

RULES OF THE WOMEN'S CHALLENGE CUP

1. Name

This competition shall be called the County Antrim & District FA Women's Challenge Cup Competition.

2. Trustees of the Cup

The President, Vice-President and Honorary Treasurer of the Association shall be, for all intents and purposes, the legal owners of the Cup, in Trust for the Association.

3. Annual Competition

a) The competition shall be annual and open to Clubs approved by this Committee and affiliated to this Association. Such Clubs must be in membership of leagues sanctioned by the IFA Ltd., having been members of such Leagues during the previous season. Only one team from each Club will be admitted to the Competition.

4. Entries

Entries must be made on the Official Online Affiliation Form, and must be received by the Secretary of the Association not later than the last day of February of each year, and be accompanied by an entry fee of £10 per Club. The following must be clearly stated on the Entry Form:

- i. Whether ground is public or private;
- ii. Situation of ground giving full name and address;
- iii. Colours of Club Jersey or Shirt;
- iv. Name and Address of Secretary;
- v. Contact telephone numbers
- vi. email address

In the event of change of Secretary or any other detail initially recorded on the Official Affiliation Form the same must be notified immediately in writing to the Association Secretary.

5. Substitutes

A club may at its discretion, use 3 substitute players at any time in any tie, except to replace players who have been expelled by the referee. The substitutions can only be made when play has stopped for any reason and the referee has given permission. Only 3 substitutions by each side will be permitted in any tie and the maximum of 5 substitute players may be nominated prior to the commencement of the tie.

6. Eligible Players

To be eligible to play in the Competition, players must be eligible to play for their Club in their respective League Competitions. A player registering with her club after 31 July in any season will not be eligible to play in this Competition. Players shall be permitted to play for one club only in any season in the County Antrim FA Women's Challenge Cup. Clubs must satisfy themselves as to the eligibility of their players before registration. Any club playing an ineligible player shall be removed from the Competition and may be de-barred from competing during the ensuing three seasons. The County Antrim FA Women's Cup Committee may also impose a fine not exceeding £25 for each ineligible player played. The Secretary or other responsible official of each competing team shall enter the full names of players on the official Team Sheet and must certify the accuracy of the information supplied. An individual who is proven to have inserted a false name on the official Team Sheet may receive a suspension and/or the club may be fined. Player's names must correspond with the numbers of their shirt. Any club not completing the official Team Sheet in the prescribed manner may be liable to a fine not exceeding £10 and it shall be at the Committee's discretion whether or not such club should be allowed to remain in the Competition. The official Team Sheet may be inspected by the Secretary or other responsible official of either of the competing teams at the conclusion of the match or at the registered offices of the Association.

7. Entry Levels

The CAFA Women's Challenge Cup Committee may determine the entry levels of teams to the competition at their complete discretion.

8. Draw

In the event of any match in the Competition resulting in a draw, extra time of 10 minutes each way shall be played. In the event of the score being equal at the end of this period of extra time the tie will be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the conditions approved by the International FA Board.

9. Drawing of ties (up to and including the Semi-Final)

The lots shall be drawn and the competition matches played as the Committee may determine. Immediately following each draw a schedule of matches will be circulated to all participating clubs.

The clubs which are in each instance first drawn in the ballot shall have choice of ground. Should 2 clubs be drawn against each other, only 1 of which has a ground available, the match shall be played on that ground. In the event of a club getting a bye in any draw, the Committee at the subsequent draw shall first draw a club to play against it from the lot, the two shall again be put in the ballot box and again drawn with the first drawn club having choice of ground.

10. Playing Surfaces

Matches may be played on grass or 3rd generation (3G) artificial turf pitches providing that the latter is at least FIFA 1 star standard.

11. Change of Venue

In the event of a match being transferred to an alternative ground it shall be the responsibility of the team drawn at home to notify in writing, either by email or by Special Delivery post, both their opponents and the Secretary of the County Antrim & District Football Association not later than 7 days previous to the date of the match giving clear directions to the location of the ground. Failure to notify the County Antrim & District Football Association and opponents may result in the team being dismissed from the Competition. If necessary the Committee will permit the playing of the match at either clubs registered or alternative ground if agreed in writing and confirmed to the Association Secretary by both clubs not later than 5pm on the Friday previous to the date of the match.

12. Clubs Failing to Play

Any club refusing or failing to play against the club against which it has been drawn on the date fixed by the Committee, and without sufficient reasons for so-doing, shall be adjudged to have forfeited the match and will be otherwise dealt with as the Committee may determine. Also, any club leaving the ground before the expiration of the game must be adjudged to have forfeited the match and shall be liable to be dealt with by the Committee.

