

**Schools Section**  
**COMPETITION RULES**

1. All affiliated schools must notify the Competitions schools' Secretary by 31<sup>st</sup> March of their team participation in Schools' Competitions for the following season.
2. Any School wishing to enter its 1stXI in the McDowell Cup competition must apply by email, giving reasons to the Schools' Committee before 31<sup>st</sup> March prior to the start of the following season. The submission will be considered by the Schools' Committee. The subsequent decision shall be valid for ONE SEASON ONLY.
3. For all competitions, matches will be played on a synthetic surface and this shall be included in the rules of competition.
4. All Cup matches must be played on pitches which conform to regulations laid down in 'The Rules of Hockey'.
5. In the event of two teams having similar colours meeting in any competition, the visiting team shall wear different colours. When played at a neutral venue, the first named/drawn team will wear home colours.
6. Grounds for the finals of all Schools' Competitions shall be arranged by Ulster Hockey.
7. For all Cup Competitions, the squad size will be as per Ulster Hockey Rules: '18 players are permitted to be listed, as long as there are two fully clad goalkeepers, otherwise squads are restricted to 16'
8. All Schools wishing to participate in any hockey competition must be registered and affiliated through payment of fees, to Ulster Hockey.  
If any school has not paid their fees by the date stated on the affiliation form in the year of competition, they will not be permitted to play in any competition.
9. Any complaints made to the Schools Committee/Ulster Hockey must come through the Teacher-in-Charge of Hockey or Principal of the school. Parental complaints will NOT be dealt with unless submitted through proper channels above.
10. If a school fails to meet deadlines or re-arranged deadlines, sanctions may be imposed by the Schools' Committee.
11. All Cup results must be forwarded to the relevant Cup Secretary within 48 hours of the match being played.
12. All Schools' Cup competition dates for semi-finals and Finals will NOT be changed except for extreme weather conditions.  
  
\*If a team reaches a semi-final or final of a Schools Hockey Competition and cannot fulfil the match on the specified date, they must relinquish their place to the losing team of that quarter/semi-final OR submit an alternative team to fulfil the fixture\*.
13. All matches MUST be played on or before the dates stated. No match should be played after that date unless the Cup Secretary of that competition has been consulted and permission given by the Schools' Committee.

14.

(i) All school teams for Ulster Schools Semi Finals will have eleven (11) starting starred \* players in descending order of merit using the principles described below.

(ii) A school with two teams shall star the first eleven (11) players normally chosen for the 1st XI.

(iii) Additionally, a school with three teams shall star for its 2nd XI, eleven (11) players normally selected for its 2nd XI, and so on.

(iv) This rule shall pertain to all players including those who normally play as a goalkeeper.

(v) Schools will submit Squad lists to Ulster Hockey, prior to all Ulster Schools Semi-finals, with starred \* starting 11 at all levels of Ulster Schools competition.

15. To avoid overplaying, players are only permitted to play on a maximum of two teams over a season.

16. UH recommend not to sub of a goalkeeper for an outfield player, however it is permitted within the rules to do so

Rules and responsibilities for each Cup Competition Secretary:

- The running of their competition to its completion
- Ensuring that matches are played on time and that deadlines are met.
- The collection of Cups for Finals Day, ensuring that they are cleaned and engraved by the holders
- Notifying schools of gate costs prior to the semi-finals and finals
- To attend their Final on Finals Day

## **Girls Schools' Section**

### **COMPETITION RULES**

#### **Competitions**

1. All affiliated Schools must notify the Girls Schools' Competition Secretary by 31 March of their team(s) participation in Schools' Competitions for the following season.

2. Any School wishing to enter a 1stXI in the McDowell Cup competition must apply by email, giving the reasons, to the Schools' Competition Secretary before 31 March and prior to the start of the following season. This submission will be considered by the Schools' Committee and then by the Board of Ulster Hockey. The subsequent decision shall remain valid for ONE SEASON only.

3. For all Competitions, matches will be played on a synthetic surface and this will be included in the competition rules.
4. All Cup matches must be played on pitches that conform to the regulations laid down in 'the Rules of Hockey'.
5. In the event of two teams with similar colours meeting in any competition, the visiting team shall wear different colours and if neither team is at home i.e. a neutral venue, lots will be drawn.
6. Grounds for the semi-finals and finals of all Schools' Competitions shall be arranged by the Schools' Committee.
7. For all Cup Competitions, the squad size will be as per Ulster Hockey rules: '18 players are permitted to be listed as long as there are two fully clad goalkeepers; otherwise squads are restricted to 16.
8. All Schools wishing to participate in any hockey competition must be registered and affiliated through the payment of fees, to Ulster Hockey.  
  
