Bill Turner Cup and Trophy Rules 2027

Statement

The Bill Turner Cup and Trophy are school football knockout competitions. They are played under the rules of FIFA, which permits rule modifications for age.

The Bill Turner Cup is for players 15 years and under in 2027.

The Bill Turner Trophy is for girls 15 years and under in 2027.

Team and Player Qualifications

1. All schools are eligible to enter. The Bill Turner School Football executive has the right to accept or deny any entry at their discretion. Schools must abide by all rules and responsibilities.
2. Schools may enter only one team in each competition. Schools which are part of a collegiate system must enter separate teams for each campus, not a combined team.
3. Any player who reaches 16 years of age on or before December 31 of the current year is not eligible to play in the competition.
4. A player can only play for the school where currently enrolled.
5. Players, teachers, staff and officials all participate at their own risk. The Bill Turner School Football executive and managers are not responsible for any injury or loss during the competition.

6. Bill Turner School Football does not provide insurance for participants. All players must be eligible for public health care at a minimum. We recommend all players have private health insurance. Schools, parents, players and officials are encouraged to have appropriate insurance cover.

Match Rules

7. A maximum of 16 players names and correct shirt numbers should be clearly printed on the Team Sheet (available from the website).
8. All 16 players on the Team Sheet can be used on unlimited interchange during normal time and extra time. Interchange may only occur with the referee's permission.
9. Each match shall consist of equal halves of 30 minutes, with 5 minutes for half time. Injury time is to be added in all periods, including extra time.
10. A team with fewer than 7 players at kickoff or at any time during the match will forfeit.
11. Players are required to wear shin pads covered by socks. There are no restrictions on the use of spectacles.

Extra Time Rules

12. When a match is drawn at full time, there shall be an interval of 5 minutes before extra time begins.
13. Extra time consists of 10 minute halves with no interval.
14. A match concludes immediately a goal is scored.
15. At the commencement of extra time each team shall consist of the same number of players as it had on the field at the end of normal time.
16. At the first dead ball after 5 minutes, each team will remove one player from the field.
17. At the change of ends interval, each team will remove a second player from the field.
18. At the first dead ball after 15 minutes, each team will remove another player from the field.
19. The removal of further players does not occur if at least one team is down to 7 players on the field.
20. When a match is drawn after extra time, then the FIFA penalty kick system will operate.
21. Only the players on the field at the end of extra time can take part in the penalty kick decider.
22. Any player on the field can be the nominated goalkeeper for the penalties.

Rules related to the Draws

23. Draws are made by the Area Manager and Competition Manager.
24. In any preliminary rounds, the first mentioned school is the home team and second mentioned school is the away team.
25. In Round 1 in the draws, the top school is the home team and the bottom school is the away team.
26. In Round 2 and subsequent rounds, the school with the least home games is the home team. Where teams are equal in home and away fixtures, the home team will be the:
    a. First mentioned (top) team in odd rounds
    b. Second mentioned (bottom) team in even rounds.
    c. This procedure continues until the inter-area fixtures, where the Competition Manager will determine home and away.
27. A team receiving a bye is the home team in Rounds 1 and 3, and the away team in Round 2. Forfeits are considered completed matches. If a home team chooses to play away, the match is still regarded as a home fixture.
28. The Area Manager may schedule gala days at central venues during early rounds. Schools must play on these scheduled dates or they may be withdrawn from the competition. These games will still be regarded as home and away matches as determined by the rules.
29. If extreme conditions repeatedly prevent a gala day from going ahead, the Area Manager will expect schools to arrange and play these matches as soon as a ground is available.
30. Area finals are to be played on a ground decided by the Area Manager and from the last 16 by the Competition Manager.
31. The procedure for determining home and away will cease once the last 16 teams are determined.
32. Matches must be played by the due date. Failure to do so without notifying the Area Manager may lead to loss of home privilege or withdrawal from the competition.
33. Should a school withdraw from the competition, they must inform the Area Manager immediately.