13. International Duty

In the event of a club having two or more players selected to represent their National or Regional Association representative team(s) in a competitive fixture they shall be permitted a postponement of their scheduled fixture during the period of release in respect of such International Duty. Furthermore, a club whose goalkeeper is selected to represent their National or Regional Association representative team(s) shall also be permitted a postponement due to the specialist position.

14. Inclement Weather

In the event of a 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 the Local Authorities, the teams shall forthwith arrange to play on or before seven days hence. In the event of the match not taking place on the arranged date due to circumstances as above, the clubs will

arrange to play on or before seven days hence on the ground 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, again, on or before seven days hence. In the event of the match not taking place on the second attempt at the ground of the original “away team” the tie will revert to alternate weeks at the “Home” and “Away” grounds.

15. Protests

Protests must be received by the Secretary of the Association by Special Delivery post, bearing post mark within 4 days after the cause of the protest, accompanied by a deposit of £20 which shall be forfeited in all cases where the protest has not been sustained. A copy of the protest must also be sent by Special Delivery post, bearing post mark within 4 days after the cause of the protest, to the club protested against.

16. Committee’s doubts as to qualifications of players

If the Committee has any doubt as to the qualification of any player competing in the Competition it shall have the power to call upon such player, and/or the club to which she belongs or for which she played, to prove to the satisfaction of the Committee that she is properly qualified according to the Rules. Failing satisfactory proof the Committee shall have the power to disqualify such player, remove such club from the Competition and impose such other penalty as they may think fit. In such circumstances the Committee shall have the power to reinstate the defeated team to the competition in the event that the following round has not yet taken place.

17. Clubs to appoint Assistant Referees

The competing clubs shall appoint the Assistant Referees to matches unless otherwise directed by the Women’s Cup Committee.

18. Appointment of Referees

In all matches the Association shall appoint the Referee, who shall have the power to dispense with the services of the Assistant Referees of the clubs in the event that he/she finds one or other giving decisions at variance with the facts. The Association shall also appoint Assistant Referees and 4th Officials to the Semi-Final and Final ties.

19. Referees Fees & Expenses

If the Referee fails to turn up, the clubs must agree to one or toss for one and the match under such circumstances shall be considered a Women’s Cup tie. Prior to the Semi-Finals, the club on whose ground a match is played shall pay the referees’ fees and expenses. In the Semi-Final and Final ties the Association shall pay the Referees’ fees and expenses.

20. Players must wear registered colours

The players in each competing team must wear the registered club colours except when opposing teams have similar colours, in which case the team on whose ground the match is being played shall change. Failure to comply will result in offending clubs being fined £50. In all other cases the Committee shall decide which team shall change their colours.

21. Notice of scratching

Any club intending to withdraw (scratch) from the Competition must give notice to the Association and to the Secretary of the opposing club. Such notice must be received at least 4 days before the date of the match. Any club failing to conform to this rule shall be dealt with by the Committee who may compel the offending club to pay the expenses incurred and to take any other action they consider appropriate.

22. Venue for Final

The venue for the Final tie shall be decided by the Committee and shall be neutral. In exceptional circumstances the Committee may permit a match to be played on the ground of either club concerned if both clubs are in agreement.

23. Agreement for Cup

When the winning Club shall have been declared, the Secretary of the Association shall hand the Cup to its representatives on receiving a document to the following effect, and subscribed by club representatives: -

We, A.B., President of the Y.Z. Club, and C.D., E.F. and G.H., members of and representing the said Club, which has now been declared to have won the County Antrim and District Football Association Women's Challenge Cup, and the said Cup having been delivered to us by J.K., Secretary of said Association, do hereby, on behalf of said Club, and individually and collectively engage to return the same to the said J.K., or Secretary of the Association for the time being one month before the final in like good order and condition. No party, other than the Secretary of the Association, is authorised to have engraving or similar works undertaken on the trophy.

24. Medals / Mementoes

In addition to the Cup, the Committee shall present suitable mementoes to the winners and runners up.

25. Division of Receipts

In all Competition Matches, with the exception of the Semi-Final and Final ties, the club on whose ground the match is played shall take the receipts and pay all expenses

26. Division of Balance

In the Semi-Final and Final Ties the net receipts shall be equally divided by the Association amongst the clubs engaged therein, but in the case of all replayed ties the net receipts shall be divided as follows: - one-fourth to the Association and the remaining three-fourths to be equally divided between the competing clubs. In case the expenses in Semi-Finals exceed the receipts, the deficit shall be taken from the Final tie receipts, same being considered as expenses of the match.

27. Committee Powers

The Committee shall have the power to deal with offending club/s, player/s, official/s, as they consider appropriate and to deal with any matter not otherwise provided for in these rules. 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. These Rules shall not be altered, annulled, or added to, until after the Final Tie has been played.