

## OFFICAL – GURKHA CUP

### Appendix 20 – Football Instructions (24<sup>th</sup> Gurkha Cup – Sunday 24 May 2026) – V2

#### References:

- A. [Data Protection Act 2018](#)
- B. [SAFEGUARDING FOR All \(Parental or Guardian Consent for under 18\)](#)

#### General

1. The 24th Gurkha Cup Football Tournament is scheduled to take place on Sunday, 24 May 2026, at Queens Parade, Queens Avenue, Aldershot. The event will feature a nine-a-side football competition conducted on a league-cum-knockout basis, bringing together participating teams for a full day of structured and competitive sporting activity.

#### Aim

2. The purpose of this instruction is to consolidate all administrative requirements necessary to ensure the efficient conduct of the event, as well as to provide participating teams with the essential information regarding the format and execution of the competition.

#### Categories and Eligibility

3. The tournament is open to both Men's and Ladies' teams. All teams will be allocated into two primary categories, determined by the age of the players, as outlined below:

- a. Men's Main Category: 16 - 39 years of age.
- b. Men's Veteran Category: 40 years of age and over.
- c. Ladies Main Category: 16 - 39 years of age.

4. The Main Category. The youngest player MUST have celebrated his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday on or before the tournament whilst the oldest must NOT have celebrated his 40<sup>th</sup> birthday on or before the day.

5. Veteran Category. The youngest player MUST have celebrated his 40<sup>th</sup> birthday on or before the tournament.

6. Players with medical conditions or those who **have been prescribed by their GP from playing sports are strongly advised not to participate in the tournament.**

#### Teams

7. Historically, the tournament has attracted an increasing number of team entries each year. However, due to time constraints and the limited resources available, it is not feasible to accommodate every team wishing to participate. Consequently, the number of participating teams has been restricted as follows:

- a. Main Category (Men) - up to 40x Teams
  - Winning Team from last year will secure a place, must complete the entry procedure, unless declared not to participate.

## OFFICIAL – GURKHA CUP

- Overseas team will be considered as priority if they have informed early.
- b. Veteran Category (Men)
  - 16 Teams
  - Winning Team from last year will secure a place, must complete the entry procedure, unless declared not to participate
  - Overseas team will be considered as priority if they have informed early.
- c. Main category (Ladies)
  - 4 Teams.
  - Winning Team from last year will secure a place, must complete the entry procedure, unless declared not to participate.

8. A team may comprise a maximum of 15 players, which allows sufficient substitutes and provides greater flexibility for both teams and players throughout the tournament. However, each team must have a minimum of 12 players, and all players' names must be listed on the official entry form. Failure to meet this requirement may jeopardise the team's eligibility to participate in the tournament.

9. **Trophies.** Trophies will be awarded to the winning and runner-up teams for a maximum of 15 players. Should a team enter the tournament with fewer than 15 players—for example, the minimum requirement of 12 players—the number of trophies issued will correspond to the number of players officially registered on the entry form.

### Non-Nepali players

10. If a team wishes to include local native players (defined as British nationals, or individuals of any other nationality, who are *not* of Nepalese origin), they may do so up to a maximum of three such players. This is not mandatory; however, teams are encouraged to participate in this initiative, as it promotes inclusivity and enhances interaction between the two communities. The following criteria shall apply:

- a. They must not be professional football players.
- b. They may be of any race or ethnicity.
- c. They must reside within the same community as the team they represent.
- d. The Team Manager/Captain is responsible for ensuring their proper conduct and behaviour throughout the tournament.

