FA Trophy semi-finals be two-legged?

Yes 55.51%  
No 44.49%

If no should the game be played on...



Should prize money in the qualifying rounds of the FA Cup be increased, and the later rounds reduced, to spread football's wealth more fairly?

Yes 91.78%  
No 8.22%

# NLP'S BIG FAT NON-LEAGUE SURVEY

## THE RESULTS!

### STRUCTURE, WEMBLEY AND REFS – THE DEBATE ROLLS ON

## DISCIPLINE

THE RESPECT campaign hasn't improved player and coaches behaviour according to 61 per cent of people.

The Football Association's plan to target dissent and foul and abusive language still has a way to go.

Managers are the worst offenders in the opinion of the 63 per cent of respondents, who think there is too much bad language at Non-League

grounds. Bosses and coaches took 38 per cent of the vote, players 32 per cent, while fans came in at 30 per cent.

Officials will always get stick. Interestingly when asked about the standard of refereeing, 43 per cent agreed it is adequate at their level. Just 12 per cent – or 143 people – have seen an official wearing boots that weren't black.

Has the Respect campaign had any positive effect on player and coach behaviour?

Yes 39.22%  
No 60.78%

Should suspensions kick in straight away at all levels?

Yes 86.50%  
No 13.50%

Should there be one central database for players at the FA, rather than County FAs tracking registrations and suspensions?

Yes 90.32%  
No 9.68%

Should Sunday football suspensions count in Saturday football?

Yes 53.23%  
No 46.77%

Have you ever seen a match official wear boots that weren't black?

Yes 12.14%  
No 87.86%

If a match official is injured or taken ill, should a match be played to completion even if both sides can't agree on a replacement?

Yes 61.54%  
No 38.46%

Is it right that a manager or coach should not be allowed to watch the rest of the match when they have been sent off, as in the Football Conference?

Yes 69.19%  
No 30.81%

What is the standard of refereeing at the level you watch most?

Should there be a time limit for player ineligibility to be spotted?

Yes 65.53%  
No 34.47%

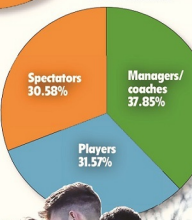
If yes should that time be...



Is there too much bad language used in Non-League football grounds?

Yes 62.90%  
No 37.10%

If yes who are the worst offenders?



It's time for transparency when it comes to transfer fees according to the 1,286 responses to The NLP's Big Fat Non-League Survey. Our readers want an end to 'undisclosed fees' with \$3.48 per cent calling for all fees to be declared at the time of the move.

Whether it's £100,000 or a bag of footballs and some water bottles, fans feel they have the right to know how much their club has forked out or received for selling the star striker.

It's the same with loan fees as 74 per cent agreed they too should be declared.

To take it further, 65 per cent would also like to see clubs made to publish their wage budget as they do in American sports.

Salary caps are a closer run thing, with 60 per cent in favour and 40 per cent against.

The loan system is under threat by new FIFA regulations – £2.55 per cent think being able to sign a player on loan is a good thing.

Should all transfer fees be declared at the time of the move?

Yes 83.49%  
No 16.51%

Should all loan fees be disclosed?

Yes 74.38%  
No 25.62%

Should clubs have to publish their wage budget?

Yes 65.02%  
No 34.98%

Should there be a salary cap at each level of Non-League?

Yes 60%  
No 40%

Should the transfer window be scrapped?

Yes 53.96%  
No 46.04%

Are you in favour of the loan system?

Yes 82.55%  
No 17.45%

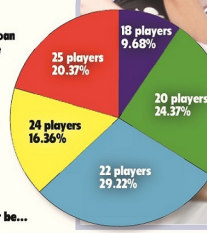
Should clubs be allowed to loan players to teams in the same division?

Yes 52.09%  
No 47.91%

Should there be a limit to the number of players allowed in a first-team squad?

Yes 48.43%  
No 51.57%

If yes should that number be...



## RESTRUCTURING

EVERY week The NLP's postman delivers a pile of letters calling for a re-think into how the Non-League Pyramid is structured. Our survey shows 59.77 per cent are happy how it is. Of those who want a change, 54.75 per cent would like to see a change back to three divisions feeding into Non-League's top flight.

And when asked, 'Should there be a fourth league and Step 3 level (i.e. a Midland Division)?' 61 per cent said yes. Hereford and Salisbury are two clubs re-starting this season after going bust in their previous guise. They both go again at Step 5 but 72 per cent of you think new clubs should be forced to start at Step 7.

Should the Pyramid remain as it is?

Yes 59.77%  
No 40.23%

If no, would you like to see three divisions feeding into the top-flight once again?

Yes 54.75%  
No 45.25%

Should all newly-formed phoenix clubs be forced to start life at step 7?

Yes 72.04%  
No 27.96%

If no which level do you think is acceptable...



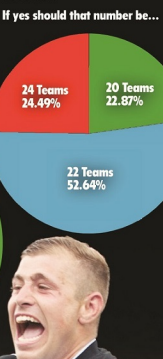
Should there be a fourth league and Step 3 level (i.e. a Midland League)?

Yes 67.11%  
No 32.89%

Should there be a uniform number of teams in each division throughout the pyramid?

Yes 76.07%  
No 23.93%

If yes should that number be...



SHAKEN AND STIRRED: Our readers say the Respect campaign has a way to go. PICTURE: Wilson/Nun



BACK IN BUSINESS: But over 72 per cent of fans think the likes of Hereford FC should re-start life at Step 7. PICTURE: Wilkinson Photography