

SUPERCUPNI

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

TOURNAMENT RULES 2024

1. The Tournament should be known as the SuperCupNI International Youth Football Tournament.
2. The Tournament shall be organised 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:
 - Players born on or after 1 January 2008 – Premier Section
 - Players born on or after 1 January 2010 – Junior Section
 - Players born on or after 1 January 2011 – Minor Section

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 to establish a player's true age.

 - B. Each team will be limited to a maximum of 18 players. Full details must be lodged with the Tournament Office not later than 11:00pm on Sunday 21st July 2024.
 - C. Each team is required to play in numbered kit or uniform and **each player must use the same number throughout the Tournament.**
 - D. Players and officials are NOT ALLOWED to display messages promoting drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, betting or gambling on their playing or team kit, equipment (including kit bags, beverage containers or medical bags etc) or body during time spent in the stadiums, training grounds or any other areas where accreditation is required to enable access.
4.
 - A. The 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 recognised 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 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 TMT.

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

E. 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 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 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 a particular county. The decision of the 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. Player's 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 TMT, in their sole discretion, determine to be extenuating, once a player has represented his respective County 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 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 alleged infringement; or
- 2)** If the alleged infringement was recurrent, the date on which the most recent infringement was committed,

in writing to the TMT and be accompanied by a deposit of £250.

N. The TMT shall be responsible for investigating any allegation made pursuant to Rule 4M 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 4M above is upheld by the TMT, the deposit paid by the complainant shall be refunded and the County Committee of the County team for which the ineligible player has played during the Tournament shall be responsible for all costs associated with the investigation carried out by the TMT 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 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 2024-2025 by 20th July 2024. Participating Clubs may only use 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 National Association concerned. Teams must submit written proof that permission has been granted by their National Association. It is the aim of the TMT that all participating teams should have a Child Protection Policy in place.

6.

- A. The Tournament entry fee is as detailed in the Tournament Information and Entry Form
- B. The cost of accommodation, meals and transport within Northern Ireland is to be paid in two instalments in April and June 2024, in accordance with the Tournament entry form.

7. GROUP / QUALIFYING GAMES

Boys Minor and Junior Sections Explainer: 16 Teams

There will be 4 groups, 4 teams in each group. Each team will play three group games – one on Monday, one on Tuesday and one on Wednesday. Three (3) points for a win and one (1) point for a draw in all group games. On the basis of points gained in the group games, teams will proceed to the semi-finals of the following Competitions:

SuperCupNI Cup	The four first placed teams in the groups.
SuperCupNI Globe	The four second placed teams in the groups.
SuperCupNI Vase	The four third placed teams in the groups.
SuperCupNI Bowl	The four fourth placed team in the groups.

Boys Premier Section Explainer: 20 Teams

SuperCupNI Cup	The best 4 of the 5 group winners.
SuperCupNI Globe	The remaining group winner and the 3 best placed group runners up.
SuperCupNI Vase	The remaining two runners up and the two best placed third placed teams in the groups.
SuperCupNI Bowl	The three remaining third placed teams in the group and the best placed fourth placed team in the groups.
SuperCupNI Salver	The remaining four fourth placed team in the groups.

Girls Premier Section Explainer: 8 Teams

There will be two groups of 4 teams, Group A and Group B
 Three qualifying games will be played – one on Monday, one on Tuesday and one of Wednesday.
 Three (3) points for a win and one (1) point for a draw.
 Based on the league positions after these three games, the Finals of the following will be played on Friday 26th July:

SuperCupNI Cup	Winner of Group A v Winner of Group B
SuperCupNI Globe	Second in Group A v Second in Group B
SuperCupNI Vase	Third team in Group A v Third team in Group B
SuperCupNI Bowl	Fourth team in Group A v Fourth team in Group B

Girls Junior Section Explainer: 6 Teams

There will be one group of 6 teams.

Three qualifying games will be played – one on Monday, one on Tuesday and one on Wednesday.

Three (3) points for a win and one (1) point for a draw.

Based on the league positions after these three games, the Finals of the following will be played on Friday 26th July:

SuperCupNI Cup	Team placed first will play team placed second
SuperCupNI Globe	Team placed third will play team placed fourth
SuperCupNI Vase	Team placed fifth will play team placed sixth

8. SEMI-FINALS IN BOYS' SECTIONS

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

S/F 1 The first placed team will play the fourth placed team.

S/F 2 The second placed team will play the third placed team.

9. FINALS IN BOYS' SECTIONS

The two winners of the semi-finals shall play in the Final.

10. 3RD AND 4TH PLACE GAMES

The two losing Semi Final teams will play one another to determine 3rd and 4th.

If any of the matches 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.

In all of the sections, if team placings cannot be determined solely by points then the following sequence of events shall be used to adopt the separate teams.

- Goal difference.
- Goals for
- Best result (ie...4-1 win) in the following order
 1. Goal difference will be applied (in the above scenario this is +3
 2. Goals scored will be the second method if the above can still not separate teams (in the above scenario this would be +4)
- If the teams can still not be separated, then TMT shall adopt the following method.
 1. 2 points for winning a half
 2. 1 point for drawing a half.
 3. 2 further points for an overall victory.
 4. 1 point for an overall draw.
- If the teams still cannot be separated then the team position shall be drawn by Lot by the TMT.

11. MANAGEMENT OF GAMES

(a) Duration of Games:

All Premier Section and Junior Section games in the Boys and Girls Sections are 35 minutes each half (70 minutes).

Minor Section games are 30 minutes each half (60 minutes).

HALF-TIME INTERVAL IN ALL GAMES IS 10 MINUTES.

(b) A size 4 leather ball will be used in the MINOR SECTION games but a size 5 ball in all other games.

(c) Each team can use a maximum of 7 substitutions. A player who is being substituted must leave the field of play by the nearest point on the touchline / goal line (unless the referee indicates the player can leave quickly or 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 pitch one hour before kick-off.

(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 matches will be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as laid down by the International Football Association Board.

Teams will name a panel of 18 players maximum for each game and up to a maximum of 7 substitutes may be used.

12. Referees and Assistant Referees, who must be in membership of a recognised Referee

Association, shall be appointed by the Referee Department, which has been appointed by the TMT.

13. 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.

14. The Tournament will be held in the following Council areas in Northern Ireland, Causeway Coast and Glens BC, Antrim and Newtownabbey BC and Mid and East Antrim BC.

15. 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, their case shall be considered by the TMT who shall be entitled to impose a more severe punishment.
- c. The same player being sent off twice, shall automatically be suspended from the remainder of the Tournament.
- d. If a player receives two cautions in different matches, 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 of qualifying game on the Wednesday, will have that caution expunged. Any player who holds two cautions (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 TMT who shall inform the Irish Football Association who will report to the National Association or Associations concerned.

16. PROTESTS

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

17. The winners in the various SuperCupNI competitions shall receive a trophy together with 23 medals. The runners-up in each competition shall receive 23 medals.

18. TEAMS ARE ADVISED TO HAVE ADEQUATE INSURANCE COVER IN RESPECT OF PARTICIPATION AT THIS TOURNAMENT.

19. Participating clubs and associations 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 duration of their stay in Northern Ireland.
- b. Providing compulsory health, accident and travel insurance cover for all the members of its 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 Ulster University, Coleraine, a charge of £100 UK sterling will be made for a replacement of a key. All teams will be invoiced for the lost keys or damages following the tournament.
- d. Teams paying for costs incurred by extending their agreed length of stay.

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