If any school has not paid their affiliation fees by 30 June in the year of competition, they will not be permitted to participate in any hockey competition.
9. Any complaints made to the Schools' Committee/Ulster Hockey must come through the Teacher-in-charge of Hockey or the Principal of the School. Parental complaints will not be dealt with, unless submitted through the proper channels above.
10. Rules and responsibilities for each Cup Competition Secretary:
  - ☐ Responsible for the running of that competition through to completion.
  - ☐ Ensure that matches are played on time and that deadlines are met. If a school fails to meet deadlines or re-arranged deadlines, sanctions will be imposed by the Schools' Committee.
  - ☐ Responsible for the collection of Cups for Finals Day, ensuring that they are returned to the Hockey Office, engraved and

cleaned by the holder.

☐ Notify schools of gate costs prior to the semi-finals and finals.

☐ Attend her Final on Finals Day

11. All Cup results should be forwarded to the Hockey Office within 48 hours of the match being played.

12. All Schools' Cup Competition dates for the Semi-finals and Finals will NOT be changed except due to extreme weather conditions.

If a team reaches a semi-final or final of a Schools' Hockey Competition and cannot fulfil the match on the specified date, it must relinquish this place to the loser of that quarter/semi-final OR submit an alternative team to fulfil the fixture.

13. All matches MUST be played by the dates stated. No match will be played after that date unless the Competition Secretary has been consulted and permission has been given by the Schools 'Committee.

14. Regular squad members should NOT be playing on a team below – i.e. part of a 1stXI squad all season, then dropping down to play on a 2ndXI for a cup match.

15. To avoid overplaying, players are only permitted to play for a maximum of two teams over a season.

### **Senior Schools' Cup Competition**

1. The Schools' Cup competition is open to all schools affiliated to the Ulster Hockey Association. Any school not affiliated by 30 June in the year of competition shall not be eligible to participate in any schools' competitions.

All players taking part in this competition must be in full school attendance and be under the age of 19 on 1st July prior to commencement of the current season.

2. The competition shall be run as a knockout competition. The draw and all other arrangements for the competition shall be made by the Schools' Committee and except as provided for in Rule 6 in General

Rules for schools for all competitions; the first named team shall have choice of home advantage.

3. The game shall be of 60 minutes duration, with quarter times being called every 15 minutes. Teams will change ends at half time. Should a match end in a draw after normal time, there will be no extra time and the outcome will be determined by a shootout competition.

All matches are to be played to a conclusion. There will be no replays.

4. The winners of the Senior Schools' Cup shall represent Ulster in the Kate Russell All Ireland Competition.

5. The teacher-in-charge of the home team shall notify the teacher-incharge of the visiting team of the time and place of the match, at

least a week before the date of the game. The teacher-in-charge of the visiting team shall confirm the arrangements by return.

6. All match results must be sent to the relevant Competition Secretary by the winning school within 48 hours of the match being played.

7. Matches MUST be played by the dates stated. No team should play after those dates unless the Competition Secretary has been consulted and permission given by the Schools' Committee.

### **Senior Schools' Plate**

1. The Senior Schools' Plate competition is open to all schools which have entered the Senior Cup competition and who have been eliminated in the first or second rounds of that competition.

2. Any school which fails to fulfil its first or second round match in the Senior Cup shall not be eligible to play in the Senior Plate.

3. All other rules for this Competition shall be the same as those governing the Senior Schools' Cup competition.

### **Senior Schools' Shield**

The Senior Schools' Shield is open to schools eliminated in the third round of the Senior Schools Cup.

All other rules for this competition shall be the same as those

governing the Senior Schools' Cup competition.

### **The McDowell Cup**

1. The McDowell Cup competition is open to all 2ndXIs.
2. Any school wishing to enter its 1stXI in this competition must apply by email, giving reasons, to the Schools' Committee before 31st March prior to the start of the following season. See Rule 2 at start of 'Rules'. The decision of the Committee shall remain valid for ONE season only.
3. All players must be under 19 years of age on 1st July prior to commencement of the current season.
4. The competition shall be run as a knockout competition with no seeding. The draw and all other arrangements for the competition shall be made by the Schools' Committee. The first named team shall have home advantage.
5. The game shall be of 50 minutes duration with quarter times being called every 12.5 minutes. Teams will change ends at half time. Should a match end in a draw, there will be NO extra time and the outcome will be determined by a shootout competition. There will be no replays.
6. The home team should notify the visiting team the time and place of the match at least a week before the specified date. The visiting team should confirm the arrangements by return.
7. All results of matches should be sent to the Competition Secretary within 48 hours of the match, by the winning school.
8. Matches must be played by the dates stated. No match should be played after those dates unless the Competition Secretary has been consulted and permission given by the Schools' Committee.
9. A school may only enter the Gibson Cup if they have entered a team in the McDowell Cup.