## OFFICIAL – GURKHA CUP

### Registration, Entry and Selection

11. Any team wishing to participate in the tournament must adhere to the following registration procedures:

- a. All local and international teams must complete Enclosures 1, 2 and 3, and submit them via email to the OIC Team Entry, with a copy to the OIC Football (email addresses provided at Serial 28a and 28b of this instruction). **No entry fee is to be transferred at this stage.**
- b. Once the registration email has been received, and the number of entries has reached capacity, teams will be selected based on the following criteria:
  - (i) International teams may be given priority consideration.
  - (ii) Teams representing registered Nepalese Community organisations within the UK and surrounding areas will be given priority, as determined by the Gurkha Cup Committee.
  - (iii) Team selection may also be conducted on a first-come, first-served basis, as determined by the timestamp of the registration email.
  - (iv) Successful teams will be notified by the OIC Football Team Entry, either by email or text message, addressed to the Team Manager or Captain.
  - (v) Once teams have received confirmation of their place, they must review and amend **Enclosures 1, 2, and 3 as necessary, and resubmit them to the OIC Football Team Entry. They must also transfer the entry fee online to the TDUK account within the deadline provided by the OIC Football Team Entry.** Failure to comply will result in the team being removed from the competition, and the place will be offered to the next reserve team in order.
  - (vi) A reserve list for all categories will be maintained in order of priority. If any confirmed team withdraws, the first reserve team will be offered the available place. The reserve team must then complete and submit the required entry forms and make the entry fee payment within the deadline provided by the OIC Team Entry. Failure to comply will result in removal from the competition, and the second reserve team will subsequently be offered the place.
  - (vii) The names of players submitted by a successful team cannot be changed once registered, except in cases of genuine medical or welfare reasons. In such circumstances, the Team Manager or Captain must notify the OIC Team Entry and resubmit the amended documentation no later than 5 days prior to the day of the Gurkha Cup. No changes will be accepted after this deadline, and the team must participate with the remaining registered players.

## OFFICIAL – GURKHA CUP

c. Only successful teams are required to pay the entry fee online, in accordance with Serial 19 of this instruction, and must do so within the specified deadline. Any team that fails to make payment within the allotted time will be withdrawn from the competition, and the place will be allocated to the next reserve team in order.

**“No advance payment is permitted. Entry fees are to be paid *only after* confirmation has been issued by the OIC Team Entry.”**

d. Each player must provide a photocopy of one of the following identification documents, which must accompany the entry form:

- (viii) A valid **photo driving licence**.
- (ix) A **passport** (photo page).
- (x) Any other form of **official identification card** that includes both a photograph and date of birth.

12. The Team Registration Form is provided at Enclosure 1, and the Acceptance Certificate is provided at Enclosure 2.

**13. The Acceptance Certificate Form is provided at Enclosure 3. A Guardian/Parent/Carer Criminal Records Check (CRC) is required only for players aged 16–18, in accordance with The FA’s safeguarding regulations: [SAFEGUARDING FOR All \(Parental or Guardian Consent for under 18\)](#)**

### Team Selection Criteria

14. The following entry criteria shall be strictly adhered to:
- a. Teams will be selected only if they satisfy all conditions stipulated at Serials 11a to 11d of this instruction.
  - b. Teams will be selected only if they meet all the conditions specified at the relevant serials of this instruction.
  - c. Failure to meet any of the conditions stated above will result in the team being placed at the bottom of the selection list. A team’s eligibility will only become valid from the date on which all missing information is submitted.
  - d. Team entry forms (Enclosures 1, 2 and 3) will be accepted only via email.
  - e. If any incomplete entry applications are received (e.g., missing documents), the relevant Team Manager or Captain will be contacted by telephone or email. Teams are advised that submitting incomplete forms or documents will significantly reduce their chances of securing a place in the tournament.
  - f. The organising committee will provide updates on the number of successful teams entered the tournament on a weekly basis, where necessary. This is to inform all parties of the remaining vacancies. Team names will not be published.

## OFFICIAL – GURKHA CUP

- g. Once the required number of teams for each category has been reached, the list of confirmed teams will be publicised on the TDUK website under the Gurkha Cup section and may also be announced on BFBS.
- h. Team Managers or Captains of unsuccessful teams will be notified by email or telephone.
- i. The organising committee will make every reasonable effort to ensure that the team selection process is conducted fairly, transparently, and in good faith.
- j. The Gurkha Cup Management Committee will confirm and hold final authority over all team selection decisions.

### Tournament Instruction and Forms

15. Teams intending to enter the tournament must download the required forms from the TDUK website and are to read and follow all instructions carefully. These documents are the only officially recognised forms to be used for the application process.

