

MID-ULSTER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

LADIES MID ULSTER CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION

RULES 2026

Name

1.

The Cup shall be called “Ladies Mid-Ulster Cup.”

Annual Competition

2.

The Competition shall be annual and open to all registered Ladies Clubs of the Association with invited clubs subject to approval of the Mid Ulster F.A. Council.

Entries Etc.

3.

Application for permission to compete in this competition shall be made not later than 01st. June, accompanied by an entrance fee decided annually by the Council. This decision shall affect the club for one season only. Only one team from each club shall be permitted to compete.

Qualification of Players

4.

a) To be eligible to play in the competition players must be eligible to play for their club in their respective league competitions.

b) No player shall be eligible to play in this competition for more than one club in the same season. Clubs must satisfy themselves as to the eligibility of their players.

c) Any club playing an ineligible player shall be removed from the competition and may be debarred from the competition for three seasons.

d) The committee shall have the power to suspend any offending player or official and may impose a fine not exceeding £50 for each ineligible player and may withhold the cup and mementos if they are satisfied that such club has violated the rules during the course of the competition.

e) Completion of Team Line Up

1) Each club shall complete their official team line up by including the names of players and Team officials and their functions taking part in each match (including the name of the nominated substitutes) and confirm the line up via Comet FMS **30** minutes prior to kick-off.

2) Players' names must correspond with the numbers assigned on the official team line up. The Club Comet user shall be considered to verify the accuracy of the information provided on the team sheet via Comet FMS.

3) Any club failing to provide such documentation by the stipulated deadlines will be fined in the sum of £25 for each offence.

4) The match Referee will not permit the match to commence until both teams have confirmed their line ups and will report any such offence to the Competition Secretary.

5) Once confirmed, line ups cannot be amended/alterd unless permission is granted by the Match Referee. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action being taken against Club(s) concerned.

6) Teams who cause a kick-off to be delayed by late confirmation of line-ups will be fined an additional £20.

7) In the event that a Club official is deemed guilty of falsifying a team line up on the Comet Games Management system, the Council shall have powers to deal with such a matter as they deem appropriate.

8) Should the Games Management system be unavailable on match days, The Referee will require teams to complete Match cards, subject to confirmation from the Competition Secretary.

9) – Replacement of Players on the Team Line Up

After the team sheets have been completed and submitted, and if the match has not yet kicked off, the following shall apply:

a) If any of the first eleven players named on the team line up are not able to start the match due to unexpected physical incapacity, they can be replaced only by any of the seven (7) substitutes named on the confirmed team line up. The substitute(s) in question can then be replaced by a player(s) not named on the initial team line up, so that the quota of substitutes is not reduced. During the match, five (5) players can still be substituted. The replaced player(s) must be removed from the team line up and not be available for selection for this fixture.

b) If any of the seven (7) substitutes named on the team line up are not able to be fielded due to unexpected physical incapacity, they can be replaced by any player not named on the confirmed team line up, so that the quota of substitutes is not reduced. During the match, five (5) players can still be substituted. The replaced player(s) must be removed from the team line up and not be available for selection for this fixture.

c) Any amendments to the team line up in accordance with points a) and b) above must be communicated to the opposing team manager by one of the Match Officials as soon as possible prior to the commencement of the match.

Substitutes

5.

a) A club may at its discretion, use five substitute players at any time in any tie, except to replace a player who has been expelled from the game by the referee. The substitutions can only be made when play has stopped for any reason and the referee has given permission.

b) Clubs may nominate a maximum of seven substitute players, from which five substitutions shall be permitted.

c) Exceptionally, a sixth substitute may take part exclusively during extra time in any match.

d) Substitutions may only be made on at most three occasions during the game (excluding half time).

e) Substitutions made during half-time, between the end of normal playing time and extra time, and at half-time during extra time do not reduce the number of stoppages in play that can be used.

f) A player who has been substituted may take no further part in the match.

6.

Each club must forward to the secretary of the Association each year, the name and addresses of its Secretary, its telephone number, email address and its colours. In the event of a change of Secretary, address, telephone number or email address, the same must be notified to the secretary of the Association.

