



Lurgan Town Cup

2017 Tournament Rules



1. The tournament shall be known as the Lurgan Town Cup and will be referred to as the 'tournament' from here on. The tournament will be run by Lurgan Town FC, who shall be referred to as the 'organising committee' from here on.
2. The tournament will be held at Lurgan Arena, Lurgan, Co. Armagh on Saturday June 10th 2017.

Tournament Applications

3. Application to enter the tournament will be open for all club teams and the closing date for entries will be 5pm on Saturday April 29th 2017.
4. The cost of entry will be £40.00/€45.00.
5. Application forms should be returned to the organising committee before the closing date with full payment. Unsuccessful teams will have their full payment returned.
6. Incomplete applications or forms without full payment will be returned to the club(s) in question for completion.
7. The tournament will be limited to a maximum of 16 teams in each age group.
8. The draw for the tournament will take place on Friday May 26th. After this the results from the draw will be emailed to each participating club.
9. The organising committee reserves the right to change the draw up to the time of kick off in case there are withdrawals.
10. Where a team withdraws and the organising committee are able to get a replacement team the new team will simply replace the withdrawing team in the draw.
11. If a replacement team cannot be found or if any team fails to arrive on the day for the tournament a scoreline of 3-0 will be recorded in their opponent's favour.
12. No refunds will be given to any team withdrawing after the draw has taken place.

Tournament Format

13. The tournament format will be 7-a-side matches.
14. For the 2017 tournament, the age groups will fall into the following range;
 - Under 9 - Children born on or after January 1st 2008,
 - Under 10 - Children born on or after January 1st 2007.

Group Stage

15. All teams will be drawn into groups of four and play one series of round robin matches.
16. Matches scores will be recorded and points awarded to enable the organising committee to ascertain the group position. Each team's progression in the tournament depends on their finishing position after the group stage. Points will be awarded as follows;
 - three points for a win.
 - one point to each team for a draw.
 - no points for a defeat.
17. Group positions will be decided by the following format;
 - i. points total. (if level then)
 - ii. goal difference. (if still level then)
 - iii. most goals scored. (if still level then)
 - iv. score between the teams tied. (if still level then)
 - v. penalties (5 kicks per team) (if still level then)
 - vi. sudden death penalties

Knock Out Stage

18. Group position will determine which competition each team will be placed into;
 - a) Under 9 & Under 10 tournaments,
 - 1st placed teams will enter the Cup competition,
 - 2nd placed teams will enter the Shield competition,
 - 3rd placed teams will enter the Plate competition.
 - 4th placed teams will enter the Plaque competition.
19. Once these placings have been determined the teams will take up their group's position that was determined at the tournament draw.
20. All knock out matches will be winner progresses matches. There will be no replays; drawn matches will be determined by way of a penalty shootout.
21. Penalty shoot out's will be decided with each team taking 5 penalties each, if the teams are still level then sudden death penalties.

Insurance

22. Each club is required to have their own insurance to cover any injuries sustained during the tournament.
23. Every person attending the event, whether a player, coach, team official, parent or supporter does so at their own risk.
24. The organising committee or venue owners will not accept responsibility for any loss, injury or death of any player/coach/club official/individual taking part or involved in the tournament or any person attending the tournament.

Registration

25. Teams will be required to register their players.
26. Team Registration Forms will be provided by email for each club to print and complete.
27. Each Team Registration Form must be completed and returned with proof of age documents on the day of the tournament.
28. Acceptable proof of age documentation will be of one of the following items;
 - i. valid passport
 - ii. original birth certificate
29. Each player must conform to the age group that applies to the tournament.
30. Each club will be held responsible for making sure that all their players are of the correct age. To clarify a point, players can be younger than the age group they are entered but not older.
31. Failure to provide proof of age will deem the said player ineligible.