### Timeline

16. The following general timelines are to be strictly adhered to:

- a. Entry Opens - Sunday 05 April 2026
- b. Entry closes and Team confirm - Sunday 03 May 2026  
(or as soon as number of required teams are met, it might reopen if necessary and confirmed a day before the Team draw/Press conference)
- c. Team draw/announcement - Sunday 17 May 2026
- d. Team Capt/Manager briefing (ZOOM) - 1900hrs Monday 18 May 2026 (Team Manager or Team Capt must attend the meeting)

17. However, it should be noted that the Organising Committee reserves the right to close the entry application process once the required number of vacancies has been filled. Likewise, the Committee may extend the closing date should vacancies remain available. Any amendments to the closing date will be published on the TDUK website and may be announced on BFBS in due course. Teams are advised to visit the website regularly for updates.

### Team Draw and Announcement

18. The Committee will announce the names of the successful teams on Sunday 03 May 2026, earlier or a day before the team draw depending on the total number of teams entered for the tournament. This will be followed by the pool draw on Sunday, 17 May 2026. A panel of judges will be invited to conduct the draw for each pool to ensure fairness and transparency. Team Captains and Managers are warmly invited to attend.

## OFFICIAL – GURKHA CUP

### Entry Fees

19. The entry fee for the **Main and Veteran Category is £350** and **Ladies categories is £300 per team**. Only teams that have been officially confirmed and notified by the OIC Team Entry are to make payment via internet banking. **Cheques will not be accepted.**

All payments must be transferred to the following account:

**Tamu Dhee Association UK – Account No: -58001875, - Sort - Code Code : 60-08-13.**  
**General Administrative Points**

20. **Virtual Briefing.** A central virtual briefing for all Team Captains and Managers will be held at 1900 hours on Monday, 18 May 2026, via ZOOM/Google Meet. Attendance is mandatory for all Team Captains and Managers. During the briefing, the Organising Committee will provide updates on any amendments to the tournament rules and procedures.

21. **Briefing on the Day.** A final central briefing for all Team Captains and Managers will be conducted at 0815 hours on the day of the tournament, if required. All Team Captains and Managers must report to the Tournament Tent, located at the Event Control Centre (near Pitch No. 1), no later than 0815 hours to confirm their team's presence. The first match will commence at **0900 hours** simultaneously on **all 12 pitches**. Teams must then report to their respective Pitch Controllers 5 minutes prior to the start of each match throughout the tournament. Failure of a team to report on time will result in a walkover being awarded to the opposing team – **“Detailed rules are provided at Enclosure 4 of these instructions”**

22. **Discipline.** Team Captains and Managers are responsible for ensuring the good conduct of their teams. All teams and players are expected to adhere to the tournament rules and maintain acceptable standards of discipline on the pitch. Any player or team found to be in breach of these rules will be dealt with in accordance with the established tournament regulations and disciplinary procedures.

23. **Tournament Rules.** All tournament rules are detailed in *Enclosure 4*.

### General Format of the Tournament

24. **Main Category.** A total of up to 40 teams will be divided into 8 pools, with maximum of 5 teams per pool. Each team will play a minimum of four (4) league matches within its pool. The winners and runners-up from each pool will advance to the Pre-Quarter Finals, which will be conducted on a knockout basis. If teams finish the league stage with equal points, the following criteria will be applied in order, to determine final pool standings:

- a. **Goals For** – The team with the higher number of goals scored shall be placed higher.
- b. **Goals Against** – The team with the lower number of goals conceded shall be placed higher.

