

SuperCupNI

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

TOURNAMENT RULES 2023

- 1 The Tournament shall be known as the SuperCupNI International Youth Football Tournament.
- 2 The Tournament shall be organized by the Directors and Members of the Tournament Management Team and shall be known as the TMT.
- 3 **A** All players participating must be in one of the following age groups:
 - (1) Players born on or after 1st January 2005 - Elite Section
 - (2) Players born on or after 1st January 2007 - Premier Section
 - (3) Players born on or after 1st January 2009 - Junior Section
 - (4) Players born on or after 1st January 2010 - Minor Section

B Each player must produce proof of date of birth at registration, either through birth certificate, passport or Comet Registration Form or player registration card. All players must have photographic ID. No player can take part in the Tournament until the TMT has been satisfied of this requirement. The Directors and TMT reserves the right to introduce whatever additional practical measures available to it in order to establish a player's true age.

C Each team will be limited to a maximum of 18 players. Full details must be lodged with the Tournament Office not later than 11:00 pm on , Sunday 23rd July 2023.

D Each team is required to play in numbered kit or uniform and **each player must use the same number throughout the Tournament.**

E Players and Officials are NOT ALLOWED to display messages promoting drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, betting or gambling on their playing kit, equipment (including kit bags, beverage containers or medical bags etc) or body during time spent in the stadiums, training ground or any other areas where accreditation is required to enable access.
- 4 **A** The Elite, Premier, Junior, and Minor Sections of SuperCupNI are open Tournaments and eligible teams may be either Club teams or teams representing more than one Club. Northern Ireland teams in the Minor Section must be Club teams only and play in a recognized League. Teams shall be invited to apply for entry.

B Northern Ireland teams in the Premier and Junior Sections will be limited to six County Select teams in each Section,

C The Directors and TMT shall have power to accept or reject any application for entry into this Tournament.

D By entering the Tournament, teams undertake to accept the arrangements and decisions made by the Directors and TMT.

Rules 4E to 4P inclusive apply only to Northern Ireland County Select teams in the Premier and Junior Sections

E In order to qualify for a county team the player must satisfy one of the criteria referred to in each of the following paragraphs.

F The player must play for a county in which his natural parents reside. The parent's address is to be confirmed by the production of an original utility bill or any other original document which in the opinion of the TMT satisfies this requirement of residence.

G In the event of a player whose parents reside at different addresses and live in different counties the player must nominate his county by selecting one of his parents as his qualification parent. That parent's address must be confirmed by production of an original utility bill or any other original document which in the opinion of the TMT satisfies and confirms this requirement of residence. Once a player has selected his qualification parent that player is not permitted to change his selection at any time in the future unless that qualification parent is deceased or has permanently moved out of residence of the original county in which he/she resided and the TMT is satisfied that any change of residence is not temporary and in particular is not specifically undertaken so that the player can change his nomination of county at any time in the future.

H In the event where a player's mother and father are both deceased the player will use the address of his legal guardian or his own address or the address of the adult with whom he is permanently residing and that address must be confirmed by the production of an original utility bill or any other document which in the opinion of the TMT satisfies and confirms this requirement of residence. In the event of a player's legal guardians or adults with whom he resides not continuing to live with each other and moving to different addresses then the player shall be permitted to nominate one of those adults or guardians as a qualification adult and in that case again the qualification adult's address must be confirmed by the production of an original utility bill or any other original document which in the opinion of the TMT confirms the requirement for residence.

I The parent of the player or the qualification parent or the qualification adult must be resident in the county for which the player wants to play from the 1st day of May in the year in which the player wishes to play in the competition of the SupercupNI.

J If the player is legally adopted or is being fostered then the rules above shall apply in the same manner to the adults who are adopting or fostering the player concerned.

K Any matters of dispute relating to issues of residence within the county and any issues of dispute regarding county boundaries shall be resolved by the Directors and TMT, which shall be entitled to use all available evidence including Ordnance Survey maps in reaching their decisions as to whether a player can play for any particular county. The decision of the Directors and TMT shall be made at their sole discretion and any decision reached shall be final and binding between all the parties concerned. **For the sake of clarification post codes are not evidence of county boundaries and will not be used for this purpose.**

L Players resident in Northern Ireland may only play for their respective County Select team in the Premier and Junior sections; the only exception being a player from Northern Ireland if:

- 1) They have attained the age of 16 years at the date of the tournament, and
- 2) They have given a full-time contractual commitment to that team, and
- 3) They have obtained the necessary International Clearance Certificate.