### **3rdXI Gibson Cup**

1. The 3rdXI Gibson Cup is ONLY open to a 3rdXI whose school already has a team in the McDowell Cup. Only one team per school is permitted.
2. All players must be U19 years of age on 1st July prior to commencement of the current season.
3. Any school which fails to fulfil all fixtures in the league section of the Gibson Cup, AND by the required date, will NOT be permitted to enter this competition the following season.
4. The competition shall be run as a league, each team playing home or away against all other teams in their section. The winners of each section (4 points-win, 2 points-score draw, 1 point no score draw) shall then go forward into a knockout competition. All arrangements for the competition shall be decided by the Schools' Committee.
5. The home team shall contact the away team at least a week before the date of the match and the away team shall confirm by return.
6. The match shall be of 50 minutes duration with quarter time being called after 12.5 minutes. Teams shall change ends at half time.  
In the league section there will be no extra time or shoot outs.  
However, in the knockout section if a match ends in a draw there will be NO extra time and the outcome shall be determined by a shootout competition.
7. All results should be sent to the Competition Secretary within 48 hours by the winning team. If it is a draw then the home team will send in the result.

### **4thXI Cup Competition**

1. Schools may only enter this competition if they already have a team in the McDowell Cup AND the Gibson Cup.
2. This competition is for 4thXI teams ONLY and a team that is not a

4thXI is NOT eligible to enter.

3. This competition shall be run as a knockout competition. The game will be of 40 minutes duration with quarter times being called every 10 minutes. Teams will change ends at half time.

All other rules for this competition are the same as for the McDowell Cup competition.

### **Junior Schools' Cup**

1. The Junior Schools' Cup is open to all schools whose players are under 14 years of age on 1st July prior to commencement of the current season.

2. No U14 team may play in two Cup competitions. The teams that are eligible to play in the U14 High Schools Cup can opt to play in either the Junior Schools' Cup or the High Schools Cup, but not both.

3. The competition shall be run as a knockout competition. All arrangements for the competition shall be made by the Schools Committee.

4. The game shall be of 50 minutes duration with quarter times being called after 12.5 minutes. Teams will change ends at half time. Should a match end in a draw there will be no extra time and the outcome will be determined by a shootout competition.

5. All results should be forwarded to the Competition Secretary within 48 hours by the winning team

### **Junior Schools' Plate**

1. The Junior Schools' Plate is open to all schools that have entered the Junior Cup and who have been eliminated in the first or second rounds of that competition.

2. Any school which fails to fulfil its first or second round match shall not be eligible to play in the Junior Plate.

3. All other rules shall be the same as for the Junior Schools' Cup.



### **Junior Schools' Shield**

1. The Junior Shield is open to schools eliminated in the third round of the Junior Cup. All other rules for this competition shall be the same as those for the Junior Schools' Cup Competition.

### **U14 High Schools Cup**

1. The U14 High Schools' Cup Competition is open to girls under 14 years of age on 1st July prior to commencement of the current season, attending properly constituted Secondary schools.
2. No U14 team may play in two Cup competitions. The teams that are eligible to play in the U14 High Schools' Cup can opt to play in either the Junior Schools' Cup or the High Schools' Cup, not both.
3. All other rules for this competition shall be the same as those for the Junior Cup competition.

### **U16 High Schools' Cup**

1. The U16 High Schools' Cup Competition is open to teams from Secondary or High Schools whose players are under 16 years of age on 1st July prior to commencement of the current season.
2. No U16 team can play in two Cup competitions. The teams that are eligible to play in the U16 High Schools' Cup can opt to play either in this competition or the 3rdXI Gibson Cup, not both.
3. The competition shall be run as a knockout competition with the first named team shall having home advantage.
4. The game shall be of 50 minutes duration with quarter times being called after every 12.5 minutes. Teams will change ends at half time. Should a match end in a draw there will be no extra time and the outcome will be determined by a shootout competition. There will be no replays.

5. Results should be sent to the Competition Secretary within 48 hours of the match being played by the winning team.

### **U18 High Schools Cup**

**U18 Intermediate** Schools' Cup – name change needed instead of Under 18 High Schools' Cup.

1. The U18 Intermediate Cup Competition is open to teams from Secondary Schools, High Schools or Colleges of Further Education whose players are under 19 years of age on 1st July prior to commencement of the current season.
2. No U18 team can play in two Cup competitions. **If a School wishes to play in this competition instead of the Senior Schools' Cup an application must be made in writing to Ulster Hockey when entries are returned to Ulster Hockey and prior to the AGM. If granted this will only apply for one year.**
3. The competition shall be run as a knockout competition with the first named team having home advantage.
4. All other rules for this competition shall be the same as the Senior Schools' Cup/ McDowell Cup.

### **Senior Schools Super League Competition**

1. A 1stXI entering the Super League will not be permitted to enter that team into the McDowell Cup Competition but instead can be entered into the Senior Schools' Cup Competition.
2. All other rules for this competition shall be the same as for the Senior Schools' Cup.