7.

a) 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.

b) If the registered ground is available it will not be necessary for the visiting team, or the secretary of the Association to receive any further notification, but if the match is being transferred to another ground it will be the responsibility of the team drawn at home to notify both their opponents and the secretary of the Association within reasonable time of any such transfer.

c) Suitable changing accommodation with showers should be provided by the home club.

When postponed games must be played

(7/1)

In the event of the match not taking place on the date arranged owing to the ground being declared unplayable by the Referee or in the case of public Grounds by Local Authorities.

The teams shall forthwith arrange to play one week later.

In the event of the match not taking place on the second arranged date due to circumstances as in 7(1) the clubs will arrange to play the following week on the grounds of the "Away Team" and if not played on this day due to weather conditions arrangements must be made to play at the same location on the following week.

(7/2)

In the event of a match not taking place on the second attempt at the grounds of the original "Away" team the tie will revert from the following week to alternate weeks at the home and away grounds.

Duration of a Match / Extra Time

8.

a) The duration of each match shall be 90 minutes. The match must be started at the time appointed by the Committee, but no protest will be upheld of late starting, unless the Committee is satisfied that the result of the match was affected by such delay.

b) The referee shall have power to allow additional time for stoppages, their decision thereon to be final.

c) If a match has been stopped by the referee, before the completion of the time specified, for any reason stated in Law 5 of the Laws of the Game, the Committee shall have power to deal with the matter as they may determine.

d) Kicks from the Penalty Mark

In the event of any match resulting in a draw, extra time of ten minutes each way shall be played, and should the score be equal at the end of this period 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 FA Board.

Protests

9.

a) Protests must be received by the secretary of the Association per **Special Delivery Letter** bearing post mark within two days (Sunday not included) after cause of the protest or appeal accompanied by a deposit of £50.

b) A copy of the protest must be sent per **Special Delivery Letter** to the club protested against, bearing post mark within two days (Sunday not included) after cause of the protest or appeal.

c) Any objection to the ground or goal posts or ball must be lodged in writing by the captain for the day with the referee. The referee shall have the power to have such objections made right before the game starts.

d) Protests against ineligible players must give the names of players protested against and also cause of protests.

Referee and Assistant Referees'

10.

The competing clubs in all but the semi-final and final ties shall appoint the Assistant Referees', unless otherwise arranged by the Council, but in all the matches the Council shall appoint the referee, who has 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 and appoint substitutes.

If no referee is appointed, or arrives to officiate at a match the practice of the two teams tossing for the referee should not occur and the match should not take place.

11.

Any club intending to scratch must give notice to the Secretary of the Association and to the secretary of the opposing club, such notice to be received at least four days before the date of the match. Any club failing to conform to this rule shall be dealt with by the Council who have the power to compel the offending club to pay such expenses or may take such action as they may deem expedient.

12.

The venue for the Semi-Final shall be the home ground of the first drawn in the Semi-Final draw.

13.

In all matches other than the Semi-Finals and the Final, the club on whose ground the match is played shall take all receipts and pay all expenses.

14.

In each semi-final and final the competing clubs and the Council shall equally share receipts after deduction of match expenses. Mementos for the winners of the Final may be awarded.

15.

In the event of two teams having the same registered colours the home team to change.

16.

The secretary shall inform each club in the competition of the name of their opponents and their colours.

Clubs failing to play

17.

Any club failing to play the club against which it has been drawn within the time intimated and without sufficient reason 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 the power to deal with the offending club or clubs, player(s), official(s) as they may think fit and to deal with any other matter not provided for in these rules.

18.

In semi-final and final ties, The Assistant Referees' shall be appointed by the Council.

19.

In a Semi-Final or Final tie, or any other tie played on a neutral ground, where opposing have similar colours, both teams shall change unless they are agreed that only one need do so.

Powers of Committee / Alterations to Rules

20.

- a) The Council shall have power to deal with any other matter not provided for in these rules.
- b) In all cases under these Rules Sunday shall not be taken into account in computing the time required in any matter arising out of these Rules.
- c) These rules shall not be altered, annulled, or added to, until after the Final Tie has been played.