## OFFICIAL – GURKHA CUP

- c. **Penalty Shootout** – If teams remain tied after applying (a) and (b), each team will take three (3) penalties. If still tied, a sudden-death penalty shootout will be conducted to determine the final position between the two teams.
- d. **Three or More Teams Tied** If three or more teams remain tied on points, a coin toss will be conducted to eliminate teams one by one until only two teams remain. The final two remaining teams will then be decided as per Serial 24(c) above.
25. **Veteran Category.** A total of 16 teams will be divided into 4 pools, with 4 teams in each pool. Each team will play three (3) league matches within its pool. The winners and runners-up from each pool will advance to the Quarter Finals, which will be conducted on a knockout basis. In the event of teams finishing the league stage equal on points, their positions will be determined in accordance with the tiebreaker rules listed at Paragraph 24(a)–(d) above.
26. **Ladies Category:** If only two (2) teams are entered, they will proceed directly to the Final. If three (3) teams are entered, all teams will play a single round-robin league, and the teams finishing 1st and 2nd after the league stage will play the Final. If four (4) teams are entered, they will be split into two (2) pools and will proceed directly to the Semi-Finals. The winners of each pool will then compete in the Final.
27. **Fixtures.** The pool draws and match fixtures for the Main, Veteran, and Ladies Categories will be publicised and made available closer to the event date. These details will only be populated once all teams have been confirmed and identified, and the official draw has taken place. Please, note that fixtures may be subject to change if the required number of football pitches is not available on the day of the tournament.
28. **Email.** All team entries, along with duly completed application forms, are to be scanned and sent to:
- a. To: OIC Football Team Entry Mr Kumar Ghale: [Kghale2569@gmail.com](mailto:Kghale2569@gmail.com)
  - b. Cc: OIC Football Hira Gurung: [Hirapdq@hotmail.com](mailto:Hirapdq@hotmail.com)
29. **Tracking of documentation:** To ensure that your submitted documentation has been received and verified by the organiser, it is strongly recommended that you maintain communication with Mr Kumar Ghale.
30. In accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), personal information will be kept confidential and will not be shared with anyone other than the personnel listed above.
31. **Enquiries.** For any team entry enquiries, please contact OIC Team entry Mob: 07846528283 Email: [Kghale2569@gmail.com](mailto:Kghale2569@gmail.com) Alternatively, enquiries may be directed to the Football OIC.
32. For all other general enquiries, you may contact any member of the Gurkha Cup Working Group 2026 (WGGC26).
33. More contact details can be found under the Gurkha Cup section on the TDUK website.

**OFFICAL – GURKHA CUP**

*Electronically signed*

Capt Dipak Ghale

OIC Gurkha Cup 2026

Mobile: 07384718093

Email: [Dipakraj.Ghale262@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Dipakraj.Ghale262@mod.gov.uk)

**Enclosures:**

Enclosure 1: Team Entry Form

Enclosure 2: Acceptance Certificate

Enclosure 3: Acceptance Certificate (Age 16 to 18)

Enclosure 4: Football Tournament Rules

CONFIDENTIAL

**OFFICAL – GURKHA CUP**

**Enclosure 1 – Team Entry Form (Official – Sensitive when completed)**



**24<sup>th</sup> Gurkha Cup  
Nine-A-Side Football Tournament  
Team Entry Form**

**Date: Sunday 24 May 2026**

**Venue: Queens Avenue, Aldershot, Hampshire, GU11 2BS**

<b>Team Name</b>	
<b>Team Category</b>	<b>Main/Veteran/Ladies (*Delete as appropriate)</b>
<b>Manager/Captain Name:</b>	
<b>Contact Address:</b>	
<b>Mob No: Home Tel: E-mail:</b>	
<b>Team Color 1:</b>	
<b>Team Color 2:</b>	

**Players:**

<b>Ser</b>	<b>First Name(s)</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Jersey No</b>	<b>DOB (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				

**OFFICIAL – GURKHA CUP**

**Enclosure 2 – Acceptance Certificate (24<sup>th</sup> Gurkha Cup – 24 May 2026)  
(Official – Sensitive when completed)**