Save in circumstances which the Directors and TMT, in their sole discretion, determine to be extenuating, once a player has represented his respective County Select team in either the Junior or Premier section of the Tournament he may only play for that same county in future tournaments (for the avoidance of doubt, if a player plays for a County Select team in the Junior section he can only then play for that same county in the Premier section).

M Any protest or objection regarding the eligibility of a player who has represented a County Select team in either the Junior section or Premier section of the Tournament must be made within 28 days of:

- 1) the date of the alleged infringement; or
- 2) if the alleged infringement was recurrent, the date on which the most recent infringement was committed, in writing to the Organising Committee and be accompanied by a deposit of £250.

N The Directors and TMT shall be responsible for investigating any allegation made pursuant to Rule 4(m) above and any decision made by them following such investigations shall be final and binding between the parties and may not be appealed.

O In the event that the subject of any protest or objection made pursuant to Rule 4(m) above is upheld by the Directors and TMT, the deposit paid by the complainant shall be refunded and the County Committee of the County Select team for which the ineligible player has played during the Tournament shall be responsible for all costs associated with the investigation carried out in relation thereto. In circumstances where the protest or objection is not upheld, the

complainant shall forfeit the deposit paid by them and will also be responsible for all costs associated with the investigations of the Directors and TMT into the allegations made.

P In the Minor Section, all players must be signed by the Club in the League they will be playing in 2023-2024 by 20th July 2023.

Participating players may only use signed players signed by the Club. No Club is permitted to play “guest players”.

5 All teams taking part in this Tournament must have received the permission of their own Association or League and the National Association concerned. Teams must submit written proof that permission has been granted by their National Association. It is the aim of the Organising Committee that all participating teams should have a Child Protection Policy in place.

6 A The Tournament entry fee is detailed in the Tournament information and Entry Form.

B The cost of accommodation, meals and transport within Northern Ireland to be paid in two instalments in April and June 2022 in accordance with the Tournament entry form.

7 GROUP/ QUALIFYING GAMES

MINOR SECTION EXPLAINER (2023) (16 teams)

There will be four groups, four teams in each group.

Each team will play 3 group games - one on Monday, one on Tuesday and one on Wednesday. Three points for a win and one point for a draw in all group games.

On the basis of points gained, teams will proceed to the semi-finals of the following Competitions:

SuperCupNI: The winners of each group

SCNI Globe: The four second placed teams in each group

SCNI Vase: The four third placed teams in each group

SCNI Bowl: The four fourth placed teams in each group

JUNIOR SECTION EXPLAINER 2022 (16 teams)

There will be four groups, four teams in each group.

Each team will play 3 group games - one on Monday, one on Tuesday and one on Wednesday. Three points for a win and one point for a draw in all group games.

On the basis of points gained, teams will proceed to the semi-finals of the following Competitions:

SuperCupNI: The winners of each group

SCNI Globe: The four second placed teams in each group

SCNI Vase: The four third placed teams in each group

SCNI Bowl: The four fourth placed teams in each group

JUNIOR AND PREMIER SECTIONS (16 teams) EXPLAINER 2023

There will be four groups, four teams in each group.

Each team will play 3 group games - one on Monday, one on Tuesday and one on Wednesday. Three points for a win and one point for a draw in all group games.

On the basis of points gained, teams will proceed to the semi-finals of the following Competitions:

SuperCupNI: The winners of each group

SCNI Globe: The four second placed teams in each group

SCNI Vase: The four third placed teams in each group

SCNI Bowl: The four fourth placed teams in each group

ELITE SECTION (4 teams) EXPLAINER 2023

There will be one group of four teams. Each team will have three games playing the other teams in the Section and will be played on a round robin league basis. Three points for a win, one for a draw and no points for a defeat. The team at the top of the League Table will be the winner of this Section. Games will be played on Monday 24th, Wednesday 26th and Friday 28th July.

Girls Tournament

Junior and Premier Sections Explainer

There will be two groups of 4 teams.

Three group games will be played – one on Monday 24th , one on Tuesday 25th and one on Wednesday 26th. Three points for a win and one point for a draw.

Based on the league positions after these three games, the Finals of the following will be played on Friday 28th July:

SuperCupNI CUP Winner Group 1 v Winner of Group 2
SupercupNI GLOBE Second team Group 1 v Second team Group 2
SuperCupNI VASE Third team Group 1 v Third team Group 2
SuperCupNI Bowl Fourth team Group 1 v Fourth team Group 2

In all 6 Sections of the Tournament, if team placings in the Group games cannot be determined solely by points, then a sequence of goal difference and goals for shall be adopted to separate teams. If this is unsuccessful, then “best result” for each shall be adopted, using initially goal difference and if this fails then goals for. If teams still cannot be separated, the Committee shall adopt a further points system with respect to these teams of 2 points for winning a half; 1 point for drawing a half, plus a further 2 points for an overall victory and 1 point for an overall draw. In the event that teams still cannot be separated, the team position shall be drawn by lot.

