

CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION

RULES

1. The Cup shall be called the "Mid-Ulster Football Association Challenge Cup".
2. The competition shall be annual and open to all registered **Intermediate and Senior Clubs** of the Association subject to the approval of the Council. Only one team per club shall be permitted to compete.
3. No player shall play for more than one Club during the season. All players must be registered members of their Club before the tie.

All professional players shall be deemed to be members from the date of their registration with the Association.

An amateur must be registered playing member of his Club in its respective competition previous to the tie. The changing of his status by an amateur shall not effect his membership.

- 3.a. Application for permission to compete in this competition shall be made not later than the 1st September, accompanied by an entrance Fee decided annually by the Council.
4. In case of protests or if the Council have doubts as to the qualifications of any player taking part in the Competition, they shall have the power to call upon such a player or the Club for which he has played to prove that he is qualified according to the Rules and failing satisfactory proof the council shall suspend such a player and dismiss the Club from the competition and impose such other penalty as they think fit.

6. In the event of a drawn match, extra time shall be played and should the score be equal at the end of extra time, the match shall be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the conditions approved by the International F.A. Board. In the event of a draw after extra time in the Final tie of this competition the Council as they see fit may order a replay or may decide the match shall be decided by the taking of kicks from the Penalty Mark in accordance with P.A. Board.
7. The secretary shall inform each Club in the competition of the name of their opponents and their colours. Should two Clubs be drawn and only one have a private ground the match shall be played there.
8. Any club failing to play the Club against which it has been drawn within the time intimated and without sufficient reasons for doing so, shall be adjudged to have lost the match and should either refuse to compete, such clubs shall be dismissed from the competition. The Council shall have power to deal with offending Club(s), player(s) or official(s) as they may think fit and to deal with any matter not provided for in these Rules.
9. The competing Clubs in all but the last three rounds of the competition shall appoint the Assistant Referees unless otherwise arranged by the council but in all the matches, the council shall appoint the referee, who shall have the power to dispense with the services of the assistant Referees, in case he finds one or other giving decisions at variance with the facts.

10. Unless by mutual agreement the referee in any of the competition matches shall not be a member of either of the competing Clubs and in the case of the Semi-Final and Final ties, the Assistant Referees shall be appointed by the Council.
11. Protests and appeals must be received by the Secretary of the Association per **Special Delivery Letter** bearing the post mark within two days thereafter (Sunday not included) accompanied by a deposit of £50 which shall be forfeited in all cases where protest or appeal has not been sustained a copy of protest or appeal must also be sent by **Special Delivery Letter** to the Club protested against bearing postmark within two days thereafter (Sundays not included). In no case will the deposit be returned after receipt by the Secretary of the Association, unless the protest or appeal be upheld, or not considered. Any objection to the ground, goalposts or ball must be lodged in writing by the captain for the day with the Referee before the game and the Referee shall have the power to have such objection made right before the game starts.
12. If the Council are satisfied the supporters of the Club which has choice of ground have systematically interfered with the play of visiting Clubs by verbal and/or physical intimidation, the Council shall have power to order the match to be played on another ground, neutral if possible.
13. A club at its discretion may use three substitute players at any time in any tie, except to replace a player who has been expelled by the referee.

The substitution can only be made when the play has stopped for any reason and the referee has given permission. Only three substitutions by each side will be permitted in any tie and a maximum of five substitute players may be nominated prior to the commencement of the tie.

14. When the winning Club shall have been declared the Secretary of the Association shall hand the cup to its representative on receiving a document to the following effect, and subscribed by three persons, whose names shall be previously submitted to and approved by the Council of the Association. "We A. B. Chairman of the X. Y. Z. Club and C. D. and E. F. which has now been declared to have won the Mid-Ulster Football Association Challenge Cup, and the said Cup having been delivered to us by J. K. Secretary of the said Association do hereby on behalf of the said Club, and individually and collectively engage to return the same to J. K. Secretary or Secretary of the Association for the time being on or before the 1st day of February next in good order and condition, and providing the said Cup is destroyed by fire or lost by any other accident whilst in our possession, we agree to refund the amount of current valuation as stated by the Association.".
15. In addition to the Cup the Council may present mementos to the winners of the Final Tie.
- 16a. In all rounds, except the final, the teams which are in each instance first drawn in the ballot and known as the "Home Team" shall play on the ground registered with the Association.
- 16b. In all matches except the Semi-Final and Final, the competing Clubs shall equally share gate receipts after deduction of match expenses.

In each Semi-Final, the Competing Clubs and the Council shall equally share gate receipts after deduction of match expenses.

17. Finalists of the Mid-Ulster Shield Competition and any other Club whom the Council may think fit, may be invited to compete in the Cup competition.
18. The Council shall have power to alter these Rules but in no case shall they do so until after the Final tie shall have been played.
19. Referees' fees shall be fixed annually by the Council.
20. In adverse weather conditions the home Club must contact the Mid-Ulster football association to organise a Referee's inspection. Only a Referee appointed by the Mid-Ulster association shall have the power to postpone ties.
21. In the event of two Teams having the same Registered Colours the Home Team to change.
22. In a Semi-Final or Final tie, or any other tie played on a neutral ground, where opposing team have similar colours, both teams shall change unless they are agreed that only one need do so.