<b>Team Manager / Captain's Acceptance Certificate</b>		<b>Event: 24<sup>th</sup> Gurkha Cup Date: 24 May 2026</b>
<b>Team Name:</b>		
<b>Team Category</b>	<b>Main/Veteran/Ladies (*Delete as appropriate)</b>	
<b>Manager/Captain Name:</b>		
<b>Contact Address:</b>		
<b>Mob:</b>		
<b>Land Line:</b>		
<b>Email:</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Teams' Commitments</b>	
1.	I have read and fully understood the rules and regulations of the tournament and have fully briefed all my team members. Throughout, our team shall abide by these rules set by the tournament organisation.	
2.	My team shall fully cooperate and respect the referee's decisions.	
3.	My team shall fully cooperate and respect the tournament committee's decisions.	
4.	My team shall display good sportsmanship, positive attitude, good behavior, good discipline both on and off the pitch. All players shall cooperate and respect the opponent team as well as the public.	
5.	My team shall be punctual and shall report to the Tournament Official 5 minutes prior to starting each match. I shall fully accept the forfeiture of a match if my team is more than 3 minutes late.	
6.	I fully understand and accept that my team shall be disqualified from the tournament if found to be in breach of the rules. We shall fully accept the decision of the Tournament Committee.	
7.	I fully accept that any of my players could be disqualified from a match or from the tournament itself if found to be in breach of age criteria or is guilty of misconduct during a match or off the pitch.	
8.	I fully understand and accept that the TDUK shall not be liable for any claims or compensation for any damage or injuries incurred in the tournament by my team members.	
9.	My team shall fully cooperate and render any assistance, if required, to the Organising Committee in the event of emergency evacuations where public health and safety is concerned.	
10.	My team shall fully accept the Organising Committee's decision should it fail the Tournament Entry Test. My team will fully respect the strict team selection criteria and understand that not all teams can be selected due to the limited number of places available.	
11	If any dispute arises, in line with the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR, personal information will remain confidential and will only be shared with the individual's and team manager's consent with the opposing team's captain or manager only.	
<b>Team Manager/Captain's Declaration</b>		
<b>I, the team Manager/Captain, of..... hereby sign below to fully accept the above stated Team Commitments.</b>		
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Signed:</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
<b>For Tournament Committee Use Only</b>		
<b>I have received the signed Teams Commitment document from the Team Manager/Captain of the above-mentioned team. This will be held in the Gurkha Cup records file for future reference.</b>		
<b>Name of official:</b>	<b>Signed:</b>	<b>Dated:</b>

**OFFICAL – GURKHA CUP**

**Enclosure 3 - Acceptance Certificate age 16 to 18  
(24<sup>th</sup> Gurkha Cup – 24 May 2026)  
(Official-Sensitive when completed)**

<b>PARENT/GUARDIAN/CARER CONSENT FORM</b> Please complete the following, signed and return.		<b>Event: 24<sup>th</sup> Gurkha Cup</b> <b>Date: 24 May 2026</b>
<b>Team Name</b>		
<b>Name of Child</b>		
<b>Date of Birth</b>		
<b>Name of Parent/ Guardian / Career</b>		
<b>Signature/Date</b>		
<b>Address</b>		
<b>Mob No</b>		
<b>Email:</b>		
<b>Family Doctor Name/Tel No</b>		
<b>Emergency Contact Details Name/Tel</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Commitments</b>	
1.	I agree to my son/ daughter taking part in the activities of the club.	
2.	I confirm to the best of my knowledge that my son/ daughter does not suffer from any medical condition other than those listed above.	
3.	I consent to my son/ daughter travelling by any form of public transport, minibus or motor vehicle driven by a club coach or any other parent attending, to any event in which the club is participating	
<b>Team Manager/Captain's Declaration</b>		
<b>I, the Team Manager hereby sign below to fully accept the above stated Commitments.</b>		
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Signed:</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
<b>For Tournament Committee Use Only</b>		
<b>I have received the signed Teams Commitment document from the Team Manager/Captain of the above-mentioned team. This will be held in the Gurkha Cup records file for future reference.</b>		
<b>Name of official:</b>	<b>Signed:</b>	<b>Dated:</b>

## OFFICIAL – GURKHA CUP

### Enclosure 4 – Football Tournament Rules (24<sup>th</sup> Gurkha Cup, Sunday 24 May 2026)

#### Laws of Game

1. The Laws of Association Football will apply to all matches unless otherwise stated. However, the standard law governing offside will not be applied.

#### Teams and Players

2. A team shall consist of nine (9) players, one of whom must be the goalkeeper. Each team may use all five (5) substitute slots during any match, and rolling substitutions are permitted throughout. The match clock will not be stopped for substitutions, and no additional time will be added for substitution-related delays. Additional time will only be applied in the event of injuries or other emergency stoppages in play. All players must be registered no later than five (5) days prior to the Gurkha Cup, or by any alternative deadline imposed by the organising committee. Unregistered players will not be permitted to participate. Any team found to have fielded an unregistered player will be automatically disqualified and will take no further part in the tournament. An unregistered player is defined as any individual whose name does **not** appear on the original team entry application, or who fails to provide the required evidence as stipulated in the Tournament Instruction.