Ineligible Players

32. Any player that is found to be ineligible will result in the player being disqualified from taking part in the tournament. Over-age players will also invalidate the offending club's insurance.
33. Any player found to be ineligible during the tournament will be automatically disqualified from any further participation in the tournament. The organising committee reserves the right to take further action against any offending teams, including fines or disqualification.
34. Any team found to have an ineligible player during the group stage will have a 3-0 defeat recorded against the offending team in each game that the ineligible player took part. If the result of any of those games ended in a defeat of more than 3-0 against the offending team the original result will stand.
35. Any team found to have an ineligible player during the knock out stage will have a 3-0 defeat recorded against the offending team in the earliest knock out game that the ineligible player took part. If the result of this match ended in a defeat of more than 3-0 against the offending team the original result will stand.
36. Any team found to have an ineligible player after the tournament has ended will be disqualified from the tournament and listed as the losing semi-finalists in whatever competition they qualified for in the knock out stages. The disqualified team must also agree to return any trophies they may have won so as they can be forwarded to the team that the organising committee deems to be the winners.
37. In the event of the above occurring the disqualified team's opponents in the final will be deemed as the winners and/or the team that lost the semi-final match to the disqualified team will be deemed as the

runners up. If more than one team in each cup is found to have fielded ineligible players the organising committee will meet to determine the outcome of the tournament.

38. For this tournament, all players registered for the tournament will be deemed to have taken part in all matches.
39. Any protests concerning a player's eligibility, during the tournament, must be communicated to the control centre immediately to allow a prompt resolution of the matter. All decisions taken by the organising committee will be final, no correspondence will be entered and no appeals will be allowed.
40. Any protests concerning a player's eligibility, after the tournament has ended, must be communicated, in writing, to the organising committee no later than 5pm on the Wednesday immediately after the tournament has ended. All written protests must show reasonable suspicions of ineligibility.
41. All written protests must be accompanied with a protest fee of £25.00, which will be returned if the protest is successful. This fee will then become payable by the offending team.

Sign In

42. Teams will be required to 'Sign In' at the tournament 'Control Centre' no later than 9.45am on the day of the tournament. The Control Centre will be open for teams to sign in from 1 hour before the tournament kick off.
43. Each team must hand in a completed Team Registration Form and all associated proof of age documents for verification. All proof of age documents will be returned to the team once verification has been completed.
44. If a team is late for signing in they may not be allowed to sign in, this decision will be at the discretion of the organising committee and will be final with no correspondence entered. If a team is aware that they will arrive late they should phone the tournament organisers to inform them of the situation and they will be advised accordingly.
45. If a team is refused sign in for any reason no refund will be payable.

Matches

46. As the pitches are 3G artificial grass all people entering the pitch area must wear footwear that is approved for 3G artificial surfaces.
47. All pitch sizes will be determined by the organising committee to try to ensure the safety of each person present at the tournament venue.
48. In all cases the size of the match balls will be Size 4 and will be provided by the organising committee. Teams will be free to bring their own balls and use them for warming up but in all cases the balls provided by the organising committee will be used during the matches.
49. Matches will be played in accordance with the Mid Ulster Games Development Centre rules with the exception that scores will be recorded. (the Mid Ulster Games Development Centre rules are available to download from <http://www.midulstergdc.co.uk>)
50. All match times will be controlled by the organising committee from the control centre with the use of an air horn. Referees will not have the discretion of adding time.
51. For the purposes of keeping the tournament time schedule on track the organising committee reserves the right to adjust the duration of any matches to a minimum of 15 minutes if the schedule falls behind. This will be communicated to all teams before it is implemented.
52. Referees will be provided by the organising committee. Their duties during the tournament will be the administration of the laws of the game and discipline issues, time keeping will not be in their remit.
53. To stop teams wasting time any players requiring an extended period of treatment must be removed from the playing area as soon as it is **practical and safe** to do so and replaced by a substitute until their treatment is completed.
54. Any player that requires minimal treatment on the field of play is not required to leave the field of play once their treatment is completed.
55. Warm ups & warm downs are not permitted on the field of play; this is to facilitate the smooth running of the tournament. They are however permitted on areas not used for the tournament.
56. Any team who leaves the field of play during the match or fails to complete any match will forfeit the match with a 3-0 scoreline recorded in their opponent's favour. The organising committee reserves the right to remove the offending team from the remainder of the competition.

57. If any referee abandons any match for any reason they will report the matter to the organising committee who will make a decision using only the referee's report. The organising committee will have the power to determine the match winners, impose a point's deduction, suspensions, fines or disqualification.

Fair Play

58. The organising committee would like to see players, coaches, club officials & supporters offer encouragement to ALL players, not just players from their team, and applaud sporting acts and good play.

