

**RULES
OF THE
SENIOR CHALLENGE SHIELD COMPETITION**

Name

1 The Trophy shall be called "The County Antrim and District Football Association Challenge Shield."

Trustees of Shield

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

Annual Competition

3 The Competition shall be open to all Senior Clubs affiliated to the Association and such guest clubs as the Senior Shield Committee may invite and which could include the approved senior clubs from other Associations.

Entries Etc.

4 Entries must be made on the Official Online Affiliation Form and be received by the Secretary of the Association not later than the 30th June of each year, and must be accompanied by an entry fee of £20.00 per club.

The following must be clearly stated on the Form:

- i - Whether ground is public or private;
- ii - Situation of ground (in Full);
- iii - Colours of Club shirt, socks & shorts;
- iv - Name and Address of Secretary;
- v - Contact telephone numbers
- vi - email address

In the event of a 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. Note - A private ground shall be taken to be a ground over which a Club has sole control, and properly enclosed so as to prevent spectators entering the ground except by the admission gates, and a fee must be charged for all Cup Tie matches. In this competition the dimensions of the field of play shall be – maximum length 130 yards, minimum length 100 yards, maximum breadth 100 yards, minimum breadth 50 yards. A Club may register a private ground at any time during the season, but round in which it is competing. Subsequent registration will annul previous registration and such registration is to be submitted to the Association for approval.

Ground Unfit Appeals may be made to Committee

Cost of Appeal

5 In the event of one of the competing Clubs lodging an objection that the ground of its opponent is not private, the Emergency Committee shall investigate and decide the outcome. The objection must be lodged with the Secretary of the Association five days prior to the date fixed for the match (in drawn ties 48 hours), accompanied by a deposit of £20.00 to cover expenses. In the event of the objection not being sustained the deposit will be forfeited, but should the objection be sustained the Club objected against shall be required to refund same through the Secretary of the Association previous to the tie being played. No protest will be entertained after a match as to the privacy of a ground provided there has been sufficient time to enable Clubs to take advantage of this Rule. Objections under this Rule must be sent to the Secretary of the Association by registered letter.

Objection to Ground

6 Any objection to ground, goal-posts or ball must be lodged in writing by the Captain for the day with the Referee before the game has started, and the Referee shall have power to have such objections made right before the game starts. The Referee shall inspect the ground not less than two hours prior to hour fixed for kick off or as requested by the Senior Shield Committee and shall immediately give his decision as to fitness of ground for play.

Intimidation by Spectators

7 When it can be proven that the partisans of the Club which has the choice of ground, systematically interfere with the play of opposing Clubs, by using abusive, foul or obscene language or inciting the home players to use violence to their opponents, on the application of the Club which is to play against such Club, the Committee shall have power to order the match to be played on another ground if possible.

Qualification of Players

8 Players will be eligible to play in the Senior Challenge Shield provided that on the date of the tie they are eligible to play for their own club in its League Competition.

Limitations of Qualifications

9 No individual shall be allowed to play for more than one competing Team.

10 Notwithstanding anything in any Rule, if the Senior Challenge Shield Committee in the case of the Senior Challenge Shield, have any doubt at any time, and whether arising out of a protest or otherwise, as to the qualification of any player taking part in the competition, they shall have power to call upon such player and / or Club to which he belongs, or for which he played, to prove that he is qualified according to the rules, and failing satisfactory proof, they shall disqualify such player and shall remove the Club from the Competition, and impose such other penalty as they may think fit.

Drawing the Ties

11 (a) The Committee may, if they so desire, prior to drawing the first round, select by ballot or otherwise, a number not exceeding seven from the Clubs entered for the Competition, and shall place the names of the remaining Clubs in one lot, or lots, according to their districts, and draw them in couples. These couples shall compete against each other, and the names of the winning Clubs shall be placed in a lot, or lots, drawn in couples and shall compete as in the first tie, and so on until such tie as the Committee may decide upon. The Committee shall then place the remaining Clubs together with those selected (if any), in a lot, or lots, and draw them in couples in the manner aforesaid, whose couples shall compete until the Final be played, but byes may be given so that four Clubs shall compete in the Semi-Finals.