3. Substitutions may take place at any time when the ball is out of play. A player who has been dismissed by the referee for misconduct or for any other reason may not be replaced. A player who has been substituted may re-enter the match, in accordance with the rolling-substitution system. The referee must be informed before any substitution is made.

4. A player is permitted to play only for the team with which they are officially registered. Any team found to be in breach of this rule will be automatically disqualified from further participation in the tournament. If such a disqualification occurs, the remaining teams in the pool will continue to compete against one another in accordance with the tournament schedule and rules.

5. A player who is sent off with a straight red card will take no further part in the tournament. A player dismissed for Denying an Obvious Goal-Scoring Opportunity (**DOGSO**), for receiving two yellow cards, or for other technical offences, will receive an automatic one-match suspension. The player may be reinstated thereafter, at the discretion of the Decision Committee, following consideration of the referee's report.

6. Teams must report to the tournament officials/Referee five (5) minutes prior to the start of each match. Any team failing to report on time will be granted an additional three (3) minutes of buffer time. If a team still fails to appear within this buffer period, the match will be deemed forfeited. The non-attending team will be penalised with a 1-goal forfeiture score, and the opposition will be awarded the win accordingly.

7. The referees shall be the sole judges of all match timings for their respective fixtures.

#### Team Kit

8. Players' kits must consist of appropriate football boots and their designated team colours. DMS boots and any other forms of non-football civilian footwear are not permitted. All

## OFFICIAL – GURKHA CUP

players are required to wear shin guards; any player without shin protection will **not** be allowed to participate. Players are not permitted to play barefoot under any circumstances. For safety reasons, players are prohibited from wearing watches or jewellery (including rings, necklaces, bracelets, earrings, or similar items) while participating in matches.

### Team Colors

9. All participating teams are strongly advised to bring a second set of team colours in the event of a colour clash. Should a colour clash occur, the referee will conduct a coin toss to determine which team is required to change colours. The referee's decision is final.

10. To avoid any disappointment, all teams are strongly advised to bring a second set of team colours. The organising committee will have bibs available, which may be used at the Team Manager's own risk, particularly regarding any potential skin-related concerns.

### Conduct and Discipline (On and Off the Pitch)

11. Team Captains and Managers are reminded that inappropriate or abusive language, both on and off the pitch, will not be tolerated. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against any individual found to be in breach of this rule. Any person whether a player, team official, or an entire team found to be engaging in unsportsmanlike behaviour, misconduct, or disrupting a match will be disqualified and will take no further part in the tournament. Depending on the severity of the misconduct, the team(s) involved may also be barred from entering future Gurkha Cup tournaments.

12. To this end, we expect all Team Captains and Managers to demonstrate a high degree of control, leadership, and responsibility over their teams throughout the tournament.

### Complaints/Disputes

13. Any complaints or disputes arising during a match will be handled by the Football Tournament Committee, consisting of the Chairperson (President TDUK), OIC Event, Senior Referee, and the Tournament OICs (x3). Team Captains or Managers must lodge all complaints/disputes at the Control Tent. Complaints or disputes submitted by individual players will not be accepted. The Committee will consider consultation and advice from the match referee when reaching a decision. The Committee's decision is final.

### Strict Time Keeping

14. Match fixtures will be clearly displayed in the vicinity of the Control Tent, based on the total number of teams participating. A copy of the fixtures will also be issued to Team Captains/Managers when they report in the morning prior to the commencement of matches. Alternatively, teams may download the fixtures from [www.tamudheeuk.com](http://www.tamudheeuk.com) under the Gurkha Cup section. Announcements may be made prior to the start of the first match to ensure teams are present at their designated pitch in time for kick-off. For all subsequent matches, announcements will be made 5 minutes before each scheduled game. It is the responsibility of Team Captains/Managers to regularly check their match schedule and ensure their teams report to the relevant pitch five (5) minutes prior to the start of their scheduled fixture. Any team failing to report at the scheduled time will be granted a further three (3) minutes of buffer time. If the team still fails to appear within this period, the match

## OFFICIAL – GURKHA CUP

will be considered a walkover. The non-attending team will be penalised with a 1-goal forfeiture score, and the opposing team will be declared the winner and awarded three (3) points.