Responsibilities of coach and manager

34. It is the responsibility of the coach/manager to:

a. prepare a Squad Sheet (as distinguished from a team sheet, and available on the website under downloads), with all players' names and their date of birth, complete with a signature from the Principal to confirm eligibility.

b. check the ages of the players against school records to confirm eligibility. There is no limit to the number of players listed on the Squad Sheet.

c. A copy of the Squad Sheet should be available at each match and available for review by Bill Turner executive if needed.

d. before commencing the match, check that the chosen ground meets FIFA regulation. Once the game commences there is no right of appeal concerning the suitability of the ground. It is recommended that the goal posts be equipped with nets in good condition. On some grounds, combination posts are used. Extensions beyond the normal soccer goal posts are regarded as out of play and the game must be restarted by a goal kick or corner kick.

e. ensure the referee and assistants are aware of the Bill Turner Cup and Trophy rules.

f. The home team must provide a Team Sheet. It is available from the website under downloads. The away team should also bring a team sheet as backup.

g. list all players on the Team Sheet in legible block letters with correct spelling and correct numbering, and hand it to the referee before the games commences. Teams may have a maximum of 16 players.

h. ensure that all players wear shirts with different and clearly identifiable numbers that correspond to the Team Sheet. Goalkeeper colours are to be clearly distinguishable from all other players and the referee.

i. check the referee has completed the Team Sheet including all goal scorers, final score, names of recipients of yellow and/or red cards, and the names and details of anyone seriously injured.

j. ensure all details on the completed Team Sheet are accurate at the end of the game. This must be emailed to the Area Manager by the manager/coach of the winning team, within 24 hours.

k. Ensure that alcohol is not brought into the ground to consume or to be used in post-match celebrations, since these are school events.

Home team responsibilities

35. It is the responsibility of the home school to:

a. make prompt contact with away schools, with at least three dates and times for the match. At the same time, an away school may offer a fourth date and time for negotiation. If teams cannot reach agreement on a time for the match, then both teams may be removed from the competition.

b. change to an alternate strip in the event of a colour clash. Schools should consult about the colour of their playing strips when organising the match.

c. cover the cost where the home ground chosen incurs a fee.

d. Provide a team sheet for the match and have it completed before the match.

e. organise and pay for an official referee and two assistant referees through the local referees association.

f. Referees must be qualified and in uniform, and not associated with either school. In exceptional circumstances, a referee associated with one of the schools may officiate with approval of the Area Manager and the opposing school.

g. When an official referee is not available, the home school must inform the Area Manager and visiting school prior to the day of the match.

h. If an official referee is not available, the visiting Manager may refuse to play the game and may claim home ground rights. The game needs to be played within a week.

i. If an official referee is not available, a person who is not a student, and is acceptable to both teams may referee the whole game.

j. At the moment the game commences there is no right of appeal concerning the officials. The decisions of a referee are final.

k. Note: In the case of Gala Days, the cost of the ground and the officials is to be shared equally between competing schools.

Player Penalties

36. If a player is sent off by the referee, the minimum penalty is exclusion from the team's following Bill Turner Cup or Trophy match. A forfeit is regarded as a match.

Team Penalties

37. Teams may be withdrawn from the competition at the discretion of the executive committee. Offences include:

a. not following the official draw or rules
b. not playing matches by the due date
c. not arriving for the match at the agreed time
d. failing to complete the Team Sheet
e. playing an over-age player
f. playing a suspended player or playing more than 16 players
g. not playing matches by the due date, without approval of the Area Manager and Competition Manager
h. serious misconduct by players, team officials or spectators
i. being unable to fulfil their future match obligations
j. teams not co-operating with Bill Turner Cup and Trophy official functions such as Civic Receptions and media obligations

Appeals and Disputes

38. Appeals and matters of dispute are to be forwarded in writing to the Area Manager and the Competition Manager, until teams move beyond their area, when only the Competition Manager needs to be notified.
39. Appeals or disputes are to be communicated within two days of the incident, signed by the Principal and accompanied by all relevant evidence. There is a form on the website. The Area or Competition Manager is to be notified of the impending appeal within 24 hours of the incident.
40. Adjudication of appeals and disputes is the sole responsibility of Area Managers for matches within their area and thereafter the Competition Manager, in consultation with the Executive. All decisions are final.

School Responsibilities

41. Schools that win the Cup, Trophy, shields or any perpetual award are responsible for their condition. All trophies remain the property of Bill Turner School Football. Please take care of all awards, get them engraved as appropriate, and return them as directed.