(b) In the event of a Club getting a Bye in any of the drawings, the Committee, at a subsequent drawing, shall first draw a Club to play against it from the lot, the two shall again be put in the ballot box and drawn, and the first Club drawn shall have the choice of ground. Any Club refusing or failing to play the Club against which it has been drawn on the date fixed by the Committee, and without sufficient reason for so doing, shall be adjudged to have lost the match and otherwise dealt with as the Committee may determine, except in the case of a Club being ordered to play a Cup Tie Match of the Irish Football Association on such date. The Secretary shall call a meeting as soon as possible to arrange a new date to play off said Tie.

(c) Immediately after each drawing, the Secretary shall intimate to each of the Clubs drawn, the name of the Club it is drawn against, and the time within which the Tie is to be played.

(d) The Clubs which are, in each instance, first drawn in the ballot shall have choice of ground. Should two Clubs be drawn against each other only one of which has private ground, the match shall be played there. In the event of neither Club having private ground, the first drawn must procure one. Postponed or abandoned games cannot be played on a Saturday, except in the case of Semi-Final or Final Ties. In the case of protested ties, or replays of same, the Committee shall decide the dates and venues. In the Semi-Final tie, the first drawn team shall host the fixture provided they have a Premiership or Promotion license (At their registered home venue) or in the case of NIFL Championship clubs, have floodlights at their registered home venue. If not, they shall forfeit home advantage. If neither team have a Premiership or Promotion license (At their registered home venue) or in the case of NIFL Championship clubs, have floodlights at their registered home venue the first drawn team shall host the fixture. In the Final Tie, and in all postponed or protested replays thereof, the ground shall be chosen by the Committee of the Association; but if the Clubs agree to play on the ground of either, the Committee may allow the match to be played there. In the Semi-Final and Final Ties the Committee of the Association shall also decide the dates of replays of all postponed, or protested ties.

(e) The Committee may appoint match observers to all or some of the ties in each round as they see fit. Any club objecting to, or refusing to accept the appointment of an Observer to their tie shall be dealt with as the Committee may determine.

(f) The Safety Officer of the host stadium shall have responsibility for all match arrangements in regard to safety and security, including ticketing.

(g) 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.

Referee Team Sheets

12 The full names of players shall be entered on the Official Team Sheet, and a responsible Official of the club must certify the accuracy of the information supplied. Any club not completing the Team Sheet in the prescribed manner shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £10.00. It shall be at the Committee's discretion whether or not such Club should be allowed to remain in the competition. The Official Team Sheets may be inspected by the Secretary or other responsible official of either the competing teams at the conclusion of the match. A copy of the Official Team Sheet may be requested from the Association Secretary by either of the competing Clubs for a fee of £25.00.

Substitutes

13 A club may, at its discretion, use three substitute players at any time in any match except to replace a player who has been suspended from the game by the referee. The substitutions shall only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the referee has given permission. Only three substitutions by each side will be permitted in any match. The maximum number of substitutes permitted to be nominated by each side is seven and must be nominated prior to the commencement of the match.

Players must wear Registered Colours

14 The players in each competing team must wear the registered colours of the Club for which they are playing except when opposing teams have similar colours, in which case the Club on whose ground the match is played shall change theirs. In all other cases the Committee shall decide which team shall change. The colours of the Club shall be taken to be the colours of the shirt or jersey as registered with the Association. A goalkeeper must wear a shirt or jersey of different colour, provided that said shirt or jersey is of a colour distinctive from that of his opponents. Referees shall have power to instruct a player to change a shirt or sweater if he considers the colour not quite distinctive from that of his opponents, and the Referee shall have power to deal with any player refusing to comply with his instructions.