15. Any changes to match timings due to circumstances beyond the control of the organisers will be announced, and all Team Captains/Managers will be informed accordingly.

16. If a team withdraws from a pool league, their name will be removed from the fixture list, and all their scheduled matches will be declared null and void. The remaining teams in that pool will continue to play in accordance with the published match fixtures. The entry fee will not be refunded unless a valid reason, as determined by the organising committee, is provided.

### Match Scores

17. The match scores for each game during the **league phase** will be awarded as follows:

- a. Winner -3 points
- b. Draw -1 point
- c. Loser -0 point

### Match Decision

18. There will be no extra time played during the preliminaries, Pre-Quarter Finals, Quarter Finals, or Semi-Finals. Extra time will only be applied in the Final matches, consisting of five (5) minutes each way. If a winner is still not determined after extra time, the match will be decided by a penalty shoot-out, as detailed below.

- a. Penalty kicks will be used **only** to decide winners in the Pre-Quarter Finals, Quarter Finals, Semi-Finals and Finals.
- b. The procedure for penalty kicks in the knockout phase will be conducted as follows:
  - c. In the Pre-Quarter Finals, Quarter Finals, and Semi-Finals, three (3) nominated players from each team will take the penalties. In the Final match, five (5) nominated players will take the penalties. If the scores remain level after these initial penalties, the match will proceed to sudden death. To ensure the competition is completed within daylight hours, the Committee reserves the right to make a final decision should the sudden-death phase take excessively long to determine a winner.
- d. Any player who is on the field of play at the final whistle may take part in the penalty shoot-out. No other players are eligible. All players must assemble at the halfway line during the shoot-out. Only the player called forward by the referee may step up to take the penalty.

## OFFICIAL – GURKHA CUP

### Knockout Phase Qualification

19. In the Main Category: The winner and runner-up teams from each group will progress to the Preliminary Knockout Stage.
20. **For the Veteran Category:** The winner and runner-up teams from each group will progress to the Quarter Finals.
21. **For Ladies Category:** If only two (2) teams are entered, they will proceed directly to the Final. If three (3) teams are entered, all teams will play a single round-robin league, and the teams finishing 1st and 2nd after the league stage will play the Final. If four (4) teams are entered, they will be split into two (2) pools and will proceed directly to the Semi-Finals. The winners of each pool will then compete in the Final
22. Should any teams finish with equal aggregated points, the team with the highest number of goals scored will qualify for the next stage.
23. Failing this, goal difference will be considered to determine the qualifying team, i.e., the team with the fewer goals conceded will advance.
24. Failing this, ser **24d** of the main category Instruction shall apply.

### Match Duration

25. The match duration will be as follows:
- a. **League Stage:** *10 minutes each half*
  - b. **Knockout Stages:** *10 minutes each half*
  - c. **Semi-Final:** *10 minutes each half*
  - d. **Final:** *15 minutes each half* Alternatively, *12 minutes each half* may be applied.) The duration of the Final will be confirmed **at least 30 minutes prior** to kick off by the Tournament Committee, in consultation with and with the agreement of the respective Team Captains. This adjustment may be required **in the interest of public safety**, particularly if **emergency services support is withdrawn or time-restricted**.
  - e. **Breaks:** A **5-minute half-time break** will be applied during all matches up to and including the Semi-Final. A **10 to 15 -minute half-time break** may be provided for the Final.

### Referees and Linesmen

26. Referees for the tournament will be provided by the TDUK. Linesmen will be appointed only if sufficient officials are available and may be used from the Quarter Finals, Semi-Finals, and the Final. No individual players are permitted to approach the match officials at any time. All complaints or concerns must be raised solely through the Team Captain or Team Manager. All teams are expected to abide by the rules and show full respect for the Referee's decisions on the field. Teams must play to the Referee's whistle and comply with all instructions given during the match. Any complaints must be brought, in

## OFFICIAL – GURKHA CUP

the first instance, to the attention of the Tournament Committee, and must be submitted by the Team Captain or Manager as soon as the match has concluded. Complaints are not to be directed towards the referees or linesmen under any circumstances.