8 SEMI-FINALS

The semi-finals of all SuperCupNI competitions will be played as follows:

The first placed team will play the fourth placed team
The second placed team will play the third placed team

Finals and Place Games

The two winners of the semi-finals shall qualify for the Final.

Place Games will be played for 3rd and 4th places. These will be between the losing semi-finalists and teams are obliged to fulfill these fixtures in accordance with Tournament Rules.

If any of the games in the Knock-Out stages, place matches or Finals in the Tournament ends in a draw, the winner will be determined by the taking of penalty kicks at the end of the game in accordance with the conditions approved by the International FA Board.

9 Management of Games

A Duration of Games

Elite Section and Premier Sections

ALL GAMES: 35 minutes each half (70 mins) Half Time Interval 10 mins

Junior and Minor Sections

ALL GAMES: 30 minutes each half (60 mins) Half Time Interval 10 mins

B A size 4 leather ball will be used in Minor Section games but a size 5 in the Junior, Premier, Elite and Girls Sections.

C Teams can use a maximum of seven (7) substitutes. A player who is being substituted must leave the field by the nearest point on the touchline/goal line (unless the referee indicates the player can leave quickly/ immediately at the halfway line or a different point because of safety or injury etc). A player who has been substituted cannot take any further part in that game.

D All teams must be at the relevant venue one hour before kick-off time.

E A team list, on the Tournament match card must be completed and handed to the referee before the commencement of every game.

F All Tournament games will be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as laid down by the International Football Association Board.

10 Referees and Assistant Referees, who must be in membership of a recognized Refereeing Association, shall be appointed by the Referee Department, which has been appointed by the Organising Committee.

11 If the team colours may lead to confusion, one team, determined by the toss of a coin, shall change. The winner of the "coin toss" will choose what to do.

12 The Tournament will be held in the following Council Areas: Causeway Coast and Glens BC, Mid and East Antrim BC and Antrim and Newtownabbey BC.

13 Offences

A If a player is sent off the field by the referee, they shall be automatically suspended from taking part in the team's next game.

B If the offence is a serious one, the case shall be considered by the Appeals Committee, who shall be entitled to impose a more severe punishment.

C The same player being sent off twice, shall automatically be suspended from the rest of the Tournament.

D If a player receives two cautions in different games they will be automatically suspended from taking part in the next game in the Tournament.

E Any player, who holds one caution (yellow card) at the conclusion of the Group Games on the Wednesday, will have the caution expunged. Any player who holds two cautions (two yellow cards) at the conclusion of the Group or Qualifying Games on Wednesday will be suspended from taking part in Thursday's game.

F Referees shall report cautions and sending off offences to the Directors and TMT who shall inform the Irish Football Association, who will report to the National Association or Associations concerned.

14 Any protest must be made NOT LATER than two (2) hours after each game concerned, in writing, to the Directors and TMT and accompanied by a deposit of £20 UK Sterling. Deposits will only be refunded if the protest is upheld. The decision is final and cannot be appealed. If the conditions of this rule are not complied with, the protest will not be competent.

15 The winners in the various SuperCupNI competitions shall receive trophies together with 23 medals or mementoes. The runners-up in each competition shall receive 23 medals or mementoes.

16 Teams must have adequate insurance cover in respect of participation at the Tournament.

17 Participating clubs/ teams shall be responsible for:

A The behaviour of the members of its delegation (officials and players) and of any person carrying out duties on its behalf throughout the competition for the whole of the duration of their stay in Northern Ireland.

B Concluding compulsory health, accident and travel insurance cover for all the members of the delegation.

C Paying for incidental expenses incurred by delegation members during the course of their stay in Northern Ireland and for any costs incurred by additional members of the delegation. In respect of teams staying at the Ulster University, Coleraine, a charge of £100 will be made for replacement of a key. All teams will be invoiced for the lost keys or damages incurred during their stay.

D Teams paying for costs by extending their agreed length of stay.

18 Any question of interpretation or any other matter not specifically covered by these rules will be determined by the Directors and TMT. These rules may be reviewed and altered by the Directors and TMT, if circumstances were to change after they have been approved.

The above Rules have been approved by the Irish Football Association.