

MID-ULSTER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

GERALD KENNEDY CUP COMPETITION

RULES 2026

Name

- 1 The competition shall be called the Gerald Kennedy Cup.

Annual Competition

- 2 The competition shall be open to the winners and runner-up in the Mid Ulster Leagues. The Carnbane League, Mid-Ulster Shield, and any other clubs invited.

Ineligible Players / Officials

- 3 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 cup and mementos if they are satisfied that such club has violated the rules during the course of the competition.

- ~~4 (a) The secretary or other responsible official of each competing club shall enter the names of players and team officials and their functions taking part in each match (including the name of the nominated substitutes) for the team line up via Comet FMS 30 minutes prior to kick-off, ensuring the accuracy of the information supplied. Any club not completing the team line up in the prescribed manner shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £20. It shall be at the Council's discretion whether or not such club should be allowed to remain in the competition.~~

4 Completion of Team Lineup

- (a) 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 for matches from qualifying rounds one to the quarter finals and 1 hour prior to kick-off in the semi-finals and final tie.
- (b) 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 line up via Comet FMS.
- (c) Any club failing to provide such documentation by the stipulated deadlines will be fined in the sum of £10 for each offence.
- (d) 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.
- (e) 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. Any change made to the players indicated on the match sheet as forming the starting 11 after the team line ups have been confirmed without providing evidence of an unexpected physical incapacity is considered as a substitution, and the number of substitutions available to the team during the match is reduced accordingly. The replaced player may take no further part in the match.

- (f) Teams who cause a kick-off to be delayed by late confirmation of line-ups will be fined an additional £20.
- (g) In the event that a Club official is deemed guilty of falsifying a team line up on the Comet Football Management system, the Council shall have powers to deal with such a matter as they deem appropriate.
- (h) Should the Football Management system be unavailable on match days, The Referee will require teams to complete Match cards, subject to confirmation from the Competition Secretary

5 Replacement of Players on the Team Line Up due to Unexpected Physical Capacity

After the team line ups 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 five (5) 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, three (3) 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 five (5) 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, three (3) 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 sheet 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

- ~~6 (a) A club may at its discretion use three substitute players at any time in a 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.~~

- ~~(b) 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.~~

- ~~(c) Exceptionally, a fourth substitute may take part exclusively during extra time in all rounds of the competition.~~

- 6 (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 is stopped, and the referee has given permission. Substitute players shall be nominated prior to the commencement of the tie.

- (b) Clubs may nominate a maximum of five substitute players, from which five substitutes shall be permitted.
- (c) Substitutions may only be made on at most three occasions during the game. Exceptionally, one additional substitution stoppage window will be granted to each club should a match proceed to extra time.
- (d) Substitutions made during half-time, between the end of normal playing time and the start of extra time, and at half-time during extra time do not reduce the number of stoppages in play that can be used.

Limitations of Qualifications

- 7 No player shall play for more than one club in the competition.

Entries, etc

- 8 Each club must enter via Comet FMS on or before 20th July, each year, the name and address of its secretary, its telephone number, email address and its colours. In the event of a change of secretary or telephone number or email address, same must be notified to the secretary of the Association.

Method of Drawing

- 9 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. If the registered ground is available it will not be necessary for the visiting team, or the secretary of the Association to receive 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 not later than the Friday of the week previous to the date of the match, failing which the team shall be dismissed from the competition.

Suitable changing accommodation should be provided by the home club.

- (a) 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 team shall forthwith arrange to play on the following Saturday.
- (b) In the event of the match not taking place on the second Saturday due to circumstances as in 8A the clubs will arrange to play the following Saturday 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 Saturday.
- (c) In the event of the match not taking place on the second attempt at the grounds of the original “away” team the tie will revert from the following Saturday to alternate weeks at the home and away grounds.

Extra Time / Kicks from the Penalty Mark

- 10 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 P.A. Board.

Protests

- 11 (a) Protests and appeals must be received by the secretary of the Association per **Special Delivery Letter** bearing post mark within two days (Sunday not included) after the cause of the protest or appeal accompanied by a deposit of ~~£50~~ £60.

Copies must be sent to the Club protested against

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

12 Objection to Ground

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

Referee and Assistant Referees

- 13 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 matches the Council shall appoint the referee, who has the power to dispense with the services of the Assistant Referees in case found 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.

Notice of Scratching

- 14 Any club intending to scratch must give notice to the Secretary of this 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.

Final

- 15 The venue for the ~~semi-final and~~ Final ~~ties~~ shall be decided by the Council.

Division of Receipts

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

Division of Receipts: Final

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

Agreement for Cup

- 18 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. club members of and representing the said club, which has now been declared to have won the Gerald Kennedy Cup having been delivered to 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 for 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 current valuation as stated by the Association.

Players must wear Registered Colours

- 19 (a) In the event of two teams having the same registered colours. The home team to change.
- (b) 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 only one need do so

~~20 The Secretary shall inform each club in the competition of the name of their opponents and their colours.~~

Clubs failing to play

- 20 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, players, official(s) as they may think fit and to deal with any matter not provided for in these rules.

Assistant Referees: Final

- 21 In ~~Semi-Final and the~~ Final ties, the Assistant Referees shall be appointed by the Council.

~~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 only one need do so.~~

22 Powers of ~~Committee~~ Council / Alterations to Rules

- (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.