### Tournament Prizes

27. Prizes will be distributed to all categories after the final match and as follows:

#### a. Main Category

- i. **Winners:** Tournament Cup, a cheque of £3500.00, individual trophies and certificates.
- ii. **Runner-ups:** A cheque of £2000.00, individual trophies and certificates.
- iii. **Player of the Match:** Trophy and certificate.
- iv. **Top scorer:** Trophy and certificate - Top score will only be counted from knock-out rounds.
- v. A team that wins the trophy continuously for three successive years will also be presented with cheque of £500.00 on top of their winner's prize.
- vi. **Top scorer:** in case of equal score between more than one player, the winner will be decided by a toss of a coin.

#### b. Veteran Category

- i. **Winner:** Tournament Cup, a cheque of £1800.00 for team, individual trophies and certificates.
- ii. **Runner-ups:** A cheque of £1200.00 for team, individual trophies and certificates.
- iii. **Player of the Match:** Trophy and certificate.
- iv. **Top scorer:** Trophy and certificate. – Top score will only be counted from knock-out rounds.

#### c. Best Manager:

Both categories Trophy and certificate.

#### d. Ladies Category

- i. **Winner:** Tournament Cup, a cheque of £600.00 for team, individual trophies and certificates.
- ii. **Runner-ups:** A cheque of £400.00 for team, individual trophies and certificates.
- iii. **Player of the Match:** Trophy and certificate.

## OFFICIAL – GURKHA CUP

28. The trophy will be retained by TDUK after the presentation. Should the winning team wish to take the trophy for display, they may do so only after signing an official receipt and responsibility declaration, confirming they will return the trophy in the same condition on or before the date specified by the organising committee.

29. All Team Captains and Managers are kindly requested to attend the final prize-giving ceremony. We would be extremely grateful if all teams remain present until the conclusion of the prize-giving event.

### **Veteran Teams**

30. The Veteran Category will consist of 16 teams, accepted strictly on a first-come, first-served basis. The minimum age for participation in a veteran team is 40 years old (must have celebrated 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday on the of tournament). The application submission deadlines and the game rules for the Veteran Category will be the same to those applied to the Main Category.

31. Should any complaint or dispute arise regarding the age or identity of a player, an identity check will be conducted. If a player is found to be of a different age than stated on the application, or otherwise misrepresented, the entire team will be disqualified from the tournament.

### **Players Identity**

32. Proof of identity — such as a photocopy of a driving licence, passport, NPP, or an official ID card clearly showing the player's date of birth must be attached to the Entry Form for all participating players in both the Veteran, Non-Veteran and ladies categories. No player will be registered or permitted to participate without valid proof of identity.

33. The Committee reserves the right to alter or amend any of the Rules of the Competition at any time, if, in its opinion, such changes are deemed to be in the best interests of most participants in the tournament.

### **Football Tournament Cancellation and Refund**

34. Should **inclement weather** prevent the tournament from being held on the scheduled day, an **alternative date will be arranged**. If rescheduling the tournament is **not possible**, all **entry fees will be refunded** to the participating teams.

35. Every player is required to pay the individual entry fee, and all cars, minibuses, and other vehicles must pay the vehicle entry fee upon arrival at the Entry Point. Each team will be refunded £5 per registered player and the Team Manager (maximum 16 × £5 = £80 per team). Team Captains/Managers must collect and sign for the refund at the Control Tent before departure.

### **Football Tournament Committee**

36. The Committee will consist of the following:

## OFFICAL – GURKHA CUP

- a. Event Director – Chairperson
- b. Event OIC – OIC Gurkha Cup
- c. Football OICs x3 – Members
- d. Senior Official – Member (the pitch official from the disputing pitch)

37. The nominated judges, Tournament Committee, in liaison with the Pitch Officials, will jointly decide the Player of the Match for all categories in the Final Match.

*Original Signed*

Capt Dipak Ghale  
OIC Gurkha Cup 2026  
Mobile: 07384718093  
Email: [Dipakraj.Ghale262@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Dipakraj.Ghale262@mod.gov.uk)