Discipline & Behaviour

59. The tournament will operate a **ZERO TOLERANCE** policy with regards to behaviour towards referees by all players, coaches, team officials and supporters. The organising committee reserves the right to impose any sanction, including exclusion, to any team that breaks this rule. If the offence is deemed serious enough the organising committee may also report the offence to the Northern Ireland Boys Football Association for further action.
60. All players must behave in a respectable manner. The referee will have the discretion to ask a manager to substitute a player (for the remainder of the game) who they believe to be a danger to others or acting outside the spirit of the game.
61. If a manager refuses this request the player will be red carded and will miss the remainder of the match and be suspended for the team's next match. The incident and the manager will be reported to the control centre and the organising committee will determine any further sanctions.
62. Referees will still have the discretion to issue yellow & red cards as they see fit.
63. Any player sent off will be suspended for the team's next match. Any player sent off twice will be suspended for the rest of the tournament.
64. Any player receiving three yellow cards will be suspended for the team's next match.
65. The Organising Committee reserves the right to increase the suspension of any player, coach, team official that the referee issues a straight red card to or informs the organising committee of improper conduct.
66. All players, coaches, club officials & supporters must act in a respectful manner towards their opponents and visitors to the tournament venue. The referee & the organising committee will also have the right to remove any person from the surrounds of the pitches who they deem to be abusive or a danger to others. The organising committee also reserves the right to remove any person from the tournament venue for the same reasons or any person they believe to be intoxicated. Each club will be held responsible for the behaviour & actions of their players, coaches, club officials & supporters within the confines of the tournament venue and any club found to be in breach of this rule may be reported to the Northern Ireland Boys Football Association or the relevant authority for further action.
67. Alcohol will not be permitted inside the tournament venue; any person found to have alcohol will be told to remove it from the venue or have it confiscated. Any person refusing to comply will be removed from the venue.
68. If any person(s) is found to be causing wilful or criminal damage to property, the club to which the person(s) is attached will be held fully responsible and a bill for restitution will be sent to the said club. The offending person(s) will be reported to the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Boys Football Association.

Miscellaneous

69. The organising committee has a 'No Flags' policy. We want this to be an all-inclusive tournament where everyone can feel free to enjoy the football no matter what their nationality, religion or race. Any club displaying a flag (be it a player, coach, official or supporter) will be asked to remove the flag once. Refusal to do so, or a reappearance of the flag, could result in the team being disqualified from the tournament and removed from the venue. The only flag permitted at the tournament venue will be the Lurgan Town FC club flag, which will be flown from the club's flag pole.
70. No flags will be permitted during any presentations or celebrations.
71. Barbecues will not be permitted within the confines of the tournament venue purely for Health & Safety reason as there will be large numbers of young children at the event; this includes any pitches, rest areas and car parks. The organising committee have planned for a Burger Stall and Tuck Shop for refreshments.

72. Any person or team erecting gazebos, tables, chairs or any other item do so purely at their own risk. Gazebos will be permitted for the purposes of player safety to be used as a rest area and shelter in the case of sunny weather or wet weather. Each team will be permitted a maximum of two 3mx3m gazebos or the equivalent size.
73. All team managers and coaches should make sure their players have sun block and make the necessary arrangements with each child's parents to have sun block applied regularly in the event of sunny weather.
74. The organising committee reserves the right to make changes and amend these rules to allow the smooth running of the tournament on the day. Any rules changes or amendments will be communicated to the participating teams as soon as possible.
75. The organising committee reserves the right to report all matters to the Northern Ireland Boys Football Association for further sanctions if the organising committee deems it to be necessary.
76. The organising committee will arrange for photographers and/or videographers to attend the tournament for publicity purposes. It will be each clubs' responsibility to inform the organising committee in writing if any child is not to be photographed or filmed in advance of the tournament. If no information of this type is forwarded to the organising committee for any child it will be deemed that photography/filming is permitted.
77. All teams who participate in the tournament agree to co-operate fully with all publicity surrounding the tournament including any sponsors of the tournament.
78. Any person(s), not authorised by the organising committee, who takes photographs or video film is liable to all legal consequences that may arise. The organising committee will not accept responsibility for any person(s) they have not authorised.
79. By applying to enter and/or taking part in this tournament it is deemed that each club accepts, and informs all players, coaches, team officials and supporters of, all rules set by the organising committee and agree to any sanctions by the organising committee.