Numbering of Shirts and Jerseys

15 The shirt or jersey of each player must be numbered in accordance with normal practice, i.e., squad numbers or numbered 1 to 16 so that players may be easily identified.

Duration of Match / Extra Time

16 The duration of each match, unless otherwise mutually arranged shall be one-hour and-a-half. The match must be started at the time appointed by the Committee, but no protest will be upheld for late starting unless the Committee are satisfied that the result of the match was affected thereby. The referee shall have power to allow extra time for stoppages, his decision thereon to be final. In all rounds of the competition, including the Final, should scores be level after 90 minutes, 2 x 10 minute periods of extra time will be played. If the scores are still level at the end of extra time, the tie shall be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the conditions approved by the International F.A. Board. If a match has been stopped by the Referee before the completion of the time specified in the rules, for any reason stated in Law 5, the Committee shall have power, either to order the match to be replayed in full, or allow the result of the match at the time of such stoppage to stand. Read Law 5 (Laws of the Game) I.F.A. Handbook.

Referee and Assistant Referees

17 The Committee shall appoint the Referee and Assistant Referees. The Committee may also appoint a 4th Official if deemed necessary.

Protests

18 (a) Protests and appeals must be received by the Secretary of the Association per special delivery bearing post mark within four days after the cause of protest or appeal accompanied by a deposit of £50.00.

Copies must be sent to the Club protested against

19 (b) A copy of the protest or appeal must also be sent by special delivery to the Club protested against. The certificate of posting of such special delivery must bear date stamp within two days after the cause of the protest or appeal and shall be sole proof of date of posting.

Agreement for Shield

20 When the winning Club shall have been declared, the Secretary of the Association shall hand the Shield to its representatives on receiving a document to the following effect, and subscribed by four persons whose names shall be previously submitted to, and approved of by the Executive of the Association: –

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 Association Challenge Shield, and the said Shield 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.

Division of Receipts

21 (a) In all Competition matches, with the exception of the Semi-final and Final Ties, the receipts (including Stands), after payment of the costs pertaining to match officials, security & stewarding, turnstiles, ambulance/first aid cover and ticketing, shall be equally divided between the two competing clubs. (The home club shall ensure that copies of the receipts for such costs are furnished to the away team upon request). Payment shall be made to the away team within 7 days following the date on which the match was played, except when the match has been designated as an 'all ticket' match. In such circumstances, all revenue generated from the sale of tickets by the away team shall be paid to the home team within 7 days following the date on which the match was played together with a reconciliation of unsold tickets (the home team shall then make payment to the away team within 7 days of receiving such revenue). As many as three members of the visiting Clubs shall be allowed to check the gate receipts. The Club, having choice of ground, shall be responsible for advertising and press notices. It is the responsibility of competing clubs to agree existing stadium damage prior to each fixture and the host club must notify this Association, and the relevant club, within 24 hours of any damage caused. Disputed costs may be retained by the Association until the matter is resolved.

Division of Receipts: Semi-Finals

(b) In the Semi-Final Ties the net receipts shall be divided as follows: – 10 percent. to the Association and the balance divided amongst the two competing Clubs; but in the case of replayed ties, the Association shall take 10 percent. and the remaining portion shall be divided equally between the competing Clubs.

Division of Receipts: Final

(c) In the Final tie, after deducting expenses, the remaining portion shall be divided between the Association and the Clubs as follows: – 25 percent. to the Association and the balance equally divided between the teams engaged.

All money generated from the sale of tickets in respect of semi-final and final ties must be submitted by the respective clubs to the Association within 7 days following the date of the match together with a reconciliation of unsold tickets. Non-payment by this deadline will result in penalties described in Association Rule 7(b) being applied.

Medals or Badges

22 The Association will present medals or other mementoes to the winners and runners-up in the competition each season.

Alterations to Rules

23 (a) The Committee shall have power to deal with any 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.